

Notice of Availability for the Final Poplar Island Restoration Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); Project Location Is Near Tilgham Island, in Talbot County, Maryland

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, has prepared a Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement for the restoration of Poplar Island to its approximate size in 1847. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the District is conducting public coordination and distributing the documents for public review and comment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed actions, Feasibility Study, and EIS can be addressed to Study Manager, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-PL-PC, P.O. 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, telephone (410) 962-3639. E-mail: stacey.e.brown@ccmail.nab.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Currently, the name Poplar Island refers to a group of four small remnant islands, located adjacent to Jefferson and Coaches Islands in the upper middle Chesapeake Bay. The project location is approximately one mile north of Tilghman Island, on the Bay's eastern shore.

1. Island restoration would create, 1,110 acres of wildlife habitat by placing, shaping, and planting approximately 38 million cubic yards of clean dredged material. The habitat created would include approximately 555 acres each of intertidal wetlands and upland habitat. The material would be dredged during maintenance of the southern approach channels to Baltimore Harbor and placed behind containment dikes at the project site. The plan includes a 35,000-ft perimeter dike surrounding the four remnant islands and protecting the south side of Coaches Island. The containment dike on the west side of the restored island will be constructed of on-site sand and armor stone brought to the site.

2. Poplar Island has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and many other natural resource management agencies as a valuable nesting and nursery area for

many species of wildlife, including black duck, bald eagles, osprey, heron, and egret. Habitat for many wildlife species native to the upper Chesapeake is sparse and degrading in the project area. The complex of upland, wetland, near-shore, and shoal habitats that will result from the restored island will offer a diversity of habitat resources. The project design includes development of 50% wetland and 50% upland habitat. Of the wetlands, 80% will be developed as low marsh and 20% as high marsh. Small upland islands, ponds, and dendritic guts or channels will be created to increase habitat diversity within the marsh areas. It is expected that habitat diversity will be increased in the upland areas by constructing small ponds and providing both forested and relatively open scrub/shrub areas.

3. The decision to implement this action is being based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activities on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed project are being balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal, including the cumulative effects thereof, are being considered; among these factors are economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, flood hazards, fish and wildlife values, flood plain values, land use, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, and the general needs and welfare of the people.

4. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes the impacts of the proposed projects on environmental and cultural resources in the study area. The EIS also applies guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-217). An evaluation of the proposed actions on the waters of the United States was performed pursuant to the guidelines of the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed dredging, construction, and placement of dredged material is in compliance with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

5. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act, the Corps of Engineers has solicited comments from the public, Federal, state and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties. Any comments received are being

considered by the Corps of Engineers in the decision to implement the project. To make this decision, comments are being used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments regarding the environmental restoration proposal have been incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement are required by NEPA. Public comments were also used to determine the overall public interest. Opportunities for public comment included a series of three public scoping and information meetings and a final public hearing, held in November 1995, to present the proposed project and draft EIS. In addition, a number of informal meetings were held in order to present information to citizen interest groups, including watermen, charterboat captains, local officials, and regional planners. The public review and comment period for the draft feasibility study and draft EIS began on 13 November 1995 and closed on 25 January 1996. Comments received throughout the study process have been incorporated into the final EIS.

6. This Notice of Availability is being sent to organizations and individuals known to have an interest in the restoration of Poplar Island. Please bring this notice to the attention of any other individuals with an interest in this matter. Copies of the EIS are available upon request or for review at the following locations:

Talbot County Free Library, 100 W. Dover St., Easton, MD.
St. Michales Branch, Talbot County.
Free Library, 106 No. Fremont St., St. Michaels, MD.
Dorchester County Public Library, 303 Gay St., Cambridge, MD.
Frederick Douglas Library, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD.
Twin Beaches Library, 3819 Harbor Rd., Chesapeake Beach, MD.
Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD.

7. Requests for copies of the EIS may be mailed to the following address:
District Engineer, ATTN: CENAB-PL-PC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715.

Gregory D. Showalter,
Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 96-8424 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-41-M

Inland Waterways Users Board

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In Accordance with 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law (92-463) announcement is made of the next meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board. The meeting will be held on May 8, 1996, at the George A. Morris Army Reserve Center, Room #2, 1265 Porters Chapel Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180, (Tel. 601-631-6102). Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and the meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 4:00 pm. The meeting is open to the public. Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file statements with the committee at the time and in the manner permitted by the committee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Norman T. Edwards, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CECW-PD, Washington, D.C. 20314-1000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,
Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 96-8389 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-92-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests.

SUMMARY: The Director, Information Resources Group, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by April 4, 1996.

A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 4, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Wendy Taylor, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J.

Sherrill, Department of Education, 7th & D Streets S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Written comments regarding the regular clearance and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronic mailed to the internet address #FIRB@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3506(c)(2)(A) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Director of the Information Resources Group, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility,

and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: April 1, 1996.
Gloria Parker,
Director, Information Resources Group.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: Revision.
Title: Application for State Grants Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988.

Frequency: Annually.
Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't SEAs or LEAs.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 56.
Burden Hours: 1,680.

Abstract: In order to implement the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act Amendments of 1994, states will be required under statutory authority to submit extension applications and performance reports.

[FR Doc. 96-8409 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request

SUMMARY: The Director, Information Resources Group, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 4, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of