



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

News Release

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Corps of Engineers Approves Permit Application for St. Peters Levee Project

St. Louis – Today the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, issued a Section 404 permit to the City of St. Peters, Mo., for its proposed St. Peters Business Park Levee project in St. Peters. The city submitted a permit application October 17, 2003 proposing to construct a levee to provide a 500-year-level of flood protection to a 1,400-acre area known as Lakeside Business Park.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act gives the Corps responsibility for regulating the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. It is one of several permits from federal and state agencies that the city must obtain before beginning work on the site.

The Section 404 permit applies specifically to waters of the United States over which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdictional authority, including 4 acres of wetlands, 42.5 acres of open water impacts (40.4 acres of Missouri Department of Transportation Borrow Lake and a 2.1 acre farm pond) and 20,325 lineal feet (9.1 acres) of tributaries, which currently function as agricultural drainage ditches. St. Peters is required to provide mitigation for these impacts by creating 52-acres of wetlands, preserving 106 acres of interior wetlands, making riparian enhancements on 32 acres and preserving 11 acres of riparian area.

As stipulated in the Corps permit, St. Peters must obtain all required state and federal permits for the project before they may begin development in the area over which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers exercises jurisdictional authority. Also, all corresponding mitigation will be deed restricted with a permanent conservation deed restriction and a monitoring program will be implemented to ensure success of mitigation.

During the permit process, the Corps considered the views of other federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public. A public comment period was open from December 31, 2003 to February 13, 2004 and a public meeting was held October 21, 2004. This process is used to insure that a fair and equitable decision is made which allows reasonable use of private property, infrastructure development, and growth of the economy, while offsetting the authorized impacts. The Corps neither discourages nor encourages development but endeavors to follow all applicable laws to ensure that the process is both accountable and inclusive of public comments and opinions.

The Corps of Engineers based its decision on the content of the application, applicable science and law and public comment. The District's Regulatory Branch plans to have documents related to the permit available for public viewing in the coming weeks on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District Web Site at <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/permits/whatsNew.htm>.