

# PASCAGOULA RIVER DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECT EIS FACT SHEET

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Pat Harrison Waterway District and George County Board of Supervisors (Applicant) has applied for a Department of the Army permit for a proposed drought resiliency project to be located in George and Jackson Counties, Mississippi. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District is reviewing this application (SAM-2014-00653-MBM) and is processing it pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

The proposed Pascagoula River Drought Resiliency Project would be comprised of two new water supply lakes: a 1,715-acre upper lake on Little Cedar Creek and a 1,153-acre lower lake on Big Cedar Creek, in south George and north Jackson Counties. Big Cedar Creek and Little Cedar Creek are tributaries to the Pascagoula River.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

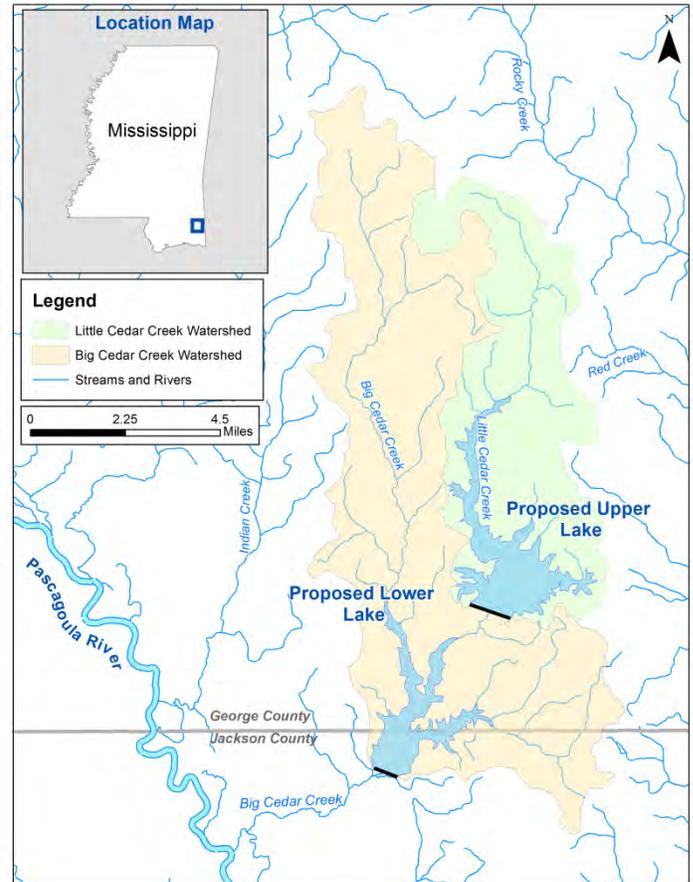
To evaluate the permit application, the USACE will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to fully assess the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the Pascagoula River Drought Resiliency Project. When the EIS is completed, the USACE will decide whether to issue a permit, issue a permit with modification, or deny a permit.

## PURPOSE AND NEED

The Applicant believes the proposed water supply lakes are needed to supply water to the Pascagoula River during future extreme droughts resulting from the effects of climate change. The lakes will be used to maintain flows necessary to meet critical environmental, ecological, and economic needs through 2060.

## ALTERNATIVES

The USACE will evaluate a range of alternatives in addition to the Applicant's preferred alternative. The alternatives that will be considered include a "No Action" alternative, project alternative that would avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to the aquatic environment, project alternatives utilizing other best management practices, and other reasonable options. After evaluating the alternatives in the EIS, the USACE will identify the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.



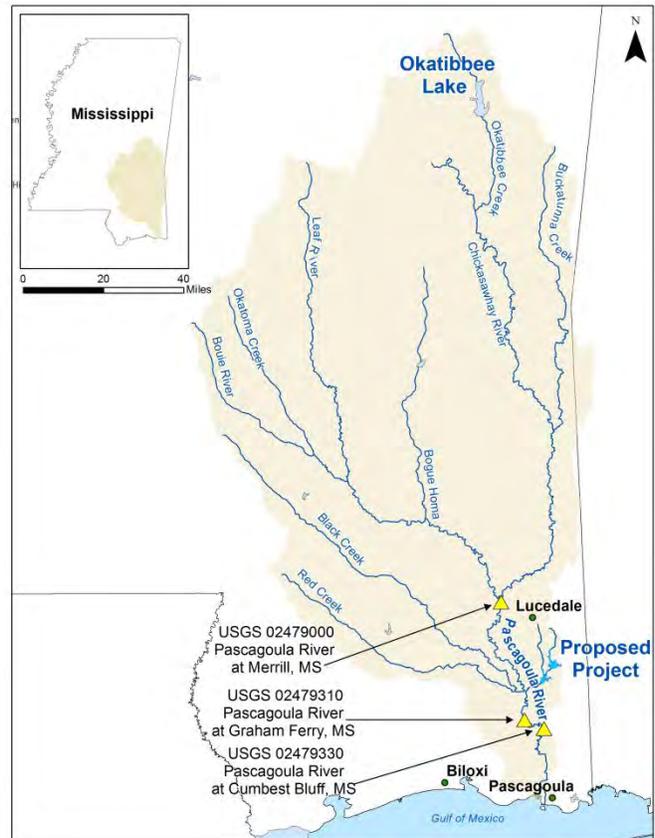
## SCOPING & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The purpose of the public scoping process is to give the public a chance to comment on the proposed action, recommend alternatives, and identify issues to be considered in the EIS analysis. The EIS process is being implemented so that the application can be fully evaluated and a permit decision can be made.

## KEY AREAS FOR EVALUATION

Key areas of focus in the EIS are listed (but are not limited to) as follows:

- a. Project purpose and need
- b. Range of alternatives
- c. Potential direct effects to waters of the U.S. including aquatic ecology, wildlife, and wetlands
- d. Water quantity and stream hydrology
- e. Water quality
- f. Threatened and endangered species
- g. Recreation
- h. Land use and aesthetics
- i. Public health and safety
- j. Navigation
- k. Erosion, soil and geology
- l. Cultural resources/historic properties
- m. Socioeconomic environment
- n. Environmental justice
- o. Secondary and cumulative impacts
- p. Public benefit and needs of the people
- q. Mitigation and monitoring



## HOW CAN I COMMENT?

The USACE invites all interested parties to comment on the proposed scope of study and alternatives to be addressed in the Pascagoula River Drought Resiliency Project EIS. Comments must be received by **February 6, 2017** to be considered in defining the scope of the Draft EIS.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Fill out a comment form at the public scoping meeting
- Submit verbal comments (with the court reporter) at the public scoping meeting
- Mail comments to: Attention: Michael Moxey, US Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628
- E-mail comments to: [michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil](mailto:michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil)
- Online at the project website: [www.georgecountylakesEIS.com](http://www.georgecountylakesEIS.com)

# NEPA PROCESS & HOW TO COMMENT ON THIS PROJECT

## PASCAGOULA RIVER DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECT EIS

### UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

NEPA is a federal law that requires the identification and analysis of potential environmental effects of major proposed federal actions and alternatives before those actions take place. NEPA assures that environmental factors are considered equally with the technical and engineering components of a decision. NEPA requires federal agencies to identify all potential environmental effects and any adverse effects that cannot be avoided, and to evaluate alternatives to the proposed action.

NEPA is a “full disclosure” law with provisions for public access to and full participation in the federal decision-making process. The Act is provided to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through well-informed federal decisions.

An **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** is the public document that provides a detailed evaluation of the proposed action and alternatives. Agencies, organizations, and the public may provide input into the preparation of the EIS and comment on the Draft EIS and Final EIS when each is completed.

Participating in the NEPA process is an important way for you to express concerns and raise issues before a decision is made.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

NEPA makes involvement by the public, agencies, and stakeholders an essential part of ensuring informed decision-making at the federal level. There are three opportunities for public comment during the EIS process:

1. **Scoping** - the stage of identifying the scope of significant issues and concerns related to the proposed action that the EIS should address, as well as alternative courses of action.
2. **Draft EIS Review** - the stage where the Draft EIS is available for review and comment. The public can provide feedback to the agency about gaps in the information provided or the quality of the analysis in the document, as well as impacts the document may not have addressed or measures needed to mitigate any adverse impacts.
3. **Final EIS Review** - public comments on the final document related to the agency decision.



NEPA assures that environmental factors are considered equally with technical and engineering components of a decision.

FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZM	Control Zone Management
EO	Equal Opportunity
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CAA	Clean Air Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act

The USACE is interested in your comments regarding the Pascagoula Drought Resiliency Project EIS. Scoping Comments are due by February 6, 2017.

## HOW CAN I COMMENT?

The USACE invites comments from all interested parties on the proposed scope of study and alternatives to address the Pascagoula River Drought Resiliency Project EIS. Comments must be received by **February 6, 2017**, to be considered in defining the scope of the Draft EIS. Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Fill out a comment form at the public scoping meeting
- Submit verbal comments (with the court reporter) at the public scoping meeting
- Mail comments to: Attention: Michael Moxey, US Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628
- E-mail comments to: michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil
- Submit online at the project website: [www.geogecountylakesEIS.com](http://www.geogecountylakesEIS.com)

## TIPS FOR MAKING EFFECTIVE COMMENTS:

- Be brief so the point of your comment is not missed.
- Be as specific as possible in your comments.
- Focus your comments on specific topics, locations, or issues.
- State the facts and back them up where possible. Be sure to share your sources of information to help make your point.

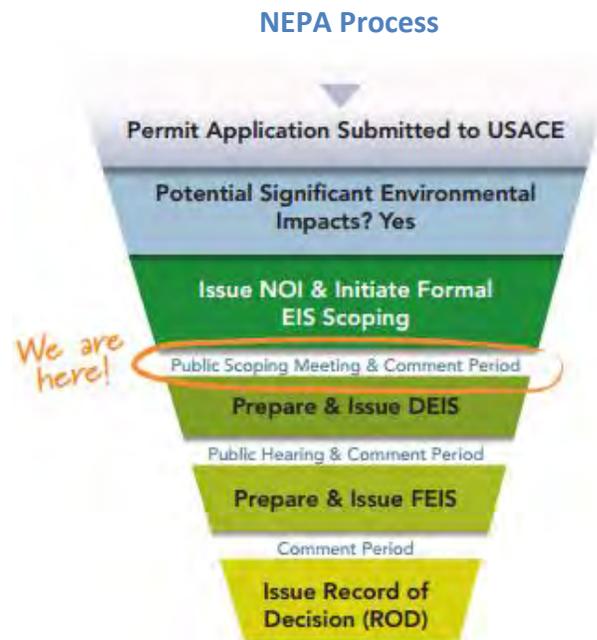
## THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WOULD BE THE MOST USEFUL:

- Are there additional issues (not already identified) that the USACE should consider?
- Are there additional alternatives that the USACE should consider?

For more information on the NEPA process and public involvement, please visit the following websites:

**A Citizen's Guide to NEPA:** [http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens\\_Guide\\_Dec07.pdf](http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf)

**NEPA's 40 Most Asked Questions:** <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/NEPA/regs/40/40p3.htm>



### PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

**Authority:** Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). **Principal Purpose:** To provide the USACE with information concerning comments received from members of the general public; businesses; municipal, state, Federal or other government agencies; nongovernmental organizations; or other interested parties. The information provided will be used by the USACE to assist in its review, consideration of, and response to comments received. **Routine Uses:** The information provided may be shared with other Federal or state government agencies, and may be disclosed by the USACE in accordance with applicable Federal law. **Disclosure:** Providing information is voluntary.