

Response:

The 1-percent chance flood stage at Highway 46 on the north side of Walcott Township is expected to increase one foot or less. Impacts would gradually decrease southward to nearly zero feet at Richland County Road 2. Very little additional acreage is affected by project impacts in Walcott Township, as shown on Figures 65, 67, 69 and 71 in Chapter 5 of the FEIS. All impacted areas outside of the defined staging area will be analyzed to determine if the impacts constitute a taking that would require compensation under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

C-65 Impacts Outside Staging Area

There will be impacts outside the designated staging area as shown by the red lines on the map. This is misleading and the costs to this additional impacted area are not fully included. These red lines are a best guess only, and that offers little information and little confidence to the public.

Response:

Stage increases for the 1-percent chance event outside the defined staging area are expected to be less than one foot. All impacted areas outside of the defined staging area will be analyzed to determine if the impacts constitute a taking that would require compensation under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

C-66 Climate Change

Climate change impacts should be modeled and taken into account. The Corps' precipitation projections were calculated without taking into account climate change.

Response:

On 28-29 September 2009, the St. Paul District conducted an Expert Opinion Elicitation (EOE) on increasing flood flows on the Fargo, ND-Moorhead, MN flood risk management project. Six Federal experts and 6 Observers addressed this issue including climate change impacts. For a full account of this proceedings refer to Appendix A-1B. For a full account of the methodology developed to implement the panel's recommendations, see Appendix A-1C. The direct GHG emissions from the project would be limited to those related to construction of the diversion channel alternatives, and would cease upon conclusion of construction. Any impact would not be meaningful.

C-67 Additional Agribusiness Economic Impact

Businesses related to agriculture will experience substantial economic losses. These losses to agribusiness are not included in the SDEIS. Such losses include a reduction in inputs and yields, for both the staging area and the storage area, reduced agricultural production resulting from impacts to general drainage, and other business losses due to limited access on roads in the upstream area. Although summer use of the project would be infrequent, the economic losses and loss of production would be very large. Loss of production means less food produced. Agriculture is the economic engine of the state of North Dakota and the impacts to agricultural have not been sufficiently addressed.