**PREDICT 453 – Assignment #1**

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**Part 1 – Document Attributes**

**The following is a summary of the document attributes.**

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| Metatag Type |  |
| Title | Exclusive - Trump border 'wall' to cost $21.6 billion, take 3.5 years to build: internal report |
| Source | Reuters |
| Author(s) | Julia Edwards Ainsley |
| Published/Uploaded | 10:05 PM EST Thu Feb 9, 2017 |
| URL | http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-immigration-wall-exclusive-idUSKBN15O2ZN |
| Total Images | 0 |
| Total Videos | 0 |
| Total Ext. Links | 0 |
| Total Items Comprising the Sample | 1 |
| Total Word Count | 760 (all text) / 509 (black text only)  If you want/need me to cut back, let me know, otherwise, I’ll gladly perform all necessary functionality on the full document. |
| Contributor | RAG |

**Part 2 – Document Text**

**The following is the text of the document, divided into two sections. The text in black is the first 509 words, and the text in red is the balance of the document, the additional 251 words, combined for a total of 760 words. The full text, all 760 words, are being processed for this exercise, as I feel it is important to include the full text to appropriately analyze the content.**

President Donald Trump’s “wall” along the U.S.-Mexico border would be a series of fences and walls that would cost as much as $21.6 billion, and take more than three years to construct, based on a U.S. Department of Homeland Security internal report seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The report’s estimated price-tag is much higher than a $12-billion figure cited by Trump in his campaign and estimates as high as $15 billion from Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The report is expected to be presented to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary John Kelly in coming days, although the administration will not necessarily take actions it recommends.

The plan lays out what it would take to seal the border in three phases of construction of fences and walls covering just over 1,250 miles (2,000 km) by the end of 2020.

With 654 miles (1,046 km) of the border already fortified, the new construction would extend almost the length of the entire border. Many cost estimates and timelines have been floated since Trump campaigned on the promise of building a wall. The report seen by Reuters is the work of a group commissioned by Kelly as a final step before moving forward with requesting U.S. taxpayer funds from Congress and getting started on construction.

A DHS spokeswoman said the department does 'not comment on or confirm the potential existence of pre-decisional, deliberative documents.'

A Donald Trump for President campaign sticker is shown attached to a U.S. Customs sign hanging on the border fence between Mexico and the United States near Calexico, California, U.S. February 8, 2017. Picture taken February 8, 2017. REUTERS/Mike Blake

A White House spokeswoman said it would be “premature” to comment on a report that has not officially been presented to the president.

The report said the first phase would be the smallest, targeting sections covering 26 miles (42 km) near San Diego, California; El Paso, Texas; and in Texas's Rio Grande Valley.

The report assumes DHS would get funding from Congress by April or May, giving the department sufficient time to secure contractors and begin construction by September. Trump has said Congress should fund the wall upfront, but that Mexico will reimburse U.S. taxpayers. Mexico has said it will not pay.

Several U.S. congressional delegations are visiting the border this month to assess funding needs, according to several people familiar with the travel plans.

The report shows the U.S. government has begun seeking waivers to address environmental laws on building in some areas. It also shows the government has begun working with existing contractors and planning steel purchases for the project.

Trump told law enforcement officials on Wednesday, 'The wall is getting designed right now.'

The report accounted for the time and cost of acquiring private land, one reason for its steep price increase compared to estimates from Trump and members of Congress.

Bernstein Research, an investment research group that tracks material costs, has said that uncertainties around the project could drive its cost up to as much as $25 billion.

The second phase of construction proposed in the report would cover 151 miles (242 km) of border in and around the Rio Grande Valley; Laredo, Texas; Tucson, Arizona; El Paso, Texas and Big Bend, Texas. The third phase would cover an unspecified 1,080 miles (1,728 km), essentially sealing off the entire U.S.-Mexico border.

The report lays out costs to cover the border with barriers, but funding constraints and legal battles are likely to place limits on those plans.

It also does not account for major physical barriers, like mountains, in areas where it would not be feasible to build.

A source familiar with the plans said DHS may have to go to court to seek eminent domain in order to acquire some of the private land needed to cover the final and most ambitious phase.

The first phase, estimated to cost only $360 million, could be a relatively easy way for Trump to satisfy supporters eager to see him make good on his campaign promises to limit illegal migration. But the rest of the construction will be markedly more expensive, covering a much larger stretch of land, much of it privately owned or inaccessible by road.

In addition to seeking eminent domain and environmental waivers, the U.S. government would also have to meet the requirements of the International Boundary and Water Commission, a U.S.-Mexico pact over shared waters. The report estimated that agreement alone could bring the cost from $11 million per mile to $15 million per mile in one area.

**Part 3 – Document Overview**

**The following is an overview of the document.**

President Donald Trump’s wall on the border between the United States and Mexico will take approximately 3 years, be a combination of walls and fences, and cost up to $21.6B, based on a new report from the Department of Homeland Security. An independent research firm has put the costs up to $25B.

**Has President Donald Trump underestimated the challenges and the costs?**

During his campaign, the President said that the cost would be $12B and Republican leaders indicated a cost up to $15B. The wall will actually be a combination of fences and walls, adding 596 miles to the existing 654 miles already protected.

t what it would take to seal the border in three phases of construction of fences and walls covering just over 1,250 miles (2,000 km) by the end of 2020. The construction will be in phases, which include the design, land and permit acquisition, and construction.

Another significant point is President Trump had said Mexico will pay for the wall, but it may now be the U.S. taxpayers initially, with the plan for Mexico to reimburse the U.S. for the costs.

**Was the concept of the wall used for political gain without fully understanding the project?**

Protection of America from illegal immigration was the cornerstone of the wall, which Mexico was going to pay for. What will the actual outcome be? Only time will tell if the promises and benefits of the wall will be realized, but the article begins to lay the foundation for a more in-depth analysis.

The main concepts of this article are:

* What will the wall cost?
* How long will it take?
* Who will pay for the wall?
* Were all the challenges of building the wall identified before the election?