



November 23, 2015

John Dargle, Jr.  
Director  
Milwaukee County Parks  
9480 Watertown Plank Road,  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Dear Mr. Dargle:

Thank you for the October 8, 2015, Environmental Impact Report (misabeled Environmental Impact Statement) for the Proposed Estabrook Dam Project, Milwaukee River downstream of Port Washington Rd., Cities of Milwaukee and Glendale, describing Milwaukee County's proposed action to repair, construct a fish passage feature and establish a new operating order for the dam.

The Report is intended to provide information to help the Department of Natural Resources (department) fully understand the proposal and to provide sufficient details to allow the department to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. Repairing the dam and establishing an operating order are NR 150.20 Minor Action and Equivalent Analysis Actions not requiring an EIS. However, the department previously committed to sharing environmental analysis information for this complex project and has elected to use the current NR 150 EIS process to facilitate public review. Federal agencies may coordinate with the department. There is no federal requirement to prepare an EIS.

The Department is reviewing your submittal and other data, previous public comments and issue identification efforts and is preparing a draft EIS. Additional information will be needed to describe Operations Order Alternatives:

- Fixed pool (normal operating range: a normal water level bounded by minimum and maximum water levels for a typical range of operation/fluctuation)
- Seasonal drawdown of pool
- Drawdown pool only to prevent backwater at storm sewer outfalls
- Drawdown of pool only for inspections, maintenance and/or repairs
- No pool
- Other alternatives or hybrid alternatives that are developed or proposed

Environmental Impact Statements inform decision-makers and the public about the anticipated effects as well as the alternatives to proposed projects. The EIS will not include any permit decisions for the proposed project which will occur later through the legally prescribed regulatory processes.

Milwaukee County and the public will be notified when the draft EIS is available for public review and a hearing has been scheduled.

The Department has an Estabrook Dam project webpage to share information and updates:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EIA/Estabrook.html>.

Thanks again for your submittal. I will contact you by email and request to meet and discuss Operations Order Alternatives and other information the department needs to prepare the draft EIS. Please contact me if you have any questions. I'd be glad to meet or speak with you.

Sincerely,

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