



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

Public Notice

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

Public Notice No.

P-2982

Public Notice Date

February 15, 2017

Expiration Date

March 6, 2017

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: 1984-35579

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit renewal request has been received for Department of the Army authorization to conduct periodic maintenance dredging activities in the Kaskaskia River, as described below.

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

APPLICANTS: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia River Project Office, c/o: Mr. Robert Wilkins, 801 Lake Road, Carlyle, Illinois 62231 (618-594-2484) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area Office, c/o: Mic Middleton, 10981 Conservation Road, Baldwin, Illinois 62217 (618-785-2555).

LOCATION: Maintenance dredging activities are proposed between approximate Kaskaskia River miles 28.4 to 35.9, located between New Athens and Fayetteville, in St. Clair County, Illinois.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This permit renewal request is associated with activities to remove accumulated sediment within the Kaskaskia River on a periodic basis to maintain sufficient depth. The upper reach of the project area starts at approximate river mile 35.9, near Fayetteville, Illinois. This area is known to be a heavier depositional site where channel maintenance dredging is periodically required. The deposition area extends downstream to approximate river mile 28.4, located near New Athens, Illinois. Channel maintenance activities would be conducted with a 12 to 14 inch suction dredge or clam shell excavator. If a suction dredge is utilized, the dredge material would be contained within an attached dredge disposal pipe that would transport the material to existing IDNR dredge disposal basins located adjacent to the river channel. If a clam shell excavator is utilized, the material would be contained within the bucket and placed in hopper barges for shipment to the same existing IDNR dredge disposal basins or other upland disposal areas owned by the Kaskaskia Regional Port District. Dredging or excavation activities would be conducted to maintain sufficient navigation depth within the described river reach. The project area is shown on the attachment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Charles Frerker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Project Manager, at electronic mail address: *charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil*

AUTHORITY: The proposal will be processed under the provision of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors 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 ACT: The proposed project is within range of the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Illinois cave amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*) and the threatened decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) and eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthaera leucophaea*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed permit renewal activities are not likely to affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited by this public notice from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Leaders and the public in response to this public notice. In addition, we may require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to authorize the activity 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 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 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 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 other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of Statement of Findings 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
for Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachment

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

