

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

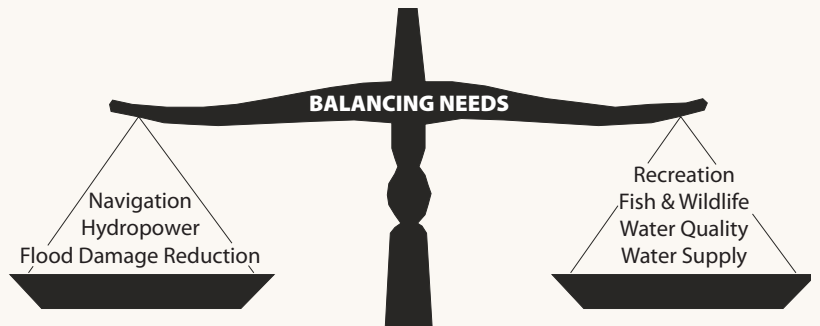
Tetra Tech, Inc., will be collecting all information for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. The deadline to submit scoping comments is November 21, 2008. Detailed information about the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin will be available on the Web site as well as detailed meeting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





US Army Corps
of Engineers®
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

