



FARGO-MOORHEAD FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

WHAT IS THE ADEQUACY DETERMINATION?

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined that the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Risk Management Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is adequate. The DNR made the determination after considering public comments on the Final EIS and applying requirements of Minnesota law for environmental review. The specifics of this determination are described in the Record of Decision that was issued June 29, 2016.

The adequacy determination is not an approval of the proposed Project. The adequacy determination marks the end of the state EIS process under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, but it does not mean the Project has been approved or may proceed to construction. Additional environmental analysis and evaluation will occur during review of the Dam Safety and Work in Public Waters permit application. The permit application was received on February 18, 2016.

The environmental review process is about describing the potential environmental effects of the proposed Project, examining potential alternatives to the Project as proposed, and identifying how effects can be avoided or mitigated. The EIS has thoroughly examined the important environmental effects of the proposed Project. This information should be used by all permitting agencies in conjunction with the Project to inform permit decisions.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE EIS ADEQUACY?

There are three criteria that need to be met in order for an EIS to be determined adequate. The DNR determined that, yes, the Fargo-Moorhead EIS met all three of the below adequacy criteria.

- Does the Final EIS analyze the topics identified in scoping (i.e., the Final Scoping Decision Document)?
- Does the Final EIS respond to comments received on the Draft EIS?
- Did the DNR follow the process established in state statute and rule for preparing an EIS?

WHAT IS THE RECORD OF DECISION?

After the EIS is determined adequate, the decision is documented in a Record of Decision, or ROD. The ROD documents the DNR's consideration of the three required criteria for an adequacy decision, as well as the consideration of comments received on the Final EIS. The ROD is posted on the DNR's website at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/fm_flood_risk/index.html