



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application No: 200300336
Project: Lake Ralph Hall
Applicant: Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Waterway: North Sulphur River
Issue Date: October 5, 2018
Expiration Date: November 21, 2018

REPLY TO:

Chandler J. Peter
Fort Worth District
Regulatory Division
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A37
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102

45-DAY NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND SECTION 404 PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

Notice

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Fort Worth District, Texas is announcing the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lake Ralph Hall (LRH) project and is evaluating a Department of the Army permit application from the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD). Permits are issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404), which regulates the placement of dredge or fill material in the nation's waters.

Draft EIS

The Fort Worth District prepared the Draft EIS to analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposal. The purpose of the Draft EIS is to provide decision-makers and the public with information pertaining to the Proposed Action and alternatives, and to disclose environmental impacts and identify mitigation measures to reduce impacts. The Draft EIS was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) regulations for NEPA implementation (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 230 and 325, Appendices B and C). The Corps, Fort Worth District, Regulatory Branch is the lead federal agency responsible for the Draft EIS and information contained in it will serve as the basis for a decision regarding issuance of a Section 404 permit. It also provides information for federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdictional responsibility for affected resources. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission participated as cooperating agencies in the formulation of the Draft EIS.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at the following locations:

- Ladonia City Hall, 100 Center Plaza, Ladonia, TX 75449.
- Wolfe City Public Library, 102 TX-11, Wolfe City, TX 75496.
- Commerce Public Library, 1210 Park Street, Commerce, TX 75428.
- Honey Grove Library, 500 N 6th Street, Honey Grove, TX 75466.
- Bonham Public Library, 305 E 5th Street, Bonham, TX 75418.
- Greenville Public Library, 1 Lou Finney Lane, Greenville, TX 75401
- Upper Trinity Regional Water District, 900 North Kealy Street, Lewisville, TX 75067.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth Regulatory Office, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS may be obtained from the Fort Worth Regulatory Office or its website at <https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/Proposed-Lake-Ralph-Hall/>

Public Hearing

Oral and/or written comments may also be presented at the public hearings to be held Thursday, October 25, 2018 at H.L. Milton Sports Complex, 601 W. Mill Street, Ladonia, TX 75449 at 5:30 p.m.

An open house will be held at the public hearing at 5:30 p.m., and the hearing will be called to order at 6:30 p.m. This is to allow the public an opportunity to review information associated with the Draft EIS as well as ask questions of resource specialists concerning the document. The open house and public hearing will not include a formal presentation of LRH or the Draft EIS. Individuals intending to provide oral comments must fill out a registration card at the door of the hearing rooms. Speakers will be called to a podium to provide their comments. Each speaker will be given a period of 5 minutes to present their comments on the Proposed Action and the Draft EIS as well as identify issues and concerns. If comments cannot be completed in the 5-minute period, speakers will be encouraged to provide them in writing. All written comments on the Draft EIS and replies to the public notice for the permit application should be sent to—

Mr. Chandler J. Peter
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth Regulatory Office
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A37
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Email: chandler.j.peter@usace.army.mil

For additional information, please contact Mr. Peter at 817-886-1736 or visit the Fort Worth Regulatory Office website at <https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Notices/>.

Permit Application

In addition to soliciting comments on the Draft EIS, the Corps is also soliciting comments on a pending permit application for the proposed LRH project. Under its Regulatory Program, the Corps will complete a decision for a Department of the Army permit application for the discharge of dredged and/or fill material for the proposed project following the completion of the Final EIS and Record of Decision.

Authority

This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States.

Applicant

Upper Trinity Regional Water District, 900 North Kealy Street, Lewisville, TX 75067

Location

The Proposed Project is located in Fannin, Hunt, and Collin Counties, Texas. The proposed Lake Ralph Hall reservoir site is located about 0.6 miles north of Ladonia, Texas. The center point of the proposed dam site is located at 33.463° North Latitude and -95.901° West Longitude on the North Sulphur River in Fannin County. The proposed raw water pipeline is located in Fannin, Hunt, and Collin Counties, beginning northeast of Ladonia, Texas and ending west of Merit, Texas.

Proposed Project, Permit Application, and Description of Work

The applicant is requesting authorization to excavate and place fill material into the North Sulphur River. The applicant proposes to construct the dam for LRH, which would allow the storage of about 160,235 acre-feet of water. The proposed reservoir would inundate several roads crossing the North Sulphur River Creek within the reservoir's footprint. FM 2990, CR 1550, CR 3360, CR 3365, CR 3370, CR 3380, CR 3600, CR 3605, CR 3610, and CR 3640 would be abandoned or partially abandoned. SH 34 and CR 3444 would require vertical adjustment. A short segment of CR 3640 would be adjusted vertically and/or horizontally. County Roads 3443 and 3444 would be re-aligned horizontally and vertically. State Highway 34 crosses the project boundary near the east/west center of the proposed Lake Ralph Hall. The construction of two bridges over separate portions of the proposed lake will require realignment of the existing highway in order to maintain access during construction. The adjustments made to SH 34 will consist of a new parallel alignment to the west of the existing roadway north and south of the North Sulphur River and north and south of Merrill Creek.

LRH would also include a 32.9-mile raw water pipeline, pump station, and a 4.5-acre balancing reservoir. Raw water would be conveyed from the proposed Lake Ralph Hall project directly to the Tom Harpool Water Treatment Plant adjacent to Lewisville Lake and the Tom Taylor Water Treatment Plan through discharge to Lewisville Lake via a proposed raw water transfer pipeline.

Construction of the dam, reservoir, and related project components (road relocation, bridge construction, pipeline, etc.) would take several years in all.

The proposed Lake Ralph Hall project would include the construction of an earth-filled dam embankment across the valley of the North Sulphur River with a concrete uncontrolled principal spillway located adjacent to the existing channel of the river and an excavated unlined earthen channel emergency spillway located within the embankment on the northern floodplain of the river. The embankment placed would vary between 566 feet and 568 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) to account for anticipated settlement of the embankment thus providing an effective elevation of 566 feet NAVD88 after settlement and would adjoin the existing ground surface on both ends of the structure. Current studies indicate the proposed Lake Ralph Hall reservoir would have a conservation pool storage capacity of approximately 160,235 AF (at an elevation of 551.0 feet above msl), and at that capacity, the surface area of the reservoir would be approximately 7,605 acres. All fill for the embankment is expected to come from required excavations of the spillways and from the project area.

Project Purpose and Need

Basic Project Purpose: The basic project purpose is water supply.

Overall Project Purpose: The purpose of LRH is to provide the Project Participants with approximately 34,050 AF of new reliable municipal water supply annually through a regional project coordinated by the District, which will meet a portion of the Participants' current and reasonably projected future additional water supply needs.

Impacts and Mitigation

The Proposed Project is expected to directly impact approximately 8 acres of wetlands and 384 acres of other waters (streams) with the dam and reservoir. The proposed pipeline will cross 59 streams with 11,893 lineal feet of temporary impact as well as 0.4 acres of stock tanks. Potential mitigation strategies are identified in the Draft EIS and Draft Mitigation Plan and include creation, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands, long-term monitoring, adaptive management, and other strategies.

A draft Mitigation Plan has been prepared by the applicant to comply with the federal policy of "no overall net loss of wetlands" and to provide compensatory mitigation, to the extent practicable, for impacts to other waters of the United States that would be impacted by construction of the proposed reservoir. Mitigation activities for the proposed project impacts to aquatic functions would be located within the designated mitigation area located downstream of the proposed Leon Hurse Dam between the dam (to the west) and FM 904 and/or Baker Creek (to the east). Mitigation activities for the proposed project impacts to terrestrial habitat, as required by Water Use Permit 5821, Special Condition M, would be located within the proposed reservoir project boundary upstream of the proposed Leon Hurse Dam between elevation 551 feet (conservation pool boundary) and 560 feet (project boundary).

Endangered Species

No Biological Assessment has been prepared because no Federally threatened or endangered species would be affected by the proposed action, as explained in Section 4.12.1 of the Draft EIS.

Historic Properties

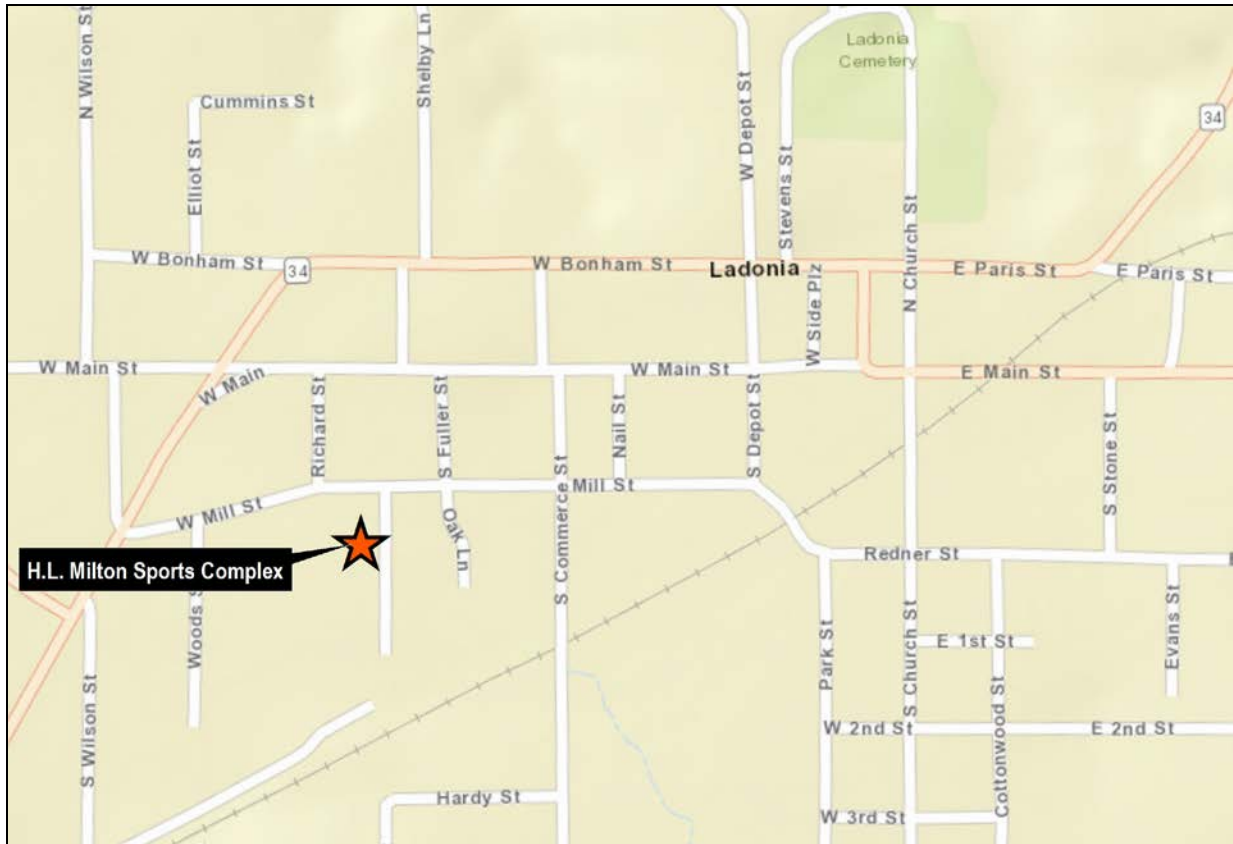
In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps has determined that the described project has the potential to have an adverse effect on historic properties (36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)). A 15 percent sample survey was performed for the study area. Coordination with the Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has occurred throughout the EIS process. Additional survey will be conducted prior to construction. The Corps will enter into a Programmatic Agreement with the SHPO and other agencies that will address how cultural resources will be addressed.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against the reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, wetlands, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water

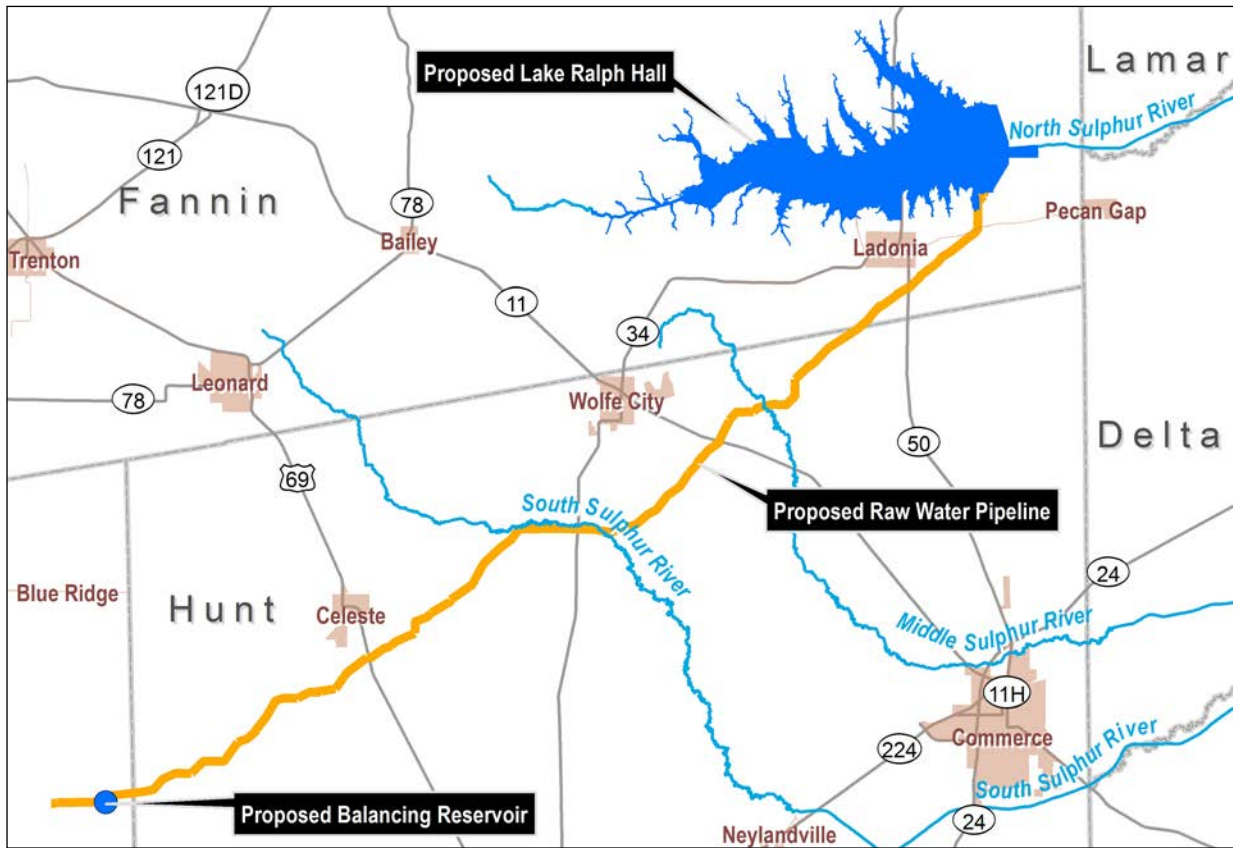
Act (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting written comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this Proposed Action. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above.

H.L. Milton Sports Complex, 601 W. Mill Street, Ladonia, TX 75449



Proposed Reservoir and Raw Water Pipeline Location



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