



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VICKSBURG DISTRICT
4155 CLAY ST
VICKSBURG MS 39183

June 25, 2026

Regional Planning and Environment
Division South
Environmental Planning Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE
Clean Water Act 404(b)(1)

Project: Arkabutla Dam Safety Modification Study

Introduction: This Public Notice is issued in accordance with provisions of Title 33 CFR Parts 336.1(b)(1) and 337.1, and 40 CFR 121 which establish policy, practices, and procedures to be followed on Federal actions involving the disposal of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg District (CEMVK), is performing long-term repairs to Arkabutla Dam in Desoto County, MS. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of Arkabutla dam breaching. USACE needs to lower this risk in order to prevent damages that would occur if an uncontrolled breach occurred and to continue properly operating Arkabutla Dam and Lake for their authorized flood prevention and recreational purposes. The project proposes to construct a new dam outlet works and outlet channel in a nearby location and decommission the current outlet works. The Environmental Assessment can be accessed online at the following location:

<https://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Programs-and-Project-Management/Project-Management/Projects/Arkabutla-Project-Page/documents/>

Previous Public Notices: A joint public notice for the Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) and Water Quality Certification was released for public comment beginning March 1, 2025, and ending March 30, 2025. No comments were received.

Project Authority: The Flood Control Act of 15 May 1928, as amended by the Acts of 15 June 1936 and 28 June 1938, authorized the construction of the Arkabutla Dam and Reservoir Project, which is included in the approved program for flood control under the appropriation "Flood Control Mississippi River and Tributaries", Act of 1939.

Development of recreation and public-use areas on USACE reservoir areas was authorized by Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 22 December 1944, as amended by Section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 3 December 1954. Construction of the project began in August 1940 and was completed in June 1943. The authorized project purposes include flood control and recreation.

Location: Arkabutla Dam is located in Desoto County, Mississippi with portions of the Lake extending into Tate County, Mississippi. The dam is located on the Coldwater River, a tributary of the Tallahatchie River. The dam is located approximately 4.25 miles north of Arkabutla, Mississippi and approximately 35 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee.

Description of Work: This alternative includes construction of a new outlet works downstream of the current outlet works near river station 175+00. The new outlet works would consist of new reinforced concrete intake structure; reinforced concrete control house with vertical lift gates and an emergency gate; a bridge connecting the control house to the top of the dam; reinforced concrete conduit; and a reinforced concrete stilling basin. This plan also includes excavation of a new inlet channel and new discharge channel with riprap scour protection to direct water towards the existing discharge channel. A zoned soil embankment cofferdam would be constructed in Arkabutla lake to allow for excavation of the current embankment where the new outlet works would be constructed.

Discharges by Others: There are no known discharges of fill material by others at or near the proposed project site.

Coordination: This public notice will be coordinated with the relevant State, Federal and Tribal entities as appropriate including:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer

Properties Adjacent to Disposal Sites: List of adjacent properties is available upon request.

Evaluation Factors: Evaluation includes application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through 40 CFR 230. After mitigation, the proposed project would have only minor impacts on environmental resources and no direct impacts on cultural resources. Mitigation would be required for unavoidable impacts to wildlife habitat and bottomland hardwoods forest.

Public Involvement: This Public Notice for the 404(b)(1) will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period beginning June 25, 2026, and ending July 25, 2026. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties under the Clean Water Act 404. The updated 404(b)(1) Evaluation is available online and for download within the EA packet beginning June 25, 2026 at the following weblink:

<https://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Programs-and-Project-Management/Project-Management/Projects/Arkabutla-Project-Page/documents/>

Comments on the 404(b)(1) evaluation must be transmitted by July 25, 2026. Interested parties may express their views on the draft document. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period will be considered.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by deposition of excavated or dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the identified interest may be affected by the proposed action. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

COMMENTS CONCERNING THE 404(b)(1) EVALUATION MAY BE MAILED TO:

Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
ATTN: Taylor Piefke (CEMVN-PDS)
4155 CLAY ST, Room 250
VICKSBURG MS 39183

Comments may also be submitted by email to taylor.piefke@usace.army.mil

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Daniel Moore
Environmental Compliance Chief
Regional Planning and
Environmental Department South

COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PUBLIC NOTICE EXPIRES: July 25, 2026