



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Memphis District**

File No. 2007-402

Public Notice

REPLY TO ATTN: Randy Clark
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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POSTMASTER PLEASE POST UNTIL:

PUBLIC NOTICE NO:
TN 2007-402 (RC)
DATE:
October 1, 2007

EXPIRATION DATE:
October 31, 2007

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The Memphis District Corps of Engineers, hereby gives notice pursuant to 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 B202
Memphis, TN 38103-1894
Telephone (901) 544-3471
Fax: (901) 544-0211

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. The project provides for a suitably aligned navigation channel 12 feet deep and 300 feet wide. Present funding limits the project to a channel 9 feet deep and 300 feet wide.

LOCATION: At various locations on the Mississippi River, between River Miles 715 and 905 AHP, as shown on the attached Location Map, sheet 1 of 3. Maintenance dredging is also performed in Wolf River Harbor and McKellar Lake Harbor, see Harbor Map sheet 2 of 3.

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

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: 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. Harbor dredging is normally performed by a cutterhead hydraulic dredge operated by a contractor for the District under a rental contract.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE: The dustpan dredge operates 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 the discharge area through a pipeline supported by pontoons.

The dustpan dredge moves approximately 10 million cubic yards of sandy material annually from the navigation channel. 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. Contaminant levels have been consistently within acceptable limits.

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HARBOR DREDGING: Approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of sediment is removed by the cutterhead dredges from the two harbors annually. Disposal of McKellar Lake Harbor sediment is pumped into a contained, upland, disposal field on Treasure Island. The disposal site for the dredging area at the mouth of McKellar Lake is also a contained site, upland, as noted on the Disposal Site Map sheet 3 of 6. The Mouth of McKellar Dredging Disposal site has been used for several years. The Pidgeon Industrial Park Disposal Site has been used in previous years, and may be used again in the future should the need arise. Return effluent for the Treasure Island site is McKellar Lake and effluent from the Mouth of McKellar site is returned to McKellar Lake and to the Mississippi River. Both have NPDES permits. Wolf River Harbor sediment is pumped into the Mississippi River downstream from the harbor mouth.

Table I. Current Dredging Sites Between Mississippi River Miles 715 and 905 AHP.

CROSSING NAME	RIVER MILE	QUANTITY DREDGED MILLION CUBIC YARDS
Winchester Towhead	901	0.5
Linwood Bend	840	0.5
Kate Aubrey-Island 30	789	1.0
Craighead-Driver	780	2.0
Randolph Bluff	770	2.0
Redman Bar & Sycamore Chute	743	2.0
Memphis Front	738	1.5
Vice Presidents Island	732	0.5

The purpose of this public notice is to renew water quality certification by the State of Tennessee, 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:

Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta, GA
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cookeville, TN
National Park Service, Albuquerque, NM
Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, TN

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES - This notice is being coordinated with the USFWS. The Memphis District is aware of interior least tern 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 only a few reports of the species within the Memphis District. One was in the vicinity of Caruthersville, Missouri. The Memphis District has initiated a study to gather information about habitat requirements, the impact of sand and gravel dredging and the presence of the pallid sturgeon within the District. 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 other endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

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CULTURAL RESOURCES - The Memphis District is complying with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing regulations found in 36 CFR Part 800.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS for the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries Project was prepared pursuant to NEPA. An EA will be prepared at the conclusion of the comment period to update the record,

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.

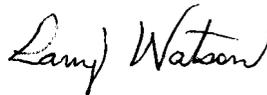
WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION - By copy of this public notice, the Memphis District is requesting water quality certification from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control, in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. A determination concerning deposition of material will not be made, nor will deposition commence, until water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify is obtained.

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

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the deposition of this material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice, and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

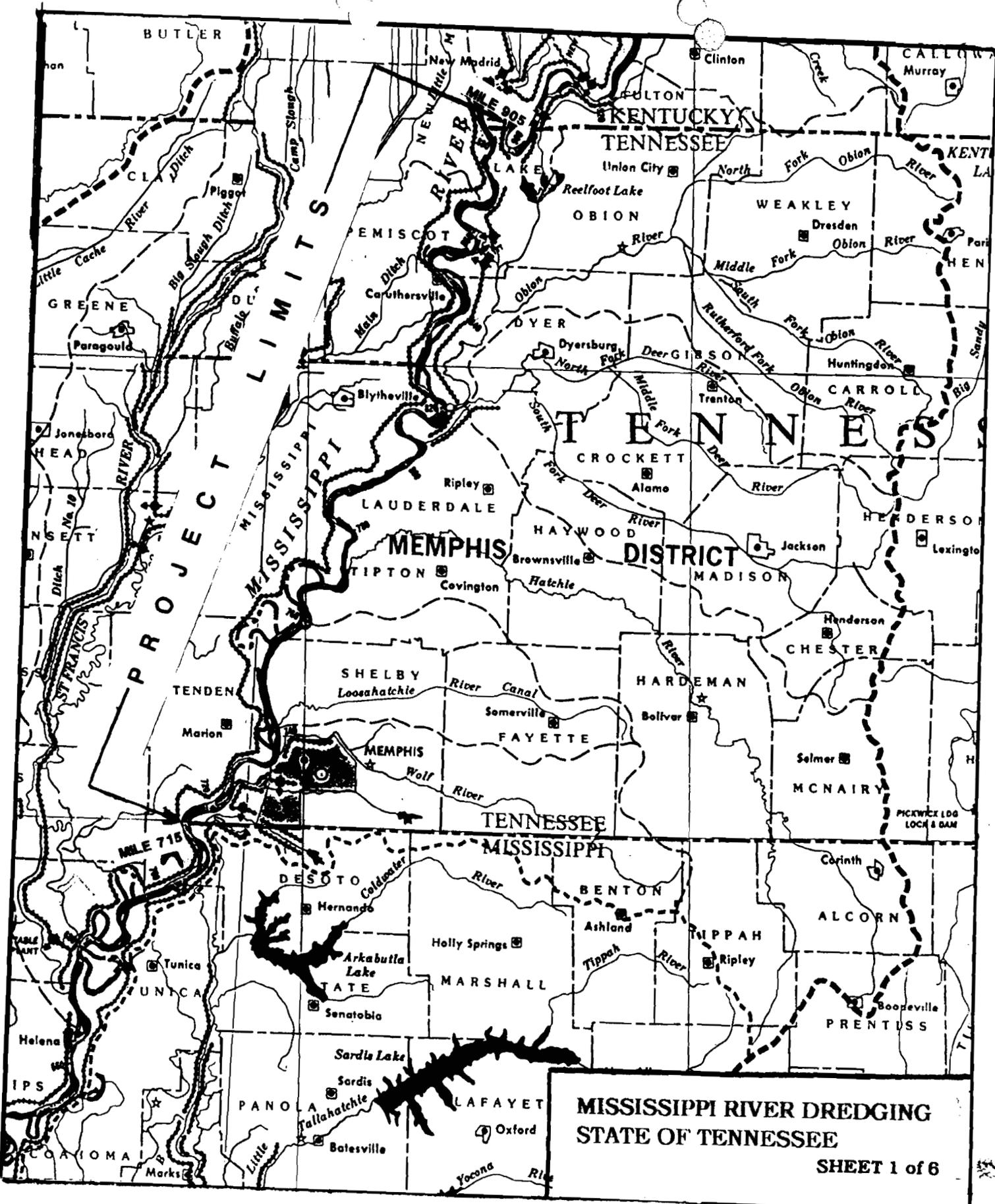
If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on the proposal, please contact Randy Clark, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 167 N Main Street, RM B202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894, telephone 901/544-0735.

Comments should be forwarded to reach this office by October 31, 2007.



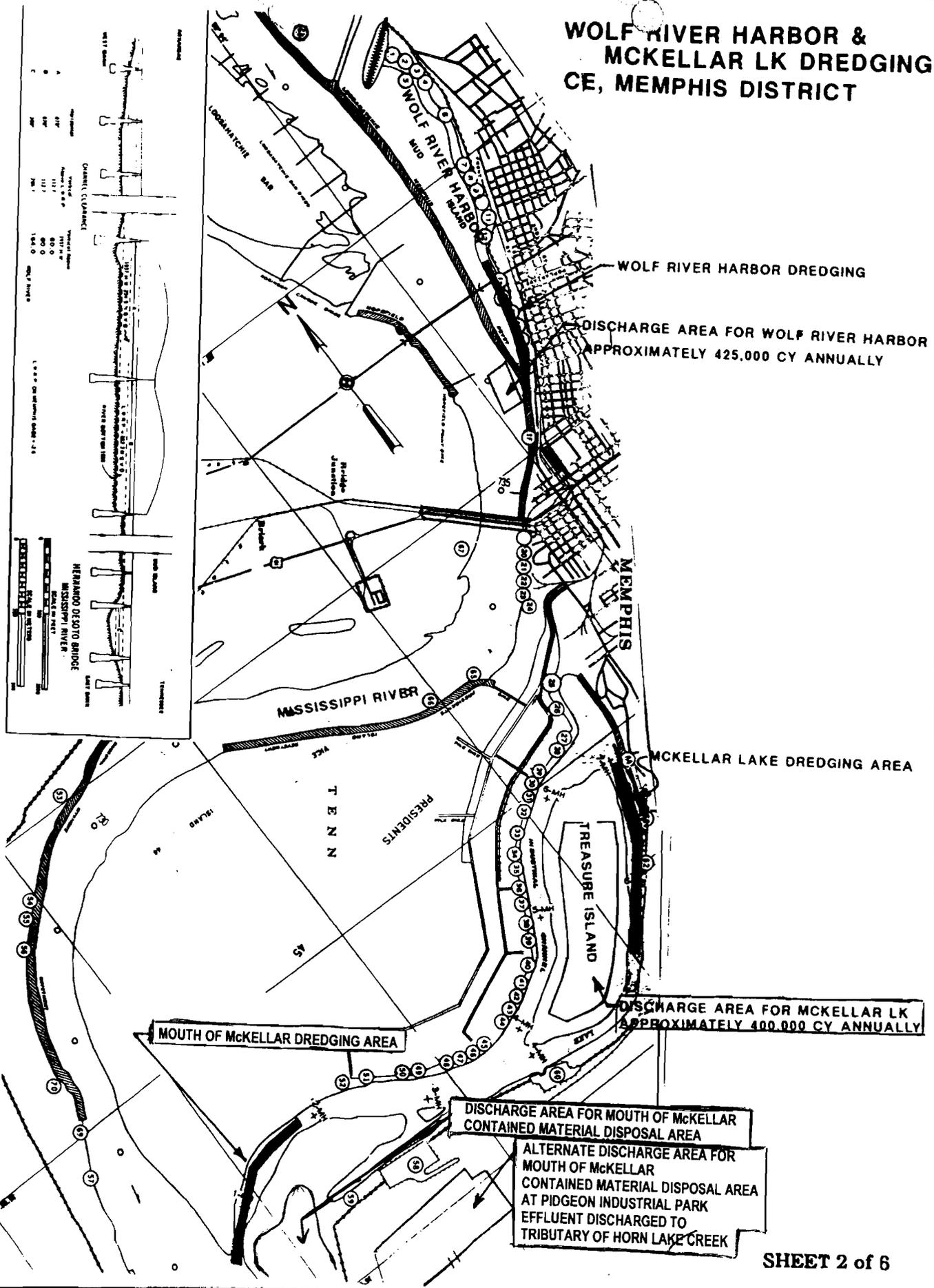
Larry D. Watson
Chief
Regulatory Branch

Attachments



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER DREDGING
STATE OF TENNESSEE
SHEET 1 of 6**

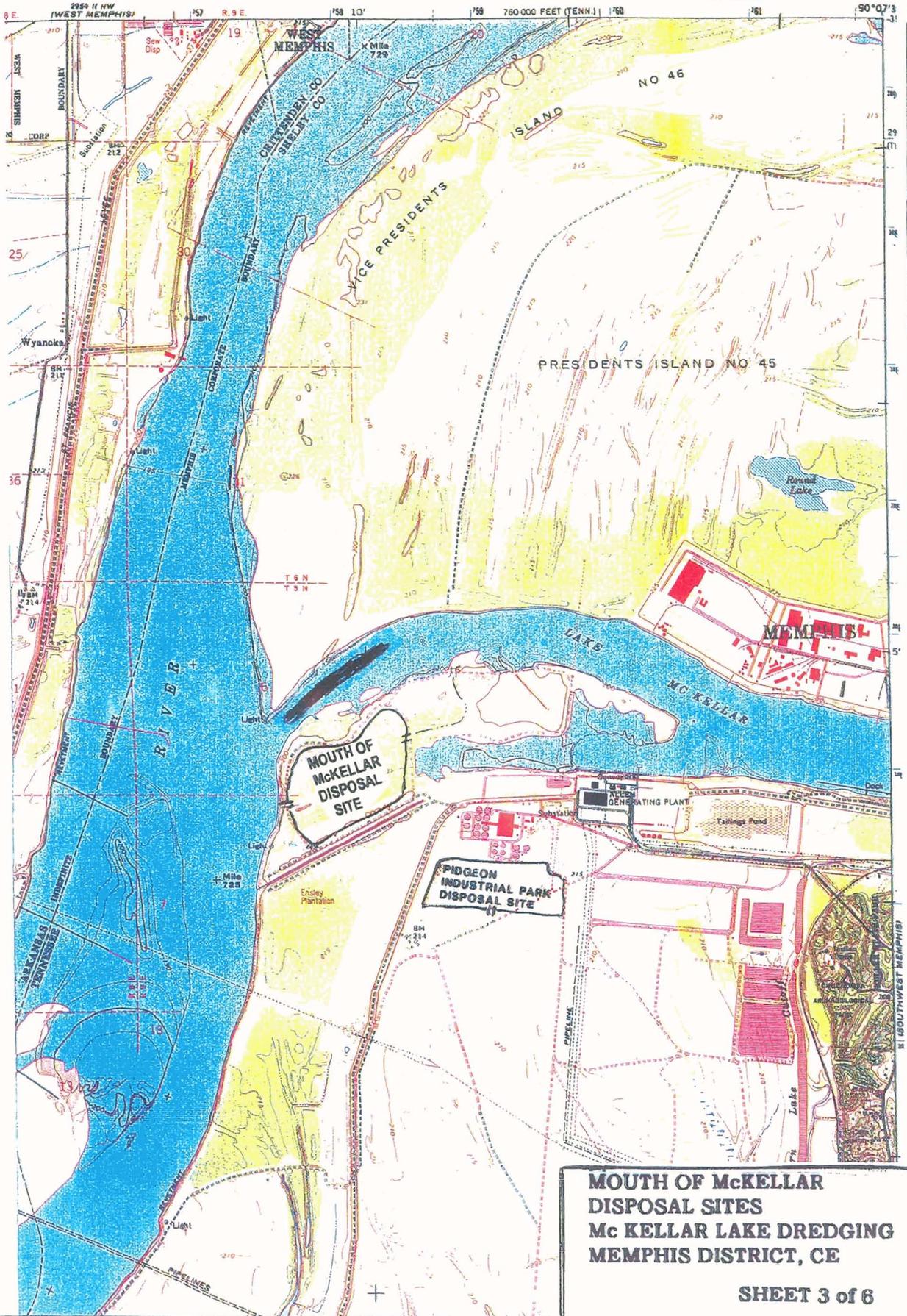
WOLF RIVER HARBOR & MCKELLAR LK DREDGING CE, MEMPHIS DISTRICT



Overall Clearance	
Vertical	117.0
Horizontal	117.0
Vertical	117.0
Horizontal	117.0
Vertical	117.0
Horizontal	117.0
Vertical	117.0
Horizontal	117.0
Vertical	117.0
Horizontal	117.0

HERNANDO DESOTO BRIDGE
MISSISSIPPI RIVER

FLETCHER LAKE QUADRANGLE
TENNESSEE-ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 MEMPHIS 1ST QUADRANGLE

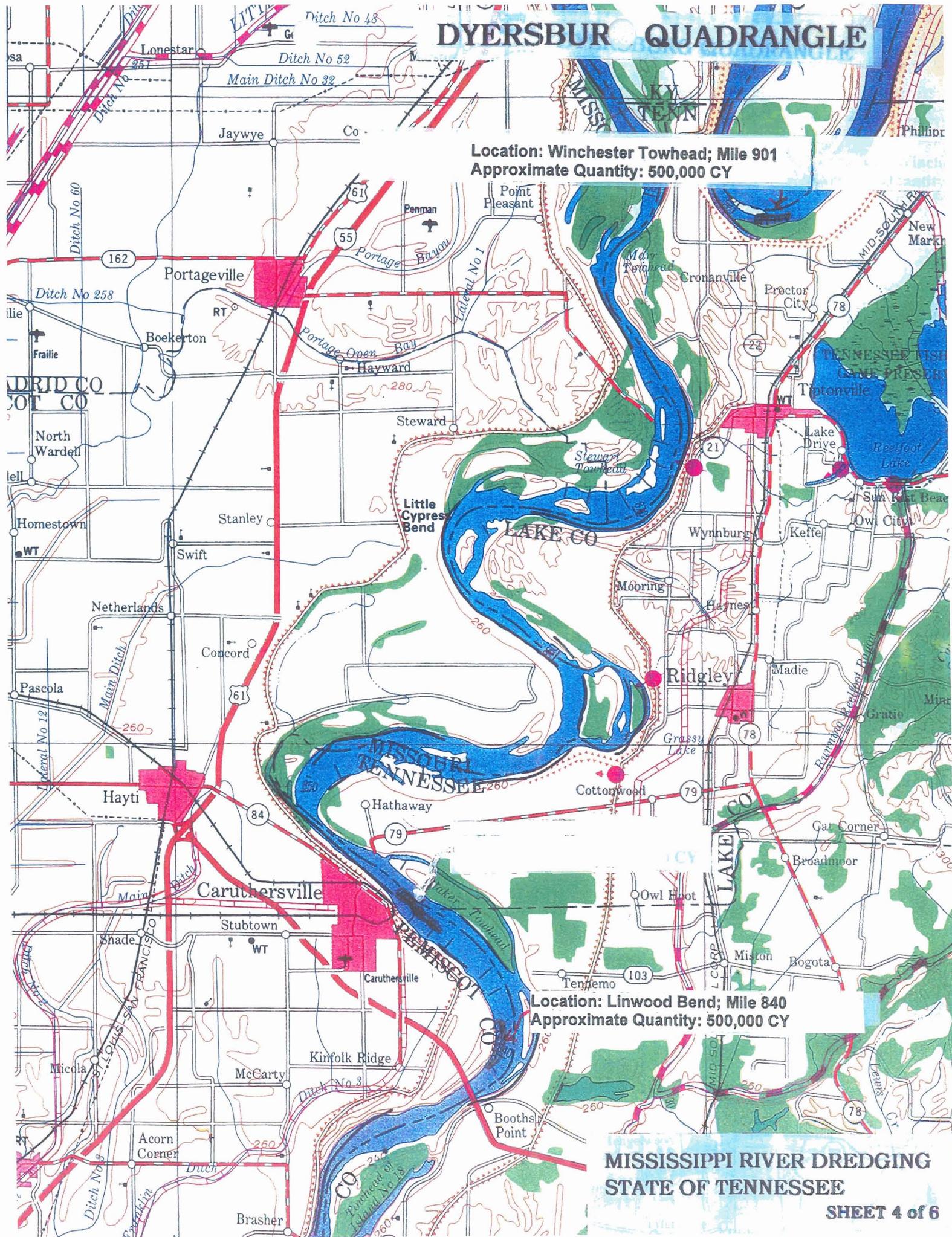


**MOUTH OF McKELLAR
DISPOSAL SITES
Mc KELLAR LAKE DREDGING
MEMPHIS DISTRICT, CE**

SHEET 3 of 6

DYERSBUR QUADRANGLE

Location: Winchester Towhead; Mile 901
Approximate Quantity: 500,000 CY



Location: Linwood Bend; Mile 840
Approximate Quantity: 500,000 CY

MISSISSIPPI RIVER DREDGING
STATE OF TENNESSEE

BLYTHI ALLE QUADRANGLE

MANILA 11 MI.

MARKED TREE 33 MI.

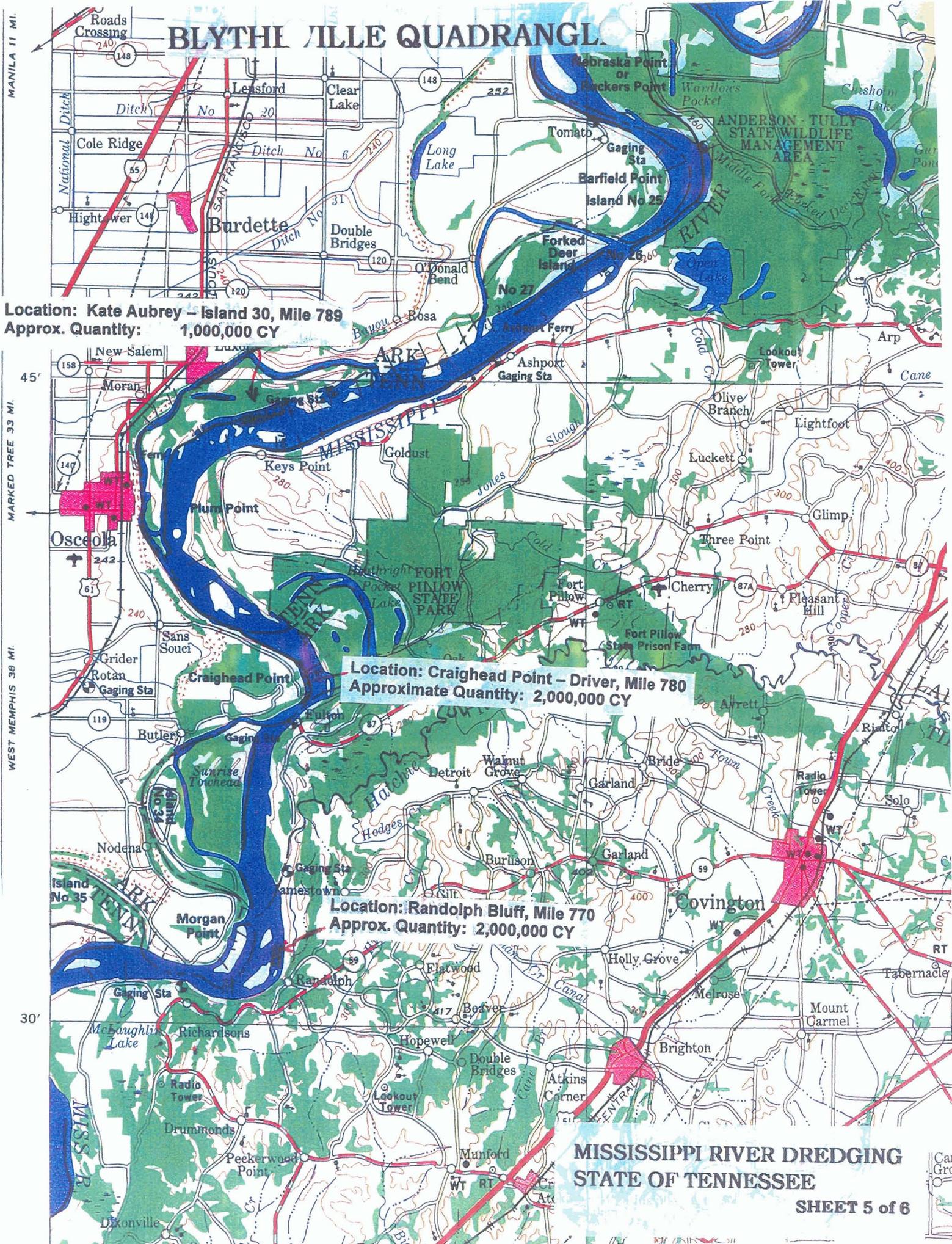
WEST MEMPHIS 38 MI.

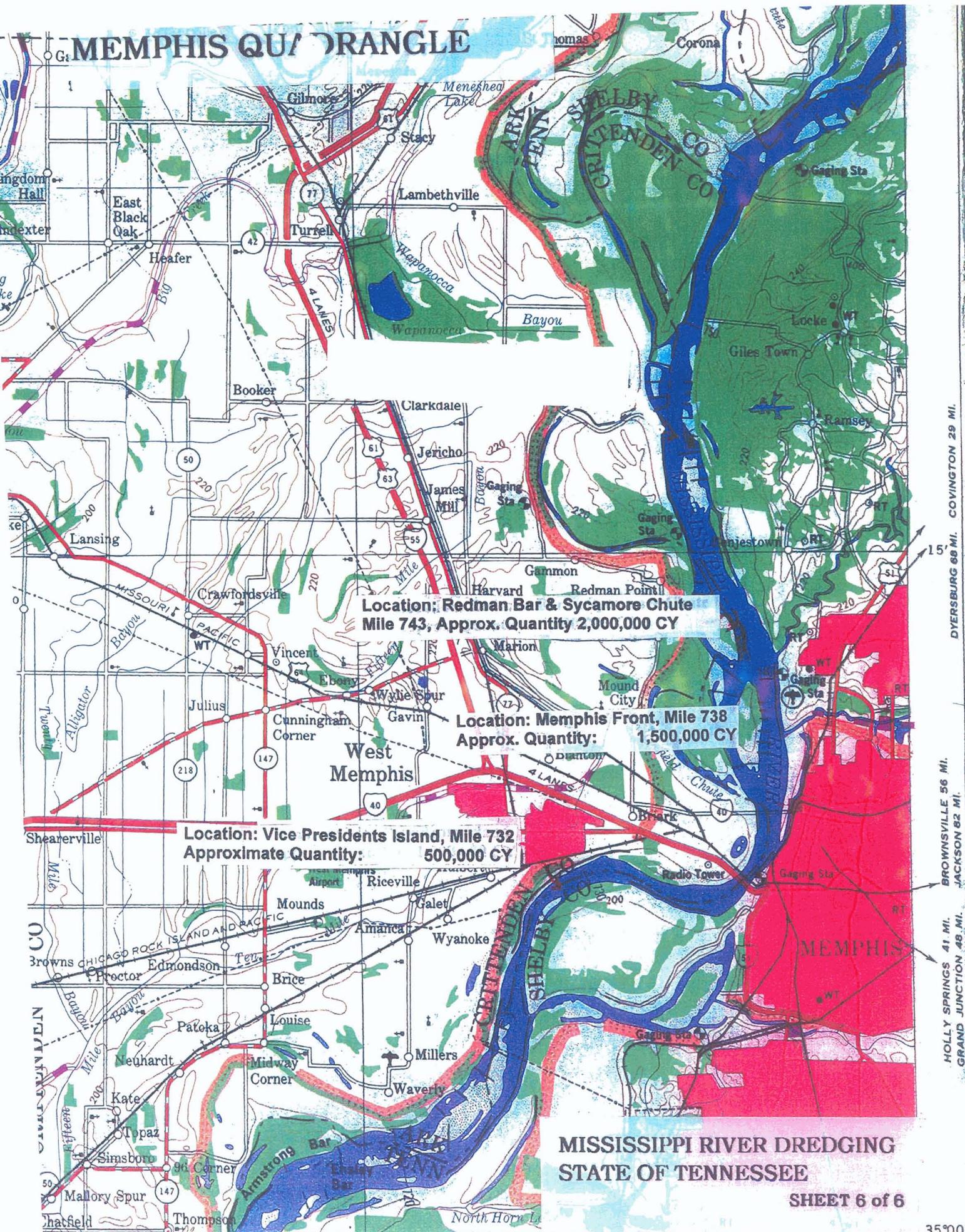
Location: Kate Aubrey – Island 30, Mile 789
Approx. Quantity: 1,000,000 CY

Location: Craighead Point – Driver, Mile 780
Approximate Quantity: 2,000,000 CY

Location: Randolph Bluff, Mile 770
Approx. Quantity: 2,000,000 CY

MISSISSIPPI RIVER DREDGING STATE OF TENNESSEE





MEMPHIS QUADRANGLE

**Location: Redman Bar & Sycamore Chute
Mile 743, Approx. Quantity 2,000,000 CY**

**Location: Memphis Front, Mile 738
Approx. Quantity: 1,500,000 CY**

**Location: Vice Presidents Island, Mile 732
Approximate Quantity: 500,000 CY**

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER DREDGING
STATE OF TENNESSEE**

SHEET 6 of 6

DIYERSBURG 68 MI. COVINGTON 29 MI.
BROWNSVILLE 56 MI. JACKSON 82 MI.
HOLLY SPRINGS 41 MI. GRAND JUNCTION 48 MI.

15'

35°00'
90°00'