

## **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 Numbers:

2021-359, 2021-360, 2021-362 & 2021-363

Public Notice Date:
August 5, 2021

Expiration Date:

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:** 

August 25, 2021

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit reauthorization request has been received to reinstall and reinitiate barge fleeting operations at four previously approved fleeting areas in the Mississippi River, as described below and shown on the attachments.

<u>COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</u> Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public notice numbers 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 decisions. Comments should be 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

**APPLICANT:** Mr. Kurt Johnson, Southern Illinois Transfer, Inc., 718 Industrial Drive, Sparta, IL 62286 (618-443-1001).

**LOCATION:** Reauthorization of four barge fleeting areas is proposed near the left descending bank of the Mississippi River between approximate river miles 118.4 to 119.2, located just upstream of the Kaskaskia River confluence, near Roots, in Randolph County, Illinois. The latitude and longitude limits of each 30-barge fleet is shown in the attachment.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant requests permit reauthorization to conduct barge fleeting activities at the same four permitted areas previously issued to Cargo Carriers, Inc., by Department of the Army permit P-1424. Cargo Carriers, Inc., submitted a request to abandon fleeting operations in 2004. The permit applicant would conduct identical barge fleeting operations in the same previously approved locations using existing concrete deadman mooring structures. A captive barge would be affixed to each deadman mooring structure at each fleeting location. A 30-barge fleet arranged in a 6 barge wide by 5 barge long configuration would be attached to each captive barge with appropriately sized chain and cable. The four fleets, each assigned a permit number for easier identification and comment tracking purposes, represent maximum barge quantities when at full operating capacity. The four fleets would be located along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River at approximate river mile 119.2 (permit 2021-359), river mile 119.0 (permit 2021-360), river mile 118.7 (permit 2021-362) and river mile 118.4 (permit 2021-363). The project area and associated fleet locations are shown on the attachments.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</u> 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.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING:</u> 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), pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus), the threatened northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis), small whorled pogonia (Isotria medeoloides) and the candidate monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed permit reauthorization 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.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES:</u> 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.

Keith A. McMullen

ROBERT S. GRAMKE 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 issuance of this notice.



