



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Special Public Notice

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The purpose of this Public Notice is to inform the general public that the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), along with the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has decided to accept and expend funds contributed by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), a non-federal public agency, in accordance with Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement (CA) between the Vicksburg District, FHWA and MDOT is to expedite and streamline programmatic and project specific authorizations related to state and Federal transportation projects in the State of Mississippi.

On December 3, 2008, the Vicksburg District circulated a Special Public Notice announcing its preliminary intent to accept and expend such funds. The Notice also outlined the kinds of activities for which funds would be expended and solicited comments from the general public. The notice can be viewed at:

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/PN-Anne%20Woerner/Special%20Public%20Notice%20MDOT.pdf>

A series of procedural safeguards has been adopted to ensure that use of the funds will not impact impartial decision-making. These include:

a. All final permit decisions for cases where these funds are used must be reviewed at least by one level above the

decision maker, unless the decision maker is the District Commander.

b. All final permit decisions for cases where these funds are used will be made available on the Vicksburg District web page.

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.htm>

c. The Corps will not eliminate any procedures or decisions that would otherwise be required for that type of project and permit application under consideration.

d. The Corps will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

e. Funds will only be expended to provide priority review of the participating non-federal entity's permit application.

On March 18, 2009, the Vicksburg District approved this Cooperative Agreement and certified its compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. The agreement and supporting standard operating procedures are effective immediately.

Any questions related to this matter may be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Regulatory Branch, ATTN: Anthony R. Lobred, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.



Michael F. McNair, R.F.
Chief, Regulatory Branch
Vicksburg District