

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD, Little Rock District will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Arkansas River Navigation Study.

The purpose of the EIS will be to present alternatives and assess the impacts associated with the Arkansas River Navigation Study. Under direction of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting a study of the Arkansas River Basin in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The study purpose is to develop and evaluate alternatives for implementing solutions to problems resulting from sustained high flows on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS). These high flows have resulted in decreased navigation traffic, flooding, losses to recreation use, and other adverse conditions. Proposed improvements resulting from the study could impact (positively or negatively) agriculture, hydropower, recreation, flood control, and fish and wildlife along the MKARNS.

The EIS will evaluate potential impacts (positive and negative) to the natural, physical, and human environment as a result of implementing any of the proposed project alternatives. Proposed alternatives are currently being developed and include structural and non-structural measures for reducing sustained high flows on the MKARNS.

Elements of the structural alternatives identified to date include:

1. Removal of channel restrictions,
2. Construction of high flow relief structures (e.g. spillways) along the MKARNS for navigation flow management,
3. Construction of additional levees along the MKARNS for navigation flow management,
4. In-stream modification/alteration of existing navigation structures,
5. Restoration/enhancement of aquatic and riparian habitats along the MKARNS.

Elements of the non-structural alternatives identified to date include:

1. Operational changes to MKARNS reservoirs resulting in changes in the flow regime within the Arkansas River,
2. Adjustments/increases in flowage easements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions or comments concerning the proposed action should be addressed to: Mr. Jim Ellis, Environmental Team Leader, Planning Branch, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867,

Telephone 501-324-5033, e-mail: James.D.Ellis@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. MKARNS

The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System consists of a series of 18 locks and dams (17 existing and 1 currently under construction) and provides navigation from the Mississippi River to the Port of Catoosa near Tulsa, Oklahoma. River flow in the Arkansas River is modified primarily by 11 reservoirs in Oklahoma. The reservoirs are: Keystone, Oologah, Pensacola, Hudson, Fort Gibson, Tenkiller Ferry, Eufaula, Kaw, Hulah, Copan, and Wister. These lakes provide flood control, water supply, hydropower, fish & wildlife, water quality, recreation, and other benefits.

2. Study History

The Arkansas River Navigation Study is being undertaken by USACE Little Rock and Tulsa Districts under the direction of the U.S. Congress. The study includes major hydraulics investigations, economics analyses, alternatives development and related analyses in addition to the EIS. Throughout May and June of 2000 the USACE conducted public information meetings at locations throughout Arkansas and Oklahoma to inform the public of the Arkansas River Navigation Study and solicit information regarding the study.

3. Comments/Scoping Meeting

Interested parties are requested to express their views concerning the proposed activity. The public is encouraged to provide written comments in addition to or in lieu of, oral comments at the scoping meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific environmental topics or issues, which the commentator believes the document should address. Oral and written comments receive equal consideration.

Scoping meetings will be held with government agencies and with the public. Public Scoping Meetings will be held in the fall of 2000 in Pine Bluff Arkansas, Fort Smith Arkansas, and Tulsa Oklahoma. The location, time, and date will be published at least 14 days prior to each scoping meeting. Comments received as a result of this notice and the news releases will be used to assist the Districts in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment. Affected local, state, or Federal agencies, affected Indian Tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties may participate in the Scoping process by

forwarding written comments to the above noted address. Interested parties may also request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and documents.

4. Alternatives/Issues

The EIS will evaluate the effects of structural and non-structural alternatives of the authorized project and other identified concerns. Specific project alternatives will incorporate the elements previously identified in this notice. Anticipated significant issues identified to date and to be addressed in the EIS include: (1) Impacts on navigation, (2) impacts on flood control, (3) impacts on hydropower, (4) impacts on recreation and recreation facilities, (5) impacts on river hydraulics, (6) impacts on fish and wildlife resources and habitats, and (7) other impacts identified by the Public, agencies or USACE studies.

5. Availability of the Draft EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be available for public review in the spring of 2002 subject to the receipt of federal funding.

6. Authority

The River and Harbor Act of 1946 authorized the development of the Arkansas River and its tributaries for the purposes of navigation, flood control, hydropower, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife. Public Law 91-649 stated that the project would be known as the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The Arkansas River Navigation Study began as a Fiscal Year (FY99) Congressional Add to investigate flooding problems along the Arkansas River in Crawford and Sebastian Counties in the vicinity of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Thomas A. Holden, Jr.,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Greers Ferry Lake Shoreline Management Plan, Arkansas

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to address alternatives and impacts pertaining to the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) at Greers Ferry Lake, Heber Springs, Arkansas, as proposed under a review and update of the 1994 SMP. This review and update of the SMP is conducted in accordance with Title 36 CFR, 327.30.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions or comments concerning the proposed action should be addressed to Ms. Tricia Anslow, Project Manager, Planning Branch, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, telephone 501-324-5032, E-mail:

patricia.anslow@swl02.usace.army.mil or Mr. Jim Ellis, Environmental Team Leader, Planning Branch, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, telephone 501-324-5033, e-mail: *James.D.Ellis@swl02.usace.army.mil*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Greers Ferry Lake, has been operating under the current Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) since 1994. Shoreline Management Plans are reviewed periodically, but no less often than every five years, to determine need for updates, and ensure protection of a quality resource for the public, while balancing permitted private uses. The SMP is a comprehensive document addressing multiple reservoir activities and is developed in conjunction with the Operational Management Plan. Public meetings were conducted from January 1999-January 2000 to solicit comments about the current plan and review process. During this period, the public involvement was used to develop alternatives for the revision of the SMP. Due to the level of public interest it was concluded that the SMP warranted revision.

The Greers Ferry Lake draft SMP addresses the following changes: (1) permitting of additional boat docks, resulting in an expansion of the current shoreline development; (2) modification in the distance of current vegetation modification (mowing) permits from the current 50' from a habitable structure, with the addition of minimum shoreline buffer; and; (3) implementation of wildlife enhancement permits, allowing limited modification of the shoreline. Elements that arise during the scoping meetings will also be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate impacts due to revisions proposed in the draft SMP, as modified from the 1994 Shoreline Management Plan. Significant issues to be addressed in the EIS include: (1) Impacts on physical resources; (2) impacts on

pollution and water quality; (3) impacts on cultural resources; (4) impacts on wetlands; (5) impacts on aquatic resources; (6) impacts on terrestrial resources; (7) impacts on threatened and endangered species; (8) impacts on recreation and facilities; (9) impacts on aesthetics; (10) socio-economic impacts; and (11) other impacts identified by the public, agencies, or Corps studies.

Scoping meetings for the project are planned to be conducted in the fall of 2000. News releases informing the public and local, state, and Federal agencies of the proposed action will be published in state and local newspapers. Comments received as a result of this notice and the news releases will be used to assist the Little Rock District in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment.

Affected local, state, or Federal agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties may participate in the scoping process by forwarding written comments to the above noted address or attending scoping meetings.

The draft EIS (DEIS) is expected to be available for public review and comment by October 1, 2001 subject to receipt of Federal funding. Any comments and suggestions should be forwarded to the above noted address no later than September 1, 2001, to be considered in the DEIS.

Thomas A. Holden, Jr.,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

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BILLING CODE 3710-57-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Quarterly Meeting

AGENCY: National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming quarterly meeting of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board. Notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend the open portions of the meeting. Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (i.e., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in

alternative format) should notify Thelma Leenhouts at (202) 219-2065 by no later than September 11. We will attempt to meet requests after this data, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

DATES: September 22, 2000.

TIME: 9 a.m. to (approximately) 3 p.m., open; 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., closed.

LOCATION: Room 100, 80 F St., NW., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thelma Leenhouts, Designated Federal Official, National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, Washington, D.C. 20208-7564. Tel.: (202) 219-2065; fax: (202) 219-1528; e-mail: *Thelma_Leenhouts@ed.gov*, or *nerppb@ed.gov*. The main telephone number for the Board is (202) 208-0692.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board is authorized by section 921 of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994. The Board works collaboratively with the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) to forge a national consensus with respect to a long-term agenda for educational research, development, and dissemination, and to provide advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary in administering the duties of the Office.

The Board will conduct outstanding business in open session and hear reports from the Assistant Secretary for OERI; on a proposed study by the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council on the structure and content of the educational research agenda; and on a commissioned study on the Phase II standards designating promising and exemplary programs. The meeting will be closed to the public from approximately 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. under the authority of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. Appendix I) and under exemptions (2) and (6) of section 552b (c) of the title 5 U.S.C. The Board will discuss personnel issues at this time.

A final agenda will be available from the Board office on September 15, and will be posted on the Board's web sit, <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OERI/NERPPB/>. A summary of activities at the closed session and related matters which are informative to the public consistent with the policy of title 5 U.S.C. 552b will be available to the public within 14 days of the meeting.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public