



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Memphis District

# Public Notice

**FILE NUMBER: MVM 2016-042 (RC)**

**NOTICE DATE:**  
**February 11, 2016**

Attn: Postmaster,  
Please Post Until **⇒** **EXPIRATION DATE:**  
**March 12, 2016**

**Joint Public Notice**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**and**  
**State of Missouri**

The Memphis District Corps of Engineers, hereby gives notice pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act of 1899 and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and 33 CFR 337 published in the Federal Register April 26, 1988, of the U.S. Government's proposed deposition of dredged material in connection with maintenance dredging.

**APPLICANT:**

Memphis District Corps of Engineers  
Operations Division  
167 N. Main Street, RM B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894  
Telephone (901) 544-3471

**Authorization:** Mississippi River Channel Maintenance Dredging project is authorized under the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928, and amendments June 15, 1936, June 28, 1938, August 18, 1944, and December 22, 1994, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The project provides for a suitably aligned navigation channel 12 feet deep and 300 feet wide. Present funding limits the project to a channel of 9 feet deep and 300 feet wide channel.

**PURPOSE:** To maintain the authorized navigation channel within the Mississippi River and the three authorized harbors.

**LOCATION:** At various locations on the Mississippi River, between River Miles 953.8 and 828.1 AHP in the State of Missouri, as shown on the attached Location Maps. Maintenance dredging will also be performed in the New Madrid City Harbor, New Madrid County Harbor and Pemiscot County (Caruthersville) Harbor.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** Re-Issuance of the Corps of Engineers existing maintenance dredging permit.

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER** - Dredging is conducted on an as-needed basis to maintain the minimum project channel dimensions at any river stage. Mississippi River channel maintenance dredging is done by use of dustpan hydraulic dredges. The dustpan dredges operate by making a series of relatively narrow, adjacent parallel cuts, discharging the material overboard in the same pattern as the dredge cuts and at a distance of approximately 800 feet perpendicular to the direction of the cuts. The material may be discharged to either side of the dredge cut and is transported from the cut area to discharge area through a pipeline supported by pontoons.

Table I lists location by name and river mile, and approximate annual quantities of material dredged in recent years. Due to the amount of bedload movement and the continual migration of sand bars, it is not possible to predict exact locations where dredging and associated discharge will be required. The anticipated discharge areas have been previously covered by earlier water quality certifications.

Designation of the proposed disposal sites for dredged and fill material associated with this federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. The Administrator, EPA, has not previously designated the areas as disposal sites. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation will be prepared at the close of the comment period.

**Table I. Current Dredging Sites Between Mississippi River Miles 953.8.0 and 828.1 AHP.**

<b>CROSSING NAME</b>	<b>RIVER MILE</b>	<b>QUANTITY DREDGED (Cubic Yards)</b>
Cairo Point	953.8 – 952	500,000
Beck width Bend	928.5 – 924.5	1,000,000
French Point	915.5 – 914.5	800,000
Lester	907.0 – 905.0	600,000
Winchester	902.0 – 899.0	600,000
New Madrid Main Channel	889 -887	1,000,000
New Madrid City Harbor	888.3	80,000
New Madrid County Harbor	885.0	70,000
Merriwether Cherokee	870.5 – 869.0	500,000
Stewart Bar	867.0 – 866.0	500,000
Island 14 Chute	860.0 – 858.5	500,000
Caruthersville Harbor	849.00	130,000
Linwood Bend/Blaker	842.0 – 840.7	200,000

**PEMISCOT COUNTY HARBOR**

The proposed work will provide annual maintenance dredging activities in the Mississippi River and Pemiscot County Harbor (Caruthersville Harbor). The proposed work will allow maintenance dredging to be performed at the mouth of the harbor and extend approximately 4,680 feet with a 300-foot diameter turning basin. Approximately 315,000 cubic yards of material will be deposited in an upland disposal area with the effluent returning to the river or dredged material deposited directly back to the river.

**NEW MADRID CITY AND COUNTY HARBOR**

Located at approximately Mississippi River Mile 888.3 and Mile 888.5, the proposal would allow maintenance dredging at the mouth of the City Harbor and extend 9,400 feet in length and County Harbor 1,500 feet in length. The work will be accomplished with a 27-inch cutterhead dredge. Dredged material will be returned to the river.

The purpose of this public notice is to renew the navigational dredging project water quality certification with the State of Missouri, to advise all interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact. This notice is being circulated to the following federal, state, and local environmental agencies:

U.S. Coast Guard, Memphis, TN  
Environmental Protection Agency, Kansas City, KS  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, MN  
National Park Service, Albuquerque, NM  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO

**AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION:** The activity will have very minimal impact on Waters of the United States. The Corps of Engineers will only dredge the minimal amount required to maintain the authorized channel.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** This notice is being coordinated with the USFWS. The Memphis District is aware of interior least tern *Sternula antillarum* nesting sites and avoids dredging in the vicinity of these sites during the nesting season. The pallid sturgeon, *Scaphirhynchus albus*, is known to utilize the Mississippi River; however, little is known about the species' ecological and habitat requirements in the lower Mississippi River. There have been a few reports of the species within the Memphis District. The Mississippi Valley Division has initiated a study to gather information about habitat requirements, the impact of gravel dredging and the presence of the pallid sturgeon within the Districts. We have agreed to refrain from navigational dredging from April 1 to June 30, unless extreme low water conditions occur during the spawning season. We will consult with USFWS on those occasions. Any comments USFWS may have regarding this species or other endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA).** An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries Project was prepared pursuant to NEPA. A supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared at the conclusion of the comment period to update the record.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The Memphis District is complying with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing regulations found in 36 CFR Part 800. The Memphis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes, the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct or require a survey of the project area.

**FLOODPLAIN:** In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use). Participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed public notice and notify this office of any floodplain development permit requirements.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION** - By copy of this public notice, the Memphis District is requesting water quality certification from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 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 waiver thereof, must be submitted prior to the start of dredging.

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 the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to modify, or condition the project. 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 preparation of an EA and/or an EIS pursuant to NEPA.

**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.

**COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Send comments to the Corps of Engineers, Memphis District and Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Comments must be received by the expiration date listed on page one of this notice and may be sent via mail or e-mail to the following:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Memphis District  
ATTN: Randy Clark  
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894  
E-mail: james.r.clark@usace.army.mil  
Phone: (901) 544-0735  
Fax: (901) 544-0211

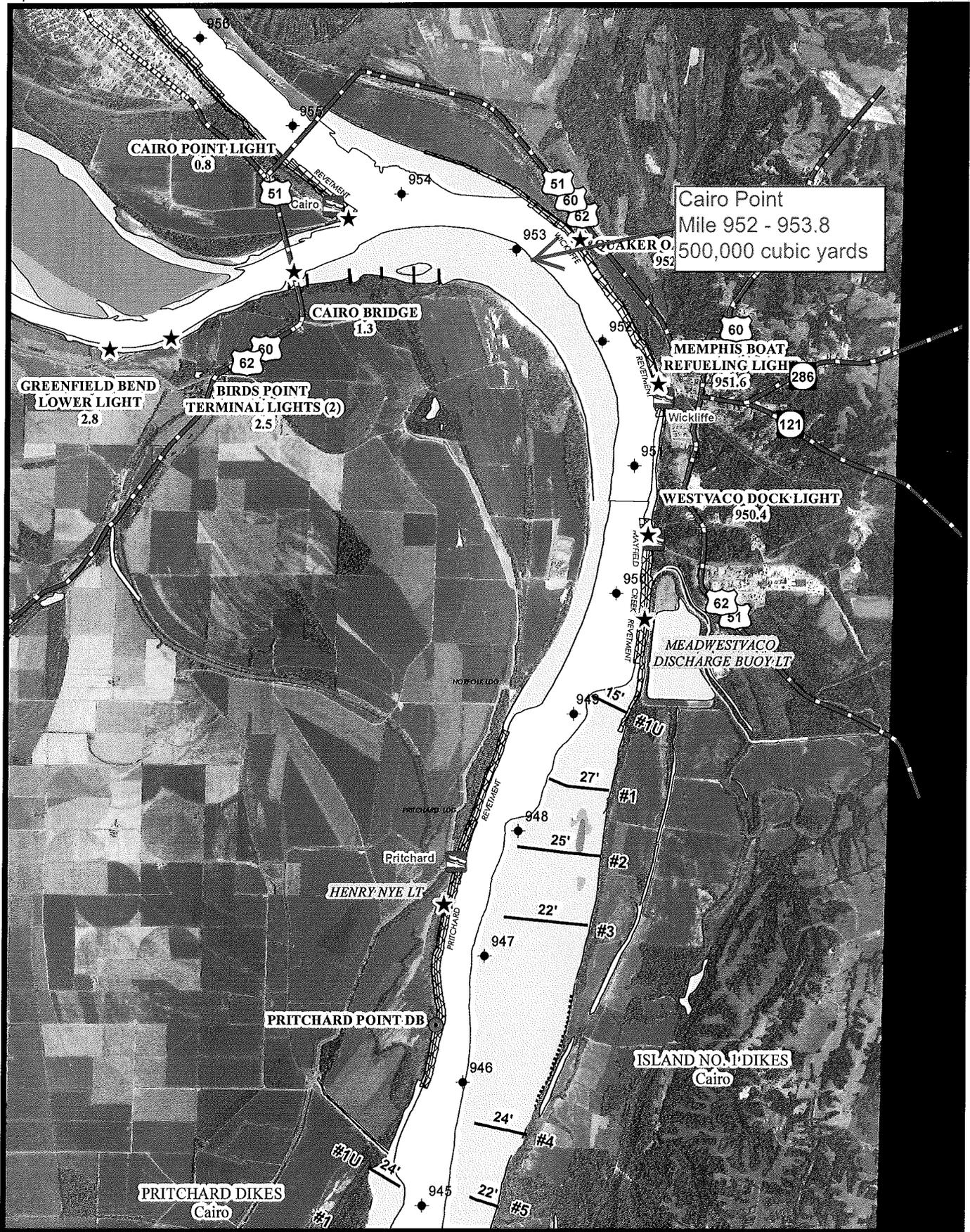
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Water Protection Program  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

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.

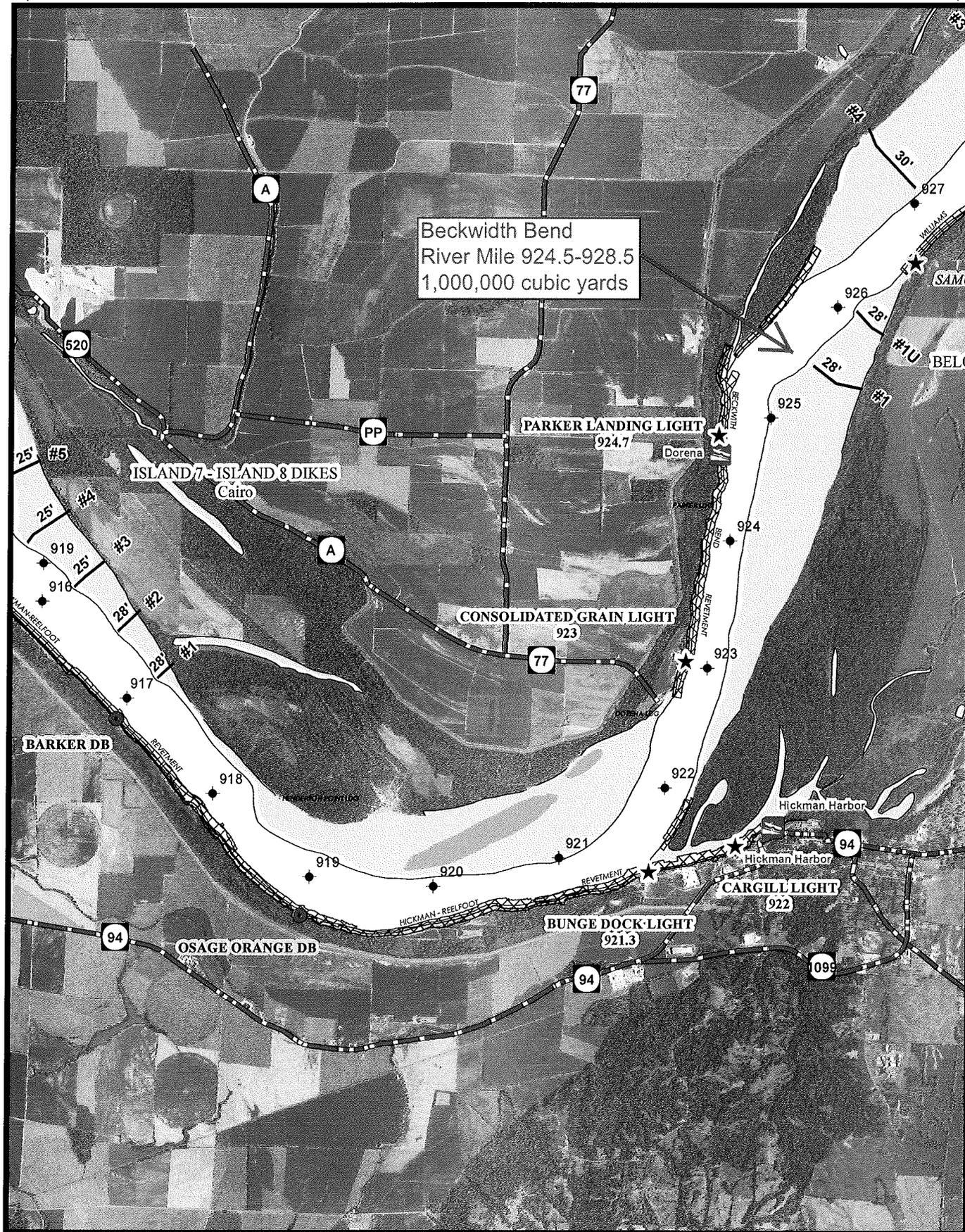


Gregg Williams  
Chief  
Regulatory Branch

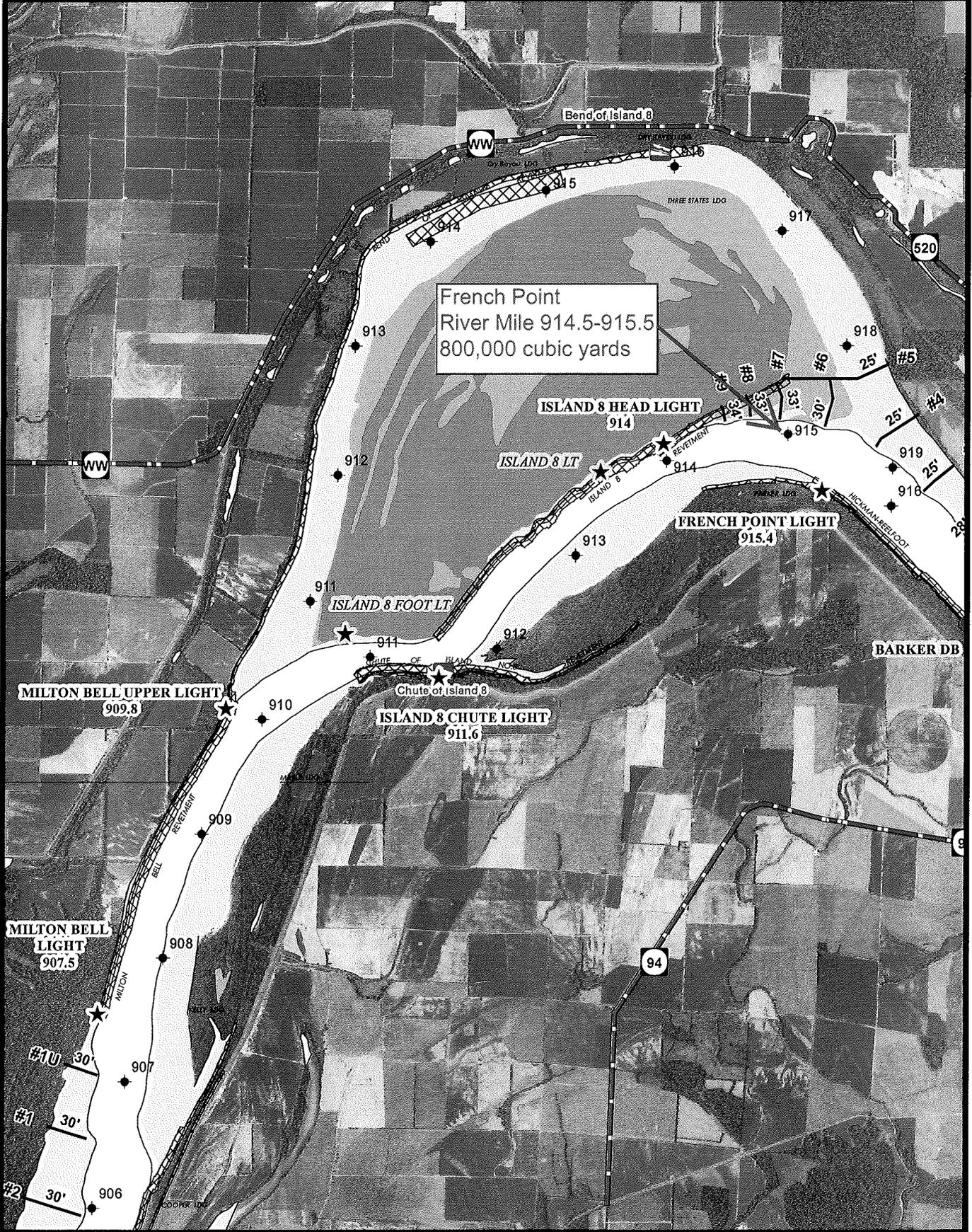
Attachments



Cairo Point  
Mile 952 - 953.8  
500,000 cubic yards

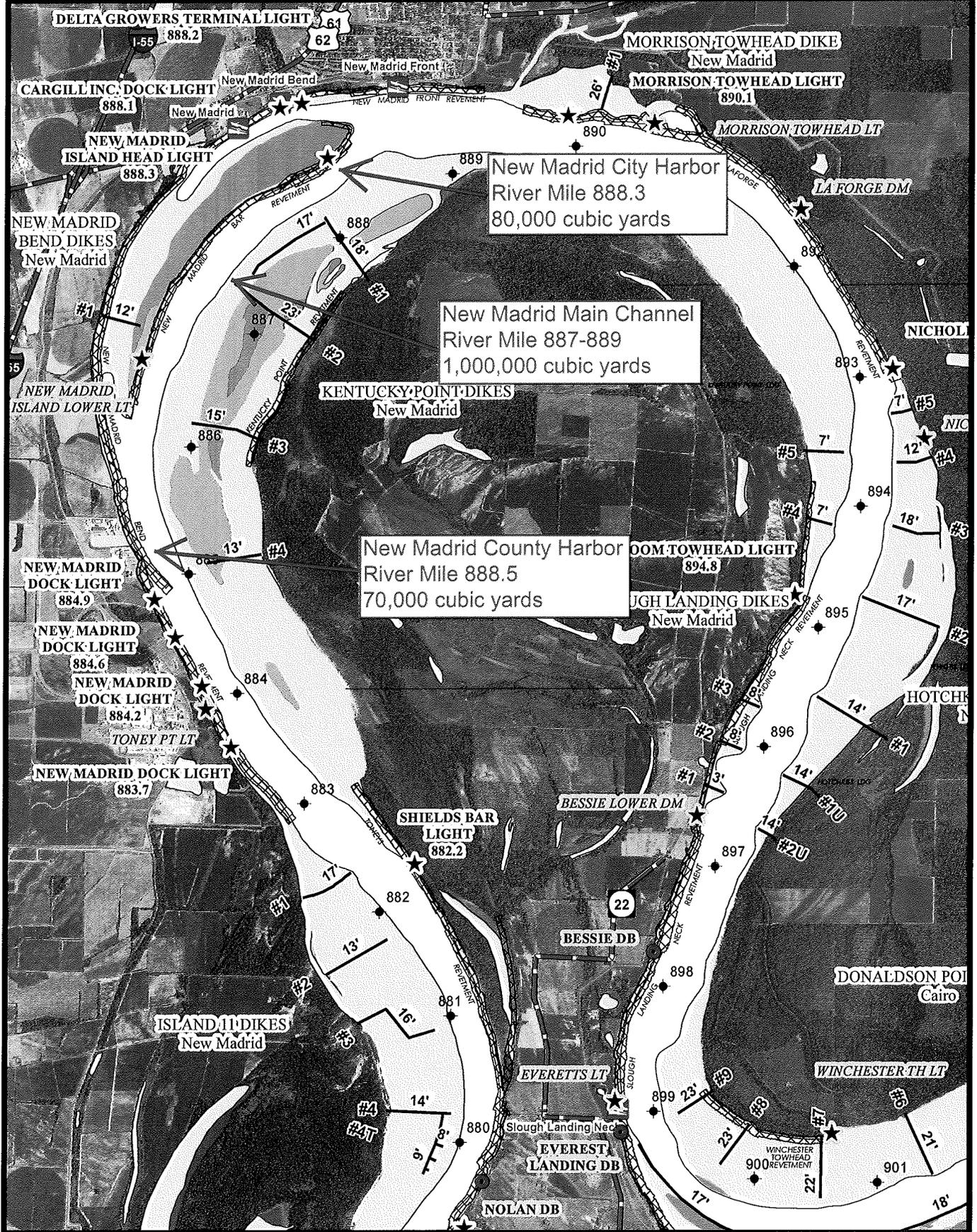


Beckwidth Bend  
River Mile 924.5-928.5  
1,000,000 cubic yards

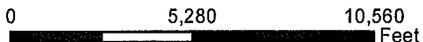


French Point  
River Mile 914.5-915.5  
800,000 cubic yards

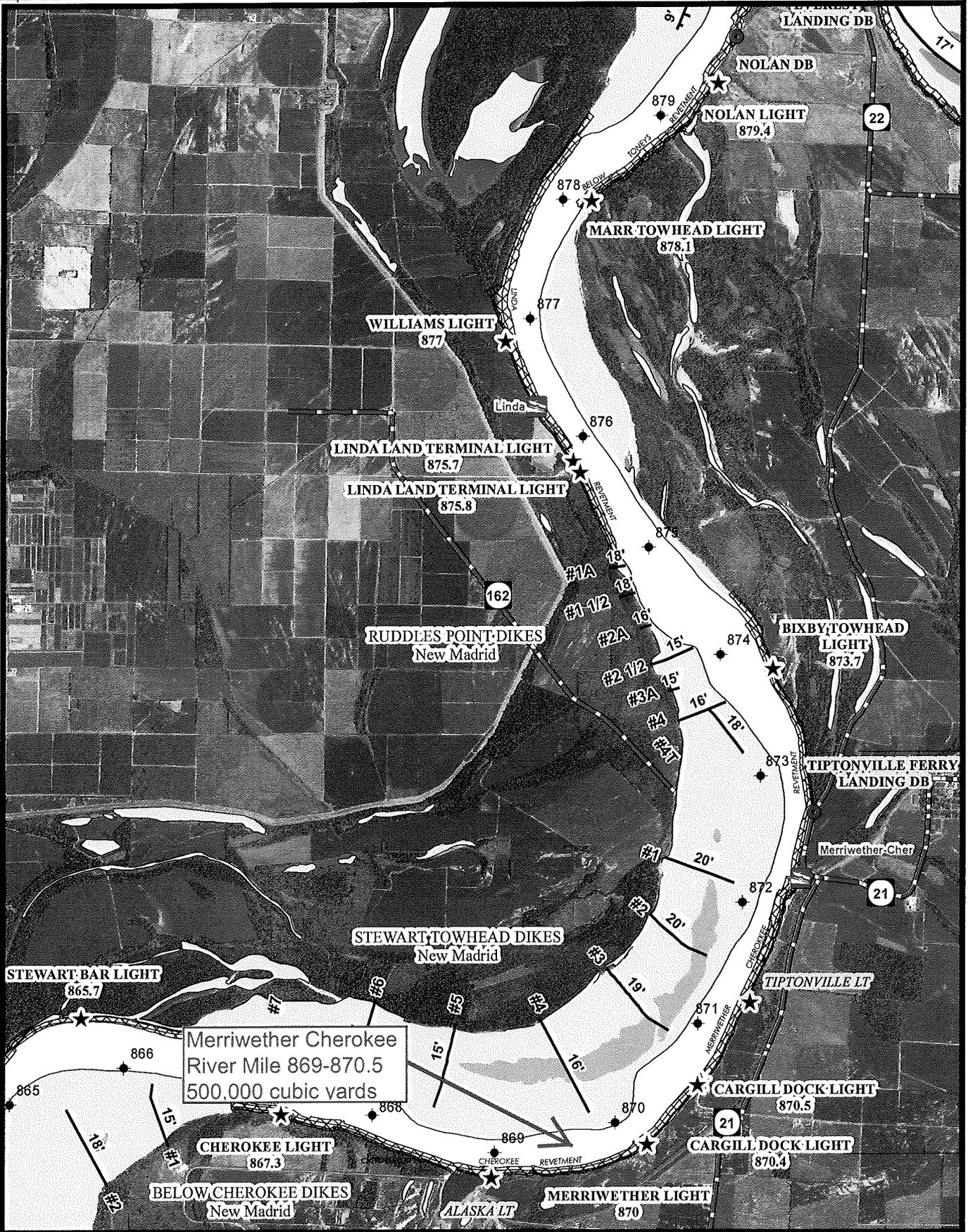




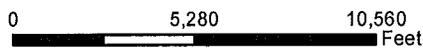
RM 901-880



MAP NO 7



RM 879-865



MAP NO 8

