

attend. Contact Mr. Karpinski (757-728-5531) for meeting agenda and specific locations.

Any member of the public may file a written statement with the committee before, during, or after the meeting. To the extent that time permits, the committee chairman may allow public presentations or oral statements at the meeting.

**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 Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Bloomsburg Local Flood Protection Project in Columbia 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 Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is initiating the Bloomsburg Local Flood Protection Feasibility Study in Columbia County, Pennsylvania. This study will include an evaluation of levee/floodwall alignment alternatives to provide adequate protection to the Town of Bloomsburg. The level of protection will be determined through an assessment of flood damages; degree of adverse impacts to the cultural, environmental, and socio-economic surroundings, and a benefit-cost ratio. A DEIS will be prepared that will document existing conditions, project actions, and project impacts. The Town of Bloomsburg is the non-Federal sponsor.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be addressed to Ms. Stacey Underwood, Study Team Leader, Baltimore District; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-PL-P, P.O. Box 1715; Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, telephone (410) 962-4977. E-mail address: stacey.m.underwood@usace.army.mil

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The authorization for the Bloomsburg Reconnaissance Study was the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure resolution, dated September 12, 1996.

2. The Bloomsburg Reconnaissance Study produced by the Corps in 1998 determined that there was both Federal and non-Federal interest in pursuing a feasibility study and implementation of a local flood protection project.

3. In June 1999, the Corps and the Town of Bloomsburg executed a feasibility cost-sharing agreement. The study area is the Town of Bloomsburg, located in central Columbia County, Pennsylvania, approximately 50 miles southwest of Wilkes-Barre. Bloomsburg is situated at the confluence of Fishing Creek and the Susquehanna River.

4. Environmental issues will focus on, but are not limited to, effects on air quality, wetlands, water quality; fish and wildlife resources (including threatened and endangered species); hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste; aesthetic resources; and cultural resources (including archaeological sites and historic architecture). Benefits, costs, and impacts will be examined in detail to determine whether a flood protection structure is justified and the appropriate alignment for such a structure. The team will evaluate the environmental impacts (both adverse and beneficial) of the proposed actions.

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, and will also be based on the national concern for protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against the project's reasonably foreseeable costs. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Baltimore District are preparing a DEIS that will describe the impacts of the proposed project on environmental and cultural resources in the study area and the overall public interest. The DEIS will be in accordance with NEPA and will document all factors that may be relevant to the proposal, including the cumulative effects thereof. If applicable, the DEIS 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 and newsletters will be sent to appropriate agencies, organizations, and individuals on an extensive mailing list. Additional public information will be provided through print media, mailings, radio and television announcements.

7. Other participants that will be involved in the study and DEIS process in addition to the Corps, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Town of Bloomsburg include the following: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and U.S. National Park Service. The Baltimore District invites potentially affected Federal, state, and local agencies, and other organizations and entities to participate in this study.

8. The Bloomsburg Local Flood Protection Feasibility Study and DEIS are tentatively scheduled for public review in December 2001.

**Robert W. Lindner,**

*Chief, Planning Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 23, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address DWERFEL@OMB.EOP.GOV.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader,