



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District**

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Public Affairs

Corps Facts

Grafton, N.D.

Flood Reduction Project

July 21, 2004

FS-29

History

A federal flood reduction project at Grafton, N.D., was authorized for construction in April 1984. Congress subsequently deauthorized the project in November 1991 at the request of the city. However, in response to the 1997 flood, the Grafton City Council passed a resolution on Dec. 19, 1997, expressing the desire to have the project reauthorized by Congress. Congress reauthorized the project in 1999, and a General Reevaluation Report became necessary to determine the extent of changes and project feasibility. The General Reevaluation Report looked again at six plans to provide flood protection for Grafton and recommended construction of the diversion channel/tieback levee plan. This Plan meets the city's objectives of providing a **permanent flood control system** that:

1. Removes the city from the 100-year regulated floodplain
2. Allows for future development within the city
3. Requires the least amount of resources for operation and maintenance and
4. Minimizes upstream and downstream impacts

The draft General Reevaluation Report/Environmental Assessment for a flood control project was released to the public for review on June 12, 2003, and a public workshop was held on July 17, 2003. Comments were received, addressed and incorporated into the final report dated August 2003. The project was federally approved for construction on May 27, 2004.

Project

If the recommended project is constructed, it will remove the City of Grafton from the 100-year flood plain. It will include bypassing all Park River flows in excess of 2,000 cubic feet per second through a 2.8-mile long bypass channel, a diversion structure at the upstream end of the bypass channel with an un-gated control structure across the Park River and a tieback levee to divert overbank flows into the bypass channel. The fully funded cost of the project is \$32.7 million, with the local share being \$8.2 million. The North Dakota State Water Commission has committed to providing half the local share up to \$4.8 million. The benefit-to-cost ratio has been calculated as 1.67. Annual operation and maintenance costs are estimated to be \$102,000.

The Grafton City Council asked the St. Paul District to conduct one-on-one meetings with rural property owners to discuss their concerns with the flood reduction project in 2003. Subsequently, farmstead protection alternatives and costs for each site were developed. Quantities and cost estimates were developed for construction of a NDSWC ring dike at each farmstead. The total cost for constructing these NDSWC ring dikes at 25 farmsteads is estimated to be \$1.7 million; the cost sharing of this program is currently being considered by the city and the NDSWC. Note, the farmstead protection is not a federal requirement but is being considered by the city and state.

Schedule

A project cooperation agreement, between the Corps of Engineers and the City of Grafton, to begin the project may be signed September 2004, with initial contracts being advertised shortly thereafter. Construction is expected to be complete in 2008, depending on federal funding and real estate acquisition. Project certification and coordination of Flood Insurance Rate Map revisions will occur as early as possible to allow the city's removal from the 100-year regulated floodplain.