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Any objection to the grant of the license must be submitted in writing and received within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice in order to be considered. Written objection should be sent to: Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, AFRL/IFOJ, 26 Electronic Parkway, Rome, New York 13441-4515. Telephone: (315) 330-2087; facsimile (315) 330-7583.

**Pamela D. Fitzgerald,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare One Environmental Impact Statement for the Combined Phase I and Phase II Elements of the Arkansas River Navigation Study, AR and OK

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Little Rock District will prepare one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Arkansas River Navigation Study. The Arkansas River Navigation Study was originally a two-phase project. Phase I concentrated on river flow management aspects while Phase II focused on deepening and widening the Arkansas River navigation channel. The USACE has decided to combine the two phases into one proposed project to be evaluated in one EIS based on consideration of NEPA requirements and comments received from the public.

The combined EIS will generally focus on three aspects of maintaining and improving commercial navigation on the MKARNS: (1) River flow management, (2) channel deepening, and (3) on-going channel maintenance disposal. The purpose of the EIS will be to present all viable alternatives and assess the impacts associated with each alternative. The USACE is conducting this study under direction of the U.S. Congress. The study area includes the Arkansas river Basin in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Proposed improvements resulting from the study could impact

(positively or negatively) agriculture, hydropower, recreation, flood control, and fish and wildlife along the MKARNS. The EIS will evaluate potential impacts (positive and negative) to the natural, physical, and human environment as a result of implementing any of the proposed project alternatives that may be developed during the EIS process.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments by August 16, 2004 to Mr. Johnny McLean, Environmental Section, Planning Branch, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions or comments concerning the proposed action should be addressed to: Mr. Johnny McLean, Telephone 501-324-5028, e-mail:

*Johnny.L.McLean@usace.army.mil.* All comments received during the Phase I and Phase II scoping periods are still on record and will be considered for the combined EIS. There is no need to re-submit duplicate comments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. *MKARNS:* The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System consists of a series of 18 locks and dams (17 existing and 1 currently under construction) and provides navigation from the Mississippi River to the Port of Catoosa near Tulsa, OK. River flow in the Arkansas River is modified primarily by 11 reservoirs in Oklahoma. The reservoirs are: Keystone, Oologah, Pensacola, Hudson, Fort Gibson, Tenkiller Ferry, Eufaula, Kaw, Hulah, Copan, and Wister. These lakes provide flood control, water supply, hydropower, fish & wildlife, water quality, recreation, and other benefits.

2. *Study History:* The Arkansas River Navigation Study is being undertaken by USACE, Little Rock and Tulsa Districts under the direction of the U.S. Congress. The study includes major hydraulics investigations, economics analyses, alternatives development and related analyses in addition to the EIS.

3. *Comments:* Interested parties are requested to express their views concerning the proposed activity. The public is encouraged to provide written comments in addition to or in lieu of, oral comments at scoping meetings. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific environmental topics or issues, which the commentator believes the document should address. Oral and written comments receive equal consideration. Comments received as a result of this notice and the news releases will be used to assist the Districts in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment. Affected

local, state, or Federal agencies, affected Indian Tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties may participate in the scoping process by forwarding written comments to the above noted address. Interested parties may also request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and documents.

4. *Alternatives/Issues:* The EIS will evaluate the effects modifying flow regimes, channel deepening, channel maintenance and other identified concerns. Anticipated significant issues to be addressed in the EIS include impacts on: (1) Navigation, (2) flooding, (3) hydropower production, (4) recreation and recreation facilities, (5) river hydraulics, (6) fish and wildlife resources and habitats, and (7) other impacts identified by the Public, agencies or USACE studies.

5. *Availability of the Draft EIS:* The Draft EIS is anticipated to be available for public review in the winter of 2004 subject to the receipt of federal funding.

6. *Authority:* The River and Harbor Act of 1946 authorized the development of the Arkansas River and its tributaries for the purposes of navigation, flood control, hydropower, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife. Public Law 91-649 stated that the project would be known as the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The Arkansas River Navigation Study began as a Fiscal Year (FY99) Congressional Add to investigate flooding problems along the Arkansas River in Crawford and Sebastian Counties in the vicinity of Fort Smith, AR.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Lower Rio Grande Basin, Texas, Flood Control and Major Drainage, Raymondville Drain Project

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Raymondville Drain Project is part of the Lower Rio Grande Basin Project which was authorized by section 401 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-

962). The proposed Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) will evaluate alternatives in the Raymondville Drain Project watershed to identify the most acceptable alternative to reduce and control flooding in Willacy and Hidalgo Counties, Texas. Alternatives are intended to provide flood protection and drainage to a watershed area of approximately 322 square miles including the City of Raymondville and surrounding rural and agricultural areas of Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. The local sponsor for the project is Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions about the proposed action and DSEIS can be answered by: Ms. Kristy Morten, Environmental Lead, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229; fax: (409) 766-3064; e-mail: [kristy.l.morten@usace.army.mil](mailto:kristy.l.morten@usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. *Proposed Action.* The DSEIS will be an integral part of a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) that will present the results of a new plan to provide flood control and agricultural drainage improvements to the City of Raymondville and Willacy and Hidalgo Counties, as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA 86). The Raymondville Drain is one of three elements of the authorized Lower Rio Grande Basin Project. The Phase 1 General Design Memorandum (GDM) and Programmatic EIS were completed in August 1982 and approved in the September 1982.

A Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) completed in 1997 concluded that the Federal project for flood control and major drainage at Raymondville was still economically and environmentally feasible. However, Willacy County, the local sponsor, could not support the project because of financial reasons. Hidalgo and Willacy Counties have again expressed an interest in pursuing a flood control project under this authorization. Given the last LRR completion nearly 7 years ago, a GRR and SEIS will be completed by the Corps of Engineers in partnership with Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 as the Lead Sponsor to assure that the project recommended will be safe, functional, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable and that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met.

2. *Alternatives.* The alternatives that will be evaluated in the GRR and SEIS include: (1) Non-structural measures that would include acquisition and removal, flood proofing, or raising of

existing structures; (2) Channelization along the Raymondville Drain; (3) Earthen levees of various heights and lengths; (4) Combinations of the above measures; and (5) No action.

3. *Scoping.* The scoping process will involve Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested persons and organizations. A series of scoping meetings and workshops will be conducted in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas to discuss various issues associated with proposed flood protection and drainage measures. Initial Public Scoping Meetings will be held July 21, 2004 at the UTPA Center for Border Economic Study (IT2 Building) in Edinburg, TX from 7 pm–8:30 pm and July 22, 2004 at the Raymondville Public Library in Raymondville, TX from 7 pm–8:30 pm.

If you cannot attend the public meetings and have information or questions concerning the study, written comments will be accepted for 30 days following the meetings or until August 22, 2004.

4. *Coordination.* Further coordination with environmental agencies will be conducted under NEPA, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat), Farmland Protection Policy Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act under the Texas Coastal Management Program.

5. *DSEIS Preparation.* It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public for review and comment in November 2007.

**Carolyn E. Murphy,**

*Chief, Environmental Section.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers**

**Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project, Buffalo Cove Management Unit, Located in Both St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, LA**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), intends to evaluate water management features to improve water

quality and interior water circulation, remove barriers to reestablish north to south water flow; provide input of oxygenated low temperature water; and reduce or manage sediment input into the interior swamp. The action is necessary due to the existing poor water quality resulting from the lack of internal circulation and oxygenated water inputs, and increased sedimentation. In addition if action is not taken, both deep-water and shallow water habitat utilized by fish and wildlife resources will continue to be lost, reduced, or degraded. The intended result of the proposed work is to prolong the life expectancy of the productive habitat (primarily aquatic and cypress tupelo habitats) that would become scarce over time by restricting or redirecting sediments, while simultaneously achieving a healthy water circulation pattern that would maintain or restore water quality and reestablish north to south water movement.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions concerning the DSEIS should be addressed to Mr. Larry Hartzog at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RP, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, phone (504) 862-2524, fax number (504) 862-2572 or by E-mail at [Larry.M.Hartzog@mvn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Larry.M.Hartzog@mvn02.usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The CEMVN, is initiating this DSEIS under the authority of the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928 (Pub. L. 391, 70th Congress), as amended and supplemented. Construction of two pilot management units (Buffalo Cove and Henderson Lake) is authorized by the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-88) and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-662), with construction of three additional authorized management units (Flat Lake, Beau Bayou, and Cocodrie Swamp) to take place upon approval of the Chief of Engineers after evaluation of the operational success of the initial two pilot management units. WRDA 1986 authorized the USACE to carry out the recommended plan for management units as described in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System feasibility report and Environmental Impact Statement of 1982 and the subsequent Chief of Engineers Report dated February 28, 1983. Under this authority, an assessment of environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of water management activities in the Buffalo Cove Management Unit will be made.

1. *Proposed Act.* The proposed action will consist of a series of closures and