

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 No.

P-2854

Public Notice Date

January 24, 2014

Expiration Date

February 14, 2014

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS-2013-631

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
ATTN: Alan Edmondson

APPLICANT: Illinois Department of Transportation, Region 6, Attn: Dennis O'Connell, 126 East Ash Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62704

LOCATION: The proposed project site is located at Meredosia, in Pike and Morgan Counties, Illinois. The proposed work would occur on both sides, and over, the Illinois River in Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 1 West.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Illinois Department of Transportation proposes to replace the bridge that spans the Illinois River in Meredosia, Illinois. The project involves removing and replacing the existing bridge at Meredosia carrying Illinois Route 104 over the Illinois River in Morgan County. A new structure will be built approximately 256 feet north (upstream) from the existing bridge. Once the new structure is built, the old structure will be removed in accordance with an approved removal plan reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, and River Industry Action Committee (RIAC). The purpose of the project is to provide transportation facility across the Illinois River that is reliable and meets current design standards. The project shall maintain IL Route 104 connectivity across the river, and also make accommodation for bicycle traffic, meet the needs of the river traffic, and meet the local and regional economic needs.

The impacts to waters of the United States (WOUS) include temporary impacts to 0.85 acres, and permanent impacts to 2.17 acres, for a respective total of 3.02 acres. Pier construction was implemented in lieu of fill where appropriate.

Mitigation: A reasonable range of alternatives have been identified and considered for the project. Alternatives include those that are practical or feasible from a technical, environmental, and economic standpoint. Given the purpose and need of the project the proposed impacts were avoided to the maximum extent practicable; minimized, and the unavoidable impacts are proposed to be compensated for in the mitigation plan.

The applicant has proposed to mitigate for project impacts at 1.5:1 ratio at the pre-approved LaGrange Mitigation Bank. The Corps will make a determination of appropriate mitigation, upon review of all submitted information.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See Attachments 1 to 3.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Alan Edmondson, Illinois Section Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8811. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to alan.r.edmondson@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: This public notice also provides documentation to 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/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. 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

A copy of all written comments should also be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

Waters of the State Evaluation: The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources shall evaluate the activity for state approval of the proposed work pursuant to an Act in Relation to the Regulation of the Rivers, Lakes and Streams of the State of Illinois (615 ILCS 5). Written comments concerning possible impacts to the waters of Illinois should be addressed to Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271, with copy provided to the Corps. Inquiries may be directed to the Office of Water Resources at 217/782-3863.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: 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.

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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed would not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, 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. 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.

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 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.

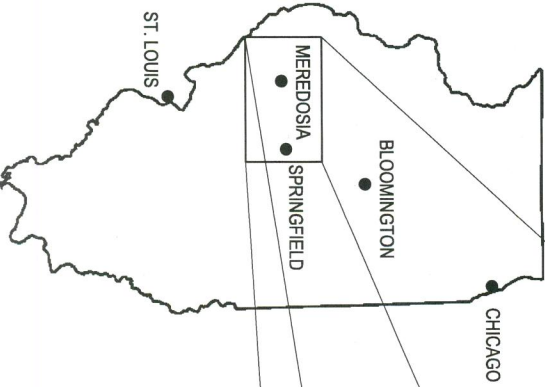
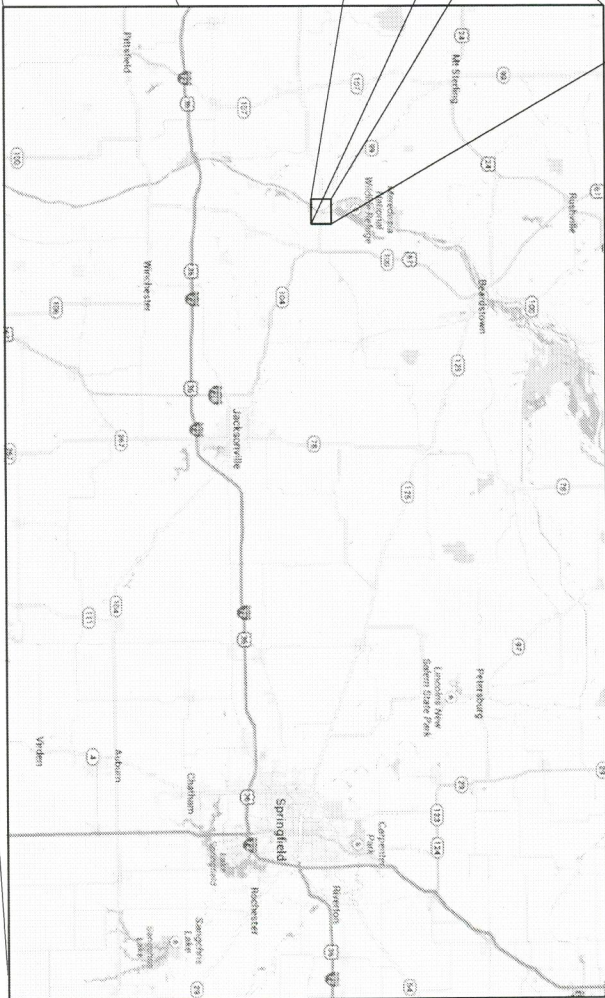
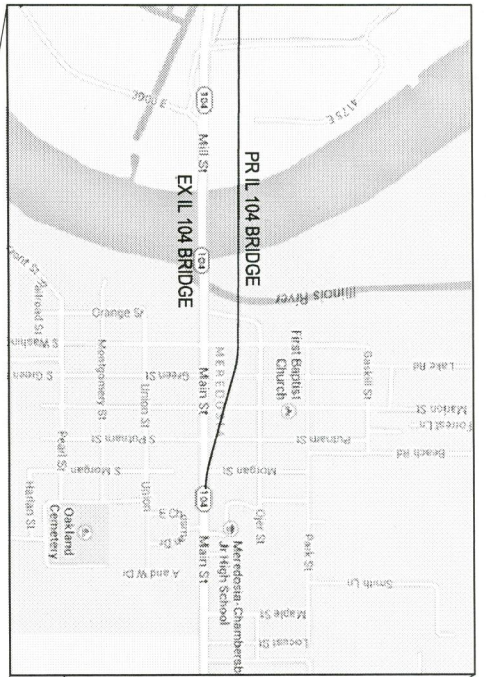
In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.


DANNY D. MCCLENDON
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.



LOCATIONS MAPS

PROPOSED ILLINOIS ROUTE 104 BRIDGE
OVER ILLINOIS RIVER (PUBLIC)
MILE 71.4 AT MEREDOSIA MORGAN COUNTY, IL
APPLICATION BY ILLINOIS DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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