

Pearl River Study Area Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How was the proposal developed?

- The Non-Federal Interest (NFI), Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District (RHPRFDCD) submitted, in accordance with Section 211 of WRDA 2000, a draft Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement titled, “Pearl River Basin, Mississippi Federal Flood Risk Management Project, Hinds & Rankin Counties Integrated Final Feasibility Study & Environmental Impact Statement (NFI Section 211 Report)” dated June 22, 2022 was submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works (ASA(CW)). In late 2023, ASA(CW) reviewed the document and requested that the Corps work with the NFI to fill in some data gaps in the report. The Corps has been coordinating with the Cooperating and Participating Agencies since scoping and have provided opportunities for public input at in-person meetings and via written comment.
- The Corps has sought to ensure that interested parties had an opportunity to be heard as the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Pearl River Flood Risk Management project was developed. Through this current public comment period on the draft, we are working to ensure all interested parties can review the plan and provide their input.
- Through the interagency coordination, the Corps enabled each agency to leverage their respective knowledge, expertise, data, tools, and authorities to craft responsive solutions addressing the diverse challenges presented by the persistent flooding of the Pearl River Basin, including the local community’s experiences during 100-year flooding event.

Q. What will the Corps do with the comments received? Will we receive responses to our comments?

- The Corps will review and assess comments received to determine the significance of the comment, whether it warrants significant changes to the report or if the comment can be addressed in the Final EIS (FEIS). The comments will be captured in an excel spreadsheet with official Corps responses and become an attachment to a Public Involvement Report that becomes an appendix to the FEIS. The final EIS will reflect any changes made as a result of public comments, as appropriate.

Q. When does the comment period for the draft environmental impact statement close?

- The comment period closed on August 6, 2024, 60 days after the release of the DEIS.

Q. When will the EIS be finalized?

- The timeline will depend on the nature of the comments received and the need, if any, for additional analysis. However, the intent is to finalize the EIS and draft a Record of Decision before the end of January 2025. The current public outreach process will inform the decision as to which alternative will be chosen.

Q. Why has it taken the Corps so long to issue this DEIS?

- Addressing flooding in the Pearl River Basin Area in a scientifically valid way that avoids, minimizes, and mitigates impacts to important ecological resources is a priority. The

Corps worked through a collaborative interagency process with USEPA and USFWS to leverage each agency's knowledge, expertise, data, tools, and authorities to craft responsive solutions addressing the diverse challenges presented by the persistent flooding of the Pearl River Basin.

- Due to the high degree of public interest in the community related to the flooding and to prior proposals, the Corps elected to engage intensely with the public prior to drafting the Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping and again prior to drafting the DEIS.