

## **Project Proposal Submission Form**

Project Name: Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA

**Note:** All provided information may be included in the USACE Annual Report. Please do not include information that is Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

All proposals should meet the following criteria:

1. Are related to the missions and authorities of the USACE;
2. Require specific congressional authorization, including by an Act of Congress;
3. Have not been congressionally authorized;
4. Have not been included in any previous annual report; and
5. If authorized, could be carried out by the USACE.

Required Information:

- 1. Provide the name of all non-Federal interests planning to act as the sponsor, including any non-Federal interest that has contributed or is expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.**

- a. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- b. Archie Terminal Company LLC (ATC)

- 2. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project or feasibility study and, if a modification, specify the authorized project or study.**

Feasibility Study

Modification to authorized USACE project

Name of Project/Study Modified: Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA:  
Addition of Little River Feature

- 3. State the project purpose of the proposed study or modification.**

Project Purpose:

The project modification would authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the lower 14,000 feet of Little River where it empties into the Black River. When river stages are high on the Ouachita-Black Rivers, sediment is deposited in the lower end of Little River which prevents

navigation during low river stages. The lower 14,000 feet of Little River would become a feature of the Navigation Project.

**4. Provide an estimate, to the extent practicable, of the total cost of the proposed study or modification.**

Estimated Total Cost: \$650,000

**5. Describe, to the extent practicable, the anticipated monetary and non-monetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.**

Monetary and Non-monetary Benefits:

Little River is utilized to transport fuel products (gasoline and diesel) to a major distribution terminal located at Archie, LA, some 9 miles upstream from the Black River. Approximately 40 million gallons of gasoline and 30 million gallons of diesel fuel are barged annually. The volume represents approximately 7,000 truckloads. These products are distributed to approximately 15 parishes and counties in the 130 mile service area - one of the major agricultural producing areas of the region. Low water occurs two to three times annually causing shippers to "light-load" barges which greatly reduces the efficiency of waterborne transportation. Farmers in the area are greatly impacted as these low water periods occur both during the planting and harvesting seasons. Jobbers have to travel great distances to obtain fuel incurring additional transportation costs and are faced with having to pay higher fuel prices. The dredging would also enhance the fishery resource.

**6. Describe if local support exists for the proposal.**

This is strong local support for this proposal. As an example, the fuel terminal at Archie, LA was shut down from mid-April to mid-October during 2010 due to inadequate channel depth in the lower 14,000 feet of Little River. This sediment deposition resulted from the unusual high river stages that occurred during late 2009 and early 2010. The shutdown resulted in a loss of approximately 60 million gallons of fuel that would have been handled through the Archie terminal. Customers had to travel an additional 60-150 miles to obtain fuel incurring not only increased transportation cost but often having to pay more for fuel. It is estimated by industry officials that this resulted in increased consumer fuel costs of about \$1.5 million for the lost volume normally handled by the Archie terminal (based on an increase of 2.5 cents per gallon of fuel). Maps showing the location of the proposed dredging and the Archie, LA terminal are attached as part of the letter of assurances from Archie Terminal Company LLC

As recent as November 2014, barges are only being loaded to a 7 foot draft due to low water in the 14,000 foot lower area of Little River. Once tows get beyond the lower 14,000 feet, there is adequate channel depth.

**7. State if the non-Federal interest has the financial ability to provide for the required cost share.**

The State of Louisiana, through the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has the financial ability, or has letter(s) of assurance from Archie Terminal Company that all non-federal financial requirements would be met.

**8. Submit a letter or statement of support from each associated non-Federal interest.**

LADOTD supports including the first 14,000 feet of Little River to the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project. The agriculture industry in this area is dependent on the Archie Terminal for fuel in its operations. When the Little River is not navigable, transportation costs for the agriculture community increase, which in turn, increases the cost to the consumer, and it also puts more trucks on our already overburdened highways.

See letter of support from LA DOT (attachment 1) and from Archie Terminal (Attachment 2).

Please use this space for additional information:

The Ouachita River Valley Association strongly recommends that action be taken, thorough an appropriate document that would provide authorization for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the first 14,000 feet of Little River. It is believed that the most logical means to accomplish this is to add this portion of Little River as a project feature of the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project. The proposed language follows:

OUACHITA AND BLACK RIVERS NAVIGATION PROJECT, ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA-  
IN GENERAL - the project for Ouachita and Black Rivers, Arkansas and Louisiana, authorized in Rivers and Harbors Act of 1950, as amended by Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960, is further amended by adding navigation from mile 41.5 on the Black River, Louisiana, at the mouth of Little River, 14,000 feet upstream on Little River, as a project feature, to be accomplished at full federal expense. The existing navigation project is otherwise unaltered.

The Vicksburg District and Mississippi Valley Division office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers support this proposal.

Mike Dumas, President  
Ouachita River Valley Association  
870-863-8885  
[TheDumases@att.net](mailto:TheDumases@att.net)

William B. Hobgood, Executive Director  
Ouachita River Valley Association  
601-529-8131  
[billhobgood01@gmail.com](mailto:billhobgood01@gmail.com)



Office of the Secretary  
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
ph: 225-379-1232 | fx: 225-379-1863

Bobby Jindal, Governor  
Sherri H. LeBas, P.E., Secretary

November 20, 2014

Colonel John W. Cross, Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Vicksburg District  
155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435

ATTN: CEMVK-PP-B 4

Re: Ouachita/Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA

Dear Colonel Cross:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, a sponsor of the Ouachita/Black Rivers Navigation Project in Louisiana, supports adding the lower 14,000 feet of the Little River where it empties into the Black River as a project purpose. It is our understanding that any local costs associated with the dredging will be provided to the Corps by Archie Terminal through DOTD.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Mr. Phil Jones at (225) 379-3030.

Sincerely,

Sherri H. LeBas, P.E.  
Secretary

SHL/SJB/sjb

cc: Mr. Bill Hobgood



October 31, 2014

**Certified Return Receipt 7011 2970 0003 0483 2207**

Ms. Shern H. LeBas P.E., Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

*Re: Sponsorship and Funding Regarding Pending U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Authorization for Dredging Activities, Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project--Little River at Jonesville Louisiana—Archie Terminal Company LLC, Letter of Assurance*

Dear Secretary LeBas:

As you may know, Archie Terminal Company LLC (ATC) owns and operates a refined fuels (gasoline, on and off-road diesel) distribution terminal on the Little River approximately nine (9) miles west of the confluence of the Little and Black Rivers at Jonesville, Louisiana (see attached map). ATC distributes an average of forty (40) million gallons of gasoline as well as approximately thirty (30) million gallons of diesel fuel per annum. These products are distributed throughout approximately fifteen (15) Parishes and Counties in the 130 mile service area--one of the major agricultural producing areas of the region. ATC receives fuels for distribution via river barge from its sole supplier Placid Refining Company LLC located on the Mississippi River in Port Allen Louisiana.

It should be noted that several times in recent history this terminal has proven to be critical infrastructure in supplying transportation fuels during evacuation events along the major Northern evacuation routes of I-49, Hwy 165, Hwy 167, Hwy 61, and Hwy 15 just to name a few. Interruption of this supply chain during or leading up to one of these evacuation events could significantly complicate those efforts.

Being within the Ouachita-Black River complex the Little River is subject to periodic siltation and unwanted disposition of the heavy sediment loading within the Little River. This results in inadequate channel depth which restricts or in some cases prevents barge/tow navigation of the Little River thereby interrupting fuel supply. In 2010 siltation resulted in the Little River being un-navigable to barge traffic for a period of approximately five (5) months. During this time and in accordance with the conditions of the applicable Corps of Engineers project specific Section 404 Permit, ATC self-funded dredging of the Little River at a cost of approximately \$850,000. During this five (5) month period customers had to travel an additional 60-150 miles to obtain fuel incurring not only increased transportation cost but often having to pay more for the fuel

**ARCHIE TERMINAL COMPANY LLC** 5010 HIGHWAY 84 • JONESVILLE, LOUISIANA 71343 • PHONE (318) 339-7933  
1940 LOUISIANA HIGHWAY 1 NORTH • PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA 70767 • PHONE (225) 387-0278

itself. It is estimated this resulted in increased consumer fuel costs of about one and one-half million dollars (\$1.5 million) for the lost fuel volumes normally handled by ATC.

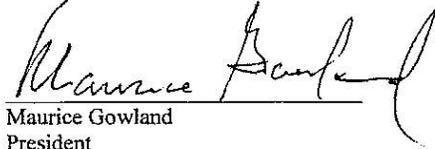
Presently accumulation of silt is again threatening to inhibit navigation of the Little River.

ATC is currently working with the Ouachita River Valley Association (ORVA) to have dredging of the Little River included as an authorized project in the Corps of Engineer's annual budget. ATC understands that a State Sponsor is required for this authorization. ATC also understands, from speaking with Ms. Sharon Balfour of your Department, LADOTD is willing to serve as the State Sponsor; however LADOTD does not currently have the funds necessary to underwrite the costs of local requirements as may be necessary. ATC understands the scope of the possible local requirements necessary to facilitate dredging of the Little River by the Corps of Engineers and hereby agrees to pay those costs.

We appreciate your assistance and support in seeking Corps authorization of funding for dredging of the Little River. Likewise, and on behalf of our customers throughout Central Louisiana and Western Mississippi, thank you for supporting our efforts to continue the timely and economical supply of refined fuels to those areas.

If you have any questions or require any additional information please contact Mr. Barry Joffrion at (225) 387-0278.

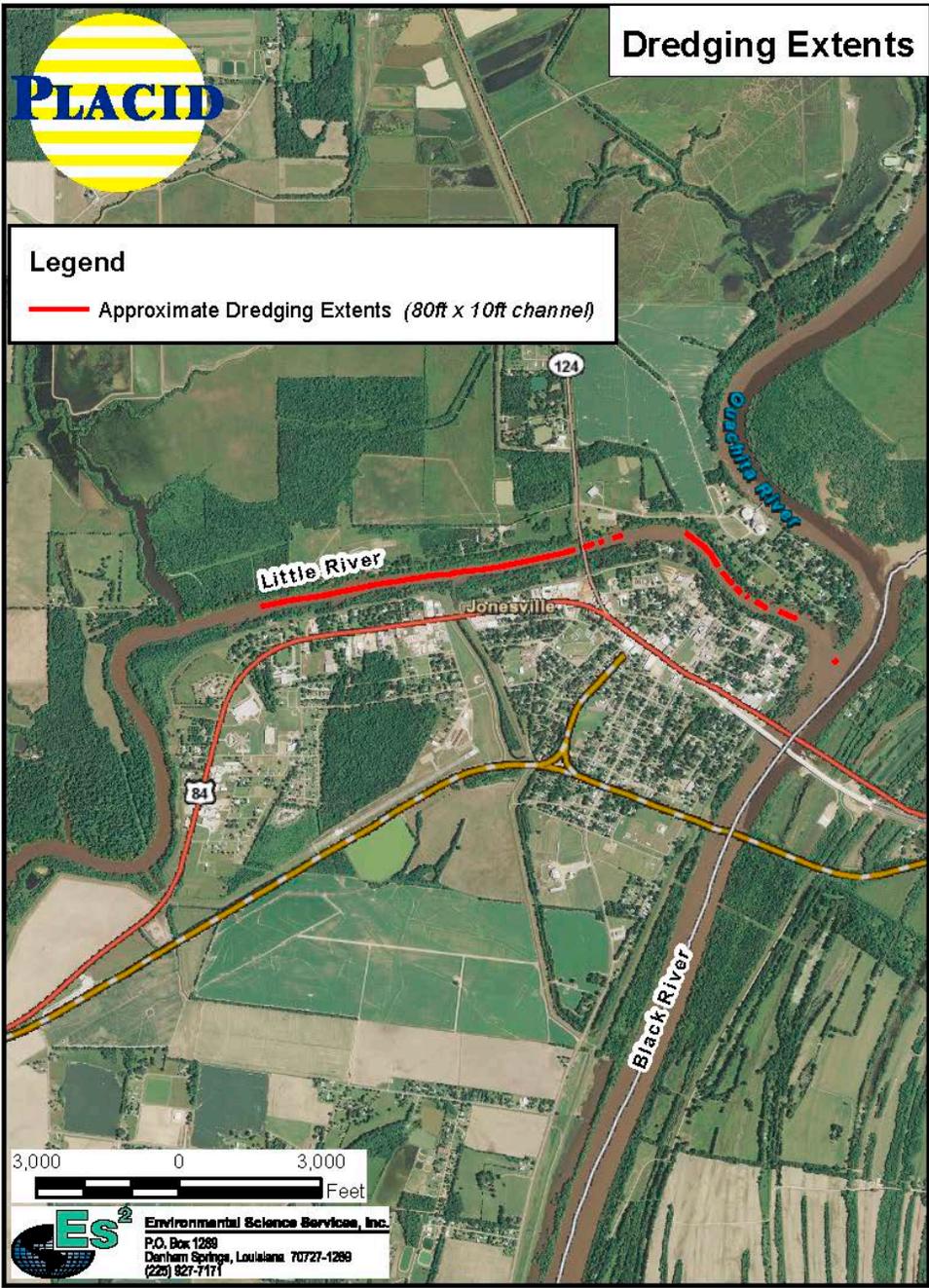
Sincerely,

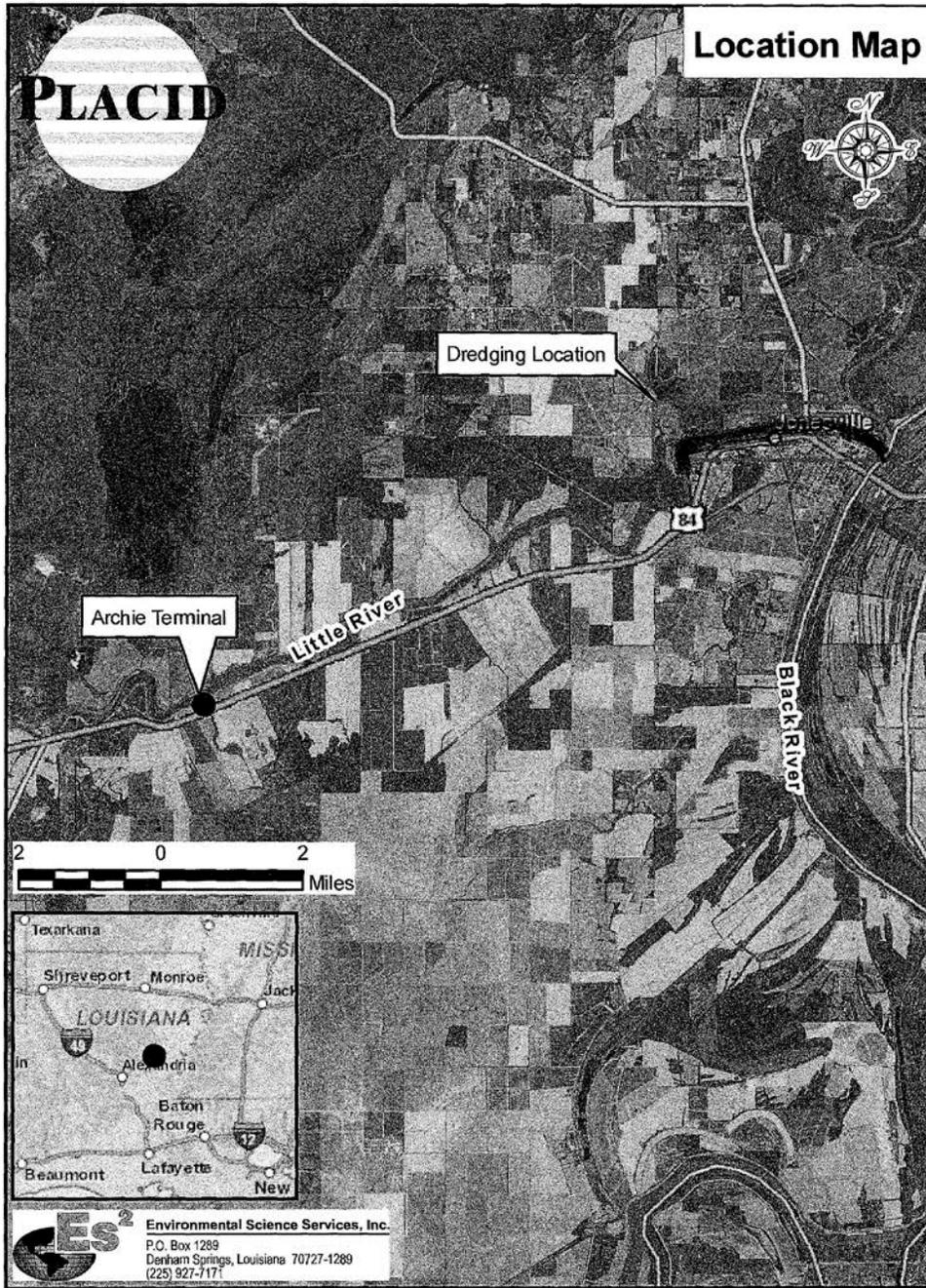


Maurice Gowland  
President

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CC: Misc Projects USACE Dredge Authorization  
Sharon Balfour, LADOTD  
Archie Terminal Board of Managers (via email)  
Bill Hobgood ORVA (via email)  
Barry Joffrion (via email)  
Matt Pfister (via email)  
Chronological





05/04/10a