

of baseline data, construction of the project, and long-term monitoring.

The project was re-coordinated with the resource agencies in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Draft FWCA Report for the project dated August 1994. The Service's position is, "The project not proceed as formulated due to unmitigable impacts to important fish and wildlife resources. Other alternatives, such as desalinization, effluent reclamation, and water blending, should be evaluated and incorporated into a limited project that meets the water requirements of the basin. Control of chlorides at Areas IV, XIII, and XIV should not be pursued as proposed due to their anticipated significant contribution to impacts to: (1) the Red River aquatic community; (2) the Lake Texoma sport fishery; (3) the Sandy Sanders Wildlife Management Area; (4) Federally-listed species; and (5) migratory birds and other resources from selenium contamination at the proposed brine storage sites. In July 1996, the USFWS furnished an Interim Final Supplemental FWCA report for the project. The Service's position with respect to the project remains unchanged.

Timothy L. Sanford,

Colonel, U.S. Army District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 98-18020 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-39-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the South River, Raritan River Basin, Combined Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Project, Middlesex County, New Jersey

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed measures to provide flood control protection and environmental restoration in the South River, Raritan River Basin, New Jersey. For this Notice of Intent, the Corps is considering protection measures to reduce damages caused by flooding and coastal storms. The EIS will be prepared according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act

of 1969, as amended, (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), and consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's policy to facilitate public understanding and scrutiny of agency proposals. This notice of intent is published as required by the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the action can be addressed to Mark H. Burlas, Project Environmental Manager, phone (212) 264-4663, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, Planning Division, 26 Federal Plaza New York, New York 10278-0090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Authorization

This study is authorized by a U.S. House of Representatives resolution dated May 13, 1993. The reconnaissance report, completed in May 1995, identified a potential plan of improvement that consists of two levees, each approximately 10,000 feet long along opposite banks of the South River. The levees would protect the communities of South River and Sayerville from a 100-year flood.

For environmental restoration, we identified a plan of improvement to restore the quality of the salt marsh near the Washington Canal. The plan would involve the replacement of low quality vegetation in 250 acres of wetlands to restore an important habitat.

2. Location of the Proposed Action

This study area is located within the lower Raritan River Basin in Middlesex County, New Jersey. The South River is the first major tributary of the Raritan River, located approximately 8.3 miles upstream of the Raritan River's mouth at the Raritan Bay.

The South River is formed by the confluence of Matchaponix and Manalapan Brooks, just above Duhernal Lake, and flows northward from Duhernal Lake Dam for a distance of approximately seven miles, at which point it splits into the old South River and the Washington Canal. It flows through the Townships of East Brunswick and Old Bridge, and the Boroughs of South River and Sayerville.

3. Reasonable Alternative Actions

In addition to the "No Action" alternative, the flood control component of the feasibility study will evaluate alternatives such as buy-outs, storm gates and flood walls to avoid and minimize impacts to coastal wetlands, as well as various levee layouts and heights. The environmental restoration

component will analyze alternatives to restore degraded coastal marshes and tidal ecosystems.

4. Significant Issues Requiring In-Depth Analysis

1. Coastal Wetlands Impacts; 2. Impacts to Aquatic Resources; 3. Archaeological and Cultural Resources Impacts; 4. Hydrology Impacts; 5. Economic Impacts.

5. Environmental Review and Consultation

Review will be conducted as outlined in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations dated November 29, 1983 (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer regulation ER 200-2-2 dated March 4, 1988.

6. Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 16, 1998, at the South River Public Library, (55 Appleby Avenue, South River, New Jersey 08816) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

7. Estimated Date of DEIS Availability

February 2000.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-18027 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, Combined Flood Control and Shore Protection Project, Union Beach, Monmouth County, New Jersey

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed measures to provide flood control and storm damage protection in Union Beach, New Jersey. For this Notice of Intent, the Corps is considering protection measures to reduce damages caused by flooding and coastal storms. The EIS will be prepared according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), and consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's policy to facilitate