



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Neuse River, Goldsboro, NC (Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment) CAP Section 1135

- Federally owned project
- Existing weir structure in poor condition
- Restoration of fish and wildlife habitat impacted by the project



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1, NC 13

DATE: 23 February 2015

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Flood Control Act of 1941 (House Document 327, 77th Congress 1st Session) and Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended.
2. **STUDY AREA:** The project is located on the Neuse River about 95 miles above New Bern, NC near Goldsboro, NC. The project consists of a cutoff channel, 12 feet deep, 20 feet wide and about 6,400 feet long. Construction was completed in 1948 consisting of a trapezoidal channel about one mile long with a low flow sheet pile weir near the upstream end. The weir section was rebuilt in 1960 and 1982 due to deterioration and corrosion.
3. **IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED:** To address the potential for ecosystem restoration at the cutoff and main channel of the Neuse River at Goldsboro, NC. To analyze possible measures and alternatives that could include rehabilitation or removal of the weir, removal or modification of the cutoff channel, as well as other measures to restore natural flow and function to the area while maintaining the flood damage reduction function of the project.

PROJECT INFORMATION –Neuse River, Goldsboro, NC – Continued

4. **COST ESTIMATE:** \$50,000. Initiate Federal interest determination. (Cost to complete feasibility phase to be determined after completion of Federal interest determination)
5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU 2014:** \$0.
6. **FY 2015 FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$50,000. Funds would be used to complete the Federal interest determination.
7. **FY 2016 OPTIMUM AMOUNT:** \$100,000. These funds could be used to continue the feasibility phase and execute a feasibility cost sharing agreement once Federal expenditures exceed \$100,000.
6. **ISSUE AND/OR STATUS:** The existing weir cutoff structure remains in poor structural condition and the bypass channel has significantly eroded the adjacent channel banks. Goldsboro's fresh water intake is located on the original channel. Maintaining the weir structure at the designed crest elevation is needed to provide sufficient depth of water at the intake. This is particularly important during drought conditions.

The Corps of Engineers has approved and the city has recently awarded a construction contract for improvements to install a new sheet pile weir adjacent to the existing structure. Further, the city continues to be interested in partnering under a section 1135, Continuing Authorities Program study that could lead to a more permanent, long-term solution and to restore or improve fish and wildlife habitat within the project area.

7. **OTHER INFORMATION:** In 2011, the city of Goldsboro expressed a desire to have the Corps of Engineers study decommissioning the cut-off channel to improve sediment distribution by increasing river velocities. In 2012, the city of Goldsboro prepared a white paper that offers possible approaches for a conceptual study for restoration of the Neuse River near Goldsboro, NC. This document would be used by the city and the Corps in the development of a restoration plan to reduce or eliminate the sedimentation issues, and restore natural riverine functions in the main stem of the Neuse River. This white paper was written with cooperation of members of the public utilities staff at the city of Goldsboro, who are highly familiar with the history of the site and its issues.