

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-2862

Public Notice Date

February 7, 2014

Expiration Date

February 27, 2014

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

ORM Number: 2013-432

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 to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be e-mailed to charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil or mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (<u>Charles Frerker</u>) 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

- 1. Mr. Greg Dolbeare of SIMCO (Sny Island Merchandising Company), Post Office Box 517, Louisiana, Missouri 63353, (217) 741-8054, has applied to:
- a. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Regulatory Branch to create a barge loading facility and grain elevator along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximate river mile 282.3. The operation, known as the Dolbeare Grain Transfer Facility, involves the proposed construction of six 200,000 bushel capacity grain silos with associated weigh scales, grain pits for truck unloading, a conveyor system to the river, an office and roadways. The landward features would primarily be constructed in an existing cleared area adjacent to the Sny Levee system. No wetlands on the landward side of the levee would be impacted. An approximate 900-foot-long covered conveyor supported by piers would cross over the Sny Levee and through a corridor to be cleared on a peninsula in the Mississippi River before being supported on elevated infrastructure constructed on a 35' x 110' floating deck barge. A total of four, 6-foot-diameter dolphins/piers would be installed in the same alignment as the permanent floating deck barge to provide secure buffer and mooring structures while barges are loaded. Two of the dolphin/pier structures would be installed immediately upstream and two immediately downstream of the permanent floating deck barge.

A permanent 10' x 800' corridor would be required for the conveyor path. Permanent wetland impacts caused by the conveyor pier supports would be approximately 1,200 square feet or 0.028 acre. Pier supports for the conveyor are to be driven steel pipe or wood piling, up to 12 inches in diameter. There would be as many as four pilings per pier support structure. A temporary rock fill land bridge measuring approximately 20 feet wide at the top, with 2 or 3 to 1 side slopes would be constructed across the slough area between the peninsula and land to provide construction equipment access. The temporary land bridge rock material would be removed in its entirety and the area restored to preproject conditions following the completion of construction activities. An approximate 40' x 280', or 0.23 acre, wooded wetland corridor would be cleared on the peninsula to create a temporary access route for conveyor construction purposes. The applicant proposes to allow the temporary construction route to naturally revegetate with riparian tree species common to the area, such as silver maple, cottonwood, willow and other species. The applicant anticipates the need to conduct periodic tree limb pruning in the permanent conveyor route. The purpose of the conveyor is to transport grain from landward storage silos to the barge-loading feature.

The typical barge loading process would be accomplished by using the contracted service of Wayne B. Smith, Inc., to deliver an empty barge to the loading facility where it would be filled with grain in less than 12 hours. Another empty barge would be moored to the dolphin/pier structure situated behind the barge being filled. The filled barge would be transported to Wayne B. Smith's fleeting area for later shipment to its intended destination. The river is slightly over 1,000 yards wide at the project site. The navigation channel is located near the opposite riverbank in the state of Missouri. The distance from the proposed loading dock to the typical navigation route is approximately 650 yards away. The project purpose is to increase efficiency of shipping locally raised grain to the river transport market. The proposed landward facility address is 13660 State Highway 54, located in the eastern half of Section 13, Township 7 South, Range 6 West, near Rockport, in Pike County, Illinois. The river features would be installed near the left descending bank of the Mississippi River at approximate river mile 282.3. (See Attached Figures).

b. 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, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. (See paragraph 11 of this public notice for Corps address).

- c. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources 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.
- 2. Based on our initial processing of the applicants' proposal, the action is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.
- 3. This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- 4. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.
- 5. The proposed project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), higgins eye pearlymussel (*Lampsilis higginsi*), spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), the federally endangered decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) and the eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*). The applicant will be required to perform a mussel survey in the proposed river terminal vicinity to determine if the project potentially impacts a listed species or habitat. In order to supplement our mussel survey requirement, this public notice also requests comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals to determine the properties potential effect on listed species and their habitats.

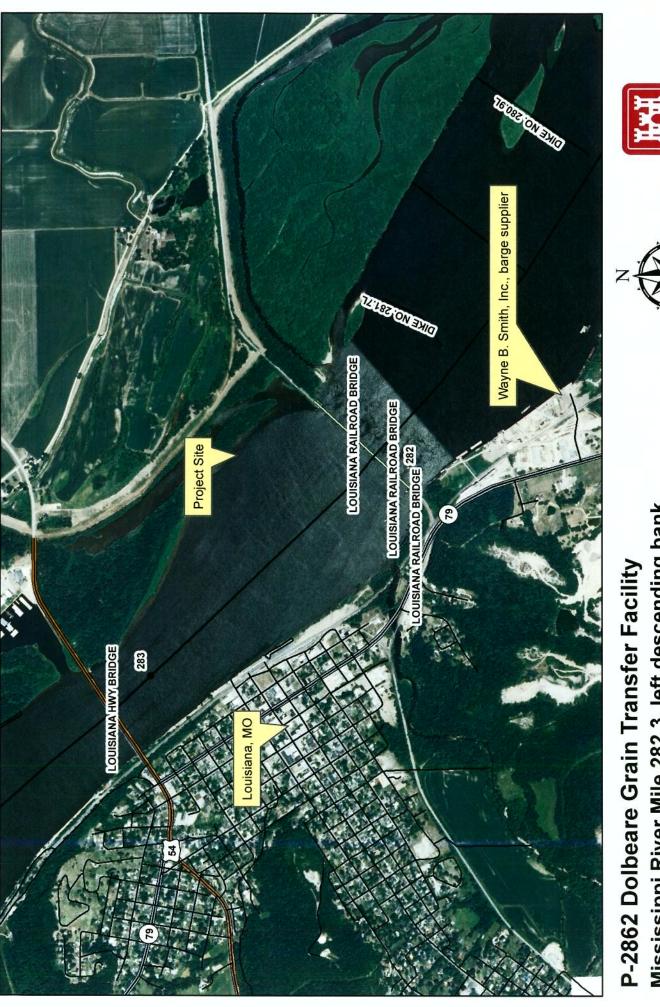
- 6. Interested parties, particularly navigation interests, Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local associations whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before February 27, 2014. The decision whether to authorize the activity will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain 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. Project authorization will be granted only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.
- 7. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.
- 8. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice must be submitted in writing and sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, Attn: OD-F (Frerker), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to *charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil*, on or before **February 27, 2014**.
- 9. 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 posted for 21 days.



Mississippi River Mile 282.3, left descending bank Rockport, Pike County, Illinois

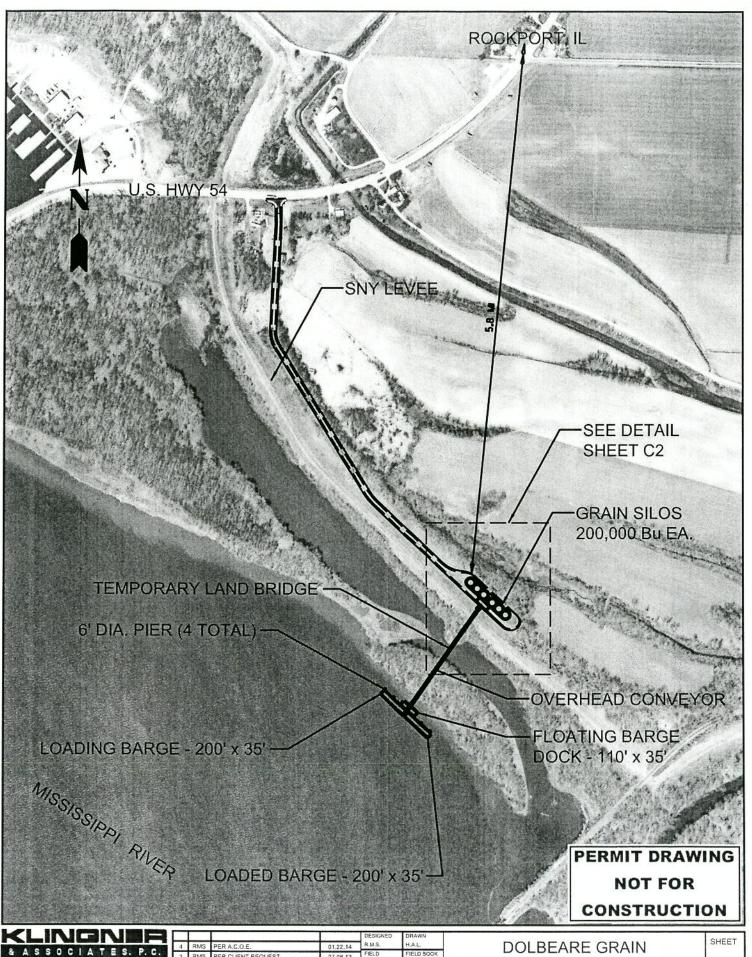


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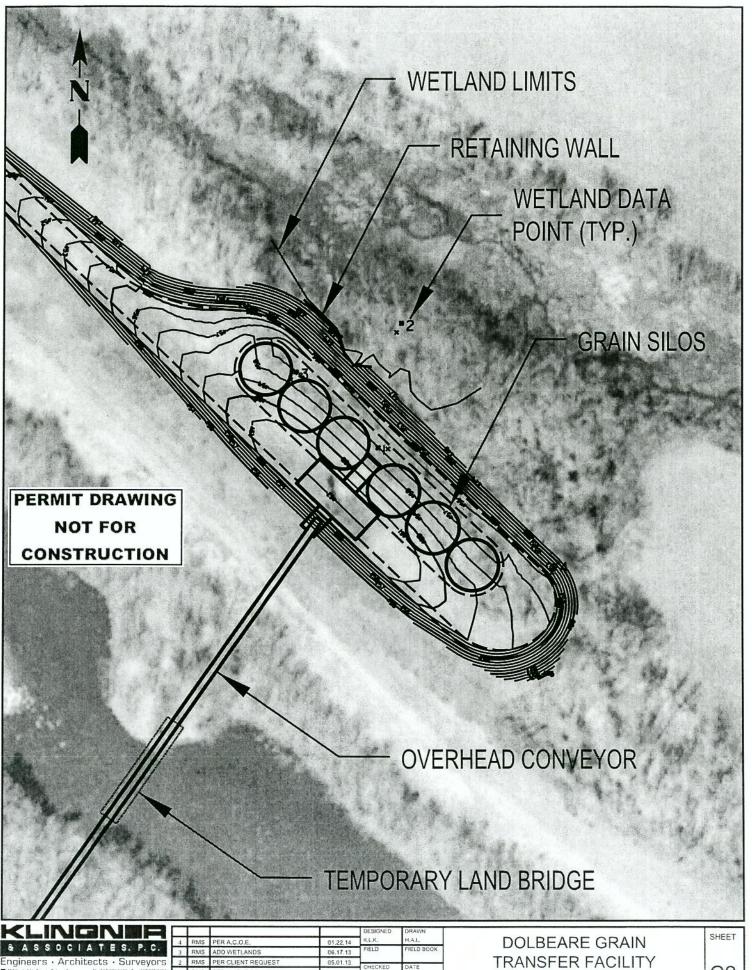






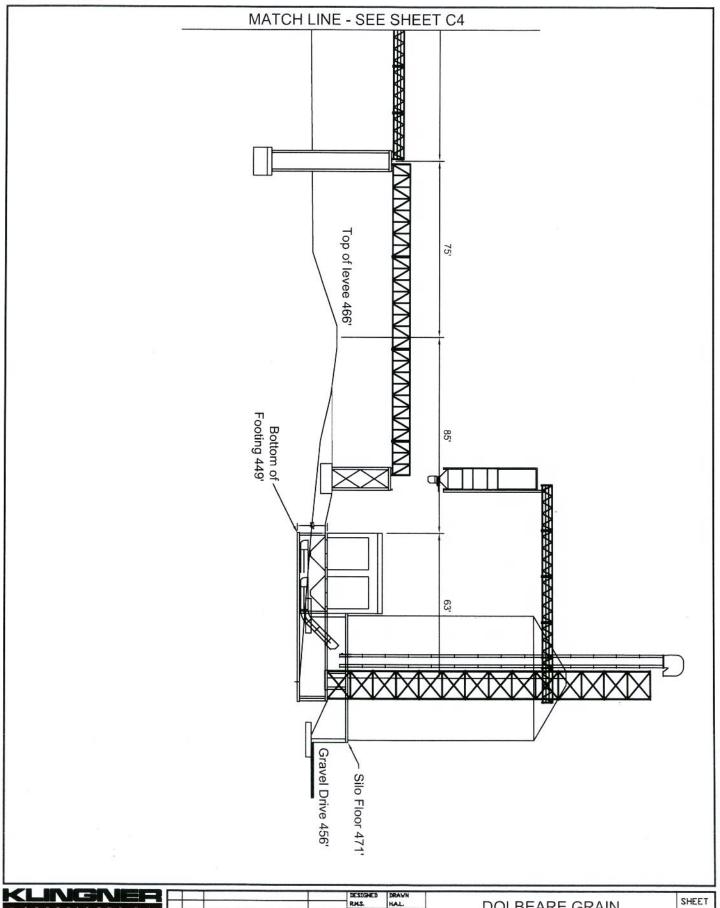
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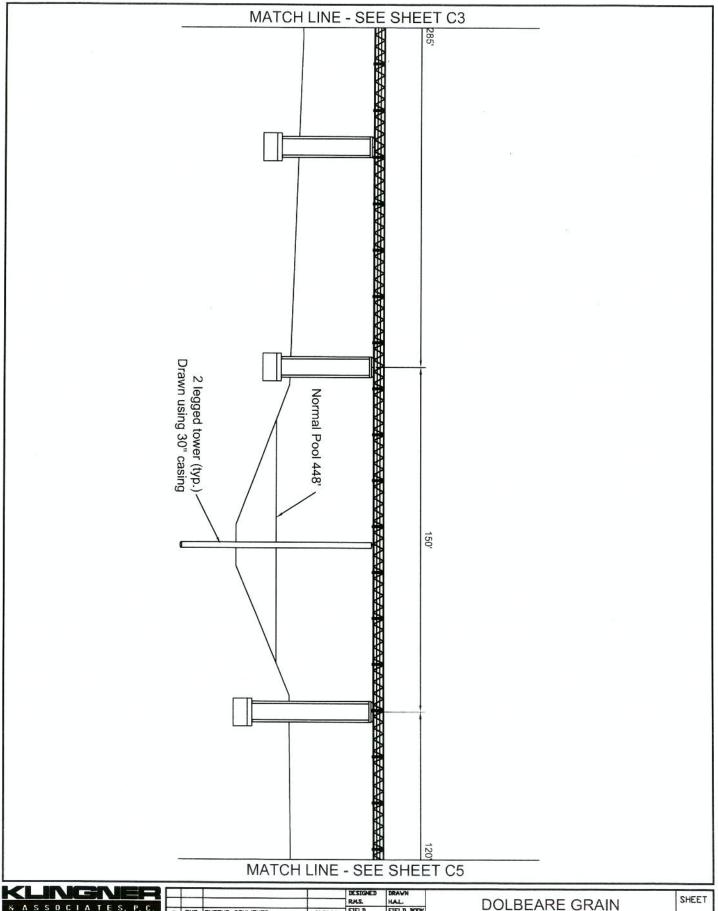
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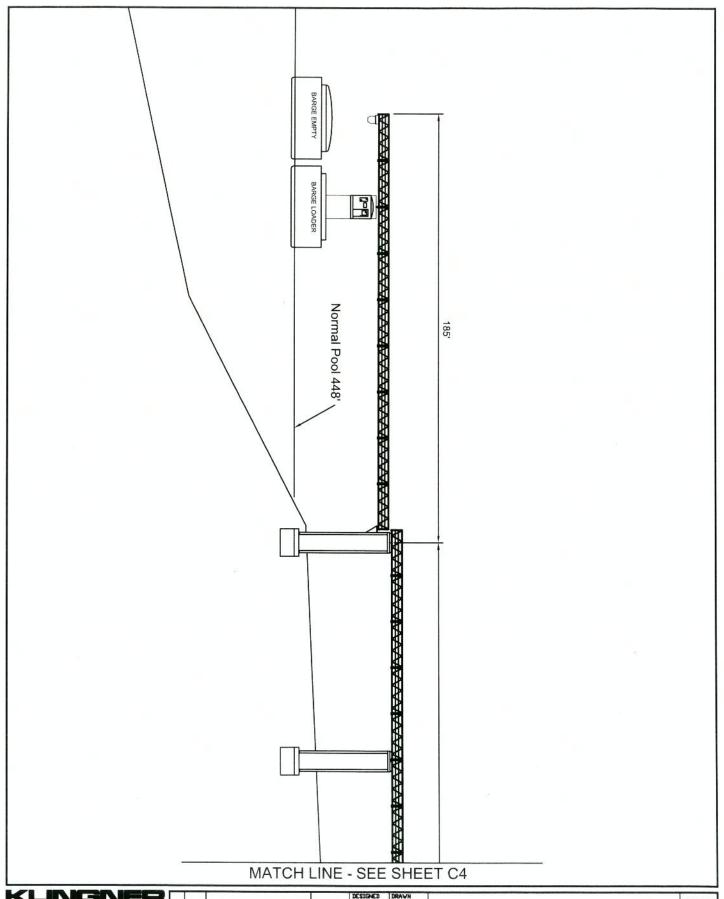
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S ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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