

allocation formulas. The EISs may also serve as supporting documents for future decisions related to the management of the basins.

e. The completion schedule for these EISs is coordinated with the legislated timelines mandated by the compact agreements.

The State Commissioners must agree on proposed allocation formulas by December 31, 1998, unless they agree on an extension. Following approval of an allocation formula by the State Commissioners, the Federal Commissioner must make a concurrence decision within 255 days thereafter. This timeline specified in the pending compacts warrants immediate commencement of the EISs, even though the allocation formulas have not yet been developed. The initial EIS work will include completion of field studies, gathering of environmental, socioeconomic and hydrologic baseline information. The public involvement process will be initiated as well.

f. The EISs will display the range of flows experienced by current water management operations, compared to a foreseeable range of reasonable alternative flows which may result from proposed allocation formulas. The alternative ranges of flows, along with the associated environmental impacts, will create the framework upon which the allocation formulas may be evaluated. Further NEPA analysis and other documentation will be prepared, as necessary, to address proposed actions that may become apparent under the allocation formulas or compacts, if the actions are not addressed by these EISs.

3. Cooperating Agencies

The lead responsibility for these EISs rests with the Corps. Federal cooperating agencies include:

Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, Geological Survey, and National Park Service; Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service and Forest Service; Department of Commerce's National Ocean Service and National Marine Fisheries Service; Department of Energy's Southeastern Power Administration; and Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. Each of the cooperating Federal agencies will provide their expertise in compiling information and evaluating potential impacts.

4. Scoping

a. The ACT/ACF Comprehensive Study involved the States, stakeholders and the public in identifying areas of

concern; collecting and developing water resource, environmental, and socioeconomic data; and developing tools to assist in decisions affecting an equitable allocation of water resources within the two basins. Scoping for these EISs will continue to build upon the knowledge and information developed during the Comprehensive Study. Additional meetings with agencies and stakeholders groups will continue to identify significant issues and data gaps, and focus on the alternatives to be evaluated.

b. A significant component of the scoping process will be development and distribution of a Scoping Brochure/Questionnaire, and review of responses to the questionnaire. The Scoping Brochure/Questionnaire invites comments and participation in the scoping process by the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; affected Indian tribes; and other interested parties.

c. An Internet Web Page has been established, to provide for public access to information related to the ACT and ACF Water Allocation Formulas development and the EIS evaluation process. The Scoping Brochure/Questionnaire, in addition to mail distribution, is located on the Web Page, and allows for receipt of public comments at any point during the NEPA process. Current information on the associated Comprehensive Basin Study results or Interstate Compact developments will also be presented on the Web Page.

5. Environmental Review and Consultation Requirements

Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be accomplished in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Coordination required by other laws and regulations will also be conducted.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare Draft Supplement II to a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Proposed Construction of a Water Supply Reservoir on Sugar Creek in Williamson and Johnson Counties, IL

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Engineer District, Louisville Corps of Engineers is initiating the preparation of Draft Supplement II to a Final EIS for a regulatory permit application from the City of Marion, IL. The proposed action by the City of Marion is the construction of a water supply reservoir on Sugar Creek in Williamson and Johnson Counties, Illinois. The Draft Supplement II will address combinations of alternative actions, including separable alternatives, to provide water to the City of Marion, IL and Lake of Egypt Water District from various sources in southern Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions or comments concerning the preparation of this Draft Supplement II to the Final EIS should be addressed to Mr. Terry Siemsen, U.S. Army Engineer District, Louisville, Corps of Engineers, CELRL-PD-R, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, Kentucky 40201-0059 or phone (502) 582-5550.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Louisville District prepared a Draft and Final EIS (Final EIS completed July 1995) for this permit application as well as a Draft and Final Supplement I to the Final EIS (Final Supplement I completed May 1996). A Record of Decision was prepared and a Department of the Army permit was issued (July 1996) to the City of Marion for placement of material in Sugar Creek as part of the construction of their proposed water supply reservoir.

The Department of the Army permit was contested in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois and the issuance of the permit was upheld (December 1996). The Department of the Army permit was vacated, however, by order of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals on July 14, 1997. The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals indicated that alternatives of supplying the water needs of the City of Marion, IL and Lake of Egypt Water District from separate sources were not sufficiently described in the completed Final EIS and Final Supplement I to the Final EIS.

The City of Marion has reinstated their application for a Department of the Army permit that will be needed to construct the proposed water supply reservoir. Because of the request by the City of Marion, the Draft Supplement II to the Final EIS will be prepared and will address separate water source options.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Corps of Engineers; Department of the Army

Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western Branch, Patuxent River, Water Resources Feasibility Study in Prince George's County, Maryland and Hold a Public Scoping Workshop

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is initiating the Western Branch, Patuxent River, Water Resources Feasibility Study. The riparian and aquatic environmental integrity of the Western Branch watershed has been severely degraded by urbanization, inadequate infrastructure and industrial encroachment. Potential environmental restoration of streambanks, wetlands and forest buffers could restore riparian and aquatic habitat, improve water quality through habitat restoration, restore stream channel stability, and reduce erosion and sedimentation. An EIS will be integrated into the feasibility study to document existing conditions, project actions, and project effects and products. Prince George's County and the Maryland Department of the Environment are the non-Federal sponsors for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be addressed to Ms. Michele A. Bistany, Study Manager, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CENAB-PL-P, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, telephone (410) 962-4934, E-mail address:

michele.a.bistany@usace.army.mil

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Patuxent River Water Resources Reconnaissance Study was authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives, adopted 28 September 1994.

2. The area proposed for environmental restoration is known as the Western Branch, Patuxent River watershed. The most significant problems in the Western Branch watershed are the loss of aquatic and riparian habitat and the instability of the streambeds and channels. This excessive degradation includes: rapid stormwater flows that cause streambank erosion and sedimentation, encroachment of development which limits riparian habitat and wetlands, and polluted runoff which contributes to poor water quality. These factors negatively impact the present aquatic and riparian environment and will continue to cause further degradation in the future.

3. On 24 July 1997, the Baltimore District and Prince George's County executed a feasibility cost-sharing agreement to prepare a study on the Western Branch watershed. This watershed study is being conducted to investigate the feasibility of restoring habitat and the environmental integrity of the watershed. The purpose of this study is to better define problems within the watershed including sedimentation and erosion, reduction of aquatic and riparian habitat, and degradation of wetland habitat and to determine solutions to these problems. The goal of this study is to improve the aquatic and riparian ecosystem, and reduce sedimentation and erosion within the Western Branch watershed. To achieve this goal, the Corps will further define the problems, needs, and opportunities in the watershed; analyze and forecast environmental resource conditions; formulate, evaluate, and compare alternative concept plans for numerous sites within the watershed; develop detailed designs and costs for the selected concepts; and recommend a cost effective overall plan for the watershed.

4. Throughout the feasibility study, potential restoration sites within the watershed will be identified, evaluated, and selected. To achieve the proposed watershed restoration, the alternatives to be evaluated will include stabilization of eroding stream channels, creation and enhancement of wetlands, restoration of floodplains, construction of or improvements to stormwater detention ponds, and construction of

fish passage structures. Fish habitat structures would also be installed, if necessary, to restore aquatic habitat and provide added cover for spawning. Stream restoration alternatives may include stabilization techniques, such as plantings, and placement of geotextile tubes or natural materials.

5. The decision to implement these actions will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activities on the public interest, reflecting the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable costs. The Baltimore District is preparing an EIS that will describe the impacts of the proposed projects on environmental and cultural resources in the study area and the overall public interest. The EIS will be in accordance with NEPA and will document all factors that may be relevant to the proposal, including the cumulative effects thereof. Among these factors are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural and historic values, fish and wildlife values, threatened and endangered species, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, air quality, hazardous and toxic substances, safety, and the general needs and welfare of the people. If applicable, the EIS will also apply guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-217).

6. The public involvement program will include public workshops, meetings, and other coordination with interested private individuals and organizations, as well as with concerned Federal, state and local agencies. Coordination letters and newsletters have been sent to appropriate agencies, organizations, and individuals on an extensive mailing list. Additional public information will be provided through print media, mailings, and radio and television announcements.

7. In addition to the Corps, Prince George's County, and the Maryland Department of the Environment, other participants that will be involved in the study and EIS process include the following: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Geological Survey; National Marine Fisheries Service; Natural Resource Conservation Service; and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Baltimore District invites potentially