



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

September 7, 2018

Planning and Environmental Branch

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Wilmington District, is conducting a disposition study focused on the three locks and dams included in the Corps' authorized project known as Cape Fear River, North Carolina, above Wilmington. Lock and Dam No. 1, Lock and Dam No. 2, and William O. Huske Lock and Dam (the locks and dams), and associated properties, are all located on and bordering the Cape Fear River in Bladen County, North Carolina (Figures 1-4). Locks and Dams Nos. 1 and 2 were authorized by HD 890/60/1 on June 25, 1910. The authorization for William O. Huske Lock and Dam followed on August 30, 1935, by HD 786/71/3.

This disposition study is being conducted under the authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Review of Completed Projects) with the intent to determine whether the Locks and Dams, which are operated and maintained by the Corps, should be deauthorized, and if the associated real property and Government-owned improvements should undergo disposal. The disposition study's focus is on whether federal interest exists in retaining the locks and dams for their authorized purpose of navigation, based on an evaluation and comparison of the benefits, costs, and impacts (positive and negative) of continued operation and maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (or the lack thereof) on the one hand, and of deauthorization and disposal of the associated real property and Government-owned improvements on the other. The disposition study analyses, findings and recommendations will be included in an integrated study report and Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Environmental Assessment portion of the study report is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and will address the relationship of the locks and dams to all applicable Federal and State laws and Executive Orders. Resources of concern in the study area include fisheries and benthic resources; threatened and endangered species, human resources (including socioeconomic, recreational and aesthetic resources); and cultural resources. Potential impacts to these resources, as well as, water quality, air quality, potential hazardous and toxic wastes, and cumulative effects, will be fully addressed in the study report. Should there be other issues which you believe should be discussed in the study report, please take this opportunity to bring them to our attention.

We are now requesting comments from the public and agencies to identify significant resources and issues of concern with regard to the proposed disposition study. Comments received as a result of the public scoping process will be considered during preparation of the

integrated study report and the Environmental Assessment. Should you have scoping comments to provide the Corps regarding its disposition study, you may submit them to [SAWCFLDDispositionStudy@usace.army.mil](mailto:SAWCFLDDispositionStudy@usace.army.mil). In order to effectively address any concerns that are raised, the Corps requests your input no later than 30 days from the date of this letter.

Additionally, a public scoping meeting will be held on September 18, 2018, at the Bladen County Cooperative Extension Center (450 Smith Circle, Elizabethtown, North Carolina 28337), from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Input provided at this meeting and in response to this scoping letter may result in coordination with individuals or agencies on an as-needed basis to discuss certain issues. Should you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Mr. Brennan Dooley, Project Manager, at (910) 251-4916 or at [Brennan.J.Dooley@usace.army.mil](mailto:Brennan.J.Dooley@usace.army.mil). It is not necessary to inform Mr. Dooley of your attendance intentions unless you feel there's reason to do so (for example, arranging accommodations for persons with disabilities). Although submission of scoping comments via email ([SAWCFLDDispositionStudy@usace.army.mil](mailto:SAWCFLDDispositionStudy@usace.army.mil)) is available to all, those in attendance at the scoping meeting will have the opportunity to provide written comments at that time as well. To reiterate, and in order to effectively address any concerns that are raised, the Corps requests your input no later than 30 days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Elden J. Gatwood  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

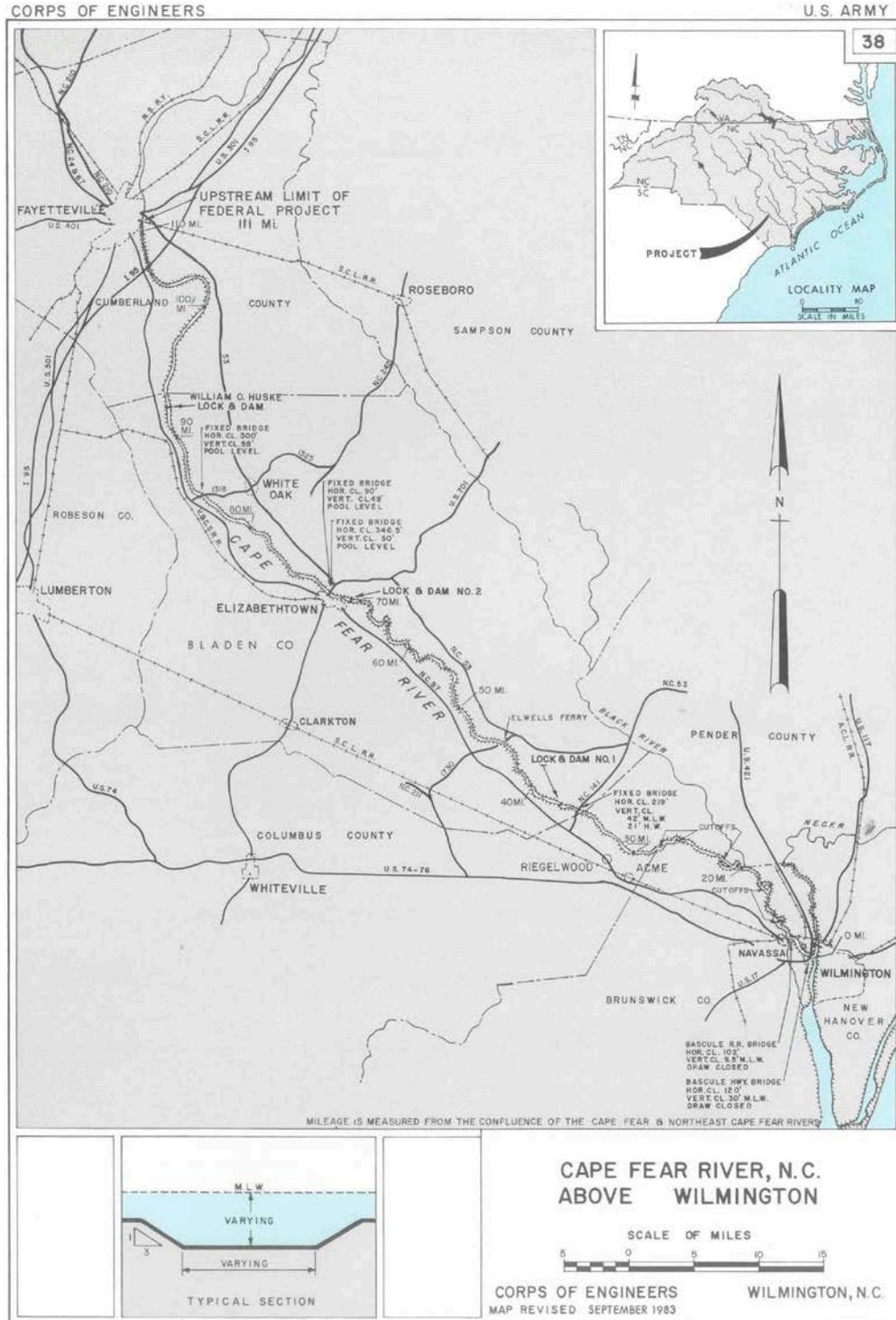


Figure 1. Cape Fear River, N.C. Above Wilmington Project Location, Including Locations of Lock and Dam No. 1, Lock and Dam No. 2, and William O. Huske Lock and Dam

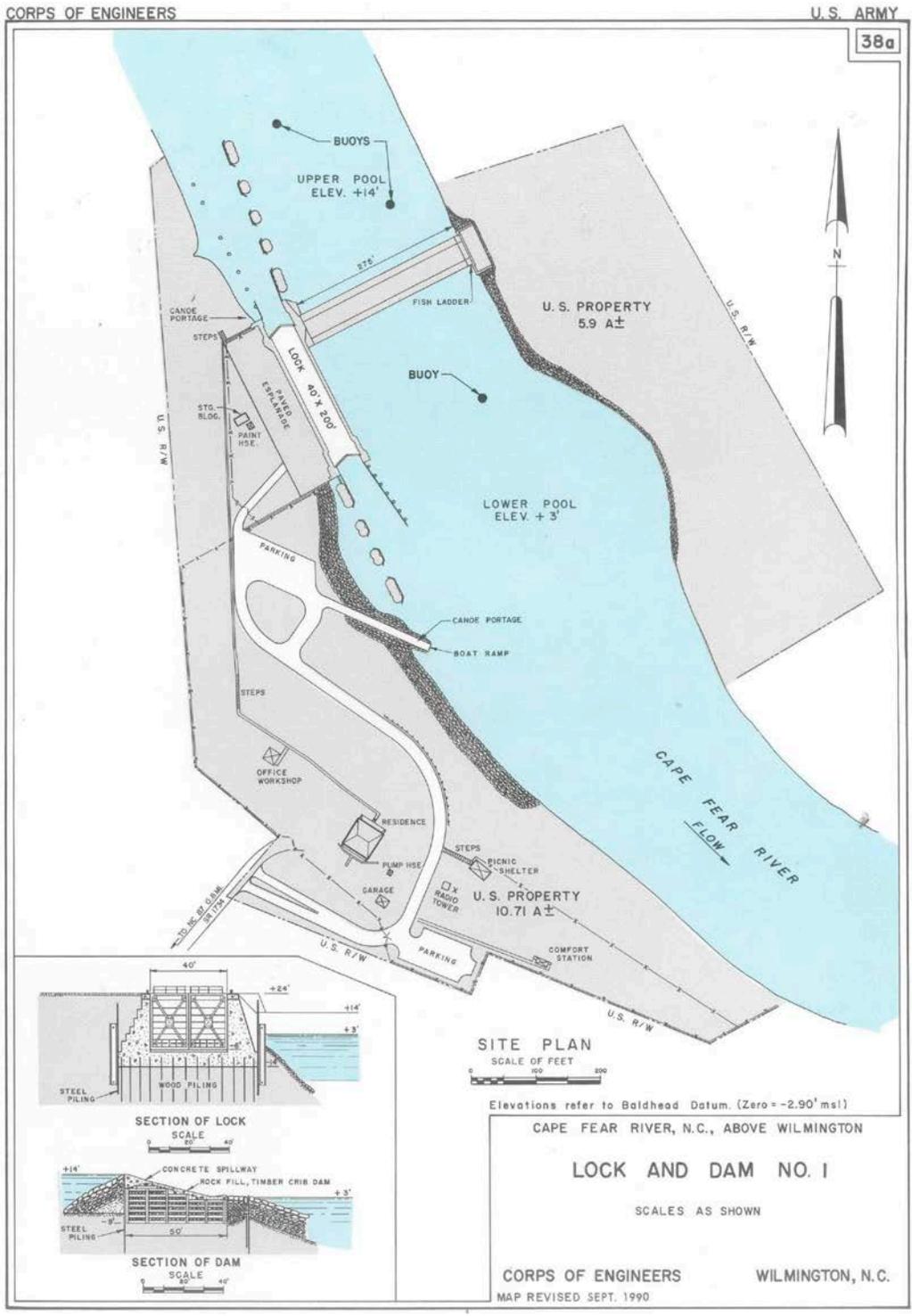


Figure 2. Lock and Dam No. 1 Site Plan

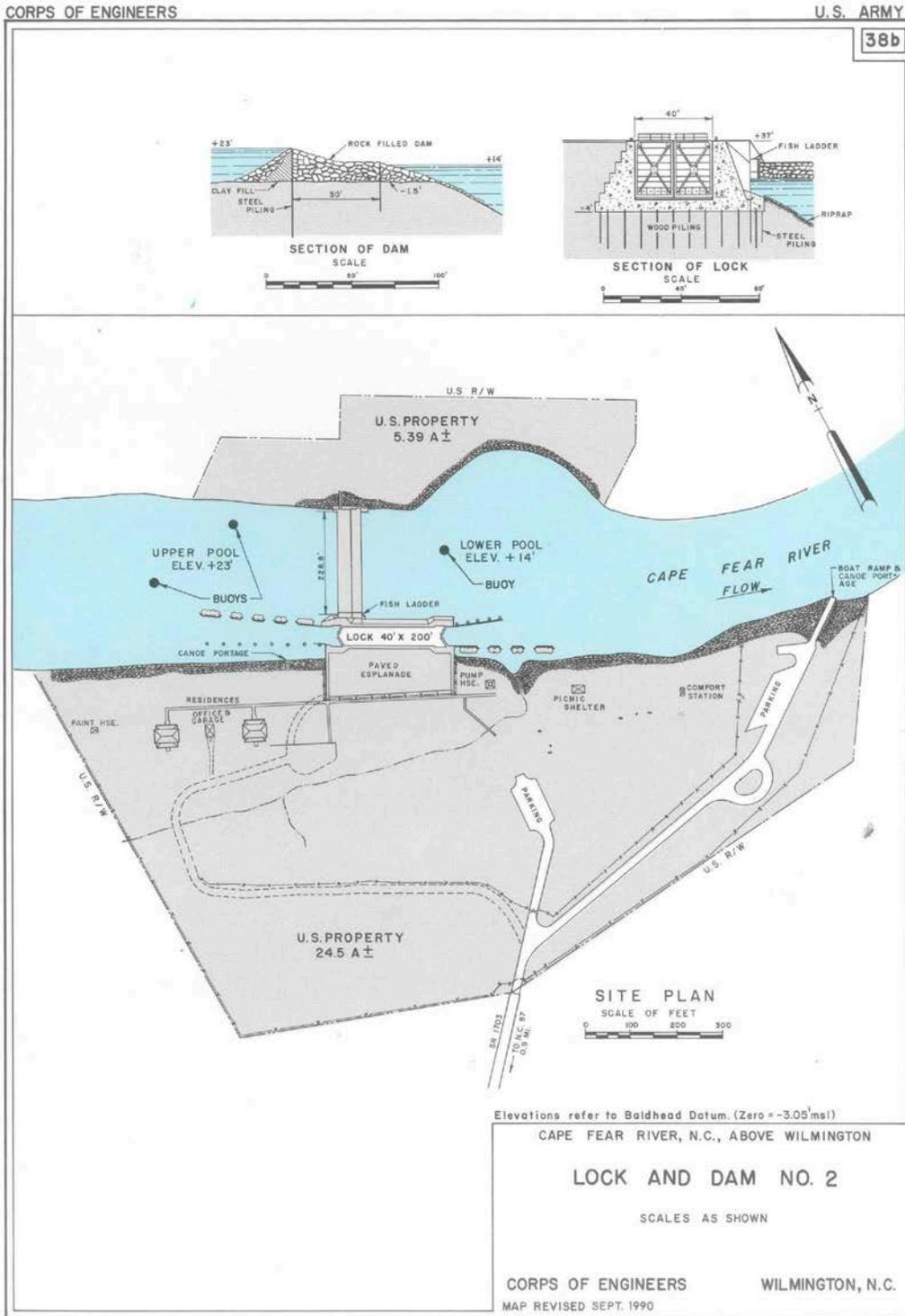


Figure 3. Lock and Dam No. 2 Site Plan

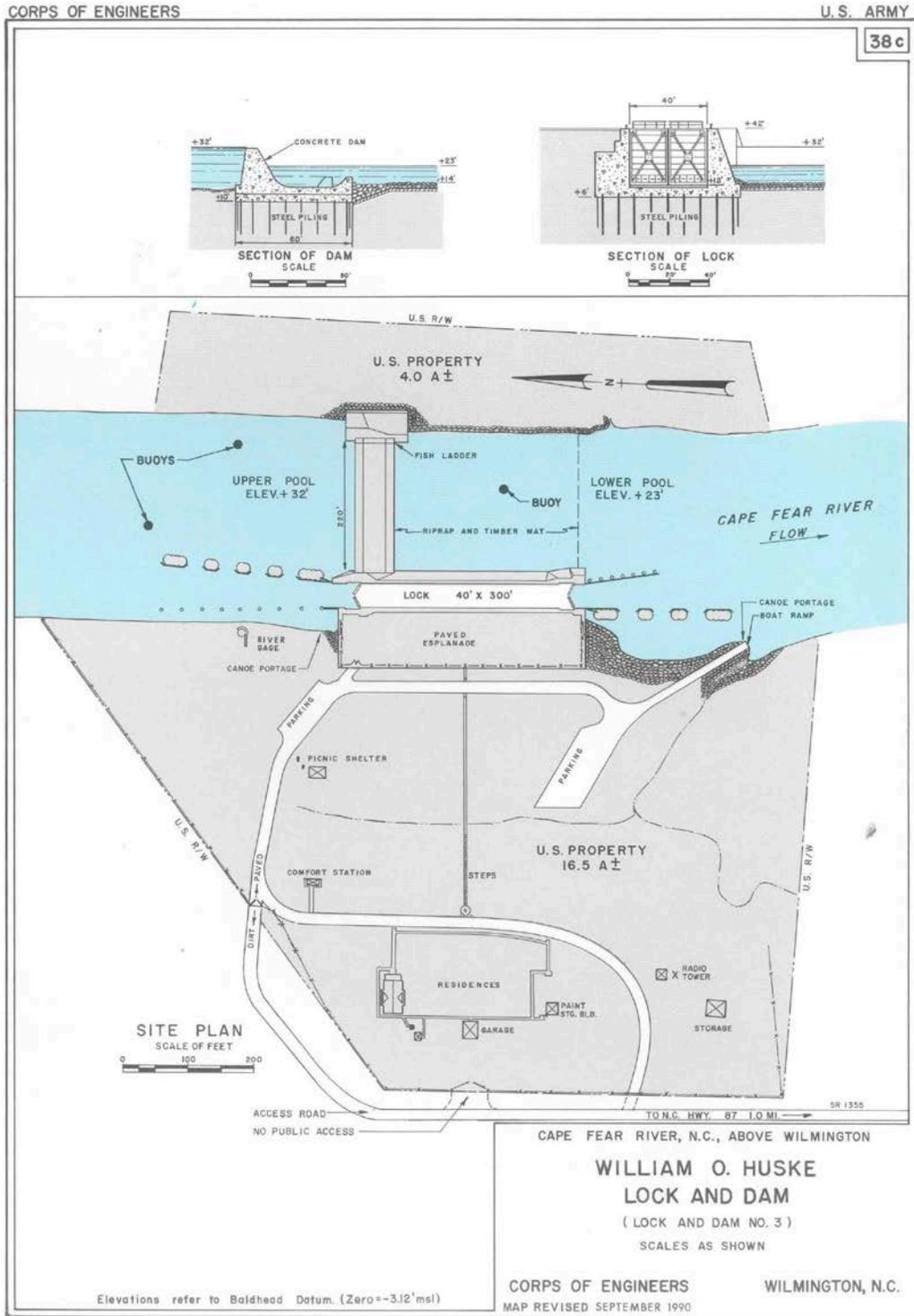


Figure 4. William O. Huske Lock and Dam Site Plan