



**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-2907 & P-2908

Public Notice Date

December 11, 2014

Expiration Date

December 31, 2014

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

ORM Number: 2014-759

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

1. Holcim (US) Inc., represented by Ms. Christine Bragge, 2942 US Highway 61, Bloomsdale, Missouri 63627, (636) 524-8154, has applied for a Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act permit to add 8 barges to Holcim's existing lower fleet (originally permitted by P-2259) and to create an additional 20 barge fleet approximately 400 feet downstream of the existing lower fleet. The additional barges are needed to enhance crew safety, flexibility and operational efficiency. The additional 26 fleeting spaces would reduce the additional barge shifting activities the applicant must perform due to a lack of adequate fleeting spaces. The additional barge fleeting spaces would decrease hours in which the tow vessel is dedicated to manage the fleet, as well as decreasing fuel consumption and emissions. The applicant states they experienced near record low water in the 2013 season that rendered their upper fleet #1 useless. Allowing the proposed additional fleeting spaces would also provide greater flexibility to manage barge operations during extreme river conditions. For easier identification and comment tracking purposes, each fleeting proposal is assigned an individual permit "P number."

The 8 additional barges proposed in the existing 32 barge lower fleet is assigned pending permit number **P-2907**. The existing fleet is currently permitted for a 5 long by 4 wide arrangement in the upper portion and a 4 long by 3 wide arrangement in the lower portion. 4 of the 8 proposed barges would be installed in a single row parallel to the riverward side of existing barges currently in the 3 wide fleet configuration. This would make the fleet an equal 4 wide configuration from bow to stern. The remaining barges would be installed in a 4 wide configuration to add a 10th row to the existing 9 barge long fleet configuration. The additional barges would change the existing configuration into a 10 long by 4 wide fleet. The fleet would continue to be held in place by anchor piles, chains and connections along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximate river mile 138.4, in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri.

The proposed 20 barge fleet is assigned pending permit number **P-2908**. This fleet would be installed approximately 400 feet downstream of the existing lower fleet in a 5 long by 4 wide configuration. Existing anchor pile, chain and cable for mooring buoy attachment would be used in addition to the installation of two concrete deadman structures to hold the fleet in place. This fleet would be located along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximate river mile 138.0, in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri. See attachments for more detail.

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**.

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*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), and the proposed as endangered Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed fleet expansion activities at an established fleeting area and location is not likely to adversely affect species designated as endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to supplement our determination, this public notice solicits comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

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 **December 31, 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 **December 31, 2014**.

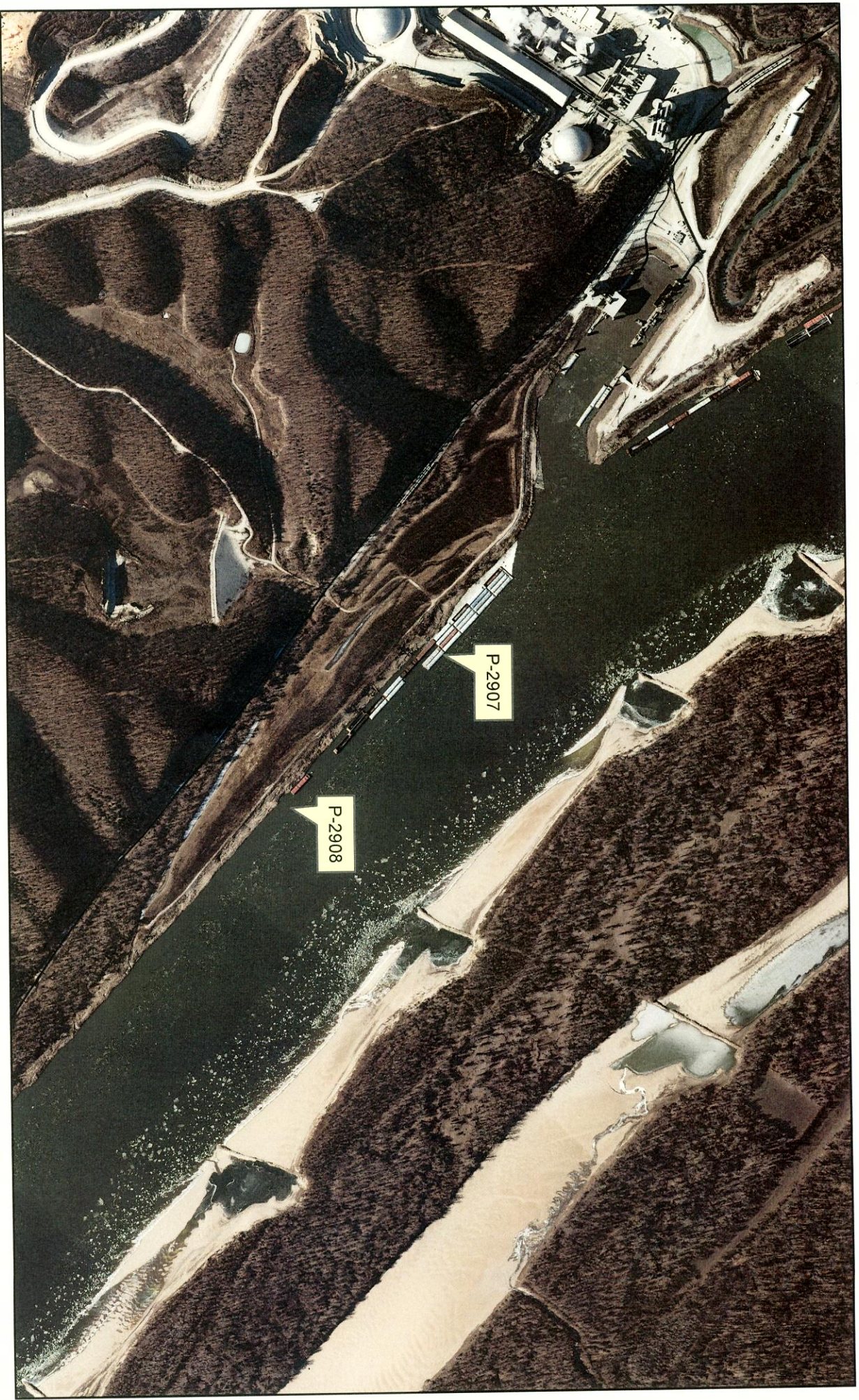
9. In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.


Danny D. McClendon
Chief, Regulatory Branch

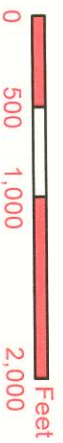
Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually posted for 21 days.



P-2907 & P-2908
Holcim Location Map
Ste. Genevieve County, MO



Holcim Existing and Proposed Fleets - 2015

