

# Public Scoping Meeting

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

## Public Scoping Meetings

**Tuesday, July 30, 2024 – Louisiana State University in Shreveport**  
University Center – Ballroom (2nd Floor), One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024 – Texas A&M University – Texarkana**  
University Center – Eagle Hall, 7101 University Avenue, Texarkana, TX 75503

### Tonight's Agenda



**3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Information poster session



**5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
Project presentation followed by the public comment session

### Public Comment Session

- 1 Sign up** to provide verbal comments
- 2 Listen for your name** to be called
- 3 State and spell your name** for the court report
- Comments are limited to **3 minutes**

## Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg District (CEMVK) will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate extending shallow-draft navigation up to 135 miles on the Red River from its present terminus at Shreveport, Louisiana into Southwest Arkansas.

Under the authority of Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Section 203), as

amended, the non-Federal Interest, Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division (NRD) will perform the investigation to determine the feasibility of a proposed Southwest Arkansas Red River Navigation (SWARRN) channel.

## Project Background

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 above Shreveport, Louisiana is presently unsuitable for commercial navigation.

In 2005, USACE completed a draft Feasibility Report for the proposed 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, USACE guidance 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 NRD (non-Federal Interest) has initiated an action to proceed with additional analyses and a feasibility study under the Section 203 authority.

## Public Input

To ensure the USACE has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, scoping comments should be submitted:

- **By email:** CEMVK-PPMD-Civil-Works@usace.army.mil
- **By mail:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Attn: CEMVK-PMP, 4155 Clay St., Vicksburg, MS 39183
- **In person:** At the scoping meeting

All comments and suggestions must be submitted by 30 days after publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. All personally identifiable information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by a commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

## Additional Information

Additional information can be found on the USACE project website:  
<https://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Programs-and-Project-Management/Project-Management/SW-Ark-Red-River-Nav-Channel-Extension/>

