



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Neuse River Basin, NC (PED) (Comprehensive Basin Study/Environmental Restoration- Investigations)

- **Sponsor: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
- **Preconstruction engineering & design (PED) scheduled to be initiated in August 2014**
- **Initiation of PED paused subject to additional non-Federal funds being provided in fourth quarter FY 2014**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1,3,4,6,7,13

DATE: 6 March 2014

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Resolution adopted by the Committee on Transportation and infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives dated 23 July 1997.
2. **STUDY AREA:** The study area is located in the eastern part of North Carolina. The Neuse River basin covers about 11 percent of the entire state of North Carolina and consists of all or portions of 16 counties. The Neuse River basin is the third largest basin in the state, approximately 180 miles long, with a maximum width of about 46 miles. The Neuse River is formed by the confluence of the Eno and Flat Rivers, about 8 miles north of the city of Durham, and has a drainage area of approximately 5,710 square miles. The basin is primarily an agricultural region, but contains many small towns and several cities which are important commercial centers, including Raleigh, Smithfield, Durham, Goldsboro, Wilson, Kinston, and New Bern.
3. **IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED:** Ecosystem restoration features included in the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) plan are: stabilization of up to 3,500 feet of the Gum Thicket Creek and 5,200 feet of the Cedar Creek shorelines to protect 60 acres of eroding marsh habitat, and to create up to 42 acres of estuarine wetland habitat; restoration of 80 acres of oyster reef habitat in the Neuse River Estuary; modification of the lowhead dam on the Little River near Goldsboro to restore connectivity to 46 miles of spawning habitat for anadromous

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fish; restoration of bottomland hardwood forest by lowering site elevations to match those of the adjacent parcels; and restoring hydrologic connectivity throughout.

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| 4. <u>COST ESTIMATE:</u> | \$1,500,000 | (PED/Federal) |
| | <u>500,000</u> | (PED /Non-Federal) |
| | \$ 2,000,000 | Total |

5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2013 (PED):** \$88,000.

6. **FY 2014 FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$50,000. Funds are being used in the fourth quarter to execute the design agreement and initiate PED phase activities. Initiation of PED has been paused pending receipt of additional non-Federal funds, currently scheduled in the fourth quarter of FY 2014.

7. **FY 2015 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$0. Funds in the amount of \$350,000 could be used to continue PED, including completion of surveys, geotechnical and other field data investigations, and initiation of detailed design of the project.

8. **KEY DATES:** May 2002 (Completion of reconnaissance phase)
September 2012 (Completion of feasibility phase)
August 2014 (Initiation of PED subject to the availability of funds)
December 2017 (Completion of PED)

9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The Neuse River basin is a significant ecological resource, home to 17 species of freshwater mussels, a state protected salamander, and a rare snail species. Fish species that inhabit the basin include striped bass, hickory shad, American shad, alewife, blueback herring, shortnose sturgeon, and Atlantic sturgeon. In addition to the dwarf wedgemussel, tar spiny mussel, shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon, there are 7 other federally listed endangered species in the basin, 7 essential fish habitats in the basin, and 12 significant natural heritage areas.

The Neuse River feeds the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound, and is one of the nation's largest and most productive estuaries, representing 90% of the commercial seafood species caught in North Carolina. The Neuse River watershed is designated as a priority watershed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and identified as one of the most threatened rivers in the country by American Rivers. The basin provides a municipal and industrial water supply source for roughly one-sixth of North Carolina's total population.