

reconnaissance report also considered upstream detention basins but it was determined that detention was not an economically effective means of flood control. The EIS/EIR will also address environmental mitigation and evaluate potential restoration and enhancement opportunities.

3. Environmental Consequences:

The lead agencies have identified potential environmental effects of the proposed action in the following areas:

- Aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats.
- Fish and wildlife populations.
- Esthetics, recreation opportunity and use.
- Construction-related traffic, air quality, and noise.
- Water quality.
- Cultural resources.
- Threatened and endangered species.

The EIS/EIR will evaluate the effects on these areas and any other potentially significant effects identified in the scoping process. The no-action alternative (no Federal action to improve flood protection) will be the baseline for evaluating effects of the proposed action and other alternatives.

4. Schedule: The draft EIS/EIR is scheduled to be distributed for public review and comment in 1997.

John N. Reese,

Col, EN, Commanding.

[FR Doc. 96-182 Filed 1-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-EZ-M

Corps of Engineers

Intent to Prepare a Draft Supplemental Revised Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Sauquoit Creek at Whitesboro, New York Flood Control Project

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: *Description of Proposed Action.* The New York District office of the Corps of Engineers proposes to provide flood protection for the town of Whitestown through modification of Sauquoit Creek and construction of a high-flow diversion channel. The Corps has identified a history of frequent and serious flooding along the Sauquoit Creek in the town of Whitestown. The flooding is caused by both fluvial and ice-jam related events. The project extends from the entrance ramp to 5A to the confluence of Sauquoit Creek with the Mohawk River. The total length of the channel modification is approximately 1 mile ending in a 3,200-

foot, high-flow diversion channel. The high-flow diversion channel will take the place of widening and deepening the last 1750 feet of Sauquoit Creek prior to its confluence with the Mohawk River, an undeveloped, well vegetated reach. The diversion channel allows water and ice, backed up from jams in the meandering existing channel downstream of the project, to flow out of the damage areas. Under non-flood conditions, the diversion would carry no flow and low flows would continue to flow down the existing Sauquoit Creek channel. The plan prevents damages from fluvial events up to the 25-year level and from ice jam events up to the 8-year level. For combined conditions, the level of protection is estimated to be 5-year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Project Manager, Joseph Redican (ATTN: CENAN-PL-FE) at (212) 264-1060 or EIS Coordinator, Karen Vanderwall (ATTN: CENAN-PL-ES) at (212) 264-1275, New York District Corps of Engineers, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278-0090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Reasonable Alternatives

Various alternative flood control designs were considered prior to the development of the original 1986 EIS. The preferred design from a flood control perspective included widening and deepening of the Sauquoit Creek from the Oriskany Boulevard bridge to its confluence with the Mohawk River. Based on environmental concerns expressed at that time, a design alternative that reduced environmental impacts was chosen. The final recommended design includes a high-flow diversion channel in the lowest 3,200 feet of the project running parallel to Sauquoit Creek. This diversion channel takes the place of modifying high quality stream habitat that exists in the lower reaches of the project area.

2. Scoping Process

a. Public Involvement. A full scale scoping process was conducted for the original EIS including 3 coordination meetings with local agencies and a town meeting attended by 150 people. A notice of intent and the draft EIS were filed in the Federal Register after which comments were received from the following agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Advisory Council On Historic Preservation, New York State

Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York Governors Office, and Oneida County Environmental Management Council. Any interested party is encouraged to comment on the supplemental draft EIS when a notice of availability is published in the Federal Register.

b. Significant Issues Requiring In-depth Analysis. This office intends to develop a draft supplemental environmental impact statement to amend an original statement completed in June, 1986. This action is needed to re-assess the impacts resulting from the flood control project in order to comply with current federal and state regulations and policies. In addition, current habitat restoration techniques can be utilized.

3. Significant Issues

The Significant issues to be addressed include:

- a. Wetland mitigation,
- b. In-stream and stream bank habitat restoration,
- c. Re-vegetation of stream banks and channel diversion, and
- d. Incorporation of bioengineering techniques along stream banks.

4. Scoping Meeting

Scoping meeting will not be held. Several scoping meetings were held at the time of the original environmental assessment for this project and significant environmental issues related to the project were identified. The project design has not been changed, therefore, a scoping meeting will not take place.

5. Estimated Date of Statement Availability

February 5, 1996.

Juanita H. Maberry,

Alternate, Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-191 Filed 1-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-06-M