

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

**Mississippi River Channel Improvement-Revetment Maintenance
New Madrid Boat Ramp Repair
New Madrid County, Missouri**

Description of the Proposed Action

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District (MVM), has conducted an environmental assessment (EA) to address the repair of structural damage the New Madrid boat ramp has sustained in New Madrid County, Missouri, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The repair of the proposed work is authorized as part of the Mississippi River Channel Improvement (CI) portion of the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project. The MR&T Project is authorized by the Flood Control Act of 15 May 1928 (PL 391-71), as amended. While boat ramp maintenance would typically be covered under a Nationwide Permit, it was determined that additional riprap placement outside of the original design would be necessary and a water quality permit from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is required.

The proposed project would restore the structurally damaged sections of the New Madrid boat ramp and place riprap within the project area to repair scour that has occurred. Additional riprap would be placed outside of the original project design area to help offset any potential future scour and stabilize the banks surrounding the boat ramp. Work would include overlaying the existing ramp with a new 12-inch slab with an upstream 3-foot by 3-foot turndown. Damaged areas would be removed, and the existing cast-in-place slab would be cored, and grout would be added to fill any voids that exist in areas that have sustained damage. The new 12-inch slab would be cast-in-place along most of its length, and a precast push-in-place slab would be laid for the remaining length of slab that is underwater (the portion extending past the existing curb). Approximately 15,000 tons of riprap would be used to armor the banks. On the upstream side, riprap would be placed above ramp elevation, extend out 15 feet, and then slope down at 2H:1V. Furthermore, providing the anticipated protection against future damage during high water and velocities requires the placement of riprap approximately 55 feet downstream and 95 feet upstream beyond the current riprap placement.

The project area is a highly trafficked boat ramp and is classified as developed land. The surrounding area is primarily riprap and grass. The Mississippi River sediment load consists of shifty sands, silt, and clay. The immediate riparian zone is dominated by grasses and weed species with no trees or shrubs. Outside the immediate vicinity of the boat ramp, the surrounding area is dominated by commercial use buildings and other city infrastructure. No significant environmental impacts were identified which would result from the repair of the boat ramp. The project area would total approximately 1.2 acres.

Factors Considered in This Determination

An EA was prepared specifically to assess the potential impacts of this work on cultural and natural resources, including endangered species, water quality, infrastructure, and wildlife habitat. The EA determined that the proposed action was the most practicable alternative. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation was prepared for the proposed project and is included as Appendix A to the EA. The Section 401 Water Quality certification was requested from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on 8 June 2021.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the USACE determined that there would be no effect to the Indiana or northern long-eared bat and that the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon.

No historic properties would be affected by completion of the proposed action. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office and federally recognized Native American Tribes within MVM is being conducted with the circulation of this draft EA. No additional cultural resources investigations are recommended prior to the project's implementation.

Public Involvement

The proposed action is being coordinated with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies; federally recognized tribes; businesses; organizations; and individuals through the distribution of the draft EA, as well as, through public notice for water quality certification through the State of Missouri.

Conclusion

This office has evaluated the environmental impacts of the alternatives in accordance with technical and environmental criteria in the 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies and in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans. It has determined that the proposed work is expected to have minor impacts to previously developed lands, wildlife, and water and air quality. However, those impacts to water and air quality and wildlife would be temporary and negligible. Additionally, the proposed project would have no impacts upon threatened and endangered species, freshwater marshes, freshwater lakes, wetlands, state designated scenic streams, cultural resources, municipal facilities, municipal utilities, socio-economic, or environmental justice. After review of the environmental assessment, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public and review by my staff, I have determined that this project would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, I have determined that the preparation of a supplemental EIS is not required.

DRAFT

Date

Zachary L. Miller
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer