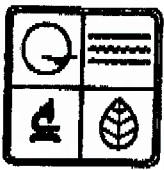


201



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FAX Transmittal Cover Sheet

Date of Fax: 3/9/07

- URGENT
- Priority
- Routine
- As Requested
- FYI

To: Dennis Breitzman

From: Doyle Childers

FAX: 701-290-4326 Phone: _____

FAX: _____ Phone: _____

SUBJECT: RRUWSP - Request for Extension

COMMENTS: _____

RESPONSE EXPECTED: _____

Total # of pages sent (including transmittal sheet): 3

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MO 700-1400 (4/05)

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REPLY: YES NO		
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DATE	INITIAL	TO
3/12	DR	Dennis
3/12	—	Rick
3/12	ax	Fritz
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PROJECT		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER I.D.		

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director

www.dnr.mo.gov

March 9, 2007

Red River Valley Water Supply Project
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
P. O. Box 1017
Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, I request a 60-day extension of the comment period for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (SDEIS). The designated 45-day period is insufficient for analysis of a project of this complexity with diverse impacts in two separate major drainage basins.

The significant changes from the Draft EIS and Reclamation's refusal to produce any documentation of the changes from the Draft EIS require a complete review of this entire document. Reclamation has also failed to document in any meaningful way its response to comments on the Draft EIS requiring each reviewer to reexamine the SDEIS anew independent of any review of earlier drafts. These conditions have caused this department's staff to re-examine the entire SDEIS and much of the supporting documentation from scratch along with many of the new appendices and supporting documents. Therefore, we are unable to save significant time from the existence of an earlier Draft EIS.

The SDEIS contains new analyses of the Missouri River impacts of the preferred alternative that will require significant time to review. In my letter of June 15, 2006, I specifically requested that the Bureau make available any Missouri River analysis as soon as possible. Instead your office did not make the Corps' study results, dated as September 2006, available until the release of the SDEIS. Our preliminary review suggests serious errors remain in this version of the analysis and we will need time to confirm that those errors exist and to resolve them.

We are also very concerned about the newly identified impacts to threatened and endangered species (piping plover and least tern). Given the amount of activity in the Missouri River basin to meet the needs of these species, Missouri wishes to thoroughly understand the analysis of these impacts and their likely impact on the Missouri River. Because Reclamation has failed to complete the analyses and offers no analysis of the remediation actions that will be required under the Endangered Species Act, it should allow interested parties to examine such impacts.

Red River Valley Water Supply Project

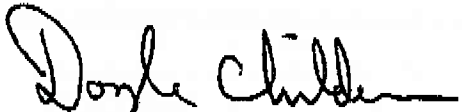
March 9, 2007

Page 2

The SDEIS contains additional information used in the selection of a preferred alternative that has not been used before, including a new water "demand" for in-stream flow support in the Sheyenne River. Hydrological analysis of this demand was not included in previous analyses, thus the implications of this demand have not been reviewed.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Doyle Childers

Director

DC:je

c: Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of Interior
Stephen Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Askew, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection, Region 7
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3
Senator Christopher Bond
Senator Claire McCaskill
Congressman William Lacy Clay
Congressman W. Todd Akin
Congressman Russ Carnahan
Congressman Ike Skelton
Congressman Emanuel Cleaver
Congressman Sam Graves
Congressman Roy Blunt
Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson
Congressman Kenny Hulshof