

## 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. Tensas Basin Levee District
- c. Arkansas Waterways Commission

- 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

  XX   Modification to authorized USACE project

Name of Project/Study Modified:

Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA: Addition of Bank Stabilization Feature

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

Project Purpose: The Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA, as authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1950 as modified by the River and Harbor Act of 1960 did not authorize bank stabilization as a project feature. Major bank erosion/caving occurs along the Ouachita and Black Rivers hindering navigation and adversely impacting the Ouachita River Levees, LA Project. Modification of the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA

would add bank stabilization as a project feature from mile 0 on the Black River, LA to mile 460 on the Ouachita River to be accomplished at full Federal expense. This project is located in North-Central LA and in South-Central AR.

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

Estimated Total Cost: A study by the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2003 identified over 200 sites that need bank stabilization work. Estimated total cost is approximately \$250 million.

**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:

The Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA has, in effect, created a totally new ecosystem in the Ouachita River Basin by providing a year round navigation pool which produces national transportation savings, water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, ecosystem restoration, flood control, and other ancillary benefits. The addition of the bank stabilization factor would directly improve the efficiency of the Navigation Project and would greatly enhance the flood damage prevented provided by the Ouachita River Levees, LA Project. These two projects function in tandem providing economic and environmental benefits to the Ouachita River Basin. Due to the close proximity, bank caving on the Ouachita-Black Rivers has caused levee setbacks on the levee project. In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of areas of bank caving along the river. This bank caving activity threatens the flood control mission of the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project/Ouachita River Levees, LA Projects and endangers many public and private roads, structures, and utilities along the project. Additionally, the deposition of slides internal into the project decreases water quality and causes additional dredging to maintain the minimum navigation channel.

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

The Ouachita River Valley Association strongly recommends that action be taken to authorize the Corps of Engineers, through an appropriate authorizing document, the authority to design and construct bank stabilization measures, at full Federal expense, along the entire reach of the Ouachita and Black Rivers, from mile 0 to mile 460 at the outlet of Remmel Dam near Hot Springs, AR. It is believed the most logical means to accomplish this is to add bank stabilization as a project feature to the Ouachita and Black River, AR and LA Navigation Project.

The proposed language follows: OUACHITA AND BLACK RIVERS, ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA - (A) 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 bank stabilization from mile 0 on the Black River, Louisiana, to mile 460 on the Ouachita River, Arkansas, as a project feature, to be accomplished at full federal expense. The existing navigation project is otherwise unaltered.

Numerous local, state, and private sector entities throughout the Ouachita River Basin support this effort. Well over 200 basin citizens recently attended five Corps of Engineers public meetings in strong support of the Navigation Project. The planning process today would definitely require bank stabilization to be a feature of the project just as the lock and dams. The plan formulation process used 70 years ago to formulate this project obviously did not foresee bank stabilization to be the problem that it has developed into over the last 25 or so years. The Vicksburg District and the Mississippi Valley Division, US Army Corps of Engineers support this initiative.

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

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development / AR Waterways Commission or sub servant state agencies have the financial ability to furnish the required land, easements, and right-of-way, for bank stabilization for the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA Project.

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

Attach to Form.

a. It is the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's (DOTD) understanding that federal funding is being sought to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address critical bank caving issues affecting the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, AR and LA. It is also our understanding that any needed right-of-way and other appropriate items to correct levee issues will be provided to the Corps of Engineers by the Tensas Basin Levee District. We are aware of the critical nature of the bank caving along the Ouachita River and the effect on the local levee districts' ability to provide adequate flood protection to their citizens.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, as Louisiana sponsor of the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project in Louisiana, supports adding bank stabilization as a project purpose. A Corps of Engineers report in 2003 entitled "Ouachita-Black River Bank Stabilization, AR and LA Status Report" concluded that bank stabilization measures for the Ouachita-Black River System are needed to provide protection for levees and public resources, reduce maintenance costs, and improve water quality for the Ouachita-Black Rivers. See attached letter from the LA DOTD (attachment 1).

b. See attached letter from the Tensas Basin Levee District (attachment 2).

c. See attached letter from AR Waterways Commission (attachment 3).

d. See attachments 4 and 5 for bank caving sites in Arkansas and Louisiana (attachments 4 & 5).

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  
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PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
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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 bank stabilization as a project purpose. It is our understanding that any needed rights-of-way and other appropriate items to correct levee issues will be provided by the Tensas Basin Levee District.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherri H. LeBas", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sherri H. LeBas, P.E.  
Secretary

SHL/SJB/sjb

cc: Mr. Bill Hobgood

<b>Com. Robert N. Harwell</b> Richland Parish Rayville, LA	<b>Com. Ramona Haire</b> Richland Parish Rayville, LA	<b>Com. Ashley Peters</b> Franklin Parish Winnsboro, LA	<b>Com. Venoy Kinnaird</b> Morehouse Parish Bastrop, LA	<b>Com. James Mayo</b> Ouachita Parish W. Monroe, LA
<b>Com. Harlon Nobles</b> La Salle Parish Jena, LA	<b>Com Mike Calloway</b> Ouachita Parish Monroe, LA	<b>Com. Shelton Ruffin</b> Attorney at Law Monroe, LA	<b>Com. Charles Venable</b> West Carroll Parish Oak Grove, LA	<b>Steve Tew</b> Ouachita Parish Monroe, LA
<b>Hon. Drew Keahey</b> Caldwell Parish Columbia, LA	<b>President</b>	<b>John C. Stringer</b> Executive Director Monroe, LA	<b>Com. Rodney Hutchins</b> Catahoula Parish Harrisonburg, LA	<b>Vice President</b>

**TENSAS BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT**  
**505 DISTRICT DRIVE**  
**MONROE, LOUISIANA 71202**  
**PHONE: 318-323-1130**  
**FAX: 318-323-1177**  
[tensasbasin@bellsouth.net](mailto:tensasbasin@bellsouth.net)

November 17, 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 Tensas Basin Levee District, sponsor of the Ouachita River Levee Project and Jonesville to Larto Loop Levee Project, supports adding bank stabilization as a project feature of the Ouachita/Black Rivers Navigation Project in Louisiana. Any needed rights-of-way and other appropriate items to correct levee issues will be provided by the Tensas Basin Levee District.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Mr. John Stringer at (318) 323-1130.

Sincerely,

Drew Keahey  
President

cc: Mr. Bill Hobgood

Attachment 2



## Arkansas Waterways Commission

Mike Beebe, Governor

Gene Higginbotham, Executive Director

November 13, 2014

Colonel John W. Cross, Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District  
ATTN: CEMVK-PP-B4  
155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435

Dear Colonel Cross,

It is our understanding that federal funding is being sought to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address critical bank caving issues affecting the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, in both Arkansas and Louisiana.

The Arkansas Waterways Commission, a sponsor of the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project in Arkansas, supports adding bank stabilization as a project purpose. The Commission also agrees to be the local sponsor to work with the Vicksburg District to provide easements, or other needed right-of-way and appropriate items along the Navigation Project in the State of Arkansas to assist in much needed bank stabilization.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (501) 682-1176.

Sincerely,

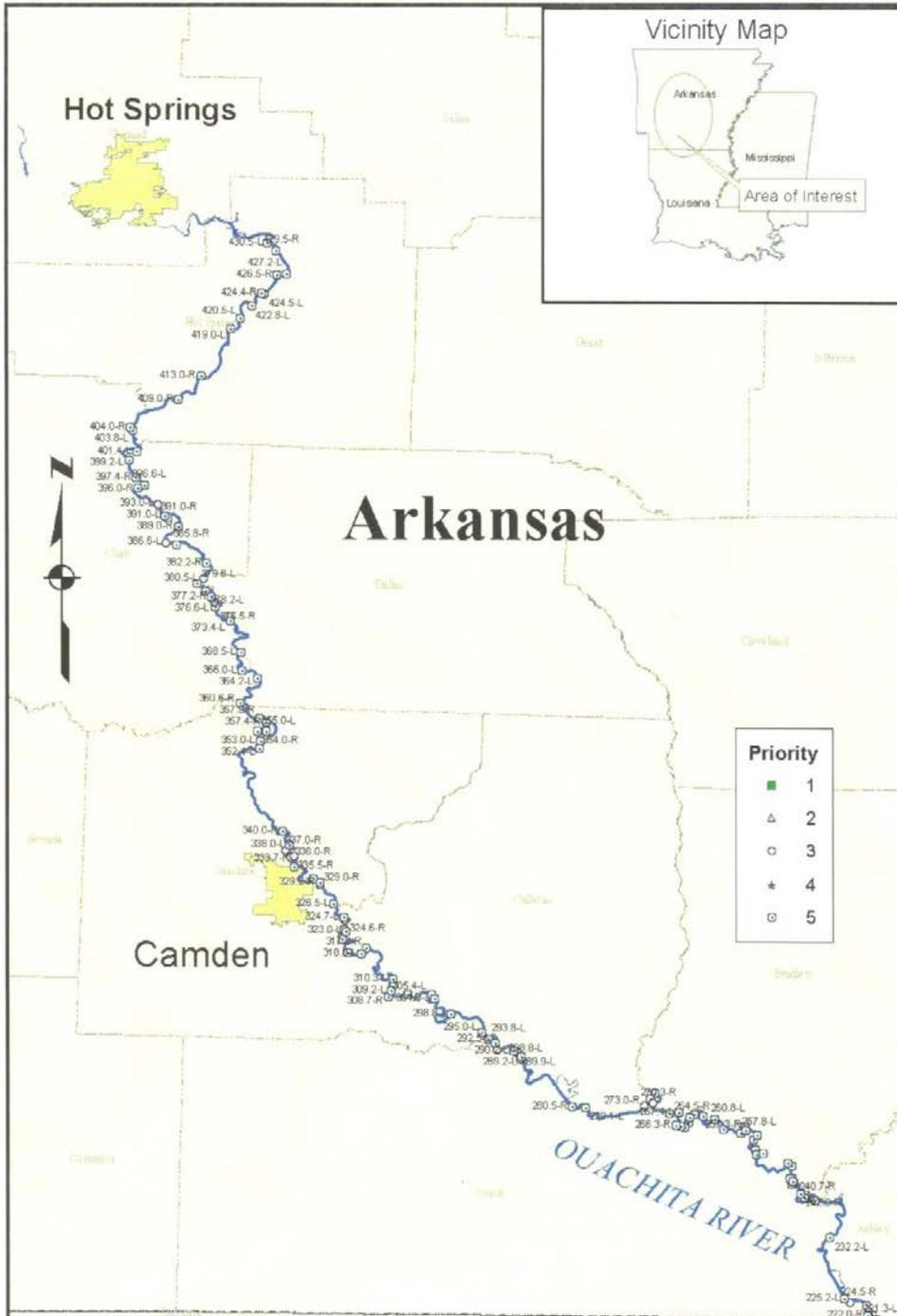
A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Gene Higginbotham". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Gene Higginbotham

C: Bill Hobgood

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 370 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

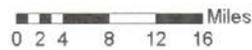
Attachment 3



**Ouachita River Bank Stabilization**

**Bank Caving Sites in Arkansas**

ATTACHMENT 4





ATTACHMENT 5