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Notice of
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

On the
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

For the
ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION STUDY

WHAT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has prepared a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for use in decision-making regarding the Arkansas River Navigation Study.

WHY: The Arkansas River Navigation Study is being undertaken by the USACE Little Rock and Tulsa Districts under the direction of the U.S. Congress. The study investigated possible operational and structural changes to the entire McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System that could improve the productivity of commercial navigation on the system, while maintaining the other project purposes of flood control, recreation, hydropower, water supply, and fish and wildlife.

The preparation of an EIS is required by Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to document the positive and negative effects of major government actions such as the proposed changes to the navigation system.

The final EIS identifies, documents, and evaluates the effects of implementing a plan to maintain and improve the navigation channel in order to enhance commercial navigation, while maintaining the other navigation system project purposes. The proposed action involves implementing actions associated with three features that influence navigation. Proposed system changes could impact agriculture, hydropower, recreation, flood control, and the environment along the navigation system. The three features are:

- Navigation channel depth maintenance;
- River flow management; and
- Navigation channel depth increase.

PURPOSE: The USACE assessed and considered comments provided by members of the interested public and Federal, State, and local agencies on the draft EIS. The final EIS incorporates changes suggested by comments on the draft EIS, as appropriate, and contains responses to comments received during the draft EIS review period. A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on August 19, 2005 to inform the public that the final EIS has been released.

Following a 30 day waiting period from the date of the final EIS Notice of Availability, a Record of Decision will be prepared by the USACE and published in the Federal Register. The decision maker will consider comments received during the final EIS 30 day comment period in reaching the final decision on this action. The Record of Decision will describe the USACE's decision regarding the Arkansas River Navigation Study. The document will also describe actions to be taken by the USACE to mitigate any significant adverse impacts associated with the USACE's action.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: All interested parties, including representatives of Federal and non-

Federal agencies; agricultural, commercial, industrial, business, transportation and utility interests; civic, environmental, recreational, and fish and wildlife organizations; and concerned citizens, property owners and other interests, are urged to respond to this notice.

In order to be heard and to facilitate proper consideration, you should send your written comments to: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CESWL-PR-P (Mr. Johnny McLean), P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, or e-mail to AR-OK.River.Study@usace.army.mil. All comments must be received by September 19, 2005 to be considered for the Record of Decision.

AVAILABILITY OF FEIS: Copies of the FEIS are available for review at the following locations:

- Fort Smith Public Library, 3201 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903
- Arkansas River Valley Regional Library, 501 N. Front Street, Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834
- Clarksville Public Library, 2 Taylor Circle, Clarksville, Arkansas 72830
- Franklin County Library, 407 W. Market, Ozark, Arkansas 72949
- Pope County Library, 216 NE First Street, Atkins, Arkansas
- Morrilton County Library, 101 W. Church Street, Morrilton, Arkansas 72110-3399
- Faulkner County Library, 1900 Tyler Street, Conway, Arkansas 72032
- Maumelle Library, 10 Lake Pointe Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72113
- Little Rock Public Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212
- Jefferson County Library, 200 E. 8th Avenue, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601-5092
- Melville Library, 4010 S. Mulberry Street, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603
- Dumas Public Library, 120 E. Choctaw Street, Dumas, Arkansas 71639
- Tulsa City-County Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103
- OSU Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074
- Tulsa Public Library, 1207 E. 45th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105
- South Regional Library, 6737 S. 85th East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133
- Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Avenue, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012
- South Broken Arrow Library, 3600 S. Chestnut Avenue, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011
- Linscheid Library, ATTN: OEIMC, East Central State College, Ada, Oklahoma 74820
- University of Oklahoma Library, 401 West Brooks, Norman, Oklahoma 73069
- Eastern Oklahoma District Library, 814 W. Okmulgee Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401
- Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library, 101 E. Cherokee Street, Sallisaw, Oklahoma 74955.

Free electronic copies of the final EIS and the final Feasibility Report for the Arkansas River Navigation Study are available on CD. A paper copy of the summary document containing the executive summaries from the final Feasibility Report and final EIS and Chapter 8 (Summary of Impacts and Mitigation) from the final EIS may be obtained free of charge by writing, calling, or e-mailing the Little Rock District Corps of Engineers at the contact provided in "What You Can Do." Paper copies of the entire final EIS and Feasibility Report with appendices are available for purchase at cost (including printing and shipping). In addition, the final EIS and Feasibility Report are available on-line at the following website: <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/projmgmt/arkriverstudy.html>