



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Fort Worth District

# Public Notice

Number: SWF-2010-00244

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Activity: Regional Environmental Impact Statement for Surface  
Coal and Lignite Mining

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Date: July 10, 2015

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The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of availability of a Draft Regional Environmental Impact Statement being prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District.

## **Regulatory Program**

Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program.

## **Section 10**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate *all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States*. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

## **Section 404**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the *discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands*. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

## **Contact**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR SURFACE COAL AND LIGNITE MINING

#### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT

**Subject:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE) is releasing this Public Notice to announce the availability of the Draft Regional Environmental Impact Statement (DREIS) for Surface Coal and Lignite Mining in Texas. The DREIS was prepared to analyze potential impacts within defined geographic regions in Texas that may be affected by future USACE permit decisions for future surface coal and lignite mine expansions within the District's area of responsibility. The DREIS analyzes the potential future direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to waters of the U.S. and all other relevant environmental and human resources, and will facilitate the District's formulation of a categorized permit process. Information pertaining to the REIS can be found at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/REISforLigniteMininginTexas.aspx>.

**DATE ISSUED:** July 10, 2015

**LOCATION:** The DREIS analyzes potential impacts within defined geographic regions in Texas that may be affected by future USACE permit decisions for future surface coal and lignite mine expansions within the District's area of responsibility (detailed maps are contained with the DREIS).

**SUMMARY:** Surface coal and lignite mining projects in the USACE Fort Worth's area of responsibility typically conduct work that results in impacts to waters of the U.S. Such work requires authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and for projects affecting navigable waters, authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These programs are administered by the USACE. The anticipated number of future permit applications requiring the USACE compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), along with agency resource constraints, could result in lengthy review times. Historic permit evaluations associated with mine expansions have required substantial time periods. These timeframes have been influenced in part by the need to develop resource information, undertake data gathering efforts, as well as coordination with various agencies and their permit review processes. The USACE also needs to ensure it can adapt and efficiently respond to multiple concurrent requests for permits that may occur in the future.

The USACE is undertaking a REIS to streamline the NEPA aspect of the Section 404/10 permitting process, as well as to develop information, data, and analyses to be used in 404(b)(1) guidelines and public interest review analyses for future coal and lignite mine expansions in Texas subject to permitting by the USACE. The REIS is intended to provide an environmental evaluation focusing on the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative aquatic resource impacts, in addition to other relevant environmental and human resources, that could be affected by future surface coal and lignite mining within defined geographic regions in Texas. The REIS would facilitate future tiering or supplementation of the NEPA analysis in the REIS in the evaluation of future project-specific Section 404/10 permit applications. It also is intended to provide a cohesive framework for stream mitigation, establishment of sound performance metrics, and enhance project monitoring efforts associated with these types of activities. The REIS is intended to avoid duplication and provide efficiency and effectiveness with future decisions. **The REIS does NOT render any project-specific decision(s).**

As part of the public involvement process, notice is hereby given by the USACE Fort Worth District of informal public information meetings (open house format) and formal Public Hearings regarding this DREIS will be held August 10-13, 2015, at the following locations:

August 10, 2015; International Center for Trade; 3295 Bob Rogers Drive, Eagle Pass, TX 78852

August 11, 2015; Pleasanton Country Club; 1801 McGuffin Drive, Pleasanton, TX 78064

August 12, 2015; Bell County Expo Center; 301 West Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513

August 13, 2015; Holiday Inn South Broadway; 5701 South Broadway, Tyler, TX 75703

Open house meetings will be held from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM with the formal Public Hearings beginning at 6:30 PM at each location.

Copies of the DREIS may be obtained by contacting USACE Fort Worth District Regulatory Division at (817) 886-1744 or viewed/downloaded/printed from the Fort Worth District USACE internet website at: <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/REISforLigniteMininginTexas.aspx>  
Alternatively, you may visit the Regulatory Division in Room 3A37 of the Lanham Federal Building at 819 Taylor Street in Fort Worth between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday to pick up an electronic media (cd) copy of the DREIS.

Copies of the DREIS are also available for inspection at the locations identified below:

Pittsburg-Camp County Public Library, 613 Quitman Street, Pittsburg, TX 75686

Sammy Brown Library, 319 S. Market St., Carthage, TX 75633

Franklin County Library, 100 Main Street East, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

Rusk County Library, 106 East Main St., Henderson, TX 75652

Sulphur Springs Public Library, 611 Davis St. North, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

Fannie Brown Booth Library, 619 Tenaha Street, Center, TX 75935

Rains County Public Library, 150 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory, TX 75440

Tyler Public Library, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler, TX 75702

Mount Pleasant Public Library, 601 North Madison Ave., Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

Palestine Public Library, 2000 S. Loop 256, Ste. 42, Palestine, TX 75801

Quitman Public Library, 202 East Goode Street, Quitman, TX 75783

Marlin Public Library, 400 Oaks St., Marlin, TX 76661

Singletary Memorial Library, 207 E 6th St, Rusk, TX 75785

Mary Moody Northen Municipal Library, 350 West Main Street, Fairfield, TX 75840

Longview Public Library, 222 W. Cotton St., Longview, TX 75601

Clint W. Murchinson Memorial Library, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens, TX 75751

Marshall Public Library, 300 S. Alamo Blvd., Marshall, TX 75670

Elmer P. & Jewel Ward Memorial Library, 207 E St Mary's St, Centerville, TX 75833

Groesbeck Maffett Public Library, 601 W. Yeagua St., Groesbeck, TX 76642

Georgetown Public Library, 402 W. 8th St., Georgetown, TX 78626

Jourdanton Community Library, 1101 Cambell Ave., Jourdanton, TX 78026

Carnegie Library, 315 E. Decherd Street, Franklin, TX 77856

Live Oak County Library, 102 Le Roy St, Three Rivers, TX 78071

Van Zandt County Public Library, 317 First Monday Ln, Canton, TX 75103

Dimmit County Public Library, 200 N. 9th Street, Carrizo Springs, TX 78834

Bastrop Public Library, 1100 Church Street, Bastrop, TX 78602

Kinney County Public Library, 510 South Ellen St., Bracketville, TX 78832

Harrie P. Woodson Memorial Library, 704 W. Hwy. 21, Caldwell, TX 77836

Eagle Pass Main Library, 589 East Main, Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Giddings Public Library, 276 North Orange St., Giddings, TX 78942

Crystal City Memorial Library, 101 E Dimmit, Crystal City, TX 78839

Cameron Public Library, 304 East 3rd Street, Cameron, TX 76520  
Written comments should reference the REIS project number, SWF-2010-00244, and be sent by email to: [Texas\\_REIS\\_Comments@usace.army.mil](mailto:Texas_REIS_Comments@usace.army.mil) ; or by postal mail to: Mr. Darvin Messer, Regulatory Division, CESWF-DE-R; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Post Office Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. All comments are due by September 8, 2015. After the comment period ends, the USACE will consider all comments received by the due date, revise the DREIS as appropriate, and issue a Final Regional Environmental Impact Statement.

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS