



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 80  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVD-PD-SP

2 June 08

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, St. Louis District

SUBJECT: Illinois River Basin Restoration - Alton Pool Critical Restoration Project, Peer Review Plan (PRP)

1. References:

a. EC 1105-2-408, Peer Review of Decision documents, 31 May 2005.

b. Memorandum, CECW-CP, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

c. Supplement to memorandum, CEMVD-PD-N, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

d. Memorandum, CEMVD-PD-N, 3 June 2008, subject: Illinois River Basin Restoration, Alton Pool Critical Restoration Project, Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise Recommendation for Approval of Peer Review Plan.

2. I hereby approve subject PRP and concur in the recommendation that an External Peer Review is not required. The proposed PRP has been coordinated with the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX) and concurred with by the ECO-PCX. The PRP complies with all applicable policies and provides an adequate independent technical review of the plan formulation, engineering and environmental analyses, and other aspects of the plan development. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.

CEMVD-PD-SP

SUBJECT: Illinois River Basin Restoration, Alton Pool Critical Restoration Project, Peer Review Plan (PRP)

3. The District should post the PRP to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for posting on their web page, as well as providing a copy of the final approved PRP to the ECO-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site, the names of Corps/Army employees should be removed in accordance with reference 1.d. above.

4. The MVD point of contact is [REDACTED], CEMVD-PD-SP,

Encl

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Brigadier General, USA  
[REDACTED] Commanding

CF:  
CECW-CP



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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVD-PD-N

3 June 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Mississippi River Division  
ATTN: [REDACTED], CEMVD-PD-SP)

SUBJECT: Illinois River Basin Restoration, Alton Pool Critical  
Restoration Project, Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise  
Recommendation for Approval of Peer Review Plan

1. References:

- a. EC 1105-2-408, Peer Review of Decision documents, 31 May 2005.
- b. CECW-CP Memorandum and attachment, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

2. The proposed PRP has been coordinated with the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX) and concurred in by the ECO-PCX. The PRP complies with all applicable policy and provides an adequate independent technical review of the plan formulation, engineering, and environmental analyses, and other aspects of the plan development. The ECO-PCX concurs with the conclusion that external peer review of this project is not necessary for the following reasons: (1) no influential scientific information will be produced by the study and (2) the risk was assessed as low and 3) the implementation costs are not likely to be above the External Peer Review requirement for projects costing more than \$45 million. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.

3. The district should post the PRP to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for posting on their web page, as well as providing a copy of the final approved PRP to the ECO-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site the names of Corps/Army employees should be removed in accordance with reference 1.b. above.

4. Conclusion. The ECO-PCX recommends the PRP for approval by MVD.

[REDACTED]  
Director, National Ecosystem Planning  
Center of Expertise

CF:

CEMVD-RB-T [REDACTED]  
CEMVR-PM-F [REDACTED]  
CEMVD-PD-SP [REDACTED]  
CEMVS-PM-F [REDACTED]

**PEER REVIEW PLAN**

**ALTON POOL ISLAND RESTORATION  
ILLINOIS RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM  
PROJECT INFORMATION REPORT**

## **1. Purpose and Requirements.**

a. This document outlines the peer review plan for Alton Pool Island Restoration Project Project Information Report. EC 1105-2-408 dated 31 May 2005 “Peer Review of Decision Documents” 1) establishes procedures to ensure the quality and credibility of Corps decision documents by adjusting and supplementing the review process and 2) requires that documents have a peer review plan. The Circular applies to all feasibility studies and reports and any other reports that lead to decision documents that require authorization by Congress.

b. The Circular outlines the requirement of the two review approaches (agency technical review (ATR) and independent external peer review (IEPR)) and provides guidance on Corps Planning Centers of Expertise (PCX) involvement in the approaches. This document addresses review of the decision document as it pertains to both approaches and planning coordination with the appropriate Center.

(1) ATR. Districts are responsible for reviewing the technical aspects of the decision documents through the ATR approach. ATR is a critical examination by a qualified person or team that was not involved in the day-to-day technical work that supports the decision document. ATR is intended to confirm that such work was done in accordance with clearly established professional principles, practices, codes, and criteria. In addition to technical review, documents should also be reviewed for their compliance with laws and policy. The Circular also requires that DrChecks (<https://www.projnet.org/projnet/>) be used to document all ATR comments, responses, and associated resolution accomplished.

(2) IEPR. The Circular added independent external peer review to the existing Corps review process. This approach does not replace the standard ATR process. The IEPR approach applies in special cases where the magnitude and risk of the project are such that a critical examination by a qualified person outside the Corps is necessary. IEPR can also be used where the information is based on novel methods, presents complex interpretation challenges, contains precedent-setting methods or models, or is likely to affect policy decisions that have a significant impact. The degree of independence required for technical review increases as the project magnitude and project risk increase.

(a) Projects with low magnitude and low risk may use a routine ATR.

(b) Projects with either high magnitude/low risk or low magnitude/high risk would require both Corps and outside reviewers on the ATR team to address the portions of the project that cause the project to rate high on the magnitude or risk scale.

(c) Projects with high magnitude and high risk require a routine ATR as well as an IEPR.

(3) PCX Coordination. The Circular outlines PCX coordination in conjunction with preparation of the review plan. Districts should prepare the plans in coordination with the appropriate PCX. The Corps PCX are responsible for the accomplishment and quality of ITR and EPR for decision documents covered by the Circular. Centers may conduct the review or manage the review to be conducted by others. Reviews will be assigned to the appropriate Center based on business programs. The Circular outlines alternative procedures to apply to decision documents. Each Center is required to post review plans to its website every three months as well as links to any reports that have been made public. The Office of Water Policy Review (OPWR) will consolidate the lists of all review plans and establish a mechanism for soliciting public feedback on the review plans.

2. **Project Description.**

a. Three islands in the Alton pool of the Illinois River are considered for this study – Fisher Island (river mile 38.8 L), Spar Island (river mile 39.8 L), and Wing Island (river mile 40.3 R). All islands are located in Pike County, IL. The project seeks to restore the degraded islands and side channels of Fisher, Spar and Wing. Potential measures include side channel dredging, revegetation, bullnose construction, off-bankline revetment, and enrichment of upstream island tips.

When resources allow additional information will be gathered on two additional islands, Moores and Meredosia, in the near vicinity of the others for future reference. Project activities will also be performed in conjunction with the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) Twin Island and Shoreline Protection project to take advantage of any cost efficiencies. These three islands will not be included in the report.

The primary objective of the Alton Pool Island Restoration project is restore and maintain the islands and side channels in the Alton Pool in order to increase the ecological health of the Illinois river. The expected ecological outcomes of this project include reduction in island erosion; improvement in vegetation on the upstream island tips; protection creation of deep water, off-channel aquatic habitat; and improvement in overall habitat diversity in the area.

b. Product Delivery Team. The product delivery team (PDT) is comprised of those individuals directly involved in the development of the decision document. Contact information and disciplines are listed below.

Last	First	Discipline	Phone (314-331-)	Email
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Cost Estimating	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		Specifications		
		Hydraulic Design		

	Environmental	
	Economics	
	Cultural	
	Water Quality	
	Geotechnical	
	Office of Counsel	
	Real Estate Acquisition	
	Contracting	
	Operations – Dredging	
	Real Estate Appraisal	
	Project Management	

c. Vertical Team. The Vertical Team includes District management, District Support Team (DST) and Review Integration Team (RIT) staff as well as members of the Planning of Community of Practice (PCoP). The District project manager is Jessica Nies, CEMVS-PM-F, 314-331-8482. DST manager for this project is Renee Turner, CEMVS-PD-SP, 601-634-5818. The RIT manager is John Lucyshyn, CECW-MVD, 202-761-4515. The PCoP contact is Susan Smith, CEMVD-PD-N, 601-634-5827.

d. Planning Models. To evaluate benefits the project will use the Aquatic Habitat Appraisal Guide (AHAG), and possibly the Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG), and the Functional Assessment Score (FAS). The certification of these models is still pending. These models are commonly used for assessing potential project benefits on most of the ecosystem restoration projects. Most teams using these models are comprised of a variety of individuals including the Corps, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and state agencies.

**3. ATR Plan.** As outlined above in paragraph 1.b. (1), the District is responsible for ensuring adequate technical review of decision documents. The responsible PDT District of this decision document is St. Louis District. The District recommended as the ATR District is yet to be determined and will be determined by the ECO PCX.

a. General. An ATR Manager shall be designated by the ECO PCX for the ATR process and will be a person from outside of MVD. The proposed ATR Manager for this project is TBD. The ATR Manager is responsible for providing information necessary for setting up the review, communicating with the Study Manager, providing a summary of critical review comments, collecting grammatical and editorial comments from the ATR team (ATRT), ensuring that the ATRT has adequate funding to perform the review, facilitating the resolution of the comments, and certifying that the ATR has been conducted and resolved in accordance with policy.

b. Team. The ATRT will be comprised of individuals from outside of MVS who have not been involved in the development of the decision document and will be chosen based on expertise, experience, and/or skills. The ATR team member for cost engineering will be obtained through the Walla Walla District. The members will roughly mirror the composition of the PDT. The ATRT members and their areas of expertise are to be determined.

Last	First	Discipline	Phone	Email
		ATR Manager/plan formulation		
		Plan Formulation		
		Geotechnical		
		Hydraulics/hydrology		
		NEPA/Biologist		
		Cost engineering (Walla Walla)		
		Model Reviewer		

c. Communication. The communication plan for the ATR is as follows:

(1) The team will use DrChecks to document the ATR process. An electronic version of the draft report and appendices in Word format shall be provided to the ATRT at least one business day prior to the start of the comment period.

(2) The PDT shall host an ATR kick-off meeting virtually to orient the ATRT during the first week of the comment period. If funds are not available for an on-site meeting, the PDT shall provide a presentation about the project, including photos of the site, for the team.

(3) The Study Manager shall inform the ATR manager when all responses have been entered into DrChecks and conduct an in progress review to summarize comment responses.

(4) A revised electronic version of the report and appendices with comments incorporated will be made available to the ATRT for use during back checking of the comments.

(5) Team members shall contact ATRT members or leader as appropriate to seek clarification of a comment's intent or provide clarification of information in the report. Discussions shall occur outside of DrChecks but a summary of discussions may be provided in the system.

(6) Reviewers will be encouraged to contact PDT members directly via email or phone to clarify any confusion. DrChecks shall not be used to post questions needed for clarification.



(7) The ATRT, PDT, and vertical team shall conduct an after action review (AAR) no later than two weeks after the policy guidance memo is received.

d. Funding. The Project Manager will work with the ATR manager to ensure that adequate funding is available and is commensurate with the level of review required. The current cost estimate for this review is to be determined.

e. Timing and Schedule.

(1) The ATR will begin once a recommended plan has been selected, the preliminary design is complete, and the environmental assessment has been performed.

(2) The PDT will review the draft report to ensure consistency across the disciplines and resolve any issues prior to the start of ATR.

(3) The ATR process for this document will follow the timeline below. Actual dates will be scheduled once the period draws closer. It is estimated that review of this document will be begin in the Fourth Quarter of FY08.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>
ATR of Draft Report Comment Period	Begin Week 1
Kickoff Meeting	Week 1
ATR Comments	Due Week 4
PDT Responses	Due Week 6
Responses back-check	Week 8
Certification	Week 10
Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB)	Week 14
AFB Policy Memo Issued	Week 18
After Action Review	NLT Week 20
Policy Guidance Memo	Week 23
Public Review of Draft Report	Begin Week 25
Final Report	Completed Week 40

f. Review.

(1) ATR Team responsibilities are as follows:

(a) Reviewers shall review the draft report to confirm that work was done in accordance with established professional principles, practices, codes, and criteria and for compliance with laws and policy. Comments on the report shall be submitted into DrChecks.

(b) Reviewers shall pay particular attention to one’s discipline but may also comment on other aspects as appropriate. Reviewers that do not have any significant comments pertaining to their assigned discipline shall provide a comment stating this.

(c) Grammatical and editorial comments shall not be submitted into DrChecks. Comments should be submitted to ATR manager via electronic mail using tracked changes feature in the Word document or as a hard copy mark-up. The ATR manager shall provide these comments to the Study Manager.

(d) Review comments shall contain these principal elements:

- A clear statement of the concern
- The basis for the concern, such as law, policy, or guidance
- Significance for the concern
- Specific actions needed to resolve the comment

(e) The “Critical” comment flag in DrChecks shall not be used unless the comment is discussed with the ATR manager and/or the Study Manager first.

(2) PDT Team responsibilities are as follows:

(a) The team shall review comments provided by the ATRT in DrChecks and provide responses to each comment using “*Concur*”, “*Non-Concur*”, or “*For Information Only*”. *Concur* responses shall state what action was taken and provide revised text from the report if applicable. *Non-Concur* responses shall state the basis for the disagreement or clarification of the concern and suggest actions to negotiate the closure of the comment.

(b) Team members shall contact the PDT and ATRT managers to discuss any “non-concur” responses prior to submission.

g. Resolution.

(1) Reviewers shall back check PDT responses to the review comments and either close the comment or attempt to resolve any disagreements. Conference calls shall be used to resolve any conflicting comments and responses.

(2) Reviewers may “agree to disagree” with any comment response and close the comment with a detailed explanation. ATRT members shall keep the ATR manager of problematic comments. The vertical team will be informed of any policy variations or other issues that may cause concern during Headquarter review.

h. Certification. To fully document the ATR process, a statement of technical review will be prepared. Certification by the ATR manager and the Study Manager will occur once issues raised by the reviewers have been addressed to the review team’s satisfaction. Indication of this concurrence will be documented by the signing of a certification statement

(Appendix A). A summary report of all comments and responses will follow the statement and accompany the report throughout the report approval process.

4. Independent External Peer Review Plan. This decision document will present the details of an ecosystem restoration study undertaken to restore and maintain the islands and side channels in the Alton Pool in order to increase the ecological health of the Illinois River as described in the main body of the PMP.

The potential for river rehabilitation, as well as the constraints, differ depending on the degree of anthropomorphic change and the many functions the river may currently serve. The Illinois River is a multi-use system, and multiple use conflicts are likely to continue to increase as river uses increase.

This project does not meet the IEPR standards outlined in the Circular.

a. Project Magnitude. The magnitude of this project is determined as low. The cost of the project is yet to be determined, but is expected not to exceed [REDACTED]. At this time, it is assumed that the amount of benefits accrued by the project will be worth the cost. The project is not considered complex because of the nature of the proposed measures and the fact that this type of work has been done extensively in the past.

b. Project Risk. This project is considered low risk overall. The preliminary idea for the project was discussed with private landowners and agencies during the alternatives development stage. Both supported the action, therefore risk of controversy is minimal. Proposed actions will occur outside of the navigational channel and risks to navigation are low. The methods chosen to be utilized have been successfully employed in similar situations on other rivers. They would not be considered novel concepts. Because the Illinois River is slow-flowing and because adequate size stone will be used, risk of structural failure is low. The purpose of the project is to improve habitat in the Illinois River. There is little to no risk of adverse environmental impacts.

A separate IEPR will not be conducted on the decision document and external members will not be part of the ATR team. The ATR, Public and Agency Review will serve as the main review approaches.

5. Public and Agency Review.

a. Public review of the document will occur after issuance of the AFB policy guidance memo and concurrence by HQUSACE that the document is ready for public release. As such, public comments other than those provided at any public meetings held during the planning process will not be available to the review team.

b. Public review of this document will begin approximately one month after the completion of the ATR process and policy guidance memo. The period will last 30 days as required by law.

c. The public review of necessary State or Federal permits will also take place during this period.

d. A formal State and Agency review will occur concurrently with the public review. However, it is anticipated that intensive coordination with these agencies will have occurred concurrent with the planning process. Possible public concern issues are landowner issues regarding use of private lands. Possible State and Agency issues are concern over project operation and maintenance. Possible coordinating parties' issues are not expected.

e. Upon completion of the review period, comments will be consolidated in a matrix and addressed, if needed. A comment resolution meeting will take place if needed to decide upon the best resolution of comments. A summary of the comments and resolutions will be included in the document.

6. PCX coordination. The appropriate PCX for this document is the Ecosystem Planning Center for Expertise, Mississippi Valley Division. This review plan will be submitted through the PDT District (MVS) Planning Chief, to the PCX Director, Rayford Wilbanks for approval. Since it was determined that this project is of low magnitude and low risk, an EPR will not be required. Upon approval by the MVD Commander, the peer review plan will be posted to the District website and linked to the PCX and HQUSACE websites. Any public comments on the review plan will be collected by the Office of Water Project Review (OWPR) and provided to the PDT District for resolution and incorporation if needed.

7. Approvals. The PDT will carry out the review plan as described. The Study Manager will submit the plan to the PDT District Planning Chief for approval.

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Project Manager, Alton Pool Island Restoration  
Product Delivery Team

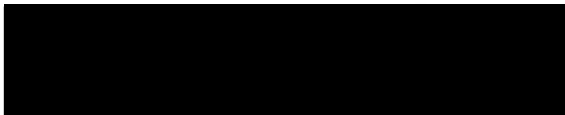
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Chief, Planning and Project Development Branch  
St. Louis District

**ILLINOIS RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM  
ALTON POOL ISLANDS RESTORATION  
WING AND FISHER ISLANDS  
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT  
WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**STATEMENT OF TECHNICAL REVIEW  
COMPLETION OF AGENCY TECHNICAL REVIEW**

St. Louis District has completed a Project Implementation Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment for the Alton Pool Islands (Wing and Fisher Islands) under the Illinois River Restoration Program. Notice is hereby given that an Agency Technical Review, that is appropriate to the level of risk and complexity inherent in the project, has been conducted as defined in the Review Plan. During the Agency Technical Review, compliance with established policy principles and procedures, utilizing justified and valid assumptions, was verified. This included review of: assumptions, methods, procedures, and material used in analyses; alternatives evaluated; the appropriateness of data used and level obtained; and reasonableness of the result, including whether the product meets the customer's needs consistent with law and existing Corps policy. The Agency Technical Review was accomplished by an independent team composed of staff from three districts. All comments resulting from the Agency Technical Review have been resolved.



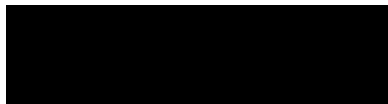
Ted Shanks Agency Technical Review Team

12/17/2010  
Date

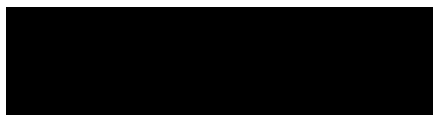
## CERTIFICATION OF AGENCY TECHNICAL REVIEW

The Memorandum for the Record, Subject: Agency Technical Review (ATR) Report, completed December 2010 includes all ATR comments and responses. Significant concerns and the explanation of the resolution are documented on the first five pages of this memorandum.

All concerns resulting from the Agency Technical Review of the Alton Pool Islands Restoration Project have been fully resolved.



Project Manager, Alton Pool Islands Restoration Project



Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch