



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

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EXPIRATION DATE: February 22, 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 Arkansas Department of Transportation State Highway 118 Tyronza River Crossing Site 1, Poinsett County, Arkansas.

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 Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) has requested to replace two existing State Highway 118 bridges with new bridges near Tyronza, Poinsett County, Arkansas (Figure 1). This particular Section 408 Permission Evaluation is for Site 1, the furthest downstream proposed bridge replacement crossing near Tyronza, Arkansas.

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 for managing flooding within the St. Francis River Basin. The proposed request involves removing the old State Highway 118 bridge across the Tyronza River in Poinsett County, Arkansas (Figure 2). ArDOT is proposing to replace the existing bridge structure with a 332-foot prestressed concrete girder unit on concrete filled steel shell pile. The girder unit will be composed of three spans of 100, 130 and 100 feet long with the longest span in the middle. The replacement bridge is expected to be constructed within the existing alignment utilizing a road closure with accompanying detours. The proposal also includes demolition of the existing bridge structure with partial or full removal of substructure components, unless deeper removal is necessary to avoid new construction activities.

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 14, Linear Transportation Projects.

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 the threatened black rail, threatened piping plover, endangered pondberry and threatened red knot, and to not likely adversely affect the endangered fat pocketbook mussel and endangered scaleshell mussel, 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 22, 2024**

Sincerely,



Mark R. Smith
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch,
Regional Planning and Environmental Division South



Figure 1. Section 408 Permission Evaluation for Arkansas Department of Transportation, Highway 118 the Tyronza River Bridge Replacements, Poinsett County, Arkansas.

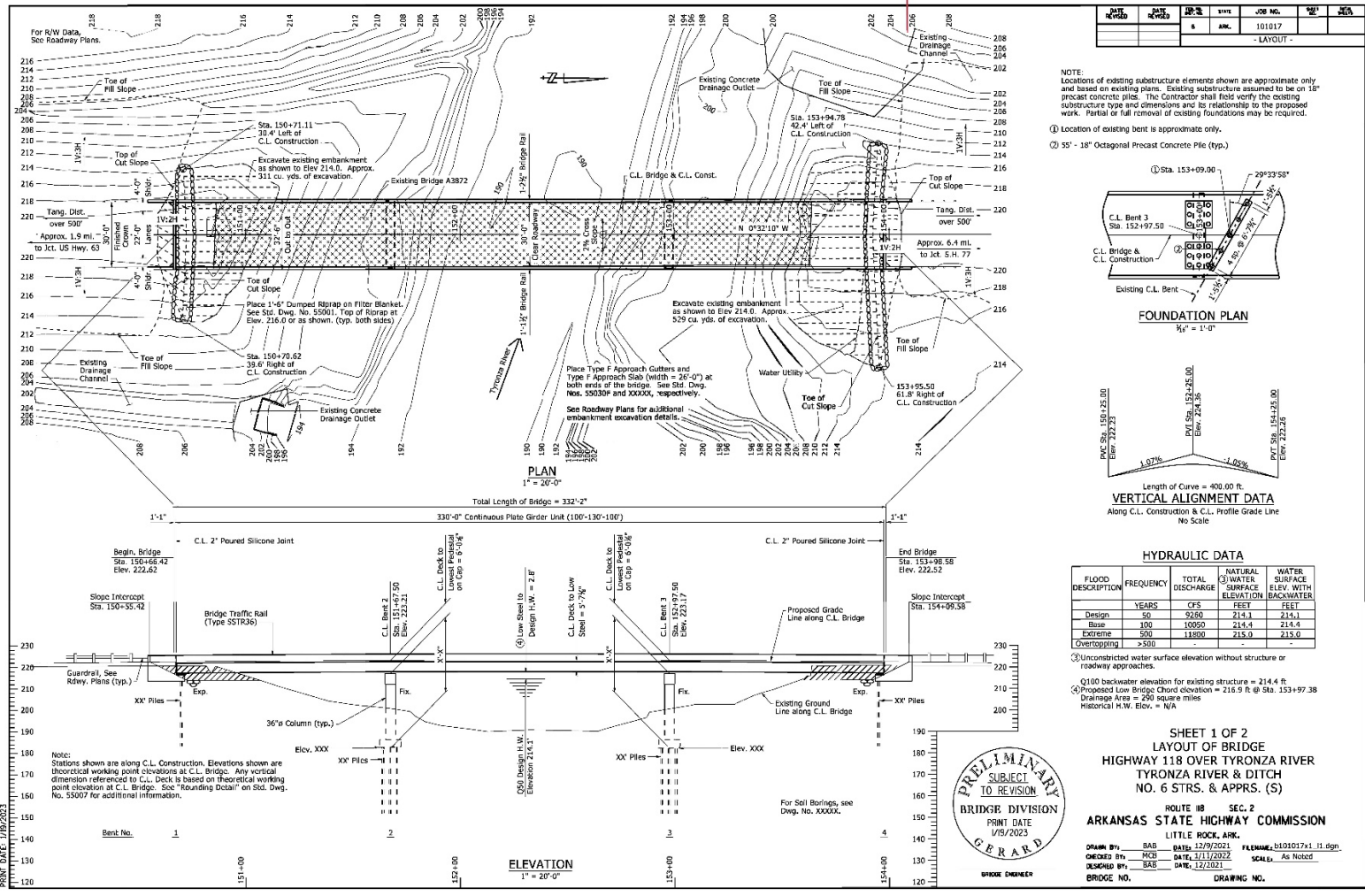


Figure 2. Details of proposed Arkansas Department of Transportation State Highway 118 Site 1 bridge replacement over the Tyronza River, Poinsett County, Arkansas.