



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Memphis District

# News Release

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Contact:

Jim Pogue

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Immediately

Phone: 901-544-4109 (office)

901-481-0062 (cell)

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## **Corps of Engineers releases key Grand Prairie Project documents**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 4, 2004 – Two key environmental documents related to the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project were released for public review and comment today. The two documents are the Post General Reevaluation Design Changes, draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The draft EA analyzes environmental impacts associated with proposed modifications to the project as presented in the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) and final environmental impact statement that were circulated for public review in December 1999.

During detailed design work on the project that began following the 1999 GRR, it became apparent that several changes were needed to increase project efficiency and flexibility, to resolve landowner disputes or reduce costs. These changes are:

1. Relocation of the administration building and system control room from the pump station to a central location.
2. Construction of borrow pits for canal levees.

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3. Use of pipelines instead of streams to deliver irrigation water.
4. Use of pipelines instead of small canals.
5. Replacement of Canal 3200 with pipelines.
6. Construction of a regulation reservoir.
7. Alignment changes to pipelines and canals.
8. Rehabilitation or alternation of existing irrigation reservoirs.

These design changes will result in a net decrease in the amount of wetlands that will be impacted by the project. Although impacts to upland hardwood forests will see an increase, these impacts will be fully mitigated with reforestation of 180 acres of currently cleared upland.

The draft EA and draft FONSI may be viewed on the Internet at:

[www.mvm.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public-notices/pn.htm](http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public-notices/pn.htm)

or at

[www.mvm.usace.army.mil/grandprairie/news\\_updates/releases.asp](http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/grandprairie/news_updates/releases.asp)

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Public comments, due by April 5, 2004, are critical to determining overall public interest and to the decision making process. The public is invited to address their comments to:

Edward Lambert  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Environmental Branch  
167 North Main Street, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894  
E-mail: Edward.p.lambert@mvm02.usace.army.mil  
Fax: (901) 544-3955

Additional information on the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project is also available at:

[www.mvm.usace.army.mil/grandprairie/default.asp](http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/grandprairie/default.asp)