

program for the waterway and watershed.

There is a history of flooding along SLO Creek, with its attendant problems of erosion, and water quality and ecological issues. However, there are relatively few structural flood control features. The City/Zone 9 identified the need to manage flooding within the SLO Creek watershed because urban uses have developed along the creek and its tributaries in the natural floodway. The under-city culvert and other manmade structures have reduced the capacity of the creek to convey floodwaters. The Program's objectives include (1) identification and prioritization of the amount and extent of flooding, erosion, water quality and ecological issues in the SLO Creek; (2) identification and development of programs to address these issues; (3) preparation of guidelines for design of future development and reconstructed developments in the SLO Creek watershed; (4) preparation of a programmatic environmental and permitting review process for implementation of Objectives 2 and 3 as applicable; and (5) development of an implementation program. It is anticipated this Program will result in a means by which the Corps and other pertinent agencies may comprehensively assess identified proposed actions within jurisdictional waters of the United States that encompass standard maintenance and replacement or improvement of existing flood structures, or repair of banks, channels, and stream habitats, and could include identified stream bank repair projects provided they are consistent with the Program. Other capital improvement projects for flood management not part of the City/Zone 9 Annual Work Plan would be subject to further review by the Corps and the local agency prior to implementation.

Currently, the Corps asserts discretionary authority over bank stabilization measures within the SLO Creek and its tributaries. This was based on a determination that proposals to channelize or otherwise substantially impact the Creek and its tributaries, such as by armoring the banks, would result in greater than minimal cumulative impacts. In 1996, the Corps requested that a comprehensive plan for the watershed be developed, the purpose and focus of which to ensure that aquatic resource impacts are avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The Corps suggested that the plan include an analysis of alternatives that meet the overall project purpose of anticipated flood control needs, an assessment of

habitat quantity and quality, an assessment of habitat fragmentation along the stream corridors, and mitigation measures to offset unavoidable adverse impacts.

Dated: March 10, 2005.

**Alex C. Dornstauber,**

*Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-92-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Dam Safety Assurance Program Evaluation Report for Harlan County Lake Located in Harlan County, Nebraska Near the Cities of Alma and Republican City, NE

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Dam Safety Assurance Program (DSAP) Evaluation Report for Harlan County Lake. Harlan County Lake is located near the cities of Alma and Republican City, Nebraska, immediately north of the Nebraska-Kansas border. The dam provides irrigation water supply to areas on both sides of the state line and flood control for the Republican River Basin between Harlan County, Nebraska and Milford Lake located in east central Kansas near Junction City, in Clay and Geary counties. The DEIS study will analyze the economic, environmental, and social impacts that may occur as a result of the various alternatives solutions being considered in the DSAP Report for Harlan County Lake. The DSAP Report will analyze both structural and non-structural solutions for Harlan County Dam's current tainter gate operational issues, the dam's overall hydrologic adequacy, spillway stability and the interdependence of all these factors on the performance of the dam.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eric S. Lynn, Project Manager, Plan Formulation Section, ATTN: CENWK-PM-PF, U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896, Phone 816-983-3258 or e-mail to: [Eric.S.Lynn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Eric.S.Lynn@usace.army.mil). Additional information is also available on the Harlan County Dam Project Web site

<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/hcdsap/>.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### 1. Background

The Republican River Flood of 1935 resulted in major property damage in the Republican River Basin and the loss of 113 lives. The Harlan County Dam project was authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1941, Public Law 228, 77th Congress, as part of the Missouri River Basin Comprehensive Plan. The Flood Control Act of 1944 authorized project purposes of flood control, irrigation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation manages Harlan County Dam's 150,000 acre-feet of storage allocated for irrigation. Harlan County Dam began operation in 1952 will full multipurpose pool being achieved in 1957. Engineering analysis of Harlan County Dam's 18 tainter gates indicated operating issues if the gates were required to operate as designed under full water load conditions to control reservoir water levels to the top of flood control pool elevation of 1973.5 feet, mean sea level (msl). The tainter gates are 30 feet by 40 feet made of structural steel. The design of the Harlan County Dam tainter gates is similar to the Folsom Dam tainter gates that experienced structural and mechanical failure in 1995. Harlan County Dam engineering studies resulted in the adoption in 2003 of a 5-year Interim Operating Plan for Harlan County Dam with top of flood control pool elevation being lowered to 1960.5 msl. At this lower elevation only 17.5 feet of water would be on the gates prior to releasing of floodwater as compared to approximately 30 feet of water if the gates were completely operating as designed. The maximum height on the gates to date is 12.5 feet. The Interim Operating Plan has resulted in the reduction of the flood control storage capacity of the reservoir by approximately 50 percent from 500,000 acre feet to 227,000 acre feet. To date, this lower storage capacity has had no effect on the dam's operation for flood control, irrigation, recreation, or fish and wildlife use. The Interim Operating Plan's top of flood control pool of 1960.5 msl elevation is 4.8 feet higher than the Dam's highest historic pool elevation. Engineering analysis indicates that if corrective action is not taken the gate mechanisms will probably continue to corrode and deteriorate requiring potentially more stringent operating restrictions at some point in the future. There are substantive economic, social,

environmental and cultural issues associated with alternatives being evaluated for the operation of Harlan County Dam including flood control, irrigation, agriculture, recreation, tourism, cultural resources, aesthetics, transportation, project costs, and other factors to be identified during the scoping process.

## 2. Scoping Process

The one or more scoping meetings planned during 2005 for the Dam Safety Assurance Program will also provide information to the public regarding the Harlan County Dam Interim Operating Plan and the potential impacts this Plan may have on the Republican River Basin. The scoping meeting(s) will be advertised in local newspapers, and a mailing list will be used to notify the public and other interested parties of the meetings. The public, native American tribes, and affected government agencies at the local, State, and Federal level are encouraged to participate in the scoping process by forwarding written comments to the above noted address. The scoping process is designed to obtain comments and input for the DEIS and DSAP Report from the public concerning alternative measures that may be considered for the future operation of the Harlan County Dam. Interested parties may also request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and the status of EIS document preparation. Environmental consultation and review will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as per regulations of the Council of Environmental Quality (Code of Federal Regulations Parts 40 CFR 1500–1508), and other applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines.

## 3. Availability of EIS Documents

The availability of the Draft and Final EIS will be presented in the **Federal Register** and by notices in the local newspapers. The mailing list will also be used to notify interested parties of the availability and location of the Draft and Final EIS for public review.

Dated: March 11, 2005.

**David L. Combs,**

Chief, Planning Branch, Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers.

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Overview Information; Personnel Preparation To Improve Services and Results for Children With Disabilities—Combined Priority for Personnel Preparation; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.325K.*

**Note:** This notice includes one priority with five focus areas, and funding information for each focus area of the competition.

*Dates: Applications Available:* March 28, 2005.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 9, 2005.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* July 8, 2005.

*Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education.

*Estimated Available Funds:* \$15,000,000.

For funding information regarding each of the specific focus areas of the priority, see the chart in the Award Information section of this notice.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* See chart.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* See chart.

*Maximum Awards:* See chart.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* See chart.

*Project Period:* Up to 48 months.

### Full Text of Announcement

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

*Purpose of Program:* The purposes of this program are to (1) help address State-identified needs for highly qualified personnel—in special education, related services, early intervention, and regular education—to work with children with disabilities; and (2) ensure that those personnel have the skills and knowledge—derived from practices that have been determined through research and experience to be successful—that are needed to serve those children.

*Priority:* In this competition, we are establishing one absolute priority (with five focus areas), a competitive preference priority within one of these five focus areas, and two separate competitive preference priorities. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(v), these priorities are from allowable activities specified in the statute (see section 662(d) and 681(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)).

*Absolute Priority:* For FY 2005 this priority is, except as otherwise

specified, an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet this absolute priority.

This priority is:

Combined Priority for Personnel Preparation

*Background:* State agencies, university training programs, local schools, and other community-based entities confirm the importance and difficulty of improving training programs for personnel to serve children with disabilities or infants and toddlers with disabilities.

The national demand for fully credentialed special education, related services and early intervention personnel to serve children with disabilities also exceeds available supply. Thus, Federal support is required to improve both the quality and supply of personnel who serve children with disabilities.

*Priority:* The purpose of this priority is to increase the number and quality of personnel who are fully credentialed to serve children with disabilities, especially in areas of chronic shortage, by supporting projects that prepare special education, early intervention, and related services personnel at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and specialist levels. In order to be eligible under this priority, programs must provide training and support for students to complete, within the term of the project, a degree and/or State certification, professional license, or State endorsement in early intervention, special education or related services. Programs preparing students to be special education paraprofessionals or related services assistants are also eligible under this priority. The Secretary is particularly interested in programs that prepare special educators who provide instruction in core academic areas to children with disabilities to be highly qualified under section 602(10) of IDEA, in accordance with State requirements. The Secretary is also particularly interested in programs that provide enhanced support for beginning special educators (see section 662(b)(3) of IDEA).

*Absolute Priority Requirements:* Projects funded under this absolute priority must—

(a) Demonstrate, in the narrative section of the application under “Quality of Project Services”, how—

(1) Research that has been shown to be effective in improving outcomes for children with disabilities is incorporated into training requirements and reflected in required coursework for