



NISP NEWS

A Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District publication

EIS Alternatives Selected

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently identified the alternatives for evaluation in the NISP EIS. The National Environmental Policy Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act require the Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the project's purpose and need and are economically and technically feasible. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can only permit the "least environmentally damaging practicable alternative."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' EIS consultant team first reviewed the evaluation process used in NCWCD's 2004 Phase II Alternative Evaluation report. The Army Corps then modified the Phase II process to fully comply with requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The EIS screening criteria ensures that all

selected alternatives meet the NISP purpose and need, minimize environmental impacts (particularly to aquatic resources) and are practicable.

The Corps identified three possible water supply concepts for NISP: water rights development, the South Platte Water Conservation Project (SPWCP), and agricultural to municipal transfers. It then identified 215 potential storage facilities, including existing reservoir rehabilitations or enlargements, new reservoirs or gravel pit ponds, and groundwater storage. Another round of screening narrowed the field to three action alternatives and a no action alternative. Each action alternative also includes an evaluation of how it could be constructed and operated without approvals from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

NO. 1 GLADE RESERVOIR AND THE SOUTH PLATTE WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT (SPWCP)

- 170,000 af of Glade Reservoir and associated forebay, pump station, pipelines, Poudre Valley Canal and river diversion improvements, and relocation of five miles of U.S. Hwy. 287
- 40,000 af of Galeton Reservoir and associated forebay, pump station, pipeline from the South Platte River to Galeton Reservoir, and pipelines from Galeton Reservoir to the Larimer & Weld and New Cache ditches

NO. 2 CACTUS HILL RESERVOIR AND THE SPWCP

- 180,000 to 200,000 af of Cactus Hill Reservoir and associated forebay, pump stations, Poudre Valley Canal and river diversion improvements, and pipelines
- Same SPWCP configuration as Alternative #1

NO. 3 AGRICULTURAL TO MUNICIPAL TRANSFERS, GLADE AND A REDUCED SPWCP

- Same Glade Reservoir configuration as Alternative #1
- SPWCP with a 20,000 af of Galeton Reservoir
- 12,000 af of firm yield from permanent agricultural-to-municipal transfers
- Sub-alternative will replace Glade with Cactus Hill using the same Cactus Hill configuration as Alternative #2

NO. 4 NO ACTION

- Evaluates how the participants would meet their future water supply needs in the absence of NISP
- Assumes that many of the participants would rely on the transfer of agricultural water and would use gravel pit storage

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
220 Water Avenue
Berthoud, Colorado 80513



