

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Continuing Authorities Program, Section 14 Memphis Light, Gas, and Water Tower #1613 Wolf River Basin Shelby County, Tennessee

Description of the Proposed Action

The MLGW Tower 1613 is on the right descending (outer) bank of the Wolf River (Figure 1). The Wolf River has eroded into the bank to within approximately 14 feet of the foundation support. This natural erosion process may cause imminent collapse of the tower into the Wolf River. Tower 1613 supports a main transmission line that provides electrical service to a large portion of Northern Memphis and Shelby County and the failure of this transmission line could impact numerous residential and commercial properties as well as other public infrastructure.

Proposed project features consist of placing R-200 riprap and bedding stone 300' along the right descending bank to protect the bank from further eroding toward the tower. The bank would be graded on an appropriate slope (3.5H:1V) to provide stability, and riprap armor would be keyed into the bank to prevent flanking. Required tree clearing for this action is estimated at approximately 0.1 acre, while the full estimated construction footprint is approximately 0.5 acre. To access the sites, a temporary gravel access road with a length of approximately 4,000 linear feet at a 12-foot width would be constructed (Figure 2).

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, and wildlife habitat. 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 0.1 acres of small diameter treed areas are anticipated to be impacted. The temporary access road would further impact 0.4 acres, but conditions would be restored to pre-construction levels. The proposed project and associated construction activities would have no lasting impacts to wetlands or woodlands. Also, no significant impacts to aquatic or terrestrial resources would occur. Therefore, no mitigation would be required for the proposed project.

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, *Wolf River Basin, MLGW Tower #1613, CAP Section 14, Project Number: 487478*, 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

Brian D. Sawser
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

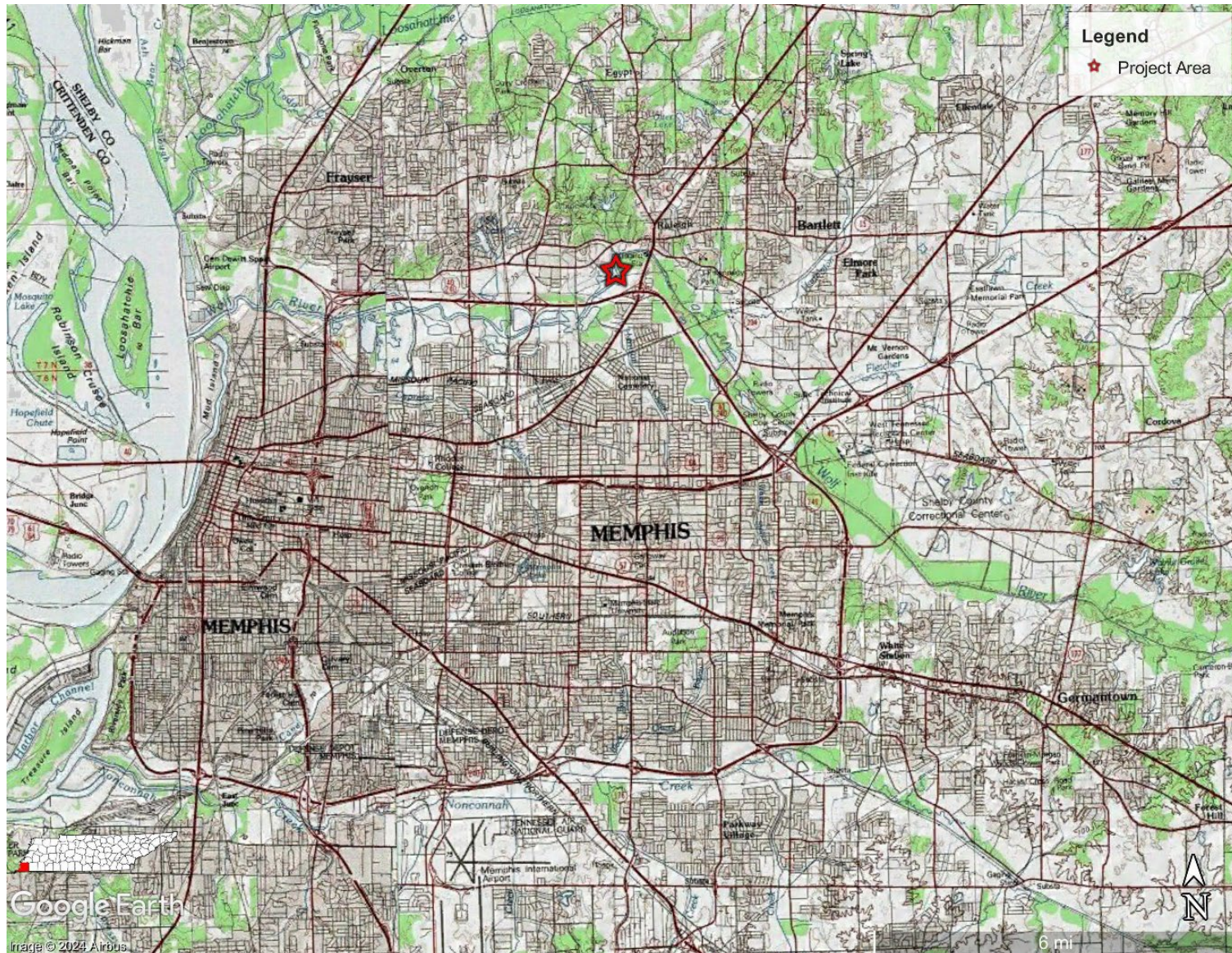


Figure 1. Proposed scour repair project area along the Wolf River, Shelby County, Tennessee.

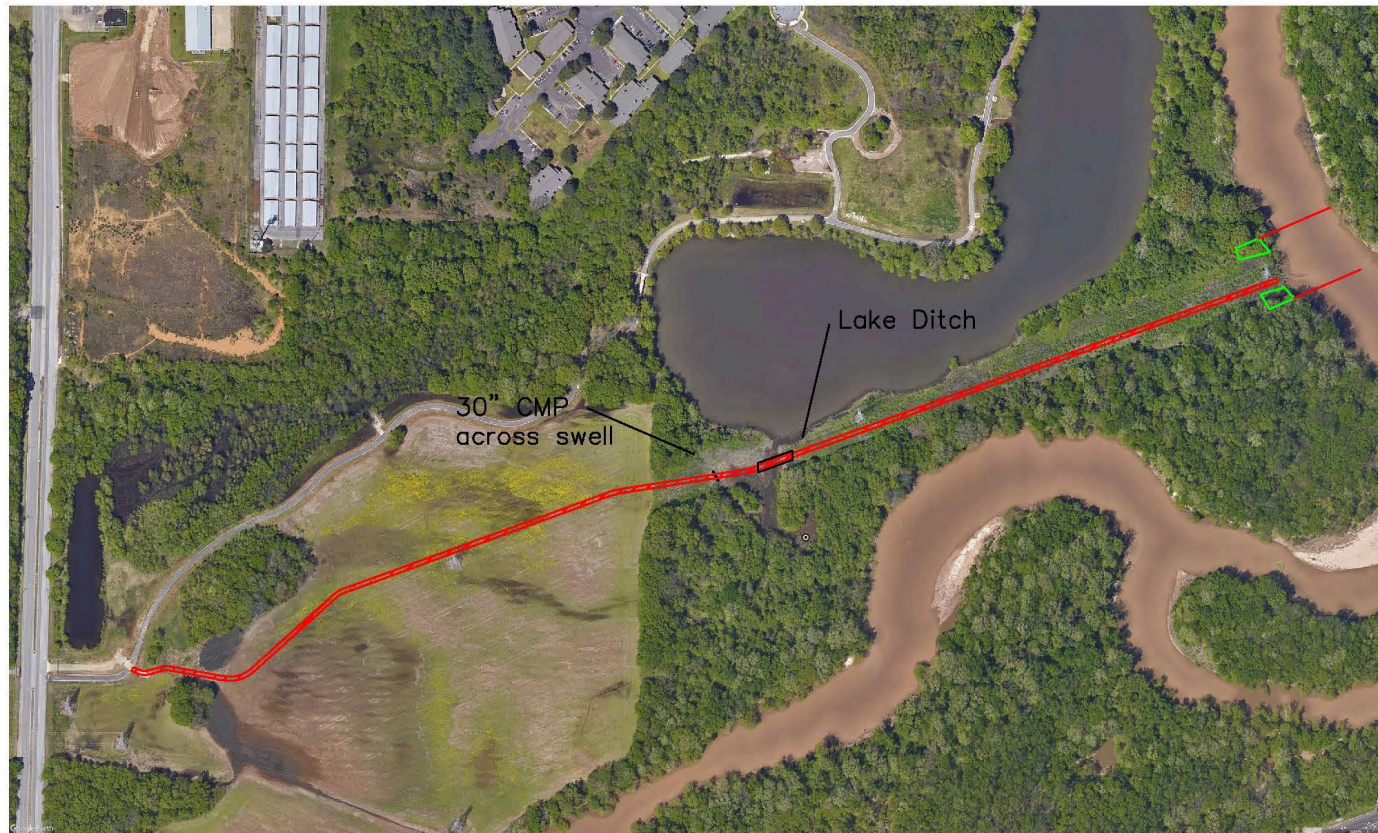


Figure 2. Location of proposed temporary access road and scour repair along the Wolf River, Shelby County, Tennessee.