



**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-2936

Public Notice Date

December 08, 2015

Expiration Date

December 29, 2015

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS-2011-474

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 (Alan Edmondson)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division (USACE), 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 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 correct a deficiency in the design of underseepage controls in the Mel Price section of the Wood River levee system, Madison County, Illinois. Uncontrolled underseepage and conveyance of earthen materials that form the foundation of the levee are occurring, and the potential for levee failure is a major problem. The proposed work is part of an overall deficiency correction and reconstruction of several project features.

Since underseepage was identified in the area in 2008, the St. Louis District has been engaged in an interim operating plan to control underseepage while a solution could be studied and designed. Implementation of temporary risk reduction measures began in early 2010 and has continued through 2015 to help control the underseepage and minimize risk to the levee system and protected public. The planning of these measures and their implementation was coordinated with Wood River Drainage and Levee District and City of Alton officials beginning in the fall of 2009 and periodically thereafter as needed. In addition, coordination was done with partnering agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

The total size (footprint) for interim risk reduction features is about 1.0 acre of herbaceous wetlands. Three dikes, used on an interim basis to control ponding, as well as rock pads used for temporary pumps, would be removed when construction of the proposed permanent relief well plan is completed (assumed to be late 2021); long-term temporary impact is about 0.85 acres. The rock walkways and boat ramp would stay in place (permanent impact is about 0.15 acres).

Ongoing studies have identified a Relief Well Alternative as the tentatively selected plan to permanently correct underseepage issues. The recommended plan consists of various underseepage control measures, including: new relief wells, modification of existing relief wells, new access/maintenance road, new drainage collection and discharge channels, main ditch modifications, and dewatering. The total size (footprint) for the proposed permanent relief well plan is about 36.0 acres of herbaceous and forested wetlands and 0.5 acres of terrestrial forested habitat. This is represented by about 9.15 acres of permanent losses and 27.3 acres of temporary adverse impacts. Indirect adverse impacts would occur to additional wetlands in the form of elimination of shallow surface water by reducing groundwater underseepage, affecting about 16 acres of herbaceous wetlands and 14 acres of forested wetlands.

The plan also includes minor and temporary impacts on air quality, surface water quality, traffic movement, recreation, aesthetics, and noise levels; biological resources, surface hydrology, groundwater movement, land use, and land owner income; and possible minor and permanent effects on HTRW and historic properties. The revised plan would not affect threatened and endangered species or environmental justice.

Mitigation: A reasonable range of alternatives have been identified and considered for the project. Alternatives include those that are practical or feasible from a technical, environmental, and economic standpoint. Given the purpose and need of the project, the proposed impacts were avoided to the maximum extent practicable; minimized, and the unavoidable impacts are proposed to be compensated for in the mitigation plan. Temporary and permanent impacts incurred thus far for interim risk reduction measures have been accounted for in consideration of temporal lag.

The combined mitigation requirement for the Interim Operations Plan and the Relief Well Alternative is the creation of 10.7 acres of herbaceous wetlands, 12.8 acres of forested wetlands, and 0.2 acre of bottomland hardwood (non-wetland) forest, for a total of 23.7 acres.

b. To the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, **for proposed impacts caused by the above mentioned corrective actions taken to rectify design deficiencies in the Mel Price Section of the Wood River Levee System in Madison County, Illinois (P-2936)**, 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 of Engineers.

c. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for state approval **for proposed impacts caused by the above mentioned corrective actions taken to rectify design deficiencies in the Wood River Levee System in Madison County, Illinois (P-2936)**, 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 Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) with Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The purpose of the EA and FONSI is to present a detailed proposal to correct design deficiencies throughout the project area. These documents are available for electronic viewing on the St. Louis District's web page. Please visit <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProgramsProjectManagement/PlansReports.aspx> and click on the link to P-2936. 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. 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.

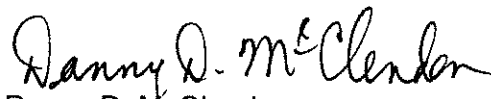
4. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area

5. The following Federally threatened and endangered occur within the counties of the proposed project: Least tern, Pallid sturgeon, Indiana bat, Decurrent false aster, Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, Eastern prairie fringed orchid, Northern long-eared bat, Spectaclecase mussel. The St. Louis Engineering District Environmental Branch has conducted an assessment of possible impacts to endangered species which is included in the Supplemental Environmental Assessment.

6. Any interested parties, 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 **December 29, 2015**. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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: CO-F (Edmondson), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to alan.r.edmondson@usace.army.mil, on or before **December 29, 2015**.


Danny D. McClendon
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days (**until December 29, 2015**) from the date of this issuance of this notice.

Attachments:



River elevation increased after structure was moved downstream two miles.

Missouri

Illinois

Mel Price Locks and Dam

Ponding Areas

Proposed site of Lock and Dam 26

Alton

140

149

140



Legend

Access/maintenance road and drainage system (orange); disposal areas for sediment from main ditch (yellow)

Relief Well Alternative



2000 ft

143

Berry Ln

Discover Blvd

Cpl. Chris Belchik Memorial E

Curist

Vinegar Works Rd

Madison County Transit Confluence Trail