



Frequently Asked Questions:

Distributed Storage Alternative (DSA)

Q. *What is the Distributed Storage Alternative?*

- A.** The Distributed Storage Alternative (DSA) is a concept alternative to the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Risk Management project. The DSA uses potential upstream flood storage areas combined with maximum height in-town levees to reduce flood risk to the Metropolitan Area. This alternative also considered additional measures such as wetland/grassland restoration and the addition of a diversion to improve flood risk reduction. The DSA does not include a dam on the Red River.

Q. *Why isn't the DSA evaluated in the Draft EIS?*

- A.** Under Minnesota's environmental review rules, only alternatives that meet the proposer's project purpose are included in the EIS and get full evaluation. After careful consideration, the MNDNR determined that the DSA does not meet the Diversion Authority's project purpose. The Draft EIS will explain the basis for that conclusion and the DSA will not be further analyzed. The Draft EIS will be released for public review and comment before MNDNR produces a Final EIS. Any comments received on the DSA will be considered by the MNDNR as part of preparing the Final EIS. All scoped alternatives have the potential to remain in the EIS until the Final EIS is published.

Q. *What is MNDNR's position on the DSA?*

- A.** While it appears that the DSA would not meet the project purpose as defined by the project proposer (i.e., the Diversion Authority), MNDNR believes distributed storage is an excellent basin-wide approach to providing flood protection at a local level and should be pursued where feasible. Additional upstream storage would greatly benefit many communities downstream in the Red River Basin, including Fargo and Moorhead, but individual communities would still need additional flood protection for large or catastrophic flood events. The original goal of the proposed Fargo-Moorhead project was to protect the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area and communities along the Red River mainstem; not to provide basin-wide flood protection.

Q. *So Minnesota is simply accepting the Diversion Authority's project purpose?*

- A.** One of the primary purposes of environmental review is to identify and disclose the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. Thus, in conducting environmental review, MNDNR only examines the proposed project *and* feasible alternatives that can meet the proposer's project purpose. To the extent there are questions about whether the project purpose is appropriate or acceptable, those will be considered as part of permitting and any decisions about providing public financing.