

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

INTEGRATED LETTER REPORT AND TIERED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS AND TARGETED WATER CONTROL PLAN UPDATES FOR THE APALACHICOLA-CHATTAHOOCHEE-FLINT RIVER BASIN ALABAMA, GEORGIA, FLORIDA EAXX-202-00-K5P-1727867613

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final *Integrated Letter Report and Tiered Environmental Assessment* [ILR/TEA] for the *Operational Analysis and Targeted Water Control Plan Updates for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia EAXX-202-00-K5P-1727867613* addresses four Flow Objectives proposed by the stay agreement between the State of Alabama; the Federal Defendants; the Atlanta Regional Commission, City of Atlanta, Georgia, Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority, DeKalb County, Forsyth County, Fulton County, City of Gainesville, Georgia, and Gwinnett County; and the State of Georgia in the pending appeal captioned *State of Alabama et al. v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, et al.*, Nos. 21-13104 and 21-13444 (11th Cir.) (Stay Agreement). The final recommendation is contained in the ILR/TEA, dated **23 December 2024**.

The Final ILR/TEA, incorporated herein by reference, address terms of the Stay Agreement to evaluate four Flow Objectives as one alternative compared to a "No Action Alternative". The Proposed Action is the Stay Agreement Alternative and includes:

1. an objective to maintain a minimum average daily flow of 1,350 cfs over any 7- day period at the gage located on the Chattahoochee River at 14th Street at Columbus, Georgia (Gage No. 02341460) when the ACF Basin is not in "Drought Zone Operations" as that term is defined in the 2017 ACF Master Manual;
2. an objective to maintain a minimum average weekday flow of 2,000 cfs at the gage located on the Chattahoochee River near Columbia, Alabama (Gage No. 02343801) when the ACF Basin is not in "Drought Zone Operations" as that term is defined in the 2017 ACF Master Manual;
3. an objective to maintain the minimum average flows at Columbus, Georgia and Columbia, Alabama described in items (1) and (2) above, on two days each calendar week starting each Monday when the ACF Basin is in "Drought Zone Operations" as that term is defined in the 2017 ACF Master Manual; and
4. an objective to maintain Lake Seminole at or above fill elevation of 76 feet NVGD in the same manner and to the same extent as provided in the 2017 ACF Master Manual, and in particular the following paragraphs from Appendix A, the Water Control Manual for Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam and Lake Seminole: Chapter III, subparagraph 3-03; Chapter VII, paragraphs 7-03, 7-05(a), 7-10, and 7-11; and Chapter VIII, Paragraph 8-11 b.

As the one proposed action in this study is the product of settlement negotiations, other than the "No Action Alternative" (NAA), no additional alternatives were considered. The NAA would be the continued operation of the ACF Master Manual, which is identified as Alternative 7K in the 2016 EIS.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. The Proposed Action would not affect the resources evaluated, or would have no more effect on the resource than the No Action Alternative as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Water Quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and Aquatic Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protected Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and Wildlife Management Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Power Generation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Flood Risk Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air quality and General Conformity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traffic and Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous and Toxic Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the Proposed Action.

Public review of the draft ILR/TEA and FONSI was completed on **19 November 2024**. All comments submitted during the public review period are responded to in the Final ILR/TEA Appendix J.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the Proposed Action has no more potential for an adverse effect than the No Action Alternative.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the Proposed Action would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

Jeremy J. Chapman, P.E.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander