

Project Background

Southwest Arkansas Red River Navigation (SWARRN) Section 203
Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement

The existing Red River waterway, known as the J. Bennett Johnston (JBJ) Waterway, is a navigation system that commences at the confluence of Old and Red Rivers and proceeds upstream for 236 miles to the Shreveport-Bossier City area.

The JBJ Waterway project consists of a 9-foot-deep by 200-foot-wide navigation channel with five navigation locks.

The portion of the Red River waterway above Shreveport, Louisiana is presently unsuitable for commercial navigation.

In 2005, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a draft Feasibility Report for the proposed Southwest Arkansas Red River Navigation (SWARRN) system. At the time of the report, USACE concluded there were not sufficient National Economic Development (NED) benefits to warrant recommending a project plan to authorize and extend shallow-draft navigation upstream of Shreveport, Louisiana.

A recent market analysis and economic update completed by USACE showed the potential for improved NED benefits. In addition, recent USACE guidance now allows the consideration of Regional Economic Development, Environmental Quality and other benefits to be applied when evaluating the feasibility of proposed water resources projects. Because of the improved economic benefits conditions, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division (NRD) (non-Federal Interest) has initiated an action to proceed with additional analyses and a feasibility study under the Section 203 authority.



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