



September 10, 2013

Dear Interested Parties:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food as the project sponsor, are proposing to address rehabilitating Shem dam (aka Winsor Dam) on the Santa Clara River in Washington County, Utah, due to flood damage. The proposed project is located approximately 13 miles northwest of the city of St George adjacent to N Gunlock Road. **You are invited to attend a public meeting** where a wide range of conceptual alternatives addressing damage rehabilitation to the Shem Dam will be presented and discussed at the meeting.



Scoping Period

Open: Tuesday, September 10, 2013

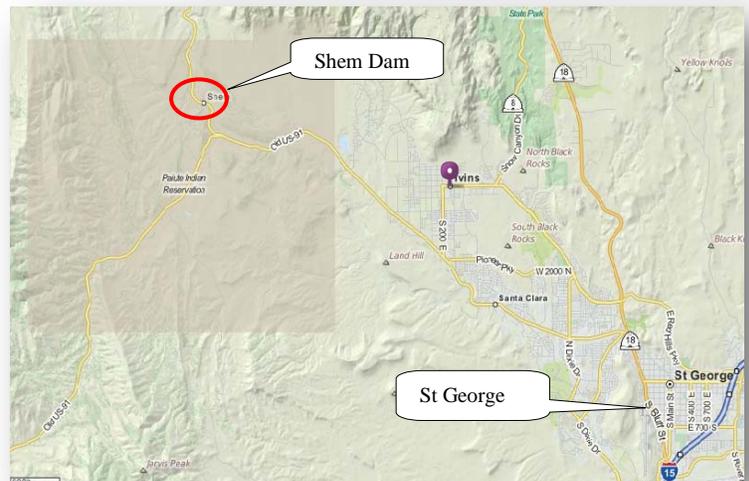
Close: Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Scoping Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Time: Formal Presentation: 6 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
 Informal Open House: 6:45 p.m. –9 p.m.

Where: Washington County Public works
 197 East Tabernacle
 St George, Utah 84770



More project specific information is available by contacting Greg Allington (McMillen, LLC) with the project team by phone at 208-342-4214 or email at shemdam@mcmillen-llc.com.

Environmental Assessment Introduction

The NRCS is proposing to partially fund, through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, a project to address damage to Shem Dam, and increase public safety downstream from the dam. 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 project will require an environmental analysis and the environmental impacts will be documented in the form of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.

Project Purpose and Need

In accordance with the rehabilitation provisions of the NRCS’s EWP program, the area is eligible for rehabilitation funding due to recent flood damage in 2011. The purpose of the project is to assess various actions that will lead to a viable solution.

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 project have an opportunity to share their comments, ideas, and concerns regarding actions during the initial scoping stage of the NEPA process. You are encouraged to attend the public meeting and express your comments, ideas, and concerns. You may also submit your comments via letter, email or fax anytime during the public comment period. For comments to be considered and to become part of the public record for the projects, **we need to receive them by close-of-business on October 9, 2013.**

Please mail your written comments to:

Shem Dam Rehabilitation Project
c/o McMillen, LLC – Greg Allington
1401 Shoreline Drive
Boise, ID 83702

You may also submit comments by email, phone or fax to McMillen:

Email: shemdam@mcmillen-llc.com

Phone: 208-342-4214

Fax: 208-342-4216

After receiving comments by close-of-business on October 9, 2013, the NRCS will begin reviewing the comments and reviewing conceptual alternatives for analysis in the EA. Preliminary resource concerns identified during this initial project scoping process will also be addressed in the EA.

You may also visit the project website at

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ut/programs/planning/ewpp/> or perform an internet search for NRCS EWP projects and select the appropriate project to check on the status of the project and download project related documents during the course of the NEPA analysis.

The project team values your feedback and encourages you to attend the public meeting on September 24, 2013.

Sincerely,



Bronson Smart
NRCS State Engineer

cc: Tony Beals – NRCS
Ron Whitehead – Washington County
Kyle McFee – Shivwits Band of Paiutes
Dan Axness – McMillen, LLC
Greg Allington – McMillen, LLC