



PAINTED ROCKS DAM FEASIBILITY STUDY PROJECT

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Quarterly Status Update 4th Quarter 2020

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The goal of this project is to evaluate potential improvements that will allow Painted Rocks Dam to be operated safely for the foreseeable future. The project involves conducting a feasibility study to determine what improvements are necessary, desirable, and viable. AECOM was hired in October 2017 to conduct the feasibility study.

Potential improvements may involve alterations to the outlet works, spillway, stilling basin, dam crest, and gate house. The possibility of adding hydropower or increasing storage are also being evaluated.

A separate project, but also included in this contract with AECOM, is the final design of proposed road improvements to develop vehicular access to the downstream toe of the dam for ongoing operations and maintenance as well as for implementing future improvements to the dam. In addition to improving the existing road, a bridge over the West Fork of the Bitterroot River approximately ¼ mile downstream of the dam will be constructed.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Project activities during the 4th Quarter of 2020 were as follows:

- **Task 1 -Task 5** were previously completed
- **Task 6 Alternatives**
 - On 10/20/2020, AECOM provided responses to DNRC’s review comments (8/28/2020) on the submitted portions of the draft Alternatives Report (the DNRC comments did not include the outlet works alternatives).

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- In November 2020, DNRC held internal meetings regarding potential additional outlet works alternatives.
 - Finalized DNRC outlet works comments were sent to AECOM on 12/4/2020.
 - AECOM provided an updated project schedule for the completion of remaining items on 1/5/2021.
- **Task 7 -Task 10** were previously completed.
 - **Task 11 Final Scope of Work**
 - This task will be completed after the preferred rehabilitation alternative(s) (Task 6) has been recommended.
 - **Task 12 Toe Access Road/Bridge Improvement Project**

GEOTECHNICAL	DATES
○ Geotechnical drilling was conducted at the proposed bridge abutment sites. O’Keefe Drilling from Butte, MT was the drilling subcontractor. Bedrock was encountered on both sides of the river at 50 to 55 feet below existing ground surface.	○9/30 through 10/2/2020
○ AECOM submitted a draft Geotechnical Investigation Summary report, including design recommendations for pile foundation.	○11/16/2020
○ DNRC provided review comments on draft Geotechnical Summary Report.	○12/17/2020.
ENVIRONMENTAL	
○ AECOM submitted the draft Biological Assessment (BA)..	○11/2/2020
○ The document went through the review process between DNRC and AECOM and was then sent to the USFS for review and comment. The USFS provided comments on the draft BA. The BA was revised to incorporate USFS comments.	
○ DNRC submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for concurrence on the BA’s findings that the project is not likely to adversely affect bull trout in the West Fork Bitterroot River.	○1/15/2021
○ USFWS concurred with the BA’s determinations that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the threatened bull trout or designated critical habitat for bull trout in the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. They state in the letter “Therefore, formal consultation is not required [50 CFR 402.13 (a)].”	○1/19/2021
DESIGN REPORT, PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS	
○ Using geotechnical information obtained in the October 2020 geotechnical investigation, AECOM evaluated the bridge abutment designs that utilize pile abutments.	○10/2020
○ AECOM provided responses to DNRC’s 11/13/2019 review comments on 10/28/2019 draft 95% Toe Access project design submittal (plans and design report).	○11/2/2020

DESIGN REPORT, PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS (continued)	DATES
○ AECOM provided updated working drawings showing a revised vertical road profile for DNRC review and provided associated cross-section views a week later. A volume report with revised earthwork quantities was provided on 12/7/2020.	○ 11/2/2020 ○ 11/9/2020
○ DNRC provided comments on Toe Access Vertical profile	○ 11/20/2020
○ AECOM provided revised bridge working drawings and asked a few specific bridge questions for DNRC input.	○ 12/08/2020
○ DNRC provided responses to specific bridge questions from AECOM and provided comments on the working bridge drawings shortly thereafter.	○ 12/18/2020 ○ 12/22/2020
○ DNRC discussed the project with Ravalli Electric Co-op and explained conflicts of existing utilities with project extents.	○ 12/15/2020

- **Task 13 Project Management/General**

- Weekly project status meetings are typically held on Tuesdays from 10:00-10:30 AM.

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

Project funding for the Feasibility Study is entirely from the DNRC SWPB Hydro Earnings account. Expenses through October 23, 2020 have been invoiced for a total to date of \$877,970.62. The remaining balance is \$44,808.38. The project is approximately **95% complete**.

CHANGES IN SCOPE AND BUDGET

No changes in scope of budget occurred in the 4th Quarter of 2020. However, DNRC has requested that two additional outlet works alternatives be carried forward for consideration. This issue will be resolved in the 1st quarter of 2021.

CHANGES IN SCHEDULE

Adding the development and analysis of two outlet works alternatives to the Feasibility Study will push back the completion of the Alternatives Report (Task 6) to June 30, 2021. An official contract amendment has not yet been issued to extend the contract term. AECOM submitted a draft revised schedule for Task 6 deliverables.

The Final Design submittal for the Task 12 - Toe Access Improvement Project (plans, specification, construction drawings and design report) is on track to be completed by mid-March 2021. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised for bids in April 2021, bids opened in May 2021, construction contract awarded in June 2021, and Notice to Proceed with construction issued in July 2021. Work between West Fork Road and the West Fork of the Bitterroot River will likely occur during the summer 2021 and work on the bridge and from the river to the toe of Painted Rocks Dam will likely occur in the fall 2021 after river flows have receded.

PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS ARISEN

No problems or concerns have arisen this quarter.

NEXT QUARTER'S ACTIVITIES

During the 1st quarter of 2021:

- **Administrative**
 - Contract Amendment for term extension and for incorporating two additional outlet works alternatives into the Feasibility Study's Alternatives Report.
 - Contracting associated with engineering services for the Bidding and Construction Phases.
- **Task 6**
 - AECOM to develop a proposal for Engineering Services to incorporate 2 additional Outlet Works Alternatives into Feasibility Study.
 - Complete contract modifications.
 - AECOM to develop additional outlet works alternatives and submit detailed descriptions, figures, and analysis of those alternatives to DNRC.
 - DNRC to review and provide comments on the additional outlet works alternatives.
- **Task 12- Toe Access Improvement Project**
 - **GEOTECHNICAL**
 - AECOM to submit prefinal geotechnical field investigation summary.
 - DNRC to review and comment on prefinal geotechnical investigation summary.
 - AECOM to provide comment responses and finalized Geotechnical Investigation Summary report.

DESIGN REPORT AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

- AECOM to prepare and submit prefinal design package for Toe Access Improvement Project.
- DNRC to review and comment on prefinal design package for Toe Access Improvement Project.
- AECOM to provide comment responses, revise submittal to incorporate DNRC comments and submit final Design Report and Construction Documents.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING/EXISTING UTILITIES ISSUES

- DNRC (with AECOM assistance) to submit **Joint Application** for project environmental permitting. Permits needed include: Floodplain, 404, 124 and 318.
- DNRC to submit SF299 Special Use Proposal to **USFS**.
- **USFS** is working on associated NEPA permitting and Special Use Private Road Permit.
- **Ravalli Electric Coop (REC)** is working on an overhead powerline rerouting plan and associated issues where existing utility lines conflict with project alignment. Begin moving utility lines. Utilities within project extents are to be moved prior to construction commencement.

- **Task 13**
 - Project Management including weekly progress meetings

NEXT STATUS UPDATE - End of First Quarter, 2021

If there are any errors, omissions, or corrections that need to be addressed prior to the next status update, contact Sanna Yost at (406) 444-6665, or by email at syost@mt.gov

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