

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), Grand Forks, ND—East Grand Forks, MN, Flood Control**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Under the authority of the Flood Control Acts of June 30, 1948, May 17, 1950, and December 31, 1970, a General Reevaluation Report for Flood Control at East Grand Forks, Minnesota, is being prepared. In order to provide effective flood control, the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota, has been included in the investigation.

The cities of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota, were extensively damaged by flooding of the Red River of the North and the Red Lake River in the spring of 1997. The cities form one urban area separated by the river. Because of the flat topography of the Red River of the North, any proposed flood protection must include both communities to be effective. Emergency flood protection and recovery efforts required significant expenditures. Long-term protection would require the construction of flood control measures sized to accommodate a flood equal to, or greater than, the flood of 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions concerning the DEIS can be directed to: Colonel J. M. Wonsik, District Engineer, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Mr. Robert Whiting, 190 Fifth Street East, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1638.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DEIS will assess impacts, identify areas of potential impact, identify mitigation features, discuss monitoring activities, and identify future activities associated with flood control at the cities of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Structural measures being considered include levees or a combination of levees and a diversion.

Significant issues and resources to be identified in the DEIS will be determined through coordination with responsible Federal, State, and local agencies; the general public; interested private organizations and parties; and affected Native Americans. Anyone who has an interest in participating in development of the DEIS is invited to contact the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers.

Significant issues identified to date for discussion in the DEIS are as follows:

1. Natural resources including: fishery, wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, and riparian areas;
2. Cultural resources;
3. Water quality, groundwater, erosion, and sedimentation; and
4. Social and economic resources.

Additional issues of significance may be identified through public and agency meetings. A notice of those meetings will be provided to interested parties and to the local news media.

The construction of flood control features in the two cities would be considered major in scope and could result in significant impacts. Our environmental review will be conducted according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and applicable laws and regulations.

We anticipate that the DEIS will be available to the public in the summer of 1998.

Dated: November 12, 1997.

**William J. Breyfogle,**

*Lieutenant Colonel, EN Acting District Engineer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-08-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Monarch-Chesterfield Feasibility Study, St. Louis County, MO**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Monarch-Chesterfield Feasibility Study, St. Louis County, Missouri. A description of the proposed project, location and environmental issues to be addressed in the draft EIS are provided below (Supplementary Information). This notice is published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act regulations found in 40 CFR 1501.7. The purpose of this notice is to solicit suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of

the feasibility study and issues to be addressed in the draft EIS. Comments and participation in this process are encouraged.

The proposed action is to provide flood protection by raising the Monarch-Chesterfield levee system which is located along the right bank of the Missouri River between river miles 46.0 and 38.5. The length of the levee system is 11.5 miles and protects approximately 4,240 acres.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions about the proposed action and draft EIS can be answered by: Mr. Dennis Woodruff, (314) 331-8485, or Dr. Ronald Yarbrough, (314) 331-8460, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. The study was authorized by the study resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives: Chesterfield, Missouri—Docket 2421. "Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives, That, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers on the Mississippi River between Coon Rapids Dam, Minnesota, and the mouth of the Ohio River, published as House Document 669, Seventy-sixth Congress, Third 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 and related purposes along the Mississippi River and its Tributaries with particular reference to communities located along or affected by the Mississippi River and its Tributaries in the area of St. Louis, Missouri, including the Counties of St. Louis, Jefferson, and Ste. Genevieve."

The objective of the Monarch-Chesterfield Feasibility Study, St. Louis County, Missouri, is to reduce flood damages and flood related costs. The study investigates the engineering, economic, and environmental feasibility of increasing the levee's present level of flood protection sufficient to protect against a 500-year recurrence interval flood.

2. Reasonable alternatives will be considered in the Monarch-Chesterfield Feasibility Study. These include no action, increasing the reliability of the existing levee system, or raising the existing levee to provide a level of protection between 200-year and 500-year recurrence interval. Other levee alignments were evaluated in the