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# Public Notice

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

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

Permission No.  
OD-R 25-036  
Public Notice Date  
January 20, 2026  
Expiration Date  
February 04, 2026

**Postmaster, Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

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## **REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO MODIFY A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408**

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army Section 408 permission for certain work near federally constructed flood protection projects of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

**COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice 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  
Readiness Branch  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833  
ATTN: Matthew Hartman, P.E.  
or Matthew.J.Hartman@usace.army.mil

**REQUESTER:** HDR, Inc., on behalf of Ameren Illinois, ATTN: Michael Bell, PWS

**LOCATION:** The proposed project is located in Grand Tower, IL 62942 on and near the Grand Tower Levee between stations 30+00 and 44+00 in Jackson County, IL. The approximate coordinates are 37°38'53.68"N, 89°30'31.71"W.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The requester is seeking permission to conduct geotechnical investigations on the river side and land side of the Grand Tower Levee, using the access ramps on the levee to mobilize drilling equipment to the riverside boring location.

**LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS:** See Attachment

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information may be obtained by contacting Matthew

Hartman, P.E., St. Louis District 408 Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8568. Your inquiries may also be sent by e-mail to Matthew.J.Hartman@usace.army.mil.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:** The St. Louis District Regulatory Branch has conducted a preliminary review of the proposed project. Based upon review of the project activity description, as well as the location of the work, the Regulatory Branch determined that this activity would trigger the need for a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as the proposed project involves a discharge in wetlands directly adjacent to the Mississippi River, a navigable in-fact water. The St. Louis District Regulatory Branch intends to issue a Department of the Army Nationwide Permit #06 (Survey Activities) for the proposed actions (MVS-2025-623).

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to grant the requested permission for project modification under Section 408 will be based on several factors. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of the requests for modification will be reviewed by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers technical review team considering the following factors:

1. **Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination.** The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes, or outputs. The decision whether to approve a request for modification would be based on a determination of no impairments.
2. **Injurious to the Public Interest Determination.** Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts that the proposed alteration to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors that are relevant in each case. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks. If the potential detriments are found to outweigh the potential benefits, then it may be determined that the proposed alteration is injurious to the public interest.
3. **Environmental Compliance.** A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action and is therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. In this case, project actions have already been completed and thus project analysis will be retroactive. While ensuring compliance is the responsibility of USACE, the requester is providing all information that the St. Louis District identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and ordinances. NEPA and other analysis completed to comply with the other environmental statutes (e.g. Endangered Species Act) should be commensurate with the scale and potential effects of the activity that would alter the US Army Corps of Engineers project. The scope of analysis for the NEPA and environmental compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review is limited to the area of alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration.

In compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, lists of species and critical habitat were acquired from the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) website on 10 October 2025 (Project Code: 2026-0010364) for the Proposed Action Area. The St. Louis District has made a “No Effect” determination for the Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), and a “not likely to jeopardize the continued existence” determination for Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

An automated report was obtained from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on 16 January 16, 2026. The Illinois Natural Heritage Database showed records of Backbone North Geological Area INAI Site, Mississippi River - Grand Tower INAI Site, Bigclaw Crayfish (*Orconectes placidus*) Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Sturgeon Chub (*Macrhybopsis gelida*), Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), and Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*) within the vicinity of the project location.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 provides protection for bird species native to North America. The action area is in the Mississippi Flyway, a bird migration route which follows the Mississippi River, the Missouri River, and the Lower Ohio River in the United States. The habitats along the Mississippi River are important nesting and feeding areas for many migratory birds and waterfowl species. A variety of migratory birds might occur in the habitats adjacent to the shipyard, some as migrants and some as breeders, depending on the time of year. Year-round residents would also be present in the habitat surrounding the action area. However, given the highly developed commercial and industrial land use in the action area, the available habitats would be marginal in quality or simply nonexistent.

Although the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in 2007, it continues to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). The BGEPA prohibits unregulated take of bald eagles, including disturbance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations regarding how to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute disturbance. If any nests are found during the proposed work, then the USFWS will be contacted, and the guidelines would be implemented.

St. Louis District Archaeologists conducted a Historic Property Preliminary Review on 21 October 2025. USACE jurisdiction for this Section 408 permission request is limited to the property for Grand Tower Levee, which has been previously disturbed. For these reasons, USACE St. Louis District found “No Potential to Affect Historic Properties.” The borings proposed are outside of USACE’s jurisdictional area and sit within a culturally sensitive area. Coordination

with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, prior to initiating the project, may be required by state law. Under 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), the federal agency has no further obligations for the undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

All actions taken were in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA). In the unlikely event that, earthmoving activities associated with the proposed work did impact potentially significant archaeological/historic sites, all construction activities and earthmoving actions in the immediate vicinity of the site would be held in abeyance until the potential significance of the site could be determined. The precise nature of such investigations would be developed by the Saint Louis District in concert with the professional staff of the Illinois SHPO.

4. Environmental Impact Statement. A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.
5. Technical Analysis. The St. Louis District is working closely with the requestor to ensure that all technical plans, maps, drawings, specifications are provided and complete. A District-led Technical Review is being conducted to determine any potential adverse impacts to the US Army Corps of Engineers flood protection system.

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS**: 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 the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permission 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. Comments are taken into consideration in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**SUMMARY**: It should be noted that materials submitted as part of the Section 408 request become part of the public record and are thus available to the general public under the procedures of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the St. Louis District Corps of Engineers, Office of Counsel.

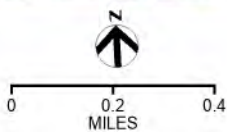
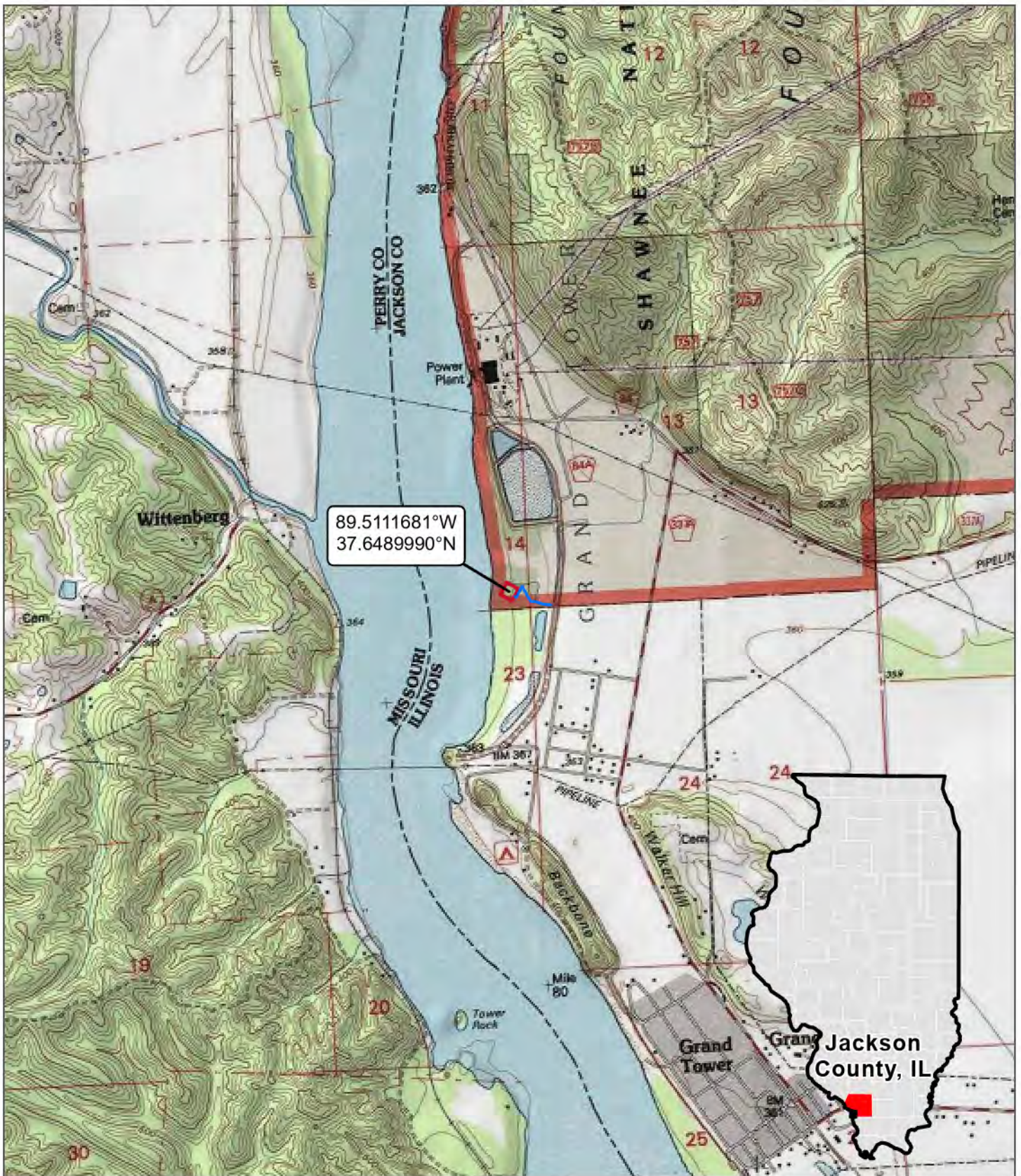
Interested parties wishing to comment on the proposed activity must do so in writing no later than **February 04, 2026**. It is presumed that all parties receiving this notice will wish to respond to this public notice; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the project as described.

This public notice is not a paid advertisement and is for public information only. Issuance of this notice does not imply Corps of Engineers endorsement of the project as described.

**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**


It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.


Attachment:



LEGEND

Temporary Workspace

 Bore Site

 Access Path - 15 ft width

LOCATION MAP

GRAND TOWER RIVER CROSSING  
GEOTECHNICAL SOIL BORINGS  
408 REVIEW

DATA SOURCES: USGS 24K QUADRANGLE

FIGURE 1





Ameren Services: Jenkins-Wittenberg Transmission Line  
CPT Sounding/Geotechnical Boring Location Sketch