



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Memphis District

Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM 2017-016 (RC)

**NOTICE DATE:
January 12, 2017**

Attn: Postmaster,
Please Post Until **EXPIRATION DATE:
February 10, 2017**

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

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:

Tim C. Fudge, Chief
Operations Division
Memphis District, Corps of Engineers
167 N. Main Street, RM B-202
Memphis, TN 38103-1894
Telephone (901) 544-0735

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.

PURPOSE:

To maintain the authorized navigation channel within the Mississippi River

LOCATION:

At various locations on the Mississippi River, between River Miles 599 and 720 AHP, as shown on the attached location maps.

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.

Approximately 10 million cubic yards of material are deposited annually by the dustpan dredges. 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 599.0 and 715.0 AHP.

CROSSING NAME	RIVER MILE	QUANTITY DREDGED (Cubic Yards)
Armstrong	719	0.5
Nelms	711	0.4
Norfolk Star	708	0.7
Finley Towhead	703	0.8
Commerce	695	1.5
Mhoon Bend	687	0.5
Harbert Point Upper	676	0.35
Westover	653	0.55
Robson	630	0.85
Clay Wilson	604	0.4

The purpose of this public notice is to renew the navigational dredging project water quality certification with the State of Mississippi, 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, Vicksburg, MS
National Park Service, Albuquerque, NM
Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Jackson, MS
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

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.

MITIGATION: No mitigation is proposed with this activity.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED 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. We have agreed to refrain from navigational dredging during the pallid sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus albus*, spawning season which occurs from April 1 to June 30, unless extreme low water conditions occur during this period. 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.

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.

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.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION - By copy of this public notice, the Memphis District is requesting water quality certification from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, 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.

Commentors are requested to also furnish a copy of their comments to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, P.O. Box 10385, Jackson, MS 39289-0385. The Department will consider all relative comments in the decision to grant or deny water quality certification for the proposed activity.

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 to the State of Mississippi, Office of Pollution Control. 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

State of Mississippi
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Pollution Control
P. O. Box 2261
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261
Phone (601) 961-5171
ATTN: Harry M. Wilson III, P.E. DEE

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.

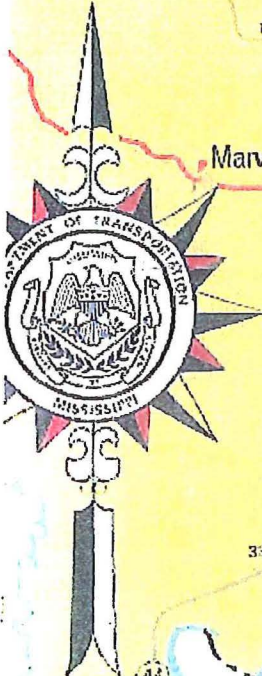


Gregg Williams
Chief
Regulatory Branch

Attachments



Project Limits



Snow Lake

Rosedale
Beulah
Pace

Winstonville
Mound Bayou
Merigold

Drew
Parchman
Rome

Glendora
Swan Lake
Tippa

Cascilla
Charleston
Tilatoba

Enid
Oakland
Courtland

Helena
West Helena
Marvell
Marianna
Forrest City
Caldwell

Clarksdale
Lambert
Lyon
Stovall
Friers Point
Coahoma
Jonestown
Belen
Marks
Crowder

Sardis
Sledge
Darling
Falcon
Batesville
Courtland

Enid
Oakland
Charleston
Tilatoba
Cascilla

Glendora
Swan Lake
Tippa
Cascilla

West Memphis
Caldwell
Forrest City
Hughes
Marianna
West Helena
Helena
Marvell

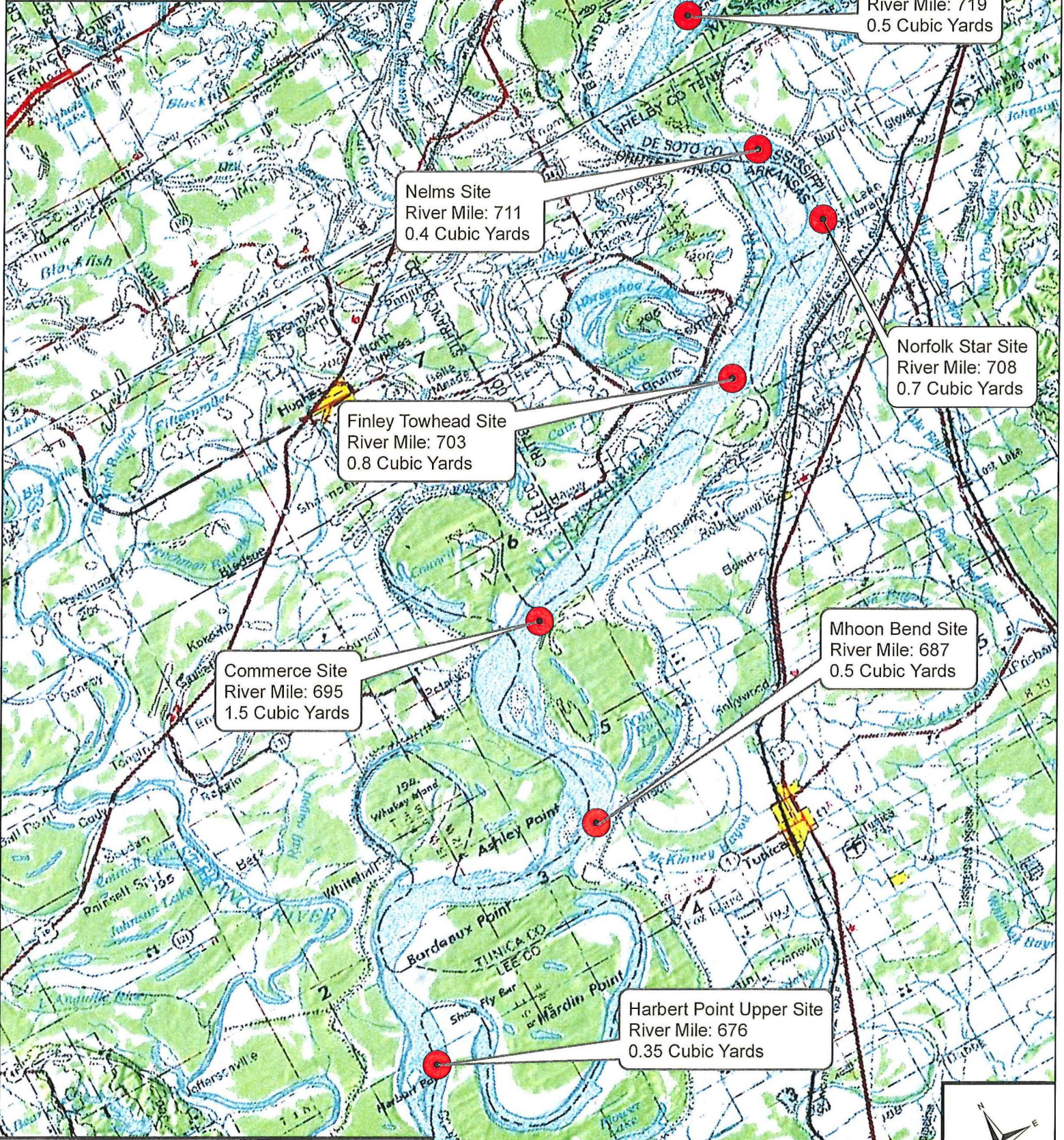
Southaven
Walls
Horn Lake
Memphis
Nesbit
Hernando
Tunica
Arkabutla
Coldwater
Savage
Sarah
Askew
Crenshaw
Sledge
Falcon
Darling

Caplevill
Southaven
Horn Lake
Memphis
Nesbit
Hernando
Arkabutla
Coldwater
Savage
Sarah
Askew
Crenshaw
Sardis

Enid
Oakland
Courtland
Pope
Batesville
Marks
Crowder
Enid
Oakland
Charleston
Tilatoba
Cascilla

Memphis District Dredging Sites - Map A (Northern Sites)

USACE Dredging Locations - Mississippi River
Reference Point: Armstrong Dredging Site
Latitude 35.020398°, Longitude -90.252675°
Please note the position of the northern azimuth.

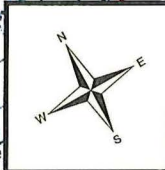
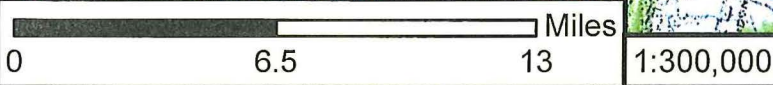
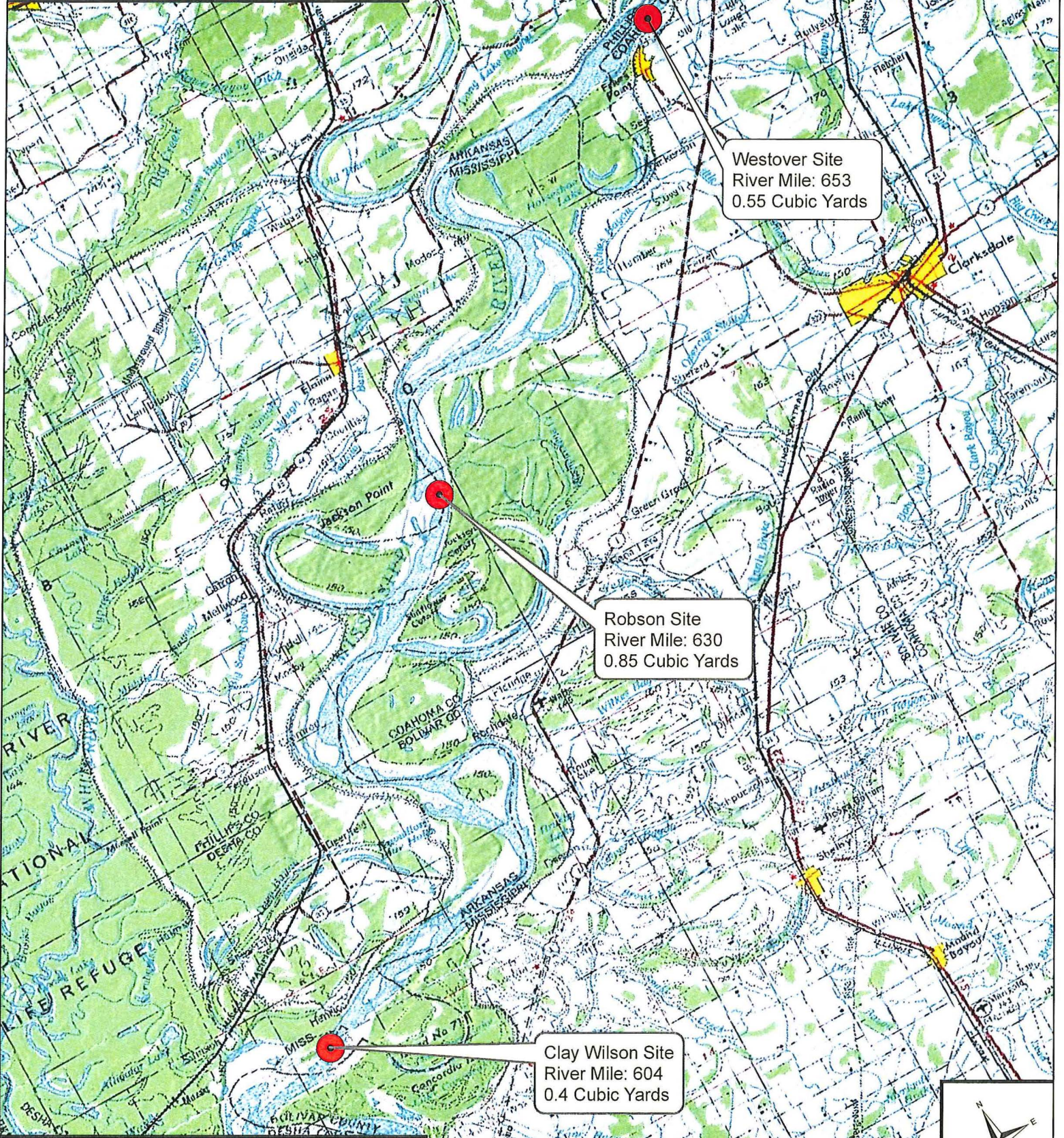


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Memphis District Dredging Sites - Map B (Southern Sites)

USACE Dredging Locations - Mississippi River
Reference Point: Westover Dredging Site
Latitude 34.386724°, Longitude -90.623304°
Please note the position of the northern azimuth.



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