



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Memphis District

**ISSUE DATE: September 26, 2023**

**EXPIRATION DATE: October 11, 2023**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Memphis District**

**U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 408 Permission Evaluation**

**TITLE:** Section 408 Permission Evaluation for Missouri Department of Transportation, Dunklin County, Missouri.

**INTRODUCTION:** The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent alterations of any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MDOT) has requested to replace the existing Route A bridge over Varney Ditch, Dunklin County, Missouri (Figure1).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Section 408 authorizes USACE to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of the project if USACE determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The St. Francis Basin project, the federally authorized civil works project proposed for alteration, provides for managing flood risks to the alluvial valley in southeast Missouri and northeastern Arkansas. Federal responsibility extends 15 feet from the landside berm and 40 feet from the riverside toe of the levee. The proposed request involves the removal of the existing Route A bridge and replacement with a single span structure over Varney Ditch, Dunklin County, Missouri.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:** A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. The scope of analysis for the NEPA and environmental compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review should be limited to the area of alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration. The proposed project meets the criteria of Nationwide Permit 14, pursuant to the Federal Register, Volume 82, Number 4, dated 06 January 2017. Therefore, a Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation is not required. Additionally, as the proposed Section 408 alteration is within the USACE project footprint, no known historic properties would be affected. The decision on this Section 408 request is being analyzed in accordance with NEPA and is limited to the Section 408 boundaries described herein.

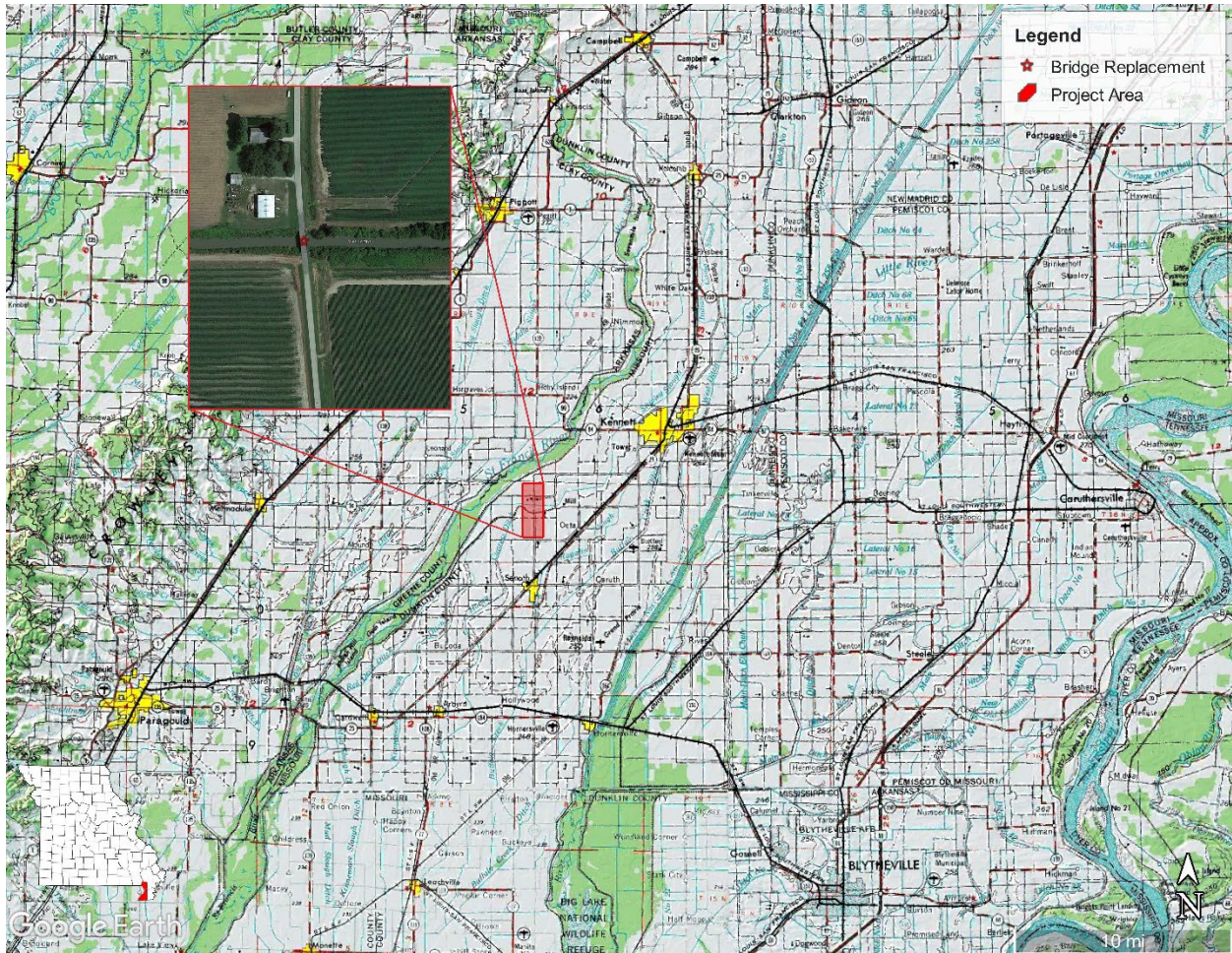


Figure 1. Location of proposed Missouri Department of Transportation Route A bridge removal and replacement, Dunklin County, Missouri.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties. Comments received within 15 days of this publication will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources. All comments will be considered in preparing environmental documentation pursuant to NEPA. USACE has jurisdiction under 33 USC 408, only over the specific activities that have the potential to alter existing USACE projects. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the federally authorized civil works project described herein. **Comments may be submitted to [joshua.m.koontz@usace.army.mil](mailto:joshua.m.koontz@usace.army.mil) and should be received by October 11, 2023.**

Sincerely,

Edward P. Lambert  
 Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch,  
 Regional Planning and Environmental Division South