



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

**ISSUE DATE: 18 May 2018**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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**EXPIRATION DATE: 18 June 2018**

**AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT 404(b)(1)**

**REPLY TO:**

**ATTN: Kevin Pigott**

**Environmental Compliance Branch**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

167 North Main Street, Room B-202

Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

Tele: (901) 544-4309

Fax: (901) 544-3955

E-mail: [Kevin.R.Pigott@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kevin.R.Pigott@usace.army.mil)

**TITLE:** West Basin Levee – Castor River Headwater Diversion Channel Scour Repairs

**AUTHORITY:** The proposed St. Francis Basin Project action is authorized as part of the Flood Control Act, 15 May 1928, as amended by the Acts of 15 June 1936, 18 August 1941, 24 July 1946, 17 May 1950, 27 October 1965, 13 August 1968, and 11 December 1973. Due to the proximity of the levee to the scours, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to conduct work in the Castor River Diversion Channel necessary to protect the integrity of the adjacent levee.

**LOCATION:** The proposed scour repair measures are along the right descending bank (RDB) of the West Basin Levee – Castor River Headwater Diversion Channel, located near the town of Whitewater in Cape Girardeau and Bollinger Counties, Missouri (Figure 1). The proposed action is in the vicinity of levee baseline station 334+00 – 713+19, and includes approximately the lower 7 miles of the Castor River Diversion Channel above Block Hole.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** This project was covered under the 1973 Environmental Impact Statement, and this 404 (b)(1) evaluation is being conducted because the quantities to be used are not appropriate for permits under the Nationwide permit program.

**PURPOSE:** The proposed work calls for the repair of ten total scour sites that have developed along the right descending bank (RDB) of the Castor River Headwater Diversion Channel. Due to large flows and high velocities, typical after rain events, head cutting has given rise to major scour problems along the banks of the Diversion Channel. Because of the close proximity of the levee to the RDB, the scour problems have the potential to undermine and destabilize the riverside levee slope. The problem is so widespread that individual spot-fixes are not suited to address the scope of the problem.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** All construction work would be conducted from the cleared top RDB. A 4-foot deep key with an 18-inch bottom width would be excavated and then filled with R-400 riprap. Since the riprap is to be placed in moving water, filter material was eliminated to simplify construction. The R-400 riprap would be sloped at no steeper than 1.5H:1V with a minimum R-400 thickness of 30-inches (Figure 2). Any excavated material from key construction would be placed as semi-compacted backfill between the RDB and the flood side levee toe of the West Basin Levee and have a maximum final thickness of 1-foot. The excavated material would be placed so that it slopes to drain away from the levee and towards the RDB. Placed excavated material would be seeded and mulched prior to project completion. No wetlands would be filled or otherwise affected. Scour lengths, estimated riprap quantities, and excavation amounts are listed in Table 1.

*Table 1. Proposed R-400 Quantities and Scour Lengths.*

Scour Site	Phase	~ Length of Repair (feet)	R-400 Quantity Estimated	~ Repair Section Excavation (cubic yard)
1	2	121	1,392	96
2	2	2,609	30,011	2,069
3	2	1,228	13,779	1,000
4	2	1,210	13,577	985
5	2	4,475	50,212	3,643
6	3	1,894	16,192	993
7	3	13,069	103,648	5,213
8	3	7,902	51,678	3,213
9	4	302	3,308	240
10	4	502	3,415	186

Access to the project areas would be from County Highway N or State Highway 91 and then along an existing road on top of the West Basin Levee. All work would be from

RDB. It is anticipated that no utilities would be disturbed as part of the proposed work.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** The final design is being coordinated with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The endangered Indiana bat and threatened northern long-eared bat would potentially utilize the forested habitat outside the project areas. No forested areas are located within the proposed project location. Site habitat assessments of the proposed project areas occurred during the winter of 2018. Results of the site assessment concluded that no evidence of suitable roost trees were present within the project location. Additionally, no evidence of bald eagles, or their nests, were observed at any project location. No federally threatened or endangered aquatic organisms, including freshwater mussels have been collected or observed in the Castor River-Headwater Diversion Ditch or in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, USACE has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species nor their critical habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the no effect determination regarding federally listed threatened or endangered species on April 02, 2018.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** A cultural resources survey was conducted in the project area, and no sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were found. Therefore, the proposed action will have no effect on cultural resources applicable under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. This determination included coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Additional coordination will be made if inadvertent discovery of potentially significant cultural resources occurs during project construction.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed activities and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest. Work of this proposed type has been previously disclosed, however this 404 (b)(1) evaluation is being conducted because the quantities to be used are not appropriate for permits under the Nationwide permit program. This notice is being circulated to federal, Native American tribes, state and local agencies and to the public.

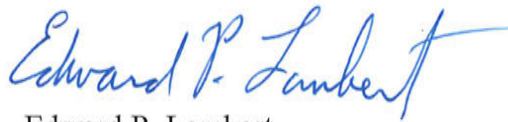
**The draft 404(b)(1) will be circulated to agencies and any other parties that respond to this notice requesting copies. Copies of these documents have been placed on the District's website's Memphis District Civil Works Projects at:**

**<http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/About/Offices/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>**

**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 proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall clearly state the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed in order to reach a decision on the project. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work.

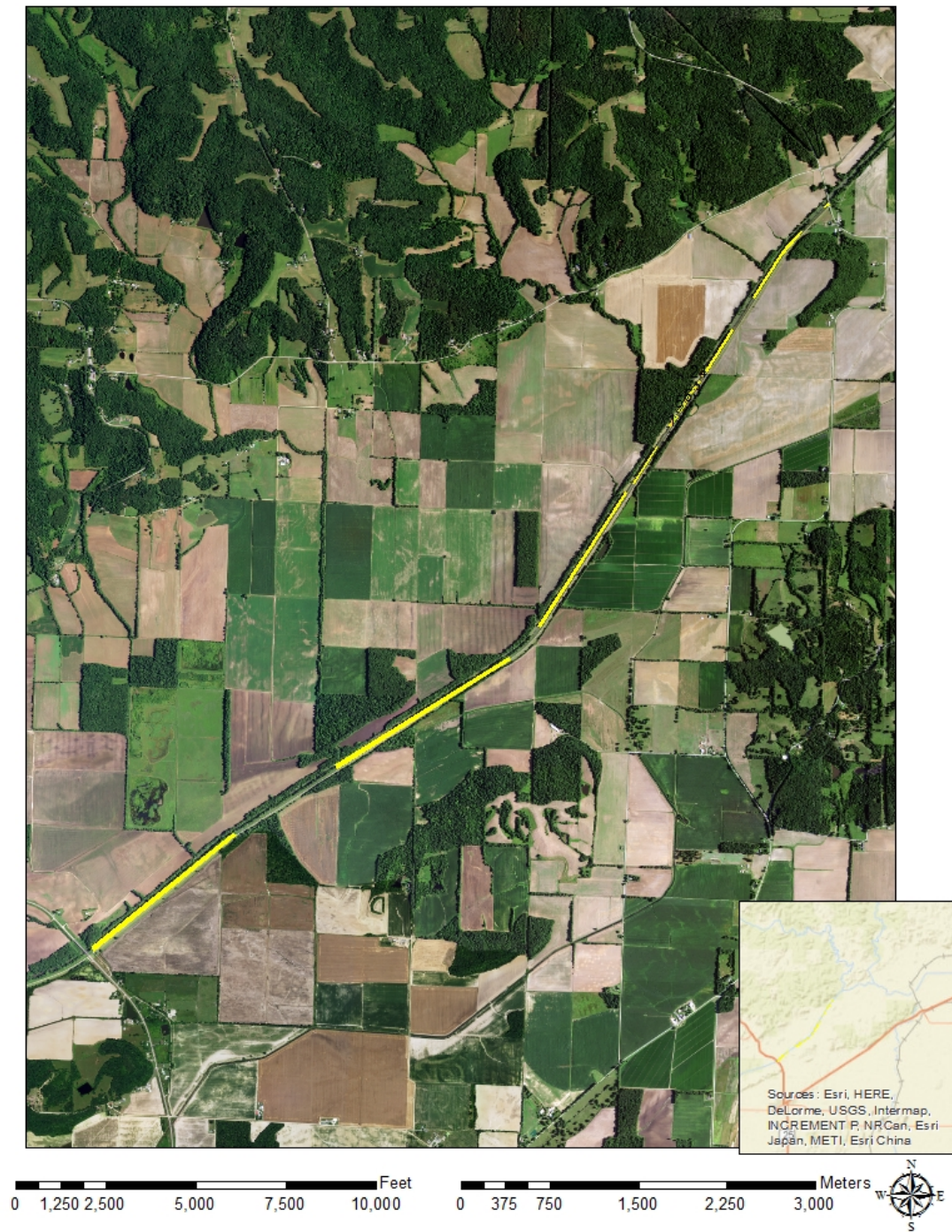
**COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on this proposal, please contact Kevin Pigott at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Compliance Branch (RPEDS-PDC-UDC), 167 North Main Street RM B-202, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894, telephone 901-544-4309. **Comments should be forwarded to this office by 18 June 2018.**

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures



*Figure 1. Location of Proposed Scour Repairs, Cape Girardeau and Bollinger Counties, MO.*



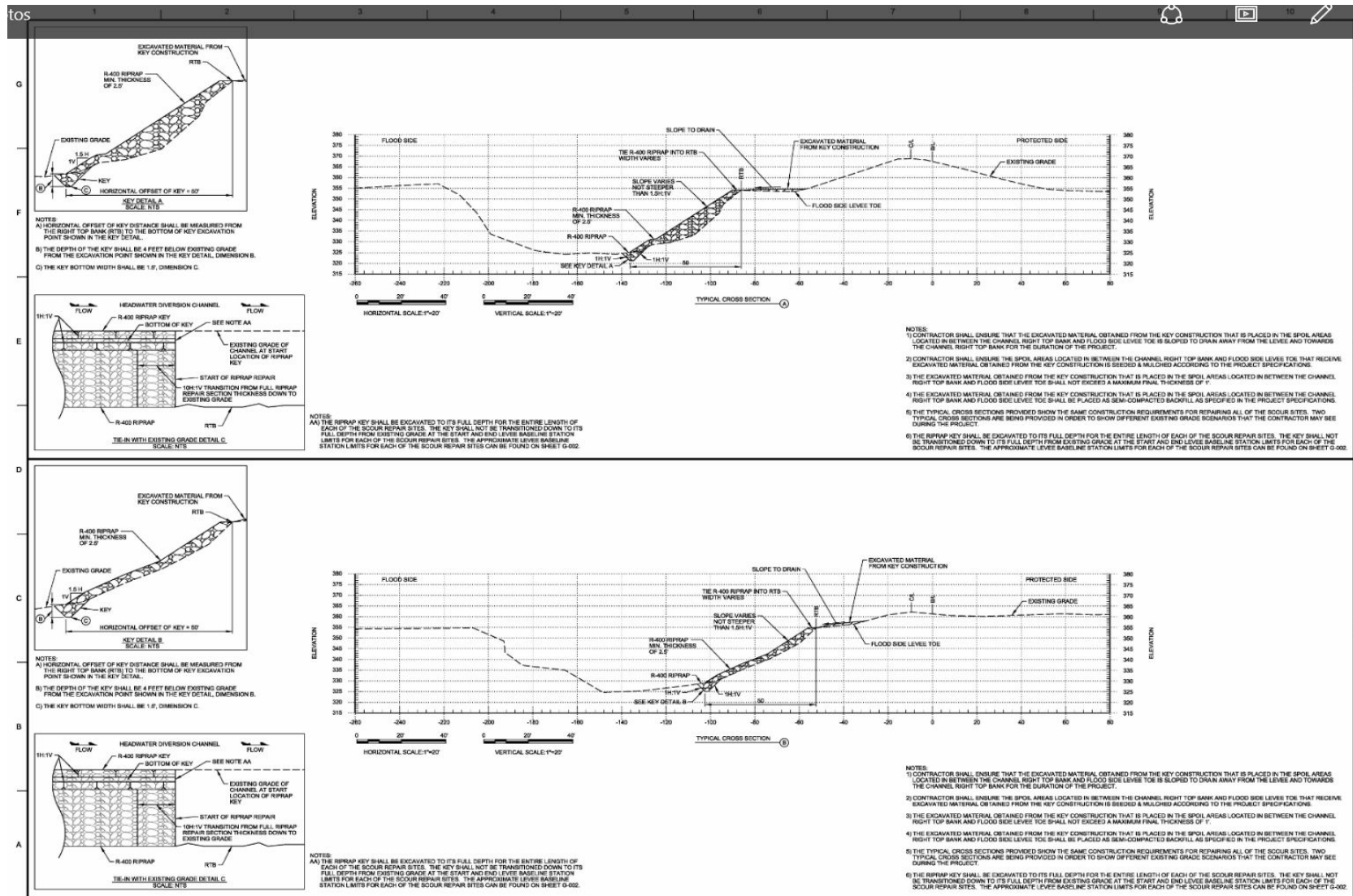


Figure 2. Typical proposed repair section.