



# BIWEEKLY UPDATE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release:  
October 4, 2017

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## Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report

**MOBILE, Ala.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (USACE), releases a biweekly update every other Wednesday on the current status of the Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report (GRR). Each update provides an overview of recent activities under the study, highlights upcoming milestones, and provides links to important changes on the project website. Please note that the last Biweekly Update was on September 6, 2017.

### Current Updates:

- **Public Involvement:** On September 14, 2017, USACE held a public meeting at the Bayou La Batre Community Center. About 90 members of the public attended and members of the project team were available with graphical displays to explain the various ongoing studies they are conducting and to answer questions related to the proposed project and provide an update on the proposed project's status and recent milestones, and to receive the public's comments and concerns related to potential impacts associated with the project. A focus group meeting was held in the Africatown community to gather information that will be used in the development of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- **Plan Formulation:** Based on preliminary costs and benefits developed thus far and coordinated within our vertical chain, the team has identified modified channel dimensions that will be considered for our **initial** impact analysis and form the basis for our plan selection. The initial depth will be 50 feet with a five-mile widener of 500 feet located in the lower bay.
- **Environmental:** Initial analysis of the benthic and fish samples collected last fall have been completed. Initial maps depicting the baseline for the wetlands, sea grasses, and oyster beds are complete. The initial salinity and other pertinent water quality tolerances for the aquatic resources of concern have been evaluated. Outputs from the modeling efforts are being applied to compare baseline with the future without project and future with project conditions. Collection of air emissions information has begun as part of the Air Quality evaluation.
- **Economic:** The economic analysis of deepening the ship channel optimized at a 51 foot depth, however the study is moving forward with further analysis, particularly impact analysis, on 50 feet of channel depth. The economic analysis for channel widening for

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passing is underway. We have added to our economic analysis benefits that are expected from the projected traffic increase resulting from the development of the new Walmart distribution center.

- **Engineering:** The modeling team is in the process of performing hydrodynamic and salinity modeling. The 2010 time period is being simulated for both with project (i.e. deepening, passing lane, bend easing and turning basin expansion) and without project conditions to include a 0.5 meter rise in sea level.

**Public Involvement:** As the study progresses, interested parties have several avenues in which they can receive updates on the project. Throughout the process, the Mobile District will host a series of public meetings and engagements. We will announce the dates, times and locations of future public engagements in news releases, on the project website, by Listserve, social media, biweekly updates and quarterly bulletins.

**Listserves:** If you wish to receive regular updates on the study, please sign up for the project Listserve at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-ProjectManagement/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/>

**Public Comment:** The Mobile District will continue to accept public comments on the study that will be added to the official record.

**Comment by Email:**  
[MobileHarborGRR@usace.army.mil](mailto:MobileHarborGRR@usace.army.mil).

**Comment by U.S. Mail:**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
ATTN: PD-F  
P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628

**Comment by Public Meeting:**  
Dates, Times and Locations to be determined for future meetings

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

**To download the spring 2017 Mobile Harbor GRR Quarterly Newsletter visit:**  
<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Quarterly-Newsletter/>

**To download the latest Public Involvement Strategy (PIMS) or other documents associated with the project visit the GRR Document library:**  
<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Mobile-Harbor-GRR-Downloads/>

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

**For answers to Frequently Asked Questions visit:**

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