

Jacksonville, FL, 32232-0019, by e-mail [bradley.a.tarr@usace.army.mil](mailto:bradley.a.tarr@usace.army.mil), or by telephone at 904-232-3582.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

a. *Authorization:* The authority for this project is contained within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000. The "Design Agreement between the Department of the Army and the SFWMD for the Design of Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Project" contains additional guidance.

b. *Study Area:* Lake Okeechobee lies 30 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean and 60 miles east of the Gulf of Mexico, in the central part of the Florida peninsula. The Lake is approximately 730 square miles, and is the principal natural reservoir in south Florida. The study area includes portions of St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, Glades, and Hendry Counties.

c. *Project Scope:* The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project includes four separable elements including; North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir, Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Storage and Treatment Area, Lake Okeechobee Watershed Quality Treatment Facilities, and Lake Okeechobee Tributary Sediment Dredging. The Restudy recommends the construction of 14,375 acres of reservoir-assisted stormwater treatment areas, a 17,500 acre reservoir with a 2,500 acre stormwater treatment area (providing up to 210,000 acre-feet of storage), the removal of 150 tons of phosphorus from tributaries, and the restoration of approximately 3,500 acres of wetlands.

The objectives of the project are to improve the water quality of inflows to Lake Okeechobee, store excess water to allow for better management of Lake Okeechobee water levels and reduce damaging fresh water releases to the Caloosahatchee estuary and the St. Lucie estuary, and restore several wetlands in the basins. Wet season runoff from the watershed north of the Lake will be attenuated by reservoirs and restored wetlands. The increased storage capacity in these basins will reduce the duration and frequency of both extreme high and low water levels in the Lake that are stressful to the Lake's littoral zone and ecosystem and will reduce large discharges from the Lake that damage the downstream estuarine ecosystems. Runoff from the basins will be diverted to stormwater treatments areas to reduce phosphorus loading to the Lake.

The study will evaluate alternatives based on their ability to improve water

deliveries to the natural system, protect and conserve water resources, improve water quality, protect or restore fish and wildlife and their associated habitat, restore and manage wetland and associated upland ecosystems, sustain economic and natural resources, and other performance criteria being developed by the Project Delivery Team.

d. *Preliminary Alternatives:* Formulation of alternative plans will involve the selection of the most suitable locations, sizes, depths, and configurations of facilities through detailed planning and design.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will include an evaluation of adverse environmental impacts, including but not limited to, water quality, socio-economic, archaeological and biological. In addition to adverse impacts, the evaluation will also focus on how well the plans perform with regard to specific performance measures.

e. *Issues:* The EIS will address the impacts of capturing and holding excess water in large storage areas during wet periods and the subsequent release for later use during dry periods into stormwater treatment areas.

The EIS will also address environmental issues: water quality; impacts to the estuaries; flood protection; aesthetics and recreation; fish and wildlife resources, including protected species; cultural resources; and other impacts identified through scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination.

f. *Scoping:* A scoping letter and public workshops will be used to invite comments on alternatives and issues from Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and individuals. The next public workshop is scheduled for 13 August 2002, at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus Auditorium, on 700 SW., Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and continue to 9 p.m.

Other public meeting will be held over the course of the study; the exact location, dates, and times will be announced in public notices and local newspapers.

g. *DEIS Preparation:* The integrated draft PIR, which will include a DEIS, is currently scheduled for publication in November 2005.

Dated: February 2, 2002.

**James C. Duck,**  
Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 02-19707 Filed 8-2-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers**

**Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Centralia Flood Reduction Project, Lewis County, WA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Seattle District has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) examining the impacts of feasible structural and nonstructural alternatives to reduce flood damage within Lewis County, WA.

The alternatives initially considered included: (1) No action; (2) modifications to Skookumchuck Dam; (3) overbank excavation and flow-way bypass at various locations; (4) construction of a flood levee system; (5) upstream flow-restriction structures and upstream flood-water storage; (6) non-structural flood control measures including watershed management, flood-proofing structures, developing evacuation plans, and removal of certain structures from the floodplain; and (7) a variety of flood control, regulatory, and planning measures developed by an interagency committee. After initial screening of the above alternatives for engineering feasibility, economic justification, environmental effects and other criteria, four were carried forward for detailed analysis: (1) Alternative #3 combined with alternative #2 (specifically Centralia overbank excavation and Chehalis SR6 flow-way bypass with modifications to Skookumchuck Dam); (2) alternative #4 combined with modifications to Skookumchuck Dam (preferred alternative); (3) alternative #7 combined with modifications to Skookumchuck Dam; and (4) no action.

**DATES:** The comment period for this DEIS is 45 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register** or September 18, 2002, whichever is later.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted to the attention of: Mr. George A. Hart, Environmental Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755; Fax: (206) 764-4470, or e-mail [george.a.hart@usace.army.mil](mailto:george.a.hart@usace.army.mil).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. George A. Hart at the above address, e-mail, or telephone (206) 764-3641.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Chehalis River basin is located in west central Washington, south of Olympia. The focus of the flood damage reduction study encompasses the cities of Centralia and Chehalis and the urbanizing areas immediately adjacent to the cities.

The cities of Centralia and Chehalis have been subject to repeated flooding for many years. This flooding has caused extensive damage to private and public property and periodic closure of critical transportation routes resulting in significant economic losses. Flood closures of the transportation routes have also significantly disrupted emergency response actions by local governments. Stream habitat functions of the Chehalis River and its tributaries have been affected from long-term development throughout the Chehalis Basin. This has resulted in the diminishment of the remaining habitat resources to adequately support sustainable fish and wildlife resources. The losses of wetlands, riparian areas, and backwater channels have also contributed to increased flooding in the area. The purpose of the Centralia-Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction study are to reduce flood hazards in the project area, the cities of Centralia and Chehalis, and the urbanizing area immediately adjacent and to incorporate appropriate fish and wildlife habitat improvements. Flood hazards are defined as significant damage to existing structures, high risk to life, and extended closures of transportation corridors.

Authority for this study is contained in Section 401(a) of the 1986 Flood Control Act (Pub. L. 99-662). This section provided authorization for the construction of "works of improvement" substantially in accordance with the Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated June 20, 1984.

Request for copies of the Centralia Flood Reduction Project DEIS or other information regarding this environmental analysis should be addressed to Mr. Hart (see **ADDRESSES**). Copies of the DEIS are also available for public inspection and review at the following locations:

(1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Center South, 4735 Marginal Way, Seattle, WA 98124-2385.

(2) Chehalis Timberland Library, 76 N.E. Part Street, P.O. Box 419, Chehalis, WA 98532-0419; (360) 748-3301.

(3) Timberland Regional Library, 110 S. Silver, Centralia, WA 98531-4296; (360) 736-0183.

(4) Timberland Regional Library, 125 South Main Street, Montesano, WA 98563; (360) 249-4211.

(5) Internet at: [http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc\\_table.cfm](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc_table.cfm).

A public hearing on the Centralia Flood Reduction Project DEIS will be held August 21, 2002 at the Lewis County Court House, Lewis County, WA starting at 6 p.m. USACE personnel will be present to answer questions. The hearings will provide an opportunity for information exchange and discussion between USACE and the public, as well as opportunities for the public to present oral or written comments.

**Ralph H. Graves,**

*Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### **Cancellation of Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mississippi River Diversion Near Benny's Bay, Mississippi River Delta, LA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of cancellation.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is canceling a notice of intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 65681), December 20, 2001.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions concerning this notice should be addressed to Mr. Michael Salyer: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. 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](mailto:michael.r.salyer@mvn02.usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As a result of additional information, a decision was reached that significant impacts are no longer anticipated at the outset of planning for the Mississippi River Diversion near Benny's Bay, Mississippi River Delta, LA. An environmental analysis will be accomplished through an Environmental Assessment (EA) and not an EIS. Upon completion of the EA, full disclosure to the public will be accomplished as mandated through Engineers Regulation 200-2. Should the EA indicate 1 significant impacts as a result of the diversion project, another notice of intent would be published at that time to specify the intent to prepare an EIS; formal procedures for the public

scoping process would ensue at that time.

Dated: July 19, 2002.

**Peter J. Rowan,**

*Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### **Record of Decision for Proposed Future Operations and Facility Modernization at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Point Mugu Sea Range, Point Mugu, CA**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Navy announces its decision to modernize facilities and support current levels of weapons test and evaluation activities, increased levels of fleet training activities, and Theater Missile Defense testing and training at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Point Mugu Sea Range, Point Mugu, CA.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. Sections 4321 *et seq.*; Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Department of the Navy regulations (32 CFR 775); and Executive Order 12114 (Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions), the Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its decision to modernize facilities and support current levels of weapons test and evaluation activities, increased levels of fleet training activities, and Theater Missile Defense (TMD) testing and training on the Sea Range, as described in the Preferred Alternative. This decision will enable the Navy to conduct state-of-the-art weapons systems testing and evaluation and maintain the level of operational readiness of our military services on a safe, operationally realistic, and thoroughly instrumented Sea Range.

**Background and Issues:** The 36,000 square mile Sea Range lies both inside and outside U.S. territorial waters and includes San Nicolas Island and assets at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Point Mugu, CA. It is scheduled and managed by Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWPNS) Point Mugu. The Navy has continuously operated the Sea Range for more than 50 years. It provides a safe, highly instrumented volume of air and sea space in which to conduct controlled