

**ACTION:** Notice of partially-closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-463, The Federal Advisory Committee Act, announcement is made of the following meeting:

*Name of Committee:* Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB).

*Dates:* September 21, 2004 (partially-closed meeting); September 22, 2004 (open meeting).

*Times:* 7:30 a.m.–5:10 p.m. (September 21, 2004); 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (September 22, 2004).

*Location:* St. Anthony Hotel, September 21 from 7:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. and Brooks Air Force Base, 2602 West Gate Road, San Antonio, TX 78235–5252 from 12:45–5:30 p.m., St. Anthony Hotel, 300 East Travis Street, San Antonio, TX 78205 from 7 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* The purpose of the meeting is to address pending and new Board issues, provide briefings for Board members on topics related to ongoing and new Board issues, conduct subcommittee meetings, and conduct an executive working session.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Colonel Roger Gibson, Executive Secretary, Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, Skyline Six, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Room 682, Falls Church, VA 22041–3258, (703) 681–8012/3.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the interest of national security, and in accordance with 5, U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), the afternoon session on September 21, 2004 may be closed to the public. In addition, any classified portions of the meeting minutes may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(f)(2). The morning session on September 21, 2004 and the entire session on September 22, 2004 will be open to the public. Open sessions of the meeting will be limited by space accommodations. Any interested person may attend, appear before or file statements with the committee at the time and in the manner permitted by the committee.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04–19824 Filed 8–30–04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710–08–M**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers**

**Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Mississippi River and Tributaries, Len Small Levee Project, Alexander County, IL**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) will supplement the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) “Mississippi River and Tributaries, Mississippi River Levees and Channel Improvement,” prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg District, dated February 1976. The DSEIS is being prepared in conjunction with a feasibility study, a joint effort between the St. Louis and Memphis districts, to determine the need for federal flood damage reduction and navigation improvements along the Mississippi River between approximate River Miles (RM) 21 and 34 upstream of the Ohio River in Alexander County, IL. The study will also address National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) features.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Tamara Atchley, telephone (314) 331–8044, CEMVS–PM–N, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, MO 63103. Questions regarding the DSEIS may be directed to Ms. Leighann Gipson, telephone (901) 544–4015, CEMVM–PM–E, 167 North Main Street, Room B–202, Memphis, TN 38103.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**1. Proposed Action**

The project study consists of determining the need for flood damage reduction and maintaining navigation on the Mississippi River, Alexander County, IL. The area of focus is the Mississippi River from RM 21 to RM 34. The project is authorized under a resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure adopted March 7, 1996, as well as Section 517 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 and the 1928 Flood Control Act (H.R. 8497). Studies involve reevaluation of the project design flood flowline, evaluating alternatives that will not affect navigation, and developing ecosystem restoration features. The Flood Control Act of 1928 and WRDA 1986 authorized the project originally. A final EIS, entitled *Mississippi Rivers and*

*Tributaries, Mississippi River Levees (MRL) and Channel Improvement*, was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg District, in February 1976. This document was filed with the Council of Environmental Quality in April 1976. Based on additional environmental laws and regulations enacted after 1976, information from other federal agencies, and litigation by private environmental groups, the decision was made to supplement the 1976 FEIS to cover construction of all remaining Mississippi River mainline levees and seepage control with a supplemental FEIS, *Mississippi River Mainline Levees Enlargement and Seepage Control*, prepared by USACE, Vicksburg, Memphis, and New Orleans districts, dated July 1998. It covered a total of 225 potential work items along the mainstem of the Mississippi River, which included construction of borrow areas for fill material, levee enlargements, and installation of additional seepage control measures. The resolution by Congress in 1996, the Flood Control Act of 1928, as amended, and WRDA 1996 authorized the present study and reevaluation of the MRL system. The Len Small Levee Project was not included in the 1998 supplemental EIS. It was decided that a separate feasibility study should be conducted because of its complexity. Len Small Levee is a privately owned levee that is being studied because of its effect on the Commerce to Birds Point section of the federal MRL system. Extensive hydraulics and other engineering and environmental analyses are being conducted to evaluate project alternatives.

**2. Reasonable Alternatives**

Project alternatives are being formulated and analyzed in order to develop an optimal plan. Alternatives to be considered include possible modifications to the MRL system, routing floodwaters across Dogtooth Bend Peninsula, and no federal action. An ecosystem restoration plan is also being developed.

**3. The Scoping Process**

A public involvement program has been initiated and will be maintained throughout the study. The broad goal is to identify significant issues through an exchange of information on project-related topics. Input will be sought from the public including local residents, agencies, and individuals from the private sector. Federally recognized American Indian tribes and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted regarding cultural

resources in the study area. Status reports will be made to interested parties throughout the study. A public scoping meeting was held on March 18, 2003, in Tamm, IL. Comments and concerns raised at this meeting will be addressed in the study to the extent justified. It is anticipated that a draft SEIS will be available for public review during 2004. It is likely that a workshop will be held prior to release of the draft EIS to gain additional input from interested parties. A public hearing will be held during the draft EIS review period to receive comments and questions concerning the draft report.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-19825 Filed 8-30-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### **Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for a Permit Application for a Proposed Marine Terminal Expansion at Piers D, E and F in the Middle Harbor District of the Port of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, CA**

**AGENCY:** Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI).

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is considering an application for Section 404 and Section 10 permits to conduct dredge and fill activities to redevelop and consolidate two existing container terminals for the construction of a 342-acre marine terminal including redevelopment of 272 acres of existing land and the placement of dredged material in open water to create 70 acres of new land.

The primary Federal concern is the dredging and discharging of materials within waters of the United States and potential significant impacts to the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Corps is requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to consideration of any permit action. The Corps may ultimately make a determination to permit or deny the above project, or permit or deny modified versions of the above project.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Port of Long Beach will serve as Lead Agency for the preparation of an

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its consideration of development approvals within its jurisdiction. The Corps and the Port of Long Beach have agreed to jointly prepare a Draft EIS/EIR in order to optimize efficiency and avoid duplication. The Draft EIS/EIR is intended to be sufficient in scope to address both the Federal and the state and local requirements and environmental issues concerning the proposed activities and permit approvals.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Comments and questions regarding scoping of the Draft EIS/EIR may be addressed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Regulatory Branch, ATTN: File Number 2004-01053-AOA, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California 90053-2325. Comments or questions can also be sent to Stacey Crouch, Port of Long Beach, P.O. Box 570, Long Beach, CA 90801-0570. Phone messages or questions should be directed to Dr. Aaron O. Allen at 805-585-2148.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **1. Project Site**

The proposed project is located in the southern portion of the Port of Long Beach, California. The proposed dredge and fill activities would take place at Piers D, E and F and would involve redeveloping portions of Pier D and reconfiguring existing wharves and berths at Piers E and F to create a single 342-acre marine terminal to accommodate increasing cargo volumes being produced by the new generation of larger container vessels.

##### **2. Proposed Action**

The project applicant, the Port of Long Beach, proposes to permanently impact approximately 70 acres of open-water habitat for dredge and fill activities and to rehabilitate 272 acres of existing terminal area at Piers D, E and F for the construction of a new 342-acre container terminal in the Port of Long Beach. The proposed project would reconfigure existing wharves and berths at Piers D, E and F into one 4,250-foot-long wharf with four deep-water berths, a container terminal yard that includes 70 acres of new land and 272 acres of rehabilitated land and an intermodal rail yard. The specific components of the proposed project would include: widening Slip Number Three to 480 feet and deepening it to -55 to -60 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW); excavating one million cubic yards of material from Berths D28-D31; filling Slip One with 2.7 million cubic yards of structurally suitable dredge and

excavated material; placement of an additional 770,000 cubic yards in waters of the United States for the construction of a rock dike to the contain the proposed fill at Slip One; filling the East Basin between Piers E and F with 4.06 million cubic yards of dredged material, including the construction of a rock dike to contain the fill area; and construction of 2,260 linear feet of pile supported concrete wharves. The proposed construction and rehabilitation activities would be completed over a 12-year period. All of the above construction activities would include the demolition of existing terminal facilities as well as existing buildings and infrastructure in both open water and upland areas.

##### **3. Issues**

There are several potential environmental issues that will be addressed in the Draft EIS/EIR. Additional issues may be identified during the scoping process. Issues initially identified as potentially significant include:

1. Geological issues including dredging and stabilization of fill areas.
2. Potential impacts to marine biological resources.
3. Impacts to air quality.
4. Traffic, including navigation issues and transportation related impacts.
5. Potential noise impacts.
6. Impacts to public utilities and services.
7. Impact to aesthetic resources.
8. Potential impacts on public health and safety.
9. Cumulative impacts.

##### **4. Alternatives**

Several alternatives are being considered for the proposed marine terminal. These alternatives will be further formulated and developed during the scoping process and an appropriate range of alternatives, including the no federal action alternative, will be considered in the Draft EIS/EIR.

##### **5. Scoping Process**

A public meeting will be held to receive public comment and assess public concerns regarding the appropriate scope and preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR. Participation in the public meeting by Federal, state, and local agencies and other interested organizations and persons is encouraged.

The Corps of Engineers will also be consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and with the National