

STATUS REPORT

These status sheets describe projects and programs that are being implemented in the Red River Basin that assist in carrying out the mission of the Red River Basin Commission.

Project/Program: **RED RIVER WATER SUPPLY STUDY**

Project Sponsor: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 Dakotas Area Office
 304 E. Broadway
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Project Summary:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Garrison Conservancy District (GCD) and is in the process of conducting National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Red River Basin water supply alternatives. BOR officials are committed to conducting an objective and thorough investigation of issues associated with supplying current and future rural, urban, and industrial water supply needs in the Basin.

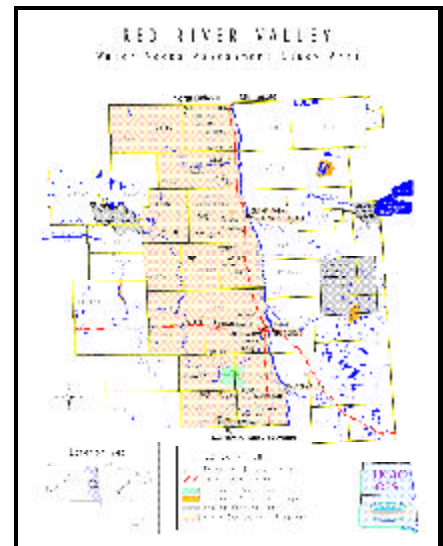
The Bureau was charged with conducting the study under the Dakota Water Resources Act of 2001 (DWRA) which authorizes approximately \$900 million to determine and address water supply needs in the Red River Basin (RRB). Approximately \$3.0 million was appropriated to conduct the EIS. Appropriation for a preferred alternative(s) following the EIS process will require additional congressional action.

The BOR has formed a Technical Review Committee, a Study Review Committee, and a Management Committee charged with developing and implementing a Master Plan of Study (MPOS). Final decision for implementing any alternative lies with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

The MPOS will identify research needs for water needs assessment, environmental, engineering, hydrology, biota transfer, and develop study plans to investigate the issues surrounding alternatives to addressing water supply needs of the RRB. RRBB have been serving on both the Technical review Committee and the Study Review Committee.

Understanding the politics and issues surrounding some of the alternatives along with history of the GCD, officials from the BOR and the GCD and other ND state agencies have publicly endorsed and supported an objective study and thorough investigation of issues surrounding all potential solutions to meeting water supply needs in the RRB. The Technical Review Team is responsible for developing a MPOS that is empirically sound and comprehensive in scope. A draft MPOS is almost complete. It includes specific plans of study(SPOS)/work items to investigate issues in the various categories.

The BOR is coordinating with other federal efforts underway in the Basin (Devils lake and Red River Reconnaissance Study).



Submitted to RRBC: May, 2001

Plan Management Action: November, 2001

RRBC Action: December, 2001

Follow-up Action:

Ongoing - RRBC staff continue to attend the water supply meetings held by the Bureau of Reclamation.



Red River Basin Commission

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