

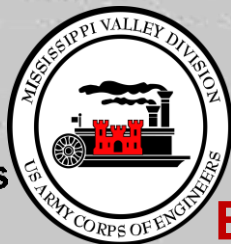
# Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion

## Public Scoping Meeting Presentation

Brad LaBorde  
USACE Regulatory Project Manager  
July 2, 2020



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



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# PRESENTATION AGENDA

- Virtual Scoping Meeting Purpose and Goals
- Project Introduction
- Corps of Engineers Role
- The NEPA Process
- EIS Status
- Opportunities to Comment
- Conclusion





# VIRTUAL SCOPING MEETING PURPOSE

## Live Event Schedule

**Tuesday**  
July 14, 2020  
9:00 to 10:30am  
  
1-844-621-3956  
Access code: 126 005 0147

**Wednesday**  
July 15, 2020  
2:00 to 3:30pm  
  
1-844-621-3956  
Access code: 126 841 4739

**Thursday**  
July 16, 2020  
6:00 to 7:30pm  
  
1-844-621-3956  
Access code: 126 316 9289

## Scoping Meeting Participation

- Corps Mid-Breton Webpage
- Submit Scoping Questions

## Public Scoping Comments

- Traditional Mail  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Attn: CEMVN-ODR-E #MVN-2018-1120-EOO  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70118
- E-Mail  
[CEMVN-Midbreton@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEMVN-Midbreton@usace.army.mil)
- Telephone  
1-855-MID-BRET (1-855-643-2738)

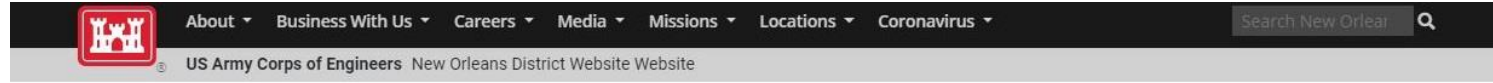


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# VIRTUAL SCOPING MEETING PURPOSE



Home / Missions / Regulatory / Permits / Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion EIS

Return to Permits  
Return to Regulatory Home

**Scoping Meeting Info**

**Scoping Meeting Presentations**

[Click here to Submit Scoping Questions](#)

**Environmental Impact Statement: Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion**

**Summary**

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has submitted a Joint Permit Application to the Department of the Army (DA) under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) (Section 404), and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899, as amended (33 U.S.C. 403) ("Section 10") and a permission request under Section 14 (33 U.S.C. 408) (Section 408) of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE"), at the New Orleans District (CEMVN) for CPRA's proposed Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion ( Proposed Action).

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to disclose and analyze all significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Action as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations found in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. This EIS will address the Public Interest Review requirements of 33 CFR Parts 320-332 including 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix B, 33 U.S.C. 408 and 40 CFR Part 230 (Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines), so that the EIS, when completed, will provide information required for an informed decision on the DA permit application and Section 408 permission request. Any additional information required for the Section 408 permission request beyond the completed final EIS will not be done by the selected third party contractor (TPC).

The Proposed Action generally consists of the placement of a sediment diversion

**Ways to Submit Official Scoping Comments**

Mail to:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Attn: CEMVN-ODR-E #MVN-2018-1120-EOO  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70118

E-Mail  
[CEMVN-Midbreton@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEMVN-Midbreton@usace.army.mil)

Telephone  
1-855-MID-BRET (1-855-643-2738)

**Documents**

[Collapse All](#) [Expand All](#)

Initial Documents

Scoping Meeting Info

Scoping Comments

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Breton-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>

<https://cms7.permits.performance.gov/permitting-projects/mid-breton-sediment-diversion>



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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

## Who is proposing this project?

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) has submitted a Department of Army (DA) permit application and permission request to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) for the proposed Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion (Breton SD) project.

## What is this project?

CPRA describes this project as a large scale, complex ecosystem restoration project that is designed to divert water, up to 75,000 cubic feet per second, from the Mississippi River into Breton Sound to deliver sediment, freshwater, and nutrients to reduce land loss and sustain stressed wetlands.

## Where is this project located?

The project is proposed on the eastbank of the Mississippi River (mile marker 68), in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana at Wills Point.





# CORPS OF ENGINEERS ROLE

USACE reviews an applicant’s request for permits and permissions to make decisions based on the **best available science, engineering standards**, and **professional judgment**, that considers impacts to USACE projects, waters of the U.S., and jurisdictional wetlands.

## Section 408

Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. 408

Regulates permanent or temporary alteration and/or use of any USACE Civil Works Project

## Section 10

Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. 403

Regulates structures and/or work in, over, or under navigable waters

## Section 404

Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C 1344

Regulates discharges of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the U.S. (including wetlands)



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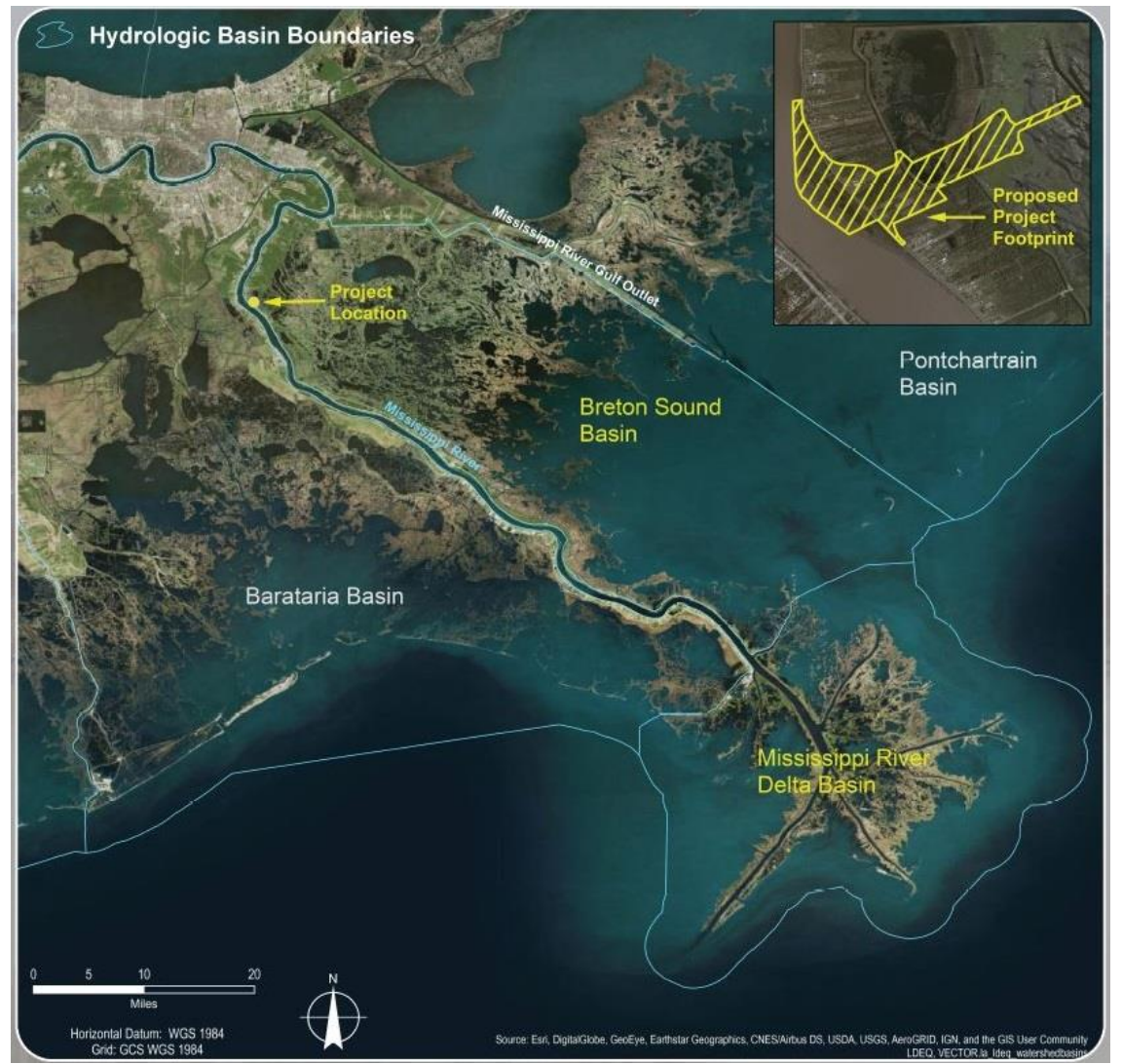
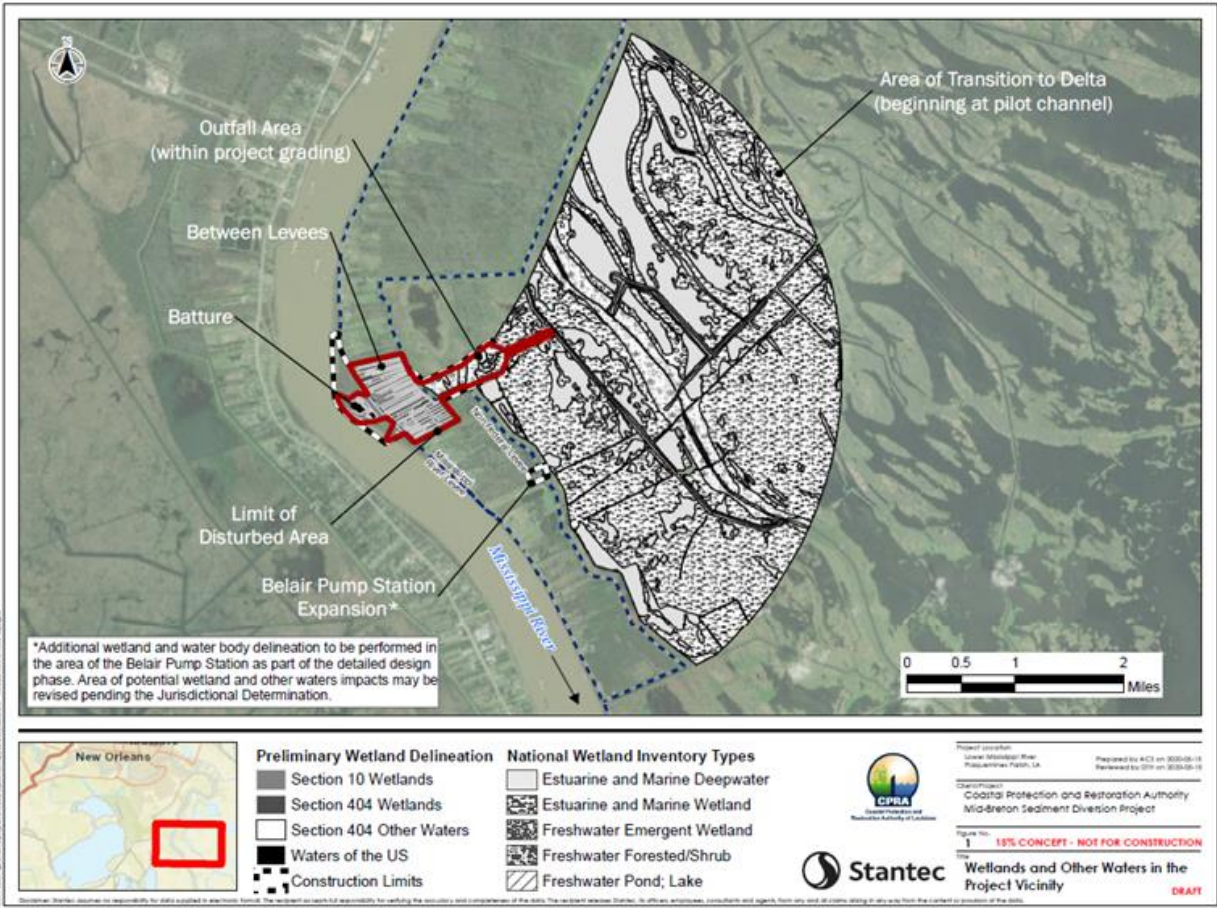
# PROJECT LOCATION



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# PROJECT LOCATION







# WHAT IS NEPA?

**The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** is a law that requires Federal agencies to evaluate environmental impacts before making decisions on any major Federal action, such as the review of a permit application.

## What are the key goals of NEPA?

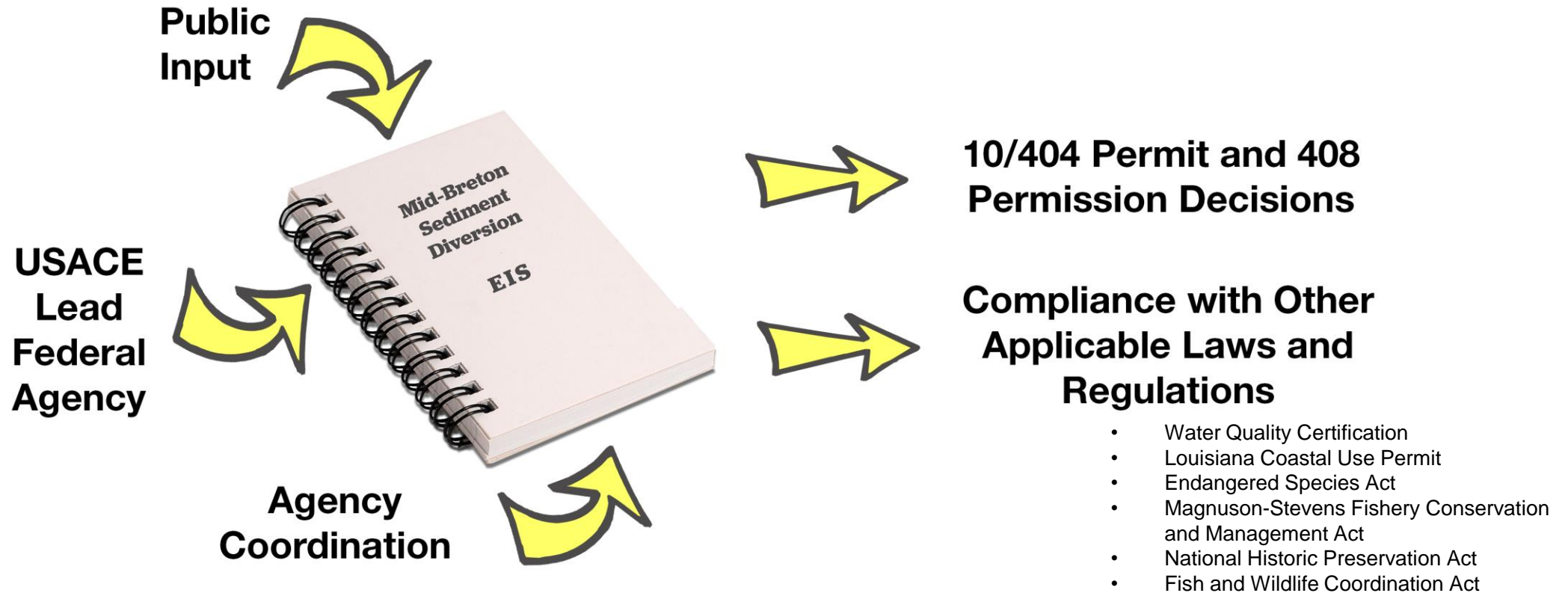
- Assist Federal agency officials with making well-informed decisions
- Ensure public and other agency involvement in decision-making

## How will USACE comply with NEPA?

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as the Lead Federal Agency



# WHAT IS AN EIS?





# BRETON SD P&N & ALTERNATIVES

## **Applicant's Purpose and Need:**

The Purpose of the Proposed Action is to reconnect and reestablish the deltaic sediment deposition process between the Mississippi River and the Breton Sound Basin through a large scale sediment diversion that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan and delivers sediment, freshwater, and nutrients in order to create, preserve, restore, and sustain wetlands to counteract the effects of natural and man-made disturbances, such as the DWH oil spill. The Proposed Action is needed to serve as a long term resilient, sustainable strategy to reduce land loss rates and sustain and restore wetlands altered by natural and man-made disturbances in the Breton Sound Basin.

## **Alternatives:**

CEMVN's preliminary range of alternatives are a sediment diversion with maximum flows of 35,000 cfs, 75,000 cfs (CPRA's preferred alternative), and 115,000 cfs. Each of the three sediment diversion alternatives will be evaluated with two base flow alternatives, 2,500 cfs and 5,000 cfs. Other reasonable alternatives may be developed based on comments received through the NEPA scoping process.





# PUBLIC SCOPING

- The public scoping process is an **early and open phase in the EIS process** intended to provide interested or affected parties **an opportunity to express concerns, ideas, and comments**, which will inform/identify the issues and alternatives analyzed in the EIS document.
- Your comments are **welcomed** and **encouraged**.
- This meeting is not the only opportunity for public involvement. Public scoping lasts from July 2, 2020 to August 16, 2020.
- Your feedback throughout public scoping will be incorporated into the EIS scoping report.

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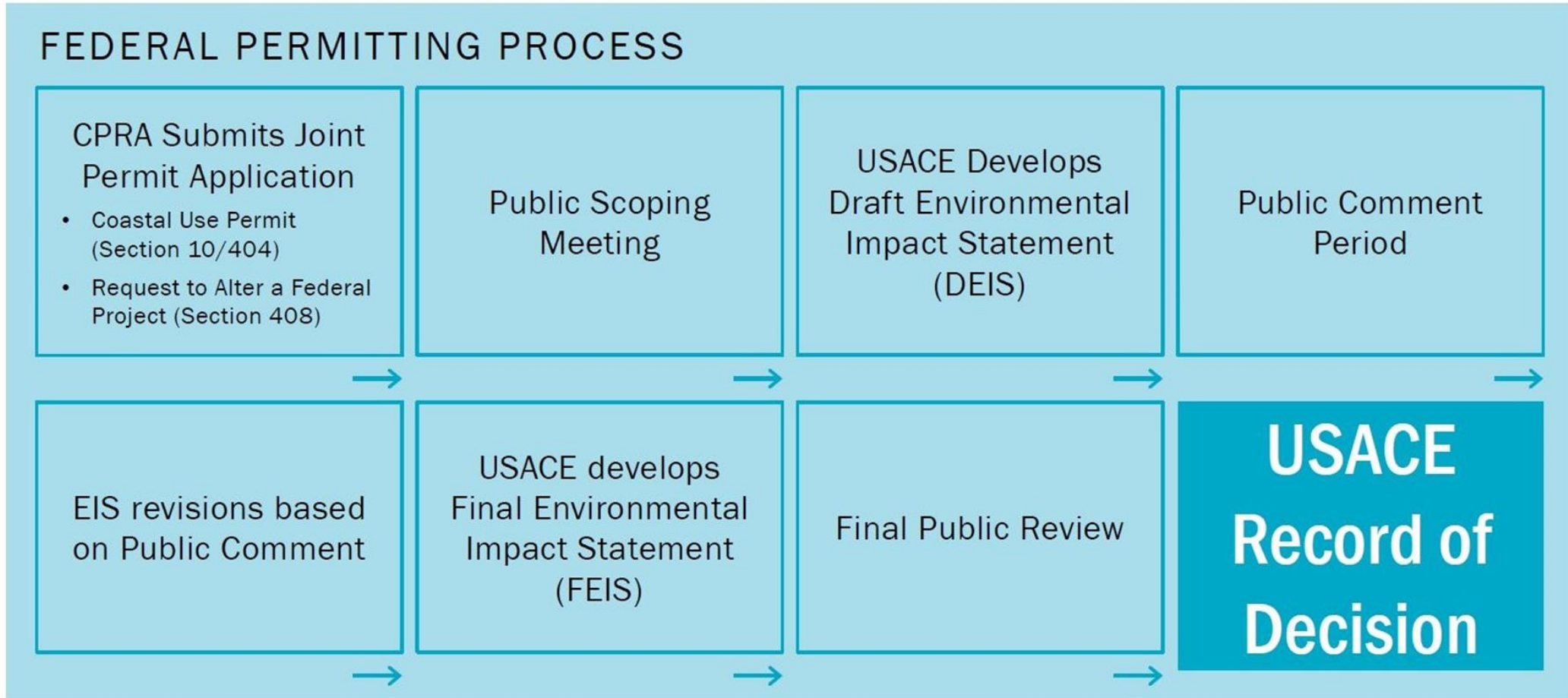


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# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



# What Are Some Potential Issues?

## Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion Environmental Impact Statement

The following are some of the potential issues which will be addressed in the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion EIS.

### MARINE MAMMALS

To what extent could the proposed Breton SD Project impact marine mammals and their habitat?



### WATER QUALITY

How could the proposed Breton SD Project potentially affect the drinking water sources or surface waters (e.g. salinity, turbidity, nutrients/eutrophication, and pesticides) in the area?



### AQUATIC SITES

Will special or rare aquatic sites such as sea grasses, essential fish habitat, or reefs be impacted by the proposed Breton SD Project?



### SEDIMENTATION AND INUNDATION

If the proposed Breton SD Project operates, will we see more sediment deposited in the Breton Sound Basin and less open water? Will property or adjacent areas be flooded when it operates?



### SOCIOECONOMICS/ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Will the proposed Breton SD Project impact the local economy? Are minority or low-income communities going to be impacted more than other communities?



### HURRICANE RISK REDUCTION LEVEES

The proposed Breton SD Project would impact two levees. Will they still function as intended and provide the same level of risk reduction during storm events?



### SEA-LEVEL RISE/SUBSIDENCE

How could sea-level rise and subsidence affect the way the proposed Breton SD Project functions or the success of the project?



### FISHERIES (RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL)

How could changes from the proposed Breton SD Project impact fisheries resources (finfish and shellfish) used by commercial and recreational fishermen?



### NAVIGATION CHANNEL

Will construction of the proposed Breton SD Project cause any safety concerns for ship traffic on the Mississippi River or will operation of the Project change flow in the river that could impact ship traffic?



### WETLAND HABITAT

Are wetlands in the Breton Sound Basin going to be helped (nourished and enhanced) or hurt (flooded and/or eroded) as a result of the proposed Breton SD Project?

