



Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice/File No.
MVS-2000-670

Public Notice Date:
March 07, 2024

Expiration Date:
March 29, 2024

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS-2000-670

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters 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 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
Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

APPLICANT: Ms. Julianne Randazzo, Ameren Missouri, 1901 Chouteau Ave, PO Box 66149, MC 602, St. Louis, MO 63166-6149.

LOCATION: The project is located in the 05, Township 02 South, Range 11 West, St. Louis County, Missouri. The proposed activities would be conducted along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River between approximate river miles 160.9 to 161.7, above the confluence of the Ohio River.

AUTHORITY: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant requests to modify Permit Numbers P-1263, P-2203, and P-2262, issued previously to authorize the activities such as barge mooring facilities, mooring cells, and water intake structures. Conditions of the original permits stipulated that should the permittee desire to abandon the project without a good faith transfer, a modification of the previously issued permits must be obtained. Since the Ameren Meramec Energy Center is being decommissioned, the permittee is required to remove previously authorized infrastructure, however, they wish to leave certain infrastructure in place. Specifically, this request would allow certain selective demolition activities at the Ameren Meramec Energy Center, while keeping other permitted activities in place. The applicant utilized Department of the Army Nationwide Permit #3 (Maintenance Activities) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, to remove a barge loader structure and a discharge pipe. A permit was not required to remove the conveyor. The current proposal will include installation of a concrete plug within the existing caisson and the installation of additional solar powered navigation lights, as added safety features (utilizing Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act). No additional access roads or tree clearing are required for these construction activities. Previously authorized items that would be left in place include:

- All river cells/dolphins will remain in place on the barge loader.
- A solar navigation light will be installed on the downstream most cell/dolphin on the barge loader. Solar navigation lights will remain in place on the intake caisson structure.
- C-41 and Transfer House 7 structures will remain and will be used for re-purpose of fuel offloading.
- All river structures will remain unless otherwise noted.
- On the intake caisson structure, the trash rack steel will remain in place. The caisson will be capped with a concrete slab that is secured by a perimeter fence.

APPLICANT’S STATEMENT OF AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS TO AQUATIC RESOURCES:

The applicant has researched alternatives and has attempted to minimize impacts to the waters. Work is being performed during low water stages to further minimize impacts at the river’s edge.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached. In addition, the project plans may be viewed in more detail by visiting the Public Notice section of our website at: <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices/OpenNotices.aspx>

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective November 27, 2023, does not apply in this situation as this is a Section 10 only proposal.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC website was consulted to determine if federally listed species were present within the project area. That review discovered that the project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), & Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), the federally threatened Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens*), as well as the proposed endangered Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and the candidate Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). A No Affect Determination is proposed for the Eastern Massasauga, Decurrent False Aster, & Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid due to lack of habitat or no species present on site. A No Effect Determination is also proposed for bat species as there is no habitat (i.e. trees) at the site to be cleared. The Corps will coordinate with the USFWS via Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended, for effect determinations on listed species.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: No historic properties or shipwrecks are located in the project area. Archaeological surveys have been performed for areas within and adjacent to the project. Much of the project area is disturbed by construction and use of the facility. The infrastructure to be removed and to be abandoned are not historic in age. The in-water dolphins and mooring cells will be lit and maintained for safety. The St. Louis District found "No Historic Properties Affected" The St. Louis District will evaluate further information provided by the Tribes and the public in response to this public notice.

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 that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. 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. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered 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.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Tribes; and other interested parties 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 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. Comments are used 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. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Alan Edmondson, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, via e-mail at alan.r.edmondson@usace.army.mil.

To join our public notice mailing list and receive all of our Public Notices electronically, please email your request to: MVS-Regulatory@usace.army.mil and include your name, email, and phone number with your statement of request to be added to the Public Notice mailing list.

Robert S. Gramke

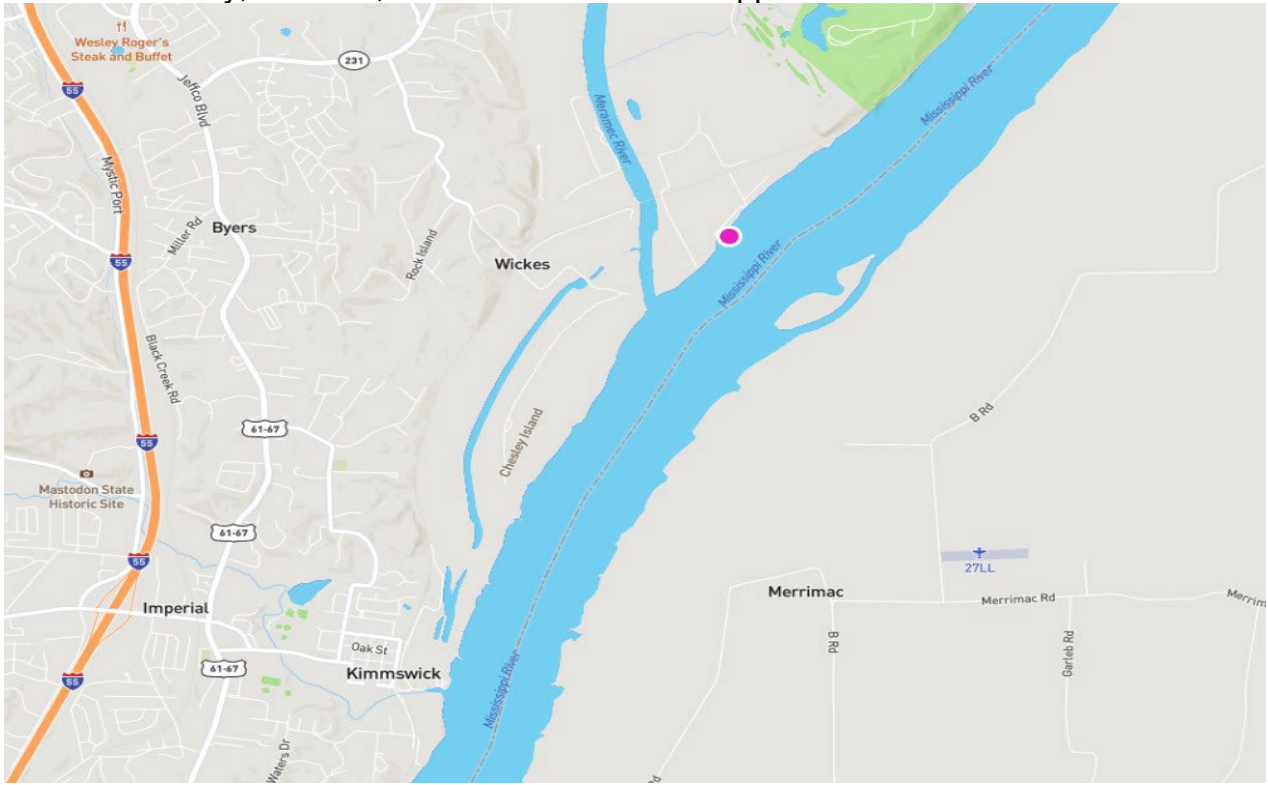
Robert S. Gramke
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

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

Ameren Meramec Plant Decommission (MVS-2000-670)
St. Louis County, Missouri, at the Meramec/Mississippi Confluence



Ameren Meramec Plant (Location)



Ameren Meramec Plant (Aerial)