

*Alternatives*

The preferred alternative is the most practical alternative to meet the purpose and needs of this action. Three alternatives were considered: (1) No Action, (2) Decommission the Structure, and (3) Structure Rehabilitation.

*Consultation—Public Participation*

Meetings were held with the project sponsors in June, July, and December of 2001, and April of 2002. On April 23, 2002, the sponsors held a public meeting. In addition, letter requests for concerns and issues were sent to federal and state agencies, and organizations. All concerns and issues were addressed in the environmental assessment.

*Conclusion*

The environmental assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the human environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the rehabilitation of the Upper Hocking Watershed Structure R-23.

Dated: August 30, 2002.

**Kevin Brown,**

*State Conservationist.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Natural Resources Conservation Service****Changes in Hydric Soils of the United States**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of change.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 7 CFR 12.30(a)(4), The Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture gives notice of a change in the wording of the criteria used to generate the list of hydric soils of the United States as published in the third edition of Hydric Soils of the United States, Miscellaneous Publication 1491, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, June 1991.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karl W. Hipple, Chair, National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, National Soil Survey Center, NRCS, Room 152, Mail Stop 36, Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3866, Telephone (402) 437-5351.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The wording of criteria 1 and 2 has been changed to incorporate recent changes in Soil Taxonomy.

**Criteria for Hydric Soils**

1. All Histels except Folistels, and all Histosols except Folistels, or

2. Soils in Aquic suborders, great groups, or subgroups; Albolls suborder; Historthels and Histoturbels great groups; and Cumulic or Pachic subgroups that are:

a. Somewhat poorly drained with a water table equal to 0.0 foot (ft) from the surface during the growing season, or

b. poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:

(1) Water table equal to 0.0 ft from the surface during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within 20 inches (in) of the surface, or for other soils,

(2) Water table at less than or equal to 0.5 ft from the surface during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hour (h) in all layers within 20 in of the surface, or

(3) Water table at less than or equal to 1.0 ft from the surface during the growing season, if permeability is less than 6.0 in/h in any layer within 20 in, or

3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season, or

4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 5, 2002.

**Bruce I. Knight,**

*Chief.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Minority Business Development Agency**

**[Docket No: 980901228-2207-03]**

**Solicitation of Applications for the Minority Business Opportunity Committee (MBOC) Program**

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting applications from organizations seeking to operate Minority Business Opportunity Committees (MBOC). Applications are being solicited from all geographical areas within the United States, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. MBDA anticipates funding one (1) MBOC within each of the geographic regions

listed under "For Further Information Contact, Pre-Application Conference". In order for their proposals to receive consideration, applicants must comply with all information and requirements contained in this notice and the Application Package (AP).

MBDA is an entrepreneurially focused and innovative organization that is committed to empowering minority business enterprises (MBEs) and creating wealth-building opportunities. MBDA fosters the creation, growth and expansion of MBEs in America by providing business development services, tools (e.g., Minority Business Internet Portal <http://www.mbda.gov>) and programs. Each program is designed to focus on the unique business problems of a specific market. MBDA's programs form a national business delivery network that addresses the needs of minority entrepreneurs throughout the United States. The MBOC program is designed to provide minority entrepreneurs with enhanced access to markets, capital, and information. This is accomplished by identifying contracts, business ownership, marketing, sales, financing, and joint venture opportunities, to position MBEs for long-term growth. State or local government entities, American Indian Tribes, colleges, universities, non-profit, and for-profit organizations are eligible to operate MBOCs.

This solicitation incorporates the new requirement that MBOCs utilize information technology to collect and disseminate information for and about MBEs. Additionally this solicitation requires that MBOCs install systems whereby information regarding performance measures can be electronically transmitted to MBDA. (See Computer Requirements.)

**DATES:** The closing date for applications is October 18, 2002. Completed applications for the MBOC program must be: (1) Mailed (USPS postmark) to the address below; or (2) received by MBDA at the address below no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. It is strongly recommended that applicants utilize an overnight mail delivery service to ensure timely receipt of applications. Applicants using this service must ensure that applications are received by MBDA by 5 PM Eastern Daylight Time. Applications postmarked later than the closing date will not be considered. MBDA anticipates that awards will be made with a start date of January 1, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants must submit one signed original plus two (2) copies of the application. Completed application