

Chapter 6: Consultation and Public Participation

6.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the public and agency coordination efforts for the Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction EIS. The intent of this EIS is to propose a solution that would re-establish the delivery of irrigation water to the canal’s shareholders.

6.2 Chronology

Table 6-1 lists the chronology of public notifications and meetings during the EIS process. The meetings are described in detail in various sections of this chapter.

Table 6-1. Public Notifications and Meetings

Date	Type	Purpose
July 28, 2010	Press release	Announce scoping meeting
August 11, 2010	Public meeting	Review options and ask for comments
August 11, 2010	Agency meeting	Review options and ask for comments
October 7, 2010	Press release	Announce alternatives for study
Ongoing	Website	Post relevant materials for public review
March 18, 2011 (estimate)	<i>Federal Register</i> Notice of Availability	Announce availability of Draft EIS
March 24, 2011	Press release	Announce release of Draft EIS
March 31, 2011	Public meeting	Review Draft EIS
To be determined	Press release	Announce release of Final EIS

6.3 Scoping

6.3.1 Notice of Intent

A notice of intent was published in the *Federal Register* on July 22, 2010. This began the scoping period for the Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction Project. This notice alerts Federal agencies of NRCS's intent to study the canal.

6.3.2 Consultations

NEPA specifies that the lead agency should identify potential cooperating agencies early in the EIS process. Concurrent with the development of the notice of intent, NRCS identified two potential cooperating agencies for the project. In July 2010, the project team sent invitation letters to USACE and USFS requesting their participation as cooperating agencies.

Typically, agencies with a high number of resources in a project area that could be affected by certain actions of the project are contacted early in the scoping process and asked to team on the project as cooperating agencies.

In addition to USACE and USFS, NRCS also contacted representatives of the following other Federal agencies, State agencies, and local governments and agencies:

- Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Division of State History
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Utah Division of Water Resources
- Utah Division of Water Rights
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Cache County
- City of Hyde Park
- City of Logan
- City of North Logan
- City of Smithfield

What is a cooperating agency?

A *cooperating agency* is any Federal agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact associated with the proposed action or an alternative for legislation or another major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

6.3.3 Scoping Meeting

Federal and State agency and tribal representatives were invited to attend an agency scoping meeting and were invited to provide comments regarding possible concerns or considerations for the resource areas under their authority. The agency scoping meeting was held on August 11, 2010, at the NRCS offices in Salt Lake City, Utah. NRCS sent meeting invitations to Federal, State, and local agencies on July 27, 2010. The purposes of the scoping meeting were to introduce attendees to the project and to request comments from the agencies regarding the scope of the Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction EIS.

The meeting was also held to gain information from each agency on the resource(s) under their jurisdiction in the study area that could be affected by the project; identify any issues that should be analyzed in the EIS; and determine if project construction would require any permits or approvals. In addition to the NRCS team, the following agency representatives attended the meeting:

- Jennefer Parker, USFS – Logan Ranger District
- Julie Hubbard, USFS
- Jason Gipson, USACE
- John Derinzy, USACE
- Rex Harris, Utah Department of Transportation
- Daren Rasmussen, Utah Division of Water Rights – Streams
- Michael Allred, Utah Division of Water Quality – Watershed Protection Section
- Tom Cox, Utah Division of Water Resources
- Bob Fotheringham, Cache County

The following agencies submitted comments during the scoping period:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- USACE
- USFS
- Cache County
- City of Logan

In summary, agency representatives submitted comments about the following subjects:

- Project schedule
- Process
- Alternatives
- Impacts to aesthetics
- Impacts to energy and utilities
- Impacts to recreation
- Impacts to water rights and access

6.4 Public Participation during Planning

Public scoping is the key component to the environmental review process. NRCS relies on public comments to help identify issues as well as to help gauge public sentiment about the proposed improvements. Because the project could affect private property owners in the study area, NRCS used a combination of methods to notify the public about the project and to gather input. For a complete description of public participation during the planning process, see Appendix A, Scoping Report.

6.4.1 Consultations and Meetings

Although the scoping period for the Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction EIS was initiated with the *Federal Register* notice on July 22, 2010, NRCS assumed that the general public would not be aware of the project without additional outreach to the neighboring communities. The following methods were used to notify the general public of the public scoping activities and public scoping meeting:

- Advertisements in the *Logan Herald Journal*
- Advertisements in the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News*
- Announcements on the websites for Cache County, City of Logan, City of North Logan, and City of Hyde Park
- Announcements posted in local libraries
- Announcement on the NRCS website

NRCS held a public scoping meeting on August 11, 2010, at the Bridgerland Applied Technology College in Logan, Utah. The meeting was semi-formal with a 10-minute presentation given two times during the evening. In addition, informational boards, maps, and handouts were available to view. About 150 residents, business owners, community members, and local government officials attended the meeting.

Meeting attendees were encouraged but not required to sign in as they entered the meeting room. Each participant was given a comment sheet and an informational handout detailing the display materials, information about how to submit comments, and contact information for the project team. Attendees were encouraged to listen to the presentation, review displays about the project, and submit questions or comments about the materials provided and the project. Displays included the following:

- Map and description of possible options
- A statement of the preliminary purpose of and need for the project
- A definition of the EWPP
- An overview of the NEPA process
- A project schedule
- Example topics for comment
- Details on how to submit a comment

Project team members were available between the formal presentations to help answer questions and provide information. In addition to the comment forms that were distributed to attendees as they arrived, additional comment forms were available at tables around the room along with comment boxes. Attendees also had the option of giving their comments verbally to a court reporter or submitting comments by e-mail or U.S. mail. The e-mail and website addresses were listed on the comment form. Attendees submitted 16 written comment cards and nine comments through the court reporter.

6.4.2 Handling of Comments

Agencies and the public will have continuing opportunities to offer input throughout the Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction EIS process. The official scoping period ended on August 31, 2010. Comments will again be accepted during the Draft EIS comment period. Table 6-2 summarizes the number of scoping comments received by affiliation (for a complete summary of comments received during scoping, see Appendix A, Scoping Report). The information available to the public included possible options that NRCS has considered to date. NRCS used the information gathered during the scoping process to identify other options that were considered further during the EIS process.

Many of the comments received during the scoping were specific to the options presented during scoping, which were called Option 1 (US 89), Option 2 (Lundstrom Park), Option 3 (Canyon Road), and Option 4 (3100 North). NRCS used the information gathered during scoping to further define potential project options and will also use this information as appropriate as it completes the EIS. Agencies and the public can continue to submit comments on the Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction project by e-mail or U.S. mail (see Section 6.5.3, Comments on the Draft EIS). The project team will consider these comments as it continues with the EIS process.

Table 6-2. Scoping Comments Received by Affiliation

Affiliation	Number	Percent of Total
Individual ^a	92	91%
Federal agency	4	4%
Local government	3	3%
Nongovernmental organization	2	2%

^a Some individuals submitted more than one comment letter, e-mail, or comment form. Each submission is considered to be a stand-alone comment.

6.5 Draft EIS

The project team prepared this Draft EIS and will hold a public meeting to review the results with the public and ask for comments. NRCS has also distributed a press release to local news agencies to announce the availability of the Draft EIS. In addition, NRCS has published a meeting announcement in the *Herald Journal*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and *Deseret News*.

The Draft EIS is available in electronic format on the project website, www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/LNCRP.

6.5.1 List of Agencies, Organizations and Persons to Whom Copies of the Draft EIS Were Sent

See Chapter 8, Distribution, for the list of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom a notice of availability or a copy of this Draft EIS were sent.

6.5.2 Public Meeting for the Draft EIS

NRCS will hold a public meeting for the Draft EIS on March 31, 2011, at Bridgerland Applied Technology College West Campus, 1000 West 1400 North, Logan, Utah. The meeting will be an open-house format. NRCS invites people to attend any time between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM. People attending the meeting will be able to provide written comments or oral comments to a court reporter. If you require special accommodations at the meeting, please contact Alana Spendlove at (801) 573-7669 no later than March 22, 2011.

6.5.3 Comments on the Draft EIS

NRCS invites comments on this Draft EIS through e-mail and U.S. mail as well as at the public meeting. Comments can be submitted using the following methods.

Mail to Attn: Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction Project Draft EIS
Ms. Alana Spendlove
3949 South 700 East, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

E-mail: LNC-EIS@hdrinc.com (please include **Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction Project Draft EIS** in the subject line)

Commenters do not need to submit duplicate comments using more than one method. NRCS will consider all comments received on the Draft EIS as it prepares the Final EIS, finalizes the mitigation commitments, and prepares its Record of Decision.

6.6 Final EIS

6.6.1 Notice of Availability and Distribution

Comments on the Final EIS will be kept on file for NRCS's consideration as it completes a Record of Decision for the project. Once the Final EIS is completed, NRCS will complete the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision will describe the EIS process, provide details on the project's compliance with NEPA, identify the selected alternative, disclose what NRCS expects will be the project-related impacts of the selected alternative, and list the mitigation commitments.

Once the Record of Decision has been signed by NRCS, if the selected alternative would affect waters of the U.S., the project sponsor will work with USACE to obtain authorization under Section 404 of the CWA. The project EIS would be used to support this authorization.

If the selected alternative would directly affect National Forest System land, the project sponsor would also need to obtain special-use permits from USFS for construction and for operation of the new system. USFS would use the project EIS to issue a Record of Decision for the special-use permitting action.

6.6.2 List of Agencies, Organizations and Persons to Whom Copies of the Final EIS Were Sent

This section will be updated before publication of the Final EIS.

This page is intentionally blank.