

(5) Does not require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**Gregory B. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB)

**AGENCY:** Office of The Surgeon General.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-463, The Federal Advisory Committee Act, this announces the forthcoming AFEB Meeting. The meeting will be held from 0800-1630, Thursday and Friday, December 11-12, 1997. The purpose of the meeting is to address pending Board issues, provide briefings for Board members on topics related to ongoing and new Board issues, and to conduct an executive working session. The meeting location will be at the Walter Reed Army Institute Research (WRAIR), Washington, D.C. The meeting will be open to the public, but limited by space accommodations. 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:** COL Vicky Fogelman, AFEB Executive Secretary, Army Forces Epidemiological Board, Skyline Six, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Room 693, Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3258, (703) 681-8012/4.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** None.

**Mary V. Yonts,**

*Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Proposed Deepening of the Brunswick Harbor Navigation Project, Glynn County, Georgia

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** A feasibility study is underway which considers alternatives of a 2, 4, or 6 foot deepening of the navigation channel from the inner harbor to the ocean.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions regarding this proposal may be directed to Ms. Ana Vergara, (912) 652-5837, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**1. Current Project Description.** The Brunswick Harbor Navigation Project is located in the southeastern section of Glynn County, Georgia, adjacent to the City of Brunswick. The harbor is approximately 80 highway miles south of Savannah, Georgia, and 70 miles north of Jacksonville, Florida. The authorized project consists of approximately 30 miles of channels at various depths and widths which include the following segments: 32 feet deep and 500 feet wide across the outer bar; 30 feet deep and 400 feet wide through St. Simons Sound, Brunswick River, and East River; 30 feet deep and 300 feet wide in Turtle River to mile 12.76; 30 feet and 400 feet wide, and 7000 feet long in South Brunswick River above the Georgia Port Authority bulk terminal dock; 27 feet deep and 350 feet wide in East River from Second Avenue to the confluence with Academy Creek; 24 feet deep and 150 feet wide in Academy Creek; 20 feet deep and 150 feet wide in Back River; and 10 feet deep and 80 feet wide in Terry Creek. The project has three authorized turning basins. Annual maintenance of the project requires dredging and disposal of approximately 1.8 million cubic yards of material.

**2. Proposed Action.** The alternatives being considered are 2, 4, or 6 foot deepening of the navigation channel from the inner harbor (approximately from Station 12+000 at the East River Upper Range and Station 45+500 at the Turtle River Lower Range), across the bar channel to the ocean. The proposed plan would include: widening the channel from 200 feet to 400 feet at the Sidney Lanier Bridge; widening Lower Turtle Range from 350 feet to 400 feet; improving the Lower Turtle River turning basin; constructing a new turning basin in Upper East River, dike raising the Andrews Island confined disposal facility to +35 feet mhw; placing material dredged from the inner/upper harbor into the confined disposal facility; place material dredged from the Bar Channel into the existing Ocean Disposal Site and using dredged material from two ranges for the

construction of a submerged berm in the nearshore area off the northern end of Jekyll Island. Overdepth and advanced maintenance requirements in the navigation channel will be analyzed as part of the feasibility study. Any proposed modification of this proposed plan will be addressed, as appropriate, during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

**3. Alternatives.** The proposed study includes the following alternatives:

a. No Action/Maintenance of status quo.

b. Improvement of existing navigation facilities, with alternatives addressed in 2-foot increments to a maximum of 6 feet.

**4. Study Description.** This study will include an analysis of potential impacts on endangered species, fisheries, birds, marine mammals, water quality, historic properties, etc., resulting from the various alternatives. This study is being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**5. Scoping Process:** Federal, State, and local officials; conservation groups; and interested businesses, groups, and individuals are invited to comment on the proposed project. Comments received as result of this notice will be used to assist in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the environment. This study is a continuation of a harbor deepening study initiated in 1963 that considered project depths of 2, 4, 6, and 8 feet. Formal coordination with State and Federal Agencies was conducted at that time. On May 4, 1995 a Public Information Meeting was held at Brunswick to identify issues and concerns from the public about the proposed Brunswick Harbor Deepening Project.

**6. Address for Comments:** Written comments may be forwarded to: District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Attention: Ms. Ana Vergara, PD-E), P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889. Comments should be received within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** to ensure timely consideration.

**7. Availability of the DEIS.** The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available to the public in December 1997.

**M.J. Yuschishin,**

*Chief, Planning Division.*

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