



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, MO 63103-2833

Public Notice No.
P-2919 (2015-105)

Public Notice Date
March 9, 2015

Expiration Date
April 9, 2015

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (Corps) is soliciting comments on a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes a Clean Water Act Section 404 and a Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 evaluation, on river training construction activities (Regulating Works) for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and in the referenced web page link.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the Draft EA and described work should reference the Corps 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 (Danny McClendon)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

REQUESTOR: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, Engineering and Construction Branch and Project Management Branch, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis Missouri 63103-2833, c/o: Mr. Jasen Brown (314-331-8540) or Mr. Francis Walton (314-331-8102).

LOCATION: The Mosenthein Reach - Ivory Landing Phase V Regulating Works Project (Phase V project) is located in the Middle Mississippi River (MMR) between River Miles (RM) 160 and 162.5 in St. Louis County, Missouri and Monroe County, Illinois (see Attachments 1-2). The MMR is defined as that portion of the Mississippi River that lies between the confluences of the Ohio and Missouri Rivers.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Corps is proposing to construct the Phase V project as part of its Regulating Works Project. The Regulating Works Project utilizes bank stabilization and sediment management to maintain bank stability and ensure adequate navigation depth and width. Bank stabilization is achieved by revetments while sediment management is achieved by river training structures, i.e. dikes. Other activities performed to obtain the navigation channel are rock removal and construction dredging. The Project is maintained through dredging and any needed maintenance to already constructed features. The Phase V project is needed to address repetitive channel maintenance dredging issues in the project area. Frequent dredging has been required in the area in order to address navigation channel depth and width issues. The Phase V project proposes to construct four bendway weirs on the right descending bank and three dikes on the left descending bank between RMs 160 and 162.5. The

purpose of the Phase V project is to focus the energy of the water in order to reduce dredging and maintain a safe and dependable navigation channel. Fill material would consist of quarry run limestone consisting of graded “A” stone. Stone (165,100 tons) required for construction would be obtained from commercial stone quarries in the vicinity of the work area capable of producing stone which meets USACE specifications. Placement of material would be accomplished by track hoe or dragline crane. Stone would be transported to placement sites by barges. All construction would be accomplished from the river and all work would be performed below ordinary high water (see Attachments 3-5). The proposed work would consist of the following: Construction of three rootless dikes between river miles 160.1 and 160.7 (L) (approximately 330, 500, and 615 linear feet with Top elevation of 384 feet (NAVD 88) for the downstream two and 385 ft (NAVD88) for the upper dike; and Placement of four weirs between river miles 162.0 – 162.3 (approximately 520, 645, 720 and 700 linear feet with Top elevation of approximately 351 feet (NAVD 88)).

Table 1. Work to be Completed by River Mile.

Middle Mississippi Reach	Site Specific Reach	River Mile	Structure	Volume (tons)	Approximate Length
Mosenthein/Ivory Landing Phase V (RM 195-154)	Mouth of the Meramec (RM 163-161)	162.30R	Weir	8,200	520
		162.20R	Weir	7,700	645
		162.10R	Weir	12,500	720
		162.00R	Weir	12,100	700
		161.70L	Rootless Dike	30,500	615
		161.50L	Rootless Dike Extension	36,900	500
		161.10L	Rootless Dike Extension	57,200	330
				165,100	

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and multiple navigation industry groups were involved in the extensive coordination and planning of the Phase V project. No significant impacts to the human environment are anticipated for the Phase V project. Therefore, no additional avoidance, minimization and/or compensation measures are proposed at this time.

The Corps Project Management Branch has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes a Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 evaluation, and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed activities. These documents are available for electronic viewing (under Environmental Assessments, Assessments, Mosenthein Reach - Ivory Landing Phase V Draft EA/w Appendices) at:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProgramsProjectManagement/PlansReports.aspx>

A hard copy of the Draft EA and related documents are also available for viewing at the Corps Project Management Branch in the Robert A. Young Federal Building, at 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri. Further project details, including drawings, surveys and maps are available by viewing the above referenced Draft EA webpage link.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Danny McClendon, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at electronic mail address: danny.d.mcclendon@usace.army.mil

AUTHORITY: The authority for the proposed project is described in the Draft EA. The review for this project has been and will be processed under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and any and all pertinent regulations.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: 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, 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, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps.

Activities occurring in Illinois are being reviewed by 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/. 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, with copy provided to the Corps.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources shall evaluate the activity for state approval of the proposed work in accordance with "an Act in relation to the regulation of the rivers, lakes and streams of the State of Illinois" (Ill. Rev. Stat.; Chap. 19, par 52 et seq.). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, Illinois, 62702-1271, with copy provided to the Corps.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held with respect to this project. Request for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding the public hearing.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: – Based on coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 13 federally threatened or endangered species could potentially be found in the area. The 13 species, federal protection status, and habitat can be found in Table 3. No critical habitat is located in the work area.

Table 2. Federally listed threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the work area.

Species	Federal Status	Habitat
Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>)	Endangered	Caves
Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	Endangered	Hibernacula: Caves and mines; Maternity and foraging habitat: small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests
Northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Proposed Endangered	Hibernacula: Caves and mines; Maternity and foraging habitat: the understory of forested hillsides and ridges, small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests.

Pallid sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>)	Endangered	Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.
Least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>)	Endangered	Bare alluvial and dredged spoil islands.
Decurrent false aster (<i>Boltonia decurrens</i>)	Threatened	Disturbed alluvial soils.
Illinois cave amphipod (<i>Gammarus acherondytes</i>)	Endangered	Cave streams in Illinois sinkhole plain.
Mead's milkweed (<i>Asclepias meadii</i>)	Threatened	Moderately wet (mesic) to moderately dry (dry mesic) upland tallgrass prairie or glade/barren habitat.
Running buffalo clover (<i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i>)	Endangered	This species may be found in partially shaded woodlots, mowed areas and along streams and trails.
Pink mucket (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>)	Endangered	This species is found in mud and sand and in shallow riffles and shoals swept free of silt in major rivers and tributaries.
Scaleshell mussel (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>)	Endangered	Lives in medium-sized and large rivers with stable channels and good water quality.
Sheepnose mussel (<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>)	Endangered	Rivers and streams.
Spectaclecase mussel (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>)	Endangered	Spectaclecase mussels are found in large rivers where they live in areas sheltered from the main force of the river current.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Compared to some other segments of the Mississippi River, the course of Mosenstein Reach has remained relatively consistent for the last 150 years. As with most of the river in the American Bottom, there has been narrowing with the accretion of land on the Illinois side. By 1908, however, the Illinois bankline stabilized near its current position and the only major change to the Missouri bank was the accretion of land below the Missouri bluffs at the mouth of the Meramec River. All the proposed river training structures are constructed via barge, without recourse to land access; therefore, any potential effects are limited to submerged cultural resources. Primary among these are historic period shipwrecks. Given the continual river flow and associated sedimentary erosion, deposition, and reworking, it is highly unlikely that any more ephemeral cultural material remains on the river bed. During the summer of 1988 when the Mississippi River was at very low levels, the Corps conducted an aerial survey of exposed wrecks between Saverton, Missouri, and the mouth of the Ohio River. The nearest wrecks to the project area were sighted over two miles away, both upstream and downstream. Most of the proposed structures are next to dredged channels, which probably resulted in channel slump and sediment reworking in the locations. The Mosenstein Reach has been regularly dredged over the years, and it is likely that any unrecorded wreckage located in the path of those dredge events was destroyed and removed during the process. The Corps has been conducting such activities to deepen the navigation channel of the Middle Mississippi since the end of the 19th century. The river bed in the project area is surveyed every one to two years, with the latest survey having been completed on May 14, 2013. No topographic anomalies suggesting wrecks are visible on the resulting bathymetric map. Both the Illinois and Missouri State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) concurred that the proposed

actions would not affect listed or eligible historic properties. Twenty-eight federally recognized tribes affiliated with the St. Louis District were consulted and no objections to the project have been raised at this time.

EVALUATION: Pursuant to NEPA, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and accompanying regulations, the Corps has evaluated the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That evaluation and any decision made from comments received 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 Corps 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 as part of the EA process and the Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 evaluation. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in making a final decision on the proposed action. To make this decision, comments are considered to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments will be considered in the preparation of a Final Environmental Assessment, Statement of Findings and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also considered to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

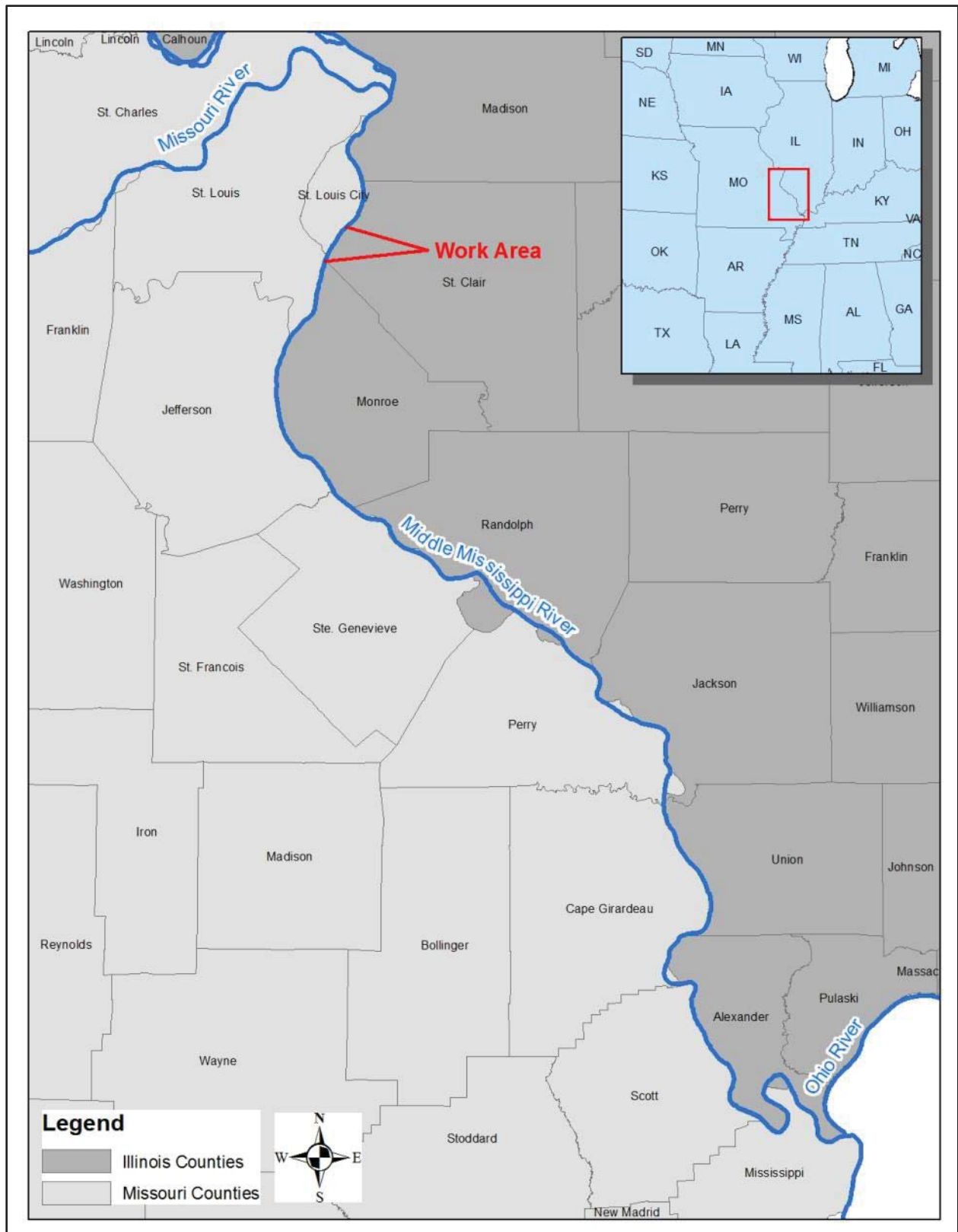
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DANNY D. MCCLENDON
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

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



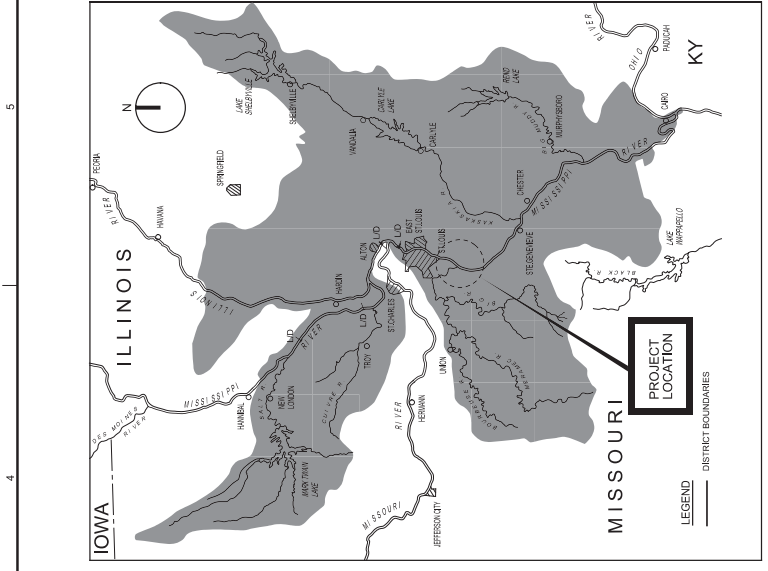


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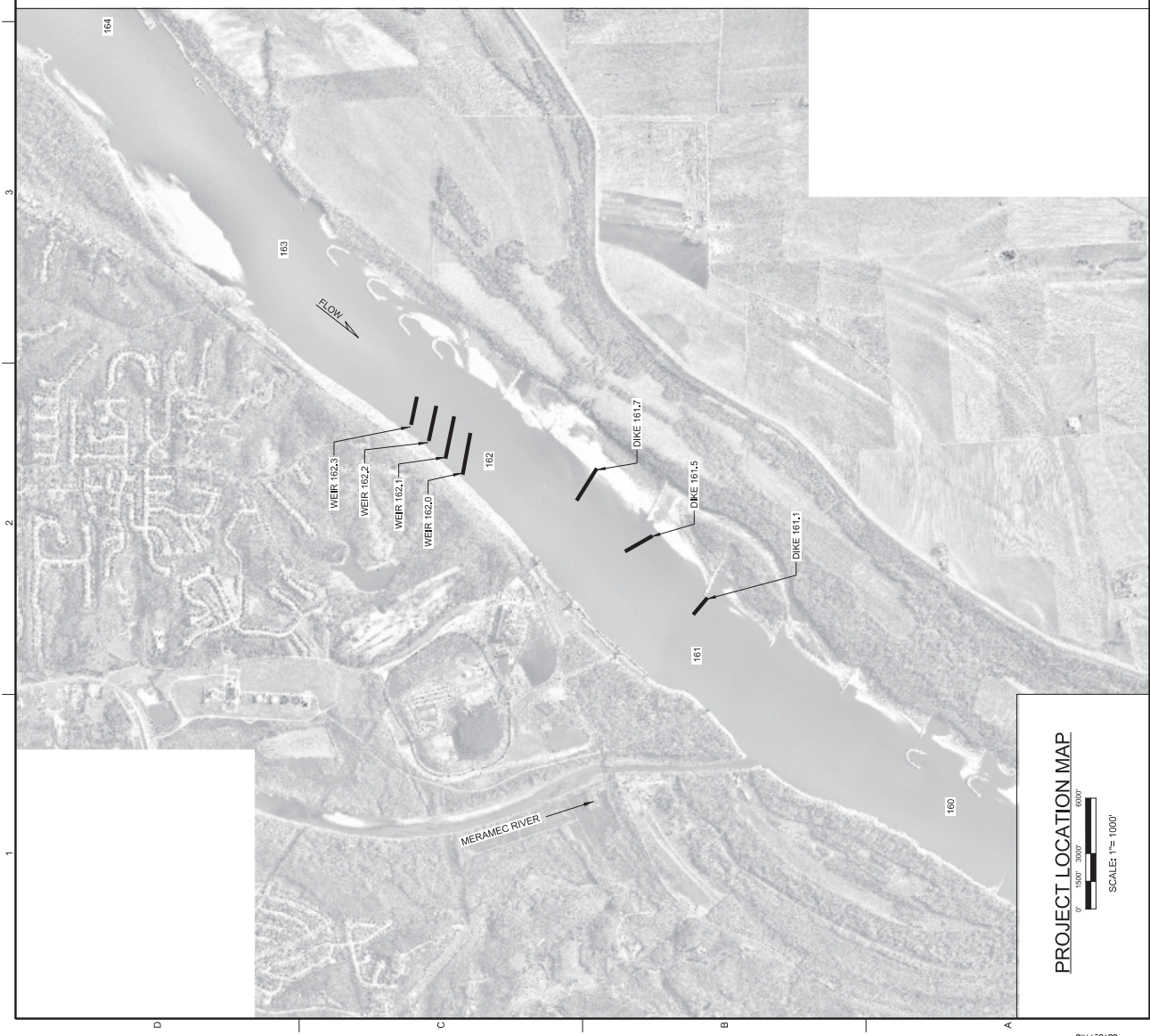
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**MOSETHIEN - IVORY LANDING PHASE 5
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