

Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development; and

- If the proposal was included in the Annual Report table in a previous Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development, then the proposal is not eligible to be included in the Annual Report table. If a proposal was previously included in an appendix it may be re-submitted.

5. If authorized, could be carried out by the USACE.

- Whether following the USACE Chief's Report process or Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014, a proposal for a project or a project modification would need a current decision document to provide updated information on the scope of the potential project and demonstrate a clear Federal interest. This determination would include an assessment of whether the proposal is:

- Technically sound, economically viable and environmentally acceptable.
- Compliant with environmental and other laws including but not limited to National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Compliant with statutes and regulations related to water resources development including various water resources provisions related to the authorized cost of projects, level of detail, separable elements, fish and wildlife mitigation, project justification, matters to be addressed in planning, and the 1958 Water Supply Act.

Feasibility study proposals submitted by non-Federal interests are for the study only. If Congressional authorization of a feasibility study results from inclusion in the Annual Report, it is anticipated that such authorization would be for the study, not for construction. Once a decision document is completed in accordance with Executive Branch policies and procedures, the Secretary will determine whether to recommend the project for authorization.

All water resources development projects must meet certain requirements before proceeding to construction. These requirements include: (1) That the project is authorized for construction by Congress; (2) that the Secretary, or other appropriate official, has approved a current decision document; and, (3) that the funds for project construction have been appropriated and are available.

Section 902 of WRDA 1986 establishes a maximum authorized cost for projects (902 limit). A Post

Authorization Change Report (PACR) is required to be completed to support potential modifications, updates to project costs, and an increase to the 902 limit. Authority to undertake a 902 study is inherent in the project authority, so no authority is required to proceed with the study. Since these PACRs support project modifications, they may be considered for inclusion in the Annual Report if a report's recommendation requires Congressional authorization.

The Secretary shall include in the Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development a certification stating that each feasibility report, proposed feasibility study, and proposed modification to an authorized water resources development project or feasibility study included in the Annual Report meets the criteria established in Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014.

Please contact the appropriate district office or use the contact information above for assistance in researching and identifying existing authorizations and existing USACE decision documents. Those proposals that do not meet the criteria will be included in an appendix table included in the Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development. Proposals in the appendix table will include a description of why those proposals did not meet the criteria.

Dated: April 13, 2018.

**James C. Dalton,**

*Director of Civil Works.*

[FR Doc. 2018-08292 Filed 4-19-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3720-58-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Dam Safety Modification Study Report for Center Hill Dam, DeKalb County, Tennessee

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (USACE) is preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support the Dam Safety Modification Study Report (DSMSR) for Center Hill Dam. The study would evaluate the main dam spillway gate operability, the saddle dam fuse plug operation, and spillway additions

to the new Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) berm structure at the saddle dam, all for the purpose of lowering risk at Center Hill Dam, DeKalb County, Tennessee.

**DATES:** Comments regarding the NOI must be received by USACE within 30 days of publication of the NOI on or before May 20, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** USACE-Nashville District, 110 9th Avenue South, RM 405A, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-3817.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please direct your comments to Joy Broach, Aquatic Biologist, (615) 736-7956; email: [joy.i.broach@usace.army.mil](mailto:joy.i.broach@usace.army.mil). Written comments can be mailed to the address above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. Background Information.** Center Hill Dam was designed in the 1930s, constructed in the 1940s, and impounded in the early 1950s. The dam was built on karst geology using accepted engineering practices of the day. Center Hill Dam consists of a 248' high by 1,400' long combination earthen embankment and concrete main dam, and a 125' high by 800' long earthen embankment auxiliary dam referred to as the saddle dam. The main dam has eight 34' x 57' spillway gates that rotate upward to safely pass flow during and after large rainfall events. To comply with updated design flood guidance, a self-eroding fuse plug section was retrofitted into the top of the saddle dam in 1992 to serve as an emergency spillway. The fuse plug operation almost doubles Center Hill's total spillway capacity to keep the main dam from overtopping during an extreme flood event. A Dam Safety Modification Study to reduce the risk of a foundation seepage dam failure was approved in late 2006 and consisted of three major construction contracts beginning in 2008. The first contract injected concrete grout into the foundation of the main dam embankment (soil portion of the dam) and was completed in 2010. The second contract installed a concrete barrier wall into the main dam embankment and was completed in 2015. This concrete barrier wall is the permanent seepage barrier protection for the main dam embankment. The third major contract for construction of a Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) berm below the saddle dam began in September 2016 and is on-going. The purpose of the RCC berm is to reduce the risk of saddle dam failure caused by under-seepage or overtopping during an extreme flood event. A Post Implementation Evaluation (PIE) was completed in 2017 to assess the effectiveness of the above construction

efforts to reduce the risk of dam failure. During the PIE, additional risk issues were noted concerning the 70-year old main dam spillway gates. Electrical, mechanical and structural operability issues affect the reliability of controlled spillway releases. If the spillway gates do not reliably operate during an extreme flood event, the reservoir would raise and potentially result in a premature fuse plug operation. The fuse plug is designed to discharge approximately 400,000 cubic feet per second within 30 minutes. The consequences of premature discharge of an enormous volume of flood water are estimated to be above the Corps of Engineer's tolerable risk limit. The draft EIS would address the findings of the PIE and assess effectiveness of potential alternatives to further reduce risk and increase dam safety. The dam seepage repair construction contracts noted previously, have increased dam safety and were covered under previous NEPA documents.

2. *Potential Alternatives.* The draft EIS would address an array of alternatives that could reduce the risk of life loss, extensive downstream damage, functional loss of the project, and the loss of project benefits. The nature and extent of the alternatives would be determined based on the results of on-going engineering studies, public and agency input during the scoping period, and preparation of the draft EIS. Alternatives, either individually or in combination, that have potential to affect structures or operations of the dam may include the following:

- a. Replacement of the current gate machinery with hydraulic machinery that can operate under water;
- b. Addition of equipment to the current spillway gates to keep them open if the operating machinery is underwater;
- c. Modification of the spillway gates or gate machinery to allow operation from the top of the dam;
- d. Relocation of the gate operating machinery to the road level, which would require raising or relocating Highway 96 which currently crosses over the dam;
- e. Removal of the existing fuse plug at the saddle dam and installation of spillway additions on top of the newly constructed RCC Berm to discharge flood water down the valley;
- f. Modification of the emergency operations plan in the water control manual that determines how to manage floods at Center Hill Dam; and
- g. Other alternatives as identified by on-going engineering studies, the public, and agencies.

3. *Issues To Be Addressed.* USACE is evaluating ways of raising, modifying, and/or replacing existing spillway gates and operating equipment to address spillway gate reliability for all range of possible flood events, especially large and more extreme flood events. The DSMSR and draft EIS would evaluate the Center Hill Dam Water Control Manual emergency operating procedures and potential alternative spillway options to determine if changes are warranted to minimize overall dam safety risk. The draft EIS would include, but is not limited to identification and evaluation of effects to aquatic and terrestrial habitats, cultural resources, state and federally listed species, socioeconomics, public safety, structures, hydrology and hydraulics, recreation, water supply, water quality, flood storage, hydropower production, land use, visual and aesthetic resources, and dam safety risk reduction at Center Hill Dam as a result of the proposed alternatives.

4. *Public Involvement and Scoping.* This NOI serves as the initial step to involve Federal and state agencies, Indian Tribes, local governments, and the public in an early and transparent process in accordance with NEPA requirements. The draft EIS would address impacts to the human environment due to the proposed alternatives. Concerns would be identified based on public and agency input during the scoping process and during preparation of the draft EIS. All interested parties are encouraged to submit their name and email address to the address noted above, to be placed on the project mailing list to receive fact sheets, newsletters and related public notices. All interested parties are invited to identify issues that should be addressed in the draft EIS. A scoping meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2018 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at The Buffalo Valley Community Center, 2717 Buffalo Valley School Road, Buffalo Valley, Tennessee. The purpose of the public scoping meeting is to present information to the public regarding potential alternatives that would be addressed in the draft EIS, receive public comments, and to solicit input regarding dam safety concerns, alternatives to consider, and environmental or social issues of concern to the public.

6. *Availability of the Draft EIS.* USACE intends to circulate the draft EIS in the late 2018/early 2019 time frame. USACE will announce availability of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register** and other media, and will provide interested parties an opportunity to submit

comments to be addressed in the final EIS.

Dated: April 13, 2018.

**Angela E. Dunn,**

*Project Planning Branch Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District.*

[FR Doc. 2018–08291 Filed 4–19–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3720–58–P**

---

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Bonneville Power Administration

#### Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Record of Decision (ROD).

---

**SUMMARY:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has decided to implement the Proposed Action as described in the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS–0522, November 27, 2017). Under the Proposed Action, BPA will fund the construction and operation of the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery (MRS Hatchery) in the Yakima Basin in central Washington. Operation of the MRS Hatchery will involve production of up to 700,000 coho salmon for release in the Yakima River and its subbasin, the Naches River. The hatchery will be owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) and will be constructed on land owned by the Yakama Nation northwest of Ellensburg in Kittitas County, Washington.

**ADDRESSES:** This ROD will be available to all interested parties and affected persons and agencies. It is being sent to all stakeholders who requested a copy. Copies of the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery, Yakima Basin Coho Project Draft and Final EISs and additional copies of this ROD are available from BPA's Public Information Center, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208. Copies of these documents may also be obtained by using BPA's nationwide toll-free document request line: 1–800–622–4520, or by accessing the project website at [www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery](http://www.bpa.gov/goto/MelvinSampsonHatchery).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Dave Goodman, Bonneville Power Administration—ECF–4, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon, 97208–3621; toll-free telephone number 1–800–622–4519; fax number 503–230–5699; or email [jdgoodman@bpa.gov](mailto:jdgoodman@bpa.gov).