COMMENT PERIOD: The comment period for this DSEIS ends 45 days after the date of publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Two public meetings have been conducted in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, concerning the proposed action. An additional public hearing will be held during the 45-day comment period. All comments will be addressed and incorporated into the final document. Comments should be forwarded to the address listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Colonel Parker Hills, Public Affairs Office, Mississippi Army National Guard, P.O. Box 5027, Jackson, Mississippi 39296–5027; telephone (601 973–6349, facsimile extension 6176.

Dated: October 2, 1997.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 97–26868 Filed 10–8–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Board of Visitors, United States Military Academy

AGENCY: U.S. Military Academy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), announcement is made of the following meeting:

Name of Committee: Board of Visitors, United States Military Academy (USMA).

Date of Meeting: October 31, 1997.

Place of Meeting: Superintendent's Conference Room, Taylor Hall, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Start Time of Meeting: Approximately 8 a.m.

Proposed Agenda: Preparation of the Annual Report to the President, Annual Reviews of the Athletic and Admissions programs at USMA and a program review of the United States Military Academy Preparatory School. All proceedings are open.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Dubyel, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996–5000, (914) 938–4200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97–26799 Filed 10–8–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Public Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Limited Reevaluation Study for Deepening of the Arthur Kill-Howland Hook Marine Terminal Navigation Channels

AGENCY: Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Arthur Kill-Howland Hook Marine Terminal Navigation Channel Deepening Project was prepared and the project was authorized for construction in section 202(b) of the WRDA 1986, Pub. L. 99–662. The limited reevaluation effort recommends deepening and realigning the previously authorized 35 ft below mlw project in the Arthur Kill Channel, to the 41/40-ft plan. This plan entails the realignment and deepening to a depth of 41 ft below mlw from its confluence with the Newark Bay and Kill Van Kull Channels to the Howland Hook Marine Terminal; realigning and deepening to a depth of 40 ft mlw from the Howland Hook Marine Terminal to the Tosco Oil and GATX facilities.

The 41/40-ft plan would meet the current navigational needs of the project area by improving navigational efficiency and safety. Proposed improvements would allow deep draft vessels (current vessel designs) to safely navigate the channel, while remaining fully loaded, thus avoiding the need for lightering or steaming under partial loads.

The proposed project plans were analyzed in the 1986 Feasibility Report, which included the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USACE 1986 a,b). These documents are available in the District office for review. This document is a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the deepening and realignment of the Arthur Kill Channel—Howland Hook Marine Terminal, and part of the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR). The DSEIS examines improvements to navigation and the shipment of cargo to petroleum refineries/storage facilities and marine container terminals located along the project navigation channel, and addresses the economic, social, and environmental issues related to the proposed project. The purpose of this DSEIS is to update the 1986 FEIS and evaluate the changes in conditions in the project area to determine if there are significant new issues or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.

Potential impacts, including indirect and cumulative impacts, were evaluated for the proposed action and the other action alternatives. The analysis indicates that short-term adverse environmental impacts, such as benthic habitat disruption, would be balanced by beneficial impacts, such as revitalization of the maritime industry and permanent removal of contaminated material from the aquatic ecosystem.

The DSEIS has been prepared under the direction of the USACE, as Lead Agency in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and is submitted in compliance with NEPA and USACE regulations. The USACE is lead Federal agency responsible for preparation of the DSEIS because the project involves improvements and/or modifications to Federal navigation channels. Comments will be accepted for forty-five (45) days after publishing of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ATTN: Ms. Jenine Gallo-EIS Coordinator, CENAN–PL–EA, Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278–0090, Tel. 212–264–4549.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Project Site Description

The Arthur Kill is an estuarine tidal strait that connects Raritan Bay to the south with Newark Bay to the north. The Arthur Kill separates Richmond County, Staten Island, New York from Union County and Middlesex County, New Jersey. The Arthur Kill is approximately 13 miles long and varies in width from approximately 800 to 2800 ft. The total surface water area is approximately 4.4 square miles.

The system receives freshwater flow from the Hackensack and Passaic rivers, which discharge into Newark Bay, and the Elizabeth and Rahway rivers and numerous smaller streams and tributaries, which drain adjacent upland areas. Tributaries located within the study area include Old Place Creek and Bridge Creek in Staten Island, and Morses Creek and the Elizabeth River in New Jersey.

The project area extends from the confluence of the Kill Van Kull, Arthur Kill, and Lower Newark Bay, west and south toward Piles Creek. This includes the Elizabethport Reach, Gulfport Reach, and the North of Shooters Island Reach.

The project area shoreline (and vicinity) has undergone extensive industrial and residential development. The New Jersey shoreline has been almost completely developed with riprap and ship-berthing areas. The Staten Island shoreline has also been developed, although to a much lesser extent. Industrial development is heaviest along the North of Shooters Island and Elizabethport reaches.

The waterways are intensively used navigation channels, and with the recent dredging and reoccupation of the Howland Hook Marine Terminal (located within the project area), previously one of New York Harbor's most active marine terminals, activity will increase above present levels. Although much of the project area shoreline has been developed and the Arthur Kill is heavily used for commercial navigation, the project area still contains a variety of biological and natural resources. These resources include migratory and resident fish and shellfish populations as well as the heron rookeries. While fish and wildlife resources use the area year round, recreational opportunities are generally limited.

A deepened and realigned channel in the Arthur Kill will permit existing facilities to efficiently accommodate the larger ocean-going vessels calling on the Port.

Simeon Hook,

Acting Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 97–26800 Filed 10–8–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–06–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Public Notice of Availability for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and General Reevaluation Report of the Green Brook Flood Control Project in the Green Brook Sub-Basin of the Raritan River Basin, Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties in the State of New Jersey

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (NYDCOE), in coordination with the project sponsor, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), has conducted a General Reevaluation Study and prepared a Supplemental Impact Statement for an authorized flood protection project in the Green Brook Sub-Basin of the Raritan River in New Jersey. A Final Environmental Impact Statement and a Record of Decision were prepared for the project in 1980. This report has been prepared in association with the Reevaluation Study and is a supplement to the 1980 Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The project proposes to provide flood protection to residents in Somerset, Middlesex and Union Counties through the use of levees, flood-proofing, flood walls, detention basins and stream channelization. The plan also provides for a mitigation plan for environmental impacts. The project is divided into three separate portions of the Sub-basin: the upper portion, the lower portion and the Stony Brook portion. The proposed flood protection measures which were described in the DSEIS for the upper portion of the Sub-basin have been deferred at the request of the local sponsor, pending further study.

The Draft Supplement Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) was filed on January 6, 1997. The DSEIS was released for public review from January 6, 1997 through March 7, 1997. This review period included four formal public meetings and numerous informal information sessions with various groups. The public coordination process confirmed the need for the project. However, the coordination process identified concerns with the proposed construction of the detentions basins in the upper portion of the basin in the Boroughs of Berkeley Heights, Watchung, and Scotch Plains. The local sponsor, NJDEP, has asked the NYDCOE to defer construction of the upper portion of the project at this time but to continue work on the lower and Stony Brook portions of the project. Accordingly, this final document is considered a decision document for construction implementation of the lower and Stony Brook portions of the basin only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Bill Richardson, ATTN: CENAN–PL–ES, Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278–0090, Tel. (212) 264–2199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Green Brook Sub-basin is a component of the Raritan River drainage basin in north central New Jersey. The Green Brook Sub-Basin has a 65 square mile watershed. The Sub-Basin is located between the Watchung Mountains and the Raritan River in Middlesex, Somerset, and Union Counties.

In response to resolutions of the United States Senate Public Works Committee adopted 15 September 1955 and 10 July 1972 to adopt recommendations for flood control, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District prepared a feasibility report and a final environmental impact statement in August 1980. A project similar to ''Plan A'' as described in the 1980 feasibility study was authorized for construction under the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

The flood problems of the Green Brook Sub-Basin result from a combination of natural hydrologic and hydraulic features coupled with dense development within the floodplains. The Green Brook flows southwest from the slopes of the Watchung Mountains. The path of the streams within the sub-basin flow from relatively undeveloped mountains through a broad flat floodplain which is largely suburban and industrialized. Streams included in the study are: Ambrose Brook, Bound Brook, Bonygutt Brook, Municipal Brook, Stony Brook, Blue Brook, Cedar Brook, and Middle Brook. Flood damages in the tri-county basin are quite severe due to the level of development within the sub-basin. Notable storms which have caused flood conditions in the sub-basin occurred in May 1968, August 1971, August 1973, July 1975, September 1979, July 1984, and October 1996.

The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) describes in the impacts of the proposed project on environmental and cultural resources in the study area. The FSEIS also applies guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 96–217). An evaluation for the purposed actions on the waters of the United States was performed pursuant to the guidelines of the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The results of the evaluation are presented in the SEIS.

This Notice of Availability is being sent to organizations and individuals known to have an interest in the project.