

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project
Canal Realignment and Pumping Station Borrow Area
Prairie County, Arkansas

INTRODUCTION

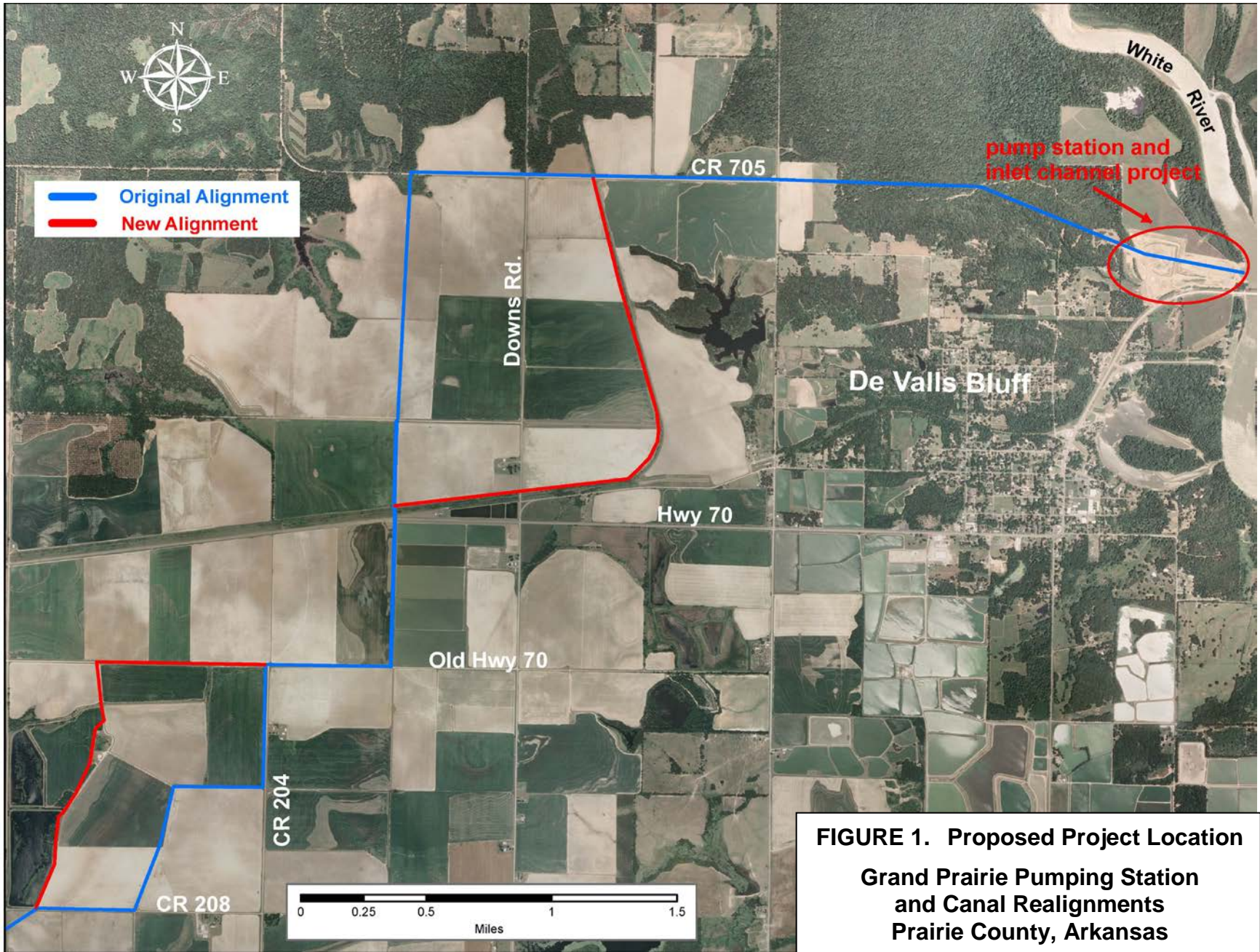
The Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project (GPADP) is located in eastern Arkansas and includes portions of Prairie, Arkansas, Lonoke, and Monroe Counties. This project will provide for agricultural water supply, ground water protection, and fish and wildlife restoration and enhancement over a project area of 362,662 acres. The project features include a major pumping station, conveyance channels, and conservation measures for the Grand Prairie area. A general reevaluation report (GRR) and environmental impact statement (EIS), entitled *Eastern Arkansas Region Comprehensive Study, Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project* were circulated for public review in December 1999. The Record of Decision was signed in February 2000. During the detailed design phase of the project, several modifications to the original design were deemed necessary to increase project efficiency, resolve landowner disputes and/or reduce project costs. These modifications were presented in an environmental assessment (EA) entitled *Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project, Post General Re-evaluation Design Changes*. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed by the District Engineer on July 2, 2004.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, Memphis District (CEMVM), has prepared this EA to evaluate the potential impacts associated with two proposed modifications to the GPADP EIS: (1) realignment of two sections of the main canal, located one to three miles west and southwest of De Valls Bluff, Arkansas (Figure 1), and (2) utilization of a 7-acre site north of the Grand Prairie pumping station for borrow material and/or temporary storage in association of the construction of the pumping station, located adjacent to the White River approximately one mile northeast of the town of De Valls Bluff (Figure 2). This EA is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, implementation guidance provided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulation ER-200-2-2. A systematic, interdisciplinary approach was used during the development of this EA. The following sections include a discussion of the need, authority, and impacts of alternative plans on natural and cultural resources associated with the proposed action.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Purpose: During detailed design of the main canal, local sponsor input reflected a desire for canal realignments that would result in less impact to farming operations. In addition, the need for an on-site temporary borrow source location for construction of the pumping station was identified due to the unusually high water levels in the White River, which have prevented the use of materials from the inlet channel for project construction.

This EA covers all recent project changes. Detailed designs for project construction items are at various stages of development. No significant changes to the project are anticipated. However, the project will be reviewed continually in order to ensure compliance with NEPA.



**FIGURE 1. Proposed Project Location
Grand Prairie Pumping Station
and Canal Realignments
Prairie County, Arkansas**

AUTHORITY FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project, part of the Grand Prairie Region and Bayou Metro Basin Project, was originally authorized in Section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 and later deauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 reauthorized the project adding groundwater protection and conservation, agricultural water supply, and waterfowl management as project purposes. The GRR was completed and approved by USACE headquarters in September 1999.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

Canal Realignment: Consideration for the canal realignments was requested by the White River Irrigation District because of changes in ownership and changes in farming operations since the original design plans and specifications were prepared. The CEMVM completed a value engineering study report for the realignments in July 2009. Findings of the report concluded that the original canal alignment would have impacted farming operations or caused inefficiencies in water distribution, and has a \$15,767 higher cost than the proposed realignments.

The modifications being proposed consist of two canal realignments (totaling 3.8 miles) located west and southwest of the town of De Valls Bluff, Arkansas in the vicinity of Highway 70 and Old Highway 70 in Prairie County, Arkansas (Figure 1). The rights-of-way (ROW) for the realignments would be standardized to a 500-foot width to ensure adequate acreage is available for the use of borrow material within the ROW to construct the canals. The modification to the ROW would require approximately 46 acres of additional farmland. Distribution piping would be constructed to the individual farmlands within the realignments. The farmlands temporarily impacted to construct the distribution piping to individual farms would be restored to original condition once the pipelines are constructed.

Borrow Area and Temporary Storage Site Located North of Pumping Station: The original project design for the construction of the pumping station included the use of borrow material excavated from within the inlet channel to provide the earthen material needed to complete construction for the Grand Prairie pumping station. During detailed planning for the construction of the pumping station, it was determined that additional area was needed for storage and processing of the material excavated from within the inlet channel.

An approximately 7-acre site adjacent to the northern border of the pumping station was selected as the optimal location, due to its proximity to the pumping station construction area (Figure 2). Also, floodwaters from the White River have prevented excavation of the inlet channel, and that material has not been available for use. Therefore, an alternate source for borrow is needed until the inlet channel excavation can take place, and the 7-acre site is proposed for use as a temporary borrow pit.

A maximum of 125,000 cubic yards of earthen materials would be temporarily excavated from 6.5 acres of the 7-acre site. The excavated material would be placed inside the existing cofferdam area around the base of the pumping station's concrete walls to bring the ground elevation up to above the 100-year flood elevation and allow grass to grow at the site for erosion protection until the pumping station is completed.

The borrow pit would be excavated to a depth of approximately 15 feet with side slopes of 1-foot vertical on 2-foot horizontal. The upper one foot of topsoil would be stripped and stored in the remaining 0.5 acres of the 7-acre site and would be replaced on top of the temporary borrow pit area when the pit is refilled. Replacing the topsoil would provide a soil base for planting bottomland hardwoods (BLH) as part of the project mitigation for the GPADP. The borrow pit would be filled with excess material from the proposed pumping station inlet channel, the construction of which has been delayed due to high stages in the White River.

If river conditions allow for the excavation of the inlet channel, the 7-acre site would only be utilized as a temporary storage site for the excavated material removed from the channel. The earthen material would be placed on to the 7-acre site and left in place for approximately two to four years until needed in association with the construction of the pumping station. After removal of the stored material, the 7-acre site would be planted in BLH as part of the project mitigation for the GPADP.

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

MODIFICATION 1: Realignment of Two Sections of the Main Canal and Borrow Area

Alternatives Considered

1. **No Action:** Under this alternative, the proposed realignments would not occur, and the project action would remain as designed and included in the existing EIS and GRR. The original alignment would bisect a 6.1-acre wooded area along County Road 705, divide three tracts of farmland, and cause concerns and objections from impacted landowners.

2. **Incorporate Realignment Changes as Detailed for the Project Action:** The proposed realignment of two sections of the main canal would optimize project operation and decrease costs, reduce impacts to county infrastructure, and accommodate the project sponsor and landowners who desire to minimize impacts to farming operations. The proposed realignment would avoid a 6-acre woodland, would not bisect existing tracts of farmlands, would reduce project costs for mitigation, reduce impacts to farmlands, would require two fewer siphons to be installed, and also reduce piping required by 900 feet. This alternative is preferred by both the landowners and project sponsor. A net value reduction of \$15,767 for construction costs are expected to result from this alternative.

This alternative was selected for implementation due to the decrease in impacts to the environment, reduced project costs, and local sponsor and landowner preference.

MODIFICATION 2: Alternative On-Site Borrow Source and Temporary Storage Site for the Grand Prairie Pumping Station

Alternatives Considered

1. **No Action:** If the White River remains at an elevation that prevents inlet channel excavation, then the inlet channel borrow material cannot be utilized and the pumping station foundation cannot be finished without an off-site borrow source. Utilization of an off-site borrow site would increase

project cost due to transportation and acquisition of a new site, and result in delays in the construction of the pumping station due to the need to identify a new borrow location with appropriate materials. The ability to pull excess water from the White River and deliver it to the agricultural land in the area would be delayed.

2. **Alternative On-Site Borrow Source and Temporary Storage:** The project design for the Grand Prairie project includes the construction of an inlet channel from the White River to the pumping station. The original construction plans for the pumping station included the use of the earthen material removed from the inlet channel to bring the ground elevation around the base of the station above the 100-year flood elevation.

However, continuously high water levels in the White River have prevented the excavation of the inlet channel, and have caused delays for the pumping station project. To avoid continued project delays, an approximately 7-acre site adjacent to the northern boundary of the pumping station was proposed as an alternate borrow source. Material needed for the pumping station construction would be removed from the 7-acre site. The site would be returned to existing elevation by filling the site with material from the inlet channel during its construction, and then would be planted with BLH as part of project mitigation for the GPADP.

If river conditions permit excavation of the inlet channel, the 7-acre site would only be utilized as a temporary storage site for the excavated material removed from the inlet channel. The stored material would be left in place for approximately two to four years until needed for the construction of the pumping station. After removal of the stored material, the 7-acre site would be planted in BLH as part of the project mitigation for the GPADP.

This alternative was selected for implementation.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management (signed May 24, 1977), requires Federal agencies to recognize the significant values of floodplains and to consider the public benefits that would be realized from restoring and preserving floodplains. The Executive Order has the objective of avoidance, to the extent possible, of long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of the base floodplain and the avoidance of direct and indirect support of development in the base floodplain wherever there is a practical alternative. Under this Order the Corps of Engineers is required to provide leadership and take action to:

- a. Avoid development in the base floodplain unless it is the only practical alternative;
- b. Reduce the hazard and risk associated with floods;
- c. Minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and
- d. Restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of the base floodplain.

All alternatives were designed to minimize, to the extent practical, adverse impacts to floodplains. Due to the nature of the proposed project, construction of the pumping station within the White River floodplain was the only practical alternative. The selected plan is responsive to the planning objectives and is consistent with the requirements of Executive Order 11988.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN MINORITY AND LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

The project action for the GPADP would provide a supplemental source of irrigation water for agricultural lands within the 362,662-acre project area. The supplemental irrigation is expected to improve agricultural production within this area, with the potential for increased employment opportunities during project construction. The proposed project would then indirectly improve the economy within the local communities, and also indirectly aid in reducing the risk of future unemployment of minorities and low-income residents by maintaining irrigated agricultural practices. Thus, the proposed project modifications would have no adverse environmental or health effects on low-income or minority populations.

INVASIVE SPECIES

The lands within the ROW for the proposed project are comprised of dry farmlands for the canal realignments, and farmed wetlands within the 7-acre borrow/storage site north of the Grand Prairie pumping station. Although the invasive plant Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) occurs in eastern Arkansas, the proposed project modifications would not affect the risk of further spread of this species. During the GPADP general reevaluation, it was determined that the exotic zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) could be introduced from the White River into receiving canals that would be used as part of the water delivery system. However, the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center determined that excessive water temperatures in receiving canals would likely prevent zebra mussels from reaching population levels that would threaten native mussels.

HAZARDOUS, TOXIC, AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE (HTRW)

The USACE is obligated under Engineer Regulation (ER) 1165-2-132 to assume responsibility for the reasonable identification and evaluation of all HTRW contamination within the vicinity of the proposed action. A record search has been conducted of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) EnviroMapper Web Page (<http://maps.epa.gov>). The EPA search engine was checked for any superfund sites, toxic releases, or hazardous waste sites within the vicinity of the proposed project area. Site inspections of the proposed new alignments were conducted on January 28, 2010. No evidence of potential or present HTRW problems was found. Based on a check of the EPA Web Page and the site inspections, it is reasonable to assume that no HTRW contamination would be encountered within the project area. No other analysis is required unless new information is revealed or HTRW is discovered during construction.

CLEAN WATER ACT COMPLIANCE

A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation for the GPADP was completed during the GRR and was presented in Appendix C, Section IV of the report. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issued a state water quality certification for the GPADP on July 21, 1999. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation for the 7-acre borrow/storage site located north of the Grand Prairie pumping station was completed on July 15, 2010. The ADEQ determined that a state water quality certification would be required for the proposed modifications, and issued a state certification on September 3, 2010. To minimize impacts to water quality, the proposed project activities would be

conducted during dry or low water periods as much as practicable, and a silt fence would be placed around the proposed borrow sites to contain any potential runoff.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Location: The proposed project is located in Prairie County, Arkansas. The canal realignments are located west and southwest of the town of De Valls Bluff. The 7-acre borrow/temporary storage site is immediately north of the Grand Prairie pumping station, which is located northeast of the town.

Climate: Prairie County has long hot summers and rather cool winters, with an average high of 91 °F in the summer (June through August) and an average low of 33 °F in winter (December through February). The total annual precipitation is about 45.5 inches, varying from a monthly average of 5.6 inches in May, to an average of 2.6 inches in December. Precipitation in the spring and summer is often in the form of afternoon thunderstorms. Average monthly precipitation is 8.5 inches during the winter months (December through February), but can vary greatly from year to year. Winter ice storms also occur within the area, which can result in severe damage to vegetation and power lines.

SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES AND IMPACTS

Vegetation

The lands within the ROW for the proposed canal realignments are utilized as farmlands. Vegetation found within the farmlands is predominantly agricultural crops, planted and harvested by the landowners. Other vegetation may include various grasses and forbs. The land within the proposed 7-acre borrow/storage site is a low-lying, fallow field, previously utilized for agricultural use. Vegetation within both the proposed canal realignments and the 7-acre borrow/storage site would be removed. If the 7-acre site is utilized only as a temporary storage site, vegetation within the 7-acre site would be covered by excavated material removed from the channel. As the proposed project areas are mostly farmed fields (canal realignments) or previously farmed fields (proposed 7-acre borrow site), native species existing within these fields would consist mostly of some grasses and forbs growing in amongst the agricultural species.

Wetlands

The lands within the ROW for the proposed canal realignments are comprised of dry farmlands, and are not classified as wetland habitat. Thus, no impacts to wetlands are expected and no mitigation is required. By email letter dated June 23, 2010 the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Little Rock, Arkansas, determined that no farmed wetlands are found within the ROW for the canal realignments. The NRCS did determine that the lands within the 7-acre borrow/storage site located north of the Grand Prairie pumping station was classified as farmed wetlands.

The 7-acre site was included in the area purchased by the White River Irrigation Drainage District for project mitigation. The decision to purchase this land was approved by the project environmental interagency team, which consists of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, National Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, and White River Irrigation District.

Modifications to the project designs for the GPADP as assessed in the 2004 EA calculated that project impacts would be offset by the acquisition and restoration of 182 acres of wetlands. Impacts to the proposed 7-acre site borrow/storage site would be accomplished by planting an additional 7 acres of the land purchased by the local sponsor surrounding the pumping station with bottomland hardwood trees, as part of the project mitigation for the GPADP.

Upland Hardwoods

The original canal alignment immediately south from County Road 705 would have bisected an approximately 6-acre upland hardwoods site (Figure 1). The proposed modification relocated this canal alignment approximately 4000 feet eastward, avoiding the upland hardwoods site. Thus, the proposed canal realignment would reduce impacts to this resource, which would decrease mitigation required and overall project costs.

Agricultural Lands

The NRCS was consulted regarding the farmlands within the 500-foot ROW for the proposed canal realignments. By email dated June 23, 2010, the NRCS determined that 243 acres of prime farmlands are found within the 500-foot ROW for the proposed canal realignments. The completed Farmland Conversion Impact Ratings form is located in the Appendix of this EA. The proposed modifications would remove approximately 243 acres of prime farmland from production with the construction of the canal realignments, which is slightly higher than the original alignment. However, benefits of the GPADP would offset these impacts by providing for agricultural water supply and ground water protection over a project area of 362,662 acres. The importation of irrigation water provided would benefit agricultural lands within this area by ensuring a supply of water during the critical growing period.

Wildlife Resources

The Grand Prairie region provides essential habitat needs for both resident and migrant species. Species potentially found within or utilizing the farmlands and fallow 7-acre borrow/storage site within the proposed project area include white-tailed deer, rabbits, squirrels, fox, coyote, skunk, raccoon, opossum, rats, mice, snakes, and various songbirds and raptors. Flooded rice and soybean fields provide important feeding and resting areas for waterfowl. Wading birds forage in both flooded and dry fields, while mourning doves are primarily found in dry fields.

Natural growth of wild plant species within the 7-acre fallow field would provide food (seeds and berries) and cover habitat for area wildlife. The project construction activities and associated equipment noise would displace most wildlife from the immediate area. However, species displaced would be expected to return once the project activities are completed. Realignment of the main canal would reduce upland hardwood losses by 6 acres; thereby reducing impacts to wildlife species inhabiting this woodland type.

Aquatic Resources

The habitat within the proposed realignments is currently dry farmland. Construction of the proposed canal realignments would convert the dry farmland into aquatic habitat, once the new canal realignments flood. Thus, the newly created waterways are expected to provide new habitat for various aquatic species, primarily fish, turtles, and frogs. Habitat within the 7-acre borrow/storage area is classified as farmed wetlands. This area is no longer in production, and would be planted with BLH tree species as part of the mitigation for the GPADP. Project activities would be conducted during dry or low water periods as much as practicable. Potential aquatic species within this area would be expected to follow receding waters into the adjacent White River. Thus, no impacts to aquatic resources are expected in association with activities within the 7-acre fallow field.

Threatened and Endangered Species

CEMVM biologist Mr. Mark Smith and Mr. Jason Phillips of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducted a survey of the proposed realignment on January 28, 2010. No evidence of threatened or endangered species was found within the proposed realignment areas. Therefore, it is the determination of CEMVM that the proposed realignments would not have any impact on any federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. The USFWS responded by email on May 10, 2010 that they have no concerns regarding federally threatened or endangered species associated with the proposed realignment of canals associated with the GPADP.

The 7-acre borrow/storage site was previously used as farmland, and is not considered as habitat for threatened or endangered species. The USFWS concurred with this determination by telephone conversation with Mr. Jason Phillips on May 10, 2010. Thus, the proposed project action is not expected to have any impacts on threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat.

Cultural Resources

As part of the overall GPADP, the realignment comes under the conditions set by the cultural resources Programmatic Agreement (PA), signed February 2009 by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, the CEMVM, and eight American Indian tribes. All applicable conditions of the PA would be applied to this portion of the overall project. In early 2010 the new alignments for canals 1000 and 2000 were surveyed for cultural resources. A standard literature and records search revealed that no archeological sites or historic properties were previously recorded within the study area. The survey resulted in the identification of three newly recorded archeological sites.

All three sites are Tenant period components, associated with rural domestic occupations. Each of the three sites was recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In a letter dated February 24, 2010 the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred that the three sites were not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and that no additional archeological work would be required for this portion of the project. The 7-acre borrow/storage site was previously surveyed as part of the original cultural resources surveys for the GPADP. No cultural resources were found within the project right-of-way. The SHPO has requested that borrow excavations be monitored by an archeologist. The CEMVM will honor the SHPO request.

Air Quality

The proposed project area is in attainment for all air quality standards. Since the equipment to be used is a mobile source, the project is exempt from air quality permitting requirements. Although air emissions would not require a permit, best management practices shall be used throughout the construction to minimize air pollution.

Water Quality

The habitat within the proposed canal realignments are not classified as wetland habitat, as the proposed realignments would be constructed through dry farmlands. Project activities within the proposed 7-acre borrow/storage site north of the pumping station would be conducted during dry or low water periods as much as practicable, and a silt fence would be placed around the 7-acre site to contain any potential runoff from reaching the White River, approximately 1,600 feet east of the site. Therefore, none of the modifications proposed in this EA would negatively impact water quality in the White River or project area. A state water quality certification is requested with this document for the proposed modifications.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative Impact is defined as the “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time” (40 CFR § 1508.7). The cumulative effects of the GPADP were discussed in the EIS and associated GRR and 2004 EA. None of the proposed modifications assessed and discussed in this EA would significantly increase the cumulative effects of the GPADP.

MITIGATION

Mitigation for the overall GPADP was discussed in the final EIS, which includes planting BLH tree species within the farmed wetland tract north of the Grand Prairie pumping station. Modifications to overall mitigation acreages were detailed in the 2004 EA, which included 38 acres of upland hardwoods impacted by the canal alignments. The proposed canal realignments would avoid a 6-acre upland hardwoods site, thus reducing the amount of mitigation for this resource by 6 acres.

Mitigation for the impacts to farmed wetlands associated with the 7-acre borrow/temporary storage site would include the planting of BLH tree species on an additional 7-acres of previously classified farmed wetlands. Additionally, the borrow/temporary storage site would still be planted with BLH after the site was no longer needed. The proposed canal realignments would be constructed through dry farmlands; therefore no mitigation would be required for the proposed realignments.

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

Project compliance with applicable federal and state regulations is shown in Table 1. Finalization of the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would bring the project into full compliance with the listed laws and regulations.

Table 1. Relationship of Plan to Environmental Laws and Regulations

The relationships of the recommended plan to the requirements of environmental laws, executive orders, and other policies are presented below:

<u>Federal Policies and Acts</u>	<u>Compliance Status</u>
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979	1
Bald Eagle Act	1
Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977	1
Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended	1
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended	1
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958	1
Flood Control Act of 1946, as amended	1
Food Security Act of 1985	1
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act	1
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969	2*
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended	1
River and Harbor and Flood Control Act of 1970	1
Water Resources Development Act of 1986	1
Water Resources Planning Act of 1965	1
 <u>Executive Orders</u>	
Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988)	1
Protection, Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (E.O. 11593)	1
Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990)	1
 <u>Other Federal Policies</u>	
Water Resources Council, Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies	1

1/ Full compliance with the policy and related regulations has been accomplished.

2/ Partial compliance with the policy and related regulations has been accomplished.

*Full compliance would be met following the Finding of No Significant Impact.

COORDINATION

Project modifications have been coordinated with the project interagency environmental team. The team is comprised of representatives from USACE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, and the White River Irrigation District. In addition, this draft environmental assessment is being coordinated with these agencies, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, and other interested parties.


CONCLUSION

During the detailed design of the GPADP, a requirement for two additional modifications to the project as detailed in the final EIS and GRR were identified. The proposed realignment of two sections of the main canal were needed to optimize project operation, decrease impacts to upland hardwoods, decrease costs, reduce impacts to county infrastructure, and accommodate local landowners. The use of an on-site borrow source for the Grand Prairie pumping station was proposed to allow construction of the pumping station to commence independently of the White River water levels, without adding significant costs to the project. Impacts to the 7-acres of farmed wetlands associated with the borrow site would be mitigated by planting BLH trees on an additional 7-acres of farmed wetlands currently owned by the local sponsor. This office has assessed the environmental impacts of the proposed action and has determined that the proposed work would have no significant impacts upon the natural or human environment. Therefore, a supplemental EIS is not required.

PREPARER

For additional information contact Mr. Alan Bennett at (901) 544-4313, or by mail at USACE Memphis District, Attn: Alan Bennett, 167 North Main St., B202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894.

APPENDIX

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Natural Resources Conservation Service		FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS		NRCS-CPA-106 (Rev. 1-91)	
PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 6/22/10	4. Sheet 1 of <u>1</u>		
1. Name of Project Proposed Canal Realignment, Prairie County		5. Federal Agency Involved USACE			
2. Type of Project Irrigation Canal		6. County and State Prairie, Arkansas			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 6/22/10	2. Person Completing Form Edgar Mersiovsky		
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated 177,245		Average Farm Size 714	
5. Major Crop(s) Soybeans	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 393,518 % 91		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 393,518 % 91		
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used SCS-LESA	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 6/23/10		
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Corridor For Segment			
		Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		243.0			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services					
C. Total Acres In Corridor		243.0	0	0	0
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		243.00			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland		0.00			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		0.0610			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		86			
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)		70			
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15	15		
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10	10		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20	20		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20	0		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10	10		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5	0		
8. On-Farm Investments		20	0		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10	0		
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160			
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	70		
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	55		
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	125		
1. Corridor Selected: A	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 243	3. Date Of Selection: 6/23/10	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
5. Reason For Selection: Corridor A is the only corridor for the project					
Signature of Person Completing this Part: 			DATE 6/23/10		
NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor					