



Northern Integrated Supply Project EIS

SCOPING ANNOUNCEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2004

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project. The Project would provide additional reliable water supply for several communities and domestic water districts in northern Colorado. This scoping announcement provides information on the proposed Project, alternatives, issues, the EIS process, and how to get involved.

PURPOSES OF SCOPING

As defined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (§1501.7), scoping is an early and open process to gather information from the public and interested agencies on the issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS. The Corps initiated the scoping process for the EIS by publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (Project) in the Federal Register on August 20, 2004. The Corps has scheduled three public scoping meetings to solicit input from the public. The public scoping meeting dates and times are listed in the section of this announcement entitled "How to Get Involved." The public scoping comment period ends on October 25, 2004. The purposes of public scoping and the public scoping meetings are to:

- Inform the public about the background, purpose and features of the proposed Project.
- Solicit public input regarding potential impacts from the proposed Project that should be addressed in the EIS and identify preliminary alternatives to the Project that should be considered in the analyses.

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The Corps has initiated scoping with selected key regulatory agencies. Representatives from the following agencies will continue to be involved throughout the entire NEPA compliance process:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Federal Highway Administration
- Colorado Department of Transportation

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment—Water Quality Control Division
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Larimer County
- Weld County
- Western Area Power Administration
- Bureau of Land Management

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Through the NEPA process, the Corps will evaluate a range of alternatives and identify those alternatives, including the No Action alternative, to be analyzed in detail in the EIS. The EIS will provide a detailed discussion of the human and natural environments to be affected by the proposed Project and its alternatives, and the potential adverse and beneficial effects of constructing and operating the Project and its alternatives. The environmental effects or impacts to be analyzed can be positive or negative, have direct or indirect results, and be of short- or long-term duration. Mitigation measures, along with the appropriate monitoring and enforcement, will be identified to avoid or minimize anticipated significant adverse impacts. Unavoidable adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated will be identified. The EIS also will evaluate the cumulative effects of this Project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and the needed relocation of facilities (e.g., U.S. Highway 287 and the North Poudre Supply Canal) and potential impacts associated with these relocations.

The following environmental resources have been identified for possible analysis in the EIS. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains resources that can reasonably be expected to require environmental analysis. Issues will be identified in the course of the scoping process and a determination will be made as to whether these issues are significant and warrant analysis.

Physical Resources

- Soils
- Geology
- Mineral Resources
- Surface Water Resources
- Groundwater Resources
- Water Rights and Water Use
- Air Quality
- Noise

Biological Resources

- Vegetation
- Wetlands
- Wildlife
- Aquatic Resources
- Threatened and Endangered Species and Other Special Status Species

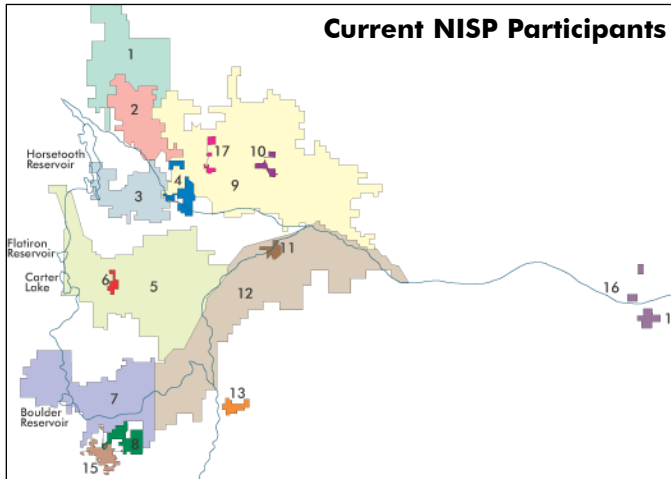
Human Resources

- Transportation
- Visual Resources/Aesthetics
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Hazardous Materials
- Health and Safety
- Environmental Justice

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project is a collaborative effort among 17 water providers (Participants) facilitated and coordinated by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District acting by and through the Northern Integrated Supply Project Water Activity Enterprise (District) to provide an

additional water supply to the northern Colorado region. The current list of 17 Participants may change over time. The Project would be a non-federal project constructed and owned by the District. While the District would retain ownership and operational responsibility of the project, the Participants would own a pro-rata contractual right to the Project. This right could take the form of ownership of a portion of the yield, or storage capacity in the Project, or both.



The Project will provide approximately 39,000 acre-feet of new reliable water supply (34,400 acre-feet of new firm yield plus 4,000 acre-feet of firming storage), which will meet a portion of the Participants' estimated 2025 additional water supply needs. The Participants are a group of rapidly growing communities and domestic water districts located throughout the District. Most of the Participants rely primarily on the acquisition of Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT) units to meet water supply needs. The Participants recognize that there is a finite amount of C-BT units remaining in the market and that a collaborative effort to secure

Table 1. Current List of Project Participants

Participant	Firm Yield (ac-ft)	Firming Storage (ac-ft)
1 Northern Colorado Water Association	1,000	1,000
2 East Larimer County Water District	—	2,000
3 Fort Collins Loveland Water District	2,000	2,000
4 Town of Windsor	2,500	—
5 Little Thompson Water District	4,000	2,500
6 Town of Berthoud	1,000	—
7 Lefthand Water District	3,800	—
8 Town of Erie	5,000	—
9 North Weld County Water District	1,000	1,000
10 Town of Eaton	1,000	—
11 City of Evans	1,000	1,000
12 Central Weld County Water District	5,000	2,500
13 City of Fort Lupton	2,300	—
14 City of Fort Morgan	2,800	—
15 City of Lafayette	1,000	—
16 Morgan County Quality Water	1,000	—
17 Town of Severence	1,000	—
Total	34,400	12,000*

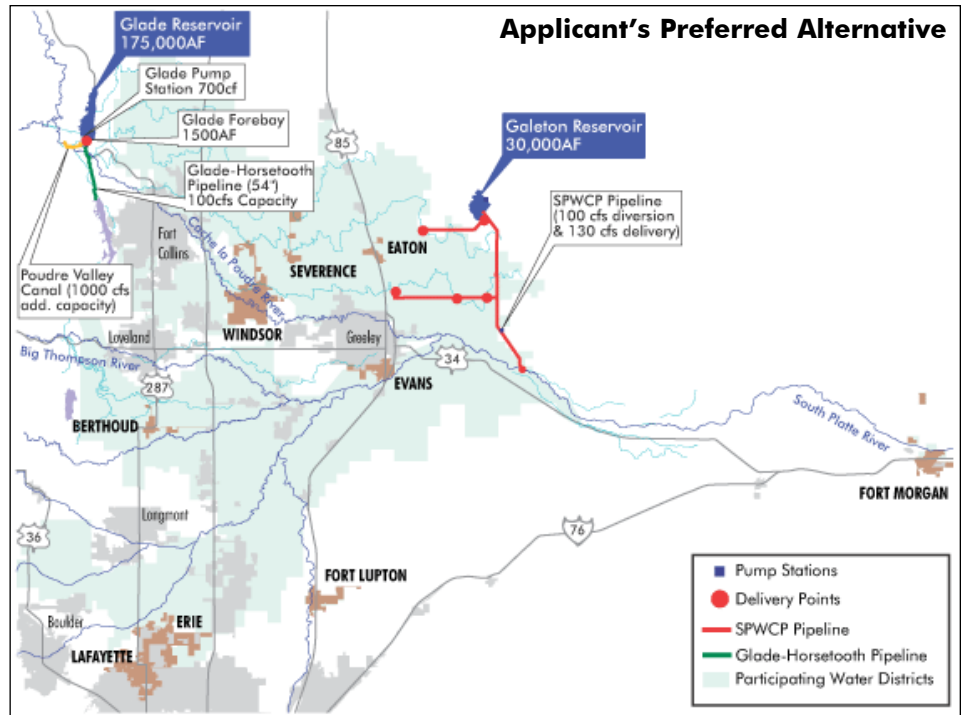
additional water supplies is preferable to each entity independently developing a new supply.

ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

The District and Participants have identified a preferred configuration of the Project as part of a recent alternatives evaluation undertaken by the District and Participants. The proposed Project would occur in Larimer and Weld Counties in Colorado. It would include a proposed Glade Reservoir with a capacity of approximately 175,000

**The term "firming storage" is used when an entity has a water right that it cannot fully use because it has no place to store the water. The entity can "firm" its water right by creating a storage facility to store the water to which it has a right. The term "new firm yield" is used when an entity wants to acquire water rights (yield) and storage (firming) for additional water.*

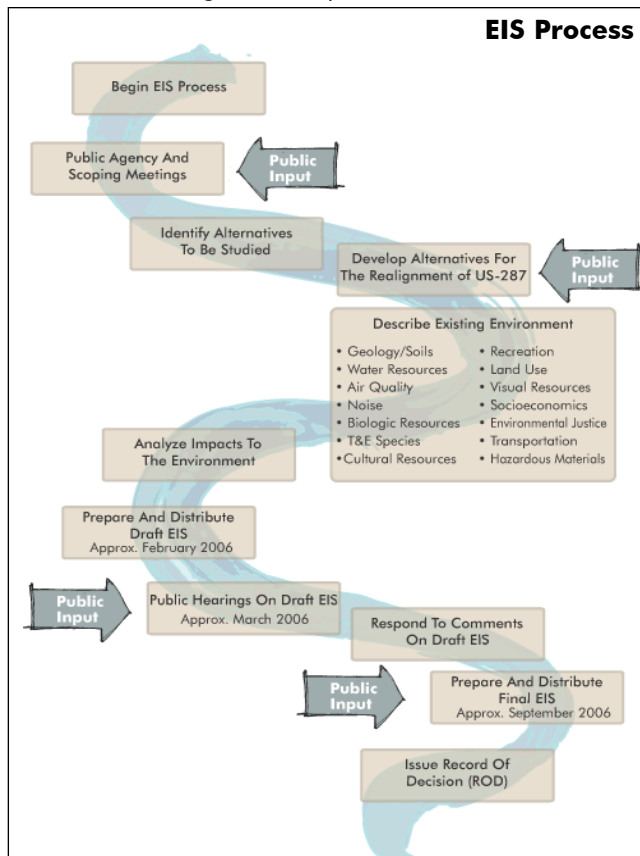
acre-feet. Associated with Glade Reservoir are a forebay, pump station, and canal upgrade to convey water diverted from the Cache la Poudre River to the proposed reservoir. A pipeline connecting the proposed Glade Reservoir to the existing Hoorsetooth Reservoir is proposed. Glade Reservoir would inundate a section of U.S. Highway 287 and require the relocation of the highway. Additionally, Glade Reservoir would inundate a section of the North Poudre Supply Canal and a portion of the canal would need to be rerouted. The proposed Project also would include a proposed Galeton Reservoir with a capacity of approximately 30,000 acre-feet. Associated with Galeton Reservoir are a forebay, pump station, and pipeline to deliver water diverted from the South Platte River to Galeton Reservoir. Water exchanges between the Galeton Reservoir and Glade Reservoir diversion locations are proposed.



PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

As part of a recent alternatives evaluation documented in a report known as Phase II Alternative Evaluation, the District and Participants reviewed numerous alternative concepts and elements, some of which may be developed into alternatives during the EIS process. The findings of the alternatives evaluation will be reviewed and verified through the EIS process.

During the Phase II Alternatives Evaluation process, the District held public informational meetings. Public input from these meetings has helped to identify issues that will be evaluated by the Corps. The following issues have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS. This list is preliminary and is intended to facilitate public comment on the scope of this EIS.



- What are the impacts to aquatic resources?
- How would water quality be affected?
- What are the impacts to streams and wetlands?
- What are the impacts to threatened or endangered species?
- How would wildlife habitat be affected?
- Would new reservoirs provide recreational opportunities?
- How would the proposed project affect the C-BT project or other water rights in the area?
- What are the effects to existing landowners?
- How will the realignment of U.S. Highway 287 affect local traffic patterns and access?
- How will operation of the Project affect water quality in the Cache la Poudre and South Platte Rivers?

NORTHERN INTEGRATED SUPPLY PROJECT EIS PUBLIC MEETINGS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District will hold three public meetings to solicit comments on the scope of an EIS for the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project. You are invited to attend these meetings to learn more about the Project and help identify issues and alternatives.

Monday, September 20

Eaton Country Club
37661 Weld County Rd 39
Eaton, CO 80615

Tuesday, September 21

Fort Collins Lincoln Center,
Columbine Room
417 W Magnolia Street
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Wednesday, September 22

American Legion Post 4
2124 County Road 54 G
Fort Collins, CO 80524

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Corps and the District encourage your participation in the EIS public process by attending the public meetings and submitting comments. Three public meetings will be held for your convenience. The meetings will be held on September 20 in Eaton, Colorado; September 21 in Fort Collins, Colorado; and September 22 in Fort Collins near LaPorte, Colorado. All of the public meetings will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, with a brief presentation at 7:00 pm. There will be an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed Project and discuss the Project, EIS process, and your concerns and issues. If you cannot attend the meetings, please send comments pertaining to the proposed Project to the attention of Chandler Peter by October 25, 2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Questions and comments regarding the proposed action and EIS should be addressed to:

Mr. Chandler Peter
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2232 Dell Range Blvd., Suite 210
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 772-2300
chandler.j.peter@usace.army.mil



Northern Integrated Supply Project EIS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENTS

What difference can you make? Your input is an important part of the public involvement process. Your comments and suggestions can help us adequately identify the public's concerns, issues, and alternatives to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement. Space is provided below to write down any comments you wish the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider. You may hand in your statement at the end of this meeting or, if you prefer, mail or fax this form to the address printed below. You also may submit comments by e-mail. Please indicate below your interest in the proposed relocation of U.S. Highway 287.

Please print legibly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Representing: _____

Comments: _____

Signature

Date

Please notify me of future public meetings that address the proposed relocation of U.S. Highway 287.

Written comments must be received at this address no later than October 25, 2004.

Mail to:

Mr. Chandler Peter

Regulatory Project Manager

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wyoming Regulatory Office

2232 Dell Range Blvd., Suite 210

Cheyenne, WY 82009-4942

Email: chandler.j.peter@usace.army.mil

Fax: (307) 772-2920