



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Wilmington District

Contact: Ann Johnson 910-251-4626

ann.johnson@usace.army.mil

Hank Heusinkveld 910-251-4625

henry.g.heusinkveld@usace.army.mil

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Supplemental DEIS available for public review and comment**

**WILMINGTON, N.C.** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, and N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) have prepared a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) to present information about changes to the US 17 Hampstead Bypass design. The changes were based on input received from the public during the DEIS comment period and at the corridor public hearings held for the project.

A copy of the SDEIS for the NCDOT Improvement Program projects U-4751 (proposed Military Cutoff Road {SR 1409} and R-3300 (proposed US 17 Hampstead Bypass) is available for public review at:

- NCDOT Division 3 Office, 5501 Barbados Blvd., Castle Hayne
- Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, 305 Chestnut St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Wilmington
- New Hanover County Planning Office, 230 Government Center Drive, Ste 110, Wilmington
- Northeast Regional Library, 1241 Military Cutoff Rd., Wilmington
- Hampstead Branch Library, 75 Library Dr., Hampstead
- The NCDOT project website at:  
<http://www.ncdot.org/projects/US17HampsteadBypass/>

The Wilmington District has filed the SDEIS with the U.S. EPA. A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 30, 2013 to begin the 45-day public review period, pursuant to regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508).

The public notice can be accessed at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryPermitProgram/PublicNotices.apx>. This notice will direct interested parties to the Federal Register where the Notice of Availability is housed and back to the NCDOT Hampstead Bypass project page for review of the SDEIS document.

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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**Wilmington District**  
**69 Darlington Ave**  
**Wilmington, N.C. 28403**

The Hampstead Bypass project begins at Military Cutoff Road in Wilmington and extends around Hampstead, and ties back into Highway 17 below the Holly Shelter Game lands in New Hanover and Pender counties. Its primary purpose is to improve the traffic carrying capacity and safety of the US 17 and Market Street corridor.

The Corps of Engineers will evaluate this project to compare alternatives that have been carried forward for study pursuant to applicable procedures under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The Wilmington District USACE is soliciting public comment on the merits of this proposal to give careful consideration to public interest review and to more fully integrate Section 404 permit requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and 404(b) (1) compliance determination.

Comments should be submitted to Mr. Brad Shaver, Wilmington Regulatory Field Office, 69 Darlington Ave., Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343, or (910)251-4611, or [brad.e.shaver@usace.army.mil](mailto:brad.e.shaver@usace.army.mil). Written comments will become a part of the project record. Please provide written comments no later than Dec. 13, 2013.

The Wilmington District Commander is not authorizing construction of the proposed US 17 improvements at this time. A final Department of the Army permit could be issued, if at all, after the review process is complete, impacts to the aquatic environment have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable, and a compensatory mitigation plan for unavoidable impacts has been approved.