



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 1070  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202-1070

NOV 06 2003

Project Planning Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a proposed Mill Creek Watershed Plan including Potential Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration, in Davidson County, Tennessee. The DEIS is necessary to provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for proposed changes to water quality, aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial habitat, and potential flood damage reduction measures within Mill Creek and its tributaries. Historical information regarding flooding, landuse, aquatic, and terrestrial ecology would be used as a baseline and has been described in previous NEPA documents including the 1986 report: Metro Region of Nashville, Tennessee, Mill Creek, Final Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. Metro Water Services is the sponsor for this project and will acquire all the information and computer models. A map (Figure. 1) of the proposed study area is enclosed for your information.

The Mill Creek watershed is located in parts of Davidson, Williamson, and Rutherford counties and drains nearly 70,000 acres (108 square miles). The watershed supports many plants, fish, and wildlife including the Nashville Crayfish (*Orconectes shoupi*), an endangered species. The stream corridor offers important esthetic and recreational opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, nature study, and stream floating. The study aims to increase the overall health of the stream and reduce flood damage.

Preliminary flood reduction alternatives that will be considered include detention ponds, channel widening, levees, floodwalls, vegetative berms, low-water dams, and dry dam storage. Buildings might be raised or removed from the floodway fringe. Preliminary restoration alternatives under consideration include restoration of swales and depressions, wetlands, aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial habitats, sediment management structures, and bank stabilization. Landuse changes could be considered to protect a stream corridor that could include a greenway.

The Mill Creek study would use computer models to understand hydrology, aquatic habitat, and water quality processes occurring in the watershed. The study will also consider future development effects, floodplain mapping, endangered species protection, stream bank stabilization, storm water management, water quality impacts from point and non-point sources, and stream corridor habitat enhancement. The study aims to predict and minimize flood damage in a way that protects, maintains, and restores the ecologically sensitive Mill Creek and its tributaries.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and applicable implementing regulations, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared as an integral part of this planning study. We are soliciting public and agency comments concerning environmental issues that should be addressed in the course of the NEPA process. We encourage comments not only about the immediate project area, but also of plans or proposals for any other development that may impact or influence project resources.

This letter also serves to initiate the public involvement requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Section 106, implemented by regulations at 36 CFR 800, requires the Corps of Engineers to consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties. If required, appropriate architectural and archeological investigations will be conducted within those areas affected by the proposed activities and resulting findings will be coordinated with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer and other offices as necessary.

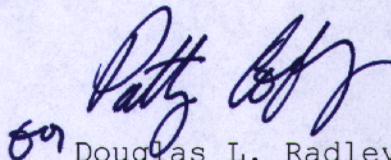
This letter serves to solicit scoping comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received during the comment period will be considered in the planning process. Comments are used to assess impacts on fish, wildlife, endangered species, water quality, historic properties, water supply, conservation, economics, aesthetics, wetlands, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion, sedimentation, recreation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, general environmental

effects, cumulative effects, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The public is invited to submit written comments to this scoping no later than **January 15, 2004**. Please note that there will be other opportunities for comments during the planning phase at future public workshops. Public meetings are being planned, however, times, dates, or locations have not been determined.

You may send your comments to the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1070 (PM-P), Nashville, TN 37202-1070, ATTN: CELRN-PM-P (Joy Broach). Information may also be obtained by calling Ms. Broach at (615) 736-7956 or the Project Manager, Ms. Sue Ferguson at (615) 736-7192.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas L. Radley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

for Douglas L. Radley, A.I.C.P.  
Chief, Project Planning Branch

**Figure 1.** Vicinity and Watershed Map for the Mill Creek Watershed in Tennessee.

