



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers extends the scoping comment period on Environmental Assessment for proposed update of the Shoreline Management Plan for Walter F. George Lake (Lake Eufaula)

MOBILE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) recently held two open house type meetings to seek public input concerning preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed revisions to the existing Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for Walter F. George Lake (also called Lake Eufaula) in Georgia and Alabama. The scoping comment period was set to end 16 July 2010, but to ensure an open and public process, the Corps will extend the comment period two weeks, until July 30th. You can read the initial SMP update concepts and submit comments at www.WalterFGeorgeEA-SMP.net

The Corps manages the water and land areas at Walter F. George Lake to ensure compliance with specific congressionally authorized project purposes including hydroelectric power generation, navigation, recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife conservation. Regulatory requirements established by the Chief of Engineers (Engineer Regulation 1130-2-406) require that a SMP be prepared for each Corps water resource development project where private shoreline use is allowed. Each SMP is required to be reviewed periodically and revised as necessary. The original SMP for the lake was prepared in 1979 and the last revision was completed in 2001. It has been determined that the existing plan for the lake must be revised at this time in light of increased demand on Corps resources at Walter F. George Lake, as well as increased growth and development around the lake.

The Corps is preparing an EA to determine if there will be any significant impacts to the environment as a result of the proposed revisions to the SMP and evaluate alternative means to achieve the Corps's objectives. The study area consists of the shoreline and adjacent public lands and waters of Walter F. George Lake in Alabama and Georgia. There are currently 275 miles of project shoreline divided into limited development areas, public recreation areas, protected shoreline areas, and prohibited areas.

Topics to be addressed in the updated SMP include, but are not limited to, shoreline allocation; shoreline use permits; shoreline maintenance; dock design, installation, and maintenance requirements; buffer zones; forestry management; wildlife management; fisheries management; water quality; wetlands & aquatic plants; cultural and historic resources; and commercial activities.

For more information, visit www.WalterFGeorgeEA-SMP.net or contact the project office at 229 768-2516.