

Feds extend water pipeline comment period

By the Star-Tribune staff

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GREEN RIVER -- Federal officials said Friday they were extending the scoping comment period for a controversial project to divert water from the Flaming Gorge Reservoir in southwest Wyoming to the Front Range in Colorado.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager Rena Brand said the agency will now accept public comments for inclusion in an environmental impact statement on the project through July 27.

Colorado entrepreneur Aaron Million is proposing to construct a trans-basin diversion pipeline to move water from southwest Wyoming's Green River Basin to the Front Range north of Denver.

The Million Conservation Group, a private entity, is pursuing the construction of the Regional Watershed Supply Project, which would also provide an additional water source for southeast Wyoming, according to company plans.

The approximately 560-mile-long pipeline would run from the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, along Interstate 80 and then south to Colorado's Front Range and on to Colorado Springs.

The \$3 billion pipeline would deliver about 250,000 acre feet of water each year.

The Corps' EIS is expected to take about three years to complete. The agency held a contentious public hearing in Green River on April 14 before a huge crowd of residents who mostly opposed the project.