

**DRAFT**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**  
**SEEPAGE CONTROL MEASURES**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, intends to install seepage control measures along the Mississippi River mainline levee in the Memphis District. The proposed work consists of 38 items located within Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The majority of these items will be relief wells landside of the levee with associated ditch work. However, slurry trenches or berms may be constructed in lieu of relief wells if determined during detailed design to be less environmentally damaging or more effective with no additional adverse impact. If slurry trenches or berms are recommended, additional NEPA analysis will be required.

An environmental assessment (EA) and a Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation were prepared to address potential impacts of this work on wetlands, prime and unique farmland, endangered species, cultural resources, and the human environment. A total of 15.6 acres spread over 225 miles of levee would be impacted by construction. Mitigation would consist of 16.09 acres (5.36 acres impacted) in Arkansas; 13.3 acres (4.4 acres impacted) in Mississippi; 0.288 acres (0.096 acres impacted) in Tennessee; 11.88 acres (3.96 acres impacted) in Missouri; 4.356 acres (1.45 acres impacted) in Kentucky; and 1.15 acres (0.384 acres impacted) in Illinois.

Coordination with the Natural Resource Conservation Service regarding the presence of prime and unique farmland and farmed wetland will be accomplished when the specific designs have been completed.

Site visits were completed by Memphis District personnel. Bald eagles were present in Pemiscot County, Missouri; however, no nests were observed. Specific items will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when detailed designs have been completed. Also, no evidence of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (HTRW) was observed during the field investigations.

Cultural resources surveys will be conducted prior to construction of each item in the project area. Should cultural resources be encountered during surveys and these sites are considered potentially significant, the site will be avoided if possible. If avoidance is not possible, appropriate testing and mitigation procedures will be developed with the SHPO, ACHP and Federally recognized tribes. This work would have minor effects from a cumulative impacts standpoint.

Since the environmental analysis for the proposed project does not indicate this Federal action will have impacts significantly affecting the human environment, and since the unavoidable impacts will be compensated, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required.

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Date

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Charles O. Smithers, III  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer