



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

MAR 11 2016

CENWO-PM-A

MEMORANDUM FOR Northwestern Division (CENWD-PDD-B)

SUBJECT: Miles City, Montana Section 205, Flood Risk Management Study Federal Interest Determination Approval

1. This memo presents information on the Section 205 project in Custer County at Miles City, Montana (Miles City) located in the southeastern portion of the state, at the confluence of the Tongue and Yellowstone Rivers. Omaha District is recommending the initiation of a Section 205 study following receipt of funding and approval from Northwestern Division.
2. As presented in the Federal Interest Determination Report (encl 1), the flooding problem in Miles City has been documented for over a century. The majority of historic flooding has been due ice jams as evidenced by Miles City having the highest occurrence of ice jams in the state of Montana (36 ice affected floods between 1888 and 2015).
3. A Digital Flood Insurance Map was published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2009 and adopted by the city in 2010. Approximately 80% of the property in Miles City is located within the 100 year floodplain. The estimated value of structure and content values at risk is \$311,000,000.
4. Given the significant potential for flooding to impact residential, commercial, and public property, including the municipal water and wastewater treatment plants, one hospital, one nursing home, five schools, numerous churches and a State of Montana fish hatchery.
5. Omaha District recommends initiating a feasibility study under Section 205, of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended. A feasibility study would allow for detailed analysis of flood risk management alternatives (both structural and nonstructural) with a goal of identifying an economically feasible, environmentally sustainable, and cost-effective solution for the community. Upon receipt of NWD approval to proceed and funding, the District will collaborate with the City of Miles City, the State of Montana, and other affected stakeholders to develop a Project Management Plan and execute a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement for continuing the feasibility study.
6. If there are any questions concerning this information, please contact Gwyn Jarrett, Project Manager, at 402-995-2717.

Encl

BRAD E. THOMPSON
Chief, Planning Branch