DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Greater Mississippi River Basin Water Management Board; Engineer Regulation No. 15–2–13

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is revising its Engineer Regulation No. 15–2–13 dated 10 May 1989. This regulation establishes and prescribes the objectives, composition, responsibilities and authority of the Corps Greater Mississippi River Basin Water Management Board. It is applicable to all Corps offices involved with water management within the Greater Mississippi River Basin. The Board consists of the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, and Division Commanders of the Northwestern, Mississippi Valley, Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers, and Southwestern Divisions. The Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations serves as permanent Chairperson.

C. Provides a forum, when necessary, for division commanders to keep the Chief of Engineers informed of any unusual problems or activities associated with water control that impact his/her responsibilities.

4. Composition. The Greater Mississippi River Basin Water Management Board is a continuing board consisting of the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, and Division Commanders of the Northwestern, Mississippi Valley, Great Lakes and Ohio River, and Southwestern Divisions. The Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations serves as permanent Board Chairperson.

5. Responsibilities. The Board functions under the general direction of the Commanding General, USACE, and is responsible for:

a. Oversight of procedures for maintaining and improving inter-divisional coordination of water management activities within the Greater Mississippi River Basin.

b. Oversight of the development and use of facilities (physical and computer models, automated data processing equipment, and communications and information dissemination networks) needed to coordinate water management activities for the Greater Mississippi River Basin projects.

c. Oversight of basin-wide water management activities associated with Corps projects in the Greater Mississippi River Basin and, during certain significant emergency periods, may also include other agency projects located within the Basin (e.g., Tennessee Valley Authority, Bureau of Reclamation).

d. Periodic reports and/or briefings to the Commanding General, regarding the Board’s activities and plans, during periods when Board is active.

6. Committees. The Greater Mississippi River Basin Water Management Board is authorized to establish continuing or ad hoc inter-divisional operating or study committees comprised of Corps personnel to facilitate the work of the Board. A standing Technical Committee comprised of the senior water control managers from the four Divisions within the Greater Mississippi River Basin, and the HONUSACE Principal Hydrologic and Hydraulic Engineer—who serves as Technical Committee Chairperson—is established to advise and assist the Board. The Technical Committee meets whenever a need is determined by the Chairperson or identified by the Board.

7. Procedures. The procedures used by the Board to carry out its responsibilities are as follows:

a. During the emergency period when the Board is active, the Board will meet to review recent past activities and current and future project operations, and to discuss new or revised water management activities for this period as appropriate.

b. The Board will provide instructions to committees under its jurisdiction and review their recommendations for improvements in water management for the above stated purpose.

c. Deviations or changes to a current water control plan may be made at the discretion of the respective division commander, unless

by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since its last revision, the Corps has reorganized its command and control structure. This regulation revision reflects the current organizational structure and is aligned with water management activities during recent flood and drought events in the United States.
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508), Department of the Navy (DoN) NEPA regulations (32 CFR part 775) and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, changes 1 and 2), the USMC has prepared and filed with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) a Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) that evaluated potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia. Through the use of PGMs at TBR, the USMC can more efficiently meet current training requirements for pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: The USEPA’s Notice of Availability (NOA) and Notice of Public Meeting for the Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2012 (77 FR 41402). Federal, state, and local agencies, citizens groups and associations, and other interested parties provided oral and written comments to the USMC and identified specific issues or topics of environmental concern that should be addressed in the Final EIS. The USMC responded to all these comments and updated portions of the Final EIS, where appropriate.

The Final EIS has been distributed to federal, state, and local agencies, citizens groups and associations, and other interested parties. In addition, a copy of the Final EIS was distributed to the following libraries:

1. Ida Hilton Public Library, 1105 North Way, Darien, GA 31305.
2. Long County Public Library, 28 South Main Street, Ludowici, GA 31316.
3. Hog Hammock Public Library, 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA 31327.

An electronic version of the Final EIS can be viewed or downloaded from the project Web site: http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through the preparation of a Universal Need Statement (UNS), Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG–31) identified its requirement for an air-to-ground training range that allows aircrews to utilize PGMs in a realistic training environment. Following the preparation of the UNS, the USMC began the process to certify the requirement to establish an air-to-ground training range to support MAG–31’s aviation training needs and develop the approach to accommodate this requirement. MAG–31’s need for an air-to-ground range that can accommodate realistic PGM training allowed the USMC and the DoD to support the DoD’s approval to study the land acquisition alternatives that could support the creation of a modernized air-to-ground training range. The USMC then initiated the preparation of the EIS to examine the potential impacts of the proposed land acquisition and airspace modification alternatives that could meet the training requirement.

The USMC conducted a multi-step screening process to identify candidate ranges and alternatives that meet the purpose and need. To achieve this, the USMC: (1) Developed range evaluation criteria by identifying key physical and operational attributes required to support training with PGMs; (2) identified existing candidate DoD ranges in the Southeastern United States; and (3) evaluated the candidate ranges against the range evaluation criteria. As a result of the evaluations, seven candidate ranges were identified and subjected to initial analysis; however, only TBR satisfied all of the screening criteria and was carried forward for full analysis in the EIS.

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an air-to-ground training range capable of providing a wider variety of air-to-ground operations, including the use of PGMs, to meet current training requirements. The Proposed Action is needed to more efficiently meet current training requirements for USMC aviation assets by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities in the Beaufort, South Carolina Region.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action in the FEIS evaluated potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the