

Dated: September 13, 2002.

Rebecca W. Watson,

Assistant Secretary—Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

South Delta Improvements Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of time for written comments on scope of environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR).

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation is extending the public review period to October 31, 2002, for written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR for the South Delta Improvements Program. The notice of intent for the EIS/EIR was published in the **Federal Register** on August 30, 2002 (67 FR 55870). The comment period was originally to end on October 4, 2002.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR should be submitted on or before October 31, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR should be sent to Mr. Dan Meier, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-700, Sacramento, CA 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Meier, Reclamation, at the above address, or by telephone at 916-978-5086 or TDD 1-800-735-2922; or Mr. Paul Marshall, Department of Water Resources, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 94236, or by telephone at 916-653-2118.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Dated: September 26, 2002.

Frank Michny,

Regional Environmental Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-25506 Filed 10-7-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Alternatives for Meeting Water Needs in the Red River Valley, ND

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: On December 15, 2000, the 106th Congress passed the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, which was signed into law on December 21, 2000 (Public Law 106-554). Among other things, the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000 (DWRA) states that, "the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a comprehensive study of the water quality and quantity needs of the Red River Valley in North Dakota and possible options for meeting those needs" (Section 8(b)(1)). In addition, the DWRA states that, "pursuant to an agreement between the Secretary and State of North Dakota as authorized under section 19g) * * * the Secretary and the State of North Dakota shall jointly prepare and complete a draft environmental impact statement concerning all feasible options to meet the comprehensive water quality and quantity needs of the Red River Valley and the options for meeting those needs" (Section 8(c)(2)(A)).

Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the State of North Dakota (ND) will jointly prepare this environmental impact statement (EIS). The State of North Dakota (ND) has designated the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (GDCCD) to serve as the State lead in preparation of the EIS for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Reclamation, acting under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, is the lead Federal agency. Cooperating agencies will be identified at a later date.

Reclamation and the GDCCD will use the NEPA compliance process to ensure that the public has opportunities to review and comment on long-term water supply and management alternatives for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Public comments are invited and encouraged regarding both the scope of environmental and

socioeconomic issues and alternative that should be evaluated in the EIS.

Reclamation and the GDCCD have scheduled six public scoping meetings in which Federal, State, local and tribal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the public, and the international community are invited to participate in the open exchange of information and to submit comments on the proposed scope of the EIS. Each meeting will be preceded by a 2-hour open house during which Reclamation staff, GDCCD staff, and other study participants will provide information and answer questions.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the locations, dates, and times of the scoping meetings.

Written comments on the scope of the issues and alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS will be accepted and should be postmarked or e-mailed no later than December 16, 2002, to be most effective.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Bureau of Reclamation, Dakotas Area Office, P.O. Box 1017, Bismarck ND 58502.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Signe Snortland, Red River Valley Water Supply Project EIS, Bureau of Reclamation, Dakotas Area Office, P.O. Box 1017, Bismarck ND 58502; Telephone: (701) 250-4242 extension 3619; or FAX to (701) 250-4326. You may submit e-mail ssnortland@gp.usbr.gov or access the Red River Valley Water Supply Project web site at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao/rrvwsp.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1944, the U.S. Congress passed the Flood Control Act (the Missouri-Basin Pick Sloan Act), which authorized the construction of dams on the Missouri River and its tributaries. The Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU) was authorized in 1965, and construction began in 1967. The project was designed to divert Missouri River water to central and eastern ND for irrigation; fish and wildlife enhancement; municipal, rural, and industrial (MR&I) water supply; and recreation development. Most of the currently authorized principal supply works have been completed, except for about a 20-mile reach between the end of the Mccluskey Canal and beginning of the New Rockford Canal.

The project was reformulated in 1986 to reduce the emphasis on irrigation and increase the emphasis on meeting the MR&I water needs throughout ND. The 1986 Reformulation Act authorized a Sheyenne River water supply and release feature and water treatment plant capable of delivering 100 cubic feet per second of water to eastern ND.