



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-PL-E-07- 01

Date
March 2, 2007

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch



CHRISTINA RIVER WATERSHED PA, DE, & MD RED CLAY CREEK FEASIBILITY STUDY NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and New Castle County, is conducting a feasibility level investigation of water resource problems within the Red Clay Creek Watershed in Delaware. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, this notice serves as the initiation of the scoping process as outlined in 33 CFR Part 230.12 for any potential project or action proposed in this study.

The Corps of Engineers was given the authority to conduct an expedited reconnaissance study for the Christina River basin and any ensuing feasibility level investigations by the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on October 29, 1997. The study was requested by Senator Joseph P. Biden (DE-D):

“Resolved by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate that, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is hereby requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Delaware River, published as House Document Number 522, Eighty-seventh Congress, Second Session, as it is related to the Christina River Watershed, and other pertinent reports, with a view of determining whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable in the interest of ecosystem restoration, including fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, aquatic and upland habitat, water-related infrastructure, comprehensive watershed management, water supply, recreation, water quality control, flood control and other allied purposes.”

In 2002, the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Christina River Watershed Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland expedited reconnaissance study in accordance with Section 905(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA 86). The findings of the expedited reconnaissance study indicated that there was Federal interest in further investigations of issues relating to flood control, ecosystem restoration, recreation, watershed planning, and stream stabilization. To address these concerns, flood damage reduction; riparian buffer restoration; stream reach improvements and stabilization; sediment, nutrient, and pollutant load reduction; wetland creation and/or restoration; fish passage restoration and other actions will be evaluated for the watershed. During feasibility studies,

information and tools will be developed or expanded, such as a Geographic Information System (GIS) database, hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, and fluvial geomorphologic (FGM) assessments of this watershed, which can be used for addressing and managing water resource needs in the system. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) entered into an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to be the non-Federal sponsor of this study. As co-sponsors of the study, DNREC and USACE have decided to focus on the Delaware portion of the Red Clay Creek Watershed at this time. Other sub-watersheds of the Christina Basin may be investigated in the future.

This notice initiates scoping procedures as outlined in 33 CFR Part 230.12. Scoping is an early and open process for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. Participation of the general public and other interested parties and stakeholders in identifying significant issues and alternatives is being solicited by means of this public notice.

The public is invited to participate in the project scoping by providing written comments, questions, and concerns to this office within 90 days from the date of this notice. Additionally, a public workshop meeting will be held on April 2, 2007 between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM at the Delaware Nature Society – Ashland Nature Center located at the intersection of Brackenville and Barley Mill Roads, Hockessin, Delaware 19707. This public workshop will be an “open house” format with interactive information booths representing the study partners. The focus will be on identifying water resources problems and needs within the Delaware portion of the Red Clay Creek Watershed.

For further information on this study, please contact:

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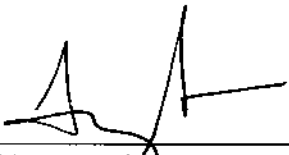
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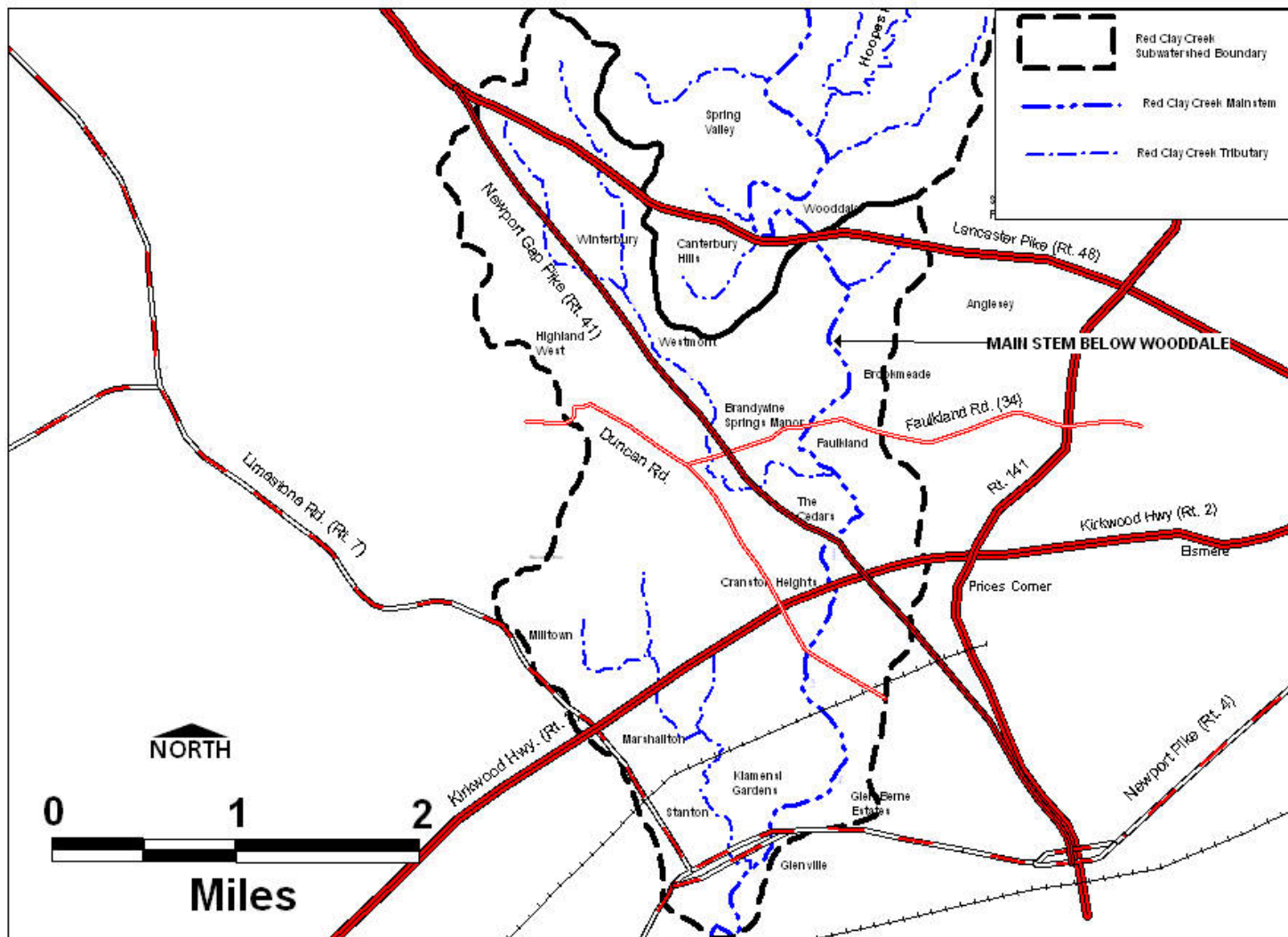
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RED CLAY CREEK BELOW WOODDALE



RED CLAY CREEK ABOVE WOODDALE

