



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Planning Division

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

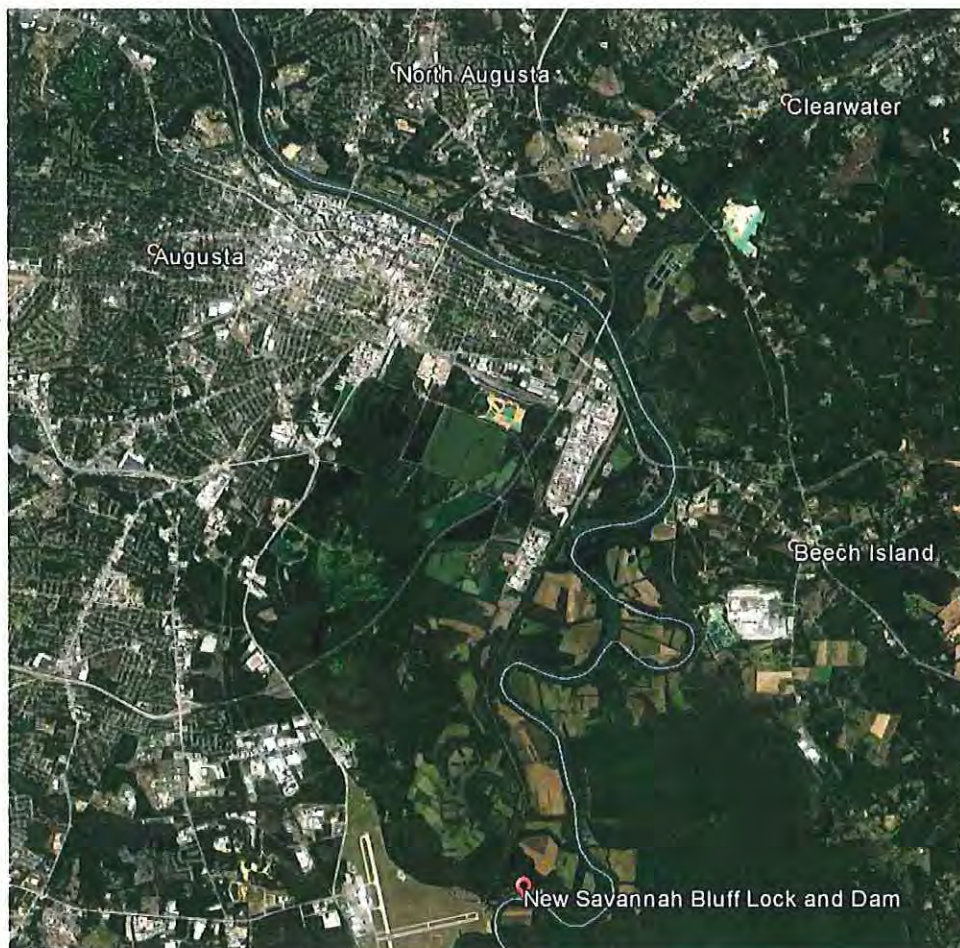
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Notice of Scoping for Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP), Modification to Fish Passage Feature at the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam (NSBLD)

Notice of the following is hereby given:

a. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is hereby given that the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is initiating scoping for the SHEP fish passage mitigation feature at the NSBLD based on language contained in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN 2016).

b. The NSBLD is located downstream of Augusta, GA and North Augusta, SC.





c. Section 1319 of WIIN 2016 deauthorized the NSBLD and provides discretionary authority to the Secretary of the Army to modify the fish passage feature of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) at the Lock & Dam. The wording of Section 1319 is as follows:

“SEC. 1319. NEW SAVANNAH BLUFF LOCK AND DAM, GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

(a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:*

(1) *NEW SAVANNAH BLUFF LOCK AND DAM.—The term “New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam” means—*

(A) *the lock and dam at New Savannah Bluff, Savannah River, Georgia and South Carolina; and*

(B) *the appurtenant features to the lock and dam, including—*

- (i) the adjacent approximately 50-acre park and recreation area with improvements made under the project for navigation, Savannah River below Augusta, Georgia, authorized by the first section of the Act of July 3, 1930 (46 Stat. 924), and the first section of the Act of August 30, 1935 (49 Stat. 1032); and*
- (ii) other land that is part of the project and that the Secretary determines to be appropriate for conveyance under this section.*

(2) *PROJECT*.—The term “Project” means the project for navigation, Savannah Harbor expansion, Georgia, authorized by section 7002(1) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1364).

(b) *DEAUTHORIZATION*.—

(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act—

- (A) the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam is deauthorized; and
- (B) notwithstanding section 348(l)(2)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–541; 114 Stat. 2630; 114 Stat. 2763A–228) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) or any other provision of law, the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam shall not be conveyed to the city of North Augusta and Aiken County, South Carolina, or any other non-Federal entity.

(2) *REPEAL*.—Section 348 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–541; 114 Stat. 2630; 114 Stat. 2763A–228) is amended—

- (A) by striking subsection (l); and
- (B) by redesignating subsections (m) and (n) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively.

(c) *PROJECT MODIFICATIONS*.—

(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Project is modified to include, as the Secretary determines to be necessary—

(A)(i) repair of the lock wall of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam and modification of the structure such that the structure is able—

(I) to maintain the pool for navigation, water supply, and recreational activities, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) to allow safe passage over the structure to historic spawning grounds of shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, and other migratory fish; or

(ii)(I) construction at an appropriate location across the Savannah River of a structure that is able to maintain the pool for water supply and recreational activities, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) removal of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam on completion of construction of the structure; and

(B) conveyance by the Secretary to Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia, of the park and recreation area adjacent to the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, without consideration.

(2) *NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE*.—The Federal share of the cost of any Project feature constructed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be not greater than the share as provided by section 7002(1) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1364) for the most cost-effective fish passage structure.

(3) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.—The Federal share of the costs of operation and maintenance of any Project feature constructed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be consistent with the cost sharing of the Project as provided by law.”

d. Savannah District is examining the modification to the SHEP Fish Passage Feature at the NSBLD that would best fulfill the intent of Section 1319 stated above.

e. Comments regarding the modification to the SHEP Fish Passage Feature at the NSBLD to address the WIIN Act will be received at the Savannah District Office until

12 O’CLOCK NOON, May 4, 2017

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to provide comments to the Corps on this proposed action should submit comments no later than the end of the comment period shown in this notice, in writing, to the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, ATTN: Mr. Nathan Dayan (PD), 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640, by FAX to 912-652-5787, or by emailing the comments to the following address: CESAS-PD@usace.army.mil.



William G. Bailey
Chief, Planning Division