



August 7, 2013

IP-SE-2009-41-06757

John Dargle Jr.
Milwaukee County Department of Parks
9480 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

Subject: Additional Information required for the Estabrook Dam EIR (Field File 40.08, Milwaukee County)

Dear Mr. Dargle:

The Department of Natural Resources (Department) and Milwaukee County Department of Parks (Parks) staff have been working cooperatively to evaluate alternatives regarding the future of the Estabrook Dam. Parks has indicated to the Department that repairing the dam is the preferred alternative. Recently, the Department met with Parks staff on June 12, 2013 to discuss the progress on providing the Department with the information needed to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Subsequently, Parks staff provided the updated information to their EIR draft document on June 25, 2013. The Department has reviewed this submission and this response is to identify the additional information required to complete the EIR.

In accordance to the original request of information made by Kristina Betzold on February 25, 2013, the Department still requires the following outstanding information (see attached). Preparing a feasibility study may also be a useful tool for the development of the EIR document. A feasibility study can assist in the determination of the selected alternative, and the evaluation of accurate costs for the proposed alternatives.

The Department looks forward to continuing its collaborative efforts to complete this document. As a reminder, the Administrative Order to Repair or Abandon the Estabrook Dam by December 31, 2014 remains in place.

If you have any questions about the information requested, please call me at (262) 574-2132, or email at jesse.jensen@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Jesse Jensen
Water Management Specialist

cc: Milwaukee County Department of Parks: Jim Keegan, Kevin Haley
DNR: Meg Galloway, Eric Nitschke, Lloyd Eagan, Sharon Gayan, Jim D'Antuono, Brad Eggold, Bill Sturtevant, Tanya Lourigan, Will Wawrzyn
BLM: Carol Grundman
USACE: Anthony Jernigan
City of Milwaukee: Tim Thur, Chris Rute

Original Date: 02/25/2013

Revised Date: 08/07/2013

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Outline

Incorporate the following information into the *Environmental Assessment* Microsoft Word template:

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Estabrook Dam project is to address a deteriorating structure, protect human health, safety, and the environment with consideration of public comments including: maintaining the impoundment for recreation, protecting water quality, aquatic habitat and fish passage, protecting property values, and evaluating cost. A Wis. Stats. Ch. 31.02 Operational Order will designate the level of water impounded by the Dam and protect public water rights. An Administrative Order issued by the Department requires that Milwaukee County repair or abandon the dam by December 31, 2014.

Dam Alternatives

- Repair Existing Dam
- Repair Existing Dam and Add Fish Passage Features
- Remove Existing Dam and Allow Free Flowing Condition
- Remove Existing Dam and Build New Structure (i.e. New Dam, Rock Ramp, etc.)
- Add navigation passage to new or repaired structure
- No Action (for purposes of analysis only)
- Other Alternatives and Hybrid Alternatives that are developed or proposed during public comments

****Important Note:** While Parks has included alternatives in the text, the impacts of each of these alternatives have not been fully analyzed.*

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 pool only for inspections, maintenance and/or repairs
- No pool
- Other alternatives or hybrid alternatives that are developed or proposed during public comments

****Important Note:** Parks has provided a preferred alternative for operation (fixed pool), but again the impacts of other alternatives have not been analyzed.*

Analysis

- Describe existing and proposed:
 - affected floodplain (scale, land cover, population)
 - structural components of dam (**In-Progress**)
 - construction methods and schedules (**In-Progress**)
 - dam operation
 - regional floodplain elevations, if impacted by alternatives
 - storm sewer outfalls to the impoundment and potential for backwater conditions caused by dam operations or other factors
 - sedimentation rates in the impoundment
 - sediment depth in the impoundment (**In-Progress**)

**Note: Items that are crossed out suggests that Milwaukee County Department of Parks has completed the objective and no further information is required by the Department. Bolded items were added to the initial document for clarification.*

- shoreline conditions around the impoundment (e.g., vegetation, impacts from flow, erosion or ice action) **(In-Progress)**
- stream bed cross-sections above and below the dam
- drawdown plan (schedule, rate, duration) **(In-Progress)**
- potential for flooding, erosion and sedimentation during and following drawdown, and loss of man-made debris is not removed prior to drawdown
- public access to the river and impoundment, including a description of access sites
- recreational activity in the river and impoundment (e.g. non-motorized and motorized boating, fishing, swimming) **(In-Progress)**
- public safety, including: exclusion, and existing and potential navigational hazards in the river and impoundment
- ice conditions
- maintenance activities
- water quality
- scenic beauty
- habitat and passage of fish, other aquatic organisms, and terrestrial wildlife up and downstream, including (but not limited to) endangered, threatened, special concern, and invasive species **(In-Progress)**
- macrophytic aquatic vegetation above and below the dam **(In-Progress)**
- impact of various pool manipulations (seasonality, elevation and duration) on the quality and quantity of wetlands, channel and bank stability, freezing and/or desiccation impacts on fish, invertebrates including mussels, wildlife, and flora populations and their habitats.
- socio-economics, including riparian property values
- Summarize previous public involvement
- ~~● Summarize discussion of water levels in original permit to construct Estabrook Dam, as well as operation to this point~~
- ~~● Brief discussion of contaminated sediments, although the majority of this discussion would be in the Lincoln Park Phase II EA~~
- Evaluate costs including maintenance **(In-Progress)**
- Indicate if changes are proposed to regional floodplain elevations and a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) will be required
- Discuss any disproportionately high adverse health or environmental impacts to minority populations, low income populations, or Indian tribes **(Parks has indicated that there is no Indian tribe involvement)**

Data/Analysis – Information Needed

- Description of wetlands in the project area including the quality and quantity of wetlands under various Dam Alternatives and Operational levels. **(Please provide completed wetland delineation as an appendix to the EIR)**
- Regional floodplain elevations and preliminary floodplain analyses, if needed for alternatives
- Storm sewer outfalls and backwater conditions
- ~~● Summary of any Milwaukee County or other local government approvals needed for the project~~
- ~~● Federal authorities, including: BLM and COE~~
- Preliminary minimum flow determination/calculation (e.g., dams at all times must pass minimum flows)

**Note: Items that are crossed out suggests that Milwaukee County Department of Parks has completed the objective and no further information is required by the Department. Bolded items were added to the initial document for clarification.*