

Feasibility Study Milestones At a Glance



Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Milestone

Primary Decision. The District is prepared to release the draft report and draft NEPA documentation for concurrent public, technical, legal and policy review and IEPR (if applicable).

Readiness for the TSP Milestone. The District Planning Chief, in consultation with the MSC Planning and Policy Chief, determines the readiness for conducting the TSP Milestone meeting. The PDT has completed the evaluation and comparison of a focused array of distinctly different strategies for achieving the water resources objectives in the study area; identified a TSP and possibly a LPP to carry forward; prepared a proposed way forward to develop sufficient cost and design information for the final feasibility-level analysis and feasibility report. It is expected that a draft feasibility study report and draft NEPA documentation will be largely complete by the milestone meeting and concurrent review will be initiated within 30 days following the TSP Milestone. In a 3-year study, the TSP Milestone would be expected within the first 12-18 months of the study.

Decision-Maker & Lead Presenter. The decision-maker for the TSP Milestone meeting is the HQUSACE Chief of the Planning and Policy Division. The lead presenter is the District Planning Chief.

Read Aheads. Read Aheads are to be provided no later than two weeks prior to the milestone date. Read ahead material is informational for the decision-maker. Read ahead materials are not reviewed for comment and response. Expected read ahead materials include:

1. A Report Summary, incorporating an explicit discussion of risk drivers and consequences.
2. The Project Study Issue Checklist.
3. The final draft District presentation slides.

Meeting Documentation. The decisions reached and any required follow-up actions must be documented at the TSP Milestone meeting and acknowledged by the decision-maker and the MSC and District Planning Chiefs before adjourning the meeting. Significant decisions will be documented by the PDT in a MFR and Decision Log, clearly listing specific actions/ conditions required before the draft feasibility study report is released for concurrent review.

Participation. Teleconference and web meeting are the preferred methods for conducting the TSP Milestone meeting. Invited Milestone meeting participants include representatives of the PDT and Vertical Team: District, MSC, HQ, and PCXes. The non-Federal sponsor representatives, as study partners, should participate in the meeting. Other Federal Agencies and Tribal Nations may be invited to the meeting based on the decision and the needs of the study.

TSP Milestone Meeting Best Practices

- Don't forget your map. Include the study area and key alternatives (TSP, potential LPP, etc.).
- Be ready to talk about your scope, schedule, budget to complete – and the uncertainty in that. *Do you know you will need a 3x3x3 exemption?*
- Tie the plan and its features back to the actual water resources problem.
- Include some numbers: Outputs and parametric costs should be identified for the final array, and the features of the TSP should be identified.
- What activities have been completed or are expected for environmental compliance and coordination with other agencies?
- What high/moderate risks to the study or the project are you tracking? Have there been significant changes since the Alternatives Milestone?