

News Release

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Army Corps of Engineers Proceeding with steps to comply with Court Order on Dallas Floodway Extension Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, announced today it will prepare a Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement on the Dallas Floodway Extension Project to comply with the United States District Court Order of Summary Judgment against the project.

Last week, Judge Terry Means ruled in favor of the Corps on three of the four counts in a lawsuit filed by various groups opposed to the DFE project. However, on one count, the Judge ruled the Corps needed to "further consider the cumulative impacts of other similar, reasonably foreseeable future projects in the same geographical area as the DFE project." The Order also directed that the Corps stop work on "any further action related to the construction of the DFE project." Construction work on the first environmental wetland cell was suspended within hours of the Order being issued.

While the Solicitor General reviews the government's legal options, the preparation of the Supplement to the EIS will start immediately and is expected to take about one year to complete. During that time, the Corps will assess known information about proposed projects in the area of the DFE as well as solicit input from various agencies, the public and others on possible future projects.

"The Supplement to the EIS will only address the cumulative impacts of other known or foreseeable future projects as directed by the Judge's Order," said Colonel Gordon Wells, the Corps' Fort Worth District Engineer. "The Order does not require the Corps to re-evaluate any flood reduction features or the environmental benefits of the DFE project," he added.

In the meantime, the Corps will continue work on the design phase of the remaining wetlands and levees for the DFE project. Additionally, the Dallas city staff has informed the Corps it will continue with acquisition of lands for mitigation and project purposes.

The public will be notified within the next few weeks once the Scoping Process starts for the preparation of the Supplement to the EIS.

The Dallas Floodway Extension Project is a partnership between the City of Dallas and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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