



DECISION NOTICE

BROADWATER POWER PROJECT UPPER TOSTON RECREATION AREA SHORELINE STABILIZATION BROADWATER COUNTY, MT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Helena, MT
AUGUST 2022**

The State Water Projects Bureau (SWPB) of the Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) Water Resources Division, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released an Environmental Assessment for shoreline stabilization improvements on the Missouri River, adjacent to the Broadwater Power Project and BLM Upper Toston Recreation Area within Broadwater County. The Broadwater Power Project is owned by Montana DNRC and is administered by the SWPB. The Upper Toston Recreation Area is owned and maintained by the BLM.

The proposed project is located at the southern terminus of Toston Dam Road in Township 4N, Range 3E, Sections 6 and 7.

Proposed Action

The proposed action involves shoreline stabilization improvements to address bank erosion upstream of the Toston Dam main canal intake along the left bank of the Missouri River. Portions of the riverbank within the BLM Upper Toston Recreation Area and adjacent to the DNRC Broadwater Power Project and Broadwater-Missouri Canal Headworks have been slowly

eroding. It is suspected that a combination of boat wakes, wave action due to fetch, and the channeled flow to the Powerhouse and headworks are facilitating the erosion. The Upper Toston Recreation Area is a popular recreation site that provides camping and day-use opportunities consisting of a parking area, latrine, and boat launch with floating dock. Addressing this on-going bank erosion is necessary to prevent further erosion from occurring to this important recreation site.

Two alternatives are considered for the proposed Upper Toston Recreation Area shoreline stabilization project:

Alternative A: This alternative is the Proposed Alternative (i.e., Proposed Action). Under the Proposed Action, shoreline bank stabilization improvements will be implemented within the BLM Upper Toston Recreation Area and adjacent to the Toston Dam and headworks. Bank stabilization components would incorporate BLM preferences with site specific details added. In general, the recommended bank stabilization will include a rock base capped with conserved native backfill topped with a growth media. Biodegradable coir logs and/or coir fabric would be utilized, and the site would be revegetated with a native seed mix. Fencing may also be installed to limit foot traffic interaction on the shoreline stabilization improvement until revegetation is determined to be adequately established.

Alternative B: This alternative is the No-action alternative. Under the No-action Alternative shoreline stabilization would not occur and erosion would continue unabated to the BLM Upper Toston Recreation Area.

No other alternatives were considered to remedy shoreline erosion issues at the site, other than identified above.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess potential impacts of its proposed actions to the human and physical environments, evaluate those impacts through an interdisciplinary approach, including public input, and make a decision whether or not to proceed with the project.

In compliance with DNRC's Environmental Document Reporting Policy, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed on the proposed action by DNRC and released for a 30-day public comment period commencing on July 12, 2022. The official comment period closed on August 12, 2022.

The EA was made available on DNRC's website.

Summary of Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Environmental Assessment Summary

An Environmental Assessment was prepared by DNRC in conjunction with the BLM to address shoreline erosion on the Missouri River adjacent to the DNRC Broadwater Power Project and BLM Upper Toston Recreation Area. Alternatives were considered and a proposed action was selected by DNRC and released for public comment. No public comments were received by DNRC.

This environmental assessment is therefore the appropriate level of analysis and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Decision

Based on the alternatives considered and opportunity for public comment, DNRC considers the Draft Environmental Assessment to be the Final Environmental Assessment and will issue this Decision.

It is my decision to approve the Proposed Action Alternative to implement shoreline stabilization improvements adjacent to the DNRC Broadwater Power Project and BLM Upper Toston Recreation Area.



Anna Pakenham Stevenson
Water Resources Division Administrator

The Decision Notice will be posted on the DNRC website at www.dnrc.mt.gov in the Environmental Documents section. Please direct questions to:

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