



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:
Oct. 6, 2009

Contact:
Carol Labashosky 502.315-6769
Carol.j.labashosky@usace.army.mil

Army Corps of Engineers public hearing on Nationwide Permit 21 in Pikeville, Ky. Oct. 13

Louisville, Ky. –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a formal public hearing on Oct. 13 at the East Kentucky Expo Center, 126 Main St., Pikeville, Ky. at 7 p.m. to receive public comments on the two proposals on the use of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21 in the nation’s Appalachian region. The NWP 21 authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for surface coal mining activities.

The Army Corps of Engineers staff will be available for face-to-face dialog at 6 p.m. preceding the public hearing. Individuals who want to comment need to register prior to 6:45 p.m. on site. Security will be on the premises.

To submit a written comment for the record, you can drop off your comment on Oct. 13 prior to 7 p.m., write and mail a letter or fill out a comment on line. Written comments on the proposals will be accepted through Oct. 26, 2009. Written comments may be submitted at the public hearings or at the federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> under docket number COE-2009-0032; or mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW-CO (Attn: Ms. Desiree Hann), 441 G. Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20314. Email or faxed comments will not be accepted.

A public notice to solicit comments on the proposals was published in the July 15, 2009 Federal Register, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-16803.pdf>. The hearings will provide additional information to assist in reaching decisions on the two proposals. Hearings are occurring in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia Oct. 13 and Oct. 16.

In the absence of NWP 21, an applicant would be required to obtain an individual permit for surface coal mining projects. An individual permit includes increased public and agency involvement in the permit review process, including an opportunity for public comment on individual projects. The decisions on modifying and suspending NWP 21 will be made after the public hearings are held and the comments received.

The Corps’ decision to issue the two proposals resulted from the June 11, 2009 interagency action plan, which is part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Corps, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and EPA.

PRESS: For an on-site interview at the convention center with Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry, call (502)315-6769 prior to Oct. 12.

###