

2 SCOPING PROCESS

The following section describes the scoping process for the Glades Reservoir EIS, which included public notifications, public scoping meetings, and agency coordination meetings.

2.1 Notifications and Mailings

The public was informed of the Glades Reservoir EIS project through a number of media, including a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register*, mailings, email notifications, news releases, legal notices, and a project website.

2.1.1 Notice of Intent

The USACE published a Notice of Intent (NOI) announcing the preparation of an EIS for the proposed Glades Reservoir project on February 17, 2012 (Appendix A). This was the first public notification for the project, and marked the beginning of the 60-day scoping period.

2.1.2 Notification Mailings

On March 7, 2012, a notification letter was distributed via U.S. Postal Service mailings to 318 property owners that would potentially be affected by the project and 10 libraries within the project area. These notifications provided a description of the project, information about the upcoming scoping meetings, and information about how to get involved and make comments. Email notifications were sent to an initial list of stakeholders prior to the scoping meetings and prior to the close of the scoping period. Appendix B contains the notification and mailing sample distributed during the scoping period.

2.1.3 News Releases

On February 15, 2012, the USACE issued a news release (Appendix B) to inform media outlets of the NOI to prepare an EIS on the Glades Reservoir project. The news release provided background on the project and information about the comment period and public meetings.

A second news release was issued on March 13, 2012 to announce the public scoping meetings and provide additional background information on the project.

2.1.4 Legal Notice

Legal notices were published to announce the public scoping meetings in March, 2012, in four newspapers (see Appendix B) throughout the project area:

- Opelika Auburn News – Auburn, AL (March 6-7, 2012)
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution – Atlanta, GA (March 5-6, 2012)
- Gainesville Times – Gainesville, GA (March 5-6, 2012)
- Apalachicola Times – Apalachicola, FL (March 8, 2012)

2.1.5 Project Website

A project website was constructed and made available to the public on the date of the NOI publication, February 17, 2012 (<http://www.gladesreservoir.com>). The purpose of the website is to provide public

access to project related materials and scoping meeting information. The project website features public meeting information, frequently asked questions about NEPA, press releases, and links to download project documents, including the NOI and meeting materials. The project website was the primary means of receiving communication and comments from the public during scoping. Updates to the EIS project are posted on a regular basis to inform the public of the status of the project.

2.2 Scoping Meetings

Open house meetings were held during the scoping meetings at three locations in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) basin, as shown in Table 2-1. The proposed project has generated significant interest for stakeholders within both the immediate project area and the ACF basin as a whole. Meetings were held in three states and extensively throughout the basin to maximize input from potentially affected stakeholders downstream of the proposed Glades Reservoir.

Table 2-1. Open House Scoping Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Number of Attendees ¹
March 20, 2012	4:00 - 8:00 pm	Gainesville State College, 3820 Mundy Mill Road, Oakwood, GA 30566	59
March 21, 2012	4:00 - 8:00 pm	Lexington Auburn University Convention Center, 1577 South College Street, Auburn, AL	11
March 22, 2012	4:00 - 8:00 pm	Apalachicola National Estuarine, Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, FL 32328	14

¹Public attendees, not including USACE and consultant staff.

2.2.1 Meeting Format

The meetings followed an open-house format to accommodate the public's varying schedules. This format provided meeting attendees the opportunity to obtain project information, ask questions of the USACE representatives and the EIS team, and submit their verbal and/or written comments. Attendees were presented with the information supplied by the applicant regarding background, purpose of and need for the project, engineering requirements, the pipeline and storage concept, an outline of the NEPA process, a schedule for the EIS, and potential impacts. Information stations were organized as follows:

- Welcome
- Project Overview
- Alternatives Analysis
- NEPA and EIS Process
- Key Resources and Potential Downstream Impacts
- USACE Regulatory Program
- Comments

The commenting station included a table for handwritten comments on comment forms, a certified court reporter to collect verbal comments, and computers for attendees to submit comments directly through the website. Photos from the meetings and post-meeting publicity can be found in Appendix G.

2.2.2 Displays and Handouts

Poster exhibits were displayed at each of the open house stations (see Appendix C). The following handouts were provided to meeting attendees (see Appendix D):

- Comment Form
- Glades Reservoir EIS Fact Sheet
- NEPA Process and How to Comment
- EPA Section 404 Reservoir Review Fact Sheet
- Public Notice and NOI

2.3 Agency Coordination

2.3.1 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies with jurisdiction by law or technical expertise can participate in the NEPA process in a variety of ways to discuss their concerns, provide review of sections pertaining to their authorities or special expertise, or provide assistance and advice to the USACE. This cooperation promotes agency participation and facilitates the NEPA review process. The following agencies have agreed to be cooperating agencies for the Glades Reservoir EIS:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was invited but declined to participate as a cooperating agency due to resource constraints

2.3.2 Agency Coordination Meetings

Three agency coordination meetings were held during the scoping period. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the project to interested agencies in the ACF basin, including state and federal agencies in Georgia, Alabama and Florida. The agency coordination meetings were held as roundtable discussions, and included an overview of the project, overview of the EIS process and the purpose of scoping, and an open conversation regarding agency concerns, information needs, and issues to be addressed in the EIS. Table 2-2 lists the agencies represented at each meeting. The agenda and sign-in sheets from the agency coordination meetings can be found in Appendix E.

Table 2-2. Agency Coordination Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Agencies Present
March 20, 2012	9:00 - 10:30 am (EST)	Atlanta, GA	EPA Region 4 Georgia Environmental Protection Division Georgia Environmental Finance Authority Georgia Department of Community Affairs Georgia Department of Natural Resource – Wildlife Resources Division Atlanta Regional Commission/Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
March 21, 2012	10:00 - 11:30 am (CST)	Montgomery, AL	EPA Region 4 Alabama Office of Water Resources Alabama Department of Environmental Management Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
March 23, 2012	10:00 - 11:30 am (EST)	Tallahassee, FL	Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission