

United States, a non-voting member. Under the terms of the Compact, the two State Commissioners must negotiate and agree on a proposed allocation formula and present the formula to the Federal Commissioner for concurrence before the allocation formula can be implemented. The Federal Commissioner will have up to 255 days to reach a decision on the allocation formula proposed by the States. Because water allocation formulas have not yet been identified by the States and may not be until late 1998, a programmatic approach is being used for this EIS. Such an approach is appropriate when examining broad actions or management programs when the actual implementation plans are not yet known. The programmatic evaluation framework used in this EIS predicts a range of flow or reservoir conditions at representative locations within the river basin. Impacts of alternative flow conditions in the high, moderate, and low range are compared to the impacts of flow conditions for the no action alternative (existing operating conditions within the basin). The final water allocation formula developed by the States is expected to fall somewhere within the predicted range of flow conditions. Flow conditions were modeled by using a historic flow data record that represents 55 years of recorded stream flows. Hydrologic modeling was used to project water use demands and associated impacts over time for the years 1995, 2020, and 2050. Public comments can be submitted through a variety of methods. Written comments may be submitted to the Corps by mail, facsimile, or electronic methods, or comments (written or oral) may be presented at one of five public meetings scheduled for November 1998. The open house format meetings will be conducted between the hours of 5–8 p.m., at the following locations and dates:

Anniston City Meeting Center, 17th and Noble Street, Anniston, AL, November 9th; Montgomery Civic Center, 300 Bibb Street, Montgomery, AL, November 10th; Tallahassee Civic Center (Rooms A2&A3), 505 West Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, FL, November 17th; Kennesaw State University Gymnasium, 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA, November 18th; and Columbus Convention and Trade Center, 801 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA, November 19th.

These public meetings will also provide information and receive comments on the concurrently developed Draft EIS for Water Allocation in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin.

The format for all five meetings will be identical. Additional information on these meetings will be mailed in a newsletter to the agencies and public, announced in news releases, and made available on the Mobile District Web Page.

Dated: September 25, 1998.

Curtis M. Flakes,

Chief, Planning and Environmental Division.
[FR Doc. 98-26497 Filed 10-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-CR-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Water Allocation for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin, Alabama, Florida and Georgia

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice of availability announces the public release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Water Allocation for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin, Alabama, Florida and Georgia. The ACF River Basin Compact Commission is developing a water allocation formula for the ACF River basin to provide an equitable sharing of water within the basin within the States of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. A change in allocation of water resources by the States may impact other resources within the basin for which there is a Federal interest or responsibility. This Draft EIS has been developed by the Corps of Engineers (lead agency) and ten other cooperating Federal agencies. The Draft EIS uses a programmatic framework for evaluating a range of flow and reservoir conditions selected to bracket the flow conditions that may result from the allocation formula. The objectives of the EIS are to address the range of potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts across the entire basin, serve as a baseline document for future implementing actions, and meet the schedule for completion of agency and public review prior to a decision by the Federal Commissioner to the Compact Commission in late summer 1999. Follow-on National Environmental Policy Act documentation (environmental assessments or EISs) may be necessary to document specific impacts of future implementing action.

DATES: The public comment period for the Draft EIS will extend through December 18, 1998.

ADDRESSES: To receive a copy of the Draft EIS, or to submit comments, contact: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Inland Environment Section, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628-0001. Copies are available in hard copy or CD-ROM format. A copy of the full document may also be viewed at 60 libraries in the major cities and universities within the States of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, or the Main Report can be viewed on the Mobile District Web Page (<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/sam/pd/actacfeis>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joanne U. Brandt, ACF Basin EIS Project Manager, (334) 690-3260 or 1-800-421-7637, facsimile number (334) 694-3815 or e-mail address

(joanne.u.brandt@sam.usace.army.mil).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ACF River Basin Compact Commission includes the Governors of Alabama, Florida and Georgia and a Federal Commissioner appointed by the President of the United States, a non-voting member. Under the terms of the Compact, the three State Commissioners must negotiate and agree on a proposed allocation formula and present the formula to the Federal Commissioner for concurrence before the allocation formula can be implemented. The Federal Commissioner will have up to 255 days to reach a decision on the allocation formula proposed by the States. Because water allocation formulas have not yet been identified by the States and may not be until late 1998, a programmatic approach is being used for this EIS. Such an approach is appropriate when examining broad actions or management programs when the actual implementation plans are not yet known. The programmatic evaluation framework used in this EIS predicts a range of flow or reservoir conditions at representative locations within the river basin. Impacts of alternative flow conditions in the high, moderate, and low range are compared to the impacts of flow conditions for the no action alternative (existing operating conditions within the basin). The final water allocation formula developed by the States is expected to fall somewhere within the predicted range of flow conditions. Flow conditions were modeled by using a historic flow data record that represents 55 years of recorded stream flows. Hydrologic modeling was used to project water use demands and associated impacts over time for the years 1995, 2020, and 2050.

Public comments can be submitted through a variety of methods. Written comments may be submitted to the Corps by mail, facsimile, or electronic methods, or comments (written or oral) may be presented at one of five public meetings scheduled for November 1998. The open house format meetings will be conducted between the hours of 5:00–8:00 p.m., at the following locations and dates:

Anniston City Meeting Center, 17th and Noble Street, Anniston, AL, November 9th; Montgomery Civic Center, 300 Bibb Street, Montgomery, AL, November 10th; Tallahassee Civic Center (Rooms A2&A3), 505 West Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, FL, November 17th; Kennesaw State University Gymnasium, 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA, November 18th; and Columbus Convention and Trade Center, 801 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA, November 19th.

These public meetings will also provide information and receive comments on the concurrently developed Draft EIS for Water Allocation in the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basin. The format for all five meetings will be identical. Additional information on these meetings will be mailed in a newsletter to the agencies and public, announced in news releases, and made available on the Mobile District Web Page.

Dated: September 25, 1998.

Curtis M. Flakes,

Chief, Planning and Environmental Division.
[FR Doc. 98–26496 Filed 10–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–CR–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Dredge Material Management Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Los Angeles Area Harbors and Marinas

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Los Angeles District, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Corps, Los Angeles District, has maintenance authorities for the following marinas and harbors in Los Angeles County: Marina del Rey, Redondo, Los Angeles and Long Beach. Recently, the Corps has conducted dredge efforts on a biennial basis at the Marina del Rey harbor and the Los Angeles River mouth due to

unanticipated and exceptionally high flows associated with extreme storm activity. High runoff in the watershed has caused severe sedimentation problems in the downstream portions of the rivers, especially in the approach channels to the ocean. With high sediment loads settling in the approach channels, the Corps has been required to dredge the channels under Emergency Authorities for navigation safety purposes. To expedite the process, the Corps has dredged only clean materials suitable for unconfined ocean disposal by conventional methods. Other sediments remained in situ. Efforts have been hampered by the inability to find disposal sites for materials not suitable for unconfined ocean disposal. As recent investigations have detected more and more harbors and marinas containing sediments questionable for unconfined ocean disposal, the Corps is proactively exploring use of unconventional dredge and disposal techniques for these types of materials. The Marina del Rey harbor and the Los Angeles River mouth contain sediments questionable for unconfined ocean disposal, the DMMP is being developed to specifically permit removal and disposal of sediments not suitable for conventional techniques in an environmentally acceptable manner and place. It is estimated that 515,000 cubic meters (M^3) of sediments need to be removed from the harbor entrance at Marina del Rey and 700,000 M^3 at the mouth of the Los Angeles River to continue to provide safe navigation opportunities. Based on historic and recent testing, it is expected that 230,000 M^3 at Marina del Rey and 250,000 M^3 at Los Angeles River are not suitable for unconfined ocean disposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Mr. Russell L. Kaiser at 213–452–3846 or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California, 90053–2325.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corps along with several other Federal, state and local agencies and interested parties representing different environmental groups in the Los Angeles region have been meeting regularly over the last several years to discuss and develop a strategy for the placement of contaminated sediments in an environmentally acceptable manner and place. This consortium of agencies and interested parties, hereafter known as the Contaminated Sediment Task Force (CSTF), has formulated preliminary concepts for unconventional disposal techniques.

The Corps has held several public scoping meetings in association with this project. Formal meetings have been conducted on November 19, 1997, in Marina del Rey, California and on November 20, 1997, in Long Beach, California to identify special interests and environmental concerns. No major concerns nor issues were raised at these meetings. As the CSTF meetings are open to the public, all interested parties and agencies are welcome to attend and encouraged to participate in them. Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the proposed study and/or request to be placed on the mailing list for future announcements and/or the PEIS by mailing the information and/or request to Mr. Russell L. Kaiser. The Draft PEIS will be available for review and comment in November 1998.

Alternatives

A full array of preliminary alternatives, using both conventional and non-conventional disposal methods, have been developed to meet project needs. Conventional methods include: beach nourishment and unconfined ocean disposal. Non-conventional methods may include: subaqueous capping, confined disposal, upland disposal, physical separation, sediment mixing, concrete solidification/stabilization and structural reconfiguration. Project criteria have indicated that the following alternatives may be viable: (1) Subaqueous capping at North Energy Island borrow pit; (2) Confined aquatic disposal on harbor side of Long Beach Breakwater; (3) Port of Long Beach landfill at Pier S with dredged material converted to structural grade by concrete solidification/stabilization or by sediment mixing; (4) Upland disposal at the ECDC Class II site in Carbon County, Utah, and/or (5) Treatment of dredged material by physical separation. A co-equal analysis will be conducted for the no action and each viable project alternative in the PEIS pursuant with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321, as amended. Project area maps will be available upon request.

Dated: September 18, 1998.

Robert L. Davis,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineers.

[FR Doc. 98–26498 Filed 10–1–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–KF–M