

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)**

**Below Kennett/Drainage District (DD) 48 Seepage Remediation
St. Francis River Basin
Dunklin County, Missouri**

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed project resulted from analysis of seepage potential along the landside toe and within the adjacent ditch work running parallel to the levee and involves implementing seepage control measures along the St. Francis River Levee in Dunklin County, Missouri. Project features for the proposed seepage control action include construction of continuous, semi-pervious landside berms; modifying existing ditches to re-orient interior drainage away from the levee through a combination of existing and new ditch work; and re-grading fields adjacent to the levee (Figure 2). Access to the project area would be from county roads or from roads on top of the levee. Heavy construction equipment would be used to modify and fill the existing ditches and construct berms. Post-construction hydrology would be similar to pre-existing conditions for the proposed project.

The proposed project is approximately 8 miles long, essentially from Missouri County Road 438 south along the existing East Bank St. Francis River Levee System to just south of Missouri County Road 513 (levee baseline stations 19/18+00 and 28/00+00). The study area is directly west of Kennett, Missouri, and runs south towards the Varney River confluence with the St. Francis River.

Factors Considered in This Determination

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared specifically to assess the potential impacts of this work on cultural and natural resources, including endangered species, water quality, infrastructure, wildlife habitat, and to update coordination with the associated levee work. The EA revealed that the proposed project action was the least costly and the least environmentally damaging alternative. The environmental assessment and associated investigations found that no significant immitigable impacts would be anticipated to cultural resources, wetlands, or threatened or endangered species.

Mitigation

With the implementation of the proposed project, approximately 20.0 acres of bottomland hardwood (BLH) and 6.75 acres of Waters of the U.S. (farmed wetlands) are anticipated to be impacted. The farmed wetland impacts would be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio with the 20 acres of BLH impacts mitigated at a 3:1 ratio for a total of 66.75 acres of BLH restoration required. Several properties have been suggested for mitigation totaling approximately 180 acres (Figure 6). These properties are in the final stages of purchase with mitigation plans to be developed in the near future with input from an interagency team composed of members from Memphis District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, and any other interested parties. Excess mitigation from

properties identified for this project would be applied to the mitigation currently outstanding for the St. Francis River Basin Project in Missouri.

Public Involvement

The proposed action has been coordinated with appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, businesses, organizations, and individuals through distribution of the draft EA, *Below Kennett/Drainage District (DD) 48 Seepage Remediation, St. Francis River Basin, Dunklin County, Missouri*, for their review and comment.

Conclusion

This office has assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action. Based on this assessment, and a review of the public comments made on the associated environmental assessment, a determination has been made that the proposed action would have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Draft

Date

Zachary L. Miller
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer