

of baseline data, construction of the project, and long-term monitoring.

The project was reCOORDINATED with the resource agencies in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Draft FWCA Report for the project dated August 1994. The Service's position is, "The project not proceed as formulated due to unmitigable impacts to important fish and wildlife resources. Other alternatives, such as desalinization, effluent reclamation, and water blending, should be evaluated and incorporated into a limited project that meets the water requirements of the basin. Control of chlorides at Areas IV, XIII, and XIV should not be pursued as proposed due to their anticipated significant contribution to impacts to: (1) the Red River aquatic community; (2) the Lake Texoma sport fishery; (3) the Sandy Sanders Wildlife Management Area; (4) Federally-listed species; and (5) migratory birds and other resources from selenium contamination at the proposed brine storage sites. In July 1996, the USFWS furnished an Interim Final Supplemental FWCA report for the project. The Service's position with respect to the project remains unchanged.

**Timothy L. Sanford,**

*Colonel, U.S. Army District Engineer.*

[FR Doc. 98-18020 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-39-M

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the South River, Raritan River Basin, Combined Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Project, Middlesex County, New Jersey

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed measures to provide flood control protection and environmental restoration in the South River, Raritan River Basin, New Jersey. For this Notice of Intent, the Corps is considering protection measures to reduce damages caused by flooding and coastal storms. The EIS will be prepared according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act

of 1969, as amended, (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), and consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's policy to facilitate public understanding and scrutiny of agency proposals. This notice of intent is published as required by the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the action can be addressed to Mark H. Burlas, Project Environmental Manager, phone (212) 264-4663, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, Planning Division, 26 Federal Plaza New York, New York 10278-0090.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Authorization

This study is authorized by a U.S. House of Representatives resolution dated May 13, 1993. The reconnaissance report, completed in May 1995, identified a potential plan of improvement that consists of two levees, each approximately 10,000 feet long along opposite banks of the South River. The levees would protect the communities of South River and Sayerville from a 100-year flood.

For environmental restoration, we identified a plan of improvement to restore the quality of the salt marsh near the Washington Canal. The plan would involve the replacement of low quality vegetation in 250 acres of wetlands to restore an important habitat.

##### 2. Location of the Proposed Action

This study area is located within the lower Raritan River Basin in Middlesex County, New Jersey. The South River is the first major tributary of the Raritan River, located approximately 8.3 miles upstream of the Raritan River's mouth at the Raritan Bay.

The South River is formed by the confluence of Matchaponix and Manalapan Brooks, just above Duhernal Lake, and flows northward from Duhernal Lake Dam for a distance of approximately seven miles, at which point it splits into the old South River and the Washington Canal. It flows through the Townships of East Brunswick and Old Bridge, and the Boroughs of South River and Sayerville.

##### 3. Reasonable Alternative Actions

In addition to the "No Action" alternative, the flood control component of the feasibility study will evaluate alternatives such as buy-outs, storm gates and flood walls to avoid and minimize impacts to coastal wetlands, as well as various levee layouts and heights. The environmental restoration

component will analyze alternatives to restore degraded coastal marshes and tidal ecosystems.

#### 4. Significant Issues Requiring In-Depth Analysis

1. Coastal Wetlands Impacts; 2. Impacts to Aquatic Resources; 3. Archaeological and Cultural Resources Impacts; 4. Hydrology Impacts; 5. Economic Impacts.

#### 5. Environmental Review and Consultation

Review will be conducted as outlined in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations dated November 29, 1983 (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer regulation ER 200-2-2 dated March 4, 1988.

#### 6. Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 16, 1998, at the South River Public Library, (55 Appleby Avenue, South River, New Jersey 08816) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### 7. Estimated Date of DEIS Availability

February 2000.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-18027 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-06-M

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, Combined Flood Control and Shore Protection Project, Union Beach, Monmouth County, New Jersey

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed measures to provide flood control and storm damage protection in Union Beach, New Jersey. For this Notice of Intent, the Corps is considering protection measures to reduce damages caused by flooding and coastal storms. The EIS will be prepared according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), and consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's policy to facilitate

public understanding and scrutiny of agency proposals. This notice of intent is published as required by the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions regarding the action can be addressed to Mark H. Burlas, Project Environmental Manager, phone (212) 264-4663, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, Planning Division, 26 Federal Plaza New York, New York 10278-0090.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**1. Authorization**

The existing Federal project was originally authorized by the Flood Control Act of 12 October 1962 as a dual purpose Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project in accordance with House Document No. 464, 86th Congress, Second session. This project provided for beach fill, groins, and levees for various sections of the study area. The constructed project consists of segmented sections of beach fill and levees surrounding various communities in Old Bridge Township and Keansburg and East Keansburg. The current study was authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, U.S. House of Representatives, adopted August 1, 1990. The feasibility study seeks to develop improvement plans to ascertain the most suitable long-term solution for the study area's flood and storm damage problems.

**2. Location of the Proposed Action**

The study area is located in the northern portion of Monmouth County, New Jersey. It occupies an approximate 1.8 square mile area of land along the coast of the Raritan Bay. The Borough of Union Beach is surrounded by the Raritan Bay to the north, East Creek to the east, the Township of Hazlet to the south and Chigarora Creek to the west. The study area is largely located in low elevation regions with numerous small creeks providing drainage. Currently, low-lying residential and commercial structures in the area are experiencing flooding caused by coastal storm inundation. This problem has progressively worsened in recent years due to loss of protective beaches and increased urbanization in the area with structures susceptible to flooding from rainfall and coastal storm surges, erosion and wave attack, combined with restrictions to channel flow in the tidal creek.

**3. Reasonable Alternative Actions**

In addition to the "No Action" alternative, the flood control component of the feasibility study will evaluate alternatives such as buy-outs, storm gates and floodwalls to avoid and minimize impacts to coastal wetlands, as well as various levee layouts and heights. The shore protection component will analyze alternatives such as the expansion of existing dunes and various improvements to existing beaches.

**4. Significant Issues Requiring In-Depth Analysis**

1. Coastal Wetlands Impacts; 2. Impacts to Aquatic Resources; 3. Archaeological and Cultural Resources Impacts; 4. Hydrology Impacts; 5. Economic Impacts.

**5. Environmental Review and Consultation**

Review will be conducted as outlined in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations dated November 29, 1983 (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer regulation ER 200-2-2 dated March 4, 1988.

**6. Public Scoping Meeting**

A public scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 22, 1998, at the Hazlet Public Library, (251 Middle Road, Union Beach, New Jersey 07730) at 5:30 p.m.

**7. Estimated Date of DEIS Availability**

January 2000.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-18028 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-06-M

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RP98-262-000]

**Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation v. CNG Transmission Corporation; Notice of Complaint**

July 1, 1998.

Take notice that on June 29, 1998, pursuant to Rule 206 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Commission, 18 CFR 385.206, Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation (COGC) tendered for filing a complaint respectfully requesting that the Commission: (1) expeditiously issue an injunctive order barring CNG Transmission Corporation (CNGT) from forcing producers or shippers/pool operators to purchase low

flow meters to avoid having their service terminated on July 1, 1998; (2) issue an order clarifying that CNGT's FERC Gas tariff does not provide CNGT with the authority to unilaterally terminate service unless a producer or shipper/pool operator agrees to purchase low flow meters from CNGT; and (3) issue an order requiring CNGT to repurchase any low flow meters that it forced parties to purchase in violation of its FERC Gas Tariff.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said complaint should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 214 and 211 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure 18 CFR 385.214, 385.211. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before July 15, 1998. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. Answers to this complaint shall be due on or before July 15, 1998.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-17999 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RP95-408-000 (Phase II)]

**Columbia Gas Transmission Corp.; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference**

July 1, 1998.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding on Thursday, July 9, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426, for the purpose of exploring the possible settlement of the above-referenced docket.

Any party, as defined by 18 CFR 385.102(c), or any participant as defined in 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to attend. Persons wishing to become a party must move to intervene and receive intervenor status pursuant to the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 385.214).

For additional information, please contact Thomas J. Burgess at (202) 208-