

**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-2856 (2013-742)
Public Notice Date
December 20, 2013
Expiration Date
January 20, 2014

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (Corps) is soliciting comments on a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Grand Tower Phase 5 Project, which includes a Clean Water Act Section 404 and a Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 evaluation, on river training structure construction activities (Regulating Works) for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and in the referenced web page link.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the Draft EA and described work should reference the Corps 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 (Danny McClendon)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

REQUESTOR: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, Engineering and Construction Branch and Project Management Branch, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis Missouri 63103-2833, c/o: Mr. Jasen Brown (314-331-8540) or Mr. Francis Walton (314-331-8102).

LOCATION: The Grand Tower Phase 5 Regulating Works Project is located in the Middle Mississippi River (MMR) between River Miles (RM) 67.0 and 74.0 in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri and Union County, Illinois near the town of Cape Girardeau, Missouri (see Attachments 1 and 2). The MMR is defined as that portion of the Mississippi River that lies between the confluences of the Ohio and Missouri Rivers.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Corps is proposing to construct the Grand Tower Phase 5 Project as part of its Regulating Works Project. The Regulating Works Project utilizes bank stabilization and sediment management to maintain bank stability and ensure adequate navigation depth and width. Bank stabilization is achieved by revetments while sediment management is achieved by river training structures. The Grand Tower Phase 5 Project is designed to address repetitive channel maintenance dredging issues in the project area. The Proposed Action includes the construction of two chevrons and the extension of one dike in the Crawford Towhead between RM 72 and 74. The Vancill Towhead project is located between RM 67.0 and 70.0 and includes construction of 3 weirs, 3 diverter dikes (S-dikes), repair of dike 67.8, revetment at 67.3 and shortening of dikes 67.3 and 67.1. Placement of rock training structures would provide a sustainable alternative to repetitive maintenance dredging. Fill material would include quarry run limestone consisting of graded "A" stone. Stone (35,000 tons) required for the project would be obtained from commercial stone quarries in the vicinity of the project area capable of producing stone which meets USACE

specifications. Placement of material would be accomplished by track hoe or dragline crane. Stone would be transported to placement sites by barges. All construction would be accomplished from the river and all work would be performed below ordinary high water (see Attachments 2-5). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and multiple navigation industry groups were involved in the planning and extensive coordination of the Grand Tower Phase 5 Project. No significant impacts to the human environment are anticipated for the Grand Tower Phase 5 Regulating Works Project. Therefore, no additional avoidance, minimization and/or compensation measures are proposed at this time.

Table 1. Proposed Action Grand Tower Phase 5 Regulating Works Project

Proposed Feature	Feature Description
Crawford Towhead	
Construct Chevron 73.65L	Construct 300ft x 300ft chevron. Top elevation of the chevron will be +18.5 feet LWRP.
Extend Dike 72.9L	Extend existing dike 300 feet. Top elevation of the chevron will be +18.5 feet LWRP.
Construct Chevron 72.55L	Construct 300ft x 300ft chevron. Top elevation of the chevron will be +18.5 feet LWRP.
Vancill Towhead	
Construct Weir 69.15R	Construct Weir 800 feet long Top elevation of the weir will be -15 feet LWRP
Construct Weir 68.95R	Construct Weir 800 feet long Top elevation of the weir will be -15 feet LWRP
Construct Weir 68.75R	Construct Weir 800 feet long Top elevation of the weir will be -15 feet LWRP
Construct Diverter Dike 68.10L (S-dike)	Construct Diverter Dike 750 feet long Top elevation of the dike will be +18 feet LWRP
Construct Diverter Dike 67.80L (S-dike)	Construct Diverter Dike 750 feet long Top elevation of the dike will be +18 feet LWRP
Construct Diverter Dike 67.50L (S-dike)	Construct Diverter Dike 750 feet long. Top elevation of the dike will be +18 feet LWRP.
Repair Dike 67.80L	Repair Dike (350 foot of length). Top elevation of the dike will be +18 feet LWRP.
Shorten Dike 67.30L	Shorten Dike 660 feet. Top elevation of the dike will be +18 feet LWRP.
Shorten Dike 67.10L	Shorten Dike 300 feet. Top elevation of the dike will be +18 feet LWRP.
Place Revetment 67.3L	Place 320 ft. of revetment where dike attaches to riverbank.

The Corps Project Management Branch has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes a Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 evaluation, and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed activities. These documents are available for electronic viewing (under Environmental Assessments, Assessments, Grand Tower Phase 5 Draft EA/w Appendices) at:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProgramsProjectManagement/PlansReports.aspx>

A hard copy of the Draft EA and related documents are also available for viewing at the Corps Project Management Branch in the Robert A. Young Federal Building, at 1222 Spruce Street,

St. Louis, Missouri. Further project details, including drawings, surveys and maps are available by viewing the above referenced Draft EA webpage link.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Danny McClendon, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at electronic mail address: danny.d.mcclendon@usace.army.mil

AUTHORITY: The authority for the proposed project is described in the Draft EA. The review for this project has been, and will be, processed under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and any and all pertinent regulations.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project plans have been submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps.

Activities occurring in Illinois are being reviewed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity 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/. 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.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources shall evaluate the activity for state approval of the proposed work 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.

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

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service database queries on October 21, 2013, four federally threatened or endangered species could potentially be found in the project area (Cape Girardeau County, Missouri and Union County, IL). The four species, federal protection status, and habitat can be found in Table 2. No critical habitat is located in the project area.

Table 2. Federally listed threatened and endangered species potentially in the project area.

Species	Federal Status	Habitat
Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Hibernacula: Caves and mines; Maternity and foraging habitat: small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland and bottomland forests
Least tern (interior population) (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>)	Endangered	Large rivers - nest on bare alluvial and dredge spoil islands
Pallid sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>)	Endangered	Mississippi and Missouri Rivers
Decurrent false aster (<i>Boltonia decurrens</i>)	Threatened	Disturbed alluvial soils. (Cape Girardeau Co. only)

CULTURAL RESOURCES: During the summer of 1988 when the Mississippi River was at one of its lowest levels on record, the Corps conducted an aerial survey of exposed shipwrecks between Saverton, Missouri, and the mouth of the Ohio River. The nearest wrecks to the project area were sighted about five and a half miles away, both upstream and downstream. During the 2012 low water event, a wreck was reported within the project area, but on the right bank, opposite the proposed structures and behind an existing dike (67.2R). As part of a 2003 USACE study, archival research documented over seven hundred wrecks in the Middle Mississippi and two vessels are recorded as having been wrecked at Vancill landing. The first is the Sultana recorded as either abandoned between 1844 and 1852 according to one source, or wrecked on 6/12/1851 according to another. The second wreck is the Walk in the Water recorded as abandoned between 1846 and 1855. A local resident, however, reported that his father told him it was the Paw-Paw, which broke up in the winter ice of 1865. High-resolution multi-beam surveys were conducted of the project area river bed on June 4, 2012, June 21, 2012, or October 23, 2013 (depending on the river section). No topographic anomalies suggesting wrecks are visible on the resulting bathymetric map. The Missouri and Illinois State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) have reviewed the proposed plans and have provided letters to the Corps that the proposed projects would not affect any historic resources in the project area and did not object to the proposal as planned. The Corps will evaluate information provided by the SHPO's, Indian Tribes, and the public in response to this public notice and may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area, if warranted.

EVALUATION: Pursuant to NEPA, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and accompanying regulations, the Corps has evaluated the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That evaluation, and any decision made from comments received, will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which 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 Corps 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 as part of the EA process and the Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 evaluation. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in making a final decision on the proposed action. To make this decision, comments are considered to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments will be considered in the preparation of a Final Environmental Assessment, Statement of Findings and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. This site-specific EA is tiered off of the 1976 Environmental Impact Statement (1976 EIS) covering the District's Regulating Works Project – Mississippi River between the Ohio and Missouri Rivers, (USACE 1976). The 1976 EIS was recently reviewed by the District to determine whether or not the document should be supplemented. The District has concluded that the Regulating Works Project has not substantially changed since 1976 but that there are significant new circumstances and information on the potential impacts of the Regulating Works Project on the human environment to warrant the preparation of a SEIS. The Grand Tower Phase 5 EA will incorporate any new information and circumstances relevant to the impacts of the action on the human environment to the greatest extent possible. Should the analyses undertaken as part of the SEIS process reveal any new impacts on the resources, ecosystem and human environment not accounted for in this EA, measures will be taken within our authority to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for the impacts during that process as appropriate. Information on the SEIS can be found in the Notice of Intent that was published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2013, at the following link: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-30347>

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. Comments are also considered to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.



DANNY D. MCCLENDON
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for **30** days from the date of issuance of this notice.

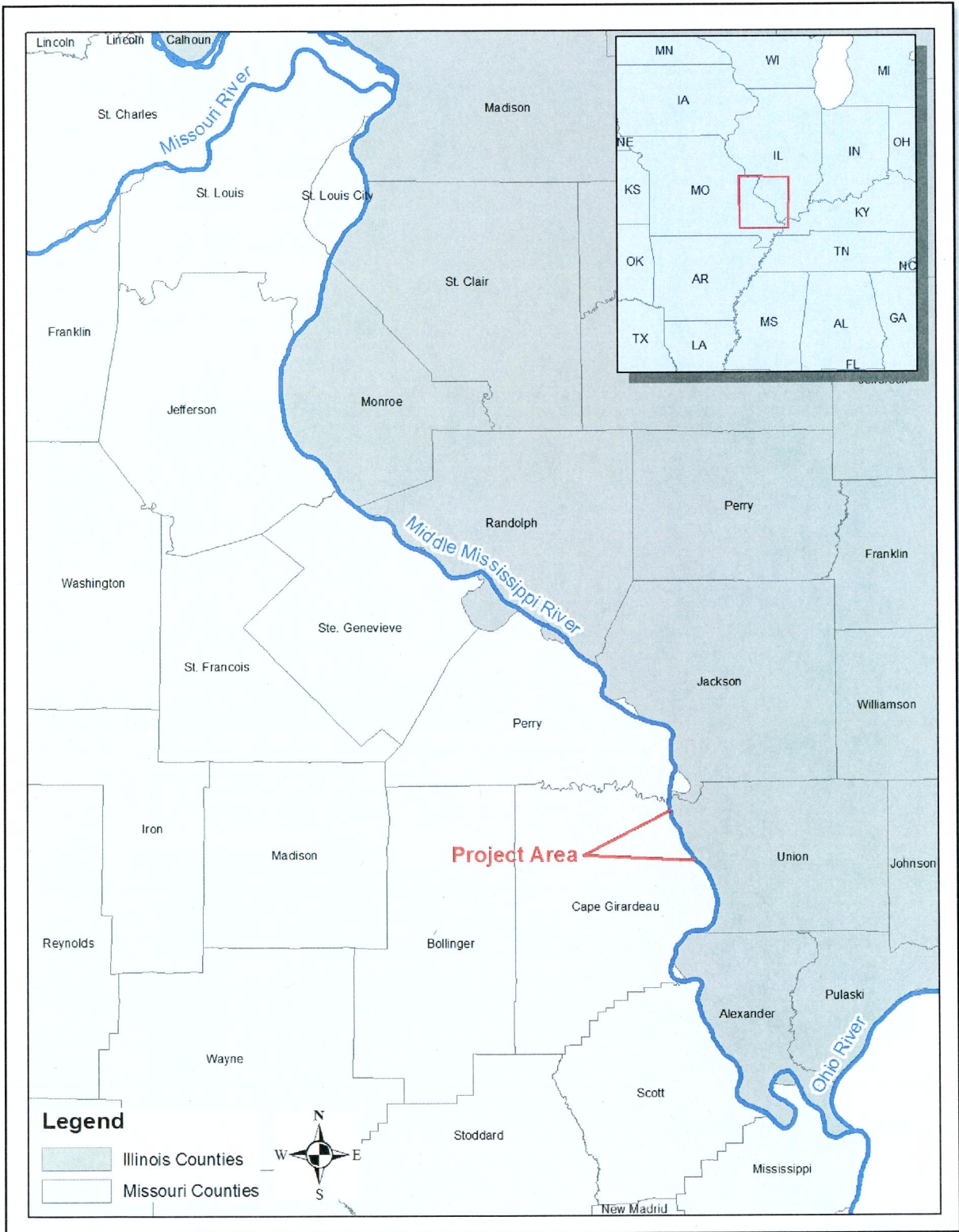
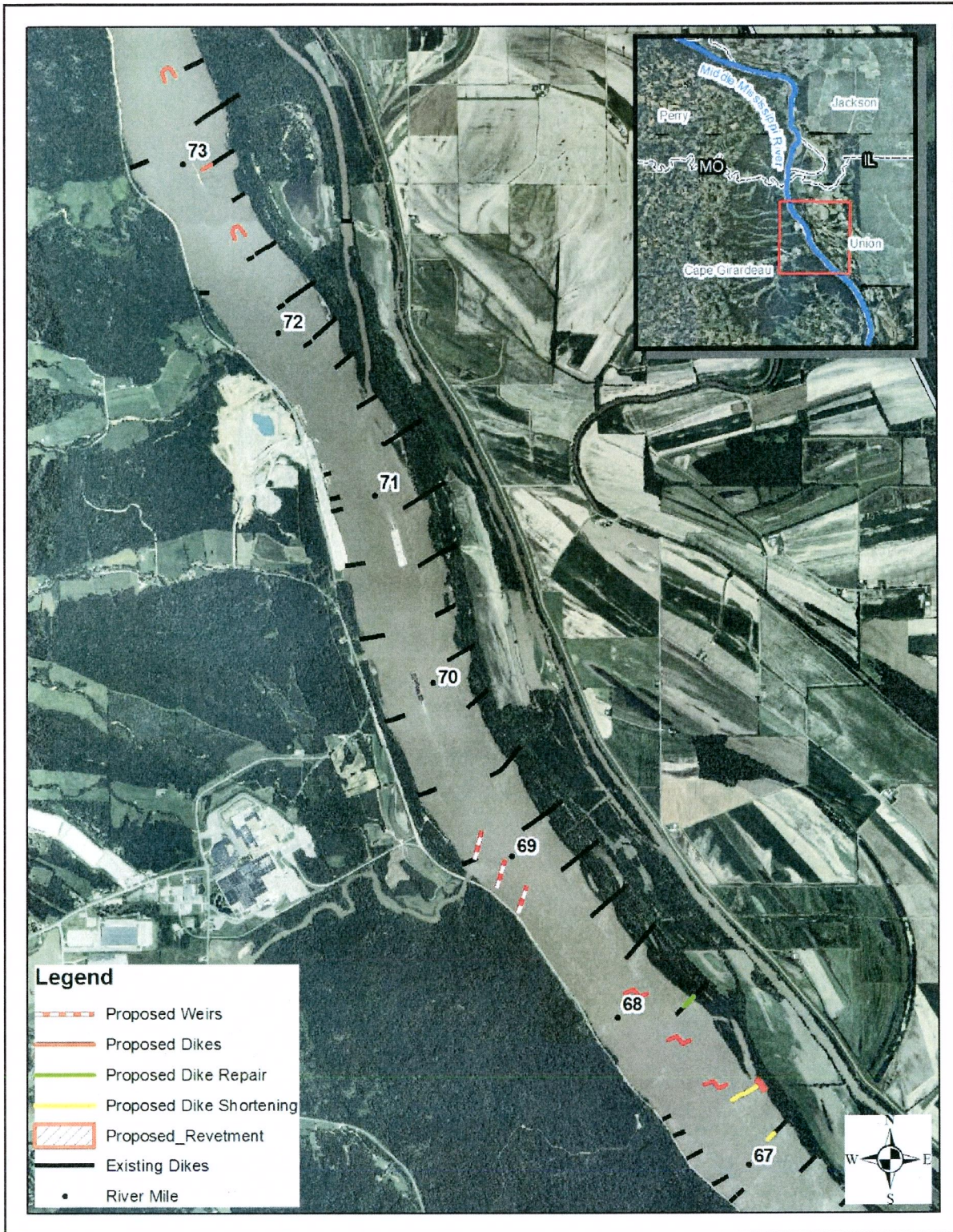


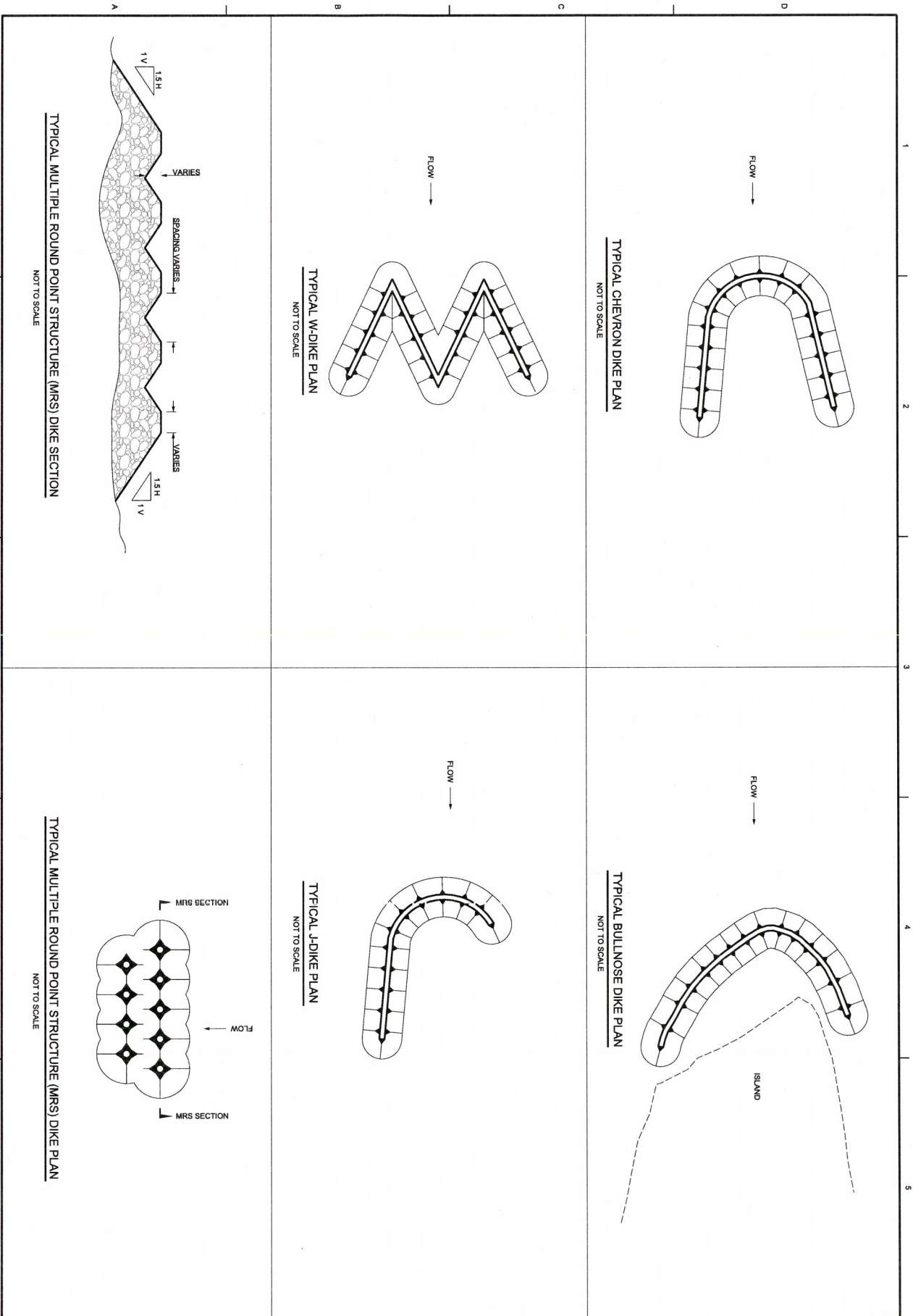
Figure 1. Project location within the Middle Mississippi River, Miles 74 to 67.

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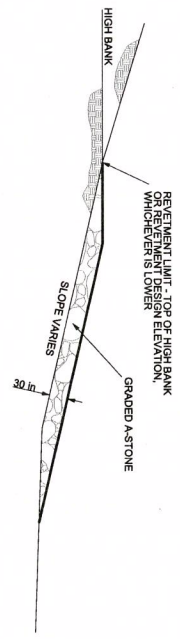


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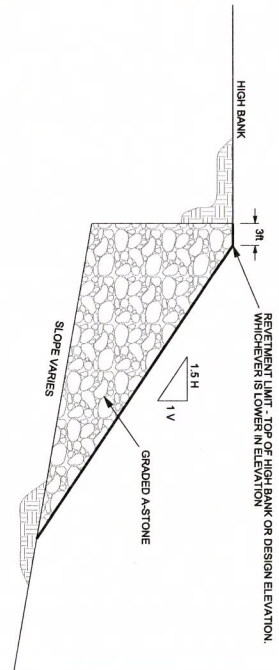
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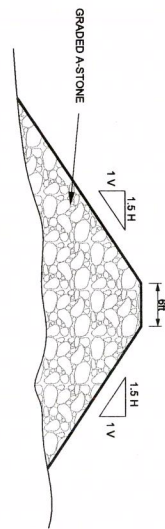
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		PLOT SCALE: SIZE AND NO.	PLOT DATE: FILE NAME:			



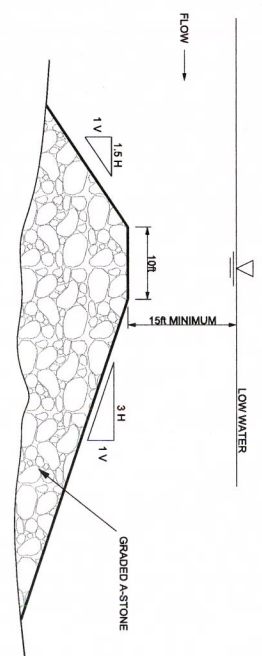
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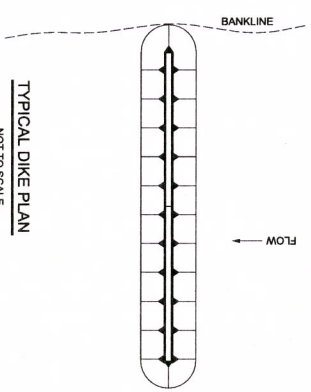
TYPICAL REVEMENT SECTION - CAVING BANK
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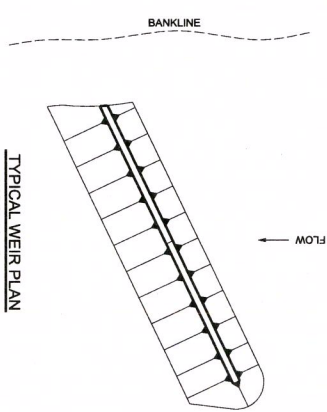
TYPICAL DIKEM/CHEVRON/BULLNOSE/J-HOOK SECTION
NOT TO SCALE



TYPICAL WEIR SECTION
DOWNSTREAM HAS A FLATTER SLOPE



TYPICAL DIKE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

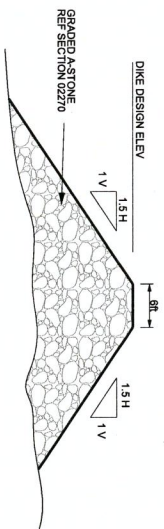


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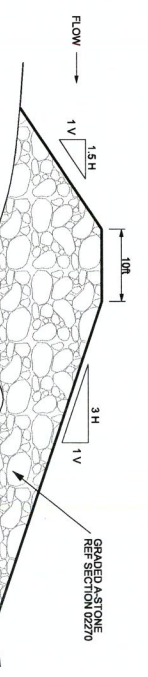
SHEET IDENTIFICATION 2 - 2	TYPICAL RIVER TRAINING STRUCTURES MISSISSIPPI RIVER MILES 300 - 0	U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ST. LOUIS DISTRICT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833	DESIGNED BY: DWN BY: AK SUBMITTED BY:	DATE: SOLICITATION NO.: CONTRACT NO.:	
		FILE NUMBER: FILE NAME:	PLOT SCALE: PLOT DATE:	PLOT NUMBER: FILE NUMBER:	
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		FILE NAME:	FILE NUMBER:	FILE NUMBER:	

P-2856, Grand Tower

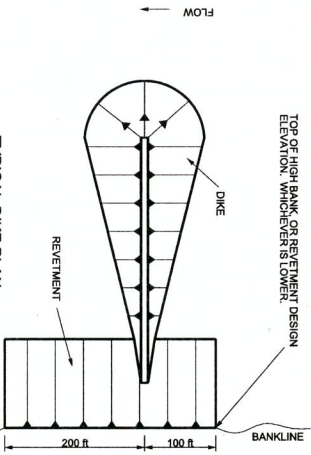
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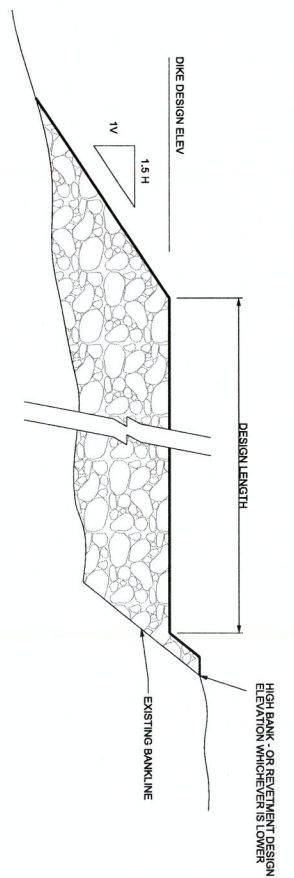
TYPICAL DIKE SECTION
NOT TO SCALE



TYPICAL WEIR DIKE SECTION
DOWNSTREAM HAS A FLATTER SLOPE



TYPICAL DIKE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



TYPICAL DIKE SECTION
NOT TO SCALE

	TYPICAL DIKE STRUCTURES MISSISSIPPI RIVER MILES 300 - 0	U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ST. LOUIS DISTRICT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833	DESIGNED BY:	DATE:	P-2856, Grand Tower	
			DWN BY: PMR	CRD BY:		
SUBMITTED BY:	CONTRACT NO.:	FILE NUMBER:				
PLOT SCALE:	PLOT DATE:	FILE NAME:				
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OUR PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT OUR ST. LOUIS DISTRICT HOME PAGE (<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>). If you have any trouble, please call Danny McClendon at (314) 331-8574 or by e-mail to: Danny.D.McClendon@usace.army.mil

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE OUR PUBLIC NOTICE MAILING COSTS; CHECK OUR WEB PAGE THEN CONTACT US TO HAVE YOUR NAMED REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, please call Jaynie Doerr at (314) 331-8581, or by email to: Jaynie.G.Doerr@usace.army.mil, or mail this cover-sheet to the St. Louis District, OD-F, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, indicating that your name or company name be removed. Changes to our mailing list may take a few weeks to take effect.

US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ST. LOUIS
ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833