Silver Lake Flat Plan-Environmental Assessment

Scoping Report

Final

Contract No. AG-3A75-C-10-0025
Task No. AG-8D43-D-12-004

Greg J. Allington
NEPA Project Manager

May 18, 2012

McMillen, LLC

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SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with the United States Forest Service (USFS), is proposing to perform rehabilitation of the Silver Lake Flat dam in northern Utah County, Utah. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The environmental impacts from the rehabilitation of the dam will be documented in the form of a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). The Plan-EA will comprise of the following elements:

- Alternatives analysis of potential options for dam rehabilitation that includes the following:
    - No Action,
    - Dam Decommissioning,
    - Dam Rehabilitation-Replace Spillway, and
    - Dam Rehabilitation-New Spillway;
- Detailed analysis of resources that may be affected for each of the alternatives that may satisfy the purpose and need for the project;
- Identification of potential mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potential impacts; and
- A plan of public participation and government agency coordination throughout development of the Plan-EA.

This Scoping Report summarizes the outcome of the preliminary scoping period for the rehabilitation of the Silver Lake Flat Dam.

1.1 Project Purpose and Need

In accordance with the rehabilitation provisions of NRCS's Small Watersheds Program, Silver Lake Flat dam is eligible for rehabilitation funding due to its high hazard class and outdated infrastructure. The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the Silver Lake Flat dam to meet current Utah dam safety regulations, engineering standards, and stabilize the existing dam structures. The life expectancy of the dam will be extended for 50 to 100 years once rehabilitated.

1.2 Scoping Goals and Objectives

The main goal of public participation is to involve a diverse group of public and government agency participants to solicit input and provide timely information throughout the NEPA review process regarding their concerns for the project and the proposed alternatives. The main goals were to 1) establish ongoing communication with stakeholders, agencies and the general public, 2) educate the public about the environmental review process and each party's role, 3) evaluate the effectiveness of public participation activities on a continual basis and utilize the most effective techniques throughout the NEPA process, and 4) document all public and government agency input.

SECTION 2
SCOPING PROCESS SUMMARY

2.0 Scoping Overview

Scoping questions, comments and concerns were requested from the public and government agencies during the preliminary scoping period both orally at public meetings and via written submittal of comments. The following summarizes the scoping process and efforts made to engage the public and government agencies.

2.1 Scoping Terms

The following terms were used during the scoping process to identify specific actions:

- Comment: a distinct statement or question about a topic or issue relating to the project.
- Comment Category: a topic to which a comment is addressed.
- Comment Document: a written version of comment(s) submitted by a commenter. One comment document may contain multiple comments.
- Commenter: an individual, organization or agency providing one or more comments.

2.2 Scoping Schedule

The following dates outline the milestones for the scoping process:

- April 11, 2012: Public and Agency Scoping Notice Issued
- April 15, 2012: First Public Notice issued in the Utah County Daily Herald Newspaper
- April 22, 2012: Second Public Notice issued in the Utah County Daily Herald Newspaper
- April 25, 2012: Agency Scoping Meeting
- April 26, 2012: Public Scoping Meeting
- May 11, 2012: Scoping Period Closed

2.3 Scoping Notice

A scoping notice was prepared and sent to interested parties and regulatory agencies on April 11, 2012. The list of recipients was prepared by both the NRCS and USFS. The scoping notice gave a description of the project, location and overview, purpose and need, identified preliminary scoping issues, and requested public participation. The scoping notice also identified the location of public meetings, contact information to submit written comments, and the scoping period closure date. Copies of the scoping notices are attached in Appendix A.

Two public notices were posted in the Utah County Daily Herald newspaper on April 15, 2012 and April 22, 2012 announcing the project and public meeting. A copy of the newspaper scoping notice is attached in Appendix B.

The scoping notices were also posted to the NRCS website at http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pl566.html to make available for public review on the internet.

2.4 Scoping Meetings

The primary purpose of the scoping meetings were to gather input and feedback on the projects' purpose and need statement, potential alternatives for consideration, environmental issues to be addressed in the Plan-EA, methodologies to be used to evaluate impacts, and the overall public participation process. One government agency scoping meeting was held during the day (April 25, 2012 – 9:00AM to 11:00AM) at Cabella's in Lehi, Utah and one public scoping meeting was held in the evening on the following day (April 26, 2012 – 6:00PM to 9:00PM) at Alpine City Hall in Alpine, Utah to gather as broad an audience as possible.

There was zero attendance at both meetings. If there had been attendees at either meeting, participants would have been invited to make statements orally or submit comments in writing either at the meeting or subsequently by mail, fax or e-mail during the scoping comment period. Attendance at each meeting was counted using a sign-in sheet as listed in Section 3.0 and 3.1. Pamphlets were handed out at each meeting describing the project and which also provided a blank space to submit written comments (Appendix C).

2.5 Scoping Mailing List

The mailing list was prepared by the NRCS and USFS to inform the government agencies and general public about the scoping process for the project. A total of 39 mailings were sent to government agencies and 18 mailings were sent to the public.

SECTION 3
SCOPING COMMENTS

3.0 Agency Meeting

The agency meeting was conducted on April 25, 2012 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. There were ZERO agency attendees at this meeting and there were ZERO oral or written comments submitted.

The following project personnel and stakeholders were in attendance for the agency meeting.

Name	Organization	Title
Greg Allington	McMillen, LLC (McMillen)	Project Manager/Biologist
Dan Axness	McMillen	Engineer
Norm Evenstad	NRCS	Water Resource Coordinator
Ana Vargo	NRCS	Geologist
BJ Clark	Utah Division of Water Resources	Project Engineer
Kent Evans	North Utah County Water Conservancy District	Board Member

3.1 Public Meeting

The public meeting was conducted on April 26, 2012 from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. There were ZERO public attendees at this meeting and there were ZERO oral or comments submitted.

The following project personnel and stakeholders were in attendance for the public meeting.

Name	Organization	Title
Greg Allington	McMillen, LLC (McMillen)	Project Manager/Biologist
Dan Axness	McMillen	Engineer
Norm Evenstad	NRCS	Water Resource Coordinator
Ana Vargo	NRCS	Geologist
BJ Clark	Utah Division of Water Resources	Project Engineer
Kent Evans	North Utah County Water Conservancy District	Board Member
John Jacobs	North Utah County Water Conservancy District	Attorney
Hunt Willoughby	North Utah County Water Conservancy District	Board Member

3.2 Written Comments

The scoping period officially opened on April 11, 2012 and ended on May 11, 2012 for a total of 31 days. Written comments could have been submitted via mail, e-mail, facsimile, or comment card.

There were ZERO written scoping comments received from a commenter via comment document during the scoping period for the Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation project.

APPENDIX A

SCOPING NOTICES

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service-Utah
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 S. State Street – Room 4418
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

Date: April 11, 2012

Dear Interested Regulatory Agencies:

Introduction

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proposing to fund rehabilitation of the Silver Lake Flat dam in the American Fork Canyon of northern Utah County, Utah. Silver Lake Flat Dam is located within the boundaries of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The United States Forest Service (USFS) is a cooperating agency in the project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The environmental impacts from the proposed rehabilitation of the dam will be documented in the form of a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA).

The North Utah County Water Conservation District has requested financial and technical assistance for the proposed rehabilitation of Silver Lake Flat dam. NRCS is partially funding this project through the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments (PL 106-472) which authorizes funding and technical assistance to rehabilitate aging flood control dams built under the Small Watershed Program (PL83-566).

Location and Overview of the Project

Silver Lake Flat dam was originally built in 1971 and is approximately 7 miles to the northeast of Alpine, Utah. The dam was designed and constructed as a Class "C" (high) hazard dam due to the high probability of loss-of-life if the dam should fail. The dam was planned and built for the primary purpose of irrigation water storage but has additional benefits to flood control and sediment retention.

Project Purpose and Need

In accordance with the rehabilitation provisions of NRCS's Small Watersheds Program, Silver Lake Flat dam is eligible for rehabilitation funding due to its high hazard class and outdated infrastructure. The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the Silver Lake Flat dam to meet current dam safety regulations, engineering standards, and stabilize the existing dam structures. The life expectancy of the dam will be extended for 50 to 100 years once rehabilitated.

Preliminary Scoping Issues

On the basis of the project location and intended use, the following preliminary issues related to the proposed action have been identified:

- Geology and Soil Resources
- Water Resources
- Vegetation, Wildlife and Fish Resources
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural Resources

NRCS

- Recreation Resources
- Transportation Resources
- Visual and Noise Resources
- Socioeconomic Resources

Public Participation

The participation of the regulatory agencies is a vital component of the project so that those who are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed dam rehabilitation have an opportunity to share your comments, ideas, and concerns regarding the proposed action during the initial stages of the NEPA process. For them to be considered and to become part of the public record for the Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation project, **we need to hear from you by May 11, 2012**. Please mail your written comments to:

Norm Evenstad
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 S. State Street – Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

You may also email comments to silverlakeflatdam@mcmillen-llc.com or fax them to (801) 524-4403. If you have questions, please contact Norm Evenstad at (801) 524-4569.

A regulatory agency Scoping Meeting will be held on **April 25, 2012 at 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM** at the Cabela's Conference Center (2502 Cabela's Blvd.) in Lehi, Utah for all agencies that are interested voicing their comments, ideas, and concerns to the project sponsors. The meeting will start with a presentation of the project, then open the floor to public comment and end with an informal open house discussion.

After receiving and reviewing your comments, NRCS will begin the preparation of the Plan-EA analyzing the project alternatives and preliminary resource concerns identified during this initial project scoping process.

Sincerely,

Bronson Smart
NRCS State Engineer

cc: Norm Evenstad - NRCS
Nelson Gonzalez-Sullow - USFS
BJ Clark - Utah Division of Water Resources
Jay Franson - North Utah County Water Conservation District
Greg Allington - McMillen, LLC

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service-Utah
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 S. State Street – Room 4418
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Date: April 11, 2012

Dear Interested Parties:

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- Transportation Resources
- Visual and Noise Resources
- Socioeconomic Resources

Public Participation

The participation of the public is a vital component of the project so that those who are interested in or potentially affected by the proposed dam rehabilitation have an opportunity to share your comments, ideas, and concerns regarding the proposed action during the initial stages of the NEPA process. For them to be considered and to become part of the public record for the Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation project, **we need to hear from you by May 11, 2012**. Please mail your written comments to:

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Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

You may also email comments to silverlakeflatdam@mcmillen-llc.com or fax them to (801) 524-4403. If you have questions, please contact Norm Evenstad at (801) 524-4569.

A public Scoping Meeting will be held on **April 26, 2012 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at the Alpine City Hall (20 North Main) in Alpine, Utah for all parties that are interested voicing their comments, ideas, and concerns to the project sponsors. The public meeting will start with a presentation of the project, then open the floor to public comment and end with an informal open house discussion.

After receiving and reviewing your comments, NRCS will begin the preparation of the Plan-EA analyzing the project alternatives and preliminary resource concerns identified during this initial project scoping process.

Sincerely,

Bronson Smart
NRCS State Engineer

cc: Norm Evenstad - NRCS
Nelson Gonzalez-Sullow - USFS
BJ Clark - Utah Division of Water Resources
Jay Franson - North Utah County Water Conservation District
Greg Allington - McMillen, LLC

APPENDIX B

NEWESPAPER PUBLIC NOTICE

Mapleton

Senior gym time — To enjoy our wonderful exercise equipment you must be a current resident of Mapleton who is 50 years of age or older. Tours of the gym are offered. If you have any questions you may call gym manager Peggy Burt at (801) 489-4363 or assistant manager Bill Bleggi at (801) 489-0319. The gym will be closed on Saturdays starting May 5.

Maple Mountain Art Guild — Group oil painting classes are held on Mondays from 12:30-3:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the Mapleton City Center.

Humanitarian yard & bake sale — From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 21 there will be a yard sale to benefit Mapleton's elementary schools.

From noon to 1 p.m. there will be a bargain hour. Please bring cash only. If you would like to donate cookies, cupcakes, fudge, candy or brownies, bring them to

county has set the open burn period from April 1 to April 30. Permits are available at the Salem City Office. Spring clean up will be the week of April 16 to the 20. This is for yard debris only. Please have your items curb side by 8 a.m. on April 16. Once the crew has been by your house, they will not come back. The yard waste area at the rodeo grounds is open so you are welcome to take your yard debris there.

Spanish Fork

Spring concert — The Maple Mountain High School Dance Company will present their third annual Spring Concert entitled "Free to Move" on April 19 and April 20 in the MMHS Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.

Crystal Apple award recipient — Maria Lewis, health teacher and yearbook advisor at Diamond Fork Junior High School, was honored by her

Continued on next page

practicing day in and day out, than about natural talent.

Nathan Lohner, 17, a Lone Peak High School senior from Alpine, has already learned this important lesson. Nathan first became excited about writing in fourth grade. He has been practicing the trade since fifth grade, when he had a wonderful teacher who encouraged him. His mother, Diane Lohner, felt that was key.

"He'd get his work done in class, and his teacher would then give him ideas for writing — she'd really encourage it," Diane Lohner said.

Like many budding writers, the young blond boy with a fierce cowlick started out mimicking other authors.

"When I started, it wasn't my own, it was all heavily rooted in what I'd read, as far as stories went," Nathan said. "Now, it's more my own — my own emotions, more a way to express myself. Last year in my AP English class we learned about writing style, and that's where I developed my own style."

His poetry, though, has always been his own. But he's willing to share it with others.

Lone Peak High School students normally rank high in the regional and state Sterling Scholar competi-

"I just thought it would be a experience. I didn't know hov volved it was going to be," Na said. "But it was a good way t what I've done, and where I w go."

Where Nathan wants to go: BYU. He hopes to become a d because he wants to be able to people. But that does not mea giving up writing.

"I love writing, but I'd also like to help people in a differe as a doctor," Nathan said. "Re it doesn't matter what I go int cause I will always be writing ing is how I figure things out. always have that outlet. I will writing, and I hope to even pu book at some point."

He is working on a novel th hopes will eventually be publis and he put an excerpt of it in I page portfolio he presented to Sterling Scholar judges. The p lio also included two of his sho ries, "Brandon Speaks" and "N both about learning to move o tragedy. He also included seve poems, a personal reflection a research paper.

"In poetry, I use the speake is not me, to access emotions i ways I haven't experienced th Nathan said. In his portfolio, h

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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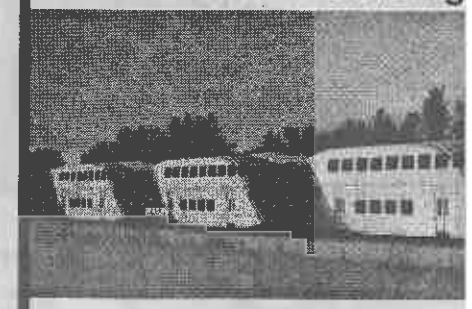
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public. **A public Scoping Meeting will be held on April 26, 2012 at 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Alpine City Hall (20 North Main) in Alpine, Utah** for all parties that are interested in voicing their comments, ideas, and concerns to the project sponsors.

Comments may also be submitted in writing for the Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation project.

Written comments must be submitted to NRCS by May 11, 2012 and mailed to:
Norm Evenstad Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building 125 S. State Street – Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100.
You may also email comments to silverlakeflatdam@mcmillen-llc.com
or fax them to (801) 524-4403.
If you have questions, please contact Norm Evenstad at (801) 524-4569.

FrontRunner is Coming



UTA is seeking public feedback on what and how to best integrate that service wi the following meetings, or fill out a survey

American Fork
American Fork Senior Center
Thursday, April 12, 2012
6:30 - 8 p.m.
54 East Main Street

Spanish Fork
Spanish Fork City Hall
Wednesday, April 18, 2012
6:30 - 8 p.m.
40 South Main Street

1-888-

APPENDIX C

SCOPING MEETING PAMPHLET

NEPA Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation

The project team consists of the following:

- **North Utah County Water Conservation District**
  -Sponsor (Owner)
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
  -Funding Agency through the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments (PL 106-472)
- **United States Forest Service (USFS)**
  -Property Owner
- **Utah Dept of Water Resources**
  -Project Engineer
- **McMillen, LLC**
  -NEPA Consultant

NRCS is a funding agency for the project and is preparing a Watershed Plan (Plan) and Environmental Assessment (EA) under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-190) and the Council on Environmental Qualities regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

NEPA Public Involvement

Input from the public during the project scoping period is solicited and required under NRCS watershed planning policy. Please let us know if you have comments, ideas, or concerns relating to the proposed rehabilitation of Silver Lake Flat Dam.

The Draft Plan-EA will be available for public review in the coming months. If you wish to be notified when it is made available for public comment, please contact Norm Evenstad, NRCS via telephone, writing or email. Contact information is listed at the end of this pamphlet.

Public notices and review material will be made available during the project. To download these documents electronically please visit:
http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pl566.html

Notes:

For more information on the rehabilitation of aging watershed structures access the NRCS Web Page at:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/alphabetical/?&cid=nrcs143_008448

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November 2011

NRCS

McMILLEN

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation
Utah County, Utah

Rehabilitation of Aging Watershed Dams (PL 106-472)

Over 11,000 flood control dams have been built in 2,000 watersheds across the nation since 1948. These dams were built by watershed project sponsors in 47 states with funding and technical help provided through USDA watershed programs. These programs are administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Local units of government, serving as project sponsors, assume operation and maintenance responsibility of the dams after they are built.

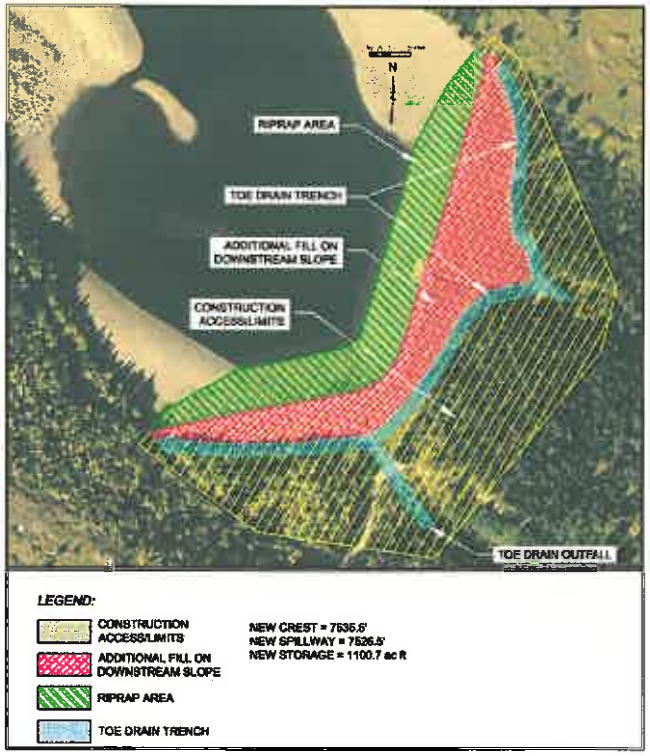
The Silver Lake Flat Dam within the American Fork-Dry Creek Watershed Project is an example of one of these dams.

National Environmental Policy Act Scoping Meeting

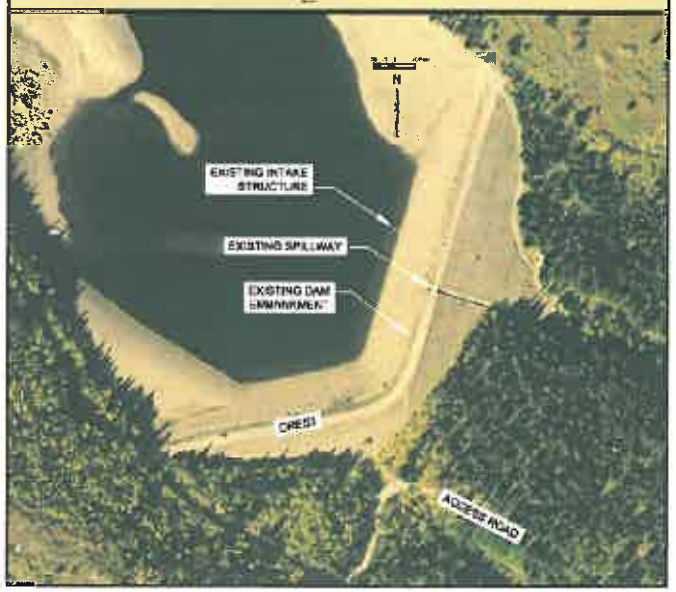
Silver Lake Flat Dam Rehabilitation
Work Elements
American Fork-Dry Creek
Utah County, Utah
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

The following work elements are required to meet dam safety regulations and engineering standards:

1. Install riprap on the upstream face to prevent erosion.
2. Install compacted fill on the downstream face for additional structural stability.
3. Install toe drain near the base of the dam to transport groundwater away from the dam.
4. Upgrade the existing spillway capacity to transport the 100-year flood event.
5. Install a new low level intake structure gate to transport water through the dam.



Existing Conditions



The dam is currently operated approximately 7 feet below the spillway crest due to dam safety regulations. The current capacity of the reservoir is 1,033 acre feet. The new spillway would be raised 1.5 feet from the existing spillway crest adding capacity to the reservoir (1,100 acre feet).

Alternatives Considered

No Action: Sponsor continues to operate and maintain Silver Lake Flat Dam "AS-IS".

Dam Decommissioning: Engineered removal of a portion of the dam in accordance with established NRCS standards. This would eliminate the high flood hazard associated with a potential failure of the dam and restore the natural geomorphology of the stream channel.

Dam Rehab <u>Replace</u> Spillway: Perform dam rehabilitation as specified in this pamphlet to meet current dam safety regulations and engineering standards. Demolish the existing spillway and install a new spillway in the same location.

Dam Rehab <u>New</u> Spillway: Perform dam rehabilitation as specified in this pamphlet to meet current dam safety regulations and engineering standards. Demolish the existing spillway and install a new spillway at the base of the left abutment of the dam.

Issues/Concerns/Problems

Please indicate below any comments or concerns relating to the proposed rehabilitation of Silver Lake Flat Dam.

Name

Address

Phone / Email

Send written or electronic comments to: NRCS

Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator

USDA-NRCS
Wallace F Bennett Federal Building
125 S State Street, Room 4010

Phone: 801-524-4569
Fax: 801-524-4403
Email: silverlakeflatdam@mcmillen-llc.com