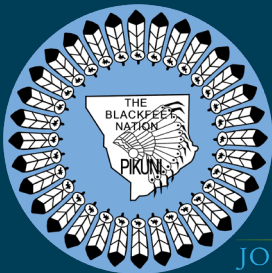


St. Mary Siphon Briefing

December 2024 Update



Project Team

Project Stakeholders:

Bureau of Reclamation
Milk River Joint Board of Control
Blackfeet Tribe
State of Montana

Project Sponsors:

Ryan Newman (BOR)
Wade Jones (Joint Board)

Technical Team Lead:

Stan Schweissing (HDR)

Primary Contractors:

Sletten Construction
NW Construction

Project Managers:

Steven Darlinton (BOR)
Jennifer Patrick (Joint Board)

Website: [Milk River Project](#)

Project Briefing

NW Construction has installed 52 of the 70 sticks of pipe on the west side of the bridge and are working on installing the underdrains on the east side of the bridge in anticipation of installation of the east siphon in late January or early February.

Sletten Construction installed the bridge abutments, river piers, and pier cap. Work will start back up once all girders are on site and ready for placement in February.

The draft river restoration design has been submitted to the Corps, EPA, and Blackfeet Environmental Office for permitting. Once permitted, the restoration will begin in an attempt to be completed prior to spring run-off.

Operations

2025 Water Supply

- Irrigation water supply projections range from none to a partial irrigation through a portion of July
- The supply will depend on natural runoff from snow and rain in the Milk River Basin. Runoff will be stored in Fresno and Nelson reservoirs prior to irrigation.
- Some storage in Fresno will be reserved for municipalities to ensure a minimum release of 40 cfs. The reserved storage target will vary depending on the certainty of St. Mary Siphon completion and time of year.
- Natural flow and Fort Belknap Indian Irrigation Project will be released from Fresno until depleted.

Schedule

- Completed Tasks
 - Project Start: June 17, 2024
 - Qualified EXM Determination: July 3, 2024
 - FONSI: July 31, 2024
 - Biological Opinion: August 2, 2024
 - Bridge and Pipe Removal: August 29, 2024
 - Start of Pipe Production: September 3, 2024
 - Pipe Delivery: October 16, 2024
- Upcoming Milestones
 - Girder Delivery: Feb 2025
 - Bridge Complete: May 2025
 - Inlet/Outlet Construction: June 2025
 - Project Completion: September 2025

Costs

Estimated cost of \$70 million to replace both St. Mary (\$51.6M) and Halls Coulee (\$18.4M) Siphons.

Current available funding: \$70,000,000

- Reclamation: \$36,351,000
- House Bill 540: \$6,200,000
- House Bill 006: \$25,904,701
- NRCS EWP Grant (MRJBOC): \$876,571
- DNRC RDG Grant (MRJBOC): \$100,000
- M&I Contracts: \$567,728

Task based project budget summary is available on request:

- Total Baseline Project Estimate = \$70,000,000
- Total Project Spent = \$20,300,000
- % Spent = 29%