

**From:** Kara E. Symonds  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 04, 2011 1:59 PM  
**To:** Kara E. Symonds  
**Subject:** Skagit River General Investigation - NEPA Scoping Meeting

Good afternoon,

My apologies for any cross postings. The following contains information related to the Skagit River General Investigation.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Skagit River General Investigation (GI) in the July 29, 2011 Federal Register (attached). The purpose of the GI is to better identify the problems and opportunities that exist to relieve flooding and reduce flood risks and to develop a flood-risk management plan. A DEIS is being prepared because of the potential for impacts on environmental resources, particularly salmonid habitat, and the intense public interest already demonstrated in addressing the flooding problems of the Skagit River.

A NOI was originally published in the Federal Register in November 1997 and a public meeting was held. Due to the amount of time that has lapsed since the issuance of the original NOI, the Corps has reissued the NOI and are soliciting comments.

Public involvement will be sought during scoping, plan formulation, and preparation of the DEIS in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures. A public scoping process has been started: (1) To clarify which issues appear to be major public concerns, (2) to identify any information sources that might be available to analyze and evaluate impacts, and (3) to obtain public input and determine acceptability for the range of measures to be included within potential alternatives.

This NOI formally commences the scoping process under NEPA. As part of the scoping process, all affected Federal, state, and local agencies; Tribes; the public; and other interested private organizations, including environmental groups, are invited to comment on the scope of the DEIS. Comments are requested regarding issues of concern, project alternatives, potential mitigation measures, probable significant environmental impacts, and permits or other approvals that may be required by any project.

Persons or organizations wishing to submit scoping comments should do so by **August 29, 2011**. Public comment may also be made at the scoping meeting on August 10, 2011 at the Skagit Station's Community Room, 105 E. Kincaid Street, Mt. Vernon, WA from 5:00

to 8:00 pm.

Requests for inclusion on the mailing list, future documents, and all comments on the proposed project should be sent to: Hannah Hadley, Study Environmental Coordinator  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

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