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# Public Notice

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

Public Notice No.

**P-2584**

Public Notice Date

**November 21, 2006**

Expiration Date

**December 12, 2006**

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

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File Number: MVS-2006-1088

Interested parties are hereby notified that a request has been received for Section 10 and Section 404 Department of the Army authorization to conduct rock removal activities in the Mississippi River due to low water conditions as described below and shown on the attached figures.

**COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** 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

**APPLICANT:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch, Potomology Section (USACE), 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833.

**LOCATION:** The project is proposed to occur downstream of St. Louis, Missouri, at two separate reaches of the Mississippi River. In the Grand Tower Reach, UMR miles 81-78, there are two primary rock removal locations, with primary rock removal locations at UMR mile 79 and 80. In the Thebes Gap Reach, UMR miles 46-38, there are 11 primary rock removal locations.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Due to extremely low river stages, natural rock outcroppings (pinnacles and rock shelves) within the navigation channel will obstruct navigation and the St. Louis District will not be able to provide the authorized 9 foot navigational channel. This rock is an unavoidable obstruction. It poses a risk to both the navigation industry and the environment (should a grounding occur), and its removal has been determined to be absolutely necessary.

The applicant proposes to remove obstructions to navigation at the above locations via the use of explosives. Once the rock is broken from the rock shelving, which can not be accomplished by using normal dredging methods, it will be removed by a clamshell dredge. Once obstructions such as rock pinnacles receive the impact of an explosive charge, the resulting debris from the pinnacle would fall to the river bottom, and would be left in place. Material not left in place will be disposed at several locations to provide aquatic habitat.

Proposed rock removal will occur within the navigation channel down to a bottom elevation of about -13.0 ft LWRP. This would then provide 9 ft of depth when the stage for St. Louis is -7.0 ft. The total volume of rock pinnacles and shelf outcroppings to be removed is approximately 4,600 to 4,700 cubic yards at the approximate 13 sites.

**DRAWINGS:** See Attached

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information may be obtained by telephoning Mr. Alan Edmondson, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (314) 331-8811 or at electronic mail address:  
Alan.R.Edmondson@mvs02.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:** This public notice also provides documentation to 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/](http://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

A copy of all written comments should also be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

The applicant has also applied for an Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) permit pursuant to the Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act, 615 ILCS 5 (Illinois Compiled Statutes). Comments concerning the IDNR/OWR permit should be addressed to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271. Mr. Wes Rust, IDNR/OWR (217/782-3863), may be contacted for additional information.

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 is requested as of the date of this Public Notice, and 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, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a 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 Environmental Protection Agency 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 Pallid sturgeon (**Scaphirhynchus albus**), Least tern (**Sterna antillarum**) and the threatened Bald eagle (**Haliaeetus leucocephalus**).

A Biological Assessment evaluating the potential impacts of this project on the bald eagle, least tern, and pallid sturgeon was conducted and forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, in order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited by this public notice from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer has begun. An analysis has indicated that the proposed project will not affect any cultural resources. Additional information received in response to this public notice will be evaluated, and may require further investigations of the project area.

**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, 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 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.

The St. Louis District, Environmental Branch, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for these activities pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments on this public notice and the EA will be used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

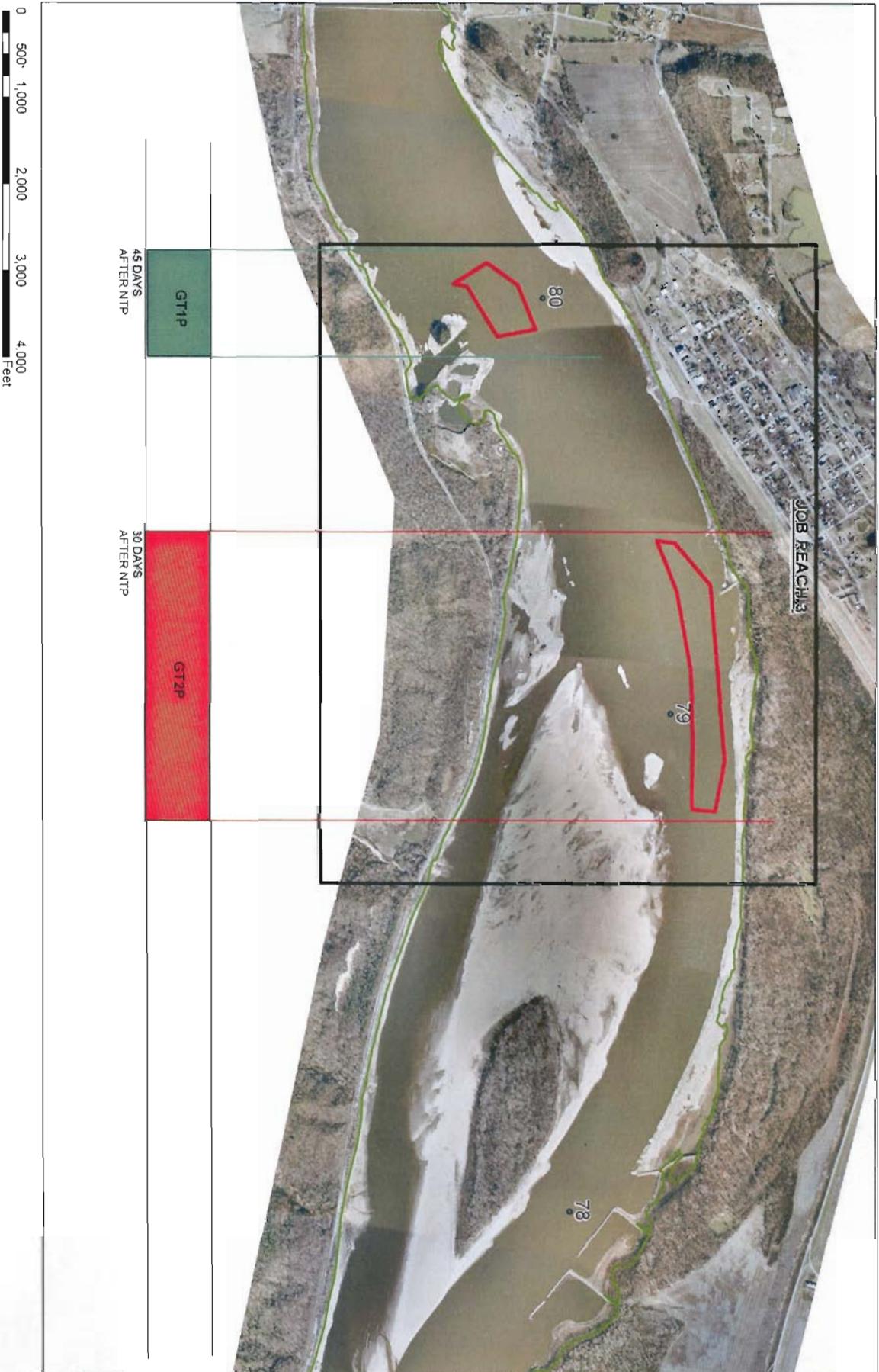
  
Danny D. McClendon  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments:

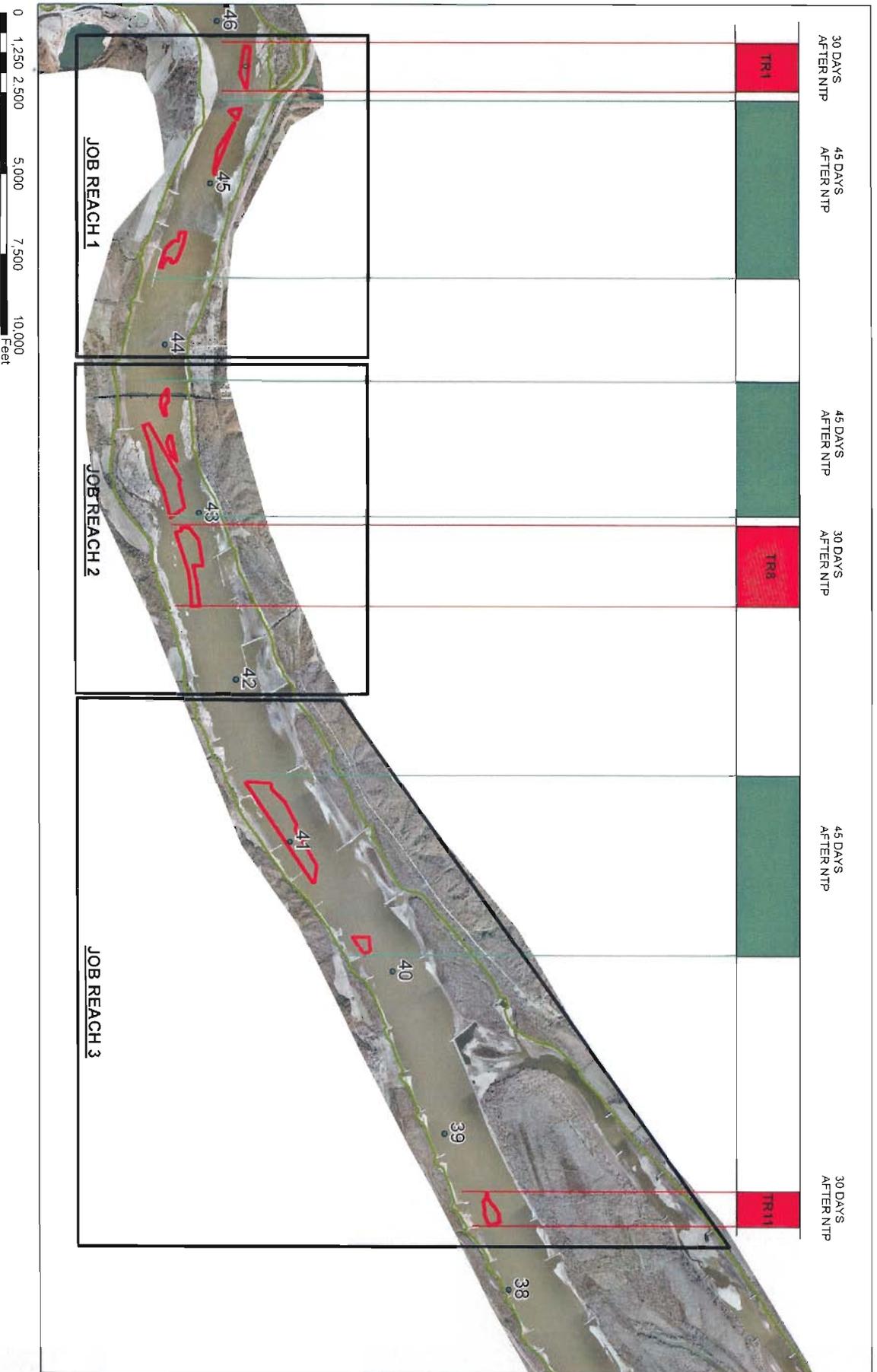
**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

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

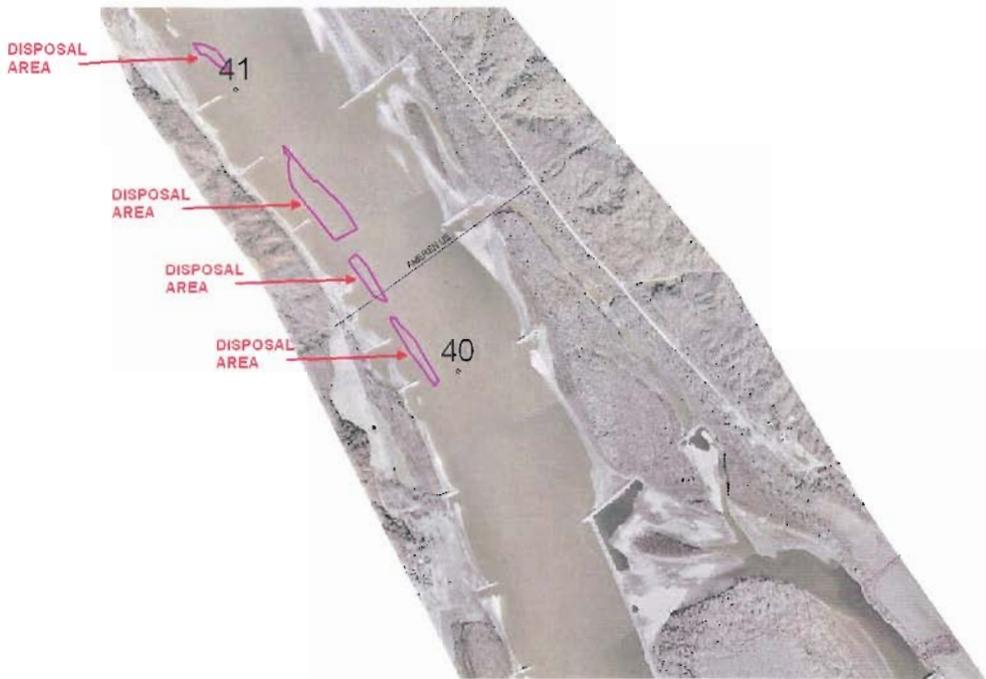
# Removal Strategy - Grand Tower



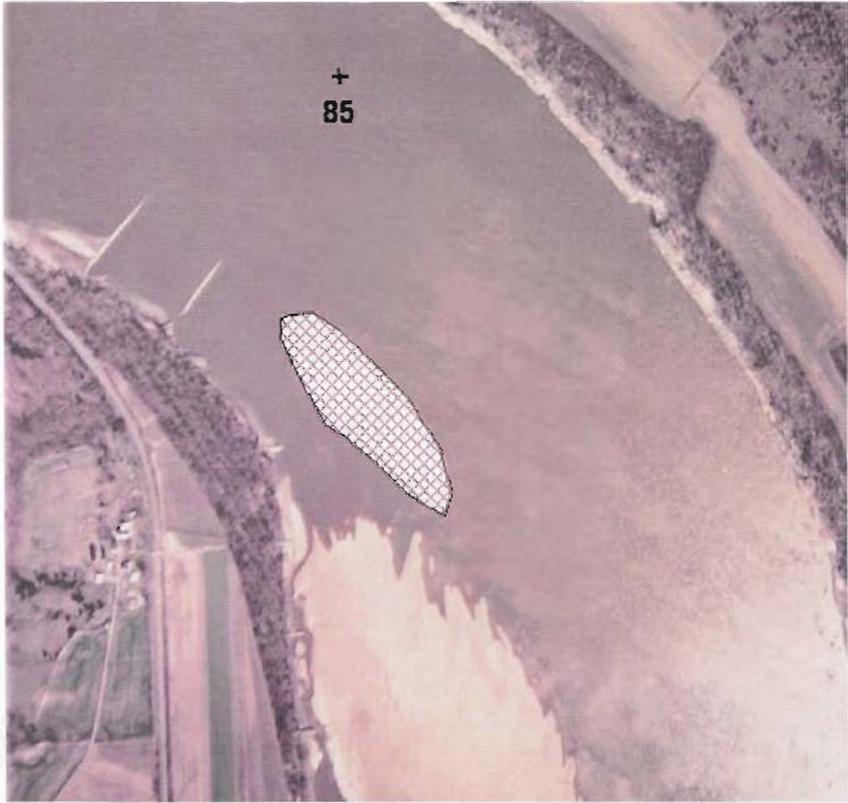
# Removal Strategy - Thebes



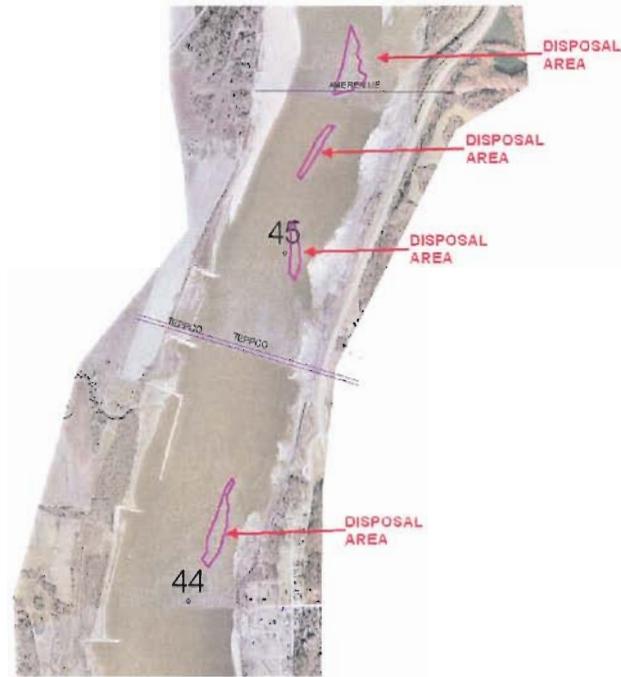
Proposed disposal locations for the Thebes reach (Mississippi River Miles 40 & 41)



Proposed disposal location: Grand Tower Mississippi River Mile 85)



Proposed disposal locations for the Thebes reach. (Mississippi River Miles 44 & 45)



Proposed disposal locations for the Thebes reach. (Mississippi River Miles 42 & 43)

