

The Recreation Area Modernization Program (Ramp) Thomson Causeway Recreation Area Proposal Mississippi River Project

Rock Island District

AUTHORIZATION: River and Harbor Act of 1930.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: IL-16

BACKGROUND: By letter dated 23 August 1999, the Chief, Programs Management Division, Directorate of Civil Works, requested project proposals for modernization of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Managed Recreation Areas. Rock Island District (CEMVR) submitted several projects, with the proposal submitted by CEMVR-OD-MN for Thomson Causeway Recreation Area going forward to Mississippi Valley Division (CEMVD) and on to Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) for subsequent review and approval. Nationwide, seventeen recreation area proposals were selected for inclusion in the President's FY 2001 budget request to Congress, with CEMVR's Thomson Causeway Recreation Area proposal listed among the approved projects.

By letter dated 18 April 2000, Major General Hans A. Van Winkle, Deputy Commander for Civil Works, further outlined the RAMP. The RAMP was established to renovate and update Corps of Engineers managed recreation areas to meet the needs of present users, underserved populations, and future generations.

Public involvement is a key and essential element of the RAMP proposals and is based upon the expressed recreation needs of today's diverse populations. Public involvement is to continue during the construction phase of the RAMP. The program will be executed while maximizing public involvement and information sharing to include ground breaking ceremonies to kick-off the construction efforts and ribbon cutting ceremonies to celebrate reopening the recreation area for public use. A WES sponsored RAMP needs survey was accomplished at Thomson Causeway Recreation Area during the FY 2000 recreation season, providing additional support for the proposal.

The Village of Thomson, Illinois, has been involved since the proposal's inception, and its continued support is key to successful culmination of the proposal. Thomson city officials, most noticeably Mayor Mary Jo Enloe, have been active in supporting the Thomson proposal through personal contacts with Senator Durbin's office, as well as District 16's Representative Donald A. Manzullo. Support is also present from a coalition of other river corridor mayors, the Quad Cities Convention and Visitor's Bureau,

River Action, the Bi-State Regional Commission's Great River Bike Trail Council, as well as several other river corridor organizations.

Engineering and design, as well as environmental review, was completed during FY 2000. Work was accomplished via A&E contract with SVERDRUP Facilities, Inc. under Contract No. DACW25-D-0009. Plans and specifications are essentially complete with only a final product review update needed prior to advertisement and award.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: Congress opted not to fund the RAMP (Recreation Area Modernization Program). RAMP will no longer be funded as a nationwide infrastructure improvement program, as originally intended, and will now go forward as individual proposals where specific congressional support can be found. Constituency support is crucial to the funding of the Thomson Causeway Recreation Area modernization proposal.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA: Project features include sewer system rehabilitation, connection to city water and abandonment of wells; shower facility construction; Americans with Disabilities Act upgrade of two existing shower-building facilities; and, construction of a handicap accessible fishing pier. Total estimated Project Cost is \$2,600,000. Breakdown is as follows:

Complete P, E, &D and Plans and Specifications = \$319,000
Environmental Review = \$41,000
Initiate and Complete Construction = \$2,055,000
Construction Management = \$85,000
Total \$2,600,000