



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
St. Paul District

Public Notice

Project: Design Modifications to the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Project

Date: 06/14/2013

In Reply Refer to:

Expires: 07/15/2013

Regional Planning and Environment
Division North

1. Project Proponent. St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678.

2. Project Authority. The Feasibility Study was authorized by a September 30, 1974, Resolution of the Senate Committee to Public Works. Prior to 2008, the Corps conducted numerous studies and projects in the study area. The Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area was included in the Red River Reconnaissance Study approved in 2002; that study was not to a sufficient level of detail to recommend a feasibility study specifically for measures in Fargo and Moorhead. A supplemental reconnaissance report recommended the feasibility study and was approved by the Mississippi Valley Division on April 8, 2008.

3. Project Location. The proposed actions would be located in Cass County, North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota as shown in Figure 1 of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment dated June 12, 2013.

4. Summary of the Proposed Project.

a. The Federally Recommended Plan for the Fargo-Metropolitan Area Flood Risk Management Project (Project) is described as the Locally Preferred Plan in the Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) dated July 2011; a Record of Decision was signed on April 3, 2012.

b. The subject of this Public Notice is the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation Supplement that have been prepared to discuss several proposed modifications to the design of the Project. The proposed modifications identified since the FEIS include: (1) diversion channel modifications, including alignment shifts and channel cross-section modifications; (2) the addition of levees and floodwalls in downtown Fargo; and (3) a ring levee around the towns of Oxbow, Hickson, and Bakke, ND.

c. The proposed fill activities associated with the proposed modifications would include changes to the locations of previously identified discharges of fill material, additional discharges into wetlands associated with diversion channel modifications; and discharges associated with the Oxbow/Hickson/Bakke ring levee.

5. Construction Schedule. Construction of the proposed actions is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2014.

6. Permits/Coordination.

a. General. The proposed action has been coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Game and Fish, Minnesota DNR, North Dakota State

Water Commission, North Dakota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

b. State. Fill material placed for the proposed project modifications is subject to regulation by the State of North Dakota.

c. Federal. A Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared and coordinated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service occurred during the planning process. A Preliminary Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation Supplement was prepared in accordance with the Clean Water Act of 1977.

7. Summary of Environmental Impacts. The proposed modifications would produce a minor short-term adverse effect on noise levels, air quality, and aesthetic values. The proposed modifications would have a minor long-term adverse effect on existing/potential land use, farmland/food supply, and wetlands. The proposed modifications would have a minor long-term positive effect on fish passage, business and home relocations, flooding effects, tax revenue, and geomorphology. Impacts to cultural resources have been or will be identified and will be mitigated for.

8. Public Hearing Requests. The Preliminary Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation Supplement is being distributed as part of this environmental assessment. Anyone may request a public hearing on the Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation Supplement. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice, and must state specific reasons for holding a hearing. A request for public hearing may be denied if specific reasons for holding a hearing are not provided, the issues raised are insubstantial, or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

9. Review and Comment. If you have any comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment package they must be provided within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice. Interested parties are also invited to submit written facts, arguments, or objections to the proposed modifications within that time frame. These statements should clearly state the interest affected and how the proposed modifications would affect that interest. Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available for public review, to include the possibility of posting on a public website. Questions on the project or comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment package should be directed to Terry Williams at (651) 290-5517. Please address all correspondence on this project to District Engineer, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Terry Williams, 180 Fifth Street East, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1638.

Michael J. Price
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer