

# NISP Water Quality Fact Sheet

## Re: Fort Collins comments on water quality and water treatment issues

(Technical analysis conducted by Black & Veatch Corporation)

Issue – NISP will increase total organic carbon levels in Horsetooth Reservoir requiring Fort Collins to invest \$50 to \$90 million in infrastructure improvements and increasing their operational costs to treat water by \$3 million annually.

### Conclusion

1. Any increase in Total Organic Carbon (TOC) concentrations in Horsetooth Reservoir caused by the introduction of Glade Reservoir water into Horsetooth Reservoir would be very small.
2. Fort Collins' own research and studies (reports prepared by their own staff) indicate that its water treatment plant can successfully treat water that has much higher TOC concentrations than that predicted in Horsetooth Reservoir as a result of the introduction of Glade Reservoir water.
3. **Improvements of \$50 to \$90 million (as suggested by Fort Collins) would not be required, nor would the \$3 million in annual operating costs.**

Issue – NISP will cause lower flows in Poudre River requiring Fort Collins to spend \$75 to \$125 million in upgrades to their wastewater treatment plants based on less dilution capability of the Poudre River.

### Conclusion

1. **NISP will have no impact on existing or future infrastructure or operating requirements for the City's wastewater treatment plant operations.**
2. Discharge requirements for the Fort Collins wastewater treatment plants are based on low flows within the stream or river receiving the plant's discharge. For the Fort Collins facilities, the specified low flow discharge standard is significantly lower than the flows the NISP Participants have agreed must be in the Poudre River before NISP will divert water. Thus, NISP will not impact the low flow discharge standards that govern the Fort Collins discharge permits or plant operations.
3. Any required upgrades to the City's wastewater treatment facilities because of changes to future potential water quality-based effluent limits, will be required whether NISP is built or not.

Issue – Contaminated groundwater caused by an abandoned missile base near the Glade Reservoir could possibly co-mingle with Glade Reservoir water and be delivered to Horsetooth Reservoir or the Poudre River.

### Conclusion

1. **The concentrations of Trichloroethylene (TCE) in the groundwater are so low that even without any collection and treatment system, the TCE levels in either Glade or Horsetooth reservoirs would be undetectable.**
2. If necessary a drain system for treating the water would easily be constructed to mitigate any threat or potential threat posed by the contamination.