

Long-term Miscellaneous Purposes Contract EIS



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Managing Water in the West

Agency Introductions

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—Marsha Carra, Lori Robertson, and Art Coykendall
- New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission—Sara Rhoton and Elisa Sims
- ERO Resources Corp. (NMISC Consultant)—Richard Trenholme, Craig Sommers and Aleta Powers
- aci group, LLC (NMISC Consultant)—Steve Paulson and Kevin Ramberg



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Agency Roles

- Reclamation is the lead federal agency for the EIS; NMISC is a joint lead agency
- Reclamation is committed to conserve the Carlsbad Project Water supply
- Reclamation will decide on the request for a long-term miscellaneous purposes contract



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Agency Roles

Reclamation manages, develops, and protects water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.



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Agency Roles

The NMISC is authorized to investigate, develop, conserve, and protect the waters and stream systems of New Mexico, and to ensure compliance with all interstate water compacts.



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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires all Federal agencies to consider environmental impacts during decision-making.



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NEPA Compliance

Compliance with NEPA is a Federal responsibility and involves the participation of Federal, State, and local agencies and concerned publics in the planning process.



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NEPA Compliance

NEPA requires full disclosure of major actions taken by Federal agencies, accompanying alternatives, impacts, and mitigation.



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Proposed Action

Enter into a long-term miscellaneous purposes contract.

The contract would allow the NMISC to use Carlsbad Project water (Project water) allotted to land located inside the boundaries of the CID that NMISC owns or leases from other members of the CID, or other Project water, for release from facilities serving the Carlsbad Project. It would replace an existing 1999 short-term contract.



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Project Purpose and Need

Purpose: To allow the NMISC to use water allotted to land located inside the boundaries of the CID for release from facilities serving the Carlsbad Project.

Need: To assist the NMISC in compliance with the Pecos River Compact and the Supreme Court Amended Decree.



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Preliminary Alternatives

- Proposed Action—long-term miscellaneous purposes contract is signed.
- No Action Alternative—long-term miscellaneous purposes contract is not signed.



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What is Scoping?

- Identification of significant environmental issues related to the proposed action.
- “There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.” (40 CFR 1501.7).



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Scoping

Scoping identifies:

- Significant resource issues
- Potentially affected geographical area
- Resources available for the study
- Study constraints
- Alternatives to be considered



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Preliminary Issues

- Flow in the Pecos River
- NMISC's ability to comply with the Pecos River Compact and U.S. Supreme Court Amended Decree
- Effects on any threatened, endangered, or rare plant or animal species
- Integrity of the Carlsbad Irrigation District irrigation facilities as a National Historic District
- Economy of Carlsbad and the surrounding area
- Management of fallowed lands
- Cumulative effects of the proposed action with other current or planned activities on the Pecos River



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Current Conditions

- Existing short-term miscellaneous purposes contract
- NMISC currently owns 164 acres of CID land
- NMISC leased an average of 3,250 acres per year in CID over the past 10 years



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EIS Issues

- Vegetation
- Wetlands
- Wildlife
- Threatened or Endangered Species
- Geology/soils
- Visual Resources
- Local economy
- Environmental Justice
- Water resources & quality
- Flood control
- Historic & cultural resources
- Traditional Cultural Properties/Indian Trust Assets
- Land use
- Recreation



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EIS Schedule

Feb. 2004—Conduct public and agency scoping

Dec. 2004—Issue Draft EIS for public review

Jan. 2005—Conduct public hearings

Feb. 2005—Prepare comment summary report

May 2005—Issue Final EIS

July 2005—Issue Record of Decision (ROD)



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Discussion



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