

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

**Mississippi River Mainline Levee
Island 8 Parcel 2
Seepage Control Measures
Fulton County, Kentucky**

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 Island 8, Parcel 2, along the Mississippi River mainline levee (MRL) portion of the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT) system, located near Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky, and prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to document the findings for the Memphis District (MVM) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Project features for the proposed seepage control action include installing 79 relief wells and associated underground piping to carry seep water, creation of new drainage ditches, modification of existing drainage ditches, culvert replacement at four locations with associated rip-rap to prevent potential scour, and removal of large snags and debris from Running Slough. Access to the project areas would be from State Highway 94, County Road 311, as well as Sutton, Sutton East, John Wright, and Sycamore roads. Specialized drill rigs would be used to drill the holes along the levee, and cranes would be used to install the relief wells. Bulldozers and excavators would be used to construct the new drainage ditches and widen the existing field ditch. Spoil material from the ditch creation and enlargement would be placed and spread onto adjacent agricultural fields currently in production. The proposed action is not anticipated to result in significant impacts to the natural or human environment and any temporary disturbances occurring during the construction period would be expected to return to existing conditions after completion of the project action.

Factors Considered in this Determination

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 levee work. The EA revealed that the proposed project action was the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the environmental assessment and associated investigations determined that historic properties would not be adversely affected by the recommended action and that the recommended action would have no effect on threatened or endangered species, or their designated critical habitat.

Impacts to water quality within the adjacent Mississippi River and project area ephemeral ditches would be minimal or have no effect, as the river and ditches normally carry a heavy sediment load, and the project action would be conducted during dry or low water periods. The proposed culvert replacements within Running Slough meet criteria set forth in Nationwide Permit 3, Maintenance. The Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection issued a general state water quality certification in March 2017 for the re-issuance of the Nationwide Permits as is applies to water within the state. The proposed project meets the conditions set forth in the re-issuance.

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, Island 8 Parcel 2 Seepage Control Measures, Fulton County, Kentucky*, 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.

Draft

Date

Zachary L. Miller
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

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