



BIWEEKLY UPDATE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report

MOBILE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District (USACE) will release a biweekly update every other Wednesday, beginning Jan. 18, 2017, on the current status of the Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report (GRR). Each biweekly update will provide an overview of recent activities under the study, highlight upcoming milestones, and provide links to important changes on the project website.

Background: In June 2014, the Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) submitted a request to the USACE to consider increasing the depth and width of the Mobile Harbor Channel. The request asked USACE to enlarge the channel to dimensions authorized under Section 201 of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Under WRDA, the authorized dimensions for the majority of the harbor were set at 55 ft. deep and 550 ft. wide. Currently, the majority of the channel is 45 ft. deep and 400 ft. wide.

To determine the most economical and environmentally feasible dimensions for the channel, the USACE is conducting a feasibility study. The study began in late 2015 and is a four-year, \$7.8 million effort that is cost-shared with the ASPA. The results of the study will be documented in a GRR along with a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. If the GRR is approved by the USACE Headquarters, a Project Partnership Agreement will be executed between the ASPA (Sponsor) and the USACE prior to implementation.

Current Updates: The study has been progressing steadily with data collection and computer model development and preparation. A study of this magnitude requires a thorough analysis of all economic and environmental factors to determine if the project can be recommended. Some of the areas being studied are commodity and fleet forecasts; HarborSym model analysis; ship simulation; hydrodynamic modeling; sediment transport analysis; wave and vessel impact analysis; water quality modeling; bathymetry survey; archaeological/cultural resource evaluation; disposal/beneficial use analysis; sediment testing; vertical ship motion analysis; habitat impact assessment; and mitigation evaluation.

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Public Involvement: As the study progresses, there are several ways to stay connected with the project. Throughout the process we will host a series of public meetings and workshops. The first public workshop is slated for March 16 with the time and location still to be determined. As soon as additional details on the March public workshop become available the USACE will publish them on social media and the project website.

In addition to the biweekly updates, we will also release a quarterly bulletin beginning in February 2017. To receive a copy of the quarterly bulletin, please sign up for the project *Listserve* at: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/>.

We will continue to accept public comments on the study that will be added to the official record for the project. To comment on the project send an email to: MobileHarborGRR@usace.army.mil

Note: All comments will be addressed at the appropriate time during the study.

For more information on the study visit the project website at: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/>

GRR Document Library: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Mobile-Harbor-GRR-Downloads/>

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Frequently-Asked-Questions/>.