

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

**Mississippi River Mainline Levee  
Clack and Norfolk, MS  
Seepage Control Measures  
Desoto and Tunica counties, Mississippi and Shelby County, Tennessee**

Description of the Proposed Action

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Planning and Environmental Division South, evaluated the potential impacts associated with implementing proposed seepage control measures at two locations, Clack and Norfolk, along the Mississippi River mainline levee (MRL) in Desoto and Tunica counties, Mississippi, and Shelby County, Tennessee. An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared to document the findings. Project features for the proposed seepage control action includes constructing an earthen berm adjacent to the landside levee/berm and installing 31 relief wells (17 Clack / 14 Norfolk). Access to the project areas would be from Old Highway 61 and County/Levee roads. Specialized drill rigs would be used to drill the holes along the levee, and cranes would be used to install the relief wells. A bulldozer and excavator would be used to construct the seepage berm and to modify the existing ditch. At the Norfolk project site, approximately 32,000 cubic yards of material would be obtained from an abandoned levee riverside of the current MRL and be used to create an earthen berm landside of the existing MRL on land currently maintained and used for cattle grazing. However, as a result of these proposed actions, it is anticipated that approximately 3 acres of bottomland hardwoods would be cleared at the proposed borrow location at the Norfolk project area.

Factors Considered in this Determination

A 1998 final Supplemental EIS (SEIS), Mississippi River Mainline Levees Enlargement and Seepage Control, addressed seepage control measures to be implemented along the MRL. Although seepage control measures at the proposed locations were described and discussed in the 1998 SEIS, additional rights of way are required beyond those previously described and potential environmental impacts have been identified. Therefore, this EA was prepared specifically to assess the potential impacts of the proposed work on cultural and natural resources, including endangered species, water quality, infrastructure, wildlife habitat, and to update coordination with the associated seepage control measures. The EA revealed that the proposed project action was the least environmentally damaging and the least costly alternative. The environmental assessment and associated investigations found that no significant impacts to cultural resources or threatened or endangered species are anticipated. A total of approximately 3 acres of bottomland hardwood forest will be impacted by the proposed project as described above. Compensatory mitigation requirements are described in the mitigation section below.

Mitigation

With the proposed action, approximately 3 acres of non-wet bottomland hardwoods would be impacted by the proposed project. However, impacts for the MRL program within Mississippi are currently below the 1998 SEIS estimate. Overall MRL related required mitigation is 121 acres (504 functional capacity units) less than the expected amount for MRL construction projects to date. Thus, environmental impacts resulting from the recommended alternative are addressed through the ongoing mitigation plan for Mississippi River Levees and Seepage projects.

Public Involvement

The proposed action has been coordinated with appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, and businesses, organizations, and individuals through distribution of the draft EA, *Mississippi River Mainline Levee, Clack/Norfolk, MS, Seepage Control Measures, Desoto and Tunica Counties, Mississippi and Shelby County, Tennessee*, for their review and comment.

Conclusion

This office has assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action. Based on the associated EA, and a review of the public comments received on the associated EA, a determination on the appropriateness of signing a Finding of No Significant Impact would be made by the MVM District Commander.

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Date

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Zachary L. Miller  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

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