



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

**CESAM-PD-EI**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. FP20-EF01-07**

**May 15, 2020**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT  
AND  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY,  
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL**

**LITTLE BROWN CREEK DREDGING  
ITAWAMBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**A FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECT**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District proposes to dredge portions of Little Brown Creek to restore connectivity to Big Brown Creek.

This public notice is issued in accordance with rules and regulations published in the Federal Register on April 26, 1988. These regulations provide for the review of dredging programs for federally authorized projects under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) whenever dredged or fill materials may enter waters of the United States.

The recipient of this notice is specifically requested to review the proposed action as it may impact water quality relative to the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Comments on any other potential impacts also are requested.

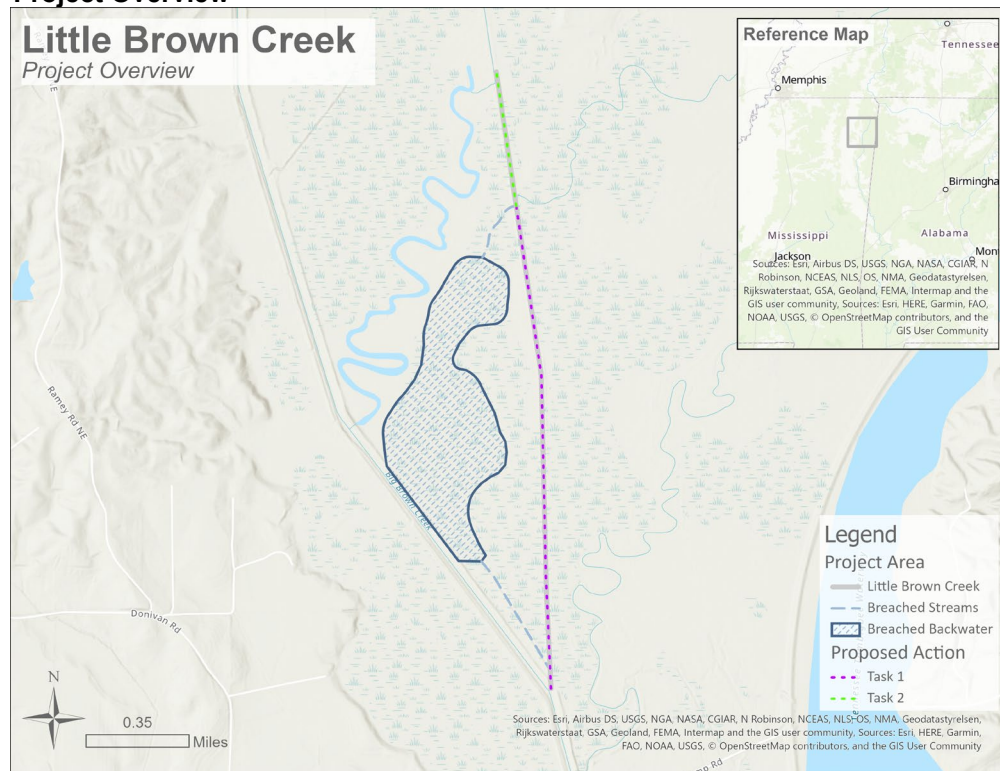
**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The proposed action site is along Little Brown Creek located in Itawamba County, Mississippi. Approximately three miles southeast of Marietta, Mississippi. Little Brown Creek is a tributary of Big Brown Creek which at its confluence with Mackeys Creek forms the Tombigbee River, historically known as the East Fork until its confluence with the West Fork near Bigbee, Mississippi.

**DESCRIPTION OF ENTIRE AUTHORIZED PROJECT:** Historically channelized by local drainage districts to allow more bottomland acreage to be farmed, Little Brown Creek and Big Brown Creek were created between 1910 and 1930 along with several other tributaries to the East Fork of the Tombigbee River. Section 2 of the Flood Control Act dated August 28, 1937 authorized the Federal government to improve the lower reaches several previously channelized tributaries including Little Brown Creek and Big Brown Creek. These channels were again improved for flood control in the

1960s under the authority of the Flood Control Act of July 3, 1958. The work was completed in March 1971 and transferred to local interest for maintenance.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** Task 1, as shown in Figure 1, would involve the use of an excavator at the downstream end to mechanically dredge the creek, advancing upstream. Dredged material would be placed on an existing disposal berm and runoff would be maintained using silt fencing and hay bales. Approximately 7,100 linear feet and 50,500 cubic yards of material would be dredged to maximum depth of 6 feet with a 1:2 bank slope. Current channel capacity in this section is estimated to be 100% silted in. Any minor breaches would be repaired using filter fabric and no more than 300 tons of class III stone. Task 2, as shown in Figure 1, would involve mechanically dredging 2,000 linear feet totaling approximately 14,200 cubic yards of material to depths not exceeding 6 feet. Dredged material would be placed on an existing disposal berm and runoff would be maintained using silt fencing and hay bales. The current capacity in this section is estimated to be approximately 50-70% silted in. At the northern most end of the creek on USACE property, a grade control structure would be installed to prevent the potential of “head-cutting.” Best Management Practices would be utilized to reduce environmental impacts. All riprap material would be cleaned from sediments and contaminants prior to fill activity; therefore, the proposed action would have no significant adverse impacts to water quality.

Figure 1: Project Overview



**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, state water quality certification is required for the proposed activities. A decision on state water quality certification will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control after completion of the comment period of this public notice.

**USE BY OTHERS:** The proposed project may have a temporary negative impact on local hunting activities due to construction noise disturbances; however these impacts will be minor cumulatively and individually. Any direct or indirect impacts will revert to preconstruction conditions upon project completion.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) CONSIDERATIONS:** The proposed dredging is evaluated under an Environmental Assessment (EA) which is publicly available at USACE, Mobile District Planning Division website: <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Environmental/Environmental-Assessments/>. The proposed action is authorized as Operations and Maintenance of the project.

**SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION REPORT:** Water quality impacts associated with placing fill material into waters of the United States as a result of the proposed work has been addressed in a preliminary Section 404 (b)(1) Evaluation Report. This report was prepared in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) under Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The preliminary evaluation report is available for review at the Mobile District's website at <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Environmental/Environmental-Assessments/>, and will be finalized upon completion of the coordination of this notice.

**CULTURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:** A search of the National Register of Historic Places indicated the nearest listed resource located approximately 16 miles southwest of the project area. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized tribes is ongoing and will be included in the Final EA.

**ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES:** USACE determined that the proposed action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*). Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is ongoing and will be included in the Final EA.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to proceed with the proposed action will be based on evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern

for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be reasonably expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, recreation, water quality, safety, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Inasmuch as the proposed work would involve the discharge of materials into waters of the United States, designation of the proposed disposal site associated with this Federal project is being made through application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the EPA in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of the proposed disposal site, any potential impairment of the authorized project purposes which would result from the failure to use the disposal site, will also be considered.

**COORDINATION:** USACE, Mobile District is soliciting comments from the general public; Federal, State, and local agencies, and officials; American Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be used by USACE, Mobile District to determine whether or not to proceed with the proposed action. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest in the proposed activity and in preparing an EA and/or an EIS pursuant to the NEPA compliance.

Among the agencies receiving copies of the Public Notice are:

- Region IV, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer
- Federally Recognized Tribes

We request that you communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person who may be affected by the discharge of this fill material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this public notice. The request must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

**CORRESPONDENCE**: Correspondence concerning this 30-day public notice should refer to **Public Notice No. FP20-EF01-07** and should be directed to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Attention: CESAM-PD-EI, Ms. Heather Bulger, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628. Copies of comments should also be forwarded to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Permits Division, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261. Ms. Heather Bulger may be contacted at telephone number (251) 694-3889 or email address [heather.p.bulger@usace.army.mil](mailto:heather.p.bulger@usace.army.mil) for additional information.

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Division