

ISSUE DATE: January 24, 2024

EXPIRATION DATE: February 8, 2024

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 Consolidated Grain and Barge Co., East Prairie, Mississippi County, MO.

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. Consolidated Grain and Barge (CGB) is proposing to build a new barge access and stairs. This project would be supported by the existing loadout tower on the upstream end and three 24" diameter pipe piles driven into the river on the downstream end. The project also proposes to replace the existing cluster pile that acts as a dolphin with a new 72" dolphin due to the existing dolphin that is in poor condition. This new dolphin would be driven into the river bottom approximately 40' to act as a fender pile to prevent future barge impacts to the barge access and stairs. Additionally, six existing pipe piles would be wrapped with pile jackets that are exhibiting loss of material. Four of these existing pipe piles are on the loadout tower and the remaining two pile on are on the tower supporting the river conveyor. None of the pile jackets would extend below the river mudline (Figures 1-4).

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 Mississippi River Channel Improvement Project, the federally authorized civil works project proposed for alteration, provides for channel improvement to increase flood carrying capacity and reduce flood heights, to stabilize alignment and prevent bank caving that would destroy the main line levees, and to provide an aligned navigation channel. The proposed request would involve creating three 24" pipe piles and one 72" dolphin drive approximately 40: into the river bottom. Additionally, six existing pipes would be wrapped to support areas exhibiting loss of material.

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 criteria set forth in Nationwide Permit 3, Maintenance. Additionally, as the proposed Section 408 alteration is within the USACE project footprint, no known historic properties would be affected. Furthermore, the proposed Section 408 alteration was determined to have no effect on threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. The decision on this Section 408 request is being analyzed in accordance with NEPA and is limited to the Section 408 boundaries described herein.

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 kevin.r.pigott@usace.army.mil and should be received by February 8, 2024.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Smith

Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Division South

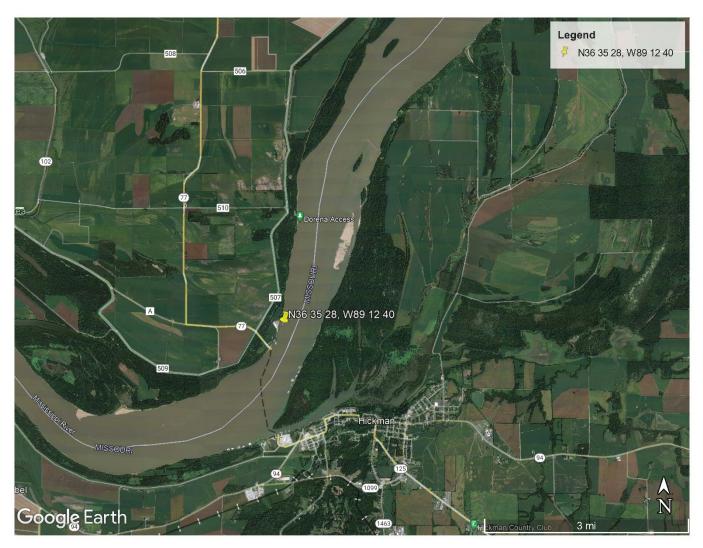


Figure 1. Proposed Section 408 project location for Consolidated Grain and Barge, East Prairie, Mississippi County Missouri.

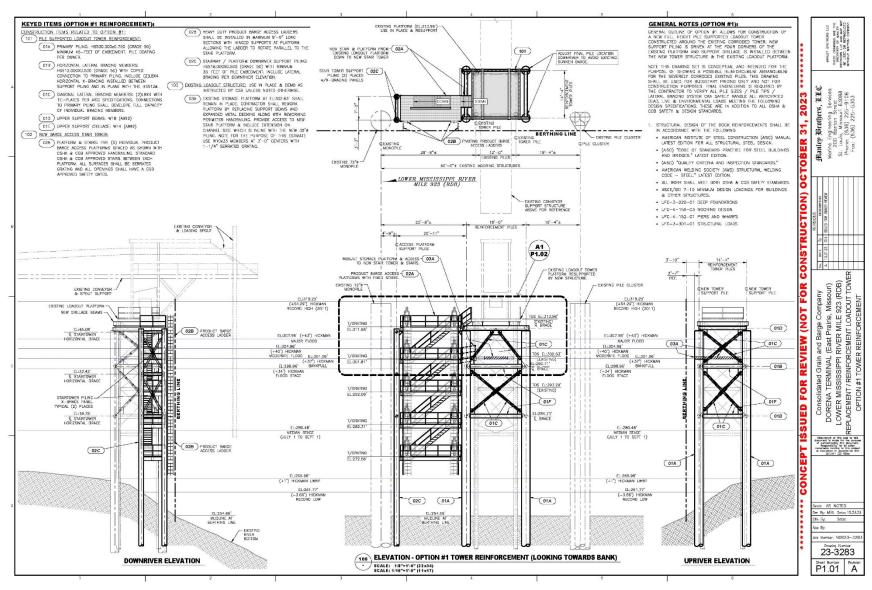


Figure 2. Proposed Section 408 project features, Consolidated Grain and Barge, East Prairie, MO. showing barge access and stairs.

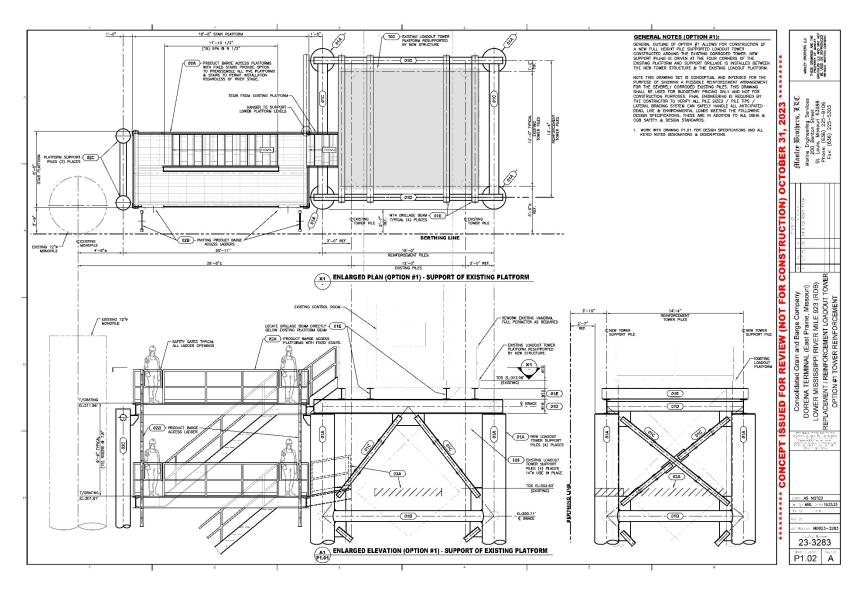


Figure 3. Proposed Section 408 project features, Consolidated Grain and Barge, East Prairie, MO. showing support of existing platform.

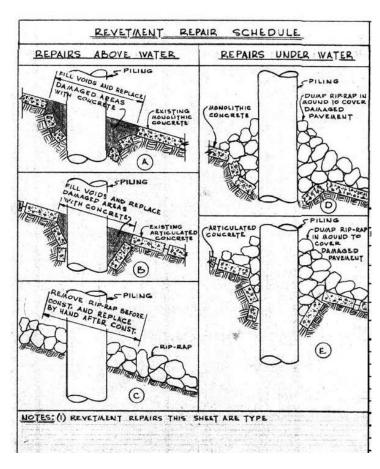


Figure 4. Proposed Section 408 project features, Consolidated Grain and Barge, East Prairie, MO. showing support of revetment repairs.