

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For patent issues, Ms. Elizabeth Arwine, Patent Attorney, (301) 619-7807. For licensing issues, Dr. Paul Mele, Office of Research & Technology Assessment, (301) 619-6664, both at telefax (301) 619-5034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A method of identifying and archiving a nucleic acid sequence.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-16375 Filed 6-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Availability of the Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement for the Reallocation of Water Supply Storage Project, John Redmond Lake, KS

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

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has prepared a Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement (DSFES) for the Reallocation of Water Supply Storage Project, John Redmond Lake, KS. The purpose of the project is to assess potential significant environmental impacts associated with water storage reallocation and a higher conservation pool elevation at John Redmond Lake.

DATES: The DSFES will be available for public review when this announcement is published. The review period of the document will be until September 11, 2002. To request a copy of the supplement, please call (918) 669-4396.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the DSFES, please contact Stephen L. Nolen, Chief, Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CESWT-PE-E, 1645 South 101st East Avenue, Tulsa OK, 74128-4629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: John Redmond Dam was initially authorized as the Strawn Dam and Reservoir under the Flood Control Act of May 17, 1950, for flood control, water conservation, recreation, and water supply for communities along the Neosho River in southeastern Kansas. Congress subsequently changed the name in 1958 to John Redmond Dam and Reservoir.

To perform its authorized purposes, the lake contains three types of water storage pools. The upper pool provides 574,918 acre-feet of flood control storage and is reserved for flood control operations. The conservation pool provides 50,501 acre-feet of storage for water supply, water quality, and sediment. The inactive pool has filled with sediment. Water supply storage was projected to occur within the conservation pool when maintained at the surface elevation of 1039.0 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). Studies have determined that sediment is accumulating in the conservation pool and is reducing the amount of water stored there. The amount of water storage reduction predicted by calendar year (CY) 2014 is approximately 25% or 8,725 acre-feet of water supply.

The USACE has been directed by Congress to conduct a study to reallocate water supply storage, an action that would fulfill the water supply agreement with the State of Kansas. This supplement addresses the proposed water supply storage reallocation project.

A Final Environmental Statement for operation and maintenance of John Redmond, Marion, and Council Grove Lakes, KS, was filed on December 17, 1976. This supplement addresses the environmental impacts of making an equitable redistribution of the storage remaining between the flood control pool and the conservation pool due to uneven sediment distribution.

Sediment in John Redmond Lake has been collecting mainly in the conservation pool, thereby reducing the conservation pool storage faster than was designed, while the flood control pool has not received as much sediment and has retained more storage than it was designed to retain. The reallocation does not guarantee the water storage volume contracted to the State of Kansas per an agreement in 1975, but makes an equitable redistribution of the remaining storage.

A total of four alternatives were identified and addressed in the DSFES. These include: no action, raise the conservation pool elevation by two feet, raise the conservation pool by two feet incrementally, and dredge the sediment from the conservation pool. The preferred alternative is to reallocate water storage in the conservation pool by two feet in a single pool raise. This would achieve the water storage obligation.

Environmental consequences of the proposed action identified in the DSFES include: (1) The loss of approximately 270 acres of wetland habitat, 40 acres of

grassland, 51 acres of cropland, and 195 acres of woodland, and (2) impacts to 31 potentially significant prehistoric and historic archeology sites.

Mitigation for impacts to biological resources is proposed and is based upon recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A Memorandum of Agreement between the USACE, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Kansas and Nebraska State Historic Preservation Offices is being drafted to determine appropriate actions and mitigation measures for cultural resources that may be discovered and/or affected during the course of the project. Appropriate mitigation measures may include preservation in place for future study, recovery or partial recovery of site data through excavation, a public interpretive display, or a combination of these measures.

The DSFES has been coordinated and approved by offices and directorates affected by or interested in the subject matter, including the Office of Counsel and Executive Offices.

Stephen R. Zeltner,

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Acting District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 02-16378 Filed 6-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-39-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Availability of the Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Operation and Maintenance Program at Wister Lake and Poteau River, OK

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is made of the availability of a Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement (DSFES) for the Operation and Maintenance Program at Wister Lake and Poteau River, OK, prepared by the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The supplement describes and considers the potential environmental consequences resulting from operating the Wister Lake project with a conservation pool at 478.0 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) and from raising the conservation pool from 471.6 to 478.0 feet (NGVD).

DATES: The DSFES will be available for public review when this announcement is published. The review period of the

document will be until September 11, 2002. To request a copy of the supplement, please call (918) 669-4396.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the DSFES, please contact Stephen L. Nolen, Chief, Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CESWT-PE-E, 1645 South 101st East Avenue, Tulsa OK 74128-4629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Wister Lake Project is located in southeastern Oklahoma in LeFlore County and was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938 and completed in 1949. The project consists of the lake, dam, and downstream stations on the lower Poteau River to its confluence with the Arkansas River. It provides substantial flood control, municipal and industrial water supply, flow augmentation, water conservation, and sediment reduction. Wister Lake and its adjacent lands are also used for recreation, hunting, and wildlife management.

A Final Environmental Statement (FES) for operation and maintenance of the project was filed on November 19, 1973, and evaluated impacts to the environment from operating the project with a conservation pool level at 471.6 feet NGVD. Since 1974, the lake's conservation pool has been raised four times, either seasonally or permanently, principally to increase water supply and enhance recreation. The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 1996) instructed the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to permanently raise the conservation pool to its present elevation, 478.0 feet NGVD. However, impacts to resources and the environment were never documented or analyzed. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this supplement to the 1973 FES focuses on the impacts associated with maintaining the permanent pool level at 478.0 feet, as directed by Congress, and continuing current management practices. It also examines the historical impacts associated with raising the permanent conservation pool from its original level of 471.6 to 478.0 feet NGVD.

Raising the conservation pool to 478.0 feet NGVD has resulted in the loss and/or modification of approximately 3,254 acres of wildlife habitat and approximately 300 acres of a waterfowl marsh and green tree waterfowl management unit. Raising the conservation pool has inundated at least 10 archeological sites. Pool fluctuations and wave action between 471.6 and 478.0 feet NGVD have disturbed at least

18 archeological sites and may have affected as many as 36 sites.

Mitigation measures are proposed for those resources that have been negatively impacted from raising the conservation pool to 478.0 feet NGVD. These impacts are limited to biological and cultural resources. Mitigations for biological resources are based on recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and include reimbursement to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for the loss of a green tree waterfowl management unit and the cost of reconstructing a new waterfowl management unit.

The USACE, Tulsa District is consulting with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer, the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma to develop mitigation measures to minimize adverse effects of the proposed action on historic properties.

The DSFES has been coordinated and approved by offices and directorates affected by or interested in the subject matter, including the Office of Counsel and Executive Offices.

Stephen R. Zeltner,

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Acting District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 02-16379 Filed 6-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-39-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Increasing Depths of the Existing Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black Project Up to 35 Feet, Including Channels in Atchafalaya Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, in Assumption, St. Mary, and Terrebone Parishes in the Vicinity of Morgan City, LA

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 under the authority of Section 430 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, Public Law 106-541, dated December 11, 2000, to determine the feasibility of deepening the navigation channel of the Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black, LA, from 20 feet to 35 feet. Deepwater oil and gas exploration

and development in the Gulf of Mexico and other deepwater areas has increased because of growth in demand; depletion of existing oil and gas fields, including those in the shallower areas of the gulf; and advancements in deepwater drilling technologies that include larger platforms. Many of the larger platforms required for deepwater activities are constructed in foreign countries because, among other factors, there are not enough competitive fabrication yards in the United States with adequate navigation access channels. The fabrication industry in the Morgan City-Amelia, LA area could capture a significant portion of the deepwater rig fabrication market if they had deeper navigation access channels to their facilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be addressed to Mr. Michael Salyer at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, PO Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, phone (504) 862-2037, fax number (504) 862-2572 or by E-mail at michael.r.salyer@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1.

Proposed Action. The proposed action would include the deepening of the navigation channels included in the existing Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black, Louisiana project and in the Lower Atchafalaya River south of Morgan City, LA, to project depths up to 35 feet. These channels include the Atchafalaya River south of Morgan City, the existing channels in the Atchafalaya Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, and existing channels in Bayou Chene, Bayou Boeuf, and Bayou Black located south of U.S. Highway 90 and south and east of Morgan City. The material dredged for the construction and maintenance of the channels would be used for wetlands restoration and construction, to the extent practicable. Economic and environmental analysis would be used to determine the most practical plan, which would provide for the greatest overall public benefit.

2. Alternatives. Alternatives recommended for consideration presently include the construction of deeper channels in the Atchafalaya River, Atchafalaya Bay, the Gulf of Mexico and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black; and the relocation of the fabrication facilities to other U.S. locations with larger navigation access channels. Incremental 2 reaches of those channels with separable benefits and cost would be investigated. Various project depths for navigation channels would also be investigated.