



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

October 29, 2010

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division  
Regulatory Branch

Dear Reader:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Sabine Mining Company – Rusk Permit Area is submitted for your review and comment. The project area is located approximately 1 mile north of Tatum, Texas, in Rusk, Harrison and Panola counties (detailed maps within).

Sabine Mining Company proposes to construct, operate, and reclaim an expansion of the South Hallsville No.1 Mine. The new 20,377-acre area is located south of the existing mine and across the Sabine River into Rusk and Panola counties. Surface mining operations would continue with conventional open pits excavated by large draglines and supported by standard earth moving equipment such as loading shovels, dozers, end dumps, and scrapers. Infrastructure in support of the operation would include (1) construction of a transportation corridor across the Sabine River, including a haul road, bridge, and a dragline walkway, (2) construction of ponds and diversions to control surface water drainage, (3) placement of groundwater well fields to dewater overburden and relieve underburden pressures, (4) construction of service roads, and (5) closure and/or relocation of numerous public roads to facilitate mine operations and protect public safety.

The DEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental impacts which could result from our permit decision. This DEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and decision maker of the impacts associated with implementing the proposed project, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit other agencies and the public for comments. An electronic copy of the document is available for review and/or download at: <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/regulatory/permitting/rusk.asp>.

Please reference the “Rusk Permit Area DEIS – Project No. SWF-2007-00560” when submitting comments. Comments and related personally identifying information will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and comments may be published as part of the Record of Decision (ROD) and/or other documents. Written comments will be accepted up to close of business on December 28, 2010 at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R  
Post Office Box 17300  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

For further information, please contact Mr. Darvin Messer, Regulatory Project Manager at (817)886-1744.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen L Brooks  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

**DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
RUSK PERMIT AREA**

Lead Agency: Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Worth District

Project Location: Rusk, Panola, and Harrison Counties, Texas

Comments on this EIS  
Should be Directed to: Mr. Darvin Messer, EIS Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Worth District  
819 Taylor Street, Room 3437  
P.O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300  
(817-886-1744)

Date Draft EIS Filed with USEPA: October 29, 2010

Date by Which Comments Must  
be Received by the USACE: December 28, 2010

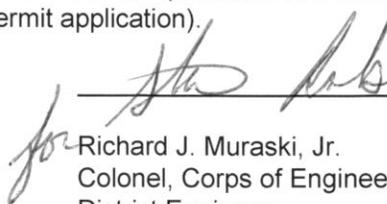
**ABSTRACT**

Sabine Mining Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of The North American Coal Corporation, proposes to construct, operate, and reclaim the Rusk Permit Area, which would be an expansion of the existing, South Hallsville No. 1 Mine. The proposed project requires a permit from the Railroad Commission of Texas (RCT) under Title 16, Part 1, Chapter 12 of the Texas Administrative Code. The RCT permit area for the proposed project consists of approximately 20,377 acres in Rusk, Panola, and Harrison counties, Texas; within the permit area, up to a total of 14,392 acres would be disturbed over the 30-year life of the mine.

While the project would utilize existing infrastructure at the South Hallsville No. 1 Mine, it also would include development of new mine pits and construction of the following new facilities: transportation and utility corridor (main haul road, dragline walkway, and 138-kilovolt transmission line) crossing the Sabine River; haul roads; surface water control structures; dewatering wells; equipment fueling and parking area; water truck fill station; temporary lignite and non-lignite storage areas; and dragline workover area.

The proposed project requires an Individual Permit from the United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This permit decision is a major federal action with the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, the USACE has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary. This EIS describes the environmental impacts associated with the alternatives available to the USACE (issuance of a Section 404 permit, issuance of a permit with conditions, or denial of the permit application).

Responsible Official for the EIS:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Richard J. Muraski, Jr.  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer