

Appendix C

Newsletter



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Mobile District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Water Control Manual Update for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

October 2008



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement for the Water Control Manual Update for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The Water Control Manual outlines regulation schedules such as operation criteria and guidelines and specifications for storage and releases from reservoirs. Many factors are considered to determine appropriate water management at all reservoirs and create a balance system among federally authorized project purposes, such as fish and wildlife, flood damage reduction, hydropower, navigation, recreation, water supply, and water quality.

An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared and will address current operations within the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin. It will also address any changes in authorized water management operations at the reservoir projects that might be warranted to better serve the authorized purposes.

Five public scoping meetings will be held in October. Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; federally recognized Indian tribes; other interested parties; and the public are invited to attend the meetings and to participate in the scoping process. Scoping meetings allow for open communication between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the public, thus promoting better analysis

and decision making while preparing the Environmental Impact Statement. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

- Monday October 20, 2008
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Franklin County Courthouse
33 Market Street
Apalachicola, FL 32320
(850) 653-8861
- Tuesday October 21, 2008
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Dothan Convention Center
4106 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36303
(334) 712-9808
- Wednesday October 22, 2008
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Callaway Center at West Georgia
Technical College
220 Fort Drive
LaGrange, GA 30240
(706) 756-4622
- Thursday October 23, 2008
4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Cobb County Government Civic
Center, Hudgins Hall
548 S Marietta Parkway, SE
Marietta, GA 30060
(770) 528-8450
- Wednesday, October 29, 2008
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Georgia Mountain Center
301 Main Street, SW
Gainesville, GA 30503
(770) 534-8420

How to Get Involved

The public can provide written comments in person at the scheduled public scoping meetings listed above. Comments can also be submitted online on our Web site at www.acf-wcm.com or by regular mail to:

Tetra Tech, Inc.
107 Saint Francis Street, Ste 1403
Mobile, AL 36602-9986

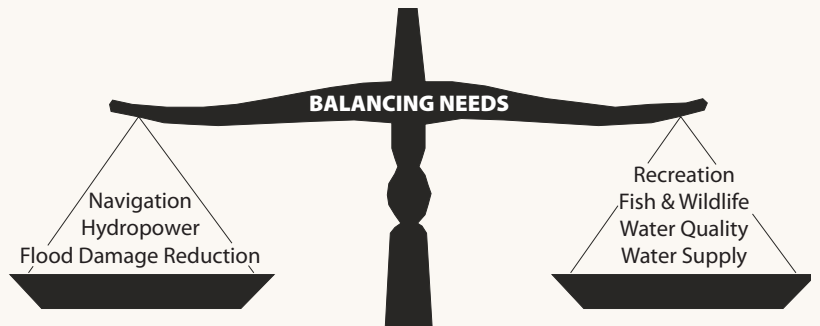
Tetra Tech, Inc., will be collecting all information for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. The deadline to submit scoping comments is November 21, 2008. Detailed information about the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin will be available on the Web site as well as detailed meeting information and descriptions of the scoping elements.

See above for dates and locations of public scoping meetings

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Water Control Manual Update for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia



Federally Authorized Project Purposes





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Mobile District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has published a Scoping Report for the EIS/Master Water Control Manual Update for the ACF River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

January 2009



During October 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps), Mobile District, conducted 5 public scoping meetings for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding implementation of an updated *Master Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin* (Master Manual) in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The meetings were held at the following locations:

- October 20, 2008—Apalachicola, FL
- October 21, 2008—Dothan, AL
- October 22, 2008—LaGrange, GA
- October 23, 2008—Marietta, GA
- October 29, 2008—Gainesville, GA

A total of 1,018 stakeholders participated in the 5 public scoping meetings. 2,269 comments from 643 individuals, organizations, and agencies and 2 petitions were submitted during the formal scoping period, which ended November 21, 2008. Comments were submitted to the Corps through all available options—U.S. Postal Service, email, Web site, fax, verbal transcription, or in person at one of the scoping meetings.

Comments received were categorized into 12 comment areas: Water Management Recommendations; Socioeconomics and Recreation; Biological Resources; Drought Operations; Water Quality; Water Supply; National Environmental Policy Act; Data, Studies, and Analytical Tools; Navigation; Hydropower; Flood Risk Management; and Other Resources. Some of the categories were further divided into subcategories to present the stakeholders' issues and recommendations more clearly.

To download the full scoping report, please visit the project website at www.acf-wcm.com/downloads. Completing the EIS and Master Manual update will take approximately three

years. A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Federal Register when the Draft EIS is available for public review (currently anticipated in spring 2010). Public meetings will also be held following publication of the NOA to solicit comments on the Draft EIS. Each comment and the corresponding response will be incorporated into the EIS. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are currently anticipated for publication in late 2011.

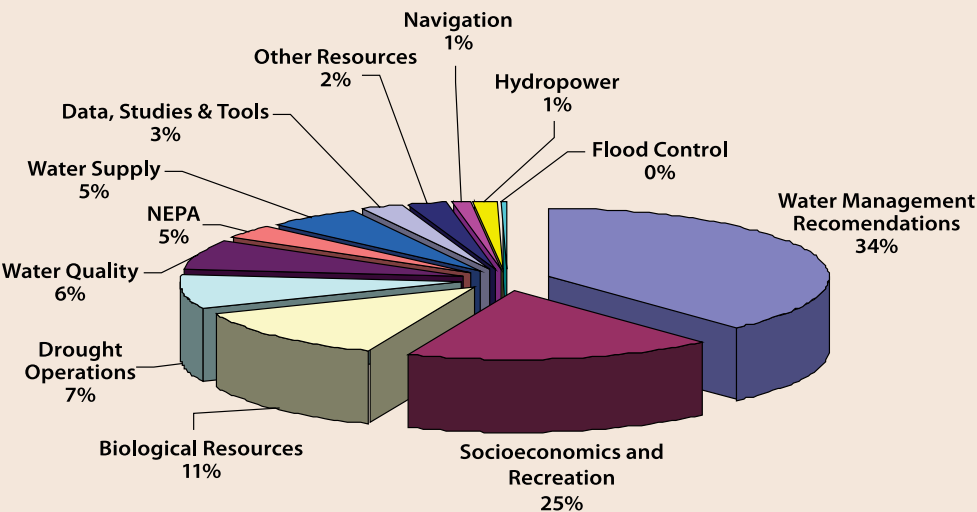
Issues identified during the scoping process

Issue	Number received
Water Management Recommendations	868
Socioeconomics and Recreation	404
Biological Resources	284
Drought Operations	191
Water Quality	155
Water Supply	117
National Environmental Policy Act	79
Data, Studies, and Analytical Tools	56
Other Resources	52
Navigation	28
Hydropower	26
Flood Risk Management	9

Throughout this process, the public can obtain information on the progress of the Master Manual update and the EIS at the project website (www.acf-wcm.com). Other specific questions may be directed to Mr. Brian Zettle, Mobile District, Environment and Resources Branch, Planning and Environmental Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628-0001; telephone (251) 690-2115; fax (251) 694-3815; or email brian.a.zettle@usace.army.mil.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has published a Scoping Report for the EIS/Master Water Control Manual Update for the ACF River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

Comments by Major Category





US Army Corps
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Mobile District

An Update on the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Updates to the Master Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin

July 2009



The purpose of this newsletter is to update interested stakeholders concerning developments associated with the preparation of updates to the Master Water Control Manual and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River basin.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Mobile District, has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement for the update of the Master Water Control Manual for the ACF River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. The ACF Master Water Control Manual serves as the Corps' roadmap for managing the ACF River Basin flows. Along with updating the Master Water Control Manual, the water control manual for each individual water resource project, which includes the reservoir specific water-control plans, will also be updated. Since the purpose for updating the Master Water Control Manual is to capture current operations of the basin, and current operations include water supply withdrawals from Lake Lanier, the update effort must also include a study to examine the possible reallocation of water storage at Lake Lanier. Accordingly, the Corps is also conducting a reallocation study for current water supply withdrawals at Lake Lanier. Based on the reallocation study's findings, the Corps will determine whether a reallocation of storage for water supply for current withdrawals is warranted. As a necessary component to a comprehensive ACF Master Water Control Manual, the reallocation study will be considered in the EIS as well.

The Corps held five scoping meetings in October of 2008, to solicit input from stakeholders throughout the basin regarding the range of issues to be considered in the EIS and to identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth. The Corps reviewed all of the comments submitted and published a Scoping Report in January 2009. The Scoping Report can

be found at www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/FinalScoping.htm.

After completing the Scoping Report, the Corps began development of the ACF Master Water Control Manual and accompanying EIS. The EIS will evaluate the impacts of any proposed management changes in the operation of Corps projects within the basin on hydropower, navigation, flood control, recreation, water quality, fish and wildlife conservation, threatened and endangered species, and other resources. Since many of the controversies associated with the ACF River Basin are currently subject to litigation, the Corps is prepared to adjust its plans for updates to the ACF Master Water Control Manual, reallocation study, and EIS in support of any judicial rulings that might be forthcoming.

During the scoping process, stakeholders suggested a variety of alternatives to the current operations at Federal projects throughout the basin. Some of these suggested operational changes, as well as, others developed by the Corps are currently undergoing modeling by the Corps' Hydrologic Engineering Center to determine their feasibility. Some of the measures being modeled include changes in the drawdown and refill periods for reservoirs and changes in action zones. Based on the outcomes of the modeling scenarios, the Corps will identify feasible alternatives for consideration in the EIS. Measures to be considered in the Master Water Control Manual update and in the EIS may include modified flow regimes for environmental purposes, current water withdrawals, and implementation of a basin-wide drought contingency plan.

The Corps will provide periodic newsletters to keep stakeholders informed of progress on the update to the Master Water Control Manual and EIS process. The information contained herein is for general informational purposes only and is subject to change.

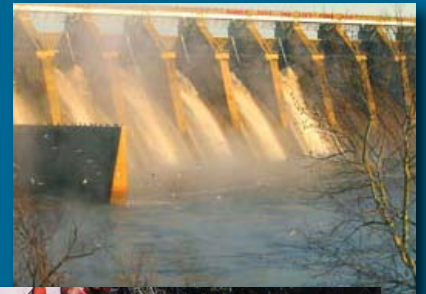
An Update on the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Updates to the Master Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin

Corps Support

To facilitate the update, support contracts have been awarded to TetraTech, Inc. for preparation of the EIS; Brockington and Associates for cultural resources surveys and support, the Corps' Hydrologic Engineering Center for water resource modeling, and the Corps' Hydropower Analysis Center for socioeconomic analysis of impacts of the recommended alternative to hydropower. Initial kickoff meetings with these contractors and Centers have been held and work is progressing.

Also, based upon stakeholder requests, the Corps contracted with the National Academies of Science Water Science and Technology Board (WSTB) to conduct a workshop to discuss a range of water science and planning issues associated with the ACF River Basin. The workshop was held on April 3, 2009 in Washington, D.C., and engaged a group of nearly 50 water resources experts, stakeholders, and political officials. The objective of the event was to identify the key management issues in the ACT-ACF River Basins, and to identify study topics and questions that might be pursued as a means to support better water management decisions. More information on the workshop and the WSTB's recommendations for further study can be found online at www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12693.

Visit www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm for the most recent updates on the project.



Tetra Tech, Inc.
107 St. Francis Street, Suite 1403
Mobile, Alabama 36602



US Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District

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**Notice of Intent to Revise Scope of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for
Updated Water Control Manuals for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin
to Account for Federal District Court Ruling**

Summary: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Mobile District, intends to revise the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the updated Water Control Manuals for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, to account for a July 17, 2009 federal court ruling. On July 17, 2009, Judge Paul A. Magnuson issued a memorandum and order in the case *In re Tri-State Water Rights Litigation* (M.D. Fla. No. 3:07-md-01), addressing the Corps' authority to provide water supply benefits through its operation of the Buford Dam/Lake Sidney Lanier project. The Corps solicits comments from interested persons regarding significant new information and circumstances introduced by the July 17, 2009, Order related to the scope of the EIS in connection with the updated water control manuals. Public comments will be considered in preparation of the Draft EIS and updated water control manuals.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register (73 FR 9780) on February 22, 2008. In January 2009, after considering public comments, the Corps published a Final Scoping Report, Environmental Impact Statement, Update of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin, in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, available at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/>. Any comments previously submitted will be reviewed and addressed in any scoping revisions. There is no need to resubmit comments previously provided during the 2008 scoping effort, unless in your opinion the above-cited district court decision necessitates additional comments from you.

Dates: The public comment period will commence with publication of this notice, and will end 45 days after its publication. This notice will also be distributed to those who commented during the original scoping period of October-December 2008. This distribution will occur by mail and/or e-mail on or about the date of this notice. No additional public scoping meetings are planned. Comments on the scope of the EIS, including concerns, issues, or proposed alternatives that should be considered in the EIS should be submitted in writing to (see **Addresses**) and will be accepted throughout the public comment period. Comments may also be submitted by using the electronic comment form at: http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/mail_list.htm#form.

Addresses: To facilitate the Master Water Control Manual update, a support contract has been awarded to Tetra Tech, Inc. for preparation of the EIS and additional scoping. Please mail written comments to Tetra Tech, Inc., 107 Saint Francis Street, Ste 1403, Mobile, AL 36602-9986.

For Further Information Contact: Questions about the manual update or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process should be directed to: Mr. Brian Zettle, Biologist, Environment and Resources Branch, Planning and Environmental Division, U.S. Army Engineer District-Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628-0001; Telephone (251) 690-2115; or delivered by electronic facsimile at (251) 694-3815; or email: brian.a.zettle@usace.army.mil. You may also request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of notices, meeting announcements and documents.

Supplementary Information: The Corps is updating the water control plans and manuals for the ACF Basin. This effort will include an updated Master Water Control Manual, containing plans for the coordinated operation of the five Federal reservoirs within the ACF basin as a system, and updated Water Control Manuals for each of those reservoirs, containing plans for the operation of those projects for their authorized purposes. Collectively, these documents may be referred to as the "water control plans and manuals," "water control manuals," or simply as the "Master Water Control Manual," which includes the project-specific water control manuals. The water control plans and manuals will contain drought plans and action zones to assist Federal water managers in knowing when to reduce or increase reservoir releases and conserve storage in the Federal reservoirs and how to ensure the safety of dams during atypical conditions such as droughts and floods. The draft EIS will assess environmental impacts associated with these updated operating criteria and guidelines.

On July 17, 2009, Judge Paul A. Magnuson issued a memorandum and order in the Tri-State Water Rights litigation available at http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/pdf/071709court_ruling.PDF. The court's ruling has introduced new information and circumstances that bear upon certain determinations reflected in the Corps' January 2009 Final Scoping Report, to the extent that those determinations included operating the Lake Lanier/Buford Dam project to support present or increased levels of municipal and industrial water supply withdrawals.

The court determined that the Corps has exceeded its authority under the project authorization and the Water Supply Act of 1958 by operating the Buford Dam/Lake Lanier project to accommodate present levels of withdrawals for water supply. The court's order states that "absent Congressional authorization or some other resolution of this dispute" within three years of July 17, 2009, "the operation of Buford Dam will return to the 'baseline' operation of the mid-1970s. Thus, the required off-peak flow will be 600 cfs [cubic feet per second] and only Gainesville and Buford will be allowed to withdraw water from the lake." The order states that until that time, "the parties may continue to operate at current water-supply levels but should not increase those withdrawals absent the agreement of all other parties to this matter."

As a result of this ruling, the Corps is revising the scope of the EIS and water control manual updates in the following respects:

- a. In updating the ACF water control plans and manuals, which are expected to be implemented in approximately three years, i.e., in 2012, the Corps will consider only operations that are within existing authority. The Corps had previously announced its intent to update the plans and manuals "to reflect current operations." Because the court has held that the Corps lacks authority to continue to support present levels of water supply withdrawals at Lake Lanier or to reallocate storage to accommodate those or additional withdrawals, and because the court has ordered that most withdrawals from Lake Lanier must cease in 2012, the Corps will update the plans and manuals for operating the Lake Lanier project in a manner that reflects the court's order. Thus, the Corps will not continue to accommodate the present level withdrawals beyond July 2012, nor will the Corps consider a reallocation of storage for water supply at Lake Lanier as part of the process for updating the ACF water control plans and manuals. Should the States and other interested parties to *In re Tri-State Water Rights Litigation* reach an agreement that involves reallocation of storage for water supply, the Corps would be prepared to submit that agreement to the Army and higher Executive Branch authorities for consideration and possible referral to Congress. Similarly, should Congress enact legislation authorizing additional water supply at Lake Lanier, the Corps would update its operations, plans and manuals accordingly.
- b. Pursuant to the court's order, as of July 17, 2012, the updated manuals will reflect that water supply withdrawals from Lake Lanier will be limited to the amounts authorized by relocation agreements with the Cities of Gainesville and Buford, Georgia. Those agreements, which were executed at the time of the reservoir's construction, authorized withdrawals of 8 million gallons per day (mgd) for Gainesville and 2 mgd for Buford, a combined 10 mgd.
- c. Pursuant to the court's order, as of July 17, 2012, the updated manuals will reflect that "the required off-peak flow will be 600 cfs at Buford Dam." Currently, peak hydropower demand at Buford Dam typically occurs on weekdays from 0500-0900 and 1500-2200 between October 1 and March 31, and on weekdays from 1300-1900 between April 1 and September 30. When the Corps is not generating hydropower to meet this peak demand, the Corps will not release more than 600 cfs from Buford Dam to support water supply withdrawals.

All other aspects described in the notice of intent published in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 9780) on February 22, 2008 remain the same. To satisfy its obligations under NEPA, the Corps will evaluate present circumstances as part of its EIS, while acknowledging that it currently lacks authority to continue to accommodate present levels of water supply at Lake Lanier beyond July 17, 2012.

Additional information on the ACF River Basin and the Master Water Control Manual Update process will be posted on the Mobile District Web page as it becomes available: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil>.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mobile District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Has Revised the Scoping Report for the EIS/Master Water Control Manual Update for the ACF River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

March 2010



In November 2009, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps), Mobile District, reopened public scoping for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding development and implementation of an updated *Master Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin* (Master Manual) in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

Public scoping was reopened in response to a July 17, 2009 Federal District Court ruling. To account for the Court's ruling, the Corps is revising the scope of the EIS and water control manual updates.

The comments received during both scoping periods (2008 and 2009) resulted in 2,503 comments from 643 individuals, organizations, and agencies. Comments were submitted to the Corps through all available options—U.S. Postal Service, email, Web site, fax, verbal transcription, and in person at one of the October 2008 scoping meetings.

Comments received were categorized into 12 comment areas: Water Management Recommendations; Socioeconomics and Recreation; Biological Resources; Drought Operations; Water Quality; Water Supply; National Environmental Policy Act; Data, Studies, and Analytical Tools; Navigation; Hydropower; Flood Risk Management; and Other Resources. Some of the categories were further divided into subcategories to present the stakeholders' issues and recommendations more clearly.

To download the full scoping report, please visit the project Web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/docs.htm.

Preparing the EIS and Master Manual is a three year process which began in 2009. A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Federal Register when the Draft EIS is available for public review (currently anticipated in summer

2011). Public meetings will also be held following publication of the NOA to solicit comments on the Draft EIS. Each comment and the corresponding response will be incorporated into the EIS. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are currently anticipated for publication in early 2012.

Comments Categorized by Segment

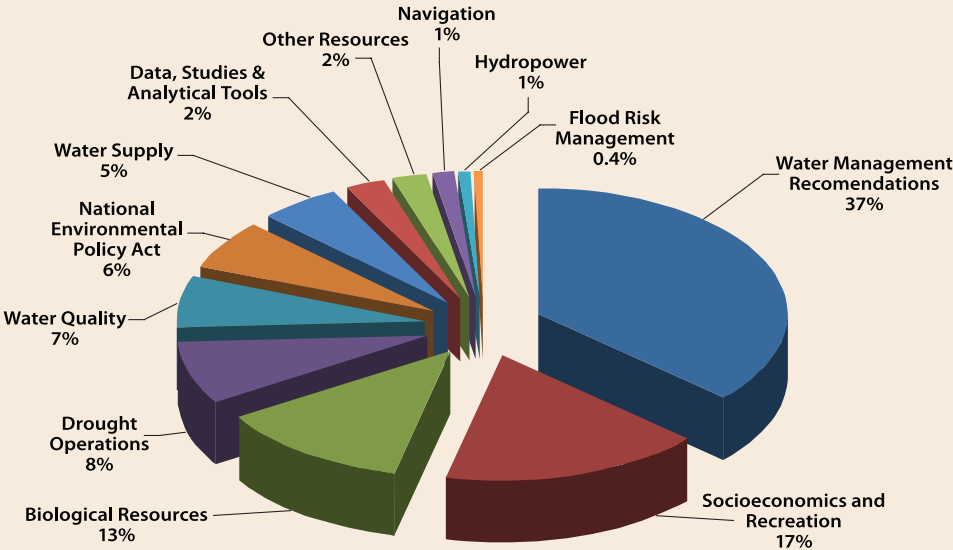
Category	Number of Comments
Water Management Recommendations	921
Socioeconomics and Recreation	418
Biological Resources	319
Drought Operations	196
Water Quality	167
National Environmental Policy Act	159
Water Supply	136
Data, Studies, and Analytical Tools	60
Other Resources	58
Navigation	32
Hydropower	26
Flood Risk Management	11
Total	2,503

Throughout this process, the public can obtain information on the progress of the Master Manual update and the EIS at the project website (www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/). Other specific questions may be directed to:

Mr. Brian Zettle, Mobile District Environment and Resources Branch Planning and Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628-0001;
telephone (251) 690-2115;
fax (251) 694-3815; or email brian.a.zettle@usace.army.mil

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Has Revised the Scoping Report for the EIS/Master Water Control Manual Update for the ACF River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

Comments Categorized by Segment

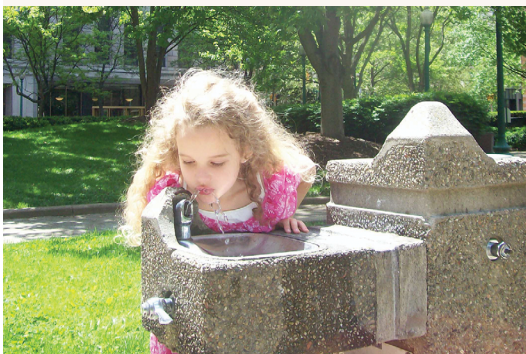




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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reopens Public Scoping for the Water Control Manual Update for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin

October 2012



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is resuming the process to update the Master Water Control Manual (WCM) for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin and to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) addressing the effects of the proposed manual updates to account for significant new information resulting from a June 28, 2011, ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. That ruling concluded that water supply is an authorized purpose for Buford Dam/Lake Sidney Lanier on the Chattahoochee River northeast of metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia.

Accordingly, on **October 12, 2012**, the Corps issued a *Federal Register* Notice of Intent (NOI) to reopen public scoping for 60 days. Interested parties can review a copy of the NOI online at www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/docs.htm and submit comments by email at ACF-WCM@usace.army.mil, online, or by regular mail at the address indicated below.

The June 2011 Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling (1) reversed a July 2009 Federal District Court decision that the Corps had exceeded its authority under the 1946 Buford Dam/Lake Sidney Lanier project authorization and the Water Supply Act of 1958 by operating the project to accommodate present levels of withdrawals for water supply for metro Atlanta, and (2) directed that the case be remanded back to the Corps to reconsider and make a final determination as to its legal authority

to operate Buford Dam/Lake Sidney Lanier to accommodate Georgia's water supply request made in 2000.

The Corps is updating the water control plans and manuals for the ACF Basin in order to improve operations for authorized purposes to reflect changed conditions since the manuals were last developed. The revised EIS will also consider, along with operations for all authorized purposes, an expanded range of water supply alternatives associated with the Buford Dam/Lake Lanier project, including current levels of water supply withdrawals and additional amounts that Georgia has requested from Lake Lanier and downstream at Atlanta.

In the scoping process, the Corps encourages agencies, organizations, and the public to participate in the Master WCM update/EIS process and solicits input from those interests to ensure that relevant technical information, potential environmental effects, and public concerns are identified and fully considered.

Throughout the scoping and subsequent WCM update and EIS development process, the public can obtain information on the progress of the project at the project website, www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/index.htm. A general timeline of the process is presented on the opposite page with point of contact information if you have additional questions.

How to Get Involved

Agencies, organizations, and members of the public can submit scoping comments by email at ACF-WCM@usace.army.mil, online at the project website, www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/form.htm, or by regular mail to

Tetra Tech, Inc.
61 St. Joseph Street, Suite 550
Mobile, AL 36602-3521

Tetra Tech, a Corps contractor, will be collecting all information for the Corps, Mobile District. The deadline to submit scoping comments is December 11, 2012. When the comment period has ended, the scoping comments will be compiled, categorized, and summarized, and a scoping report will be prepared and posted on the project website. Other detailed information about the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin will also be available on the website.

Corps Support

The information collected from agencies, organizations, and the public during the scoping process will be used to

- Identify significant issues and resource areas of concern
- Identify stakeholders to assist in the evaluation process
- Identify information sources and data gaps
- Identify and focus on the alternatives to be evaluated
- Identify the conditions for comparing the proposed action and alternatives
- Identify tools to help evaluate alternatives and analyze the impacts
- Identify areas of limited concern to ensure the evaluation focuses on major issues identified for analysis

Specific questions may be directed to

Mr. Brian Zettle
Environmental and Resources
Branch
Planning and Environmental
Division
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers, Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628-0001
Telephone (251) 690-2115
Fax (251) 694-3815
Email [brian.a.zettle@
usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.a.zettle@usace.army.mil)



Expected Timeline for the ACF Master Water Control Manual and EIS:

- October–December 2012
EIS Scoping Period
- December 2013–Spring 2014
Corps Technical Review Period for Preliminary Draft EIS
- Summer 2014
Draft EIS Filed with EPA/Public Comment Period Initiated
- Summer–Fall 2014
Public Comment Period
- Winter–Spring 2015
Final EIS Filed with EPA/Public Comment Period (30 days)
- Spring–Summer 2015
Record of Decision (ROD Signed)
- Summer–Fall 2015
Implement Updated
Master WCM

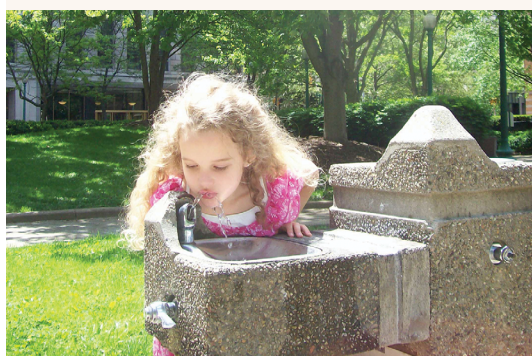
For the most recent updates on the project, visit www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/acf-wcm/index.htm.



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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Extends Public Scoping for the Water Control Manual Update for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin

December 2012

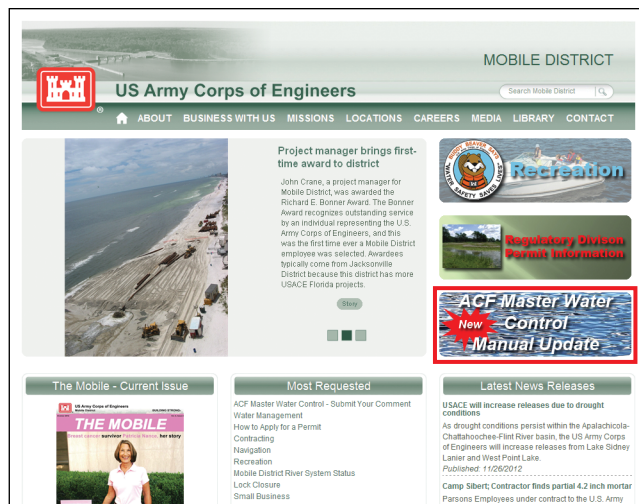


The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is extending the comment period for public scoping to January 14, 2013. We will be accepting public scoping comments through January 14, 2013 for the update to the Master Water Control Manual (WCM) for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (ACF) to account for significant new information resulting from a June 28, 2011, ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. The public scoping comments will be used to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) addressing the effects of the proposed manual updates. You can submit comments through January 14, 2013 by email at acf-wcm@usace.army.mil, online at www.sam.usace.army.mil or by regular mail at the address indicated below.

Remember, the USACE recently launched a newly designed and updated website that impacts previously provided website addresses regarding this subject. All the previously provided information, and

any new information, can now be found by visiting the Mobile District web page at www.sam.usace.army.mil and selecting the “ACF Master Water Control Manual Update” link on the right side of the page.

Throughout the scoping and subsequent WCM update and EIS development process, the public can obtain information on the progress of the project from the Mobile District Web page at www.sam.usace.army.mil and by clicking on links from any area on our Web page where “ACF Master Water Control Manual Update” is referenced.



How to Get Involved

Agencies, organizations, and members of the public can submit scoping comments by email at ACF-WCM@usace.army.mil, online at the project website, www.sam.usace.army.mil, or by regular mail to:

Tetra Tech, Inc.
61 St. Joseph Street, Suite 550
Mobile, AL 36602-3521

Tetra Tech, a USACE contractor, will be collecting all information for the USACE, Mobile District. The deadline to submit scoping comments is January 14, 2013. When the comment period has ended, the scoping comments will be compiled, categorized, and summarized, and a scoping report will be prepared and posted on the project website. Other detailed information about the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin will also be available on the website.

Corps Support

The information collected from agencies, organizations, and the public during the scoping process will be used to

- Identify significant issues and resource areas of concern
- Identify stakeholders to assist in the evaluation process
- Identify information sources and data gaps
- Identify and focus on the alternatives to be evaluated
- Identify the conditions for comparing the proposed action and alternatives
- Identify tools to help evaluate alternatives and analyze the impacts
- Identify areas of limited concern to ensure the evaluation focuses on major issues identified for analysis

Specific questions may be directed to

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Expected Timeline for the ACF Master Water Control Manual and EIS:

- October–January 2013
EIS Scoping Period
- December 2013–Spring 2014
Corps Technical Review Period for Preliminary Draft EIS
- Summer 2014
Draft EIS Filed with EPA/Public Comment Period Initiated
- Summer–Fall 2014
Public Comment Period
- Winter–Spring 2015
Final EIS Filed with EPA/Public Comment Period (30 days)
- Spring–Summer 2015
Record of Decision (ROD Signed)
- Summer–Fall 2015
Implement Updated Master WCM

For the most recent updates on the project, visit www.sam.usace.army.mil.