



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District

Applicant: Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa)

Permit Application No.: 199900331

Date: May 9, 2003 **UPDATED**

The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the Department of the Army permit application for the proposed Three Oaks Mine and 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. **UPDATED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ADDRESS INFORMATION (SHOWN IN BOLD LETTERS) WHERE THE FEIS MAY BE INSPECTED.**

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 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.

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Contact

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) associated with an application for a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States in conjunction with the construction and operation of the Three Oaks Mine in Lee and Bastrop Counties, Texas.

APPLICANT: Alcoa Inc.
P.O. Box 1491
Rockdale, Texas 76567

APPLICATION NUMBER: 199900331

DATE ISSUED: May 9, 2003

LOCATION: The proposed lignite mine would be located in the Brazos and Colorado River drainage basins in Lee and Bastrop Counties, Texas, directly southeast of the existing Alcoa Sandow Mine, located near Rockdale, in Milam and Lee Counties, Texas. The proposed project would be located approximately at UTM coordinates 666063.160 East and 3359551.170 North 14 on the Beakiss, Elgin East, McDade, and Structure, Texas 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle maps in the USGS Hydrologic Unit 12090301.

SUMMARY: The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prepared this FEIS in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act on an application by the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States associated with the construction and operation of the proposed surface lignite mine. In the Three Oaks Mine FEIS, 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 FEIS 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.

AVAILABILITY OF FEIS: Copies of the FEIS 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>. Copies of the FEIS are also available for inspection at the following locations:

- 1) Bastrop City Hall, 902 Main Street, Bastrop, TX 78602.
- 2) Lexington City Hall, **Corner 4th and Main Streets**, P.O. Box 56, Lexington, TX 78947.
- 3) Austin City Hall, 124 West 8th Street, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767.
- 4) Rockdale City Hall, **140 West Cameron**, P.O. Box 586, Rockdale, TX 76567.
- 5) Elgin City Hall, **310 North Main**, P.O. Box 591, Elgin, TX 78621.
- 6) Giddings City Hall, 118 E. Richmond Street, Giddings, TX 78942.
- 7) Lee County Courthouse, **898 East Richmond**, P.O. Box 390, Giddings, TX, 78942.
- 8) Milam County Courthouse, **102 South Fannin**, P.O. Box 1008, Cameron, TX 76520.
- 9) Bastrop County Courthouse, 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop, TX 78602.
- 10) Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767.
- 11) City of Austin Library - Milwood Branch, 12500 Amherst Drive, Austin, TX 78727.
- 12) City of Austin Library – John Henry Faulk Branch, 800 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78701.
- 13) City of Austin Library – Will Hampton at Oak Hill Branch, 5125 Convict Hill Road, Austin, TX 78749.
- 14) City of Bastrop Public Library, 1100 Church Street, Bastrop, TX 78602.
- 15) City of Elgin Public Library, ~~404 North Main Street~~ **1002 North Avenue C**, Elgin, TX 78621.
- 16) City of Giddings Public Library, 177 South Madison Street, Giddings, TX 78942.
- 17) City of Rockdale Public Library, 201 Ackerman Street, Rockdale, TX 76567.

For additional information pertaining to this project and the permitting process, please refer to the Public Notice dated July 20, 2001, which may be obtained by contacting the USACE at (817)886-1731 or by printing copies from the USACE Internet homepage at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil>.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to the FEIS must reach this office on or before June 23, 2003, which is the close of the comment period. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to Ms. Jennifer Walker, Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Post Office Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300 or via E-mail: 3oakseis@swf02.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