



**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833**

Public Notice

Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 Spruce Street

Public Notice No.
P-2951
Public Notice Date
June 14, 2016

Expiration Date
July 5, 2016

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: 2016-383

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received to conduct periodic maintenance dredging under and directly bordering vessels within the existing Alton Casino complex, as described below and shown on the attached figures.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: 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 mailed to the following address:

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

APPLICANT: Alton Casino LLC, c/o: Mr. Denny Crank, #1 Piassa Street, Alton, Illinois 62002.

LOCATION: The activity site is located near #1 Piassa Street, at latitude 38.88959, longitude -90.18711, in Alton, Madison County, Illinois, along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximate river mile 203.0 (See Attachment).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant requests authorization to periodically remove accumulated sediment deposits from beneath and directly adjacent to the vessels within the Alton Casino complex. Dredging up to 15,000 cubic yards annually would only occur on an as needed basis to avoid jeopardizing the structural integrity of vessel hulls, which ultimately maintains safe conditions for casino patrons. The need for past dredging has been rare. When river elevations in the Alton Pool reach extreme low conditions and/or years of river sediment accumulations are present; removal of sediment is a necessity. Mechanized equipment, such as a suction dredge, would be used to remove the accumulations. The applicant proposes to use an upland disposal basin, if nearby sites are available at the time of required dredging. The use of river disposal is also requested as an alternative when upland disposal areas are not available. River disposal would return the same sediment that the river deposited beneath the casino facility. River disposal would be accomplished by either discharging the material into hopper barges and transporting it directly across the river channel to a location in the State of Missouri, near the edge of the river thalweg or discharging through ballasted dredge disposal pipe ran along the bed of the Mississippi River to the edge of the river thalweg, in the State of Missouri.

The river discharge location would be located at approximate river mile 203.0, in St. Charles County, Missouri.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting the applicant, Mr. Denny Crank with Alton Casino LLC at 618-474-7804, or Mr. Charles Frerker, Regulatory Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (314) 331-8583 or at electronic mail address: charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: By issuance of this public notice, the project plans are considered submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program for state certification of the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Pollution Control Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

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 this application. Request for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding the public hearing.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed project is within range of the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), spectacled case (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stolonifereum*) and the threatened decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*), east prairie fringe orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) and the northern long eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed accumulated sediment removal and disposal activities are not likely to adversely affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are hereby solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.


CULTURAL RESOURCES: The St. Louis District will evaluate any information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice. In addition, issuance of this proposed action would prompt renewal of previously established requirements to avoid and protect a known cultural resource site in vicinity of the project area. Additional reconnaissance surveys of the project area may be required if warranted.

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 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 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 these proposed activities. 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.


for Danny D. McClendon
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

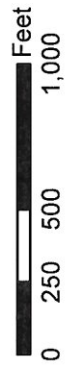
NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

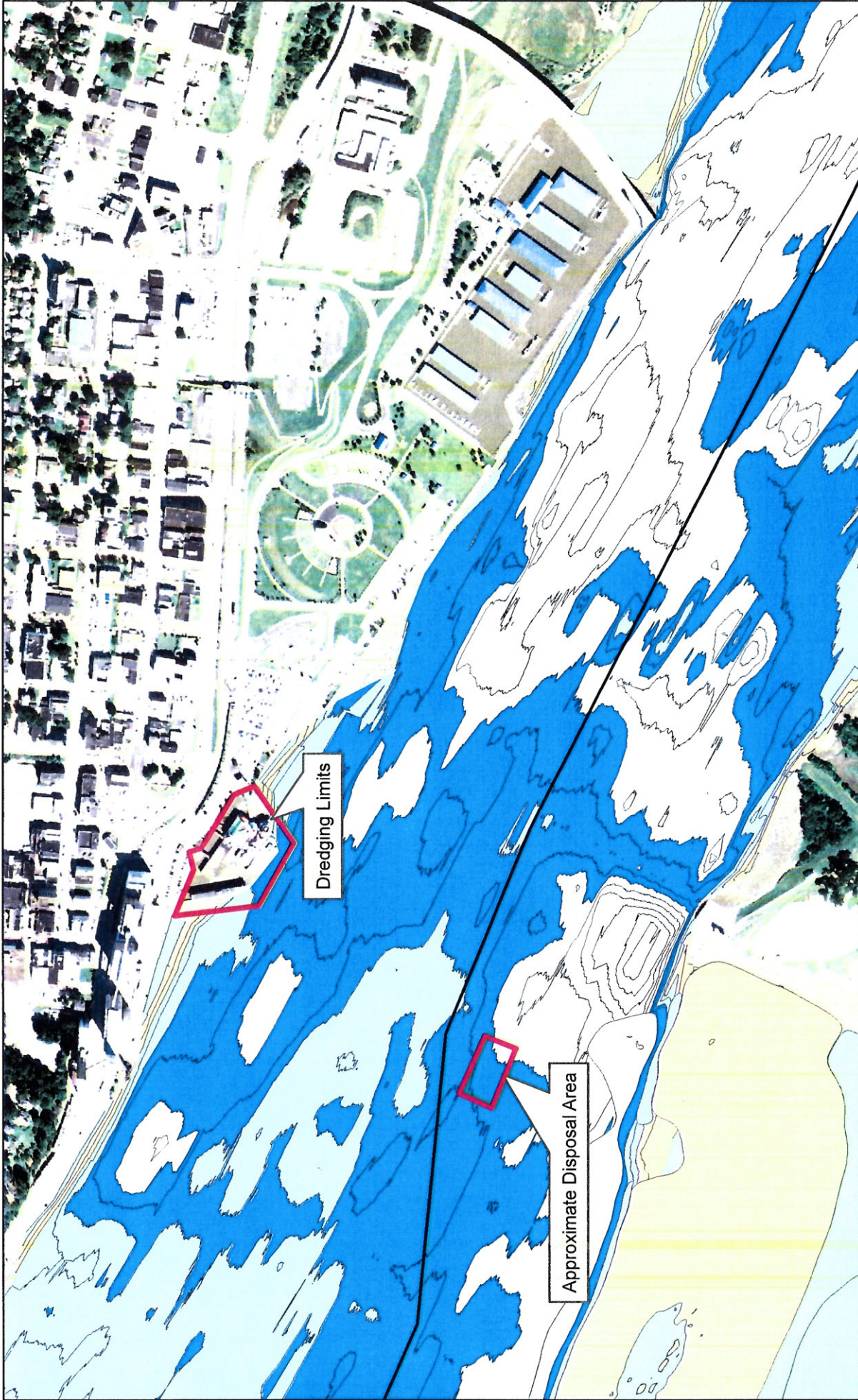
It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.



P-2951

**Alton Casino Dredging
Alton, Madison Co., Illinois**

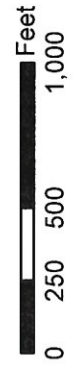




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Alton Casino Dredging

Alton, Madison Co., Illinois



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