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Second reservoir study shows less impact

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The impact of Glade Reservoir and the Northern Integrated Supply Project on Fort Collins would be considerably less than stated in a city analysis of the controversial water-storage project, according to a new study.

The study released Wednesday by project sponsor Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District found water-quality concerns raised by the city's research could be handled with relative ease.

The city also would not be saddled with hundreds of millions of dollars in costs to upgrade its facilities for treating drinking water and wastewater, according to the study by the engineering firm Black & Veatch Corp.

Northern Water commissioned the study after the city's analysis of NISP predicted the project would adversely affect the city several ways because of reduced flows in the Poudre River, said spokesman Brian Werner.

The district disputed the findings at the time, adding NISP participants would pay for whatever costs the city incurs.

"We wanted to back up what we were saying with solid science," Werner said. "We think this study does that."

The study found NISP's impact on the river's flows would not impact the city's wastewater plants and require expensive upgrades as predicted by the city.

The city also predicted that bringing water from Glade Reservoir to Horsetooth Reservoir would raise the concentration of total organic carbon, or TOC, in the water, making it more difficult and expensive to treat.

But the Black & Veatch study found city facilities were already equipped to handle levels of TOC higher than what NISP might bring.

The study also found that contamination from an old missile site near where Glade would be built does not pose a threat to the city's drinking water.

Fort Collins officials declined to comment on the study until they could review it.

Kevin Gertig, who works in water resources and treatment for Fort Collins Utilities, said the city stands behind its work and the months of research that went into its analysis of NISP.

City staff members were not contacted during the study, he said.

"We're looking forward to reading the study and learning what data they used and how they reached

their conclusions," Gertig said.

The study cost about \$50,000. It was paid for by the 15 regional municipalities and water districts that are participating in NISP.

Additional Facts



[Glade Reservoir Proposal and the Poudre River](#)

The proposed Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins has sparked a debate between those who say the project will decimate the Poudre River and those who say it's necessary water storage for drought and growth.
