

PRO-FONSI-06-001

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Huntington North Dam Outlet Works Modification  
and Carriage of Non-Project Water through Emery County Project Facilities  
Emery County Project  
Emery County, Utah**


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

Recommended by:

  
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Chief, Environmental Group

1-23-07  
Date

Concur:

  
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1/23/07  
Date

Approved by:

  
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1/25/07  
Date

## **FINDING**

The Bureau of Reclamation has determined that authorizing carriage of non-project water through Emery County Project facilities by contract with Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company (HCIC), and Emery Water Conservancy District (EWCD), and associated outlet works modification 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 public comments received during the public review process and the environmental effects of alternatives described in Chapter 3 of the Huntington North Dam Outlet Works Modification and Carriage of Non-Project Water through Emery County Project Facilities Environmental Assessment (EA). This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 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 authorize HCIC to convey non-project water through Emery County Project facilities. The need for the proposed action is to provide a means of regulating non-project water associated with HCIC's salinity control program. Conveyance of non-project water through Huntington North Reservoir will require modifying the existing outlet works.

The proposed action would allow conveyance of 14,074 acre-feet per year of non-project water for irrigation and incidental stock watering. The outlet works of Huntington North Dam will be modified by connecting a pressurized irrigation pipeline into the existing outlet works. The proposed action will require deactivating the existing spillway and constructing a new spillway.

The majority of the outlet works modification for this project will occur within the existing outlet works concrete box culvert. A pipe will be installed throughout the entire 110 feet length of the box culvert, connecting at the upstream end of the box culvert near the existing control gate. The pipe will be buried and connected to the irrigation system. A vault valve will be installed in the existing pipeline 1.5 miles south of the dam which will allow Reclamation to release water in an emergency. The emergency release pipe will daylight and spill into Huntington Creek.

A second part of this project includes the construction of a new spillway. The existing spillway will be deactivated and blocked off. The new spillway will be the same flow capacity of 100 cubic feet per second. The new spillway will require a concrete inlet within the reservoir basin. The alignment for the new spillway will be located on original ground, off of either the dikes or the dam. The spillway will be of concrete construction and using 54-inch HDPE pipe and will allow the reservoir to spill into the existing canal 1,600 feet to the east. The new spillway will require approximately 100 feet by 1,100 feet of surface disturbance on previously disturbed land with 2 months construction time. The spillway work will require the water in the reservoir to be at 5820 feet elevation which is within the normal operation of the dam. The spillway pipeline will be buried from the spillway inlet to where it daylights at the stilling basin.

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

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

1. The proposed action will have no adverse 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 will have no adverse effect on species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered, or threatened species, and no adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species.
4. The proposed action does not threaten to violate Federal, state, or local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, public comments, and the alternatives in detail and believes that the preferred action alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Preparation of the EA for the Huntington North Dam Outlet Works Modification and Carriage of Non-Project Water through Emery County Project Facilities required public involvement activities throughout the planning process. The public scoping process, to contact and solicit comments from interested parties, was initiated on December 8, 2006, with a draft EA mailed to over 25 municipalities, organizations and agencies considered to have an interest in the proposed action. The draft EA was made available on the internet for a 30-day public review period ending January 10, 2007. Reclamation received two response letters on the draft EA.

All comments received were reviewed and considered in preparing the final EA. Revisions to the draft EA were made as appropriate in response to comments. The project file in the Provo Area Office contains the comment letters as well as a description of all public involvement activities.

## **SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The expected environmental effects of the preferred action alternative are described in Chapter 3 of the EA. The environmental analysis is focused on impacts to recreation; water rights; water resources; water quality; air quality; hazardous or solid wastes; dam operations; public safety, access, and transportation; visual resources; socioeconomics; cultural resources; paleontological

resources; wetlands and vegetation; floodplains; farmlands; wild and scenic rivers; wildlife resources; and threatened and endangered species. The environmental analysis indicates that the impacts will be temporary, short-term, and insignificant.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION COMMITMENTS**

Reclamation is legally obligated to carry out the environmental commitments prescribed to mitigate or eliminate impacts resulting from implementation of the preferred action alternative, described in Chapter 4 of the EA. These environmental commitments have been incorporated by reference into this FONSI. The implementation and effectiveness of these environmental commitments will be closely monitored by Reclamation. This monitoring will ensure incorporation of mitigation requirements in all construction contract specifications, as appropriate, and compliance with environmental commitments recommended by Reclamation.