

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Norman T. Edwards, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CECW-PD, Washington, DC 20314-1000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

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 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Proposed Deepening of the Savannah Harbor Navigation Project, Chatham County, GA and Jasper County, SC

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: A feasibility study is underway which considers alternatives of a 2, 4, 6, or 8 foot deepening of the navigation channel from approximately Station 103+000 through the bar to the end of the project in deep water in the ocean. Any modification of these alternatives will be addressed, as appropriated, during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding this proposal may be directed to Ms. Susan Durden, (912) 652-5805.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Current Project Description:* The Savannah Harbor Navigation Project is located at the mouth of the Savannah River approximately 75 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina, and 120 miles north of Jacksonville, Florida. The project includes the lower 21.3 miles of the Savannah River and an additional 11.4 miles of channel from the mouth of the Savannah River across the bar to the Atlantic Ocean. Current authorized depths for the inner harbor channel beginning at the upper end of the harbor and proceeding to the entrance and through the jetties are 30, 36, and 42 feet (with an additional 2 feet of overdepth and 2-4 feet of advanced maintenance), depending on the range, and for the bar channel beyond the jetties the authorized depth is 44 feet (with an

additional 2 feet of overdepth and 2 feet of advanced maintenance). Annual maintenance of the project requires dredging and disposal of approximately 7 million cubic yards of material.

2. *Proposed Action:* The alternatives being considered are a 2, 4, 6, or 8 foot deepening of the navigation channel from approximately Station 103+000 through the bar to the end of the project in deep water in the ocean. Overdepth and advanced maintenance requirements in the navigation channel will be analyzed as part of the feasibility study. Any proposed modification of this proposed plan will be addressed, as appropriate, during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

3. *Alternatives:* The proposed study includes the following alternatives:

a. No action/Maintenance of status quo.

b. Improvement of existing navigation facilities, with alternatives addressed in 2-foot increments to a maximum of 8 feet.

4. *Study Description:* This study will include a analysis of potential impacts on endangered species, fisheries, birds, marine mammals, water quality, historic properties, etc., resulting from the various alternatives. This study is being conducted by the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) under the authority of Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. Under that authority, a non-Federal interest may prepare a feasibility study and draft environmental assessment of a proposed harbor improvement, and submit those documents to the Secretary of the Army. The Savannah District envisions participating in the adoption of the draft EIS. The Secretary would then transmit to Congress an assessment of whether those documents and the study process comply with Federal laws and regulations, and provide any recommendations concerning the proposed project. If the proposed project received Congressional authorization, it would become a Federal Navigation Project.

5. *Scoping Process:* Federal, State, and local officials, conservation groups; and interested businesses, groups, and individuals are invited to comment on the proposed project. Comments received as a result of this notice will be used to assist in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the environment. A public scoping meeting

is scheduled for July 9, 1997, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the Coastal Georgia Center for Continuing Education, 305 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Savannah, Georgia.

6. *Address for Comments:* Written comments may be forwarded to: District Engineer (Attention: Ms. Susan Durden, PD-P), P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889. Comments should be received within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the Federal Register to ensure timely consideration.

7. *Availability of the DEIS:* The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be made available to the public in April 1998.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register, Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District's Proposed Ordinance No. 15 Establishing General Tariff No. 1 for the Humboldt Harbor and Bay Deepening, California Project

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The attached Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District's proposed Ordinance No. 15 establishing General Tariff No. 1 was developed as one of the several methods to fund the local (i.e., non-Federal) share of the Federal Humboldt Harbor and Bay Deepening, CA project. The Federal project was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 and is scheduled to begin construction in the fall of 1997. Publication of the attached General Tariff in the **Federal Register** is pursuant to Section 208 of WRDA 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2236(a)(5)(B)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding the General Tariff may be directed to Mr. David Hull, Chief Executive Officer, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (707) 443-0801.