



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Omaha District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: August 17, 2024



## Public Meeting Announcement:

### Watertown, South Dakota: Flood Risk Management Study

The City of Watertown, SD, is hosting a public meeting in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to present a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Feasibility Report (FR) and associated Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as part of the Watertown Flood Risk Management General Investigations (GI) Feasibility Study. The Draft EA/FR documents the assessment of potential effects to the human and natural environment for the project's initial array of alternatives and the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP).

**The Draft EA/FR and Draft FONSI will be published by September 9, 2024, initiating a 30-day public review and comment period.** Please see below for instructions to provide comments.

#### PUBLIC MEETING:

The City of Watertown, and USACE will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 (full details below).

The format of the public meeting will include a short presentation to introduce the TSP followed by a poster open house. Event Details:

**Date / Time:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Location:** Ramkota Event Center  
1901 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Watertown, SD

The meeting will provide the public an opportunity to:

- Learn about the TSP presented by the City of Watertown and USACE representatives.
- Have one-on-one conversations with Watertown representatives and USACE technical experts.
- Provide verbal and written input on the EA/FR and learn how USACE and the City will use your input.
- Learn about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the EA/FR process of evaluating alternatives toward the goals of the project.

## **DRAFT EA/FR AND FONSI COMMENTS:**

View the Draft EA/FR and FONSI here (*after September 9*):

<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Planning/Planning-Projects/Watertown-SD/>

The public is encouraged to view and provide comments on the Draft EA/FR and FONSI. Comments may be submitted before October 9, 2024, by:

**Email:** [CENWO-CW-PlanningOutreach@usace.army.mil](mailto:CENWO-CW-PlanningOutreach@usace.army.mil)

**Postal Mail:** USACE Omaha District,  
ATTN: Environmental Resources Section  
1616 Capitol Ave  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

**In Person:** Public Open House, September 17, 2024 (details above)

The integrated EA was prepared was drafted in accordance in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC § 4321 et eq) and its implementing Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (2024), USACE regulations for implementing NEPA (ER 200-2-2), and other applicable laws and regulations. The draft EA/FR was also prepared in accordance with the “Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies” published by the U.S. Water Resources Council in March 1983 (commonly referred to as the Principles and Guidelines).”

## **BACKGROUND:**

The focus of this General Investigations Feasibility Study is to reassess feasible structural and nonstructural measures to reduce flood risk for the city of Watertown. A public scoping meeting was held in partnership with the City of Watertown on January 31, 2023, to discuss flooding history, problems, and opportunities as they relate to the study.

Structural measures formulated to date preliminarily included a traditional dam and reservoir, dry dam(s), underground diversion, channel widening, levees, floodproofing, and wetland-riparian habitat complexes, in addition to nonstructural measures. These measures were evaluated against screening criteria that included public acceptability, environmental impacts, operation and maintenance, constructability, climate resiliency, and how each measure would benefit properties in Watertown, Lake Kampeska, Pelican Lake.

The Tentatively Selected Plan refers to an economic and environmentally acceptable solution which best meets the project objectives. This alternative was derived from an array of alternatives that were compared and screened against decision criteria developed for the project. Alternative 8 is currently the National Economic Development (NED) plan which reasonably maximizes net economic benefits consistent with protecting the Nation’s environment.

Alternative 8 includes three main proposed actions (see figure 1):

- Seasonally lowering Lake Kampeska from elevation 1718.8 to 1718,
- Big Sioux River channel widening, and
- Constructing an earthen levee and floodwall on the east bank of the Big Sioux River.

Please attend the public meeting to learn more about this TSP. Your feedback matters to help decision makers to make the most informed decisions for the Watertown community.

