



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

Public Notice

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

Special Public Notice

Public Notice Date
October 28, 2016

Expiration Date
December 19, 2016

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

**SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. LOUIS DISTRICT
MIDDLE MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGULATING WORKS PROJECT**

SUMMARY: Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Middle Mississippi River Regulating Works Project. The DSEIS is available for public review and comment. A Notice of Availability will appear in the Federal Register on November 4, 2016. The 45-day comment period will end on December 19, 2016.

PROJECT TITLE: Mississippi River Between the Ohio and Missouri Rivers (Regulating Works)

PROPOSED ACTION: The St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to continue construction, operation, and maintenance of the 9-foot navigation channel on the Middle Mississippi River.

LOCATION: Middle Mississippi River, Missouri and Illinois

LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

TO OBTAIN A COPY: An electronic copy of the DSEIS may be downloaded from:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/SEIS/Library.aspx>

Hard copies of the DSEIS and related documents are also available for viewing at the St. Louis District's Environmental Compliance Branch in the Robert A. Young Federal Building at 1222 Spruce St., St. Louis, MO.

DATE BY WHICH COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED: December 19, 2016

PUBLIC MEETINGS: USACE is hosting two open house style public meetings to provide information and gather public feedback on the DSEIS. The open house events will be held in Cape Girardeau, MO and Alton, IL. They will provide information on the Corps of Engineers' river engineering mission on the Middle Mississippi River with subject matter experts available to answer questions. This will also be an opportunity for the public to provide comments and engage with Corps of Engineers' subject matter experts on any issues or concerns with the Regulating Works Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 30, 2016
TIME: 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Missouri Department of Conservation
Cape Girardeau Nature Center - Multipurpose Room
2289 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

WHEN: Thursday, December 1, 2016
TIME: 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: National Great Rivers Museum - Classroom
#2 Locks and Dam Way
Alton, IL 62002

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is charged with obtaining and maintaining a navigation channel on the Middle Mississippi River (MMR) that is nine feet deep and 300 feet wide with additional width in bends as necessary (commonly called the Regulating Works Project). As authorized by Congress, the Project is obtained by construction of revetment, rock removal, and river training structures to maintain bank stability and ensure adequate, reliable navigation depth and width. The Regulating Works Project is maintained through dredging and any needed maintenance to constructed features. The long-term goal of the Project, as authorized by Congress, is to obtain and maintain a navigation channel and reduce federal expenditures by alleviating the amount of annual maintenance dredging through the construction of river training structures. This document is intended to provide an update to the Project's 1976 Environmental Impact Statement by analyzing the impacts of the Project in the context of new circumstances and information that currently exist. Based on the Project's Congressional authority and continued benefit of the remaining construction, the Preferred Alternative is to continue with new construction of the Project with the future potential addition of compensatory mitigation for unavoidable adverse effects to main channel border habitat, if deemed necessary on a site-by-site basis.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, 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. 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 the proposed activities as part of the DSEIS 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. Comments will be considered in the preparation of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Comments on the DSEIS 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 or requests for additional information should be sent to:

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