

NEPA Process/Requirements Meeting Minutes



Date: April 23, 2020

Location:

Call In: 1-510-338-9438; Access code: 627 506 141
WebEx Link included in Outlook Invitation

Time: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Leader: Sites Integration/ICF

Recorder: Sites Integration

Purpose: Discuss the Authority's Value Planning Process and CEQA/NEPA Path Forward

Attendees:

Monique Briard, ICF	Russ Grimes, Reclamation	Laurie Warner Herson, Sites Integration
Ryan Davis, Reclamation	Erin Heydinger, Sites Integration	Nicole Williams, ICF
Linda Fisher, Sites Integration	Nate Martin, Reclamation	Natalie Wolder, Reclamation
		Ray Sahlberg, Reclamation

Agenda:

Discussion Topic	Topic Leader	Time Allotted
1. Introductions – Roles/Responsibilities; Purpose of Meeting	Laurie	8 min
2. Sites Authority Value Planning (VP) Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purpose/Process – right-size project to meet Participant needs; screening-level review of range of alternatives b. Report and Recommendations – Alternative VP7, options c. Federal Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Investment (Assumed for all alternatives) ii. Modification of Federal Facilities iii. COA 	Laurie/Erin	12 min
3. Reclamation Feasibility Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Status/Schedule b. Any Changes to Alternatives 	Ryan	10 min
4. EIR/EIS Approach - Continued Joint EIR/EIS Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CEQA Requirements – revise and recirculate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Schedule – Meet CWC Prop 1 Funding Requirements b. NEPA Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Secretarial Order and page / time limits ii. New NEPA regulations and scope of the recirculated document iii. Post-Feasibility Reconciliation iv. Reclamation Review Process c. EIR/EIS Work Plan 	Nicole	25 min
5. Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Points of Contact 	All	5 min

Meeting Minutes:

Agenda Item 1

- Provided an overview of the Sites Authority team – Authority Agents (Environmental Planning and Permit Manager), Integration, and ICF roles and responsibilities
- Each attendee provided an overview of their specific roles.

Agenda Item 2

- Provided an overview of the current project purpose, value planning process, and recommended value planning alternative.
- Provided an overview of the current operations plan
- Reviewed Authority and Reclamation Feasibility and Environmental Review Graphic
 - Revised draft EIR – recirculated in 2021
- Reclamation asked about Reclamation investment options under the value planning scenarios. Reclamation is concerned that the VP presentation appears to preclude Reclamation investment needs and is just focused on Authority needs.
- Sites team responded that the Authority went through the value planning process to identify a project that would serve the needs of the Participants and that could be undertaken without Reclamation investment since there is no confirmed investment at this time; this does not preclude federal investment if funding becomes available.

Agenda Item 3

- Reclamation update: updated cost estimates have added approximately \$1 billion to each alternative. Alt D is now \$7.5B
 - Feasibility Report in technical review right now
 - Alternatives and operations have changed; generally the same location for the facilities.
 - Holthouse removed – replaced with Fletcher

Agenda Item 4

- Recirculation of the EIR and EIS was discussed.
 - Recirculated EIR would include a form of VP7 as the proposed project, the changes in ops and facilities, and those pieces of the EIR that have changed and would be released July 2021
- Reclamation suggested that the federal and local project will need to line up to receive federal funding
- Reclamation emphasized the need to define the federal action so the federal govt knows what they are paying for and long-term commitment

Agenda Item 5

- Team discussed another meeting when the range of alternatives have been refined, we have a better understanding of changes to the project and approach for the environmental document

Action Items/Takeaways

- Authority to more fully describe federal role
- Authority Team will prepare a matrix to identify: the differences between the 2017 EIR/EIS, what will be proposed in the revised EIR/EIS, what is proposed in Reclamation's feasibility report, and what will be proposed in the Authority's feasibility report; and, the potential differences in the analysis/results between the 2017 EIR/EIS and the Revised EIR/EIS
- Authority to consider inclusion of an alternative in the EIR/EIS that is in Reclamation's feasibility report once we have a draft of the revised feasibility report.