



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

Public Notice

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

Public Notice No.
P-2362
Public Notice Date
June 18, 2003
Expiration Date
July 17, 2003

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: 200207560

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-CO-F (Charles Frerker)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Project Management Branch (USACE), 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 has applied:

a. To the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch for a Department of the Army permit to rehabilitate and enhance a side channel on the Mississippi River for fish and wildlife habitat in an area known as Schenimann Chute. The applicant's proposal will be processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

b. To the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control 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 Pollution Control Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch.

2. The St. Louis District Project Management Branch announces the availability of the Schenimann Chute Planning, Design, and Analysis (PDA) Report and Environmental Assessment. The purpose of the report is to present a detailed proposal for the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat resources at the Schenimann Chute project area, which is located along the Mississippi River, from mile 57.0 to 63.0, in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. The PDA is available for review in the Project Management Branch by contacting Mike Thompson at 314-331-8039.

3. This project is part of the Environmental Management Program for the Upper Mississippi River System, which was initially authorized in the 1985 Supplemental Appropriations Bill (PL 99-88). A more comprehensive authorization was provided by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL 99-662).

4. The Schenimann Chute project area is a side channel complex. Approximately 273 acres of aquatic habitats lie within Schenimann Chute. Schenimann Chute is one of 23 side channels that remain along the 202 miles of open Mississippi River between St. Louis, MO and Cairo, IL. The primary focus of this project is the endangered pallid sturgeon; the secondary focus is on other riverine fish species.

- a. The primary problems limiting habitat potential of the area is siltation and loss of habitat diversity within the riverine system.
- b. The primary goals and benefits of this project is to maintain a river connection to Schenimann Chute during seasonal low flows to restore the ability of water to flow from its entrance to its mouth during average seasonal flows. This will be done in order to allow aquatic species (pallid sturgeon) access to important side channel habitat that currently is inaccessible during certain times of the year. It is believed that various aquatic species will use the area for different life stage requisites, such as spawning, rearing, feeding, and over-wintering refuge. Creating year long connectivity and adding structures within the chute to provide scour and meandering patterns will diversify the aquatic habitat provided by the chute, mainly depth and substrate diversity, which will be beneficial to a variety of aquatic species. Increased depth diversity and improved flow should elongate the life of this side channel and improve water quality. By allowing connection during the winter, refuge within the chute will be accessible to fish seeking habitat off of the main channel, specifically the pallid sturgeon.

5. The project consists of multiple alternatives. Located in the Planning, Design, and Analysis (PDA) Report is Alternative C-7. Alternative C-7 was the selected design plan and its features are described below. All features are to be constructed below the ordinary high water elevation (high bank). See attached map for location of project structures.

- a) **Hard points and Bank Stabilization** – A series of 15 alternating dikes or hard-points will be constructed to an elevation near top of bank in Schenimann Chute between Mississippi River Miles (MRM) 60.5 to 59.0 to create additional physical and biological diversity, and to cause channel creation in some of the areas experiencing sedimentation. Hard points will require minor bank stabilization features upstream and downstream at each location. Two locations within Schenimann Chute will receive bank stabilization measure that will reduce erosion of the existing bank line; they are located at MRM 60.6R and 61.5R.
- b) **Dredging** - Dredging will be performed at the lower end of Schenimann Chute to Elevation 310.0 NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum), this is approximately 2 foot on the Cape Girardeau Gage. The dredging will create connection to the main channel at the lower end and to provide deep-water habitat to fish. Dredge material is comprised of river sand, per a Phase I Archeological Soil survey. Dredging will initiate at Dike 57.1R and move upstream within Schenimann Chute to Dike 58.2R.
- c) **Dike Notching** – Dikes with existing notches in closure structures 59.8R, 58.7R, and 58.2R will be widened and deepened to allow better accessibility throughout Schenimann Chute. To dredge the lower end of Schenimann Chute, dikes at MRM 57.1R and 57.9R will be notched to allow dredge access.
- d) **Chevron and Dredge Material Placement** – A Chevron is a crescent shaped stone dike structure. The chevron would be constructed just down stream of Schenimann Chute in the main channel border area (MRM 56.9R). Placement of dredge material will be behind and downstream of the constructed chevron. This will create island and sandbar habitat for fish, and the chevron would create a diversity of depths and substrates due to its impacts to velocities.

6. 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.

7. The St. Louis District had an archaeological investigation performed on the area. All existing dikes in the project area were constructed in the early 1930's (1932 and 1935 aerial photographs). No dikes predating this period are present in the 1932 aerial photograph. The dikes were constructed of wood piling or stone over wood pile. According to project engineers, these dikes are similar to thousands of others along the Mississippi River. In the highly unlikely event archaeological deposits or historic sites are discovered during the project, construction activity in the immediate area will halt until the site is evaluated. This is the extent of our knowledge about historic properties

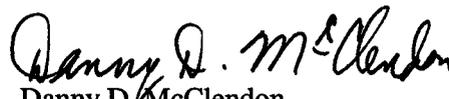
in the project area at this time. However, we will evaluate information by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

8. The proposed project is within the range of the federally listed endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and the threatened Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that this proposed activity will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited by this public notice from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

9. Any interested parties, particularly navigation interests, 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 July 17, 2003. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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. The Program Management Branch has scheduled a public meeting for July 1, 2003 at the Missouri Department of Conservation office, SE Regional Headquarters, located at 2302 County Park Drive, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 63701. Additional information will be forthcoming in either a press release and/or a subsequent public notice announcing specific information about the time of the public meeting. The goal of the public meeting is to inform the public of the Environmental Management Program and the Schenimann Chute Side Channel Project.


Danny D. McClendon
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

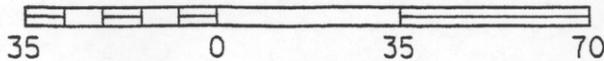
It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days (until July 17, 2003) from the date of this issuance of this notice.

P-2362



VICINITY MAP

APPROX. SCALE IN MILES

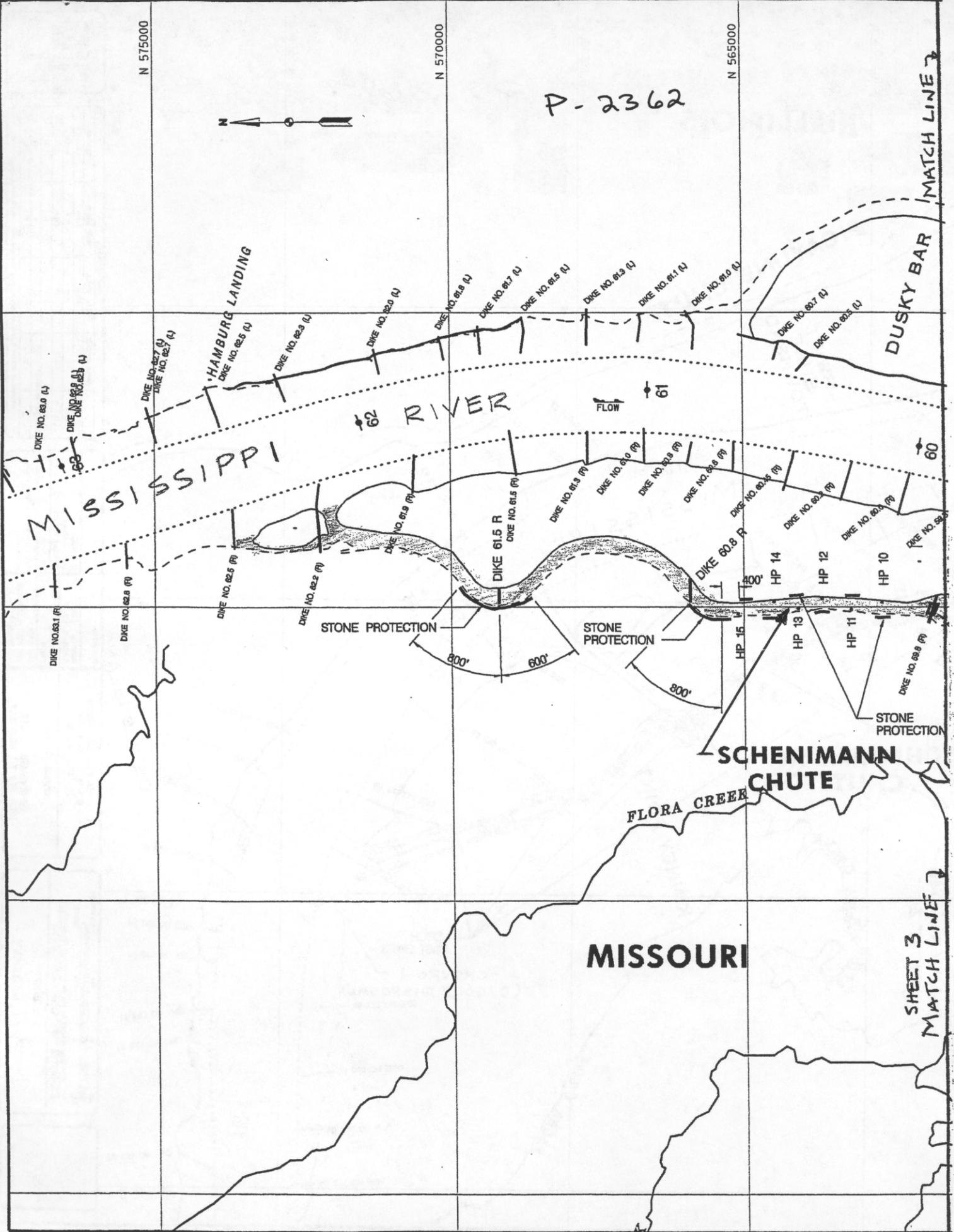


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N 575000

N 570000

N 565000



MATCH LINE

DUSKY BAR

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

FLOW

MISSISSIPPI

HAMBURG LANDING

STONE PROTECTION

STONE PROTECTION

STONE PROTECTION

SCHENIMANN CHUTE

FLORA CREEK

MISSOURI

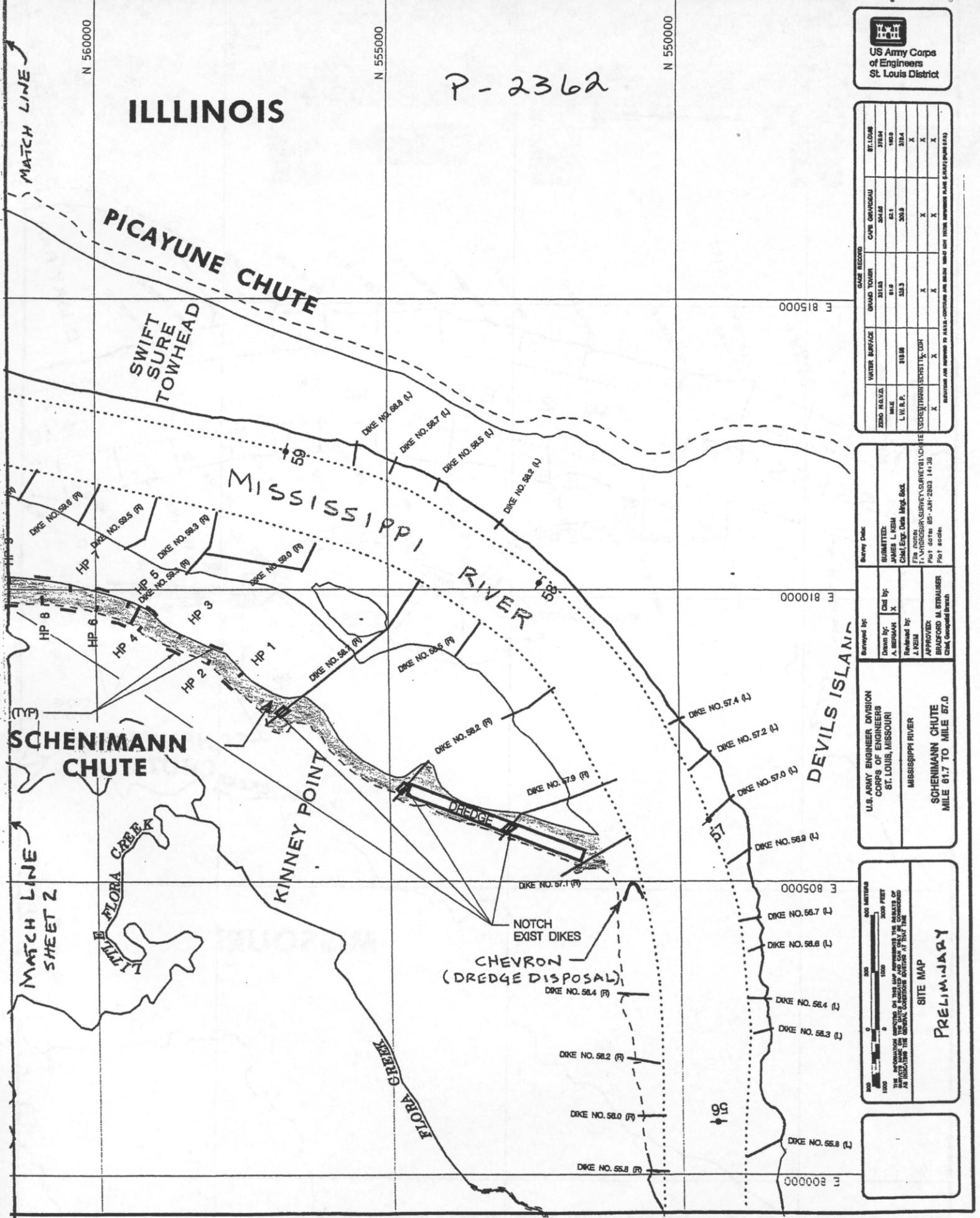
MATCH LINE

SHEET 3



P-2362

ILLINOIS



GAGE RECORD		WATER SURFACE		GAGE TOWER		CAPE GRAND/CAU		BT. LOGS	
ZERO NAVAL	MI	DATE	TIME	NO.	TYPE	NO.	TYPE	NO.	DATE

Survey Data		Submitted by		Checked by		Approved by	
DATE	BY	NAME	POSITION	NAME	POSITION	NAME	POSITION
		JAMES L. KEAM	CHIEF ENGR. DIST. MISSOURI	A. BERMAN	CHIEF ENGR. DIST. MISSOURI	BRADFORD M. BRIDGEMAN	CHIEF ENGINEER DIVISION

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

SCHENIMANN CHUTE
MILE 61.7 TO MILE 67.0

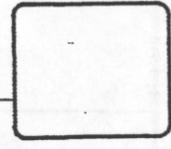
400 METERS
2000 FEET

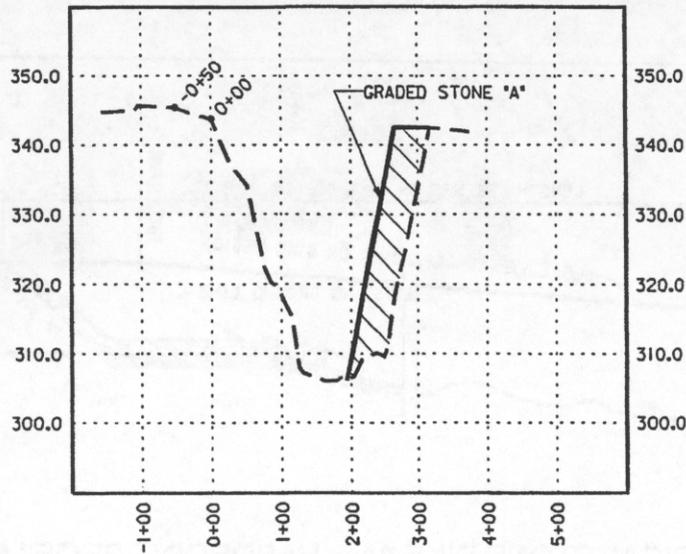
SCALE

THE INFORMATION REPORTED ON THIS MAP REPRESENTS THE RESULTS OF A PRELIMINARY SURVEY AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER.

SITE MAP

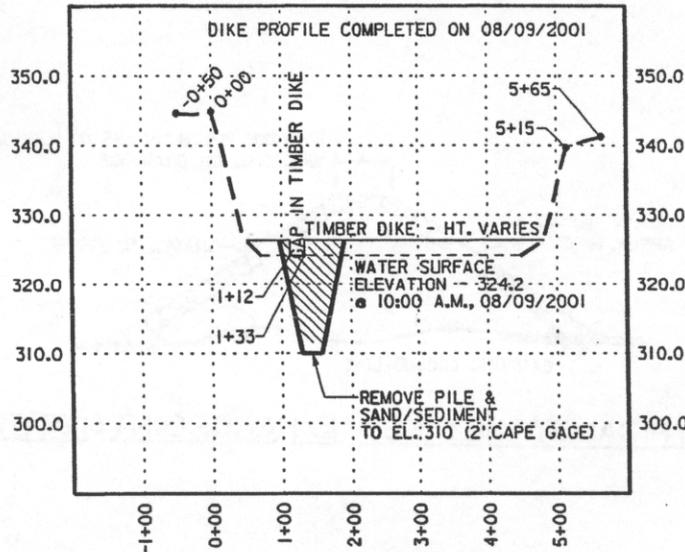
PRELIMINARY



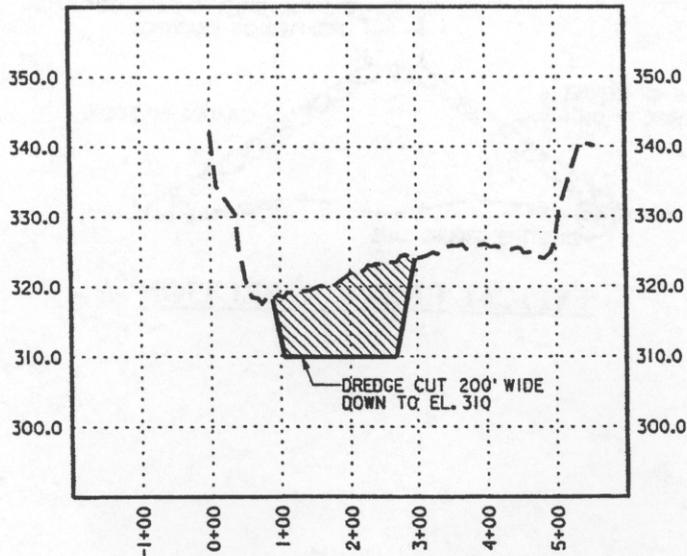


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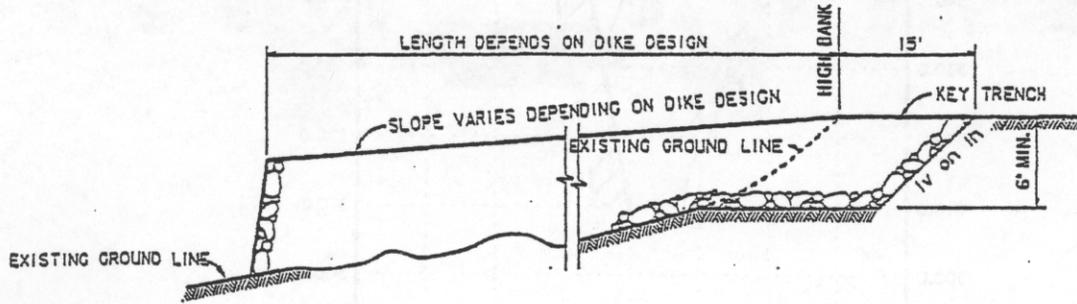
HARD POINT (HP10) SECTION



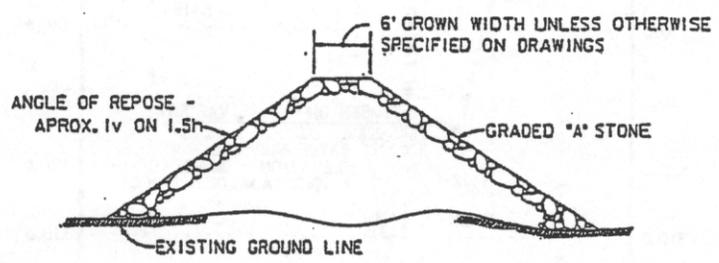
DIKE 57.9 (R) NORTHING



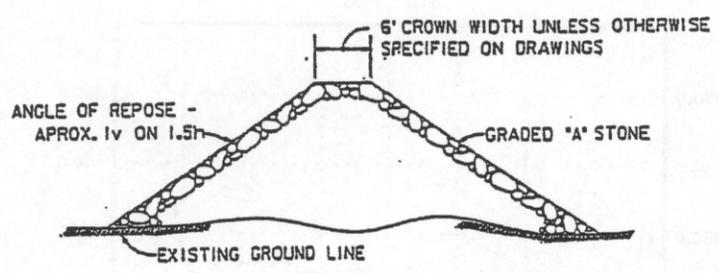
TYPICAL DREDGE SECTION



TYPICAL STONE DIKE AND HARDPOINT PROFILE



TYPICAL STONE DIKE AND HARDPOINT SECTION



TYPICAL CHEVRON SECTION