

MEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FORM

Project Name: Broadwater-Missouri Project Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation

Proposed Implementation Date: February 2020

Proponent: DNRC – State Water Projects Bureau

Type and Purpose of Action: The Main Canal Measurement Station is part of the Broadwater-Missouri Project, owned and managed by the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation's (DNRC) State Water Projects Bureau (SWPB). The Main Canal serves as a primary irrigation water conveyance source that serves two distribution canals, all operated and maintained by the Broadwater-Missouri Water Users Association. Currently, the Main Canal Measurement Station is not operational. SWPB has determined the need to make the measurement station operational again which will provide reliable water measurement data to better manage and conserve the natural resource. The action alternative plans for rehabilitating the Main Canal Measurement Station with improved water measurement technology.

Location: N1/2 NW Section 7, T4N, R3E

County: Broadwater

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION
<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief summary of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</p>	<p>Preliminary engineering and project scoping has been conducted by SWPB. Groups/agencies involved and/or contacted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MT Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation (Water Resources Division) – Landowner • U.S. Dept of Interior, Bureau of Land Management – Adjacent Landowner • Broadwater-Missouri Water Users Association
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>The Main Canal Measurement Station is located on public lands administered by DNRC, Water Resources Division. No other government agencies have jurisdiction.</p> <p>No construction permits are required.</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Proceed with the Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Do not proceed with the rehabilitation. The Main Canal Measurement Station will continue to not collect water measurement data.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

- Are fragile, compatible or unstable soils present?
- Are there unusual geologic features?
- Are there special reclamation considerations?

The immediate project area includes soils consisting of the Nielsen channery loam, with slopes ranging from 15 to 60%. These soils are not fragile or unstable. There are no unusual geologic features or any special reclamation considerations.

Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation will involve constructing a new concrete foundation with vertical walls within the canal prism. Only minor soil disturbances are anticipated. No significant or adverse impacts are expected.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

- Are important surface or groundwater resources present?
- Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?

The Missouri River is located adjacent the Main Canal. The project site is separated from the Missouri River by the Toston Dam road. The project construction will be within the canal geometric prism and will have no effect on water quality standards in the area.

Action Alternative: Installation of the Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation will have no impact on drinking or ambient water quality in the area.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to water quality.

6. AIR QUALITY:

- Will pollutants or particulate be produced?
- Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)?

Action Alternative: Any impacts would be related to emissions from construction equipment and would be non-significant, minor, short-term, temporary, and end with the completion of the project. The project area is not influenced by any special air quality regulations.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to air quality.

<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</p> <p>Will vegetative communities be permanently altered?</p>	<p>The current vegetative community consists of common native grasses, forbs, woody shrubs and sagebrush.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation will require mobilizing construction equipment on each canal embankment. There will be minor impacts to the existing vegetation for equipment ingress and egress access routes. This will increase the possibility for noxious weed introductions. Any adverse impacts are non-significant, very small and localized. Disturbed areas will be reclaimed and reseeded after the project is completed with a suitable native seed mix.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the vegetative communities.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</p> <p>Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>The area contains habitat for common wildlife and aquatic species.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation site may see a slight disturbance in habitat quality during the construction. These impacts are non-significant, minor, short-term and non-significant.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to terrestrial, avian and aquatic habitats.</p>
<p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</p> <p>Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present?</p> <p>Any wetlands?</p> <p>Any sensitive species or Species of Special Concern?</p>	<p>The project is in an area listed as habitat for the following State Species of Special Concern: Fauna: Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Hoary Bat, Spotted Bat, Townsend's Big-Eared Bat, American White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Peregrine Falcon, Pileated Woodpecker, and Pinyon Jay. Canada Lynx and Grizzly Bear are also federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).</p> <p>Flora State Species of Special Concern: Andean Water Milfoil and Rocky Mountain Twinpod. Ute Ladies' Tresses and Whitebark Pine are also federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). There are no wetlands on the project site.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation will have no impact on unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts.</p>

<p>10. HISTORICAL / ARCHAEOLOGICAL :</p> <p>Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>A Heritage Resource Management Plan exists for the nearby Broadwater Power Project Relicensing Request (Toston Dam). This Plan includes cultural resource documentation including Class I and Class III cultural surveys and has identified two historic properties within the area of potential effect (AEP). The plan also references a documented cultural site that includes the Historic Irrigation System: Broadwater-Missouri eastside and westside canals which are eligible for listing.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will not impact known and documented cultural resources. Any new historical/archaeological/ paleontological resources uncovered during construction would be reported to the DNRC Archeologist and the SHPO.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to historical/archaeological/paleontological resources under this alternative.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS:</p> <p>Is the project on a prominent topographic feature?</p> <p>Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas?</p> <p>Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>The project location and access is located on public lands administered by the DNRC, Water Resources Division. The site is visible from the Toston Dam Road but not from the Missouri River. The public generally cannot see the area, due to the limited viewshed within the canal geometric prism.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation will have no impact on the aesthetics of the area. This alternative may generate minor noise associated with the construction. This would be non-significant, temporary, and end with completion of the project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to aesthetics.</p>
<p>12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</p> <p>Will the project use resources that are limited in the area?</p> <p>Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation would not change the existing demand/use of water in the area. The project will provide reliable irrigation water measurement data to better manage and conserve the natural resource. There are no other activities nearby that would affect the project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no new demands placed on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.</p>
<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:</p> <p>Are there other studies, plans or projects on this site?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: This project will not impact any other plans or studies.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:</p> <p>Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project may involve health and safety risks normally associated with the construction installation. Federal and State safety standards, rules and regulations will apply, thereby reducing and health and safety risks to non-significant levels. Any health and safety risks would be minor, temporary and end with the completion of the project</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to human health or safety.</p>
<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:</p> <p>Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will have positive impacts on agriculture by providing additional reliable water measurement data to support irrigation deliveries.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there could be future impacts to agricultural activities due to the limited water measurement data availability to support irrigation deliveries.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</p> <p>Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation will create temporary employment related to construction activity. The finished project will not create nor impact any jobs in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no positive impacts to quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:</p> <p>Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will have very minor impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues (only related to the project construction activity).</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the local and state tax base under this alternative.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:</p> <p>Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads?</p> <p>Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will not increase traffic nor add to demand for government services.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no additional demand for government services.</p>

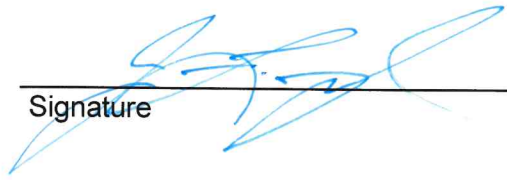
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</p> <p>Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>The project location and access is located on public lands administered by the DNRC, Water Resources Division and is nearby a Bureau of Land Management parcel. The BLM has adopted regulations and management plans for their respective ownership.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation would not impact environmental plans, goals, zoning or management plans.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts on locally adopted environmental plans and goals.</p>
<p>20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>Is wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through the project location?</p> <p>Is there recreational potential within the project location?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will not impact any recreation resources, as access to State Lands and nearby BLM campgrounds via the Toston Dam Road will not be impeded. There are no wilderness areas in the immediate vicinity of the project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational resources.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</p> <p>Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will not impact the density and distribution of population and housing.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the density and distribution of population and housing.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:</p> <p>Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will not disrupt any traditional lifestyles or communities.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to social structures under this alternative.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:</p> <p>Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of this rural area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The Main Canal Measurement Station Rehabilitation would enhance reliable water measurement data to support continued irrigation water delivery thereby helping to sustain the area's agricultural economy.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there could be future impacts to agricultural activities due to the limited water measurement data availability to support irrigation deliveries.</p>

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action alternative.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts anticipated.
27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Prepared By: Mark McNearney DNRC-SWPB Civil Engineering Specialist Date: 02/10/2020
Name Title

EA Approved By: Jan Langel DNRC Water Resources Division Administrator
Name Title


Signature _____ Date: 2/6/20

Attachments: No attachments are included.

Additional Information:

This EA will be published for 30 days on the DNRC website at:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/public-interest/environmental-docs>

Questions and comments should be directed to:

Mark McNearney, P.E.
Montana DNRC
Water Resources Division
State Water Projects Bureau
1424 9th Avenue; P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1602
(406) 444-2932
mmcnearney@mt.gov

Thank you for your interest.