

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Public Meetings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Bluestone Dam Safety Assurance Project, Hinton, WV**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** With the distribution of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) having been completed on the Bluestone Lake Dam Safety Assurance Project, this notice announces the following two Public Meetings to consider comments concerning the document:

**First Meeting**

*Date of Meeting:* April 1, 1998.

*Time:* 7:00 p.m.

*Place:* State Capitol Complex, Building 7, Conference Room C, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., Charleston, West Virginia.

**Second Meeting**

*Date of Meeting:* April 2, 1998.

*Time:* 7:00 p.m.

*Place:* Summers County High School, Auditorium, 1 Bobcat Drive, Hinton, West Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Please address questions regarding this notice to Mr. A. Benjamin Borda, Environmental Analysis Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 502 8th Street, Huntington, WV 25701. By telephone call (304) 529-5712 or by facsimile (304) 529-5136.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the policy of evaluating existing Corps of Engineers projects to ensure dam safety, the Huntington District is evaluating alternative measures to modify Bluestone Dam consistent with present day design criteria. The study is being conducted through the Corps of Engineers (COE) Dam Safety Assurance Program for the evaluation of existing dams. The COE has determined that improvements to the dam are necessary to accommodate the probable maximum flood (PMF). The DEIS analyzes three structural alternatives for the correction of hydrologic and seismic deficiencies at Bluestone Dam as well as a no-action alternative. These alternatives are summarized as follows:

a. *Alternative 1.* Raise the existing dam and strengthen it, without adding additional discharge capacity. It will sustain a pool elevation of 1555.8 feet and safely withstand the PMF.

b. *Alternative 2.* Maintain the current height of the dam and strengthen it to sustain a pool elevation of 1534.5 feet and construct an auxiliary spillway for additional discharge capacity, to safely withstand the PMF.

c. *Alternative 3.* Raise the existing dam and strengthen it, while utilizing the six existing penstocks to allow additional discharge capacity. It will sustain a pool elevation of 1546.8 feet and safely withstand the PMF. This is the preferred alternative.

d. *No Action Alternative.* Make no changes to the dam, either physically or operationally. The dam would not withstand the PMF. It is highly probable that the dam would fail at a pool elevation estimated to be 1532 feet.

Alternative 3 was not identified during scoping but arose from environmental and economic considerations undertaken during the development of the DEIS. The features of Alternative 3 are intermediate to the original structural alternatives (1 & 2). The DEIS contains specifics on all three structural alternatives in addition to a description of projected impacts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the COE to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from this Federal action. NEPA also requires that the COE discover and address concerns the public may have about the proposed project. This was accomplished initially through the "scoping" process. With distribution of the DEIS having been completed, the COE is now making the above notice of meetings to consider comments concerning the document.

Interested groups and individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings and to present oral comments on the environmental issues which they believe should be considered further in the Final EIS. Anyone who would like to make an oral presentation should telephone or write to Mr. Ben Borda (above address) by 4 p.m., March 25, 1998, so that time may be allotted during the meetings, and a name placed on the speaker list.

**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 a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Plot and Green Ridge Local Flood Protection Projects Within the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, PA**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Plot and Green Ridge Flood Protection Projects. The SEIS will be prepared to (1) Supplement the previously completed Final Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Scranton, Pennsylvania, Flood Protection Feasibility Study in January 1992; (2) to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the various project alternatives; and (3) to document compliance with NEPA requirements. Specifically, the SEIS will identify existing conditions, identify any changed environmental conditions, re-examine previously collected data in light of new or updated methodologies, collect new environmental data, and evaluate the feasibility of both new and previously considered potential project actions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions about the proposed action and SEIS can be addressed to Ms. Maria De La Torre, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-PL-P, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, telephone (410) 962-2911 or 1-800-295-1610, E-mail address: maria.e.delatorre@usace.army.mil.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. A study of the Lackawanna River was originally authorized October 1, 1986, by resolution of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Works and Transportation (House Document 702). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the Corps of Engineers and was completed in January 1992. This EIS evaluated the feasibility of proposed alternative solutions for providing flood protection along the Lackawanna River in Scranton, Pennsylvania. At that time, the 1992 EIS recommended structural flood protection for only the right bank,

Park Place area in Scranton, and not for the Plot and Green Ridge areas within Scranton. In 1996 the Corps of Engineers was directed by the 1996 Water Resources Development Act to carry out flood control for the Plot and Green Ridge areas. Therefore, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, is now preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Plot and Green Ridge Flood Protection Projects.

2. Specific authorization for the Plot and Green Ridge Flood Protection Projects are from Section 342 of the Water Resources Act of 1996 which directs the Corps of Engineers " \* \* \* to carry out the project for flood control for the Plot and Green Ridge sections of the [Lackawanna] project."

3. The Plot and Green Ridge Flood Protection study areas are located in northeastern Pennsylvania in the city of Scranton. They encompass an estimated area of 400 acres adjacent to the Lackawanna River and extend for a distance of approximately 2½ miles. The Green Ridge area is located on the left descending bank of the river, directly across the river from Albright Avenue, and the Plot area is located on the right descending bank, immediately upstream of the Green Ridge area. The upstream limit of the Plot area extends to approximately the confluence of the Lackawanna River and Leggetts Creek. The downstream limit of the proposed Green Ridge area will be the Lackawanna tributary of Meadow Brook.

4. The investigation of local flood protection projects for the Plot and Green Ridge areas is in response to problems and opportunities associated with the Federal objectives and specific state and local concerns. Federally, the investigation is based on the objective to contribute to the national economic development while protecting the nation's environment pursuant to the national environmental statutes, applicable executive orders, and other Federal planning requirements. Considerations are also given to the benefits of the plan and expenditures necessary to construct and maintain the plan. The plan must be engineeringly and institutionally implementable and consistent with certain environmental statutes and Executive Orders. The desires of the non-Federal sponsors for a particular project are additional criteria for plan development and evaluation. Specific solutions that will be evaluated with these criteria include both structural and non-structural solutions such as levees and floodwalls, channel dredging and enlargements, channel improvements, modifications to buildings, roads, and structures, flood

emergency preparedness, and building relocation.

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. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable impacts. The Baltimore District is preparing an SEIS that will describe the impacts of the proposed projects on environmental and cultural resources in the study area and the overall public interest. The SEIS 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 resource conservation, socio-economics considerations, economic benefits, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural concerns, fish and wildlife concerns, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, recreation, water supply, water quality, project implementation costs, energy needs, safety, and the general needs and welfare of the people. If applicable, the SEIS 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 workshops, meetings, and other coordination with interested private individuals and organizations, as well as with concerned Federal, state, and local agencies. Coordination letters 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, other participants who will be involved in the study and SEIS process include, but are not limited to, the following: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Geological Survey; National Resource Conservation Service; U.S. National Park Service, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the City of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Baltimore District invites potentially affected Federal, state, and local agencies, and other organizations and entities to participate in this study.

8. The SEIS is tentatively scheduled to be available for public review in August 1998.

**James F. Johnson,**

*Chief, Planning Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Diego Harbor Navigation Improvement Study, San Diego County, California

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Los Angeles District intends to prepare an EIS to support the proposed navigation improvement study at San Diego Harbor, California. The purpose of the proposal is to identify measures that will improve navigation in San Diego Harbor from the 10th Avenue Marine Terminal to the Coronado Bay Bridge. Alternative measures include harbor deepening by dredging to approximately -45.0 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) at the 10th Avenue terminal, as well as a no action alternative. The EIS will analyze potential impacts on the environmental range of alternatives, including the recommended plan.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information contact Ms. Stephanie Hall, Project Environmental Coordinator, (213) 452-3862, or Mr. Joseph Johnson, Study Manager, (213) 452-3831.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Army Corps of Engineers intends to prepare and EIS to assess the environmental effects associated with the proposed navigation improvement measures at San Diego Harbor, from the 10th Avenue Marine Terminal to the Coronado Bay Bridge. The public will have the opportunity to comment on this analysis before any action is taken to implement the proposed action.

#### Scoping

a. The Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a scoping meeting prior to preparing the Environmental Impact Statement to aid in the determination of significant environmental issues associated with the proposed action. The public, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies, are encouraged to participate in the scoping process by submitting data, information, and