

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 exciting 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-FF) 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

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2315-002, South Carolina; Project Nos. 2332-003 and 2331-002, North Carolina and South Carolina]

**South Carolina Electric and Gas Company and Duke Power Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment**

January 2, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission's) Regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the applications for new licenses for the following three existing hydroelectric Projects, all of which are located on the Broad River in South Carolina: (1) The Neal Shoals Project (No. 2315-002), located in Chester and Union Counties, near Carlisle, SC; (2) the Ninety-Nine Islands Project (No. 2331-002), located in Cherokee County near Gaffney, SC; and (3) the Gaston Shoals Project (No. 2332-003), located in Cherokee County, South Carolina and Cleveland County, North Carolina near Gaffney, SC. The Commission has prepared a final Multiple Project Environmental Assessment (EA) covering all three projects. The final EA contains the Commission staff's analysis of the existing and potential future environmental impacts of the projects and has concluded that licensing the projects, with appropriate environmental protective or enhancement measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Room, Room 2A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-195 Filed 1-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Project No. 459-073 Missouri]

**Union Electric Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment**

January 2, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission's Regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47910), the Office of Hydropower Licensing (OHL) reviewed an application for dredging on the Lake of the Ozarks at the Osage Project. The applicant proposes to excavate approximately 1,900 cubic yards of material for a boat ramp, a boat turn-around area, and a boat access channel. The applicant also proposes to construct a small protective berm around the lakeward edge of the excavation sites. The excavation will occur on project lands and waters in Morgan County, Missouri. The primary purpose of the excavation activity is to provide boat access to project waters for private recreational use. The staff prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the action. In the EA, staff concludes that approval of the non-project use of project lands would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the EA are available for review in the Public Reference Room, Room 2A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-194 Filed 1-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER96-72-000]

**PacifiCorp; Notice of Filing**

January 2, 1996.

Take notice that on November 30, 1995, PacifiCorp tendered for filing an amendment to its filing in this docket.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before January 10, 1996. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-193 Filed 1-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

**First Financial Bancorp, et al.; Formations of; Acquisitions by; and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies**

The companies listed in this notice have applied for the Board's approval under section 3 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1842) and § 225.14 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.14) to become a bank holding company or to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in section 3(c) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Each application is available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the application has been accepted for processing, it will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Any comment on an application that requests a hearing must include a statement of why a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute and summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received not later than February 1, 1996.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (John J. Wixted, Jr., Vice President) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101:

1. *First Financial Bancorp*, Hamilton, Ohio; to merge with F&M Bancorp, Rochester, Indiana, and thereby indirectly acquire Farmers & Merchants Bank, Rochester, Indiana.

2. *FirstMerit Corporation*, Akron, Ohio; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of FirstMerit Trust Company, N.A., Naples, Florida.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (John E. Yorke, Senior Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198:

1. *LJT, Inc.*, Holdrege, Nebraska; to acquire .20 percent of the voting shares of First Holdrege Bancshares, Inc., Holdrege, Nebraska, and thereby indirectly acquire shares of First National Bank of Holdrege, Holdrege, Nebraska.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Kenneth R. Binning, Director, Bank Holding Company) 101 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105:

1. *California Community Bancshares Corporation*, Vacaville, California; to