

Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

Poplar Island Expansion Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (Corps) is conducting two public scoping meetings for the initiation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Poplar Island Expansion Study (PIES). The Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project (PIERP) is currently restoring over 1,100 acres of island habitat, half uplands and half wetlands, using 35,000 linear feet of containment dikes. The PIES includes modifying the project to provide additional capacity and increase habitat. Options include raising the final design height of the existing dikes within the upland cells and/or constructing a lateral expansion of the existing island footprint. Also to be considered with the expansion are environmental enhancements on Poplar Island and within Poplar Harbor, increased recreational and educational opportunities, and potential acceptance of dredged material from additional channels. Material from Baltimore Harbor within the Patapsco River will not be considered for placement at Poplar Island in accordance with the PIERP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Corps invites interested agencies, organizations, and individuals to attend a public scoping meeting to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or recommended scope of this SEIS. The scoping meetings have been scheduled as follows:

Monday, January 12, 2004, 1:00 p.m. displays, 2:00 p.m. presentation
Queen Anne's County Library – Kent Island Branch
200 Library Circle
Stevensville, MD 21666

Thursday, January 15, 2004, 7:00 p.m. displays, 8:00 p.m. presentation
Tilghman Elementary School
21374 Foster Ave
Tilghman, MD 21671

The two public meetings will be identical in format and are being held to provide opportunities for residents to take part in the public involvement program. Displays regarding information on current activities at the PIERP and example dike alignments for the PIES will be available for review approximately one hour prior to the scoping meetings. The meetings will also include a presentation by the Corps and allow for open discussions and public comment on the PIES.

Oral or written comments may be provided for determination of the scope of the SEIS at the public scoping meetings. Written comments may also be submitted to the Corps up to 30 days from the date of the last scoping meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District, CENAB-PL, Attn: Gwen Meyer, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715 or e-mailed to gwendolyn.c.meyer@nab02.usace.army.mil.

If you have questions concerning the scoping meetings, please contact Gwen Meyer at 410-962-9502 or e-mail at the above address.