

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Memphis District

Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM 2018-041 (RC)

NOTICE DATE:
February 13, 2018

Attn: Postmaster, **EXPIRATION DATE:**
Please Post Until  **March 15, 2018**

Public Notice U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Memphis District Corps of Engineers hereby gives notice pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) 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:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District Operations Division
167 N. Main Street, RM B-202
Memphis, TN 38103-1894
Telephone (901) 544-3471

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, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The project provides for a suitably aligned navigation channel 12 feet deep and 300 feet wide. Present funding limits the project to a channel of 9 feet deep and 300 to 500 feet wide at various locations.

PURPOSE: To maintain the authorized navigation channel within the Mississippi River and the two authorized harbors.

LOCATION: At various locations on the Mississippi River, between River Miles 715 and 905 AHP, as shown on the attached Location Maps (sheet 1 of 6). Maintenance dredging is also performed in Wolf River Harbor and McKellar Lake Harbor, see Harbor Maps sheet (2 of 6).

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Re-Issuance of the Corps of Engineers existing maintenance dredging permit. 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. Harbor dredging is normally performed by a cutterhead hydraulic dredge operated by a contractor for the Memphis District under a rental contract. (This is the same authorization and work that is currently permitted. No change in scope will occur).

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE: The dustpan dredge operates 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 the discharge area through a pipeline supported by pontoons.

The dustpan dredge moves approximately 10 million cubic yards of sandy material annually from the navigation channel. 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. Contaminant levels have been consistently within acceptable limits.

HARBOR DREDGING: Approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of sediment is removed by the cutterhead dredges from the two harbors annually. Disposal of McKellar Lake Harbor sediment is pumped into a contained, upland, disposal field on Treasure Island. The disposal site for the dredging area at the mouth of McKellar Lake is also a contained upland site as noted on the Disposal Site Map (sheet 3 of 6). The Mouth of McKellar Dredging Disposal site has been used for several

years. The Pidgeon Industrial Park Disposal (Upland) Site has been used in previous years, and may be used again in the future should the need arise. Return effluent for the Treasure Island site is McKellar Lake and effluent from the Mouth of McKellar site is returned to McKellar Lake and to the Mississippi River. Both have National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Wolf River Harbor sediment is pumped into the Mississippi River downstream from the harbor mouth.

Table I. Current Dredging Sites between Mississippi River Miles 715 and 905 AHP. (Sheets 4-6)

CROSSING NAME	RIVER MILE	QUANTITY DREDGED MILLION CUBIC YARDS
Winchester Towhead	901	0.5
Linwood Bend	840	0.5
Kate Aubrey-Island 30	789	1.0
Lower Bullerton	784	0.9
Craighead-Driver	780	2.0
Randolph Bluff	770	2.0
Deans Island	756	1.0
Redman Bar & Sycamore Chute	743	2.0
Memphis Front	738	1.5
Vice Presidents Island	732	0.5
Ensley Bar	725	1.0
Armstrong Bar	719	1.0

The purpose of this public notice is to renew water quality certification by the State of Tennessee, 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, Cookeville, TN
- National Park Service, Albuquerque, NM
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, TN

AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION: The Corps of Engineers will only dredge the minimal amount required to maintain the authorized channel.

ENDANGERED SPECIES - This notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (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; however, little is known about the species' ecological and habitat requirements in the lower Mississippi River. There have been only a few reports of the species within the Memphis District. One was in the vicinity of Caruthersville, Missouri. The Memphis District has initiated a

study to gather information about habitat requirements, the impact of sand and gravel dredging and the presence of the pallid sturgeon within the Memphis district. The Corps of Engineers has agreed to refrain from navigational dredging from April 1 to June 30, unless extreme low water conditions occur during the spawning season. The Corps of Engineers will consult with USFWS on those occasions. Any comments USFWS may have regarding other endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS for the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries Project was prepared pursuant to NEPA. An EA will be prepared at the conclusion of the comment period to update the record.

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 and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct or require a survey of the project area.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION - By copy of this public notice, the Memphis District is requesting water quality certification (RENEWAL) from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control, in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. A determination concerning deposition of material will not be made, nor will deposition commence, until water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify is obtained.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the activities for which a permit is sought, to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public.

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. This is a Corps of Engineers project, however, our office is not a proponent or are we an opponent of the project. We are merely the permitting authority of Section 404 and Section 10 permits required by our office

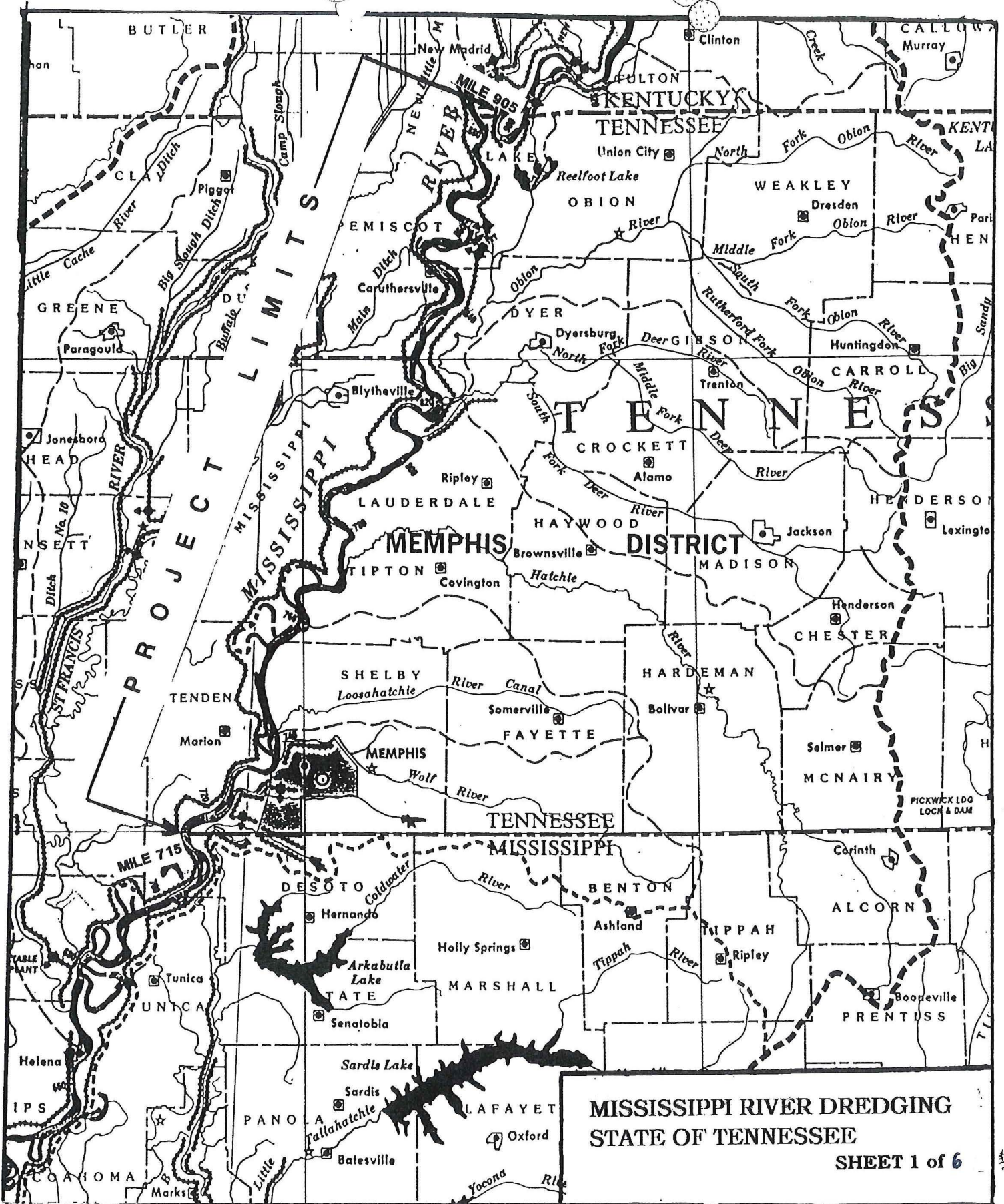
COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Send comments to the Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. Comments must be received by the expiration date listed on page one of this notice and may be sent via mail or e-mail to the following:

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers – Memphis District
ATTN: Benjamin Pitcock
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894
E-mail: benjamin.s.pitcock@usace.army.mil
Phone: (901) 544-3468
Fax: (901) 544-0211

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](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 W. Williams
Chief
Regulatory Branch

Attachments



WOLF RIVER HARBOR & MCKELLAR LK DREDGING CE, MEMPHIS DISTRICT

WOLF RIVER HARBOR DREDGING

DISCHARGE AREA FOR WOLF RIVER HARBOR APPROXIMATELY 425,000 CY ANNUALLY

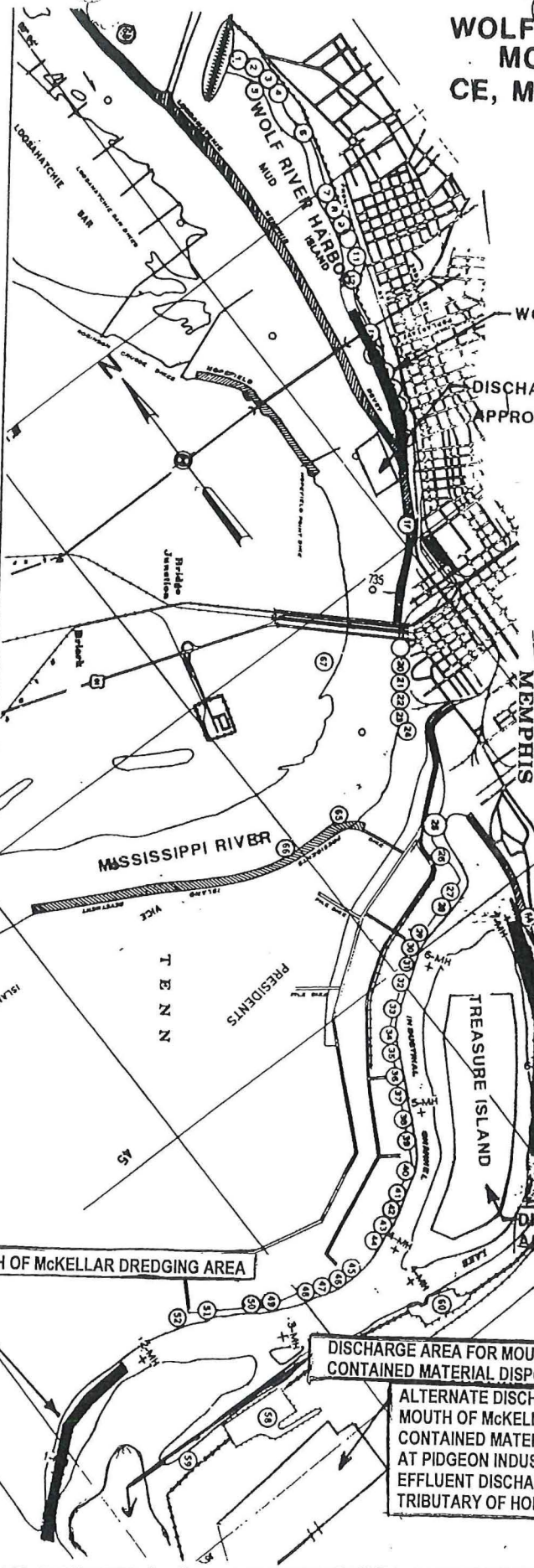
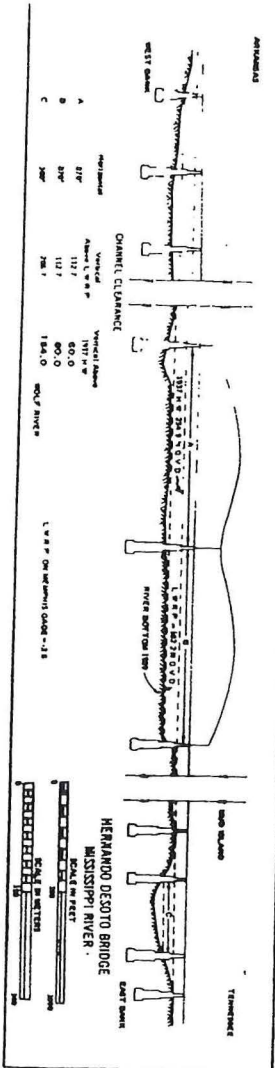
MCKELLAR LAKE DREDGING AREA

DISCHARGE AREA FOR MCKELLAR LK APPROXIMATELY 400,000 CY ANNUALLY

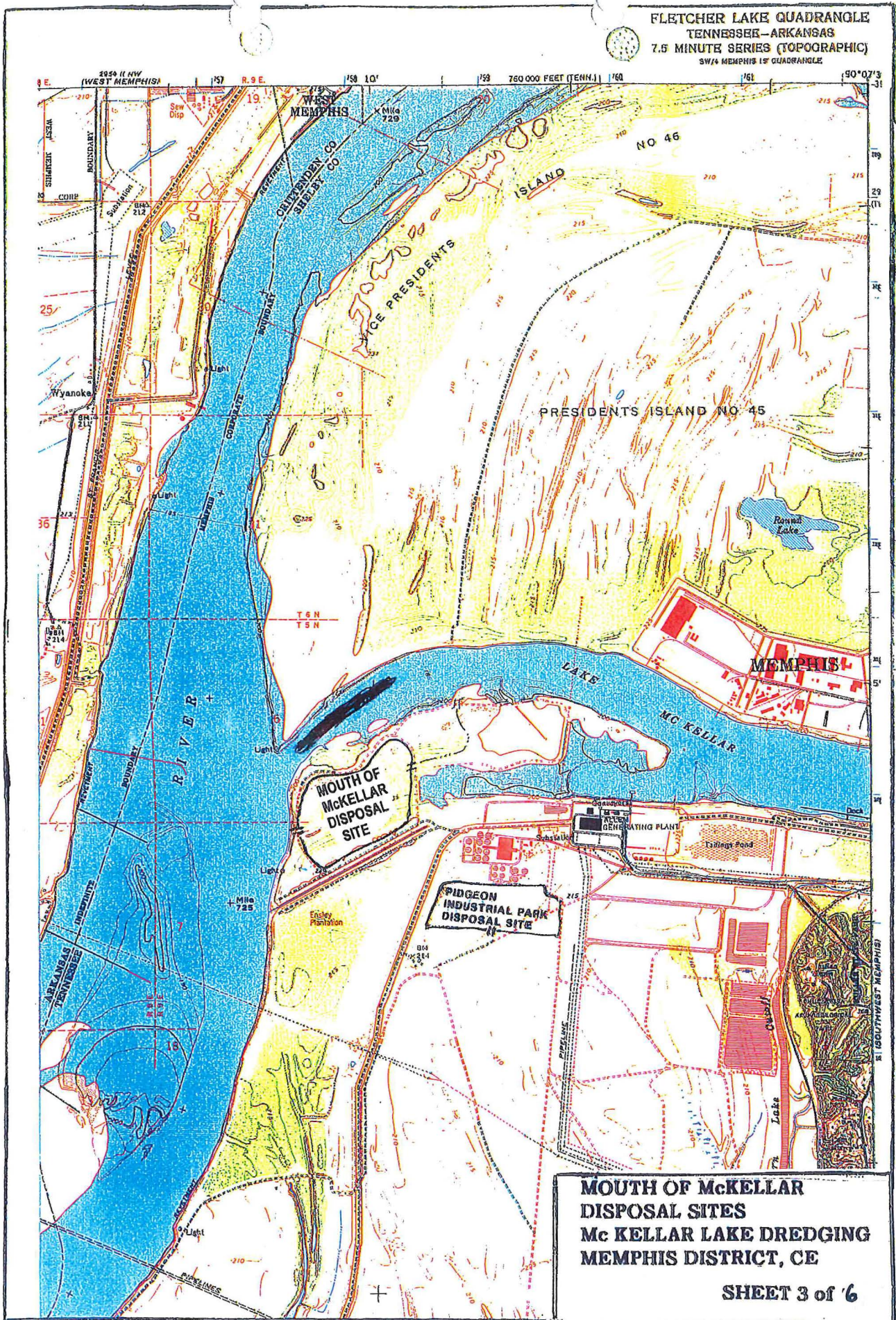
DISCHARGE AREA FOR MOUTH OF MCKELLAR CONTAINED MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA

ALTERNATE DISCHARGE AREA FOR MOUTH OF MCKELLAR CONTAINED MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA AT PIGEON INDUSTRIAL PARK EFFLUENT DISCHARGED TO TRIBUTARY OF HORN LAKE CREEK

MOUTH OF MCKELLAR DREDGING AREA



FLETCHER LAKE QUADRANGLE
TENNESSEE-ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 MEMPHIS 15' QUADRANGLE



**MOUTH OF MCKELLAR
DISPOSAL SITES
Mc KELLAR LAKE DREDGING
MEMPHIS DISTRICT, CE**

Dredge Sites - Overview One

Overview of proposed dredging locations.

Dredge Site	Approximate Quantity	River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
Winchester Towhead	500,000 CY	901	36.453037°	-89.465987°
Linwood Bend	500,000 CY	840	36.129209°	-89.599813°



Winchester Towhead

Linwood Bend

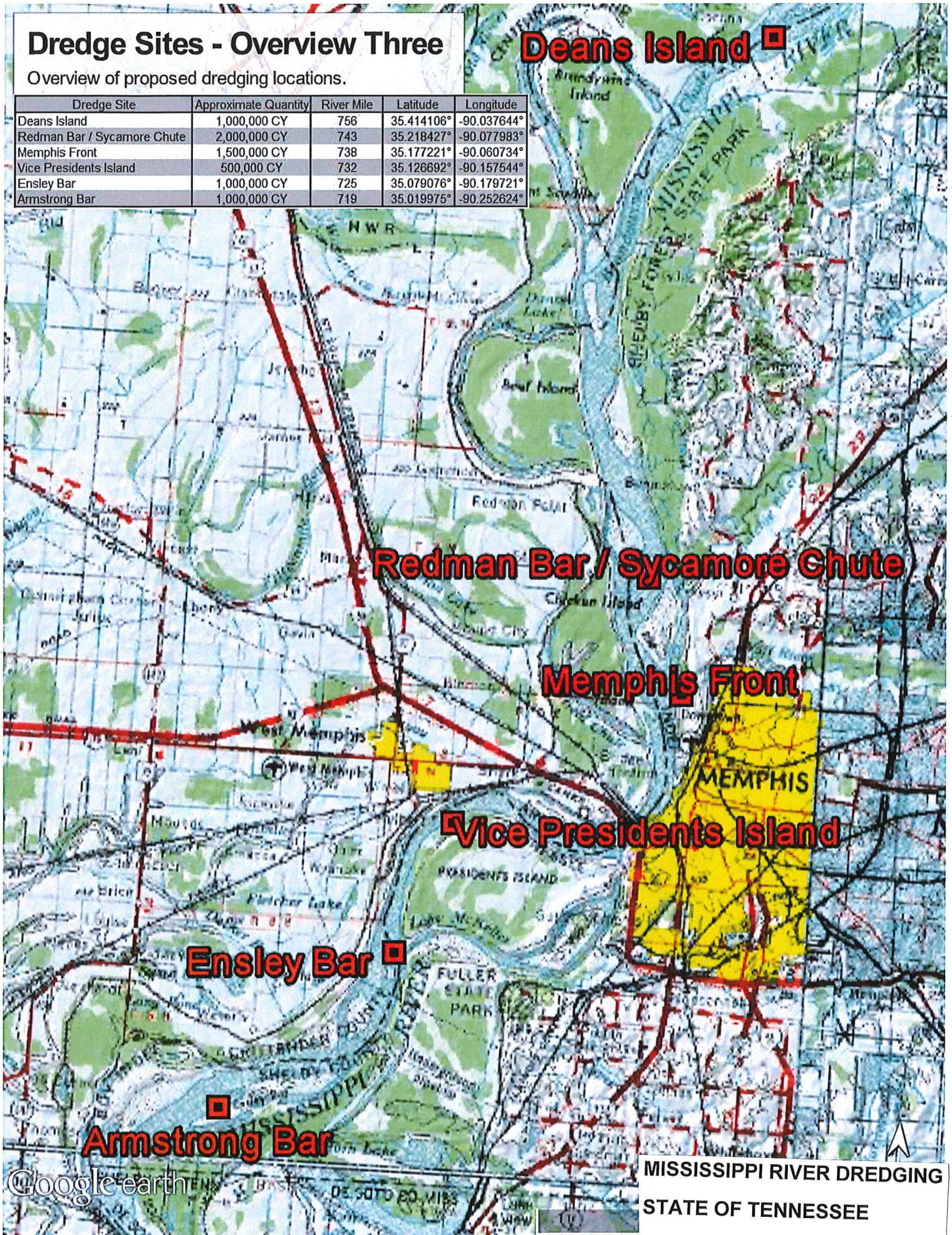
Google earth

MISSISSIPPI RIVER DREDGING
STATE OF TENNESSEE

Dredge Sites - Overview Three

Overview of proposed dredging locations.

Dredge Site	Approximate Quantity	River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
Deans Island	1,000,000 CY	756	35.414106°	-90.037644°
Redman Bar / Sycamore Chute	2,000,000 CY	743	35.218427°	-90.077983°
Memphis Front	1,500,000 CY	738	35.177221°	-90.060734°
Vice Presidents Island	500,000 CY	732	35.126692°	-90.157544°
Ensley Bar	1,000,000 CY	725	35.079076°	-90.179721°
Armstrong Bar	1,000,000 CY	719	35.019975°	-90.252624°



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MISSISSIPPI RIVER DREDGING
STATE OF TENNESSEE