



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Baltimore District

*Planning Division*  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

Date: September 30, 2005

**Final General Reevaluation Report / Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

**Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project**

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District has prepared a Final General Reevaluation Report (GRR) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project (PIERP). The purpose of the document is to evaluate the vertical and/or lateral expansion of the PIERP, design modifications to the existing project, the addition of recreational/educational opportunities to the existing project, and the potential to accept dredged material from additional channels not specified for the existing project. The Final GRR/SEIS documents the NEPA compliance for the proposed expansion of the PIERP, provides information specific to the actions of the GRR, and supplements the *Poplar Island Restoration Study, Maryland: Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement* (ERP No. D-COE-D350557-MD) (USACE/MPA, 1996). The expansion of Poplar Island was one of seven recommendations of the USACE-Baltimore District's, *Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Tiered Environmental Impact Statement*. USACE is making the Final GRR/SEIS available to the public through a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register.

The recommendations of the GRR/SEIS are:

- Construction of a northern lateral expansion of approximately 575 acres of remote island habitat that incorporates an open-water embayment and includes approximately 29 percent wetland, 47 percent upland, and 24 percent open-water (embayment) habitat;
- Construction of a 5-ft vertical raising of the existing upland Cells 2 and 6 at the PIERP;
- Amending the existing project authorization and Project Cooperation Agreement to include the placement of dredged material from the southern approach channels to the Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal and other small Federal navigation projects;
- Incorporation of design modifications required for the completion of the existing project, and
- Development of recreational and educational enhancements for the PIERP.

The recommended plan for the expansion of the PIERP will create valuable remote island wetland and upland habitat, which is rapidly vanishing in the Chesapeake Bay region. The inclusion of an open-water embayment within the footprint of the lateral expansion will provide semi-protected fisheries habitat adjacent to wetland and upland cells, increasing trophic exchange and interaction between the wetland cells and the open-water embayment. Overall, the expansion of the PIERP will create habitat that will improve productivity in the surrounding area, while allowing USACE and the Maryland Port Administration to provide for dredged material placement.

A record of decision (ROD) may be signed no sooner than 30 days following publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

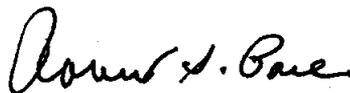
You may view the Final GRR/SEIS and related information on the USACE web page at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/Maryland/PoplarIsland/expansion.html>. USACE has distributed copies of the Final GRR/SEIS to appropriate members of Congress, State, and local government officials, Federal agencies, and other interested parties. Copies are also available for public review at the following locations:

- (1) Talbot County Public Library, Easton Branch, 100 West Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601
- (2) Queen Anne's County Public Library, Stevensville Branch, 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD 21666
- (3) Anne Arundel County Public Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
- (4) Talbot County Public Library, Tilghman Island Elementary School Branch, 21374 Foster Avenue Tilghman, MD 21671
- (5) Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201-4484

Copies may be obtained by contacting Mr. Mark Mendelsohn, Baltimore District, USACE at (410) 962-9494 or [mark.mendelsohn@usace.army.mil](mailto:mark.mendelsohn@usace.army.mil).

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Department of the Army has encouraged public participation as part of the NEPA process. A Notice of Intent to prepare a General Reevaluation Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register in June 2003, and scoping meetings were held in January 2004. A public update meeting was held in October 2004. A Notice of Availability that announced the release of the Draft GRR/SEIS was published in the Federal Register in June 2005 and two additional public meetings were held in July 2005 for the Poplar Island Draft GRR/SEIS document. At all public meetings, attendees were invited to provide oral comments and to submit additional comments to the Baltimore District. In addition, comments were solicited throughout the NEPA process as written, oral, or electronic comments. The public comment period ended on August 8, 2005. Comments that were received for the Poplar Island Draft GRR/SEIS document were addressed as appropriate and included as an appendix of the Final GRR/SEIS.



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