

# **Appendix H**

## **Statement of Findings**

## STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

**I. Project Description.** The Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch of the Rock Island District's Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division prepared this Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities, Mississippi River, River Miles 300-614 and Illinois Waterway, River Miles 80-286. It has two primary purposes. The first is to better facilitate the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) by providing a general overview of the environmental impacts associated with new future dredged material placement sites that are generally considered to be the most environmentally acceptable. The second purpose of this PEA is to comprehensively address cumulative floodplain impacts associated with the placement of dredged material resulting from channel maintenance dredging activities. This document is intended to supplement, not replace, the regular dredged material placement planning process.

**II. Public Interest Review.** The PEA was posted to the Rock Island District's web page for the public review period extending from 1 November through 29 November 2002. Letter notices were sent to post offices, appropriate city, county, State and Federal agencies, and other interested parties, and 100 hard copies of the document were provided to agents of State and Federal coordinating agencies. A mailing list for the PEA is included in the project file.

**III. Public Review Comments.** The following comments pertinent to the PEA were received during the public review period. Each comment is followed by the Rock Island District's response, when appropriate. A copy of each letter or email is attached to this package.

**A. Mr. Richard C. Nelson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, letter dated 22 November 2002.**

**Comments/Concerns:**

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed that the project will have no effect on federally endangered or threatened species and based upon the information provided, concurred with the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

2. Mr. Nelson asks for expansion of Appendix E to include the percentage of Federal lands and waters impacted in each pool for inclusion in the final PEA.

**Response:** Appendix E was modified to include the acreage of Federal land that had the potential to be impacted by dredged material placement activities (using 40-year projections). Federal lands were estimated using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coverage developed for the Habitat Needs Assessment (HNA) (Theiling *et al.* 2000). This GIS coverage is not specific to lands covered under the Cooperative Agreement. These acreages are estimates, not based upon detailed land surveys, and are for general comparison purposes only.

**B. State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, Gretchen L. Benjamin,** Mississippi River Planner, letter dated 26 November 2002.

**Comments/Concerns:**

1. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requested clarification of table that represents the percentage of total acres affected by dredged material placement.

2. The Wisconsin DNR stated that the numbers don't indicate the quality of the habitat lost to dredged material placement, citing the narrative in Section 4.2.3 as how the effects of dredged material placement can be understated when looking at the systemic scale.

**Response:**

1. The Rock Island District modified Tables 4-4, 4-5, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, and 4-10, adding text to describe the rounding process, and the statement "Dredged material placement may have affected this habitat type, though impacts appear as 0.0% on this table due to rounding."

2. This question deals with the significance of past placement actions on the natural resources of the river. The physical extent of the past channel maintenance activity was quantified within this document but the qualitative effect of past dredging on natural resources does not exist. The Rock Island District has been working with an interagency science team since 1995 on a series of science-based research efforts, known as the 404 studies, to better understand the effects of dredged material placement on the quality of the environment. These studies may lead to a better understanding of past actions and aid in making better decisions in the future.

The Rock Island District did not understate or minimize the effects of dredged material placement in comparing dredged material footprints to that of the floodplain. In every case, acreages are provided with the percentage of effected floodplain so that the reader can understand the size of the impacted area.

**C. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, Tom Flattery, Director,** letter dated 14 November 2002.

**Comments/Concerns:** The Illinois DNR, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, has reviewed the project and supports Rock Island District's proposed FONSI.

**Response:** None.

**D. The State of Missouri Department of Conservation, Daniel J. Witter, Policy Coordination Chief,** letter dated 26 December 2002

**Comments/Concerns:** The Missouri Department of Conservation recommended clarification of several phrases and correction of boundaries.

**Response:** The Rock Island District changed the phrase “developed habitat” to “developed areas” throughout the document and added a short description of developed areas to Section 2.2.2. The boundary originally described at Alton, Illinois, was corrected to Saverton, Missouri, in Section 3.2.1.

**E. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Michael Griffin, letter dated 10 December 2002.**

**Comments/Concerns:** The Iowa DNR had some concern with the way the tables lead the casual reader to believe that the placement of the dredged material is a very small percent of the area within the floodway. While this is true, the areas affected by this disposal over the last 60 years are still significant.

**Response:** See response to B.2.

**F. Dr. Bob Henry, Interested Public, Conversation Record dated 30 October 2002.**

**Comments/Concerns:**

1. The distinction between Behind the Levee Placement (2.2.2) and Levee Placement (2.2.3) is unclear (pages PEA4-5). The separation of placement dredged material behind and beyond the existing levee needs to be made in the first sentence of Section 2.2.2. 2.2.3 line 1 should indicate dredged material would be placed on or along the existing levee.

2. There is a contradiction between coordination letter on G-13 and statements made in Section 5.2.4 as they pertain to open water placement.

3. The table presented on Table 6-3 (PEA-44) does not contain the habitat types that are noted on Tables 6-2 (PEA-43) as do Table 4-9 (PEA-25) and Table 4-10 (PEA-26). This is a problem throughout the document.

4. Section C. Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404), as amended, discusses 401 Water Quality Certification, but mentions nothing about the 404 (b)(1) Certification process. At a minimum, this information should be incorporated by reference in this section.

5. The site-types covered under the PEA should be defined with the habitats and biotic communities that commonly use these areas.

6. Rounding figures on Table 6-3 (PEA 44) and other tables underrepresented the percent of habitat type potentially impacted by dredged material placement activities. For example, by stating 0.0% is impacted for the agriculture the reader is led to believe there is no impact to this habitat type, when 0.0003% would actually be affected.

**Response:**

1. In response to Dr. Henry's comment, the wording "Dredged material would be placed behind and beyond the existing levee" was added to Section 2.2.2 and the wording "Dredged material would be placed on or along the existing levee" was added to Section 2.2.3.

2. Section 5.2.4 was reworded to be more specific about dredged material placement in open water. The text "These open water placement areas on the UMR will largely be limited to deepwater thalweg areas where native mussels are less abundant than in channel border areas. These thalweg areas are mostly historical placement sites, with two areas in Pool 13 currently under development as new thalweg placement sites" was added.

3. Land cover information for the Illinois Waterway (IWW) was developed from multiple resources as a basis for comparison because there was no single source land cover/land use information for the IWW as there was for the UMR, as detailed in Section 4.2.2 Methods for Assessment. The HNA GIS Query Tool has habitat coverage data for Peoria Pool and most of La Grange Pool. Separate satellite data were utilized to identify land cover types for a portion of the La Grange Pool immediately below Peoria Lock and Dam, as well as Starved Rock, Marseilles, Dresden, and Brandon Road Pools. The habitat class types identified through these satellite data are different than those identified from the 1989 aerial photography. This is differentiated on each table under the headings of "Satellite Habitat Types" or "HNA Habitat Types".

4. Text was added to Section C discussing the 404(b)(1). All 404(b)(1) and 401 Water Quality Certification will be addressed for each individual, site-specific project in the PEA.

5. Section 3.4 Biotic Communities and Table 3.2 were added to the document in response to Dr. Henry's comment.

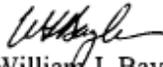
6. See response B.1.

**IV. Summary of Environmental Impact Review.** A PEA has been prepared for this project. This review has not identified any potentially significant adverse impacts, direct, indirect, or cumulative that would result from implementation of the project, as proposed. Thus, a FONSI was prepared and included in the PEA.

**V. Summary of Findings.** I find that the implementation of the project, as proposed, and under the conditions set forth and as prescribed by regulations published in 33 CFR Part 230 (Appendix B), 33 CFR Parts 320 and 340, and 40 CFR Part 230 (if applicable), is not contrary to the public interest.

3 March 2003

Date

  
William J. Bayles  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

October 15, 2002

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) requests your review of the draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities, Mississippi River, River Miles 300-614 and Illinois Waterway, River Miles 80-286 dated June 2002. This document can be accessed on the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/T2MMP/>. If you do not have access to the World Wide Web, a CD version of this document is available upon request at the above address.

This programmatic document details the environmental compliance process and quantifies the effects of channel maintenance actions on habitats commonly affected by dredged material placement. It covers the reach between Saverton, Missouri (River Mile [RM] 300), to Guttenberg, Iowa (RM 614), on the Upper Mississippi River and the reach between La Grange, Illinois (RM 80), and Joliet, Illinois (RM 286), on the Illinois Waterway. This document was created in response to an interagency request to reduce repetitive discussion and save time for Corps staff and the State and Federal environmental resource agencies that must review the environmental documents for each dredged material placement action.

This programmatic process does not supplant the existing long-term Dredged Material Management Plan process. The intent is to expedite the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process for non-controversial, short-term, small, or infrequently used placement sites that have not been previously coordinated within Corps planning processes.

The PEA addresses potential placement of dredged material on six site categories, including agricultural field, behind the levee, levee, temporary stockpile, beneficial use stockpiles, and developed/disturbed areas. The Corps recognizes that unique and significant resources may exist within each of these site categories. Screening criteria to further define suitable locations for future dredged material placement are addressed within this PEA. Any future project that would tier off of this PEA will still require abbreviated supplemental NEPA documentation, including coordination with State and Federal resource agencies. Separate non-tiered NEPA documentation is required for future placement sites that do not meet the site category criteria identified in this PEA and for those that meet the site criteria but contain unique and significant resources identified through the coordination process.

This PEA includes a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). If the comments received during the review period do not change the decision that no significant impacts would result from this action, the FONSI will be signed and held on file at the Rock Island District office.

Please furnish your comments on the PEA no later than 30 days from the date of this letter to our address above, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project Management (Mark Cornish). This document will be posted on the World Wide Web from at least September 20 thru December 31, 2002 at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/DMMP/>. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Mark Cornish at 309/794-5385.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

*KENNETH BARR*  
for John P. Carr  
Acting Chief, Economic and  
Environmental Analysis Branch



INHERIT  
TO  
FWS/RIFO

## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Rock Island Field Office  
4469 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Court  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
Phone: (309) 793-5800 Fax: (309) 793-5604



November 22, 2002

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District  
ATTN: PM-A (Mark Cornish)  
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Cornish:

We have reviewed the draft programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) provided under correspondence dated October 21, 2002, titled *Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities, Mississippi River, River Miles 300-614 and Illinois Waterway, River Miles 80 - 286*, dated June 2002.

We have worked closely with Rock Island District staff over the last several years to streamline both the planning and the compliance process for the District's Dredged Material Management Plans (DMMP). We have supported the development of this document to reduce future expenditure of staff time on non-contentious dredging and disposal activities. District staff have done an excellent job of compiling historic information from different data sets and making reasonable projections in future dredging requirements.

The only shortcoming in the information provided involves the comparative acreages provided in Appendix E. While the relative percentage of total floodplain acreage impacted is informative, the percentage of public lands and waters impacted in each pool would also be informative for inclusion in the final PEA. While those figures may not reveal significant impact, they would represent that portion of the floodplain land classes that are subject to interagency management for fish and wildlife purposes, including those under the Cooperative Agreement and General Plans.

We have also reviewed this document in the context of the Final Biological Opinion for the Operation and Maintenance of the 9-Foot Navigation Channel on the Upper Mississippi River System, dated April 2000. We concur in your determination that the programmatic alternatives are not likely to effect federally listed endangered or threatened species, providing

your continued implementation of the early coordination referenced in PEA Section 6.2.3. Therefore, we concur in your Finding of No Significant Impact for the activities described.

These comments are provided under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.; 48 Stat. 401), as amended; and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Questions regarding this letter may be directed to Mr. Bob Clevensine at the above telephone number, extension 521.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Nelson".

Richard C. Nelson  
Supervisor

cc: FWS (Hultman)  
EPA (Fenedick)  
IaDNR (Szcodronski)  
IIDNR (Schanzle)  
MoDOC (Christoff)  
WiDNR (Benjamin)

G:\Word Documents\Bul\pea02.doc



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Scott McCallum, Governor  
Darrell Bazzell, Secretary  
Scott A. Humrickhouse, Regional Director

3550 Mormon Coulee Rd  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
Telephone 608-785-9000  
FAX 608-785-9990

November 26, 2002

Mr. Ken Barr  
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

RE: Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Associate with Channel Maintenance Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities, Mississippi River, River Mile 300-614 and Illinois Waterway, River Mile 80-286.

Mr. Barr <sup>Ken</sup>

As the Mississippi River Planner for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Mississippi River Lower St. Croix team I am pleased to review the Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities. There are just a couple of comments because the Corps has done a good job coordinating on the actions included in the document.

Numerous tables scattered throughout the document, starting with Table 4-3, list the total acres and the percent of total acres affected by dredged material placement. These percent numbers are very low which would indicate to many readers that the loss is insignificant. However, the total floodplain acres include areas outside the levees so actual area affected in the river proper is a much higher percent. The reader should know the boundaries from which these acres are calculated.

In addition, these numbers do not indicate the quality of habitat lost to dredge material placement. The narrative in 4.2.3 is a good example of how a 3,958 acres loss can be minimized. The reader should know that although the losses seem small on a systemic level, locally these habitat losses could be substantial to the aquatic and terrestrial life.

Thank you, for the opportunity to comment on this document. I hope the completion of this document will result in a streamline process to finish the remaining Dredge Material Management Plans.

Sincerely,

  
Gretchen L. Benjamin  
Mississippi River Planner

C Alan Fenedick, USEPA, Chicago, IL  
Mike Griffin, IADNR, Bellevue, IA  
Bill Bertrand, ILDOC, Aledo, IL  
Gary Clark, ILDNR, Springfield, IL

www.dnr.state.wi.us  
www.wisconsin.gov

Quality Natural Resources Management  
Through Excellent Customer Service





**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Natural Resources**

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

November 14, 2002

Mr. John P. Carr, Acting Chief  
Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch  
Department of the Army  
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers  
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Carr:

Reference is made to your letter of October 15, 2002 transmitting the draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) entitled Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities, Mississippi River, River Miles 300-614 and Illinois Waterway, River Miles 80-286, dated June 2002.

The Rock Island District is to be commended for the excellent coordination that has taken place during preparation of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The Department is pleased to note that both thalweg disposal sites and rehandle sites are listed in Section 2.4 of the document as "Alternatives eliminated from programmatic evaluation" because of concerns expressed by the resource agencies in the course of the review process. We concur with inclusion of the remaining alternatives, and note that additional NEPA documentation will be required for any areas that do not meet the programmatic criteria.

The Department believes that the placement of dredged material in accordance with the programmatic alternatives will not substantially impact fish and wildlife resources or other environmental values. Accordingly, we support the proposed Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,

Tom Flattery, Director  
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning

TF:rs

cc: IDNR/ORC (Bertrand, Cochran, Stuewe)  
IDNR/OWR (Clark)



# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573-751-4115 ▲ Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TDD)

JOHN D. HOSKINS, Director

*Happy  
Holidays*

December 26, 2002

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District  
ATTN: PM-A (Mark Cornish)  
Clock Tower Building,  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Cornish:

The Missouri Department of Conservation appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated With Channel Maintenance Activities, Mississippi River, River Miles 300 - 614 and Illinois Waterway, River Miles 80 - 286 dated June 2002.

We recommend that a definition of "developed habitats," which appears in several sections beginning in Section 2.2.2, be written into the document. It is not clear as to what the term refers. As in the first draft, use of the word "habitat" should be limited to actual locations that provide a place for living organisms to exist.

In section 3.2.1, the lower limit of the Rock Island District lower impounded reach is actually at river mile 300 in the upper portion of Pool 24 at Saverton, Missouri, not Alton, Illinois.

The Department commends the Rock Island District for being receptive to the suggestion that this document be prepared and for incorporating input from stakeholders in the second draft. It is well written and contains valuable information that will likely be used beyond the scope of this project.

Sincerely,

DANIEL J. WITTER, PH.D.  
POLICY COORDINATION CHIEF

DJW:GTC:dcl

c: Ken Brummett, Department of Conservation

## COMMISSION

STEPHEN C. BRADFORD  
Cape Girardeau

ANITA B. GORMAN  
Kansas City

CYNTHIA METCALFE  
St. Louis

HOWARD L. WOOD  
Bonne Terre



THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR  
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
JEFFERY R. VONK, DIRECTOR

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Rock Island District  
Clock tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

12/10/02

Dear Mr. Cornish;

I have reviewed the draft programmatic Environmental Assessment titled *Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities.*

I have worked closely with the Rock Island District staff on this document. I believe that this document will open up some opportunities for environmentally responsible placement of dredged material.

I have some concerns with the way the tables lead the causal reader to believe that the placement of the dredged material is a very small percent of the area within the floodway. While this is true, the areas affected by this disposal over the last 60 years are still significant.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. It has always been my hope that completion and adoption of this document will allow more opportunities for environmentally acceptable placement of dredged material in and along the floodway.

Sincerely,

Michael Griffin  
IA DNR  
Mississippi River Wildlife Biologist

<b>CONVERSATION RECORD</b>		TIME 09:00	DATE 30 October 2002
TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> VISIT <input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE			ROUTINE
			NAME/SYMBOL
			INI
			PM
			PM-A
Location of Visit/Conference:			
NAME OF PERSON(S) CONTACTED OR IN CONTACT WITH YOU Dr. Bob Henry		ORGANIZATION (Office, dept., bureau, etc.) Interested public	TELEPHONE NO:
SUBJECT Coordination for Summary of Cumulative Dredging, Dredged Material Placement Actions, and Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Future Dredged Material Placement Associated with Channel Maintenance Activities, Mississippi River Miles 300-614 and Illinois Waterway, River Miles 80-286			

**SUMMARY**

Dr. Henry and I visited on 30 October via telephone. Dr. Henry's comments are summarized in the six following points:

- 1) The distinction between Behind the Levee Placement (2.2.2) and Levee Placement (2.2.3) is unclear (pages PEA4-5). The separation of placement dredged material behind and beyond the existing levee needs to be made in the first sentence of section 2.2.2. 2.2.3 line 1 should indicate dredged material would be placed on or along the existing levee.
- 2) There is a contradiction between coordination letter on G-13 and statements made in section 5.2.4 as they pertain to open water placement.
- 3) The table presented on Table 6-3 (PEA-44) does not contain the habitat types that are noted on Tables 6-2 (PEA-43) as do Table 4-9 (PEA-25) and Table 4-10 (PEA-26). This is a problem throughout the document.
- 4) Section C. **Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404), as amended** discusses 401 water quality certification, but mentions nothing about the 404 (b)(1) certification process. At a minimum, this information should be incorporated by reference in this section.
- 5) The site-types covered under the PEA should be defined with the habitats and biotic communities that commonly use these areas in a table such as:

**Table .** Potentially affected communities from placement of dredged material on individual site-types

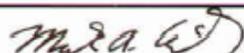
Site-Types	Habitat (all habitats potentially affected by placement on this site type)	Biotic Community
Agricultural Field Placement	Row Crop/Pasture	
Behind the Levee Placement		
Levee Placement	Sand/Mud	
Temporary Stockpile	Sand/Mud	
Beneficial Use Stockpiles/Beneficial Use Area		
Developed/Disturbed Sites	Lawn, Cement/Asphalt Parking lot, Unvegetated earth	

- 6) Rounding figures on Table 6-3 (PEA 44) and other tables underrepresented the percent of habitat type potentially impacted by dredged material placement activities. For example, by stating 0.0% is impacted for the agriculture the reader is led to believe there is no impact to this habitat type, when 0.0003% would actually be affected.

**ACTION REQUIRED** Incorporate and address comments in the Environmental Assessment. Provide a copy of this conversation record to Dr. Henry for his review and comment.

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Mark A. Cornish	SIGNATURE 	DATE 30 October 2002
--	---	-------------------------

**ACTION TAKEN** Report mailed to Dr. Henry on 10/30/02. This conversation record was changed on 11/5/02 to incorporate Dr. Henry's revisions to the original, and the revised conversation record was mailed to Dr. Henry on 11/5/02. These comments will be addressed in the final PEA.

SIGNATURE 	TITLE Biologist	DATE 5 November 2002
--	--------------------	-------------------------

**CONVERSATION RECORD**

OPTIONAL FORM 271 (12-76)  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### PROGRAMMATIC SITE-TYPES FOR THE PLACEMENT OF DREDGED MATERIAL WITHIN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ILLINOIS WATERWAY

I have reviewed the information in this Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), along with data obtained from state and federal agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and from the interested public. I find that the placement of dredged material in accordance with the programmatic site-types, would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. It is recognized that for all future sites that will tier off this document, a supplemental National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document would be prepared. This document also would be subject to the public review process. Therefore, it is my determination that for this programmatic document, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

Programmatic site-types considered along with the preferred action were:

- Agricultural Field
- Behind the Levee Placement
- Levee Placement
- Temporary Stockpile
- Rehandle Sites
- Disturbed Sites

Factors considered in making the determination that an EIS was not required are as follows:

- a. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended implementation of programmatic site-types. These site-types are targeted at what are typically considered environmentally acceptable placement sites that avoid or minimize adverse impacts to sensitive floodplain habitats.
- b. Overall, the programmatic site-types would affect a relatively small portion of the UMR and IWW floodplains.
- c. Utilization of the programmatic site-types largely places material upon habitat types that generally are not environmentally sensitive.
- d. Implementation of this document encourages the District to continue to utilize alternatives that minimize environmental damage.
- e. All future projects would require a supplemental NEPA document that would still follow the public review process. Should any impacts rise to significant levels, these impacts would be disclosed within future NEPA documentation that does not tier from this PEA.
- f. The programmatic site-types proposed would not significantly affect water quality of the Mississippi River System or cultural/historic resources. Should such effects become significant, these effects would be fully documented within the future supplemental NEPA document.
- g. The programmatic site-types are not anticipated to have an effect on federally or state listed endangered or threatened species. However, all future projects will review and consider

federally and state listed species. Should any endangered species issues arise, these issues would be addressed within the future NEPA document.

- h. Impacts of farmland conversion to non-agricultural uses have been considered. Measures to avoid and/or minimize effects of farmland conversion will be considered for all future projects.
- i. The implementation of the programmatic site-types as proposed would generally not be expected to result in increases in cost or prices for consumers, individual industries, and federal, state, or local government agencies, nor would it impair, in any way, the ability of the U.S. to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic or export markets.
- j. The programmatic site-types are anticipated to provide the best long-term solution to the dredging problems at many of our chronic dredge cuts. One of the programmatic site-types will be integral in determining the Base Plan (Federal Standard) for most, if not all, future projects.

3 March 2003

Date



William J. Bayles  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer