

PUBLIC NOTICE
Requesting Comment on a
Memorandum of Agreement

SUBJECT: The Planning Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) has prepared a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, to resolve adverse effects to a historic property resulting from the fish passage feature of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP). The Corps is issuing this public notice as part of its responsibilities under 36 CFR 800, the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended.

Notice of the following is hereby given:

1. During development of the SHEP, which was authorized in Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) 2014, it was determined that the project would “likely adversely affect” the Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon. In order to mitigate for those impacts, the authorized project included a fish passage at the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam (NSBLD), Richmond County, Georgia and Aiken County, South Carolina.
2. Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties that are listed or meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In consultation with the Georgia and South Carolina State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), the Corps has determined that the fish passage feature will have an adverse effect on the NSBLD, a structure eligible for listing on the NRHP. The structure was completed in 1937 and retains a high degree of architectural/engineering integrity as physical changes to the lock and dam have been minimal since its completion. The resource is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A (transportation history) and C (engineering).
3. The Corps has prepared an MOA to resolve adverse effects to the historic property in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800. As mitigation for the adverse effect the USACE is proposing to document the structure and its history, create interpretive displays and programs, and to make this information available to the public through the Corps website. A draft version of the MOA was released for public comment on February 15, 2019. Due to considerable changes, we are releasing a revised MOA for public review and comment.
4. As required by Section 106 of the NHPA, the Corps is providing consulting parties and the public with the MOA and the opportunity to comment on the proposed mitigation measures. Please note that the environmental review has been completed. Only comments pursuant to Section 106 on the MOA are being solicited at this time.

5. A copy of the MOA can be downloaded from the Savannah District Planning Reports website at: <https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-and-Offices/Planning-Division/Plans-and-Reports/>.

6. Written statements regarding the MOA will be received by Savannah District until April 1, 2020 from interested parties. Anyone wishing to comment on the MOA should submit comments no later than the end of the comment period, in writing, to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Hartwell Project Office, ATTN: Ms. J. Morgan (PM-P), 5625 Anderson Highway, Hartwell, Georgia 30643-5259, or by emailing the comments to the following address: CESAS-PD@usace.army.mil.