

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Memphis District

Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM-2013-455 (JKB)

NOTICE DATE:
December 19, 2013

Attn: Postmaster,
Please Post Until  EXPIRATION DATE:
January 21, 2014

Joint Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State of Arkansas

AUTHORITY: Pursuant to 33 CFR 325, as published in the Federal Register dated November 13, 1986, this notice announces an application submitted for a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

APPLICANT:

Dennis Ray
1915 HWY 367 N
Newport, Arkansas 72112
(870) 512-8093

PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to allow control of water for duck hunting on the applicant's property.

LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 7, Township 12N, Range 1E, in Poinsett County, Arkansas, at approximate latitude 35.68951°N and longitude -91.03475°W on the Grubbs 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Attachment 1).

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to construct approximately 1250 linear feet of levee (6 feet high, 8 foot top width and 3:1 side slopes) in order to have water control for duck hunting. An approximately 24 inch by 40 foot pipe would be placed in the Cache River levee (Attachment 2). The water control structure would allow the applicant to raise the water level within the pond during duck season and release after the season. The proposed levee would directly impact 1.3 acres of open water, emergent, scrub-shrub, and bottomland hardwood wetlands. There is an existing levee, just south of the proposed levee, which is approximately 6-8 feet high and has a top width of approximately 10 feet. The existing levee was constructed in 1958-1959. The existing water control structure is opened in November to allow high water flowing in the Cache River to raise the water level for duck hunting. The proposed levee would not hold any additional water than that of the existing levee. According to the applicant, it was discovered during a property survey that the existing levee and water control structure is not completely on his property.

AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION: The applicant is proposing to build the smallest levee possible, in terms of height and width, to control water within the desired area.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to mitigate wetland impacts with the restoration of 3.0 acres of bottomland hardwoods (Attachment 2). The mitigation site is located adjacent to the proposed impact site.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality that the activity will comply with

applicable requirements set forth in 33 U.S.C. and 1341 (a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and all State laws and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. This certification or evidence of the water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit. The Corps of Engineers' evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No endangered or threatened species or their critical habitats are known to exist in the project area. This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments they may have regarding endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Memphis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct or require a survey of the project area.

FLOOD PLAIN: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed public notice and notify this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the activities for which a permit is sought and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, 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 and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Federally recognized 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.

PUBLIC HEARING: 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 a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision. If a public hearing is held, it will be for the purpose of obtaining additional information that we could not otherwise obtain through a public notice process; not to inform the public about the specific details of the project in greater detail than what is found in this notice.

This is not a Corps project. We are not a proponent or are we an opponent of the project. We are merely the permitting authority of Section 404 and Section 10 permits required by our office.

COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Send comments to the Corps of Engineers, Memphis District and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Comments may be sent via mail or E-mail to the following:

U.S. Army Engineer District - Memphis
ATTN: Josh Bright
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894
E-mail: joshua.k.bright@usace.army.mil
phone: (901) 544-0926
fax: (901) 544-0211

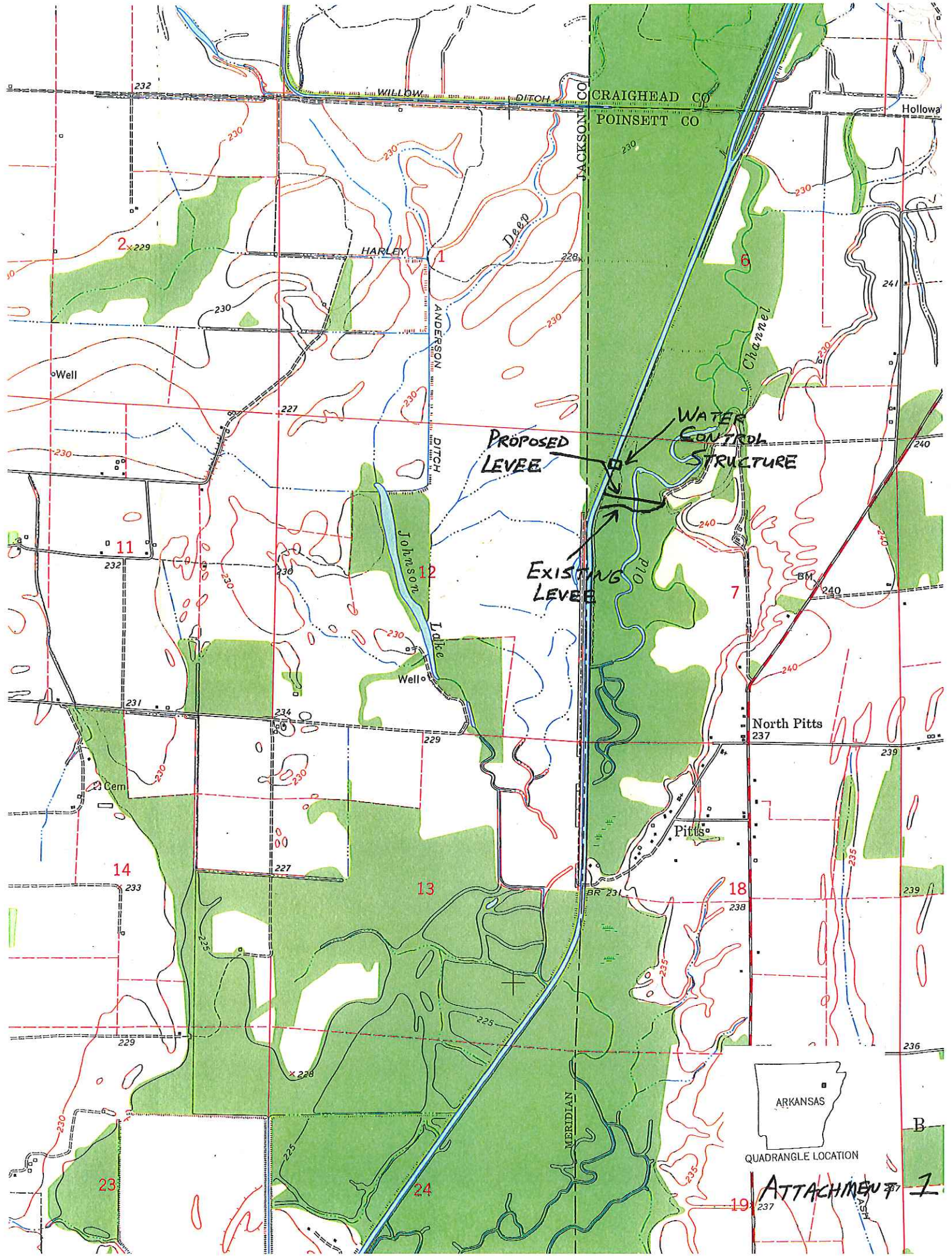
State Permits Branch, Water Division
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
ATTN: Mark Hathcote
5301 North Shore Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317
E-mail: hathcote@adeq.state.ar.us

The Corps may provide copies of all comments, (including name & address of those providing comments) to the applicant for consideration and response prior to a decision. Comments should be received by the expiration date listed on page one of this notice.

For Final Individual Permits actions in the Memphis District, go to the following link: <http://geo.usace.army.mil/egis/f?p=340:2:0::NO:RP>. Using the Filter by District drop down box, select MVM-Memphis District, then select the year and month (information will populate in the table below). All pending individual permits can be located by selecting the **“Pending IP”** tab above. All of the environmental documents and statements of findings supporting issuance or denial of the permit decisions are available upon written request and where applicable, upon the payment of administrative fees. They are also available at the Memphis District, Regulatory Branch office for examination.

Roger Allan
Acting Chief
Regulatory Branch

Attachments



CRAIGHEAD CO
POINSETT CO

HARLEY

ANDERSON DITCH

JOHNSON LAKE

PROPOSED LEVEE

EXISTING LEVEE

WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE

Old

North Pitts
237

Pitts

14

13

18

23

24

19



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ATTACHMENT 7

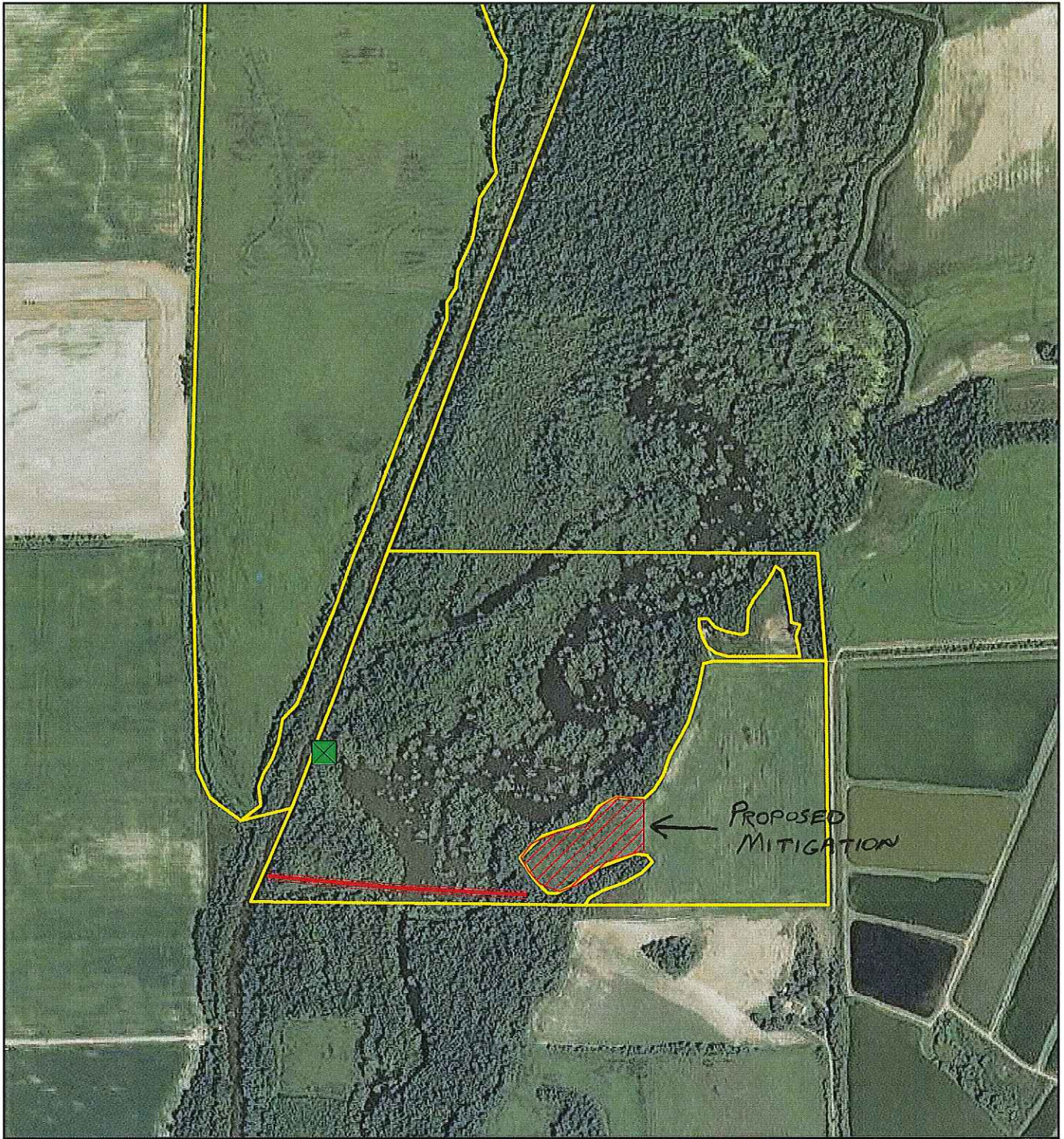
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COE Permit Application

Customer(s): Juanita Ray
Legal Description: Section 7, T 12 N, R 1 E

State and County: AR, POINSETT



Legend

-  Potential Mitigation Site
-  Water Control Structure
-  New Levee
-  Farm 3353



ATTACHMENT 2