POC: Jackie Groves Telephone: 309/794-5351



PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers **Rock Island District**

Applicant: RiverStone Group, Inc. Date: October 16, 2018

Expires: November 14, 2018

CEMVR-OD-P-2018-947 Section 10

Joint Public Notice U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

1. Applicant. RiverStone Group, Inc. c/o Mr. Brian Dockery 1701 5th Ave. Moline, Illinois 61265.

2. Project Location.

- IL-Cordova USGS quad sheet.
- Section 5, Township 20 North, Range 5 East.
- NE corner of River Road N. & 222nd Ave., Cordova.
- Rock Island County, Illinois.
- Mississippi River mile 508, left (east) descending bank.
- Datum NAD-83.
- UTM Zone 15.
- Northing 4 625 156.069793.
- Easting 724 390.695473.
- Latitude: 41.746546.
- Longitude: -90.301342.

3. Project Description.

A. Current proposal: The applicant proposes to install a floating barrier across the inlet to the sand and gravel pit, located at the Mississippi River, river mile 508, to keep the general public from accessing their property. The barrier will extend approximately 350 feet in length and 16 inches in diameter across the inlet and will be secured to the river bank at each end.

B. Existing project: Prior to permits CEMVR-OD-P-161960 and CEMVR-OD-P-297860-2 being issued, authorizing the hydraulic and/or mechanical dredging of sand and gravel, this area at Mississippi River mile 508 was completely upland. These permits allowed for the opening of the land to the flow of the Mississippi River into the dredged area and allowed for the use of these waters for commercial use. The most recent permit for this area, 2004-1683 is currently expired, however, it has not been 5 years, and therefore the quarry is not considered abandoned.

4. Agency Review.

A. <u>Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers</u>. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

B. State of Illinois.

- (1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review.
- (2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5). Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the Office of Water Resources at dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at http://dnr.state.il.us/owr.
- **5.** Historical/Archaeological. The Corps consulted with the District geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases and determined the proposed area has been previously surveyed. In addition, the Corps consulted "An Investigation of Submerged Historic Properties in the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway" (October 1997) prepared by American Resources Group, Ltd. for the Corps (Contract No. DACW25-93-D-0012, Delivery Order No. 37). No shipwrecks are noted in the general vicinity of the permit area. The proposed action under the permit is a temporary barrier that will not be anchored into the river. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Corps there will be **no historic properties affected** because "the nature, scope, and magnitude of the work, and/or structures to be permitted are such that there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected" (33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.3.b).
- **6. Endangered Species.** District staff has performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as occurring in Rock Island County, Illinois: (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/illinois-cty.html).

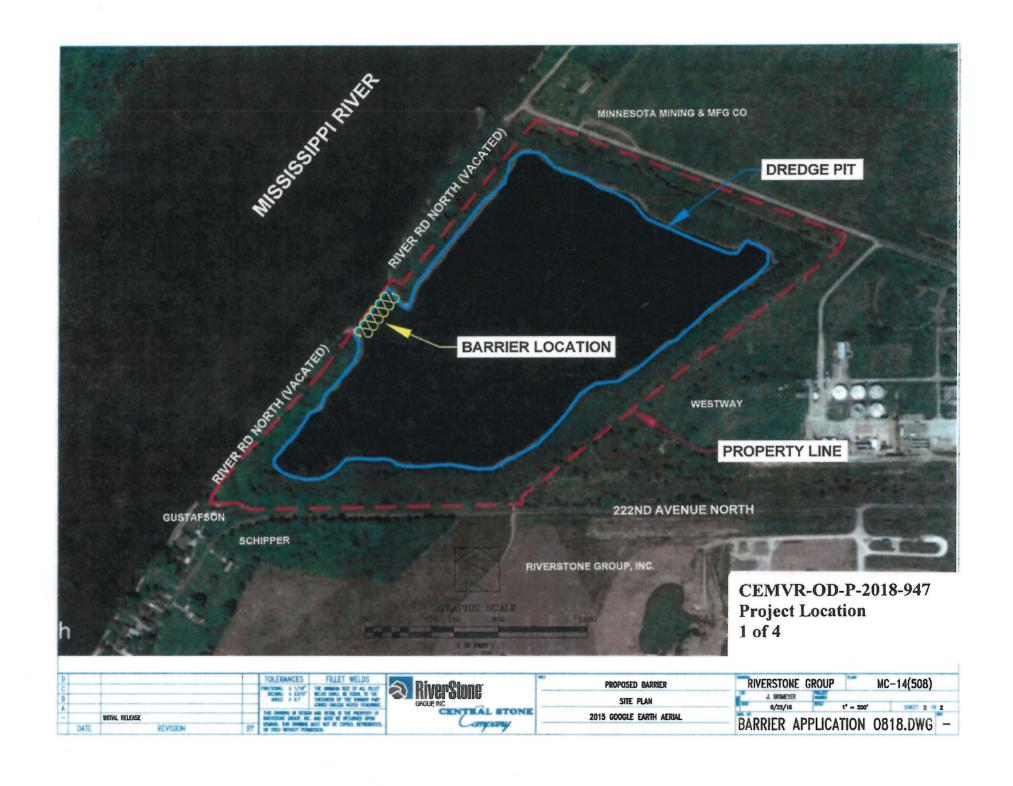
- Indiana bat. The endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. Since there is no forested habitat to be affected by the project, there should be 'no effect' on the Indiana bat.
- Northern long-eared bat. The northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. It roosts and forages in upland forests and woods. Since there is no forested habitat to be affected by the project, there should be 'no effect' on the northern long-eared bat.
- Eastern prairie fringed orchid. The eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) may potentially be found in any Illinois county. It occupies wet prairie remnant habitat. Since there is no wet prairie remnant habitat to be affected by the project, there should be 'no effect' on the eastern prairie fringed orchid.
- Higgins eve pearlymussel. The Higgins eye pearlymussel is found in the Mississippi River. The Higgins eye is usually found in deep water with moderate currents in sand and gravel river bottoms. The average water depth in the project area is 50 feet and fluctuates with the river. The project area consists of deep water, which is habitat for the Higgins eye pearlymussel. The way the project is designed, a determination has been made of 'no effect' to the Higgins eye pearlymussel.
 - -Sheepnose mussel. The Sheepnose mussel is found in the Mississippi River. The Sheepnose is usually found in shallow areas in larger rivers and streams. The average water depth in the project area is 50 feet and fluctuates with the river. The project area consists of deep water, which is not habitat for the Sheepnose mussel. The way the project is designed, a determination has been made of 'no effect' to the Sheepnose.
 - O -Spectaclecase mussel. The Spectaclecase mussel is found in the Mississippi River. The Spectaclecase is usually found in shallow areas in larger rivers and streams. The average water depth in the project area is 50 feet and fluctuates with the river. The project area consists of deep water, which is habitat for the Spectaclecase mussel. The way the project is designed, a determination has been made of 'no effect' to the Spectaclecase mussel.
- 7. Public Interest Review. The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit 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 including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

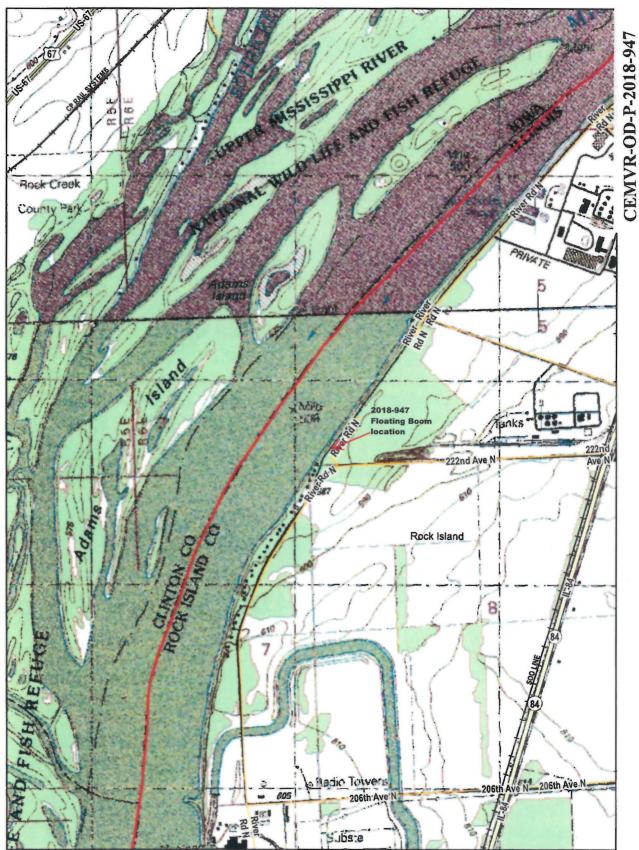
- 8. Who Should Reply. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit 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 used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment 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. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.
- 9. Public Hearing Requests. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.
- 10. Reply to the Corps of Engineers. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-PE (Jackie Groves), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. Mrs. Jackie Groves (309/794-5351) may be contacted for additional information (email: jackie.m.groves@usace.army.mil).

Attach Plan Ms. Donna M. Jones, P.E. Chief, Illinois/Missouri Section Regulatory Branch

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