



Amite River and Tributaries East of the Mississippi River, Louisiana Feasibility Study (ART)



Appendix D-4: Public Comments

March 2025

PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the Public Review period from 15 December 2023 to 29 January 2024, there was a total of 6 comments received from the public. One comment received was in opposition to the recommended plan. Another comment included concerns over navigability of the Amite River, which is outside of the scope and authority of this feasibility study. The remaining comments received included concerns about the recommended plan being fully non-structural, meaning there would be no reduction in flooding or frequency of flooding in the Amite River Basin.

Federal Agency comments received during the Public Review period were of concurrence and/or no-objection.

All comments have been recorded by USACE-MVN and applicable comments were taken into consideration during revision of the final report.

Public Comment Matrix:

Name	Comment (may be paraphrased or summarized)	Final USACE Response
Brandon Browning	<p>Comment submitted by Mr. Browning:</p> <p>"The citizens of Livingston Parish are deeply frustrated by the lack of urgency in addressing the issues plaguing the lower Amite River. The excessive silt accumulation has rendered the river unnavigable, making it increasingly difficult to determine the direction of its mouth. Additionally, the obstruction prevents the river from following its natural course, leading to multiple breaches that are equally impassable. Clearing the silt buildup from Carthage Bluff to the lake would have a similar effect to removing a stopper from a bathtub, allowing the water to swiftly drain from the flood-prone areas of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Livingston. This would welcome relief for taxpayers who have been left to wonder if the</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Mr. Delatte's comment. Please note Appendix F of the Draft Report located here: Amite River and Tributaries - East of the Mississippi River, LA Feasibility Study. (army.mil) which includes an assessment of the flood risk reduction benefits in dredging the lower Amite River.</p>

	Corps of Engineers will lend assistance or simply step aside. Dredging the few miles necessary is an obvious solution for flood prevention, not only because it is cost-effective. It is disheartening to observe that dredging is seemingly not an issue when it serves the interest of private out-of-state companies bringing carbon capture to our community, despite the objections of the local citizens.” - Randy Delatte.	
Larry Dixon	Lost part of the Amite River below the Magnolia Bridge. Would like culverts to be installed to regain lost waterfront property. Planning to talk to Senator Edmonds.	Received. Please note Section 1.2 of Draft Report located here: https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Amite-River-and-Tributaries/ which includes a discussion of the study authority. Thank you.
Juanita Davis	Questions over anticipating selecting an engineer for design, please provide estimate for bidding and construction, will this be done over multiple years, is estimated construction value 2 million dollars?	Received. Please note Appendix C of Draft Report located here: https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Amite-River-and-Tributaries/ which includes schedule and cost estimates.
Jonny Fryar	Residents and businesses should have to provide a copayment to have their structures raised by the government.	Received. Thank you.
Rachel Lambert	Email of opposition to the proposed plan.	Received. Thank you.
Jared Mabile	Email about the 4 planning questions for the TSP, including a request to dredge the Amite River, concern about overall water flow in the basin, and pump stations for navigation.	Received. Thank you.

Comment 1:

From: Brandon Browning [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 24, 2023 4:37 PM
To: CEMVN-AMITE-FS <AMITEFS@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Livingston Parish President Randy Delatte Comment (ARBC)

"The citizens of Livingston Parish are deeply frustrated by the lack of urgency in addressing the issues plaguing the lower Amite River. The excessive silt accumulation has rendered the river unnavigable, making it increasingly difficult to determine the direction of its mouth. Additionally, the obstruction prevents the river from following its natural course, leading to multiple breaches that are equally impassable. Clearing the silt buildup from Carthage Bluff to the lake would have a similar effect to removing a stopper from a bathtub, allowing the water to swiftly drain from the flood-prone areas of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Livingston. This would welcome relief for taxpayers who have been left to wonder if the Corps of Engineers will lend assistance or simply step aside. Dredging the few miles necessary is an obvious solution for flood prevention, not only because it is cost-effective. It is disheartening to observe that dredging is seemingly not an issue when it serves the interest of private out-of-state companies bringing carbon capture to our community, despite the objections of the local citizens." - Randy Delatte.

Comment 2:

From: noreply@dma.mil
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 11:35 AM
To: CEMVN-AMITE-FS
Subject: New Orleans District Contact Form: Lost water front property

CAUTION: Your email client may display clickable links. The data in this email is provided without modification, as the user entered it. Before you click or use any link provided in this email, please confirm the authenticity of the link.

This message was sent from the New Orleans District website.

Message From: Larry Dixon

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone:

Response requested: Yes

Message:

We recently lost the Amite River behind our homes just below the Magnolia Bridge area. If culverts could be installed at certain heights at both ends of the oxbow, we could regain lost waterfront property. Can this be considered? Will talk with Senator Edmonds after. Thanks Larry

Public Comment Period Dec. 15

Ref Id: G4m04TNgekqjTgb4Cl8Tg

Comment 3:

From: Juanita Davis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 8:35 AM
To: CEMVN-AMITE-FS
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Amite River Basin Flood Reduction

RE: "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates a proposed plan to elevate or floodproof nearly 3,300 homes, businesses and other buildings in the Amite River Basin would take 10 years to complete and could end up costing \$2 billion."

Hello,

Please confirm this project is in the early planning stages with a feasibility study in progress. When do you anticipate selecting an engineer for design. Please provide the estimate timeline for bidding and construction. Will this be done in phase over multiple years? Is the estimated construction value 2,000,000,000?

Thank you,

Ref# 6498837

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Juanita Davis
Sr. Content Specialist



Comment 4:

From: jonny fryar - [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:42 PM
To: CEMVN-AMITE-FS
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Amite River project

My only comment is residents and businesses should have a copayment in raising their houses or other buildings. Taxpayers should not have to pay all the costs. My son's house has been flooded and the government has not offered to raise his house free of charge.

Comment 5:

From: Rachael Lambert - [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 2:33 PM
To: CEMVN-AMITE-FS
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Amite River Basin Commission Comments

The Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District is opposed to the Tentatively Selected Plan. The plan does not reduce overall flood risk in the basin, nor provide any flood control.

Rachael Y. Lambert, PE, CFM | Executive Director
Amite River Basin Drainage & Water Conservation District
Office: ([REDACTED])

Comment 6:

Logarbo, Jordan Rita CIV (USA)

From: Jared Mabile [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 10:45 PM
To: CEMVN-AMITE-FS
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Att Chief Environmental Branch

My comments on the four questions for public comment on for TSP Plan . (1) Does it meet the needs of the community the answer is No in my eyes. (2) Are there additional problems related to flooding that are not captured yes I believe there are some example many subdivision are being approved in Ascension and Livingston Parish and filling in and the Corps are aware of the amount of landscape that changes with the development. But if you purchase a mitigation credit, that somehow makes it better, even though the landscape of that property was low land and will always be low land .(3) Modifications that could be made yes . You could start by allowing Dredging the Canals and Lakes the amount of silt that comes down with every major rain event is being overlooked in this study. Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain act as retention areas, but are losing depth rapidly . The Hope Canal project should be made to work both ways can bring water into the Maurepas Swamp and can Reverse flow it out as a pumping station to get the water into the Miss River where it belongs in the first place . Now you add the new pumps in New Orleans pumping all into the Lake instead of the Mississippi River . (4) Is there anything in Report that needs explanation yes why does the Corps delay projects and burden the Local Parishes with so much time delay with Permits . The Corps should welcome projects that improve waterways the drainage project should be fast paced with assistance from the Corps being its the Corps mission to maintain Navigation water ways . Now that the lakes are silting in the Amite rivers water will continue to rise unless it's put into the Miss by means of a pumping station that probably could have been bought and paid for by the waste of time and money wasted on studies to a flood prone area since the 80's .

