

Dear Interested Stakeholder in Missouri River Basin Issues:

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution is still developing and expanding our Stakeholder Contact List, which we acknowledge is incomplete. Please feel free to distribute this email to others who may be interested.

The U.S. Institute is pleased to announce the following final candidates to provide mediation and facilitation assistance to the proposed "spring rise" process:

(Listed in the order that proposals were received)

- Gail Bingham (lead), Kathleen Rutherford, Will Singleton (RESOLVE); Dale Strickland, Clayton Derby (Western Ecosystems Technology)
- Barbara Stinson (lead), Jennifer Pratt Miles, Dennis Ellis (Meridian Institute); Dennis Donald, John Huyler (Osprey Group)
- Sarah Stokes (lead), Ed Moreno, Peter Adler (The Keystone Center); Todd Bryan, Steven Yaffee (Ecosystem Management Initiative)
- Chris Moore (lead), Joe McMahon, Mary Margaret Golten, Leigh Price, Matthew McKinney, Julie McKay (CDR Associates)

I would also like to reiterate that you are cordially invited to help the U.S. Institute select the final team that the U.S. Institute will then contract with to design and facilitate the proposed "spring rise" process. The same team of mediators will also be contracted to conduct a second effort to work with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders in the Basin to determine how best to design and convene the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) process.

SELECTION OF MEDIATION TEAM - Your invitation to participate

The U.S. Institute wants to ensure that we select the best team available for these projects. We can only do that with the assistance of interested and affected stakeholders - both governmental and nongovernmental.

Interviews with the final candidates identified by the U.S. Institute will take place all day on Tuesday, April 12, in Omaha, NE. (NOTE: This date has been changed from the 14th.)

You are welcome to participate in the selection process for the mediation team in one of four ways:

1. You can review the proposals submitted by the final candidates and then participate directly in their in-person interviews;
2. You can review the proposals submitted by the final candidates and then participate in their interviews via conference call;
3. You can review the proposals of the final candidates identified by the U.S. Institute and submit your written comments on their qualifications;
4. You can attend and observe all or part of the interviews.

PLEASE RESPOND BEFORE FRIDAY, APRIL 1, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS TO HELP SELECT THE MEDIATION TEAM. You can contact me by email or by phone at the number listed below to indicate how you would like to participate. I will provide you with the proposals of the final candidates, as soon as possible, to review in advance of the interviews. For those participating by conference call, I will provide a toll-free (800) Call-In Number.

If you choose to attend the interviews, we will provide as many participants as possible with an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates, as well as to indicate your preferences among the different candidates at the conclusion of the interviews. Although the U.S. Institute will be making the final selection decision, we have a strong interest in identifying a mediation team that is both highly skilled at helping parties reach agreement on solutions to difficult problems and who are also acceptable to all stakeholders with an interest in Missouri River endangered species recovery and restoration issues. The U.S. Institute will contract with and directly oversee the work of the selected mediation team.

As the U.S. Institute's Senior Program Manager assigned to this project, I will be facilitating the interview process. You can expect it to be a very long day, but also hopefully productive and informative. I understand and appreciate that attending the interviews is a big commitment of your time. Without your assistance, however, and your willingness to engage in a good faith effort to work with other stakeholders and the responsible agencies in developing a viable spring rise proposal, is vital to a successful process. So, the contribution of your time and your thoughtful perspectives on the qualifications of the different mediation teams would be greatly appreciated. In fairness to all the prospective candidate teams, if you do intend to participate in the selection process, I will ask that you prepare by reading all the proposals in advance of the interviews.

If you cannot participate in the interviews but would like to review the proposals of the final candidates and provide your written comments on their qualifications, I will need to receive your written comments no later than Friday, April 8, so they can be considered in making the final selection decision.

Additional details regarding the specific location for the interviews, format for the interview process, guidance on formulating interview questions, etc, will be provided next week to those who have indicated to us that they would like to participate. We will likely go from 8:00am until 6:00pm on Tuesday, April 12th, in Omaha.

Thanks very much.

Michael Eng

Senior Program Manager
U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
130 South Scott Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85701
Telephone: 520.670.5299 x14 Fax: 520.670.5530
Email: eng@ecr.gov Website: www.ecr.gov