
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION: Arkansas River Navigation Study

AFFECTED JURISDICTION: Arkansas River Valley and adjoining lands in the counties of: **Arkansas** – Arkansas, Conway, Crawford, Desha, Faulkner, Franklin, Grant, Jefferson, Johnson, Lincoln, Logan, Lonoke, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Sebastian, and Yell.

Oklahoma – Adair, Cherokee, Creek, Delaware, Haskell, Kay, Le Flore, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pittsburg, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington.

PREPARED BY: Little Rock and Tulsa Districts, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

APPROVED BY: Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ABSTRACT: The proposed action is to maintain and improve the navigation channel in order to enhance commercial navigation on the MKARNS, while maintaining the other MKARNS project purposes. The proposed action involves implementing actions associated with three elements that influence navigation on the MKARNS. These three issues are 1) River Flow Management, 2) Navigation Channel Depth Increase, and 3) Navigation Channel Depth Maintenance.

Multiple alternatives for accomplishing each of the three elements of the proposed action (as well as No Action) are presented and evaluated in this EIS. The effects of the proposed action on the environment and on socio-economic conditions are analyzed in this document. The EIS identifies Alternative E as the preferred Army action: 1) Flow Management – Operations Only, 2) Navigation Channel Deepening – 12 ft. Navigation Channel Mouth to Catoosa, and 3) Navigation Channel Depth Maintenance – New Disposal Sites.

Implementation of the proposed action would expect to result in beneficial as well as adverse impacts to the environment under any of the alternatives. In general, adverse impacts would be highest under those alternatives requiring higher levels of disturbance to the existing environment. The preferred alternative was selected based on an evaluation of beneficial and adverse impacts associated with implementing any of the alternatives. The Army's preferred alternative provides a balance between benefits and impacts that result in a project with minimal adverse impacts (including mitigation for those impacts) that achieves the purpose of the study.

REVIEW PERIOD: Public comments may be provided to Mr. Johnny McLean, Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, (ATTN: CESWL-PR-P), P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, or e-mailed to Johnny.L.McLean@usace.army.mil. Comments on this FEIS must be received within 30 days of the publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register. The NOA was published on August 19, 2005. Comments are due no later than September 18, 2005.