

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the proposed study and DEIS can be answered by the Project Manager, Ronald G. Jansen, P.E., telephone number (816) 983-3258, Formulation Section, Planning Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 700 Federal Building, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. The Kansas City District (KCD), Corps of Engineers, is undertaking a Flood Damage Reduction Study, to update and verify data on the existing level of flood protection, of the Kansas Citys, Missouri and Kansas, Local Flood Protection Project, to determine if any increases in protection are warranted, under the authority of section 216 of the 1970 Flood Control Act.

2. The Kansas Citys, Missouri and Kansas, Local Flood Protection Project is an existing flood damage reduction project which provides local flood protection for the metropolitan areas of Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas. The project is comprised of 7 existing levee units: Argentine Levee Unit located in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas; Armourdale Levee Unit located in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas; Birmingham Levee Unit located in Kansas City, Clay County, Missouri; Central Industrial District (CID) Levee Unit located in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas and Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri; East Bottoms Levee Unit located in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri; Fairfax-Jersey Creek Levee Unit located in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas; and the North Kansas City Levee Unit located in Kansas City and North Kansas City, Clay County, Missouri. The project extends over the lower 9.5 miles of the Kansas River and on the Missouri River from 6.5 miles upstream to 9.5 miles downstream. The existing project consists principally of levees, floodwalls, bridge and approach alterations, and channel modification and alteration. The project provides protection to a 32-square-mile area of heavily urbanized floodplain at the confluence of the two rivers.

3. KCD's study will evaluate the no action alternative as well as various structural and non-structural alternatives to determine:

- a. Flood damage reduction costs and benefits;
- b. regional social and economic impacts; and,
- c. environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

Reasonable alternatives KCD will examine include the feasibility of various structural and non-structural

measures to reduce flood damage within areas protected by the existing Kansas Citys, Missouri and Kansas, Local Flood Protection Project. Structural alternatives will involve minor increases in height of the existing levee to protect, in most instances, existing urban development.

4. Scoping Process.

a. A public workshop will be held at Kansas City in Spring 2001. The exact date, time, and location of the workshop will be announced when the details are finalized. Additional workshops will be held as the study progresses to keep the public informed. Coordination meetings will be held as needed with affected/ concerned local, State, and Federal governmental entities.

These workshops and meetings, as well as any meetings which were previously held regarding this project, will serve as the collective scoping process for preparation of the DEIS. No formal "scoping" meeting will be held.

Draft documents forthcoming from the study will be distributed to Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as interested members of the general public, for review and comment.

b. Significant issues to be analyzed in depth include evaluations of:

- (1) level of flood protection provided by the existing flood protection project;
- (2) costs and benefits associated with alternatives that increase the flood protection level of the existing flood protection project,
- (3) impacts to fish and wildlife resources,
- (4) recreation,
- (5) cultural resources,
- (6) navigation and
- (7) water supply.

c. Environmental consultation and review will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as per regulations of the Council of Environmental Quality (Code of Federal Regulations parts 40 CFR 1500-1508), and other applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines.

5. The anticipated date of availability of the DEIS for public review is August 2002.

John A. Hall,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-769 Filed 1-9-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of Army; Corps of Engineers**

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Proposed Green Book Flood Control Project, Upper Portion of the Green Brook SubBasin of the Raritan River Basin Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, State of New Jersey

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New York District, announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA and the Department of the Army, USACE Procedures for Implementing NEPA of New Jersey. Flood protection methods for the three study areas of the Green Brook Sub-basin; the Upper Portion, the Lower Portion and the Stony Brook Portion; were previously evaluated in the USACE 1980 Environmental Impact Statement and the USACE May 1997 Final General Reevaluation Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Action within the Upper Portion of the Sub-basin was deferred until this time based on a degree of public concern regarding previously proposed flood control plans for the Upper Portion. The USACE has initiated a Reformulation Study to evaluate reasonable solutions to flooding problems in the Upper Portion previously identified in the May 1977 GRR. In accordance with USACE policies, the Reformulation Study will evaluate a range of alternatives including nonstructural measures, channel modifications, flood control tunnels, surface diversions, and detention structures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and draft EIS can be answered by Ms. Megan B. Grubb, (212) 264-5759, U.S. Army Engineer District, New York Planning Division, Attn: CENAN-PL-EA, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278-0090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Green Book Sub-basin of the Raritan River Basin has been subject to frequently severe and sometimes

devastating flooding from storms ranging from local thunderstorms to tropical storms. After devastating flood events in 1971 and 1973, a basin wide flood protection study was initiated. The basin wide study led to the development of the USACE 1980 Feasibility Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Flood Control, Green Brook Sub-basin. These USACE documents evaluated flood control plans for three areas of the basin, Lower Portion, Upper Portion and Stony Brook Portion. The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 "adopted and authorized to be prosecuted by the Secretary (of the Army) * * *" Plan A of the 1980 Feasibility Study, which provided basin-wide flood protection with a 500-year level of protection. The USACE prepared a May 1997 Final General Reevaluation Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) [Federal Register: October 9, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 196)] which affirmed that the authorization remained appropriate for the Green Brook Sub-basin based on current problems, needs, and planning and design criteria. During the public coordination process for the May SEIS, concern was expressed over potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed plan in the Upper Portion of the basin. As a result, the USACE and the project's local sponsor agreed to proceed with construction in the Lower and Stony Brook Portions of the basin, but to defer action on the Upper Portion of the basin. The USACE has initiated a Reformulation Study to evaluate reasonable solutions to flooding problems in the Upper Portion previously identified in the May 1997 GRR. In accordance with USACE policies, the Reformulation Study will evaluate a range of alternatives including nonstructural measures, channel modifications, flood control tunnels, surface diversions, and detention structures.

EIS Scope

The intended EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed flood control alternatives for the Upper Portion of the Green Brook Sub-basin of the Raritan River Basin, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties, State of New Jersey.

Public Involvement

The USACE intends to schedule an interagency meeting in February 2001 to discuss the scope of the EIS and data gaps. Two public scoping meetings are anticipated to be scheduled in March

2001. Scoping documents will be made available at least one month before scheduled public scoping meeting dates at the following locations:

Berkley Heights Public Library, 290 Plainfield Avenue, Berkley Heights, New Jersey.

Fanwood Public Library, North Avenue and Tilloston road, Fanwood, New Jersey.

North Plainfield Library, 6 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

Plainfield Public Library, 8th and Park Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey.

Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

South Plainfield Public Library, 2840 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Watchung Public Library, 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey.

The public will have an opportunity to provide written and oral comments at the public scoping meetings. Public scoping meeting places, dates and times will be advertised in advance in local newspapers, and meeting announcement letters will be sent to interested parties. Written comments may also be submitted via mail and should be directed to Ms. Megan B. Grubb at the address listed above in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. The USACE plans to issue the draft EIS in the Spring of 2002. The USACE will announce availability of the draft in the **Federal Register** and other media, and will provide the public, organizations, and agencies with an opportunity submit comments, which will be addressed in the final EIS.

John A. Hall,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs,

Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Acting Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: January 4, 2001.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Undersecretary

Type of Review: New.

Title: Evaluation of the Partnership Grants Program of Title II of the Higher Education Act.

Frequency: Annually, biennially.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden

Responses: 697; *Burden Hours:* 954.

Abstract: The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the impact, strengths and weaknesses of the Partnership Grants Program, one of the three programs authorized in Title II of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. This program is designed primarily to increase collaboration between schools of arts and sciences