



WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE DRAFT EIS? INFO SHEET 9

To help you review the Final EIS, we have listed below the major changes made since the Draft EIS was released. The changes were made primarily in response to Draft EIS public comments. Please note: This is not an exhaustive list of all changes made to the EIS. The DNR encourages readers to review sections in the Final EIS for revised or added text.

FARGO-MOORHEAD FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FINAL EIS)

Major Additions

- “Areas of Controversy and Issues Yet to Be Resolved.” This section was added to the Executive Summary based on public comments received in EIS Scoping and on the Draft EIS. Areas of Controversy topics include flood risk transfer, alternatives analysis, floodplain development, and mitigation. Issues Yet to be Resolved topics include a choice among alternatives, plan compatibility and mitigation.
- Appendix L—Responses to Comments document. This appendix contains all the comment letters received during the public comment period and the DNR responses.
- Appendix M—Hydrologic Methodology Review. The appendix is a technical memorandum that compares the hydrology that was used in the Draft EIS to a standard updated period of record hydrology. The memorandum discusses how the different hydrology methodologies relate to the impact analysis and alternatives analysis contained in the EIS.
- Appendix N—Purpose & Need and Alternative Rescreen Report. This appendix evaluates the Project’s Purpose and Need to see if it was too narrowly-focused and improperly/inappropriately screened out other less impact alternatives. The Alternative Rescreen Exercise was developed to concurrently address the Purpose and Need comments as well as all commenter-submitted alternatives.
- Appendix O—Takings, Flowage Easements and Acquisition Processes. This memo clarifies the takings, flowage easement and acquisition process set forth in both Minnesota and federal law. The memo includes a discussion of proposed mitigation measures and recommendations for additional mitigation measures.

Major Changes

- Chapter 1, A description of Federal Executive Order 11988 regulations and procedures was added.
- Chapter 3, Section 3.1- Hydrology and Hydraulics: Revisions related to downstream impacts, the “wet cycle and dry cycle”, and Project operation description.
- Chapter 3, Section 3.12- Cultural Resources: Updated to reflect the most current survey, report, and eligibility findings; and information from the Draft Cemetery Mitigation Plan (USACE 2015) (Appendix H). A discussion on St. Benedict’s Cemetery impacts under the Northern Alignment Alternative has been added.
- Chapter 3, Section 3.14- Land Use Plans and Regulations: The DNR met with Wilkin County, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District and the City of Fargo; and corresponded with all other Local Government Units with regulatory authority regarding the Project to verify information provided in the Draft EIS text was accurate. Text has been updated to reflect the outcome of those conversations.
- Chapter 3, Section 3.16- Socioeconomics: Discussion was added on the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Initial Assessment of the Agricultural Risk of Temporary Water Storage for FM Diversion (NDSU 2015); and expanded discussion on flood impacts to traditional and organic agricultural land (Project and all alternatives), a new subsection on social and economic impacts to cemeteries (Project and all alternatives); and updated text on Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring.
- Chapter 6- Proposed and Recommended Mitigation: Revisions, updates, and new potential impacts and proposed/recommended mitigation have been added to tables within Chapter 6 (particularly the FEMA, Cultural and Socioeconomics tables).