



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001**

March 11, 2011

Coastal Branch
Regulatory Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT**

**SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE
PROPOSED PORT OF GULFPORT EXPANSION PROJECT, HARRISON COUNTY,
MISSISSIPPI
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District has scheduled a public open house and scoping meeting on March 31, 2011, at the University of Southern Mississippi, 730 East Beach Boulevard, Long Beach, Mississippi, 39560, at the Fleming Education Center Auditorium. The open house will begin at 5:30 pm followed by a formal presentation at 6:30pm. Comments will be excepted at the meeting until 8:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive public input concerning the scope and alternatives to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Department of the Army Permit Application **SAM-2009-1768-DMY** for the Port of Gulfport Expansion Project, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Corps is the lead federal agency with the responsibility of evaluating the environmental impacts of the proposed project for the applicant, the Mississippi State Port Authority, and is preparing the EIS in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements. The Mississippi Development Authority will be a cooperating agency in preparing the EIS, and the National Marine Fisheries Service has expressed interest in acting as a cooperating agency.

The proposed project as described in the permit application which was filed on March 17, 2010, included filling approximately 700 acres of open-water benthic habitat. Since submitting the application, Mississippi State Port Authority has modified the proposed project footprint to reduce the overall potential fill required for implementation and to avoid impacts to the Gulfport Harbor Federal Navigation Channel and Turning Basin. The revised proposed project involves filling of up to 400 acres of open-water bottom in the Mississippi Sound; the construction of wharfs, bulkheads, terminal facilities, container storage areas, intermodal container transfer facilities, dredging and dredged material disposal, and infrastructure; and construction of a breakwater of approximately 4,000 linear feet.

The meeting agenda includes an open house with opportunities for discussions with project personnel, followed by staff presentations and a comment session. Court reporters will be available to transcribe statements from those wishing to provide verbal comments, or attendees may submit written comments at the meeting or via mail through the end of the official comment period (see below). All interested

individuals are invited to attend. Translations services for Spanish and Vietnamese speakers will be provided.

Written comments can also be faxed to (251) 694-4191, emailed to the project at port.gulfporteis@usace.army.mil, or mailed to: Mr. Damon M. Young, P.G. USACE - Mobile District, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628. To comment online, visit the project website at <http://www.portofgulfporteis.com/>. The deadline for submitting scoping comments was initially set for April 11, 2011; however, by issuance of this public notice the comment period has been extended to April 14, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this project, to be included on the mailing list for future updates and meeting announcements, or to receive a copy of the draft EIS when it is issued, contact Damon M. Young, P.G., at the USACE at (251) 690-2658 or the address provided above. Mr. Ewing Milam, at the MDA can also be contacted for additional information at P.O. Box 849, Jackson, Mississippi, 39205-0849, telephone (601) 359-2157 or by electronic mail at emilam@mississippi.org.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at: www.sam.usace.army.mil/rd/reg and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers