



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Washington, D.C. 20240

JAN 14 2008

IN REPLY REFER TO:

84-40000

ADM-1.10

## MEMORANDUM

To: Deputy Commissioner - Operations

From: Robert W. Johnson  
Commissioner

Subject: Decisions Related to *Managing for Excellence* Recommendations – Action Item 36  
(Reclamation-wide desalination R&D)

The Managing for Excellence Action Item 36 will be considered complete with no team action taken at this time due to the National Academy of Science delay in the delivery of the final National Academy report on the role of federal desalination R&D. A copy of the resulting decision document is attached for your information and use in implementing the recommendation listed in the decision document.

Please contact Mr. David Achterberg, Director, Security, Safety, and Law Enforcement telephonically at 303-445-3736 or via electronic mail at [dachterberg@do.usbr.gov](mailto:dachterberg@do.usbr.gov) should you have any questions.

Attachment

cc: 91-00000 (Collier), 91-10000, 92-00000 (Polly, Brown), 94-00000 (Todd, Oates), 94-30000 (Wolf, Smith), 96-00000 (Wirkus), 96-40000 (Quint)  
84-20000 (Beckmann, Moon), 84-21000 (Feuerstein, Wendling), 84-27000 (Harrison, Mattingly), 84-40000 (Achterberg), 84-56000 (Byers), 86-60000 (Gabaldon, Medina), 86-68000 (Pimley, Weitkamp), 86-69000 (Brown)  
PN-1000 (McDonald, Kaley), MP-100 (Davis, Schlueter), LC-1000 (Gray, Ruiz), UC-100 (Walkoviak, Daly), GP-1000 (Ryan, Parish), EC-100 (Collins) (w/att)

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Decision Document

## Managing for Excellence - Team 36



# **MANAGING FOR EXCELLENCE RECOMMENDATIONS – Action Item 36**

## **Role of federal desalination R&D**

### **Executive Sponsor**

David Achterberg

### **Key Organizations Function Interfaces**

Reclamation-wide desalination R&D

### **Action item statement from the Managing for Excellence Action Plan**

Action Item 36 – Assess the National Academy of Sciences’ review of the role of federal desalination R&D and consider recommendation.

### **Scope Statement from Managing for Excellence Project Management Plan**

In early 2006, Reclamation awarded a contract to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct a study of the potential role of desalination technology to meet current and future water supply needs in the United States for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The study considers the state-of-the-art in relevant technologies and factors such as cost and implementation challenges. It will produce recommendations for action and research to a community of multiple Federal, state, and local governmental and private entities concerned with advancing such technologies. The desalination technology roadmap developed by Reclamation and Sandia National Laboratories in 2003 served as a resource to this NAS effort. The current NAS effort is a broader and farther reaching effort which will include recommending long-term goals, the development of a research strategy that balances high-risk research with incremental improvement in existing technology, and recommendations on resource needs and roles.

Under Managing for Excellence a timeline was established to form a team and to evaluate the recommendations of the final NAS Report. The planned completion of the Action Item 36 team activity was December 2007. However, the planned delivery of the final NAS Report has been delayed by the NAS and will not be available to Reclamation until the second quarter of fiscal year 2008. This delay

will not allow for this action item to be completed in the overall time frame outlined for the Managing for Excellence completion.

**Recommendation**

The delay in the delivery of the final NAS Report on the role of federal desalination R&D will not allow Action Item 36 to be initiated before the overall planned completion of Managing for Excellence. The need to address the findings and recommendations in the final NAS Report will need to be addressed by Reclamation as an implementation action item rather than a Managing for Excellence action item. The Deputy Commissioner, Operations, will be responsible for the development of an implementation plan for the response to the NAS Report findings and recommendations after Reclamation receives the final report. The planned response to the NAS Report will need to provide transparency in the process.

**Submitted by:**

David L. Achterberg 12/21/07  
David Achterberg, Executive Sponsor Date

Larry Todd 1/4/08  
Larry Todd, Deputy Commissioner, PAB Date

Concur: Robert W. Johnson 1/14/08  
Robert W. Johnson, Commissioner Date