

be considered by the panel prior to the meeting, statements must be submitted electronically no later than June 21, 2005. Any private citizen is permitted to speak at the Beneficiary Advisory Panel meeting, time permitting. One hour has been reserved for public comments, and speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of time allocated to a speaker will not exceed five minutes. Private citizens wishing to speak at the meeting may sign up at the meeting on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dated: May 20, 2005.

Jeannette Owings-Ballard,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 05-10490 Filed 5-25-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement Titled: Alexandria, LA, to the Gulf of Mexico Flood Control Improvements in the Chatlan Lake Canal Basin

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is initiating this study authorized by a July 23, 1997 resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives. The resolution reads: "Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that the Secretary of the Army is required to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, published as House Document 308, Eighty-eighth Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood control, navigation, wetlands, conservation restoration, wildlife habitat, commercial and recreational fishing, saltwater intrusion, freshwater and sediment diversion, and other purposes in the area drained by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, from Alexandria, Louisiana, to the Gulf of Mexico."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be addressed to Mr. Nathan

Dayan at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, phone (504) 862-2530, fax number (504) 862-2572 or by e-mail at *Nathan.S.Dayan@mvn02.usace.army.mil*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this analysis is to address the feasibility of a Federal project to reduce flooding problems and other water resources problems and needs in the Alexandria, LA area. Economic and environmental analysis would be used to determine the most practical plan, which would provide for the greatest overall public benefit.

1. *Proposed Action.* The proposed action would include the flood control improvements in the Chatlin lake canal basin in the Alexandria, LA area. The plan includes the enlargement of the upper reach (~14 miles) of the Chatlin Lake canal, south of the city of Alexandria, and the construction of a new diversion canal (~5 miles) between the Chatlin Lake canal and the Red River south of John H. Overton lock and dam. This plan would be considered with a gravity drainage structure through the south bank of the Red River levee. The material dredged for the construction and maintenance of the channels would be used for wetlands restoration and construction, to the maximum extent practicable.

2. *Alternatives.* Alternatives recommended for consideration presently include but not limited to: The construction of a shorter channel off of Chatlin Lake canal to the Red River above the lock and dam with a pump station, a green tree reservoir off of Chatlin Lake canal, improving hydraulic efficiency of Chatlin Lake canal by clearing and snagging or channel reshaping, and non structural flood proofing of structures.

3. *Scoping.* Scoping is the process for determining the scope of alternatives and significant issues to be addressed in the EIS. For this analysis, a letter will be sent to all parties believed to have an interest in the analysis, requesting their input on alternatives and issues to be evaluated. The letter will also notify interested parties of public scoping meetings that will be held in the local area. Notices will also be sent to local news media. All interested parties are invited to comment at this time, and anyone interested in this study should request to be included in the study mailing list.

A public scoping meeting will be held in the middle part of 2005. The meeting will be held in the vicinity of Alexandria, LA. Additional meetings could be held, depending upon interest

and if it is determined that further public coordination is warranted.

4. *Significant Issues.* The tentative list of resources and issues to be evaluated in the EIS includes wetlands (marshes and swamps), aquatic, fisheries, wildlife, water quality, air quality, threatened and endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include flood protection, business and industrial activity, employment, land use, property values, public/community facilities and services, tax revenues, population, community and regional growth, transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

5. *Environmental Consultation and Review.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be assisting in the documentation of existing conditions and assessment of effects of project alternatives through Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation procedures. The USFWS will provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report. Consultation will be accomplished with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerning threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat. The draft EIS (DEIS) or a notice of its availability will be distributed to all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

6. *Estimated Date of Availability.* Funding levels will dictate the date when the DEIS is available. The earliest that the DEIS is expected to be available is in the fall of 2006.

Dated: May 11, 2005.

Peter J. Rowan,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 05-10544 Filed 5-25-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Construction of a Proposed Disposal Site for Dredged material in the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, at Masonville, Baltimore City/Application for a Corps Section 10/404 Individual Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) expects receipt of an application in

January 2006 from the State of Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Port Administration (MPA) for a Section 10/404 individual permit for the construction of a disposal site for dredged material in the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, at Masonville, Baltimore City, MD. Based on preliminary discussions with the MPA, the Corps has determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required for this proposed project. The applicant's stated purpose of the proposed project is to provide a disposal site to accommodate dredged material generated by dredging projects occurring over the next 5 to 10 years in the Baltimore Harbor area. The EIS will focus on the 5–10 year dredging needs within Baltimore Harbor and upland containment and beneficial use of dredged materials from the Port of Baltimore channel system in the Patapsco River and its tributaries. As part of this study, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, an EIS will be prepared to document the plan formulation process and recommendations of this study.

DATES: A public scoping meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2005, at 7 p.m. Display material and staff will be available beginning at 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting address is the Baum Auditorium at the Harbor Hospital; 3001 S. Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD 21225.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions or information about the proposed action and draft EIS can be addressed to Jon Romeo, Operations Division, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-OP-RMN, 10 South Howard Street, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715, telephone 410-972-6079; e-mail address: jon.romeo@nab02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Baltimore Harbor study area is defined as the Patapsco River area west of the North Point-Rock Point line in the Patapsco River to include Old Road Bay, Bear Creek, Middle Branch, Northwest Branch, and Curtis Bay and the shoreline and open water between them. Currently dredged material from Baltimore harbor is being placed in the Hart-Miller Island (HMI) Containment Facility, and, in the near future, will be placed in the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). State legislative requirements prohibit placing dredged material in HMI after December 31, 2009. Management of the cover and closure of HMI may limit

acceptance of dredged material placement capacity could occur beginning with the 2008 dredging season (Fall 2008). The purpose of the proposed Masonville disposal site, and the associated EIS is to determine an environmentally sound, economically feasible method for the placement or use of dredged material removed from harbor channels and new dredge areas. There is an estimated 16 million cubic yard shortfall in dredged material capacity within the harbor over the next 20 years. The applicant and the Corps are actively seeking public opinion, participation, and advice to be incorporated into the planning process and the selection of placement options for harbor dredged material. At this time, the projects under consideration include confined disposal sites at Masonville, BP-Fairfield, and Sparrows Point.

Alternatives to be addressed in the DEIS will include: The no action alternative and confined disposal facilities at Masonville, BP-Fairfield, and Sparrows Point. Beneficial uses, such as habitat creation or restoration may be associated with these options. Community enhancement may also be associated with these options, such as public access to waterfront areas, maritime heritage projects, community parks and trails. As part of the initial phase of the study, an objective screening criteria developed in 2002 through the State's Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) process, will continue to be used to evaluate harbor sites based on current information obtained from the State of Maryland's DMMP, the Harbor Team, public and agency input, available data, and best professional judgment. Following the NEPA process, once projects are selected for consideration, a detailed analysis of the existing conditions will be undertaken; alternative plans will be developed, analyzed and compared; the impacts of those plans will be analyzed; and a recommended plan will be selected.

To solicit public input into the draft EIS and into the selection of a project or projects, a public scoping meeting is planned (*see DATES and ADDRESSES*).

The EIS will be integrated with analyses and consultation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), section 10 of the River and Harbor Act, section 401 and section 404 of the Clean Water Act, section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Prime and Unique Farmlands, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act. All appropriate documentation (*i.e.*, section 7, section 106 coordination letters, and public and agency comments) will be obtained and included as part of the EIS. As part of the EIS process, recommendations will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal, will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, among these are wetlands; fish and wildlife resources; cultural resources; land use; water and air quality; hazardous, toxic, and radioactive substances; threatened and endangered species; regional geology; aesthetics; environmental justice; navigation; cumulative impacts; and the general needs and welfare of the public. The draft EIS is expected for public release in March 2006.

Christina E. Correale,

Chief, Operations Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Case Services Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 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 July 25, 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. 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 Leader, Information Management Case Services