



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

# Public Notice

**Number:** 198700524  
Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct a Public Scoping Meeting on a Permit Application for Construction and Operation of the

**Activity:** Proposed Lake Columbia

**Date:** July 18, 2005

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**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) from the Angelina & Neches River Authority (ANRA) for the construction and operation of Lake Columbia, application number 198700524. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the USACE has determined that issuance of such a permit may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and, therefore, requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The USACE intends to prepare an EIS to assess the environmental, social, and economic effects of issuance of a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the CWA for discharges of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.) associated with the construction of the proposed water supply reservoir. In the EIS, the USACE will assess potential impacts associated with a range of alternatives.

**SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:** A public scoping meeting (open house format) to gather information and solicit comments on the scope of the EIS, including the issues to be addressed in detail in the EIS document, will be conducted on Thursday, August 18, 2005, from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Norman Activity Center, 526 East Commerce Street, Jacksonville, TX 75766. The comment period will be open from July 14 until September 18, 2005.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*1. Description of the Proposed Project:* The proposed dam site would be located on Mud Creek approximately three miles downstream (south) of U.S. Highway 79 east of Jacksonville (sheet 1 of 1). The proposed project would involve the discharge of dredged and fill material into approximately 220 acres of waters of the U.S. associated with the construction of Lake Columbia. Proposed filling activities would occur in conjunction with the construction of the dam, spillway, and staging areas. The project would impound approximately 14 miles of Mud Creek and its tributaries, and would inundate approximately 10,000 surface acres at a conservation pool elevation of 315 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). The project would adversely impact approximately 5,747 acres of waters of the U.S. associated with clearing, excavation, filling, and inundation.

Waters of the U.S. affected would include the following: 3,689 acres of forested wetlands, 144 acres of scrub-shrub wetlands, 1,518 acres of emergent wetlands, 47 acres (204,864 linear feet) of intermittent streams, 255 acres (370,128 linear feet) of perennial streams, 63 acres of ponds, 0.5 acre of a forested hillside seep wetland, and 30 acres (14,256 linear feet) of a channelized reach of Mud Creek. The project would also result in the inundation of 2,245 acres of deciduous upland forest, 235 acres of upland shrubland, and 2,381 acres of upland grassland.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide water for a five-county region of East Texas, including Angelina, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, Rusk, and Smith counties. Lake Columbia would impound approximately 195,500 acre-feet of water and would provide a firm yield of 85,090 acre-feet per year.

2. *Alternatives:* Alternatives available to the USACE are to: (1) issue the Department of the Army permit; (2) issue the Department of the Army permit with special conditions; or (3) deny the Department of the Army permit. Alternatives available to ANRA include: (1) constructing Lake Columbia as proposed; (2) constructing Lake Columbia as proposed, with modifications; (3) developing or acquiring other water supply sources; or (4) no action.

3 *Significant Issues:* Issues to be given significant analysis in the EIS are likely to include, but will not be limited to: the effects of the lake on the immediate and adjacent property owners and nearby communities, downstream hydraulics and hydrology, streams, wetlands, surface water quantity and quality, groundwater quantity and quality, geologic resources, vegetation, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, soils, prime farmland, noise, light, aesthetics, historic and pre-historic cultural resources, socioeconomics, land use, public roads, and air quality.

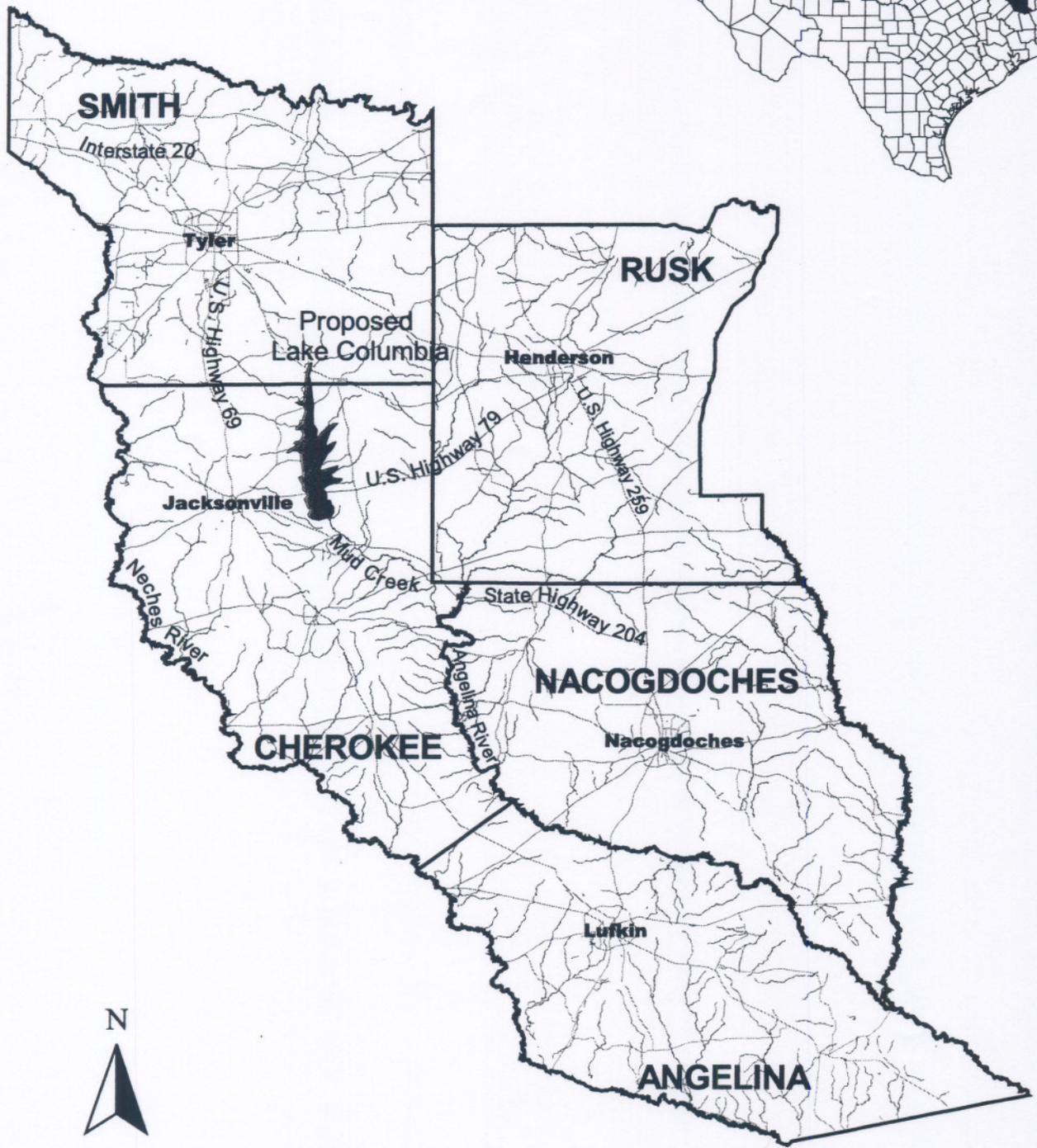
4. *Cooperating Agencies:* At this time, no other federal or state agencies are expected to be cooperating agencies in preparation of the EIS. However, numerous federal and state agencies, including the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Texas Water Development Board are expected to be involved in the preparation of, and provide comments on, the EIS.

5. *Additional Review and Consultation:* Compliance with other federal and state requirements that will be addressed in the EIS include, but will not be limited to, state water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, protection of water quality under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, protection of air quality under the Texas Air Quality Act, protection of endangered and threatened species under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and protection of cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

6. *Availability of the Draft EIS:* The Draft EIS is projected to be available by June 2006. A public hearing will be conducted following the release of the Draft EIS.

COMMENTS: All comments pertaining to the scope of the EIS must reach this office on or before September 18, 2005, which is the close of the comment period. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. Comments on the scope of the EIS, requests for additional information, and requests to be added to the mailing list for receipt of the Draft EIS should be submitted to Mr. Brent J. Jasper, Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Post Office Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. You may also review and make comments on this public notice and/or make comments on the scope of the EIS by accessing our website at [www.swf.usace.army.mil](http://www.swf.usace.army.mil) and selecting "Lake Columbia 404 Permit Application Public Notice and EIS Scoping". You may visit the Regulatory Branch in Room 3A37 of the Federal Building at 819 Taylor Street in Fort Worth between 8:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. General telephone inquiries should be directed to (817)886-1733. Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available.

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS



**USACE**  
**Project No.**  
**198700524**

**Angelina and Neches River Authority**  
**Proposed Lake Columbia**

**Location Map**

<b>FN JOB NO</b>	ANR01288
<b>FILE</b>	MAPS.APR
<b>DATE</b>	August 12, 2003
<b>SCALE</b>	1:1,000,000
<b>DESIGNED</b>	TLH
<b>DRAFTED</b>	LDC

**SHEET**  
**1 of 1**

APPENDIX A

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION

