



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

# Public Notice

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

Public Notice No.

**P-2837**

Public Notice Date

**October 25, 2012**

Expiration Date

**November 14, 2012**

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

File Number: 2012-580

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received to conduct maintenance excavation near the confluence of the Mississippi River and Illinois River with associated open water disposal, as described below and shown on the attachments.

**COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice Number shown above, and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date 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 (Charles Frerker)  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

**APPLICANT:** Mayor Tom Thompson, City of Grafton, Post Office Box 287, Grafton, Illinois (618-786-3344).

**LOCATION:** The activity site is located near the Illinois and Mississippi River confluence, separated by Island 526, at approximate Illinois River Mile 0.3 and approximate Mississippi River Mile 218.3, in the Northeast ¼ of Section 34, Township 49 North, Range 5 East, in St. Charles County, Missouri. (See Attached Location Map).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The City of Grafton requests authorization to perform periodic maintenance excavation of 20,500 cubic yards of accumulated river sediment from areas within the Grafton Ferry travel route. The Grafton Ferry has been out of operation recently due to impassable shallow water conditions caused by accumulated river sediment. The applicant states the Grafton Ferry is vital to the business community of Grafton. It provides a direct route to the St. Charles/O'Fallon, Missouri area. Without the ferry, the commute to St. Charles is approximately 45 miles. With the ferry, the commute is only 15 miles. This is vital to the citizens of Grafton who commute to Missouri for work and vital to the tourist industry of Grafton. To accomplish the proposed action, a barge mounted clamshell crane would be utilized to periodically remove the accumulated river deposits. The excavated material would be contained and transported for open river disposal in the Mississippi River along a sand bar formation found below Island 526. The disposal area is also periodically used as a dredge disposal area by the Corps of Engineers when channel maintenance dredging is necessary. All open river disposal would be placed in the State of Missouri.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information may be obtained by contacting the applicant's consultant, Mr. Robert Massa of Juneau & Associates at 618-659-0900, or Mr. Charles Frerker, Regulatory Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (314) 331-8583 or at electronic mail address: [charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil](mailto:charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil)

**AUTHORITY:** This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** By issuance of this public notice, the project plans are considered submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program for state certification of the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Pollution Control Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

**SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION:** The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program guidelines and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Request for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding the public hearing.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The proposed project is within the range of the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stolonifereum*), Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and the threatened Decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed excavation and open water disposal is not likely to adversely affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are hereby solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The St. Louis District will evaluate any information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice. In addition, issuance of this proposed action would prompt renewal of previously established requirements to avoid and protect a known cultural resource site in vicinity of the project area. Additional reconnaissance surveys of the project area may be required if warranted.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain 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.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of these proposed activities. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army 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 other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

  
Danny D. McClendon  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.



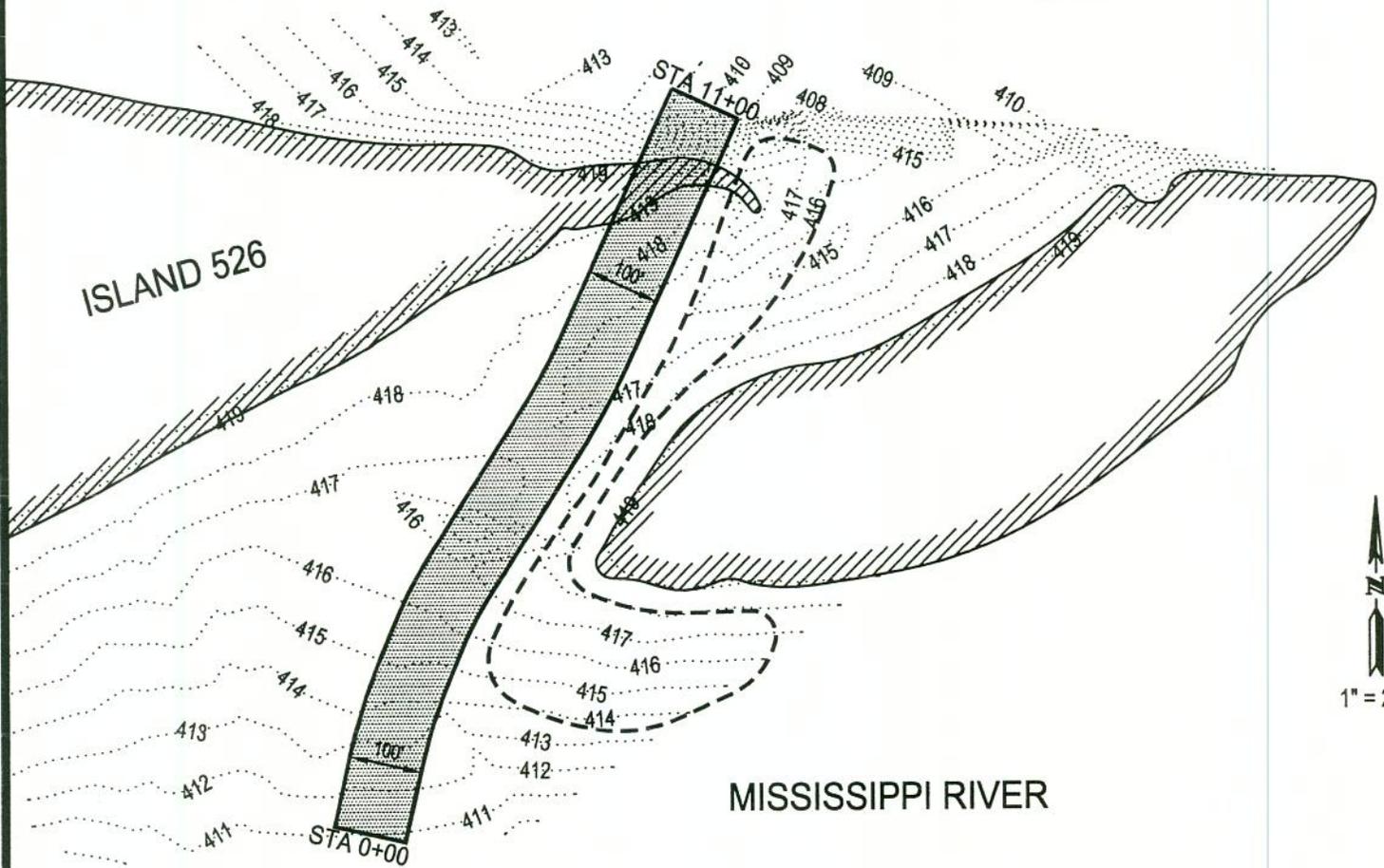
**P-2837**  
**Grafton Ferry Maintenance Excavation**  
**St. Charles County, Missouri**



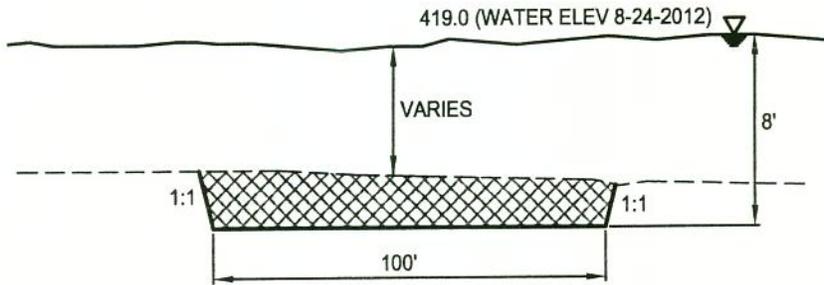
**LEGEND**

-  AREA TO BE DREDGED
-  DISPOSAL AREA

**ILLINOIS RIVER**



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER**



**TYPICAL SECTION**

**LIST OF ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS**

NO.	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ST. LOUIS DISTRICT COE	1222 SPRUCE STREET ST. LOUIS, MO 63103-2833
2.	REAL ESTATE DIVISION	
3.		
4.		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

GRAFTON FERRY DREDGING

**LOCATION:**

CONFLUENCE OF MISSISSIPPI R.  
AND ILLINOIS R. AT GRAFTON, IL