

DEC 09 2010

PRO-776
ENV-6.00

To Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies:

Subject: Finding of No Significant Impact for the Farson/Eden Salinity Control Project, E-7, E-8, and Westside Laterals- Eden Project, Wyoming

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and Department of the Interior (DOI) regulations implementing NEPA, the Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office (Reclamation) completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the effects of using Federal funds authorized under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, to replace the existing E-7, E-8, and Westside Laterals with a pipeline. On October 22, 2010, we sent a copy of the EA to you for your information and review.

The comment period for this EA ended on Wednesday, November 24, 2010. One comment was received during that period. Appropriate edits were made to the EA in response to this comment. A copy of the final EA will be posted to Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region web site, and also made available to anyone who requests a hard copy. After reviewing this comment, I have determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for this proposed action. A copy of the signed FONSI is enclosed for your information.

This FONSI authorizes the Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District (EVIDD) to use Federal funds to replace the existing unlined earthen E-7, E-8, and Westside Laterals with a pipeline. The pipeline will reduce seepage which dissolves salts in the soils and eventually carries the salts to the Upper Colorado River Basin. The project is located in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rafael Lopez, at 801-379-1185.

Sincerely,

CURTIS A. PLEDGER

Curtis A. Pledger
Area Manager

Enclosure

bc: UC-240 and UC-720
PRO-714, PRO-770, and PRO-772
(w/encl to each)

WBR:RLopez:lmorrey:12/7/10:1185:776/FONSITransmittal_Farson/EdenSalinity_Dec6_10
Identical Letters Sent To: See Attached Mailing List

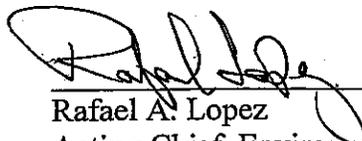
PRO-FONSI-10-009

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
And Decision Document**

**Farson/Eden Salinity Control Project E-7, E-8, and Westside Laterals-Eden Project
Sweetwater County, Wyoming**

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah**

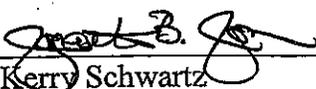
Recommended by:



Rafael A. Lopez
Acting Chief, Environmental Group

12/17/10
Date

Concur:


for _____
Kerry Schwartz
Manager, Water and Environmental
Resources Division

12-7-2010
Date

Approved by:



Curtis A. Pledger
Area Manager, Provo Area Office

12/8/2010
Date

FINDING

The Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office (Reclamation), has determined that implementing the proposed action analyzed in the Farson/Eden Salinity Control Project E-7, E-8, and Westside Laterals Environmental Assessment (EA) would not have a significant impact on the quality of human environment, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of the EA, and public comments received on the EA. This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-90), as amended, and both the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA (43 CFR Part 46).

DECISION

Reclamation has decided to provide funding authorized under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program to implement the Action Alternative described in the EA. The E-7 lateral is approximately 21,648 feet long, from the diversion on the Eden Canal to the end of the line. The proposed piping of the E-7 lateral would stay entirely within the existing lateral. The E-7 lateral is approximately 21,648 feet long, from the diversion on the Eden Canal to the end of the line. The approximate maximum pipe diameter would be 48 inches at the start of the line, and would decrease to 12 inches at the end of the lateral. The E-8 lateral is approximately 4,752 feet long, from the diversion point off the E-7 lateral to the end of the line. The proposed piping of the E-8 lateral would include abandoning the existing E-8 alignment. The new E-8 lateral alignment would run a diversion off the E-7 lateral approximately .5 miles west of the existing E-8 diversion. The new pipeline for the E-8 lateral would have an approximate maximum diameter of 12 inches, and would continue with this diameter to the end of the lateral. The Westside Lateral is approximately 89,232 feet long, from the diversion on the Means Canal to the end of service. The approximate maximum pipe diameter would be 60 inches, and decrease along the length of the pipeline to 12 inches at the end of the lateral. There are two proposed alignments for the piping of the Westside Lateral. The first proposed alignment, Westside Lateral Option A, would stay within the existing lateral alignment for the entire length of the canal except in two locations where the alignment would deviate for an approximate total of 5,500 feet. Westside Lateral Option B would follow the existing canal alignment with the exception of two locations where the alignment would deviate for an approximate total of 7,600 feet.

~~The proposed project would allow replacing the existing laterals with a pipeline while protecting~~ environmental resources described in Chapter 3 of the EA (i.e., air quality; water resources; water quality; upland vegetation; wetlands and riparian resources; fish and wildlife resources; special status species; cultural resources; paleontological resources; soil, erosion, and sedimentation; Indian trust assets; environmental justice; public health; recreation; wilderness, and wild and scenic rivers; noise; prime and unique farmland; energy requirement and conservation potential; urban quality and design of the built environment; and visual. Riparian and open water habitat along the laterals would be lost once the pipeline is placed and buried. A habitat replacement plan to replace wildlife values foregone must be prepared, and finalized by the Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District (EVIDD), and approved by Reclamation following coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, prior to project completion and final payment of funds. The

proposed project will impact cultural resources. The Westside Lateral would be replaced with a pipeline, resulting in an adverse effect to the historic property. Mitigation measures for the adverse effect to the Westside Lateral would be outlined in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(c).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The finding of no significant impact and decision to authorize funding for the project are based on the following:

1. The proposed action would have no significant effect on such unique characteristics as wilderness areas, and wetlands.
2. The environmental effects of the proposed action are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The proposed action would have no effect on species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered or threatened species, and would not affect designated critical habitat for these species.
4. The proposed action does not threaten to violate Federal, State or local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.
5. The proposed action would have an adverse effect to a historic property; however a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be executed to mitigate the adverse effect to the Westside Lateral.

Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, public comments, and the Action Alternative in detail. Reclamation believes that the Action Alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

On October 22, 2010, Reclamation sent the EA to interested individuals, groups, stakeholders, municipalities, organizations, and agencies, for review and comment. One comment was received during the comment period which ended on November 24, 2010. Appropriate edits were made to the EA in response to this comment.

The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were contacted pursuant to applicable laws, and coordination with those agencies was completed. Tribal consultation in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2) was also completed.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The expected environmental impacts of the Action Alternative are described in Chapter 3 of the EA, and summarized on pages 42-43 of the EA. The environmental analysis focused on the

resources mentioned on page 2 above. The environmental analysis indicates under the Action Alternative there would be an adverse effect to the Westside Lateral. The existing unlined lateral would be replaced with a pipeline and buried.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

The environmental commitments described in Chapter 4 of the EA must be implemented as an integral part of the proposed action.

1. **Standard Reclamation Best Management Practices** – Standard Reclamation best management practices would be applied during construction activities to minimize environmental effects and would be implemented by construction personnel or included in contract specifications.
2. **Additional Analysis** – If the proposed action were to change significantly from the alternative described in this EA, additional environmental analyses would be undertaken as necessary.
3. **State Stream Alteration Permit** – Before implementing the selected alternative, the contractor would obtain a State Stream Alteration Permit (if required) from the Department of Natural Resources. The conditions and requirements of the State Stream Alteration Permit would be strictly adhered to by the contractor.
4. **Cultural Resources** – Any person who knows or has reason to know that he/she has inadvertently discovered possible human remains on Federal land, must provide immediate telephone notification of the discovery to Reclamation's Provo Area Office archaeologist. Work will stop until the proper authorities are able to assess the situation onsite. This action will promptly be followed by written confirmation to the responsible Federal agency official, with respect to Federal lands. The WYSHPO and interested Native American tribal representatives would be promptly notified. Consultation would begin immediately. This requirement is prescribed under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR Part 10); and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470).

A MOA will be executed to mitigate for the adverse effect to the Westside Lateral. ~~Mitigation for the adverse effects to the lateral, set forth in the stipulations of the MOA,~~ must be completed before construction activities associated with the proposed action begin.

5. **Paleontological Resources** – Monitoring is required for all construction activities outside of the existing lateral alignments as well as those impacting the bedrock layer of the Laney Shale Member of the Green River Formation. Anyone who inadvertently discovers possible paleontological resources must stop work immediately and contact Reclamation's Provo Area Office archaeologist. Work would stop until the proper authorities are able to assess the discovery.

6. **Construction Activities Confined to the Surveyed Corridor** – All construction activities would be confined to the 100-foot-wide corridor that has been surveyed for cultural, paleontological, and biological resources.
7. **Roads** – Existing roads would be used whenever possible for project activities. New access roads would be necessary along the new E-8 alignment.
8. **Disturbed Areas** – During construction, topsoil would be saved and then redistributed after completion of construction activities. Subsequently, disturbed areas resulting from the project would be smoothed, shaped, contoured and reseeded to as near the pre-project condition as practicable. Seeding and planting would occur at appropriate times with weed-free seed mixes of native plants and agricultural grasses, distributed where appropriate.
9. **Air Quality** – Best management practices would be implemented to control fugitive dust during construction. The contractor would follow the EPA's recommended control methods for aggregate storage pile emissions to minimize dust generation, including periodic watering of equipment, staging areas, and dirt/gravel roads. All loads that have the potential of leaving the bed of the truck during transportation would be covered or watered to prevent the generation of fugitive dust. Construction machinery and operation/maintenance vehicles would be routinely maintained to ensure that engines remain tuned and emission-control equipment is properly functioning as required by law. Additionally, the contractor would comply with all Wyoming State air quality regulations.
10. **Habitat Replacement** – A plan to replace wildlife values foregone will be prepared by the applicant and approved by Reclamation following coordination with the USFWS and Wyoming Department of Game and Fish. Total acreage of wildlife habitat predicted to be lost is 39.96 acres of riparian habitat along the lateral prism, plus 23 acres of a nearby artificial wetland from the E-8 lateral.
11. **Sage Grouse Monitoring** - Prior to initiating construction activities, and as the project proceeds, the applicant will ensure that surveys and monitoring will be conducted to ensure that Greater Sage Grouse leks do not exist within the construction area. If leks are present in the area, the applicant and contractor shall notify the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish and Reclamation's Provo Area Office biologist. Regardless of the presence of leks, any observation of sage grouse will lead to monitoring by a biologist to ensure that impacts to sage grouse are avoided.