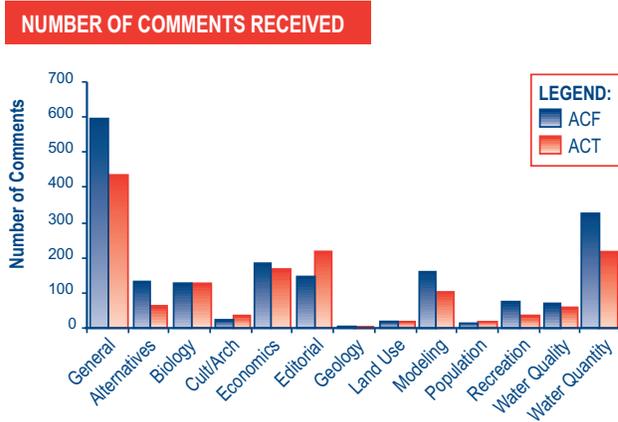




Summary of Comments on the DEISs (continued from page 1)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the cooperating Federal Agencies are currently reviewing these comments prior to completing the Final EISs. The majority of comments fell into one of 13 categories (see bar chart).



Programmatic Evaluation Framework for EISs

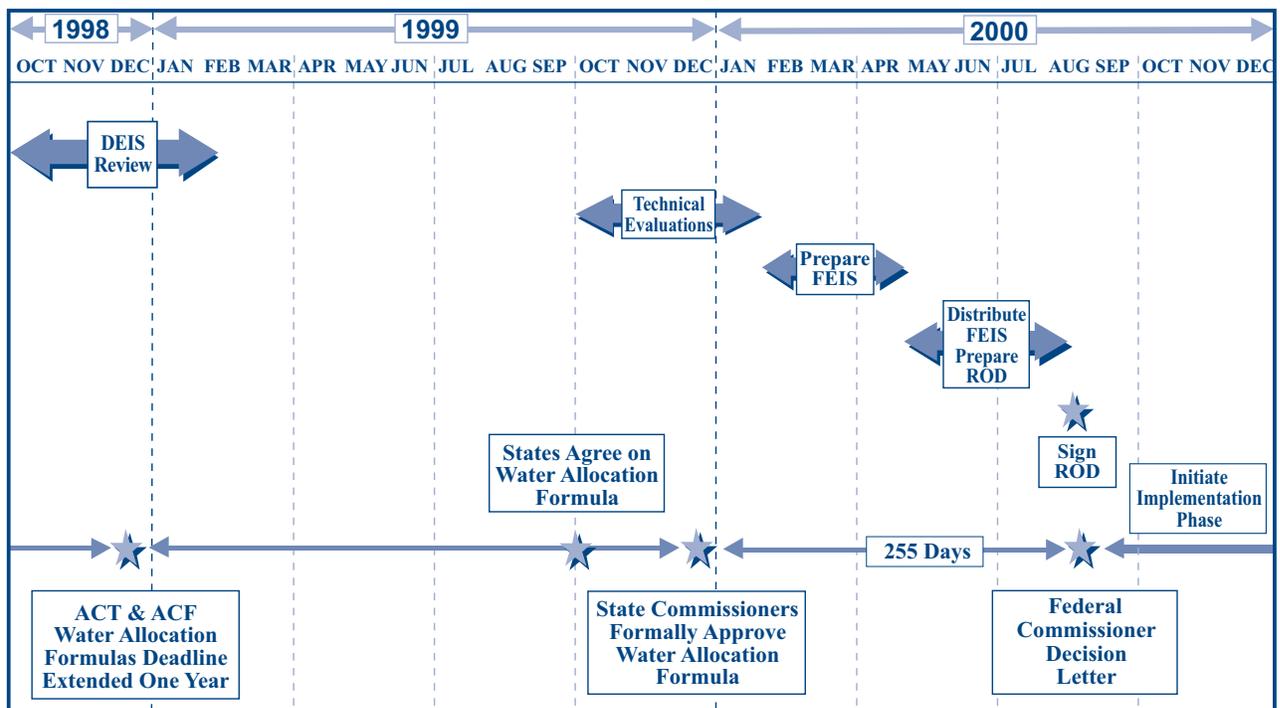
A programmatic EIS approach was selected to evaluate potential impacts for a range of possible water allocation formulas for each basin. Programmatic EISs allow for a broad assessment of impacts to be made before the detailed implementation plans for the allocation formulas are finalized. Therefore, the Draft EISs assessed the impacts of a range of potential flow conditions and lake elevations. It is possible that the allocation formulas agreed to by the States may be able to be implemented in a variety of ways. Therefore, the programmatic EIS approach allows for evaluation of a broad range of possible implementation scenarios. 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. The programmatic framework also evaluates the potential for future impacts through the year 2050, which will assist in long-term planning within the basins.

Revised Schedule for EISs

The EIS schedule has been extended by approximately one year with the Final EISs scheduled for publication in the spring of 2000. The extension to the EIS schedule is tied to the State Compact Commissioners' decision to extend the deadline for negotiation of allocation formulas by one year to December 31, 1999.

The schedule for completing the programmatic EISs is set by the ACT and ACF River Basin

Compacts. The compacts require that a decision be made by the Federal Commissioner to concur or not concur with the allocation formula negotiated by the State Commissioners within 255 days of a signed agreement among the three States. EISs are being prepared for each basin to assist the Federal Commissioner in making an informed decision, by describing potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a proposed formula. The revised schedule would allow for a decision by the Federal Commissioner in the summer of 2000.





Status of the Compact Negotiations

The Compact Commissions and Committee members have been holding meetings on a regular basis, which are open to the public. So far, each State has put forward a proposal for water allocation for negotiation purposes, but the States have not reached consensus on the final formulas for either the ACT or ACF basin. If the States do not agree on final formulas by the end of this year, it is possible that they may decide to further extend the deadline; otherwise the compacts would dissolve. If you wish to obtain additional information regarding the status of the allocation formula negotiations or the schedule of upcoming meetings, you are encouraged to contact your State Commission representative:

Alabama - Honorable James M. Campbell
1302 Noble Street, Suite 3H
Anniston, AL 36201

Alabama alternate - Mr. Richard E. Hanan
Post Office Drawer 231117
Montgomery, AL 36123-1117

Alabama alternate - Dr. Don C. Hines
HCR 7, Box 47-C
Troy, AL 36079

Alabama alternate - Mr. Walter B. Stevenson
Alabama Office of Water Resources
Alabama Dept. of Economic & Community Affairs
401 Adams Avenue. P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Florida - Mr. David B. Struhs

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Florida alternate- Mr. Douglas E. Barr

Northwest Florida Water Management District
Route 1, Box 3100
Havana, FL 32333-9700

Georgia - Mr. G. Robert Kerr

Pollution Prevention Assistance Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
7 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Suite 450
Atlanta, GA 30334

Georgia alternate - Mr. Harold F. Reheis

Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street NE, Floyd Towers East, Ste. 1152
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Federal Commissioner and an alternate have also been appointed to participate in the process:

Federal Commissioner - Mr. Lindsay Thomas

233 Peachtree Steet, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30303-1505
phone: 404-223-2281, fax: 404-880-3474

Alternate Federal Commissioner -

Mr. Pete Conroy

Ayers Hall Suite 216
700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL 36265-9982
phone: 256-782-5681, fax: 256-782-5817

Next Steps after the Final Allocation Formula is Established

After unanimous approval of the negotiated formulas by the State Commissioners, the Federal agencies will complete hydrologic models of the proposed allocation formula, including possible operation scenarios for implementing the formulas. In addition, a number of other models and assessments (e.g., water quality, economics, and environmental performance measures) will be completed for the proposed allocation formulas. The Final EISs will include an evaluation of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed allocation formula on each resource area. The Final EISs will also identify requirements for mitigation of adverse environmental impacts, identify future monitoring needs within the basin, and recommend additional studies or conditions for future implementation actions. The Federal Commissioner will use the information in the Final EISs to assist in making a decision whether or not to concur with the allocation formulas.

If the Federal Commissioner concurs with the allocation formulas, then the process moves into the implementation phase. During the implemen-

tation phase, various State and Federal agencies will determine whether changes need to be made in existing river basin operations or resource management activities to implement the formulas. Examples include:

- changes in water control plans which provide guidance on releases at Corps projects;
- reallocation of storage from Corps reservoirs from hydropower or flood control purposes to provide for additional water supply; and
- changes in project purposes.

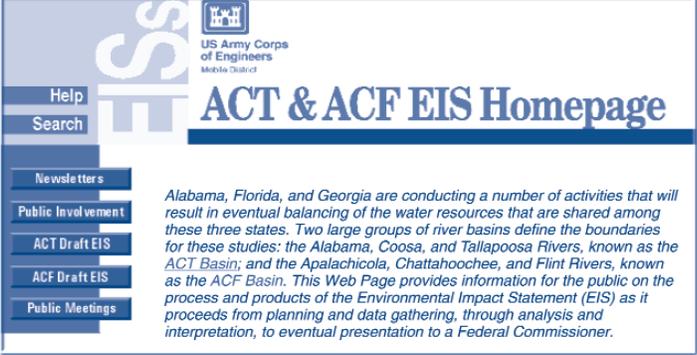
These implementation actions may take some time to study, and may require additional authorization or funding before they can be implemented. Before making any changes at specific locations, the Corps or other responsible agency would identify site-specific environmental impacts and any associated mitigation actions. This information would be addressed in the preparation of additional environmental assessments or supplemental EISs, which would include public involvement opportunities.



Web Site Reminder

Remember that the latest information and copies of the DEISs are available on the ACT/ACF website. The web site address is <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/sam/pd/actacfeis>.

Copies of the DEISs (hard copy and CD versions) are also available by contacting Michael J. Eubanks or Joanne U. Brandt.



For information about the EISs, please contact:

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