



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-PD-EC  
Public Notice No. FP14-PA01-09

22 May 2014

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
MOBILE DISTRICT**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
FOR THE  
BAYOU CASOTTE HARBOR CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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**JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (USACE) requests your review and comment on the Bayou Casotte Harbor Channel Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), Jackson County, Mississippi. A copy of the DEIS is located at the following website: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/PlanningEnvironmental/EnvironmentalImpactStatements.aspx>. The document is being circulated to resource agencies and interested members of the public for a 45-day comment period.

The Council on Environmental Quality's *Regulations on Implementing National Environmental Policy Act Procedures* (NEPA) (40 CFR 1500-1508) emphasizes agency cooperation early in the NEPA process through the establishment of Cooperating Agency status. In essence, each of the following Federal or State agencies have jurisdiction over activities to be considered in the DEIS and serve as a Cooperating Agency:

- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- Mississippi Secretary of State, Public Lands Division

- Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- National Park Service
- U.S. Coast Guard
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The DEIS analyzes the potential environmental consequences of improvements to the Pascagoula Harbor's Lower Pascagoula and Bayou Casotte Channels and associated future operations and maintenance (O&M). A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on 04 February 2010, to inform the public of the USACE's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for improvements to the Federal Pascagoula Harbor navigation channel in Jackson County, Mississippi. In addition to the tentatively selected plan, 19 other alternatives including the No Action were considered but not recommended. The proposed action identified in the NEPA document, the locally preferred plan (LPP) of the non-Federal sponsor, recommends widening the navigation channel 100 feet to the west for approximately 38,549 feet (~7.3 miles) in length along with bend easing north of Horn Island Pass. The northern portion of the Horn Island Pass Channel would be widened as necessary to facilitate (ease) the transition between the two channel segments. Disposal operations consist of placing dredged material within the Pascagoula Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS); disposal area 10, and the littoral zone placement site. Future O&M dredged material would be placed within several areas including pre-existing open-water disposal areas adjacent to the channel, the littoral zone, disposal area 10, and/or the Pascagoula ODMDS. Approximately 3.4 million cubic yards (cys) of dredged material would be removed from the navigation channel as part of the improvements project. Approximately 125,000 cys of dredged material would be placed within the littoral zone placement site and/or disposal area 10 located east and south of Horn Island while approximately 3.3 million cys of dredged material would be placed within the Pascagoula ODMDS south of Horn Island.

Under authority of Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 33 U.S.C. 2232, as amended), the USACE is conducting a study to evaluate the engineering and design, economic justification, and environmental acceptability of widening the Lower Pascagoula and Bayou Casotte Channels. Section 204(a) of WRDA 1986 authorizes the non-Federal sponsor to undertake navigational improvements; Section 204(b) authorizes the USACE to undertake all necessary studies and engineering for construction and provide technical assistance in obtaining necessary permits; and Section 204(f) directs the Government to assume responsibility for maintenance of such improvements, if (1) Prior to construction of the improvements the Secretary determines the improvements are economically justified, environmentally acceptable and are consistent with the purposes of Title II of WRDA 1986; (2) the Secretary certifies that the project is constructed in

accordance with applicable permits and appropriate engineering and design standards; and (3) the Secretary does not find the project or element is no longer economically justified or environmentally acceptable. If the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works approves the Section 204 report, including Federal assumption of maintenance, then the construction of the improvement project would be funded 100% by the non-Federal sponsor and the future O&M would be undertaken by the USACE as part of its routine maintenance efforts.

Public comments can be submitted through a variety of methods. Written comments may be submitted to the USACE, Mobile District by mail, facsimile, or electronic methods by 14 July 2014. In addition, comments (written or oral) may be presented at a public workshop that will be announced at a later date with details on the above identified website and in the local newspapers. Correspondence concerning this public notice should refer to Public Notice No. FP14-PA01-09 and should be directed to the Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District Mobile, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, ATTN: CESAM-PD-EC. For additional information please contact Ms. Jennifer Jacobson at (251) 690-2724, email address [jennifer.l.jacobson@usace.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.l.jacobson@usace.army.mil).



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