Reservoir project could be delayed

STAFF REPORTS,

Officials with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District continue to wait on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ decision on a permit for the construction of the Northern Integrated Supply Project.

Because of the time the corps is taking to announce that decision, and due to the possibility that more study may be required, the time table for the project may pushed back a year, according to Brian Werner, spokesman for the district.

The project, commonly called NISP, calls for the construction of the Glade Reservoir, north of Fort Collins, and the Galeton Reservoir east of Ault. The district is designing and building the project on the behalf of 15 northern Colorado cities, towns and water districts.

The original timeline for the project, with an estimated cost of between $400 million and $450 million, was 2009-2011 for design, 2011-2015 for construction, and water going into Glade starting in 2016, Werner said.

“We are not in a panic mode by any means. I hate to use the word normal, but it’s normal for this kind of project to see this kind of delay. The corps is still reading all the comments from public meetings it conducted earlier this year, and they may come back to say this area needs more study, or more work is needed in this area. We’ll just have to wait and see,” Werner said.

He said the district is now hopeful that the corps will make a decision on the project by early to mid 2009.