



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

CESAM-PD-EC

18 January 2020

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
MOBILE DISTRICT**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FOR THE
BAYOU CASOTTE HARBOR CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District announces the availability of the Bayou Casotte Harbor Channel Improvement Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Jackson County, Mississippi. A copy of the FEIS is located at the following website: <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Environmental/Environmental-Impact-Statements/>. The document is being circulated to Federal and state agencies for a 30-day comment period.

The FEIS analyzes the potential environmental consequences of improvements to the Pascagoula Harbor's Lower Pascagoula and Bayou Casotte Channels and associated future operations and maintenance (O&M). The proposed action recommends widening the navigation channel 100 feet to the west for approximately 7.3 miles in length along with constructing a bend easing north of Horn Island Pass. The northern portion of the Horn Island Pass Channel would be widened as necessary to facilitate (ease) the transition between the two channel segments. Disposal operations consist of placing dredged material within the Pascagoula Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) and/or the Littoral Zone Placement Area. Approximately 3.4 million cubic yards (cys) of dredged material would be removed from the navigation channel as part of the improvements project. Approximately 125,000 cys of dredged material would be placed within the Littoral Zone Placement Area located east and south of Horn Island while approximately 3.3 million cys of dredged material would be placed within the Pascagoula ODMDS south of Horn Island. Future O&M dredged material would be placed within several areas including existing open-water disposal areas adjacent to the channel, the Littoral Zone Placement Area, and/or the Pascagoula ODMDS.

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Under the authority of Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 33 U.S.C. 2232, as amended), USACE conducted a study to evaluate the engineering and design, economic justification, and environmental acceptability of widening the Lower Pascagoula and Bayou Casotte Channels. Section 204(a) of WRDA 1986 authorizes the non-Federal sponsor to undertake navigational improvements; Section 204(b) authorizes USACE to undertake all necessary studies and engineering for construction and provide technical assistance in obtaining necessary permits; and Section 204(f) directs the Government to assume responsibility for maintenance of such improvements, if the following occurs: (1) prior to construction of the improvements the Secretary determines the improvements are economically justified, environmentally acceptable and are consistent with the purposes of Title II of WRDA 1986; (2) the Secretary certifies that the project is constructed in accordance with applicable permits and appropriate engineering and design standards; and (3) the Secretary does not find the project or element is no longer economically justified or environmentally acceptable. If the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works approves the Section 204 report, including Federal assumption of maintenance, then the construction of the improvement project would be funded 100% by the non-Federal sponsor and the future O&M would be undertaken by USACE as part of its routine maintenance efforts.

Comments can be submitted through a variety of methods. Written comments may be submitted to USACE by mail, facsimile, or electronic methods until February 18, 2020. Correspondence concerning this Notice of Availability should be directed to the U.S. Army Engineer District Mobile, Commander, Postal Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: CESAM-PD-EC. For additional information please contact Ms. Jennifer Jacobson by email at jennifer.l.jacobson@usace.army.mil or by phone at (251) 690-2724.

Sincerely,



TODD A. NETTLES
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District