



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**  
Walla Walla District  
Public Affairs Office

# News Release

News Release 05-07

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Contact: Nola Conway

Phone: (509) 527-7020

## Corps' Snake River navigation maintenance draft EIS available for comment

**Walla Walla, Wash.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites comments on a draft Environmental Impact Statement proposing maintenance of the Federal navigation channel and berthing areas at certain public port facilities in the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers. The maintenance activities associated with the preferred alternative, as identified in the draft, could be implemented as early as winter 2005-2006. Preparation of the draft EIS was a cooperative effort between the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the Corps as the lead agency.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft *Lower Snake River Navigation Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) (Lower Snake and Clearwater Rivers, Washington and Idaho) (DEIS) is expected to be published in the Federal Register on March 11, 2005. The DEIS is available on the Walla Walla District Web site at [www.nww.usace.army.mil/Channel\\_Maint/One-Year/default.htm](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Channel_Maint/One-Year/default.htm). This document addresses actions the Corps deems appropriate to adequately maintain the lower Snake River navigation system and certain public port berthing areas for the near term. At some locations in the Federal navigation channel, sediment deposition has reduced available water depths to as little as 8.5 – 10.6 feet, compared to an authorized channel depth of 14 feet.

Comments on the document should be provided no later than April 25, 2005 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, CENWW-PD-EC, ATTN: Navigation Maintenance EIS; 201 N. Third Avenue; Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876.

The State of Washington Department of Ecology will provide review of the Corps' maintenance project for compliance with state and federal water pollution control laws. Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to compliance with water pollution control laws may do so by providing written comments no later than April 4, 2005 to the Federal Permit Coordination Team, Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600.

For more information, contact Jack Sands at (509) 527-7287.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876  
Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824  
Website: [www.nww.usace.army.mil](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil) E-mail: [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil)