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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Vicksburg District

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: John Wm. Hall, 601-631-5223

November 7, 2005

## **Where to place Lower Atchafalaya dredged material?**

*Public comments invited, including how to maximize environmental benefit*

VICKSBURG, Miss.—The public is invited to a meeting in Morgan City, La., to provide ideas on the disposal of materials that would be dredged in the next 20 years from a key navigation channel whose existing disposal sites are now at full capacity.

The public meeting will begin at 7 p.m., Nov. 17, 2005, in the Morgan City Auditorium, 728 Myrtle St., Morgan City, concerning the Lower Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black Navigation Channel, a 46-mile outlet to the Gulf of Mexico.

“Existing disposal sites are at their design capacity, and new disposal areas are required,” said Greg Ruff, the senior project manager, Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The public meeting is known as a “scoping” meeting. The Corps is seeking information from the public to help to determine the full scope of the issues to be considered in framing a Dredged Material Management Plan and an accompanying Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Key questions for public comment**

--What are the most important environmental issues, resources and impacts that should be considered during the development of the disposal management plan?

--Are there any other alternatives or modifications to the plan that should be considered?

“The dredged material from channel maintenance would be used for beneficial purposes to the extent practicable, to restore barrier islands and coastal wetlands,” Ruff said.

The navigation project requires dredging yearly or more frequently in order to maintain the 20-foot authorized depth. It stretches southward from the industries along Bayou Boeuf and Bayou Black just east of Morgan City, reaching the Gulf through Bayou Chene and the Lower Atchafalaya River.

“The objective of the environmental impact statement is to document the potential adverse and beneficial impacts of disposal at newly designated disposal sites, said Larry Marcy, manager of the environmental impact statement.

Comments may also be submitted by mail, e-mail or fax to the Corps officials listed below. The public may comment at any time during the study. Interested citizens should ask to be included on the mailing list. The public comments will be summarized in an appendix to the environmental impact statement.

### **Where to send comments or questions**

**Disposal plan study.** Greg Ruff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division (CEMVD-PD-N), P.O. Box 80, Vicksburg, Miss., 39181-0080. **Tel.** 601-634-5928. **Fax** 601-634-5371. **E-mail**, [greg.ruff@mvd02.usace.army.mil](mailto:greg.ruff@mvd02.usace.army.mil).

**Environmental impact statement.** Larry Marcy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, 4155 Clay St., Vicksburg, Miss. 39180-3435. **Tel.** 601-631-5965. **Fax** 601-631-5115. **E-mail** [larry.e.marcy@mvk02.usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.e.marcy@mvk02.usace.army.mil).