

**US ARMY CORPS  
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# Public Notice

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

Public Notice No.

**P-2817**

Public Notice Date

**January 20, 2012**

Expiration Date

**February 20, 2012**

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

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**File Number: MVS-2011-803, MVS-2011-805, MVS-2011-806**

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 (Keith McMullen)  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. Mr. Les Sterman, Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council (SIFPDC), 104 United Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234, in cooperation with the Wood River Drainage and Levee District (WR), Metro-East Sanitary District (MESD) and the combined Prairie du Pont Drainage and Levee District/Fish Lake Drainage and Levee District (PDP/FL) 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 levee improvements on the three Metro East Levee systems WR, MESD and PDP/FL, to restore the level of protection to a 100-year certification provided by the respective Drainage and Levee District's such that the levee system will be eligible for accreditation in accordance with 44 CFR 65.10 criteria.

b. To the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed levee improvements on the three aforementioned levee systems **(P-2817)**, 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 for the proposed levee improvements on the three aforementioned levee systems, **(P-2817)**, 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 Environmental Compliance Branch announces the availability of the SIFPDC Proposed Levee Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The purpose of the EA and Draft FONSI is to present a detailed proposal for the levee system improvements along the WR, MESD and PDP/FL systems. These documents are available for electronic viewing on the St. Louis District's web page. Please visit:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pm/pm-reports.html> . A hard copy of the documents are 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 three Levee District's are located in Madison, St. Clair and Monroe counties, in southwestern Illinois. The levee sections are described below, shown on the attached maps, and detailed in the EA.

- a) The WR system lies in southwestern Illinois in Madison County. The WR levee is located on the left bank of the Mississippi River between river miles 195 and 202 above the Ohio River. It is east of St. Louis and St. Charles Counties in Missouri, and just upriver of the City of St. Louis. An urban design levee protects about 13,400 acres of bottomland in the WR system. About 4,700 acres of bluffs and adjoining upland drain into the bottomland protected by the levee system.
- b) The MESD system levee protects a large part of the East St. Louis, Illinois metropolitan area in Madison and St. Clair Counties. The Federally-owned Chain of Rocks levee and the MESD levee form a single levee system that provides flood protection for the cities of East St. Louis, Granite City and numerous other municipalities.
- c) The PDP/FL system consists of approximately 10 miles of earthen embankment along the Mississippi River and Prairie du Pont Creek in the Salem Plateau Section and the Till Plains Section (specifically the Springfield Plain) of Illinois while the FL levee system consists of approximately 5 miles of earthen embankment along the Mississippi River and Columbia Creek in the Salem Plateau Section of Illinois.

4. The three areas of concern are the Wood River, Metro East Sanitary District, and the Prairie Dupont and Fish Lake Section(s) of the flood protection system.

- a) The Wood River Levee System Corrections:

The SIFPDC proposes to modify the WR levee system by making improvements required for certification of the levee system in accordance with 44 CFR 65.10 criteria. Discharge of materials into wetlands is required to construct proposed levee improvements. Proposed improvements will involve a combination of new and converted relief wells (to T-type), graded filters, trench drains, shallow and deep cutoff walls, clay blankets/caps, and seepage berms within or adjacent to the existing levee.

The proposed improvements to the WR system would impact 9.43 acres of wetlands and 0.36 acre of streams (1,597 linear feet) as a result of the construction of the improvements. Therefore, the SIFPDC is seeking USACE authorization for the permanent impact of 9.79 acres of waters of the U.S. (9.43 acres of wetlands and 1,597 linear feet of stream) as a result of the construction of the improvements.

b) The MESD Levee System Corrections:

Discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, is required to construct proposed MESD levee system improvements. Proposed improvements will involve a combination of new relief wells, conversion of existing wells to T-type wells, riverside clay caps, toe drains, and graded filters adjacent to the existing levee.

The proposed improvements in the MESD system would impact 4.21 acres of wetlands and/or surface waters as a result of the construction of the improvements. The SIFPDC is seeking USACE authorization for the permanent impact of 4.21 acres as a result of the construction of the improvements. The direct impacts of 4.21 acres of wetlands would require mitigation as compensation for these losses.

c) The Prairie DuPont/Fish Lake Levee System Corrections:

Discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, is required to construct some of the proposed levee improvements. Proposed improvements will involve a combination of new relief wells, conversion of existing wells to T-type, piezometers, riverside clay caps, and seepage berm construction within or adjacent to the existing levee. The relocation of an existing road around a proposed berm is also required for the project.

The proposed improvements in the PDP/FL system would impact 12.36 acres of wetlands as a result of the construction of the improvements. The SIFPDC is seeking USACE authorization for the permanent impact of 12.36 acres of wetlands as a result of the construction of the improvements.

A document titled "Conceptual Wetland and Stream Mitigation Plan for the Southwestern Illinois Levee Project" was included in the applicants application and has been included in the EA as Appendix EA-MP

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 continue to evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the public in response to this public notice. Coordination efforts between the St. Louis District archaeological staff, SIFPDC, and the SHPO have occurred relative to this project and will continue in order to avoid unnecessary impacts to cultural resources potentially impacted as a result of the project.

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, Illinois: 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*).

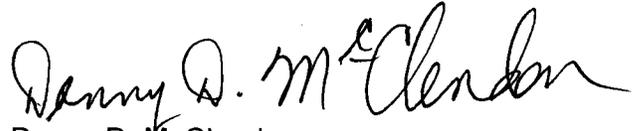
Monroe County, Illinois: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and Illinois Cave Amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*).

The St. Louis District Environmental Compliance 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 eight 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 February 20, 2012. 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 (McMullen), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to [keith.a.mcmullen@usace.army.mil](mailto:keith.a.mcmullen@usace.army.mil), on or before February 20, 2012.

  
Danny D. McClendon  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

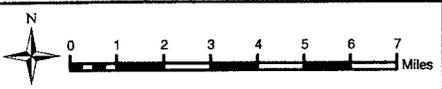
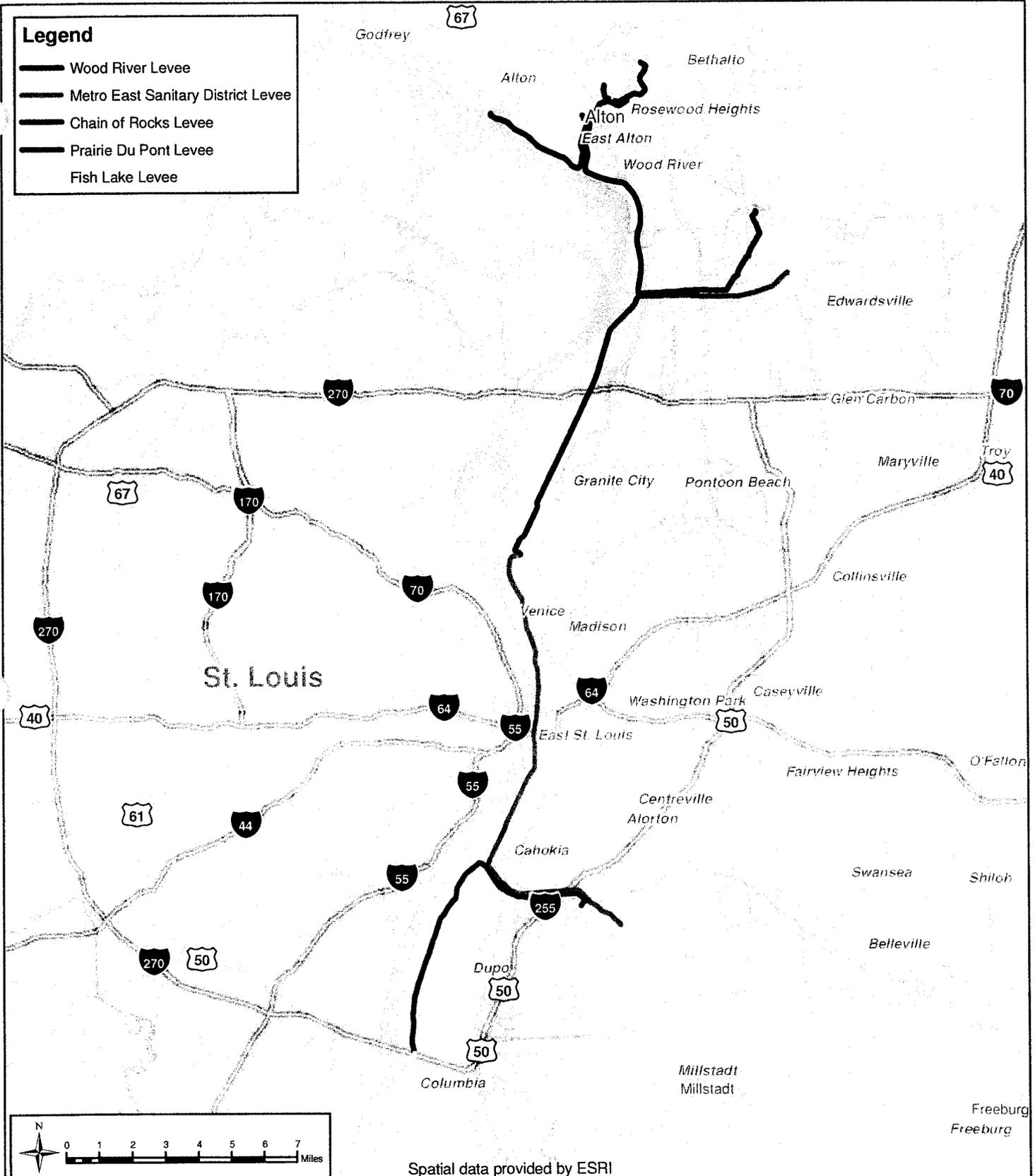
Attachment: 1

**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously & continually placed for **30** days (until **February 20, 2012**) from the date of this issuance of this notice.

**Legend**

- Wood River Levee
- Metro East Sanitary District Levee
- Chain of Rocks Levee
- Prairie Du Pont Levee
- Fish Lake Levee



Spatial data provided by ESRI

Southwestern Illinois Levee District Council		MAP BY: ATJ	Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention Initiative	DATE: 4-16-10	
AMEC Environment & Infrastructure 3800 Ezell Road, Ste 100 Nashville, TN 37209			DATUM: NAD83	P-2817  Location of Levees	
			PROJECTION: Albers		PROJECT NO:
			SCALE: As Shown		FIGURE NO: 1