



**US ARMY CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS  
St. Louis District  
Gateway to Excellence**

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# Public Notice

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Reply To:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CEMVS-CO-F  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Public Notice No.

**P-2767**

Public Notice Date

**July 20, 2010**

Expiration Date

**August 3, 2010**

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

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**File Number: MVS-2010-488**

Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (Tyson Zobrist)  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning and Environmental (USACE), 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, in cooperation with the Metro East Sanitary District (MESD) has applied:

a. To the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch for Department of the Army authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to perform design deficiency corrections for the East St. Louis, IL Flood Protection Levee System, also known as the MESD and Chain of Rocks Levee systems. The activities are proposed in accordance with measures recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who believe that the levee system has significant underseepage problems and possible other problems. As such, the Corps cannot certify that the levee system will protect against a 100-year flood. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires a professional engineer's certification that the levees will protect against a 100-year flood, otherwise, after a period of time for public input and map preparation, FEMA will revise the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and change the designation of the areas behind the levees from protected areas to flood hazard areas. The lack of certification is negatively impacting property values in the MESD area, and flood insurance rates will increase dramatically if the area becomes designated a flood hazard area. There is tremendous interest in the communities and region to complete the work that will allow certification by a professional engineer before FEMA changes the floodplain designations. The top priority of local interests is to achieve the 100-year certification. In addition, there is a strong desire to have the levees brought back to their original level of protection which is greater than 500-year.

b. To the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, **for the proposed design deficiency corrections for the East St. Louis, IL Flood Protection Levee System, Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois (P-2767)**, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation

assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at [www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/](http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/). In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

c. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for state approval **to complete design deficiency corrections for the East St. Louis, IL Flood Protection Levee System, Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois (P-2767)**, in accordance with "an Act in relation to the regulation of the rivers, lakes and streams of the State of Illinois" (Ill. Rev. Stat.; Chap. 19, par 52 et seq.). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, Illinois, 62702-1271, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

2. The St. Louis District Project Management Branch announces the availability of the Design Deficiency Corrections East St. Louis, IL Flood Protection Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The purpose of the EA and FONSI is to present a detailed proposal for the significant underseepage problems and possible other problems along the MESD and the Chain of Rocks levee systems. These documents are available for electronic viewing on the St. Louis District's web page. Please visit <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/permits/pn.htm> and click on the link to **P-2767**. A hard copy of the documents is also available for viewing at the St. Louis District Regulatory Branch in the Robert A. Young Federal Building, at 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

3. The East St. Louis Levee System is located in Madison and St. Clair counties, in southwestern Illinois. The levee system runs along the east bank of the Mississippi River between river miles 175 and 195 above the mouth of the Ohio River, and opposite the City of St. Louis, Missouri. (See Attached Map).

4. **The East St. Louis Levee System Corrections:** Seepage under a levee and through a levee can be controlled by a variety of measures. Seepage through the main aquifer under a levee can be controlled by landside relief wells, seepage berms (generally landside), slurry trench cutoff walls (generally near the riverside levee toe or at the levee centerline), and measures to increase the distance between the levee and the point where flood water is introduced to the aquifer. Examples of the latter include placing a clay cap on riverside land, or making a creek bottom impervious where it is directly connected to the aquifer. Seepage through shallow sand or silt layers between the bottom of the levee and a clay layer that is above the aquifer can be controlled by landside clay-filled trenches that connect the clay in the levee to the clay layer beneath the sand, and by shallow slurry trench cutoff walls (walls that extend from the levee through the shallow sand or silt layer to the clay layer beneath). Seepage through a levee can be controlled by adding a clay section to the levee (usually on the riverside slope) or by a slurry trench cutoff wall from the top to the bottom of the levee.

The tentative recommended plan for underseepage and through-seepage controls for a flood at 54 ft on the St. Louis gage (design flood at 52 feet on the St. Louis gage plus 2 feet of freeboard) consists of the lowest cost alternative for most decision segments and new alternatives for certain decision segments that were identified prior to and during a subsequent value-engineering study.

The proposed action would result in direct losses of about 9.1 acres of various habitats of low to moderate quality, including 7.5 acres of emergent and forested wetlands and 1.65 acres of bottomland forest that is not wetlands. These various types of direct losses are displayed in Table EA-8 of the EA by the kind of proposed project feature and location. Each project feature with direct impacts including staging and disposal areas are described in detail on pages EA-39 through EA-45 of the EA. Adverse and beneficial indirect impacts are expected to the hydrology of various wetland and floodplain resources at several locations, and these effects are considered to be minor. The project would require authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. A Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines Evaluation is included in the EA as Appendix EA-3. The direct impacts to approximately 9 acres of wetlands and nonwetland bottomland forest would require mitigation as compensation for these losses. A compensatory mitigation plan is included in the EA as Appendix EA-3. These direct and indirect impacts, along with the inclusion of this mitigation as part of the proposed action, would not have a significant impact on biological resources.

5. Based on our initial processing of the applicant's proposal, the action is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.

6. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area

7. The following federally threatened and endangered species occur within the counties of the proposed project.

Madison County, Illinois: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus c. catenatus*), Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) and the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*).

St. Clair County, Missouri: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus c. catenatus*), Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Illinois Cave Amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*), Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) and the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*).

The St. Louis District Project Management Branch has completed a Biological Assessment of the proposed action's effect on federally-listed species that may occur within the project area. This Biological Assessment is prepared in compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. It is the St. Louis District's opinion that the proposed project will not adversely impact any of the seven federally listed species that might occur in the project area, provided that conditions for the protection of the Indiana bat and decurrent false aster are implemented. In order to complete our evaluation, this public notice solicits comments from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

8. Any interested parties, particularly Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local associations whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before **August 3, 2010**. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish

and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be issued only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.

9. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

10. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice must be submitted in writing and sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, Attn: OD-F (Zobrist), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to [tyson.j.zobrist@usace.army.mil](mailto:tyson.j.zobrist@usace.army.mil), on or before **August 3, 2010**.

Danny D. McClendon  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

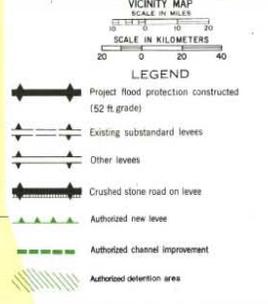
Attachment: 1

**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 15 days (until **August 3, 2010**) from the date of this issuance of this notice.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Note:  
 Seepage relief wells:  
 6 installed between stations 0+00 and 215+50  
 93 installed between stations 773+25 and 891+70  
 38 installed between stations 1003+25 and 1141+00  
 103 installed between stations 1211+50 and 1320+25  
 62 installed between stations 1320+70 and 1512+00



Grade refers to stage on St. Louis gage  
 River mileage originates at mouth of Ohio River  
 Elevations are in feet above M.S.L. at 1929

FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT  
 MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
 EAST ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY  
 ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

SCALE AS SHOWN  
 U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ST. LOUIS  
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
 30 SEPTEMBER 1987  
**PLATE 2.1-1**

