

Draft FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**POWE DITCH, MISSOURI, GRADE CONTROL STRUCTURE
STODDARD COUNTY, MISSOURI**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, intends to construct a rock weir grade control structure to arrest headcutting in Powe Ditch, Stoddard County, Missouri. The project site is about 8.0 miles southwest of the town of Powe, Missouri. Channel headcutting has progressed about 550 feet upstream from the mouth of Powe Ditch at the St. Francis River. If left unchecked, scouring could continue upstream resulting in the unraveling of adjacent drainage ditches, and eventually impacting State Highway U. The Cropland along the top banks has surface cracks at the head cut that are indicative of eminent bank sloughing. The weir would be located about 400 feet upstream of the confluence of Powe Ditch and the St. Francis River (Appendix –Figures 1 and 2). The head cut is about 150 feet further upstream from the weir location. Installing a rock grade control structure would stabilize the headcutting and raise the channel bottom to near its original elevation. A small amount of excavation would be done only within the project rights-of-way to slope the banks to accommodate the rock riprap armor. No overall channel enlargement would be done. All excavated material would be deposited in one small pile adjacent to the ditch on cropland on the existing excavated material embankment from earlier St. Francis River work.

An environmental assessment was prepared (EA) to address potential impacts of this work on endangered species, wetlands, prime and unique farmland, endangered species, cultural resources, aquatic resources, wildlife resources, and the human environment. No wetlands are involved, and construction would be done during a dry period. This project meets the criteria of Nationwide Permit 13 for bank stabilization.

Coordination with the Natural Resource Conservation Service revealed that no significant impacts to prime and unique farmland or farmed wetlands would result from project construction. Memphis District Environmental Branch biologists visited the site and did not find threatened or endangered species or critical habitats in the project area. A no affect determination is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No evidence of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (HTRW) was found within the project area during the site visit.

Memphis District archaeologists conducted a cultural resources survey of the project site. Their findings were negative. Based on this survey, the District Archaeologist determined there would be no adverse cultural resources impacts with construction, and that no further cultural work would be required for this project unless the scope of work or project rights-of-way change. Cultural resources requirements have been fulfilled.

As the environmental documentation for the proposed project does not indicate this to be a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required.

Date

Thomas P. Smith
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer