

# **A.V. Watkins Dam Safety of Dams Modification Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact PRO-EA-07-002**

**Weber Basin Project  
Box Elder County, Utah  
Upper Colorado Region  
Provo Area Office**

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**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Provo Area Office  
Provo, Utah**

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# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

PRO-FONSI-07-002

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**A.V. Watkins Dam  
Safety of Dams Modification  
Weber Basin Project  
Box Elder County, Utah**

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper Colorado Region  
Provo Area Office  
Provo, Utah**

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## **FINDING**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that implementing the proposed action analyzed in the A.V. Watkins Dam Safety of Dams Modification Final Environmental Assessment (EA) will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of the EA and public comments received on the draft EA. This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-90), as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

## **DECISION**

Reclamation has decided to implement the Proposed Action alternative as described in the EA. This prescribes a modification fix for A.V. Watkins Dam that will minimally affect normal operations, while protecting environmental aspects mentioned in Chapter 3 of the EA (i.e. recreation; water resources; water quality; public safety, access, and transportation; visual quality; socioeconomics; cultural resources; paleontological resources; wetlands and vegetation, wildlife resources; threatened, endangered, candidate, and state sensitive species; land use; prime and unique farmland; pedestrians and bicyclists, air quality; noise; and construction impacts).

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

A finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

1. The proposed action will have no significant effect on such unique characteristics as cultural resources, wilderness areas, wetlands, and riparian areas.
2. The environmental effects of the proposed action are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The proposed action would not adversely affect, species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered or threatened species, and will not affect designated critical habitat for these species.
4. The proposed action does not threaten to violate a Federal, state or local law, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, public comments, and the alternatives in detail. Reclamation believes that the Proposed Action Alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

In October 2007, Reclamation mailed about 55 copies of the draft EA to the interested public for review and comment. Reclamation received two comment letters. One from the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers, Utah Regulatory Office and another from the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Office of the Governor, State of Utah. After evaluating the comments received, Reclamation made several minor revisions to the EA. The project file in the Provo Area Office contains the comment letter as well as a complete record of all public involvement activities.

### **SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The expected environmental impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative are described in Chapter 3 of the EA. The environmental analysis in that document is based on the fact that work would occur within the dam primary jurisdiction zone. The environmental analysis focused on the resources mentioned above. The environmental analysis indicates that the impacts will be temporary, short term, and/or minor.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

Reclamation will carry out the environmental commitments associated with the proposed action, as described in Chapter 4 of the EA. Those commitments have been incorporated by reference into this decision, and completion of the commitments will be closely monitored by Reclamation. Monitoring will also ensure completion of any and all mitigation requirements in construction contract specifications, as appropriate.