



Public Notice

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Fort Worth District

Applicant: Angelina Neches & River
Permit Application No.: 198700524
Date: January 29, 2010

The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

Regulatory Program

Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program.

Section 10

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate *all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States*. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

Section 404

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the *discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands*. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

Contact

Name: Mr. Brent Jasper
Phone Number: (817) 886-1733

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
FORT WORTH DISTRICT

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) associated with an application for a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States in conjunction with the construction of Lake Columbia in Cherokee and Smith Counties, Texas.

APPLICANT: Angelina & Neches River Authority
Mr. Kelley Holcomb, General Manager
210 Lufkin Avenue
Lufkin, Texas 75902

APPLICATION NUMBER: SWF-1987-00524

DATE ISSUED: January 29, 2010

LOCATION: The proposed reservoir would be located on Mud Creek, a tributary to the Angelina River and would extend into Smith and Cherokee Counties. The proposed dam site would be located approximately 3 miles downstream (south) of U.S. Highway 79 in Cherokee County, approximately at UTM coordinates 297304.0 East and 3535573.0 North (Zone 15) on the Troup West, Tecula, Griffin, Jacksonville East, and New Summerfield 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map in the USGS Hydrologic Unit 12020004.

SUMMARY: The proposed project would result in adverse impacts to 5,746.5 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prepared this DEIS in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act on an application by the Angelina & Neches River Authority for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States associated with the construction and operation of the proposed Lake Columbia. In this DEIS, the USACE evaluated the potential impacts to the natural, physical, and human environment associated with the federal action.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The USACE is distributing this public notice to all known interested persons to solicit comments on the DEIS from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties, in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE in determining whether to issue, issue with special conditions, or deny a permit for this proposal.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: As part of the public involvement process, notice is hereby given by the USACE Fort Worth District of an informal public information meeting (open house format) to be held at the Norman Activity Center, 526 East Commerce Street, Jacksonville, Texas, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. on March 1, 2010. This meeting will afford interested parties the opportunity to engage in a dialog with the USACE regarding the EIS process and the analyses performed to date. The USACE Fort Worth District will also be holding a formal public hearing to be held at the Norman Activity Center, 526 East Commerce Street, Jacksonville, Texas, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. on March 2, 2010. The public hearing will allow participants the opportunity to comment on the DEIS prepared for the proposed Lake Columbia.

AVAILABILITY OF DEIS: Hard or electronic copies of the DEIS may be obtained by contacting the Fort Worth District (USACE) at (817)886-1731 or by printing copies from the USACE Internet homepage at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/regulatory/permitting/lakecolumbia.asp>. Copies of the DEIS are also available for inspection at the following locations:

- 1) Jacksonville Public Library, 502 South Jackson St., Jacksonville, TX 76766.
- 2) Kurth Memorial Library, 706 South Raguet St., Lufkin, TX 75904.
- 3) Nacogdoches Public Library, 1112 North Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961.
- 4) Rusk County Library, 106 East Main St., Henderson, TX 75652.
- 5) Tyler Public Library, 201 South College Avenue, Tyler, TX 75702.
- 6) Henderson City Hall, 400 West Main Street, Henderson, TX 75652.
- 7) Jacksonville City Hall, 301 East Commerce Street, Jacksonville, TX 75766.
- 8) Lufkin City Hall, 300 East Shepherd Avenue, Lufkin, TX 75901.
- 9) Nacogdoches City Hall, 202 East Pilar Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961.
- 10) Rusk City Hall, 205 South Main St., Rusk, TX 75785.
- 11) Tyler City Hall, 212 North Bonner Avenue, Tyler, TX 75702.

For additional information pertaining to this project and the permitting process, please refer to the USACE Internet homepage at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil>

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to the DEIS must reach this office on or before March 30, 2010, which is the close of the comment period.

Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to Mr. Brent Jasper, Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Post Office Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300 or via E-mail: brent.j.jasper@usace.army.mil Telephone inquiries should be directed to (817)886-1731. Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice will be publicly available.

DISTRICT ENGINEER
FORT WORTH DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS