

Chatfield Reallocation FR/EIS Study Meeting
Tetra Tech Conference Room, Lakewood, Colorado
Thursday, February 5, 2009: 9:00 am–11:30 am

1) Introductions:

Meeting attendees introduced themselves to the group. Tom Browning (Colorado Water Conservation Board) welcomed the group and presented the agenda.

2) Review Agenda and General Announcements

3a and 3b)—Study Logistics (Corps):

- Budget. Eric Laux (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [Corps]) discussed issues concerning the project budget (remaining funds, SACCR, change order, COE audit, future needs). Meeting will be held in D.C. in March. An exception was granted by the Corps for the cost of storage. The Recreation facility setback exception is still in progress but it is expected to go through very soon.
- Study schedule. Eric indicated that the FR/EIS document would be sent to the Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) group for review on Friday, February 6. The AFB may be less formal than initially thought; the Corps is still discussing this internally.

Eric says he will post the document to the FTP so all cooperating agencies/special technical advisers can see it. He encouraged those participants who haven't submitted their comments to submit them, especially those that could affect the project timeline or technical basis.

The Corps is working to produce a draft of the FR/EIS to be released to the public this summer. The draft will be released and a public comment period will begin, followed by public meetings. This public outreach will give all interested parties the opportunity to discuss concerns and provide comments. The Corps will revise and then release a final FR/EIS. The ROD will follow release of the final FR/EIS.

4a) EIS Discussion Items Water Quality Analysis (Tetra Tech):

- Gary Drendel informed the group that Tetra Tech received comments from the Corps on the revised Water Quality report, and has completed revisions to the report based on the Corps' comments. Eric does not plan to send the report to the Cooperating Agencies for additional review and comment. Gary indicated that the revised report is based on the Corps' scope of work that was developed from the comments received from the water quality workgroup that includes the Chatfield Watershed Authority. The workgroup had agreed that the scope of work would address their concerns.

4b) Environmental Mitigation Plan (ERO & Tetra Tech):

- Tom Ryon (Ottetail) reported that documentation of the Ecological Functions Approach (EFA) has been reviewed by the Corps. All comments from the Corps have been addressed and the document was resubmitted to Corps.

- ERO & Tetra Tech are working on Weighting factors (Proximity, Connectivity, Buffers); plan to meet with Pete Plage (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) to discuss draft values.
- Corps is pursuing model certification for EFA models (for wetlands, birds, Preble's). Timeline is approximately 3 weeks to get approval of the review/certification plan, and then 1 month for the model review.
- Tom Ryon indicated that while model certification review is ongoing, Tetra Tech and ERO are continuing to work on the mitigation plan, including:
 - Calculating EFU impacts of proposed alternative
 - Developing Site-review data sheets
 - Completing dry runs of potential mitigation scenarios
- The following future steps have been identified:
 - Complete weighting factors for review by Corps and draft submittal to USFWS
 - Combine existing Conceptual Plan with EFA document; resolve USFWS comments; develop revised Conceptual Mitigation Plan document.

4c) FR/EIS Chapters and Appendices (Tetra Tech):

- Tetra Tech has developed an updated version of the entire FR/EIS for the Corp's AFB review. This includes a revised Chapter 4 based on comments from the Cooperating Agencies.
- Eric indicated that the Corps now requires an external peer review. He is not sure whether it would occur before or after the release of the Public Draft; he is checking on it within the Corps. It also could take a while to complete (possibly up to 6 months), and he is checking on that as well.
- Tom Ryon gave an update on the Biological Assessment (BA)/Biological Opinion (BO). The BA is being prepared by Tetra Tech/Ottertail and is about 60% complete. The BA addresses only Federal species and is based on the selected alternative. It borrows from the Chapter 4 Impacts Analysis and the Mitigation Plan, so a more complete mitigation plan is needed to finish the BA. The BO is prepared by the USFWS after the BA is formally submitted to USFWS. The timing of the BA/BO was discussed, as well as whether the BA would be part of the Draft FR/EIS. Tetra Tech will follow-up with Pete Plage at FWS to further discuss and get clarification on these questions.

4d) Dam Safety and Seismic Review (Corps):

- Eric says need to comply with all regulations for dam safety and need for seismic review.

4e) EDAW Recreation Study (State Parks):

- The schedule for the duration of construction is about 2 years. Some of the work would be conducted during the summer months, but most of the effort would occur off season. There have been recent comments by concerned users, including dog trackers and wildlife viewers, regarding the potential loss of upland areas at the Park.

4f) UDV Analysis and BBC study (Corps and State Parks):

- The UDV analysis has been pushed back a few weeks due to limited available funding.

4g) Identified Key Issues for EIS Completion (Tetra Tech):

- Tony Truschel summarized recent activities by the group to review key issues that have been identified on recent Front Range water resources EISs, such as the NISP and Windy Gap project. The intent is to ensure that the Chatfield FR/EIS adequately addresses these key issues to the extent that they are relevant to the Chatfield project.

5) Public Involvement (CBCN/WebbPR):

- Brooke and Hayley discussed need to reach out to the public and community associations. Hayley has comments on the flyer posted to website. Hayley suggested holding a meeting to get public reaction to information contained on the web site. She wants to facilitate the best way to get public input on the draft FR/EIS. Eric agreed that it is important to listen and he has no problem with holding a meeting. Hayley wondered if there is a better way to get public input.

6) Wrap-up—Next Steps and Meeting Date:

- Next meeting date: Thursday, March 19, 9:00 am–11:30 am, Tetra Tech conference room on 10th floor. (Note: The meeting date has been changed to March 26.)