

Pearl River within the project area from a riverine system to a lake system will be further reviewed. Water quality and quantity impacts downstream of the project area will also be reviewed pursuant to Section 1176.

Environmental Reviews and Consultation Requirements: The alternatives are being coordinated with federal, state, regional, and local agencies. In accordance with relevant environmental laws and regulations, USACE will engage at least the following agencies, some of which may also serve as cooperating or participating agencies in the EIS preparation: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; USFWS under the Endangered Species Act; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Mississippi Department of Environment Quality under the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act; Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Federally-recognized Indian Tribes under the National Historic Preservation Act.

NEPA Schedule: The draft EIS is presently scheduled to be available for public review and comment in September 2023. A 45-day public review period will be provided for interested parties and agencies to review and comment on this draft document. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the Draft EIS circulation. A Record of Decision would be approved and signed no earlier than 30 days after the final EIS is published.

Public Involvement and Scoping: USACE invites all affected federal, state, and local agencies, affected Federally-recognized Indian Tribes, other interested parties, and the general public to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process during development of the DEIS. Besides providing information, this notice requests input on alternatives and issues of concern.

To ensure that public comments are considered in the DEIS preparation process, members of the public, interested persons and entities must submit their comments to USACE by mail, email, or at the Scoping

Meeting(s). All comments and suggestions must be submitted by June 20, 2023. All personally identifiable information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by a commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

Scoping meeting(s) will be held at various locations (Slidell, Louisiana, and Jackson, Mississippi) during the scoping period which extends to June 20, 2023, to present information and receive comments from the public. Notification of the meeting(s) will be publicly announced in advance by USACE through press releases, special public notices, USACE social media platforms, and the project website <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Programs-and-Project-Management/Project-Management/Pearl-River/>.

James A. Bodron,
Programs Director, Mississippi Valley Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Certificate of Alternate Compliance for USS George Washington (CVN 73)

AGENCY: Department of the Navy (DoN), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of issuance of certificate of alternate compliance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Navy hereby announces that a Certificate of Alternate Compliance has been issued for USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73). Due to the special construction and purpose of this vessel, the Admiralty Counsel of the Navy has determined it is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot comply fully with the navigation lights provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this notice is to warn mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

DATES: This Certificate of Alternate Compliance is effective May 18, 2023 and is applicable beginning May 4, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Commander J. Martin Bunt, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Admiralty Attorney, Office of the Judge Advocate General,

Admiralty and Claims Division (Code 15), 1322 Patterson Ave. SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066, 202-685-5040, or admiralty@navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose. Executive Order (E.O.) 11964 of January 19, 1977 and 33 U.S.C. 1605 provide that the requirements of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), as to the number, position, range, or arc of visibility of lights or shapes, as well as to the disposition and characteristics of sound-signaling appliances, shall not apply to a vessel or class of vessels of the Navy where the Secretary of the Navy shall find and certify that, by reason of special construction or purpose, it is not possible for such vessel(s) to comply fully with the provisions without interfering with the special function of the vessel(s). Notice of issuance of a Certificate of Alternate Compliance must be made in the **Federal Register**.

In accordance with 33 U.S.C. 1605, the Admiralty Counsel of the Navy, under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Navy, hereby finds and certifies that USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) is a vessel of special construction or purpose, and that, with respect to the position of the following navigational lights, it is not possible to comply fully with the requirements of the provisions enumerated in the 72 COLREGS without interfering with the special function of the vessel:

Rule 21(a), pertaining to the placement of the masthead lights over the fore and aft centerline of the ship; Annex I, paragraph 2(g), pertaining to the placement of the sidelights above the hull; Rule 21(b) pertaining to the visibility of the sidelights; Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the placement of the forward masthead light in the forward quarter of the ship; and Annex I, Paragraph (2)(i)(iii) pertaining to the placement of the task lights.

The Admiralty Counsel of the Navy further finds and certifies that these navigational lights are in closest possible compliance with the applicable provision of the 72 COLREGS.

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1605(c), E.O. 11964.

Dated: May 15, 2023.

A.R. Holt,
Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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