

Harbor. Channel deepening and widening alternatives were evaluated as well as the No Action/Future Without Project Alternative. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the USACE developed the draft GRR/EA to examine and assess the impacts of the project alternatives and determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would have not have significant impacts.

This study was authorized by Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Pub. L. 91-611), which authorizes the review of completed federal projects in the interest of navigation and related purposes to determine the feasibility of further port deepening.

**DATES:** The Draft GRR/EA is available for a 30-day review period. Written comments, pursuant to the NEPA, will be accepted until the close of public review at the close of business on December 10, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments or questions from the public may be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, ATTN: Ms. Kimberly Koelsch, Planning Branch, Environmental Analysis Section (CENAO-WR-PE), Norfolk, VA 23510 or via email to [kimberly.c.koelsch@usace.army.mil](mailto:kimberly.c.koelsch@usace.army.mil).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Kimberly Koelsch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, VA 23510, 757-201-7837 or via email at [kimberly.c.koelsch@usace.army.mil](mailto:kimberly.c.koelsch@usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The document is available at the following locations:

(1) USACE Norfolk Harbor and Channels Deepening Project Web site: <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/Norfolk-Harbor-Channel-Deepening/>.

(2) Slover Public Library, 235 East Plume Street, Norfolk, VA 23510.

(3) Copies may also be requested in writing at (see **ADDRESSES**).

**Proposed Action.** The Study Area is located in Hampton Roads, a 25 square-mile natural harbor serving port facilities in the cities of Norfolk, Newport News, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Hampton in southeastern Virginia. The study area consists of a network of federally-improved channels extending from Atlantic Ocean Channel to Lamberts Bend (on the Elizabeth River). The project has not been constructed, nor is it maintained, to its authorized depth.

The Action Alternative consists of constructing and maintaining the following features:

- Deepening the Atlantic Ocean Channel to a required depth of approximately 59 feet.
- Deepening the Thimble Shoal Channel to a required depth of approximately 56 feet.
- Widening the Thimble Shoal Channel Meeting Areas (one on each side of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel) to approximately 1,200 feet (an additional 200 feet from current conditions) and deepening where necessary to a required depth of 56 feet.
- Deepening Anchorage F to a required depth of approximately 55 feet.
- Deepening the Norfolk Harbor Channel to a required depth of approximately 55 feet.
- Deepening the Newport News Channel to a required depth of approximately 55 feet.
- Associated Operations and Maintenance Activities.

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would have the potential to impact water quality, benthic resources, cultural resources, floodplains, federally listed threatened and endangered species, marine mammals, and other natural resources. The Proposed Action must be located in a floodplain in order to use the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area (CIDMMA) as a dredged material placement site. The Proposed Action will adhere to the 8-step process as outlined under Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management.

**Alternatives.** The Draft GRR/EA considers a reasonable range of widening and deepening alternatives in the project channels, meetings areas, and anchorages to meet the proposed action's purpose and need. It also incorporates measures to avoid and minimize impacts to threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife species, estuarine and marine habitat, and other resources. In response to problems and opportunities, a range of alternatives was evaluated through an iterative screening and formulation process, resulting in identification of a Preferred Alternative.

**Public Involvement.** On September 22, 2015, a Notice of Intent to publish an EA was published, along with information on a NEPA public scoping meeting on September 25, 2015. A **Federal Register** Notice was also published to announce the initiation of the feasibility study and also the public NEPA scoping meeting. As part of the public involvement process, all affected federal, Commonwealth of Virginia, and local agencies, private organizations, and the public were invited to the

Public Scoping Meeting on September 25, 2017 in Norfolk, VA.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir Project, Fannin County, TX

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Tulsa District has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the construction of the proposed Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir (LBCR) and related actions proposed by the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) in Fannin County, Texas. The Proposed Action is a regional water supply project intended to provide up to 175,000 acre-feet/year (AFY), with an estimated firm yield of 120,665 AFY, of new water for NTMWD's member cities and direct customers in all or portions of nine counties in northern Texas—Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Rains, and Rockwall. Construction of the reservoir and related facilities would result in permanent impacts to approximately 5,874 acres of wetlands, 651,140 linear feet of streams, and 78 acres of open waters. This action requires authorization from the USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Section 404 permit applicant is the NTMWD.

**DATES:** The FEIS will be used to inform the final USACE decision on this proposal. In accordance with the NEPA regulations, a final decision will not be made before December 9, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, if any, regarding the FEIS must be submitted by December 9, 2017, to Mr. Andrew R. Commer, Regulatory Office Chief, USACE Tulsa District (CESWT-RO), 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290, or via email: [ceswt-ro@usace.army.mil](mailto:ceswt-ro@usace.army.mil). Comments submitted by email must include "FEIS Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir" in the subject line.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Andrew R. Commer, USACE Tulsa

District, Regulatory Office at 918-669-7400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FEIS was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the USACE regulations for NEPA implementation (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 230 and 325 (with associated Appendices B and C)). The USACE Tulsa District, Regulatory Office is the lead federal agency responsible for the FEIS and information contained in the EIS will serve as the basis for a decision whether or not to issue a Section 404 permit. All comments received on the Revised Draft EIS (RDEIS), to include the Draft EIS (DEIS) comments not specifically addressed in the RDEIS, are reflected and responses are provided in the accompanying Comment Categories and Responses Document. It also provides information for Federal, State, and local agencies having jurisdictional responsibility for affected resources.

The USACE has determined that the basic project purpose in the present case is to develop a new water supply for the applicant NTMWD and its member cities and customers.

The purpose of the FEIS is to provide decision-makers and the public with information pertaining to the Proposed Action and Alternatives, and to disclose environmental impacts and identify mitigation measures to reduce impacts. NTMWD proposes to build the LBCR with a total storage capacity of approximately 367,609 acre-feet. A dam approximately 10,400 feet (about 2 miles) long and up to 90 feet high would be constructed, and much of the reservoir footprint would be cleared of trees and built structures. NTMWD also proposes to construct several related facilities or connected actions. These include a raw water intake pump station and electrical substation at the reservoir site, as well as a 90 to 96-inch diameter buried pipeline to carry raw water from the new reservoir approximately 35 miles in a southwesterly direction. The raw water pipeline will connect to a new water treatment plant (WTP)—the “North WTP”—and terminal storage reservoir (TSR) that would be located west of the City of Leonard, also in Fannin County, Texas. The North WTP and TSR will be constructed regardless of whether NTMWD receives a Section 404 permit to proceed with the Proposed Action; the North WTP and TSR are not part of the Proposed Action. A number of rural roads within the footprint and in the vicinity of the proposed reservoir would have to be closed or relocated; the most significant

of these is FM 1396, which would be relocated to cross the reservoir in a different alignment on an entirely new bridge that would need to be constructed.

An aquatic resources mitigation plan has been prepared by the applicant to comply with the federal policy of “no overall net loss of wetlands” and to provide compensatory mitigation, to the extent practicable, for impacts to other waters of the United States that would be impacted by construction of the proposed reservoir. NTMWD has purchased a 14,960-acre parcel of land known as the Riverby Ranch, which borders the Red River. This working ranch is located downstream of the proposed project within both the same watershed (Bois d’Arc Creek) and the same county (Fannin). NTMWD acquired the Riverby Ranch specifically because its biophysical features have the potential to provide a portion of the appropriate mitigation for the proposed project. Additional mitigation is proposed within a 1,900-acre upstream site and within the proposed reservoir itself. Though not part of the proposed mitigation plan, Bois d’Arc Creek downstream of the reservoir will receive environmental flow releases as a result of an operations plan and flow regime established in consultation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and stipulated in the Water Rights Permit issued by TCEQ to NTMWD.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department participated as cooperating agencies in the formulation of the FEIS.

On December 8, 2009, the USACE held a NEPA EIS public scoping meeting in Bonham, Texas. On March 24, 2015, the USACE held a public meeting during the comment period on the previous DEIS. On March 27, 2017, the USACE published the availability of the RDEIS in response to comments received on the DEIS. The revision and publication of this FEIS is informed by public and agency comment on the original DEIS and RDEIS and changes have been made to address commented issues. No public meeting is planned during this comment period. Copies of the FEIS will be available for review at the USACE Tulsa District Office, the permit applicant’s office in Wylie Texas, and at four locations in the project area in Fannin County, Texas, addresses of each as follows.

1. Bonham Public Library, 305 East 5th Street, Bonham, TX 75418; (903) 583-3128.

2. Sam Rayburn Library, 800 West Sam Rayburn Drive, Bonham, TX 75418; (903) 583-2455.

3. Bertha Voyer Memorial Library, 500 6th Street, Honey Grove, TX 75446; (903) 378-2206.

4. Leonard Public Library, 102 South Main Street, Leonard, TX 75452; (903) 587-2391.

5. North Texas Municipal Water District headquarters, 505 East Brown Street, Wylie, TX 75098.

6. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, Regulatory Office, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137-4290.

Electronic copies of the FEIS may be obtained from the USACE Tulsa District, Regulatory Office or its Web site at <http://www.swt.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Tulsa-District-Environmental-Impact-Statements/>.

**Edward M. Parisotto,**

*Acting Chief, Regulatory Office, Tulsa District.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-9036-1]

### Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

*Responsible Agency:* Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7146 or <http://www2.epa.gov/nepa/>.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)  
Filed 10/30/2017 Through 11/03/2017  
Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

### Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA’s comment letters on EISs are available at: <https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-nepa-public/action/eis/search>.

*EIS No. 20170220, Draft, NSF, WV, Green Bank Observatory, Comment Period Ends: 01/08/2018, Contact: Elizabeth Pentecost (703) 292-4907.*  
*EIS No. 20170221, Draft, USFS, CA, San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project, Comment Period Ends: 12/26/2017, Contact: Chinling Chen (626) 574-5255.*

Dated: November 6, 2017.

**Kelly Knight,**

*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*

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