



**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-MsCIP01-08**

**5 March 2014**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI COASTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM  
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
COMPREHENSIVE BARRIER ISLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT**

**JACKSON, HARRISON, AND HANCOCK COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (Corps) requests your review and comments on the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Comprehensive Barrier Islands Restoration Project, Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties, Mississippi. A copy of the DSEIS is located at the following website: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProgramandProjectManagement/MsCIPProgram.aspx>. This 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, the following Federal or State agencies have jurisdiction over activities to be considered in the DSEIS and serve as a Cooperating Agency:

- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Mississippi Department of Transportation
- Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
- Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
- Mississippi Secretary of State
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. National Park Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Secretary of the Army was directed to prepare a comprehensive plan for improvements in the coastal area of Mississippi in the interest of hurricane and storm damage reduction, prevention of saltwater intrusion, preservation of fish and wildlife, prevention of erosion, and other related water resource purposes (Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2006 [Public Law (P.L.) 7 109-148]). The *MsCIP for Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi Comprehensive Plan and Integrated Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (PEIS) was completed in June 2009 to support the long-term recovery of Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi with the goal of enhancing the resilience of the coastal area and its communities against future events, including storms. The Report of the Chief of Engineers and the Record of Decision (ROD), signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, were submitted to Congress on January 15, 2010. Recommendations included the comprehensive restoration of the Mississippi barrier islands; restoration of over 3,000 acres of wetland and coastal forest habitat; acquisition of approximately 2,000 parcels, with relocation of residents, within the high hazard area; improvement of a levee at the Forest Heights community in Gulfport; a flood-proofing demonstration in Waveland; and the study of 53 other hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and ecosystem restoration options across the coastal area.

The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (P. L. 111-32), provided funds and direction to the Secretary of the Army to restore historic levels of storm damage reduction to the Mississippi Gulf Coast through barrier island restoration and ecosystem restoration. The MsCIP PEIS addressed the general plan for comprehensive barrier island restoration; however, the final design was not complete at the time because specific sand borrow sources and the final design templates had not been completed. To ensure full compliance with the NEPA, the Corps has prepared this SEIS in cooperation with other Federal, state, and local agencies. The MsCIP PEIS' ROD recommended a comprehensive restoration plan; therefore, new alternatives to barrier

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island restoration and protection of the Mississippi Sound are not considered in this SEIS. Rather, the alternatives considered in this SEIS are focused specifically on site-specific barrier island restoration options within the National Park Service Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi Unit and Cat Island, and various sand borrow sites within the area. The Corps published the Notice of Intent to prepare the SEIS in the Federal Register on March 7, 2014.

The purpose of the DSEIS is to address potential impacts associated with the restoration of the barrier islands. The DSEIS was used as a basis to ensure compliance with the NEPA and for evaluating the following alternative plans: "No Action" and the Tentatively Selected Plan which includes restoration of Ship Island including sand placement in Camille Cut and replenishment of the southern shoreline East Ship Island, beach-front placement of sand along Cat Island, and modification to the management of future dredged material from Pascagoula Ship Channel.

Public comments can be submitted through a variety of methods. Written comments may be submitted to the Corps, Mobile District by mail, facsimile, or electronic methods by April 21, 2014. In addition, comments (written or oral) may be presented at a public hearing that will be announced at a later date with details on the above identified website and in the local newspapers.

For further information contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Mobile District  
Attention: Dr. Susan I. Rees (CESAM-PD)  
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Mobile, AL 36602  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan I. Rees". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Curtis M. Flakes  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Division