U.S. Army Corps Delays NISP Evaluation

Grace Hood (2011-01-04)
DENVER, CO (KUNC) - A decision surrounding the fate of a controversial water storage project in Northern Colorado has been delayed--again.

The Northern Colorado Integrated Supply Project, or NISP, would divert the Poudre River into two reservoirs to create more water storage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was planning to release a supplemental draft environmental impact statement last June, but it delayed the document’s release to this summer. Now it's being pushed back to later this year.

“The complexity of the projects themselves and the interrelationships of each one to each other and also having to do coordination amongst the various applicants and agencies and interested parties just adds a lot more time than sometimes what we would originally think,” said Chandler Peter with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

NISP has been the source of criticism by groups like Save the Poudre, which has raised concerns about the environment effects of the $490 million project. The group says the time delay could be an opportunity for the 15 cities and water districts involved to investigate alternatives to the project. © Copyright 2011, KUNC