Amite River and Tributaries
East of the Mississippi River, LA Feasibility Study

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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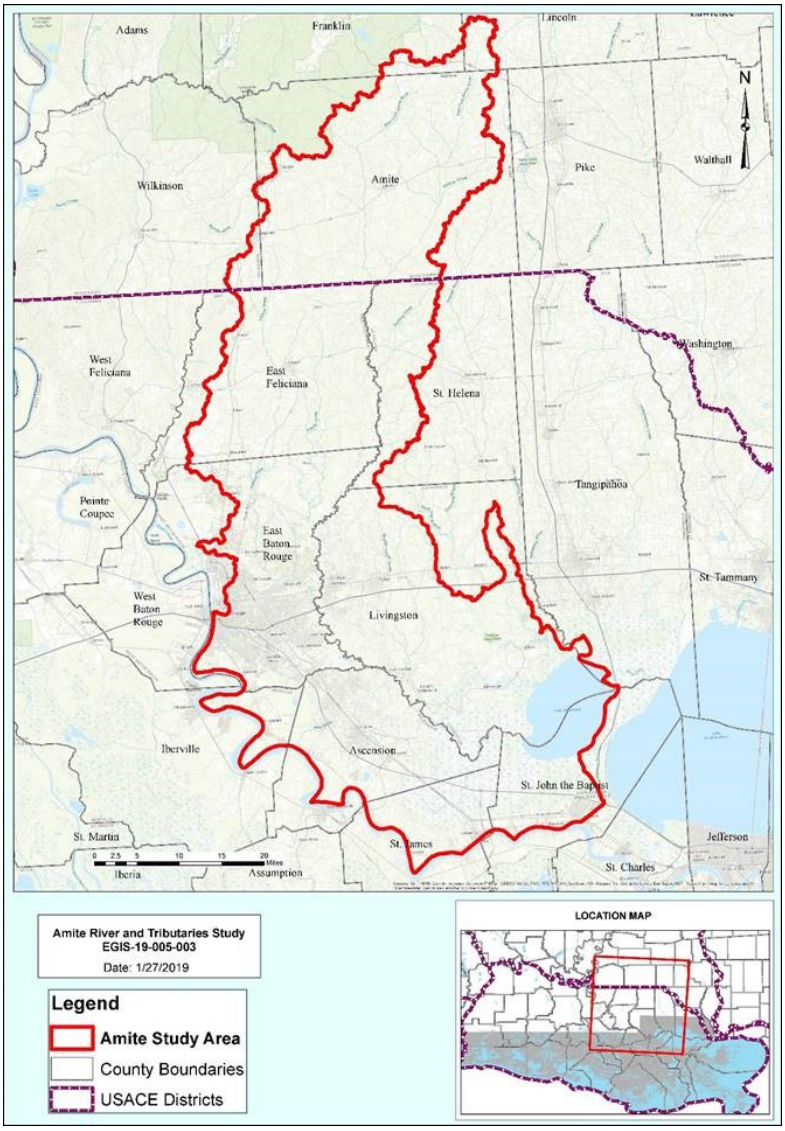
Updated December 2019

Study Authority

The Amite River and Tributaries – East of the Mississippi River, Louisiana, Feasibility Study resulted from a resolution of the committee on Public Works of the United States Senate. The resolution, sponsored by Allen J. Ellender and Russell B. Long of Louisiana, was adopted on April 14, 1967.

Funding is made available for this study through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, for the completion, or initiation and completion of flood and storm damage risk reduction. Due to the limits set under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, only flood control measures are being investigated in this study.



Study Purpose

The effort is a continued interim response to the 1967 study authority. In the early 1990's, a feasibility phase study was initiated and the area was divided into multiple study areas based on hydrological and political boundaries. The areas were divided into the main stem of Comite River and lower tributary streams, East Baton Rouge Parish, Livingston Parish, and Ascension Parish. In some cases, these studies led to construction recommendations which are currently being implemented such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Comite River Diversion and the East Baton Rouge Flood Control Project.

Rainfall from hurricanes, tropical storm events, and local storms still pose a significant risk to the communities, ecosystems, and industries of the Amite River Basin. As recently as August 2016, the President issued disaster declarations for parishes in the basin due to impacts from "The Great Flood of 2016." The area saw historic flooding causing impacts to the Nation's critical infrastructure by shutting both the I-10 and I-12 transportation system for days. Major urban centers in the basin saw significant flooding well outside of normal flood stages.

Due to the August 2016 flooding, the entire study area is being reevaluated to determine whether additional improvements for flood control are recommended with particular reference to the Amite River, Bayou Manchac, Comite River, and their tributaries.

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Study Area

The Amite River Basin includes 2,200 square miles in southeastern Louisiana that is drained by the Amite River and its tributaries. It includes portions of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, Livingston, East Feliciana, St Helena, Iberville, St James and St John the Baptist Parishes in Louisiana and is home to over 500,000 residents.

Local Sponsor

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is the non-federal sponsor. This study is 100 percent Federally funded.

Status

The current timeline for the study is 3 years. The present focus is on working synergistically with ongoing and future efforts to provide the best comprehensive solutions to the Amite River Basin that meet the study objective, to reduce flood damages along the main river and tributary streams of the Amite and Comite Rivers. Other objective considerations include:

- Reduce flood damages in the Amite River Basin to business, residents and infrastructure;
- Reduce risk to human life from flooding from rainfall events;
- Reduce interruption to the nation's transportation corridors;
- Reduce risks to critical infrastructure (e.g. medical centers, schools, transportation etc.);
- Enhance functionality of existing flood risk reduction systems (locally and federally constructed), including evaluation of impacts due to an increase in frequency of rainfall events.

The draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Amite River and Tributaries-East of the Mississippi River was released on November 29, 2019. The USACE will accept written public comments on the integrated report for a 45-day period starting November 29. 2019 and continuing through January 13, 2020.

Comments on the report must be postmarked by January 13, 2020.

Comments or questions may be submitted by emailing AmiteFS@usace.army.mil or by mail to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
CEMVN-PMR
Room 331
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Amite River & Tributaries -Comprehensive Study Website –
https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Amite-River-and-Tributaries/

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