



Sharing the Water

in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

Newsletter No. 3 - October 1998

This is the third in a series of newsletters intended to inform you of progress in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) to address potential impacts of water allocation formulas for the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basins.

Draft EISs Completed and Filed

Draft EISs have been completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and cooperating Federal agencies for the ACT and ACF River Basins. A separate Draft EIS has been prepared for each river basin. The Draft EISs include a framework for the evaluation of the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a range of alternative flow conditions that may result from implementation of alternative allocations of water resources within the two basins. Allocation formulas are currently being developed by the ACT and ACF River Basin Compact Commissions.

The Draft EISs have been filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and are available for public review and comment. The public comment period will extend through December 18, 1998. Comments received from the public, regulatory and resource agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders will be evaluated and addressed in the Final EISs.

Once the State Compact Commissioners have agreed on a formula for the allocation of water resources between the States of Alabama, Florida and Georgia, the impacts of the proposed allocation formula will be addressed in a Final EIS for each basin. Evaluations in the Final EISs will be based upon the programmatic evaluation framework and additional information presented during the Draft EIS review period. The results of the evaluations contained in the Final EISs will assist the Federal Commissioner in his review, prior to a decision to concur or nonconcur with the proposed allocation formulas.

Joint EIS Public Meetings

Joint EIS public meetings for both the ACT and ACF basins will be held in the month of November. The public meetings will provide additional opportunities for the public to review information about the Draft EISs, ask questions of the project team, and submit comments. These meetings will be held between the hours of 5 pm and 8 pm, at the dates and meeting locations shown in the box above, and on the back page.



Joint EIS Public Meetings	
November 9	- Anniston, Alabama
November 10	- Montgomery, Alabama
November 17	- Tallahassee, Florida
November 18	- Kennesaw, Georgia
November 19	- Columbus, Georgia

The format for all five public meetings will be identical. The meetings will be held in an open house format, allowing participants to review specific information and talk with resource staff at stations located throughout the meeting rooms. Station topics will include the history and background of the EISs, the EIS approach, water resources, biological resources, socioeconomic resources, and water quantity and quality modeling. A court reporter station will be available to record oral comments during the meetings. Comment sheets will also be available for individuals to record comments for submittal at the conclusion of their visit.





Draft EISs Available For Public Review and Comment

The public comment period for the Draft EISs has begun and will extend through December 18, 1998. Copies of the Draft EISs have been mailed directly to elected officials within the two basins, appropriate Federal, State and local agencies, Native American tribes, and several hundred organizations and individuals who requested copies during the scoping period. Additional copies of the Draft EISs can be requested by contacting the EIS Project Managers for either

basin listed on the back of this newsletter, or by calling the toll free line at 1-800-421-7637. The Draft EIS Main Report, and a limited number of copies of the Appendices (black and white version), are available in hard copy. The Main Report and Appendices are also available upon request in CD-ROM format (full color version), or the main reports can be reviewed on the ACT and ACF River Basin EISs Web Site (<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/sam/pd/actacfeis>). Full copies of the Draft EISs (hard copies and CD-ROM format) have also been mailed to libraries throughout the two basins, as listed below.

Draft EISs Available for Public Review at These Libraries

Alabama

Adelia M. Russell Library	Alexander City
Anniston Libraries - Main Library	Anniston
Auburn Public Library	Auburn
Auburn University Libraries	Auburn
Birmingham Central Library	Birmingham
Carnegie Library	Eufaula
Chambers County Library	Valley
Chilton-Clanton Public Library	Clanton
Evergreen Public Library	Evergreen
Gadsden Public Library	Gadsden
Houston Love Memorial Library	Dothan
Jacksonville Public Library	Jacksonville
Jacksonville State University Library	Jacksonville
Mobile Public Library	Mobile
Monroe County Public Library	Monroeville
Montgomery City-County Public Library	Montgomery
Rainwater Memorial Library	Childersburg
Selma Public Library	Selma
St. Clair County Library	Pell City
The University of Alabama Library	Tuscaloosa
University of South Alabama Library	Mobile
University of Alabama at Birmingham Library	Birmingham
White Smith Memorial Library	Jackson

Florida

Apalachicola Municipal Library	Apalachicola
Bay County Public Library	Panama City
Calhoun County Public Library	Blountstown
Chattahoochee Public Library	Chattahoochee
George A. Smathers Library, University of Florida	Gainesville
Florida State University Library	Tallahassee
Jackson County Public Library	Marianna
Leon County Public Library	Tallahassee

Georgia

Athens Regional Library	Athens
Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library	Atlanta
Bartow County Library	Cartersville
Calhoun-Gordon County Library	Calhoun
Chatsworth-Murray County Library	Chatsworth
Cobb County Library System	Acworth
Cobb County Library System Central	Marietta
Columbus State University Library	Columbus
Cordele-Crisp County Carnegie Library	Cordele
Dalton Regional Library	Dalton
Dougherty County Public Library	Albany
Douglas County Public Library	Douglasville
East Hall Branch Library	Gainesville
Environmental Protection Agency Library	Atlanta
Gainesville College Library	Gainesville
Georgia State University Library	Atlanta
Griffin-Spalding County Library	Griffin
Kennesaw State University Library	Kennesaw
LaGrange Memorial Library	LaGrange
Lumpkin County Library	Dahlonega
Macon/Bibb County Public Library	Macon
Newnan-Coweta County Public Library	Newnan
North Columbus Branch Library	Columbus
Price-Gilbert Memorial Library	Atlanta
Rome-Floyd County Library	Rome
Southwest Georgia Regional Library	Bainbridge
State University of West Georgia Library	Carrollton
Thomasville Cultural Center Library	Thomasville
University of Georgia Libraries	Athens



Comment Opportunities

Individuals, agencies and groups are highly encouraged to attend the scheduled public meetings, and may submit written comments on the Draft EISs at any time through December 18, 1998.

Comments may be submitted in any of the following ways:

- Mail, fax or e-mail letters or written comments to the ACT or ACF EIS Project Manager listed on the back of this newsletter.
- Present written or oral comments at one of the five public meetings scheduled in November. (Public Comment Sheets will also be available at the public meetings.)
- Submit electronic comments using the Public Comment Sheet located on the ACT and ACF River Basin EISs Web Site (<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/sam/pd/actacfeis>).

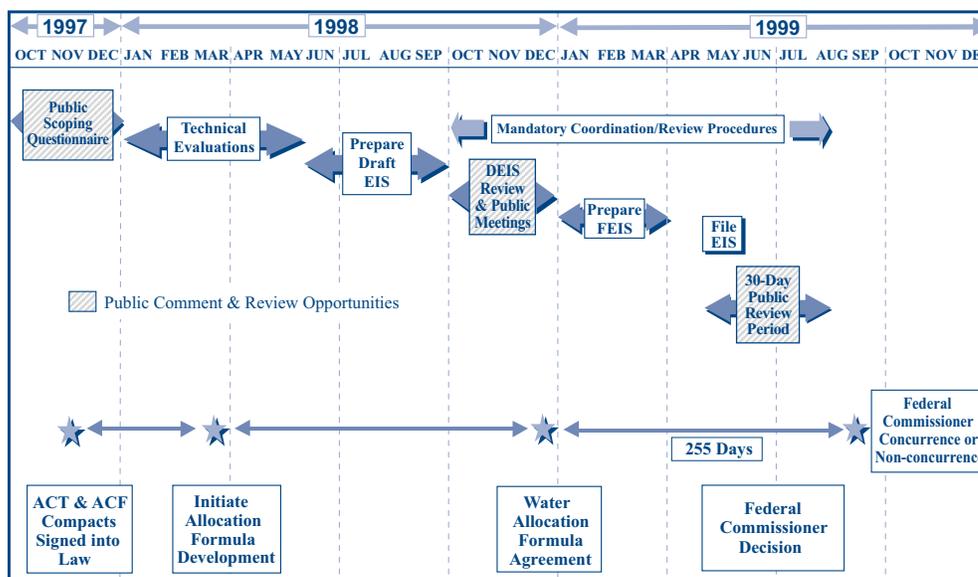
Programmatic Evaluation Framework for EISs

A programmatic EIS approach was selected to evaluate potential impacts of the water allocation formulas for each basin. Programmatic EISs allow for an evaluation of a broad range of potential impacts on human and environmental resources. This basinwide assessment of resources and potential impacts provides a solid baseline for future environmental evaluations of site-specific implementation plans or other management programs within the basins. Identification of site-specific impacts and associated mitigation actions can be refined during the follow-on individual environmental assessments or additional EISs, which may be necessary prior to implementation of an alternative allocation of water resources in the basin. The programmatic framework also evaluates the potential for future impacts through the year 2050, which allows for long-term planning within the basin.

Status and Final Schedule

The completion schedule for the programmatic EISs is controlled by the timelines legislated by the ACT and ACF River Basin Compacts. The State Commissioners of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia must agree on proposed water allocation formulas by December 31, 1998, unless there is a unanimous vote to extend the deadline. After unanimous approval of the water allocation formulas by the State Commissioners, the Federal Commissioner must submit a letter of concurrence or nonconcurrence within 255 days.

The EISs for each basin were initiated prior to agreement on the allocation formulas to allow sufficient time to gather data and complete technical evaluations, provide adequate public involvement opportunities, and allow sufficient time for a review of the document by the Federal Commissioner prior to a decision. Once there is agreement on the allocation formulas, further evaluations will be presented in the Final EISs, currently scheduled for late spring or summer of 1999.





Public Meeting Schedule

Public Meetings regarding the Draft EISs for both basins will be held in the following cities:

- **Anniston, Alabama: November 9, 1998**
Anniston City Meeting Center
Anniston Hall
17th and Noble Street, Anniston, Alabama
- **Montgomery, Alabama: November 10, 1998**
Montgomery Civic Center, Rooms A & B
300 Bibb St., Montgomery, Alabama
- **Tallahassee, Florida: November 17, 1998**
Tallahassee Civic Center
Room A3
505 W. Pensacola St., Tallahassee, Florida
- **Kennesaw, Georgia: November 18, 1998**
Kennesaw State University Gymnasium
“P” Building/Health and Physical
Education Building
1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, Georgia
- **Columbus, Georgia: November 19, 1998**
Columbus Convention and Trade Center
North Hall
801 Front Ave.
Columbus, Georgia

For information about the EISs or the public meetings, please contact:

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