



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 2013**
- **PED paused until additional non-Federal funds are provided in fourth quarter FY 2013**



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

DATE: 8 April 2013

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, oblong in shape, 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, Goldsboro, Wilson, Kinston, and New Bern.
3. **IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED:** Ecosystem restoration features included in the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) plan are: (A) within the Neuse River Estuary, which is part of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary, stabilize 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 and restore 80 acres of oyster reef habitat in a state designated sanctuary; and (B) within other parts of the river basin, modify the lowhead dam on the Little River near Goldsboro to restore connectivity to 46 miles of spawning

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habitat for anadromous fish and (C) restore of bottomland hardwood forest by lowering site elevations to match those of the adjacent parcels restoring hydrologic connectivity throughout.

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 2012 (PED):** \$88,000.

6. **FY 2013 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$ 450,000. Allocation estimated to be reduced to \$0 due to carry-in funds from FY 2012. Carry-in funds are being used in the fourth quarter to execute the design agreement and initiate PED phase activities. Initiation of PED has been paused until additional non-Federal funds are provided, currently scheduled in the fourth quarter of FY 2013.

7. **FY 2014 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$450,000. These funds would be used to continue PED, including completion of surveys, geotechnical, and other field data and initiation of detailed design of the project.

8. **KEY DATES:** May 2002 (Completion of reconnaissance phase)
September 2012 (Completion of feasibility phase)
August 2013 (Initiation of preconstruction engineering and design)
December 2016 (Completion of PED)

9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The cost sharing partner is the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Four study work groups were formed to address water resource issues in the Neuse River basin. These study work groups include participants from the North Carolina Divisions of Water Resources, Marine Fisheries, Water Quality and Emergency Management; the Nature Conservancy; the NC Oyster Steering Committee; NC State University; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Most of the recent flooding problems have resulted from tropical events such as Hurricane Fran in 1996 and Hurricane Floyd in 1999. FEMA buyouts of structures of flood prone areas following Hurricane Floyd (particularly in Kinston and Goldsboro, NC) and more stringent state regulations regarding the construction of structures in the 1% (100-year) flood plain have significantly reduced future damages for 1% reoccurrence flood events.