

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers****Availability of a Draft Regional Environmental Impact Statement to Analyze Potential Impacts within Defined Geographic Regions in Texas that may be Affected by Future U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, Permit Decisions for Future Surface Coal and Lignite Mine Expansions or Satellite Mines within the District's area of Responsibility (USACE Project No. SWF-2010-00244)**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, as lead federal agency, is preparing this Regional Environmental Impact Statement (REIS) to analyze potential impacts within defined geographic regions in Texas that may be affected by future USACE, Fort Worth District, permit decisions for future surface coal and lignite mine expansions or satellite mines within the District's area of responsibility. The REIS is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and the USACE Procedures for Implementing NEPA (33 CFR 230).

**DATES:** Submit comments no later than 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal to Mr. Darvin Messer, Regulatory Project Manager, Regulatory Branch, CESWF-DE-R, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300 or via email: [Texas\\_REIS\\_Comments@usace.army.mil](mailto:Texas_REIS_Comments@usace.army.mil)

Requests to be placed on the mailing list should also be sent to this address. Please reference USACE Project No. SWF-2010-00244 in all communications.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Darvin Messer, Regulatory Project Manager at (817) 886-1744 or via email: [Darvin.Messer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Darvin.Messer@usace.army.mil)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USACE, Fort Worth District, is proposing changes to its regulatory framework for surface coal and lignite mines in Texas. The proposed

regulatory framework includes the establishment of a Regional General Permit (RGP) and a revised Letter of Permission (LOP) procedure with modifications to aquatic resource impact thresholds and a change from agency concurrence to agency coordination as compared to the current process. No changes to the criteria for Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21 or NWP 49 are proposed.

The REIS considers the potential environmental impacts of future mine expansions or satellite mines in six study areas along the coal-bearing formations in Texas that run from southwest Texas to northeast Texas. The study areas encompass locations within the coal/lignite belt in Texas that were determined to be within reasonable proximity to existing surface coal and lignite mines with potential for future expansion.

As part of the public involvement process, notice is hereby given by the USACE Fort Worth District of informal public information meetings (open house format) and formal Public Hearings regarding this Draft REIS will be held August 10-13, 2015, at the following locations:

August 10, 2015; International Center for Trade; 3295 Bob Rogers Drive, Eagle Pass, TX 78852.

August 11, 2015; Pleasanton Country Club; 1801 McGuffin Drive, Pleasanton, TX 78064.

August 12, 2015; Bell County Expo Center; 301 West Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513.

August 13, 2015; Holiday Inn South Broadway; 5701 South Broadway, Tyler, TX 75703.

Open House meetings will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with the Formal Public Hearings beginning at 6:30 p.m. at each location. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Darvin Messer (see ADDRESSES). The comments are due no later than 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. Copies of the Draft REIS may be obtained by contacting USACE Fort Worth District Regulatory Branch at (817) 886-1731 or downloaded/printed from the Fort Worth District USACE internet Web site at: <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/REISforLigniteMininginTexas.aspx>

Copies of the Draft REIS are also available for inspection at the locations identified below:

Pittsburg-Camp County Public Library, 613 Quitman Street, Pittsburg, TX 75686  
Sammy Brown Library, 319 S. Market St., Carthage, TX 75633  
Franklin County Library, 100 Main Street East, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

Rusk County Library, 106 East Main St., Henderson, TX 75652  
Sulphur Springs Public Library, 611 Davis St. North, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482  
Fannie Brown Booth Library, 619 Tenaha Street, Center, TX 75935  
Rains County Public Library, 150 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory, TX 75440  
Tyler Public Library, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler, TX 75702  
Mount Pleasant Public Library, 601 North Madison Ave., Mount Pleasant, TX 75455  
Palestine Public Library, 2000 S. Loop 256, Ste. 42, Palestine, TX 75801  
Quitman Public Library, 202 East Goode Street, Quitman, TX 75783  
Marlin Public Library, 400 Oaks St., Marlin, TX 76661  
Singletary Memorial Library, 207 E 6th St, Rusk, TX 75785  
Mary Moody Northen Municipal Library, 350 West Main Street, Fairfield, TX 75840  
Longview Public Library, 222 W. Cotton St., Longview, TX 75601  
Clint W. Murchinson Memorial Library, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens, TX 75751  
Marshall Public Library, 300 S. Alamo Blvd., Marshall, TX 75670  
Elmer P. & Jewel Ward Memorial Library, 207 E St Mary's St, Centerville, TX 75833  
Goesbeck Maffett Public Library, 601 W. Yeagua St., Goesbeck, TX 76642  
Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. 8th St., Georgetown, TX 78626  
Jourdanton Community Library, 1101 Cambell Ave., Jourdanton, TX 78026  
Carnegie Library, 315 E. Decherd Street, Franklin, TX 77856  
Live Oak County Library, 102 Le Roy St, Three Rivers, TX 78071  
Van Zandt County Public Library, 317 First Monday Ln, Canton, TX 75103  
Dimmit County Public Library, 200 N. 9th Street, Carrizo Springs, TX 78834  
Bastrop Public Library, 1100 Church Street, Bastrop, TX 78602  
Kinney County Public Library, 510 South Ellen St., Bracketville, TX 78832  
Harrie P. Woodson Memorial Library, 704 W. Hwy. 21, Caldwell, TX 77836  
Eagle Pass Main Library, 589 East Main, Eagle Pass, TX 78852  
Giddings Public Library, 276 North Orange St., Giddings, TX 78942  
Crystal City Memorial Library, 101 E Dimmit, Crystal City, TX 78839  
Cameron Public Library, 304 East 3rd Street, Cameron, TX 76520

After the public comment period ends, the USACE will consider all comments received by the due date, revise the Draft REIS as appropriate, and issue a Final Regional Environmental Impact Statement.

**Stephen L Brooks,**  
Chief, Regulatory Division.

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