

TO: MRRIC SPA Task Group

FROM: Independent Science Advisory Panel (ISAP)

RE: Initial Response to 17 July 2013 Missouri River Management Plan Project Overview and Schedule

DATE: 22 July 2013

The ISAP has reviewed the *Missouri River Management Plan Project Overview and Schedule, Draft Preliminary Version for SPA and ISAP Review* dated 17 July 2013.

After discussing the document, the ISAP came to consensus that the document is insufficiently complete and contains insufficient technical or scientific information or interpretation to justify utilizing the collective time of the SPA and the ISAP to review the document on 23 July 2013.

The current document is predominantly a restatement of earlier ISAP/MRRIC recommendations, the PrOACT process, and the legal contexts. The core of the management plan and its project overview and schedule is still a skeleton – the beginning of a plan for a plan – with insufficient specificity for the ISAP to provide meaningful response.

The ISAP hopes that a substantially more complete Management Plan overview and schedule can be available for the August meeting of the MRRIC. At that time, the ISAP may be more appropriately engaged in review and discussion, when the science and technical components are more apparent and clarified by the agencies.

More specifically, the ISAP would hope to see more description of the technical components of each task, including what the substance of the deliverables and the process for delivering them would be, and including who will do what and by when. We realize this level of detail may not yet be possible for activities that are still beyond six or so months out; but it is essential for successfully accomplishing activities underway such as objectives setting and continuing model development, and soon-to-be developed alternatives and consequences – all of which are integrally tied to and dependent on the effects analysis, which is referenced but not described.

The ISAP hopes this and many other technical and procedural issues and dependencies will be clarified in the next version of the plan overview and schedule.