

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:

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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

affected Federal, state, and local agencies, and other organizations and entities to participate in this study.

8. A public scoping workshop will be held on 6 November 1997 from 7–9 p.m. at Largo High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit public concerns and comments on the study area and the study process.

9. The DEIS is tentatively scheduled to be available for public review in July of 1999.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of an Additional Public Hearing In Manteo, NC for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Realignment of F/A–18 Aircraft and Operational Functions from Naval Air Station (NAS) Cecil Field, Florida to Other East Coast Installations

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), the Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to evaluate the realignment of F/A–18 aircraft and operational functions from Naval Air Station (NAS) Cecil Field, Florida to other Navy and Marine Corps air stations on the east coast of the United States. In accordance with these laws and regulations, this notice announces the date and location of an additional public hearing for the DEIS. A public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, November 17, 1997, at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, Airport Road, Manteo, North Carolina to provide information and to receive public input on the DEIS for the realignment of F/A–18 aircraft and associated functions from NAS Cecil Field, Florida to east coast installations. On October 23, 1997, the Department of the Navy conducted a public hearing at the North Carolina Aquarium in Manteo. Notice of this public hearing was made in the Federal Register on October 3, 1997. However, subsequent to the October 23 hearing, the Navy received information that indicated that the notice of the public hearing was not

well publicized in the primary local newspaper serving the Manteo/Dare County area (The Virginian-Pilot, North Carolina edition). Therefore, the Department of the Navy has decided to conduct an additional public hearing at the North Carolina Aquarium on Monday, November 17, 1997, to ensure the public has an opportunity to obtain information and provide comment on the DEIS. An open information session, which will precede the scheduled public hearing will allow individuals to review the data presented in the DEIS. Navy representatives will be available during the information session to answer questions and/or clarify information related to the DEIS. The open information session is scheduled from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., followed by the public hearing, which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Navy will conduct the public hearing. Federal, state and local agencies and interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at the hearing. Oral statements will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer; however, to ensure the accuracy of the record, all statements should be submitted in writing. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record on the DEIS and will be responded to in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Equal weight will be given to both oral and written statements.

In the interest of available time and to ensure all that wish to give an oral statement have the opportunity to do so, each speaker will be asked to limit comments to three (3) minutes. If longer statements are to be presented, they should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed or faxed to Mr. Dan Cecchini at: Commander, Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Attn: Mr. J. Dan Cecchini (Code 2032DC), 1510 Gilbert Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23511; Fax: (757) 322–4894.

ADDRESSES: The DEIS has been distributed to various Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other interested individuals and organizations. In addition, copies of the DEIS have been distributed to the following libraries for public review: Virginia Beach Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Great Neck Library, 1251 Bayne Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Chesapeake Central Library, 298 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, Virginia; Craven County Library, 300 Miller Boulevard, Havelock, North Carolina;

Beaufort County Library, 311 Scott Street, Beaufort, South Carolina; Dare County Library, 700 North U.S. 64/264, Manteo, North Carolina; Pamlico County Library, 603 Main Street, Bayboro, North Carolina; Ida Hilton Library, 1105 North Way, Darien, Georgia. A limited number of single copies are available upon request by contacting Mr. J. Dan Cecchini at (757) 322–4891.

POINT OF CONTACT: Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Mr. Cecchini at (757) 322–4891.

Dated: October 29, 1997.

Darse E. Crandall,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of the Board of Advisors to the President, Naval War College, Open Meeting

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2), notice is given that the Board of Advisors to the President, Naval War College, will meet from 0830–1700 on November 21, 1997 in Conolly Hall, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, Rhode Island. The meeting will be open to the public.

The purpose of the meeting is to elicit the advice of the Board on educational, doctrinal and research policies and programs. The agenda will consist of presentations and discussions on the curriculum, programs and plans of the college since the last meeting of the Board on May 29 and 30, 1996. Naval War College.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Mary E. Estabrooks, Assistant to the Dean of Academics, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, RI 02841–1207. Telephone number (401) 841–3589.

Dated: October 21, 1997.

Darse E. Crandall,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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