

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the East St. Louis and Vicinity, Illinois, Interior Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project General Reevaluation Report**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The St. Louis District of the Corps of Engineers is preparing an integrated Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Reevaluation Report for proposed measures to provide interior flood control and ecosystem restoration for East St. Louis and Vicinity, Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois. The interior drainage system currently does not have sufficient capacity to handle local and upland runoff from rainfall events greater than 5-year storms, and sediment from upland tributaries not only reduces the channel capacity of the drainage system but causes environmental degradation. The purpose of the reevaluation study is to investigate measures that blend flood control with ecosystem restoration. Measures to be investigated will be designed to restore and enhance natural habitats, with a focus on wetlands as temporary storage areas for stormwater. The goal will be to develop strategies for the control of various storm events, with emphasis on the 100-year event. Likewise, strategies will be investigated to significantly reduce sedimentation within the drainage system and environmentally sensitive areas.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be addressed to Ms. Deborah Roush, (314) 331-8033, or Mr. Timothy George, (314) 331-8459; Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. *Authorization.* The reevaluation study is being conducted under the authorities of Section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965 and Section 137 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-587).

2. *General Information.* a. *Location and Land Use of the Study Area.* The study area is in southwestern Illinois in Madison and St. Clair Counties, and lies within the Metro East St. Louis area

along the east bank of the Mississippi River. It encompasses about 106,000 acres (166 square miles). About 55,000 acres are bottomland on the Mississippi River floodplain (locally called the American Bottoms), and upland watersheds that drain into these bottoms comprise the remaining 51,000 acres of the study areas. After New Orleans, the American Bottoms is the second largest concentration of residential, commercial, and industrial land use on the Mississippi River floodplain. Agriculture is also a significant land use in the bottoms. The floodplain is scarred with ox-bow lakes and marshes that are remnants of former meanders of the Mississippi River. An urban design levee protects the bottoms from Mississippi River flooding. Runoff from the upland or hill areas reaches the bottoms through numerous individual streams and ditches, and traverses the relatively flat floodplain through an old agricultural ditch system built at the turn of the century. The American Bottoms was a heartland of the prehistoric Mississippian culture, which today is represented most dramatically by the Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site.

b. *Interior Flooding.* The floodplain of the Mississippi River in the Metro East St. Louis area has experienced interior flooding from hillside runoff and local rainfall for many years. The interior drainage ditch system is inadequate to handle more than minor rainfall events. Past efforts by the Corps to develop an economically justified project in this area have been unsuccessful. The benefits required to justify improvements could not be achieved because of the low value of flood-damaged housing and business structures within this economically depressed area. Areas of frequent flooding contains a large community of minority citizens and low-income citizens. For four consecutive years (1993 through 1996), the project area received a National Disaster Declaration due to flooding. Flooding during the 1995 and 1996 closed transportation routes, including interstate highway ramps. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is estimated to have expended in excess of \$60 million for disaster relief over this four-year period.

c. *Sedimentation.* Upland watersheds adjacent to the bottoms are experiencing rapid residential and commercial development. Land clearing and other factors have led to high rates of soil loss from the uplands, more intense upland runoff, and more frequent overtopping of drainage ditches in the bottoms. High rates of sedimentation have also caused

a significant drain on scarce budgets of the local communities to operate and maintain the drainage system. Sedimentation over the years has also extinguished or degraded many existing wetlands and natural water bodies in the bottoms and currently threatens additional harm. Further, the historical loss of swamps, marshes, and wet prairies located in topographic depressions in the bottoms—places that previously acted as temporary storage areas for local rainfall and upland runoff—to drainage improvements, agricultural conversion, and development appears to have been extensive.

3. *Proposed Alternatives.* Alternatives to be considered will address both bottomlands and uplands. Within the bottoms, measures will be investigated to divert and temporarily store stormwater from the interior drainage system for enhancement of existing wetlands and restoration of historic wetlands. These measures will address the 10-, 25-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year rainfall events. Bottomland sediment detention basins will also be investigated to capture sediment from upland runoff and minimize its deposition within the interior drainage system and existing as well as proposed wetlands for temporary storage of stormwater. Typical structures used to achieve these goals are detention basins, dikes, and berms. Upland sediment control measures will also be investigated to reduce erosion at its source.

4. *Significant Issues and Resources.* Significant issues and resources identified to date for discussion in the DEIS are (1) erosion, sedimentation, and interior flooding; (2) natural resources including fisheries, wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, and riparian areas; (3) cultural resources; (4) water quality and groundwater; and (5) social and economic resources. Additional issues and resources of significance may be identified through public and agency meetings.

5. *Environmental Review and Consultation.* Our environmental review will be conducted according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and other applicable laws and regulations.

6. *Scoping Process.* The purpose of this notice is to solicit suggestions and information from Federal, State, and local agencies; the general public; interested private organizations and

parties on the scope of the reevaluation study and the alternatives, issues, and resources to be addressed in the DEIS. Comments and participation in this process are encouraged. An informal scoping workshop will be held on Monday, February 1, 1999, from 1 PM until 8 PM within the project area at the State of Illinois Building (Illinois Department of Transportation) located at 1100 Eastport Plaza Drive in Collinsville, Illinois (telephone 618-346-3100). A notice of this meeting will be provided to interested parties and to the local news media.

7. *Availability* The Draft EIS is scheduled to be available for public review in late 1999.

Dated: January 12, 1999.

**Thomas J. Hodgini,**

*COL, EN, Commanding.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.162A]

### Emergency Immigrant Education Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 1999.

*Purpose of Program:* This program provides grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) that experience unexpectedly large increases in their student population due to immigration. These grants are to be used to provide high-quality instruction to immigrant children and youth and to help those children and youth make the transition into American society and meet the same challenging State performance standards expected of all children and youth.

*Eligible Applicants:* State educational agencies.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* March 16, 1999.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* May 15, 1999.

*Applications Available:* January 20, 1999.

*Available Funds:* \$150 million.

**Note:** The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Project Period:* Up to 17 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, and 85; and (b) 34 CFR Part 299.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** An SEA is eligible for a grant if it meets the

eligibility requirements specified in sections 7304 and 7305 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (the Act), as amended by the Improving America's School's Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-382, enacted October 20, 1994). (20 U.S.C. 7544 and 7545). In order to receive an award under this program, an SEA must provide a count, taken during February 1999, of the number of immigrant children and youth enrolled in public and nonpublic schools in eligible LEAs in accordance with the requirements specified in section 7304 of the Act. An eligible LEA is one in which the number of immigrant children and youth enrolled in the public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools within the district is at least either 500 or 3 percent of the total number of students enrolled in those public and nonpublic schools. (20 U.S.C. 7544(b)(2)). Under section 7501(7) of the Act, the term "immigrant children and youth" means individuals who are aged 3 through 21, were not born in any State, and have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more States for more than 3 full academic years. (20 U.S.C. 7601(7)).

#### FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** Ms. Harpreet Sandhu, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5086, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. 20202-6510. Telephone: (202) 205-9808. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format, also, by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

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**Note:** The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7541-7549.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

**Delia Pompa,**

*Director, Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Language Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

#### Availability of Product Energy Efficiency Recommendations

**AGENCY:** Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office, Federal Energy Management Program, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of seven new Product Energy Efficiency Recommendations, covering distribution transformers, electric motors, residential windows, clothes washers, fluorescent luminaires, unitary air conditioners, and commercial heat pumps, and the revision of one existing Recommendation on room air conditioners. These Recommendations, along with 21 others previously released, have been published by the Department of Energy's (DOE) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) to help agencies comply with Executive Order 12902, which directs each Federal agency to increase, to the extent practicable and cost-effective, the purchase of products that are in the upper 25 percent of energy efficiency for all similar products, or products that are at least 10 percent more efficient than the minimum level that meets national standards.

**ADDRESSES:** The Recommendations are available on the internet at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/procurement>. Paper copies of the Recommendations may be obtained by calling 1-800-363-