

**APPENDIX A**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT  
IMPACT**

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Name of Action:** New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam Project,  
Section 216 Disposition Study

**Description:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will recommend to Congress that the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam Project be deauthorized and completely removed. The resultant rubble will be placed along the Savannah River as erosion protection. Upon receipt of funding, the Savannah District will dismantle all portions of the Lock and Dam Project, leaving only concrete rubble on the site.:

**Alternatives:** A number of alternatives were considered including 1) project reauthorization with a non-Federal sponsor, 2) local project ownership, 3) project deauthorization, and 4) no action. The first two alternatives were eliminated because there is no non-Federal entity which has accepted or committed to the sponsorship or ownership of this project. Project deauthorization is the only viable alternative available.

**Anticipated Environmental Effects:** The deauthorization and removal of the NSBL&D would result in improvements to fishery resources in the project area. Particular improvements in the ability of anadromous fish to migrate upstream through the existing project area would take place. The proposed project would also provide benefits to the federally endangered Shortnose sturgeon, and the rocky shoals spider lily, which has been proposed for listing. Some wetland areas would be impacted; however, new wetland areas would be reestablished following removal of the NSBL&D resulting in no net loss of wetlands for the project. Almost 16 miles of valuable riverine habitat would also be restored. The proposed action is in compliance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." Mitigation of the adverse cultural resource affect to the lock and dam would be accomplished through preservation of extant drawings and plans and through architectural documentation.

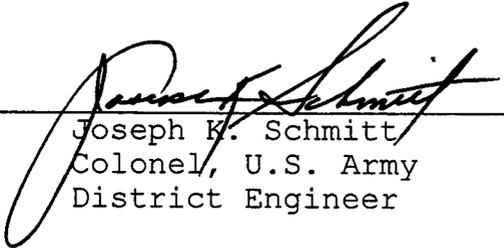
The selected plan (deauthorization and removal) would result in several minor impacts to recreation and socioeconomics.

The current bank fishery for American shad located in the vicinity of the NSBL&D would most likely not be as successful, and the use of a boat to pursue this species would be more essential.

The boat ramp and some boat slips at the Augusta Marina would not be operable after the removal of the NSBL&D. The existing boat ramps on the NSBL&D pool on both the Georgia and South Carolina sides of the Savannah River would not be operable after removal of the NSBL&D. These ramps would have to be redesigned and relocated or extended. Approximately 100 existing private docks located within the NSBL&D pool would also have to be extended to the without pool water level.

**Conclusion:** From the information supplied by my staff, I find that the proposed action is environmentally sound and sufficient data are available to determine that the proposed action is not a "major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment" when considered individually or cumulatively in the context of the National Environmental Policy Act, including both direct and indirect impacts. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

8 September 2000  
Date

  
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Joseph K. Schmitt  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer