

systems with fourteen drainage structures, and nine closure structures, six of which incorporate limited road raisings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeff Trulick, Study Manager, (410) 962-6715 or (800) 295-1610 or via e-mail at jeff.trulick@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Town of Bloomsburg, PA, is located in Columbia County within the Middle Susquehanna River sub-basin. The Susquehanna River forms the Town's southern boundary, and Fishing Creek forms the northern and western boundary.

The primary water resources problem along the Susquehanna River at Bloomsburg is recurrent flooding. Recurrent flooding that occurs in the Bloomsburg study area is a result of the morphology of the Susquehanna River and the regional topography. When the Susquehanna River and a local tributary, Fishing Creek, simultaneously rise above flood stage, overbank flooding can cover up to 33 percent of the landmass within the Town of Bloomsburg's boundaries.

Flood damages are attributable to overbank flooding from the Susquehanna River and to flooding along Fishing Creek. Past flood events have resulted in extensive damages to structures and their contents and have threatened public safety. The Bloomsburg study area includes approximately 525 residential structures and 75 businesses.

The recommended flood damage reduction plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan with a Tropical Storm Agnes (440-year) level of protection from Susquehanna River flooding, and 100-year level of protection from Fishing Creek flooding. The alignment of the line of protection was refined based on physical, environmental, and economic criteria.

The project consists of a system of earthen levees, mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) floodwalls, concrete floodwalls, railroad and road closure structures and roadway relocations to provide ramps over the line of protection. Earthen levees are proposed for the majority of the line of protection, though MSE walls will be required along portions of Fishing Creek in both Bloomsburg and Fernville and a concrete floodwall (H-Pile wall) will be required along portions of Fishing Creek in Bloomsburg. Limited riprap will be used to protect the steep banks of Fishing Creek from bank crest to below the stream invert along the lower project reaches along Fishing Creek.

Permanent environmental impacts will include restricted views by the levee/floodwall system of Fishing Creek from Bloomsburg and Fernville, excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 4,500 cubic yards of hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste materials, conversion of approximately 11.5 acres of farmland designated as Prime Farmland or Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use, long-term loss of nearly 3,000 linear feet of riparian habitat along Fishing Creek, the loss of less than one acre of wetlands, and taking of residential homes and business structures within the levee/floodwall footprint.

USACE has distributed copies of the Final Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS to appropriate members of Congress, State and local government officials, Federal agencies, and other interested parties. Copies are available for public review at the following locations:

(1) Bloomsburg Public Library, 225 Market Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

(2) Bloomsburg University Library, 400 E. Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

You may also view the Final Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS in addition to related information on our Web page at http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/publications/non-reg_pub.htm.

The Final Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS has been prepared in accordance with (1) The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and (3) USACE regulations implementing NEPA (ER-200-2-2).

Jeff Trulick,

Study Manager, Civil Project Development Branch, Planning Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Public Scoping Meeting and Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Widening of the Freeport Ship Channel in Freeport, Brazoria County, TX

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to assess the social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed widening of portions of the Freeport Harbor Entrance and Jetty Channels. The DEIS will assess potential impacts of a range of alternatives, including the No Action and preferred alternatives. The Federal action is consideration of a Department of Army Permit application for work under section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuary Act (33 U.S.C. 1413).

DATES: A public scoping meeting will be held on November 29, 2005 at 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Freeport Community House, 1300 W. 2nd, Freeport, TX 77541.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bryan Herczeg, Project Manager, by letter at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, Texas 77553, by telephone at (409) 766-6389, or by e-mail at bryan.a.herczeg@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Galveston District intends to prepare a DEIS on the proposed channel widening of portions of the Freeport Harbor Channel, which leads to Freeport Harbor, Freeport, Brazoria County, TX. The Brazos River Harbor Navigation District (Port of Freeport) proposes this project.

1. *Description of the Proposed Project:* The Port of Freeport is proposing to widen the Freeport Harbor Channel as follows:

a. From Channel Station 63+35, near the U.S. Coast Guard Station, to Channel Station 45+00, the channel will be widened gradually an additional 0 to 150 feet;

b. From Channel Station 45+00 to Channel Station 40+00, the Channel will be widened an additional 150 to 200 feet;

c. From 40+00, in the Jetty Channel to the end of the existing Entrance Channel, the channel will be widened by 200 feet, from the existing channel width of 400 feet to 600 feet;

d. The depth of the channel will be as at present, 47 feet in the Jetty Channel (45 feet project depth plus 2 feet advanced maintenance) and 49 feet in the Entrance Channel (45 feet project depth plus 2 feet advanced maintenance plus 2 feet allowable overdraft);

e. Approximately 3.2 million cubic yards (mcy) of dredged material will be

generated from the widening project; and

f. Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be used beneficially for beach nourishment on Quintana Beach and the remainder of the dredged material will be placed offshore approximately 2.5 miles off Quintana in approximately 40 feet of water.

2. *Scoping and Public Involvement Process:* A scoping meeting to gather information on the subjects to be studied in detail in the DEIS will be conducted on (see **DATES**). An informal open house, allowing for review of the proposed project and questions and answers, will be conducted between 5 and 7 p.m., prior to the scoping meeting.

3. *Significant Issues:* Issues associated with the proposed project to be given significant analysis in the DEIS are likely to include, but may not be limited to, the potential impacts of the proposed dredging, dredged material placement, the beneficial uses of dredged material, water quality, fish and wildlife values including threatened and endangered species; air quality; environmental justice; socioeconomic environment; archaeological and cultural resources; recreation and recreational resources; energy supply and natural resources; hazardous waste and materials; aesthetics; public health and safety; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; cumulative impacts, and the needs and welfare of the people.

4. *Technical Review and Consultation:* Several State and Federal Agencies will be invited to provide technical review of the DEIS. Those agencies include: The Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Coast Guard, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Transportation.

5. *Additional Review and Consultation:* Additional review and consultation that will be incorporated into the preparation of this DEIS will include: Compliance with the Texas Coastal Management Program; protection of cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; protection of navigation under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; protection of water quality under section 401 of the Clean Water Act; protection of air quality under the Clean Air Act; and protection of endangered and threatened species under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

6. *Availability of the DEIS:* The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is projected to be available in September 2006. At this time the Galveston District plans to conduct a Public Hearing following the release of the DEIS.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining

Fish and Wildlife Service

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Mountaintop Mining and Valley Fills

AGENCIES: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, DOD; Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Surface Mining and Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

ACTION: Announcement of availability of Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS).

SUMMARY: The above agencies announce the availability of the FPEIS that considers developing policies, guidance, and coordinated agency decision-making processes to minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, the adverse environmental effects to waters of the United States and to fish and wildlife resources affected by mountaintop mining operations, and to environmental resources that could be affected by the size and location of excess spoil-disposal sites in valley fills within the Appalachian study area in West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. This FPEIS was prepared as part of a settlement agreement that resolved the Federal claims brought in *Bragg v. Robertson, Civ. No. 2:98-0636 (S.D.W.Va.)*.

This FPEIS was prepared consistent with the provision set forth in 40 CFR 1503.4(c) of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, which allow the agencies to attach an errata sheet to the statement instead of rewriting the draft statement and to circulate the errata,

comments, responses, and the changes, rather than the entire document. The agencies are filing the entire statement with a new cover sheet as the FPEIS. The FPEIS is being made available by mail and can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/region3/mntntop/index.htm>. The FPEIS can also be viewed at local offices of the above agencies and at selected local libraries. Copies of the FPEIS may be obtained by writing to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for copies of the FPEIS to John Forren, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30), 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Forren, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, at (215) 814-2705; Katherine Trott, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (202) 761-5542; Mike Robinson, U.S. Office of Surface Mining, at (412) 937-2882; Cindy Tibbott, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at (814) 234-4090; or Russell Hunter, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, at (304) 926-0499.

Dated: October 20, 2005.

Gerald W. Barnes,

Chief, Operations, Directorate of Civil Works.

David Evans,

Director, Wetlands Division, Environmental Protection Agency.

Glenda H. Owens,

Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.

Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Public Hearings for a Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement for the Undersea Warfare Training Range

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Executive Order 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, and Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft