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Red River Valley Water Supply Project presents public web site

A web site on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been jointly developed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Dakotas Area Office, in Bismarck and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District in Carrington. The web site is located at <http://www.rrvwsp.com>

This web site contains current information on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project EIS and its components, press releases, public scoping materials and other EIS information.

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project was authorized by the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000, which mandated preparation of an EIS with joint leadership between the federal government and the State of North Dakota.

Reclamation and Garrison Diversion, representing North Dakota, are co-leads of the EIS process. They have been working with the public on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project to provide solutions for the projected water supply and quality problems in the Red River basin over the next five decades.

The purpose of the EIS is to provide full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts to any proposed actions. Solutions may range from using water sources within the Red River basin, sources from the Missouri River basin, or a combination of the two plus a required no action alternative. The web page contains maps and descriptions of the alternatives that are currently being considered.

Though the project would be designed specifically for the North Dakota portion of the Red River basin, the entire basin (which also covers areas of Minnesota, South Dakota, and Manitoba, Canada) will also be considered with regard to environmental impacts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 provides guidelines for preparing the EIS. In particular, NEPA requires the public be informed of, and have input into, the project analysis and that a systematic, interdisciplinary approach is used to consider the environmental impacts.

The co-lead agencies are working with numerous entities from federal, state, international and private environmental areas to complete the process.

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For more information on the project, refer to <http://www.rrvwsp.com>; contact Doug Coulter, Bureau of Reclamation 701-250-4242, ext. 3107 or Maria Effertz Hanson, Garrison Diversion, 800-532-0074.