



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Memphis District

# Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM-2020-289 (JKB)

NOTICE DATE:  
October 28, 2021

Attn: Postmaster,  
Please Post Until  EXPIRATION DATE:  
November 26, 2021

## Public Notice

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**AUTHORITY:** Pursuant to 33 CFR 325, as published in the Federal Register dated November 13, 1986, this notice announces an application submitted for a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**APPLICANT:**

Jim Bell  
Big River Steel, LLC  
2027 State Highway 198  
Osceola, Arkansas 72370  
(870) 819-3031

**AGENT:**

Heath Garner  
SWCA Environmental Consultants  
2201 Brookhollow Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, Texas 76006  
(918) 770-7983

**NOTE:** A public notice for this project was previously issued on 5 November 2020. A new notice is being issued to address an additional proposed impacts and modification of the proposed mitigation site.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the proposed project is to expand the existing steel mill facility.

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in Section 19, Township 12N, Range 11E, in Mississippi County, Arkansas, at approximate Latitude 35.64873° and Longitude -89.95065° on the Osceola 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Attachment 1).

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** As part of the expansion project, the applicant proposes to fill and relocate approximately 2,787 linear feet of Ditch No. 10. This reach of Ditch No. 10 has a width at the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of approximately 16 feet (right descending bank to left descending bank) with herbaceous buffers along both sides approximately 12-15 feet wide. A new channel that will total approximately 3,526 linear feet would be created on-site to replace the existing tributary (Attachment 2). Fill for the existing Ditch No. 10 will come from the excavation of the new tributary.

**AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION:** According to the applicant, avoiding the existing tributary would not allow him to meet his purpose of expanding the existing steel mill.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to mitigate impacts to approximately 2,787 linear feet of tributary by creating a new channel that will total approximately 3,526 linear feet. The applicant has proposed a 30-foot herbaceous buffer, outside of the OHWM, along both sides of the new channel.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** This application is also being coordinated with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to ensure that the activity will comply with applicable requirements in 33 U.S.C. and 1341 (a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and all state laws and regulations promulgated thereto. This certification or evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to

certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit. The Corps of Engineers' evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Our determination is that the proposal would have no effect on the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), or Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). This notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Any comments USFWS may have regarding endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the Memphis District will identify and evaluate potential effects of the proposed action on historic properties through consultation with federal, state, and local agencies, federally-recognized Indian Tribes, the public, and other interested parties.

**FLOODPLAIN:** In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed public notice and notify this office of any floodplain development permit requirements.

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

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 not a Corps of Engineers project. We are not a proponent nor 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 may be sent via mail or email to the following:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Memphis District  
ATTN: Josh Bright  
167 North Main Street, Room B-202  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894  
E-mail: [joshua.k.bright@usace.army.mil](mailto:joshua.k.bright@usace.army.mil)  
phone: (901) 544-0926  
fax: (901) 544-0211

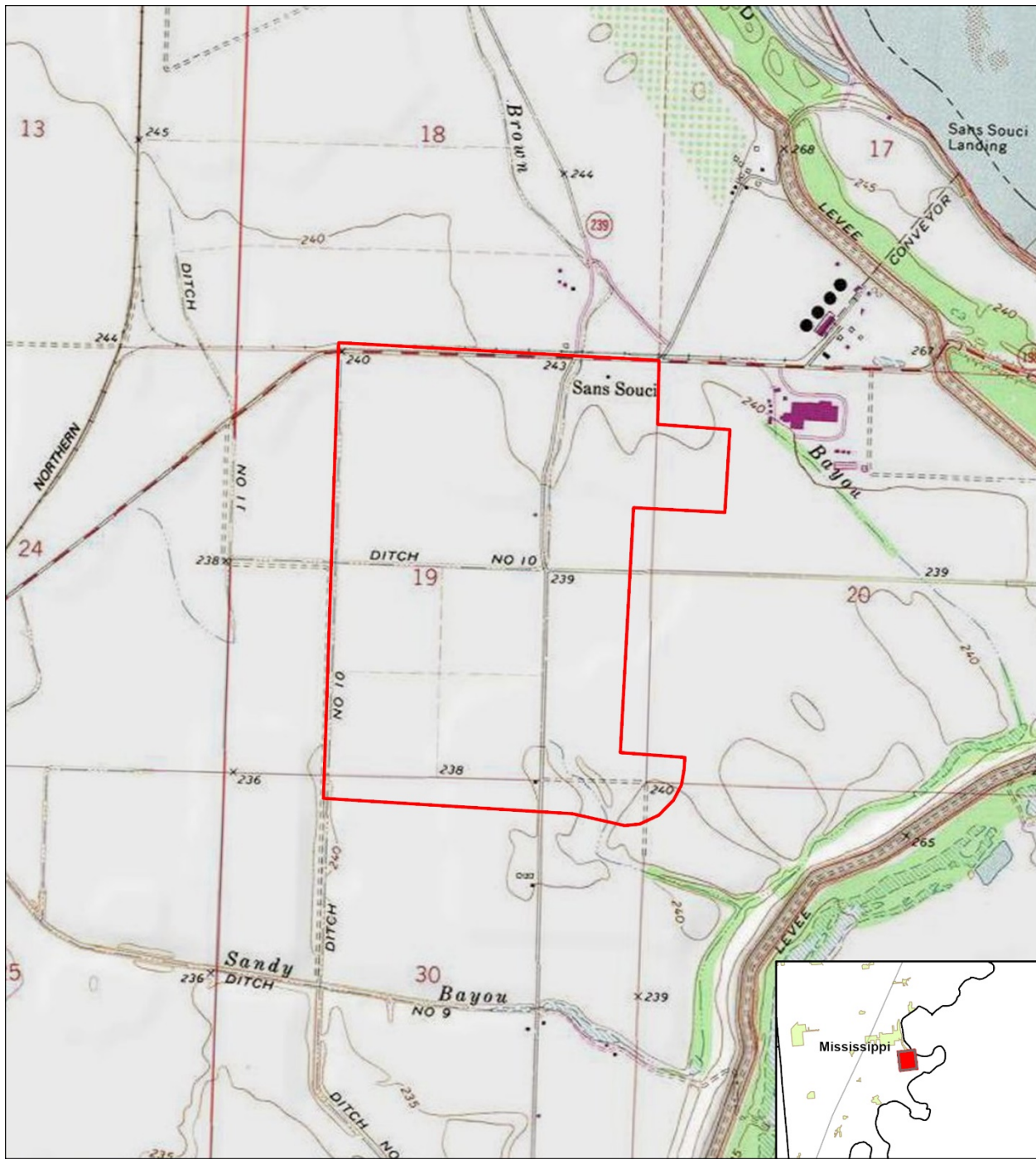
The Corps of Engineers may provide copies of all comments, (including name & address of those providing comments) to the applicant for consideration and response prior to a decision. Comments must be received by the expiration date listed on page one of this notice.

For Final Individual Permits actions in the Memphis District, go to the following link:

<http://permits.ops.usace.army.mil/orm-public>. 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 Division office for examination.

Gregg W. Williams  
Chief  
Regulatory Division

Attachments






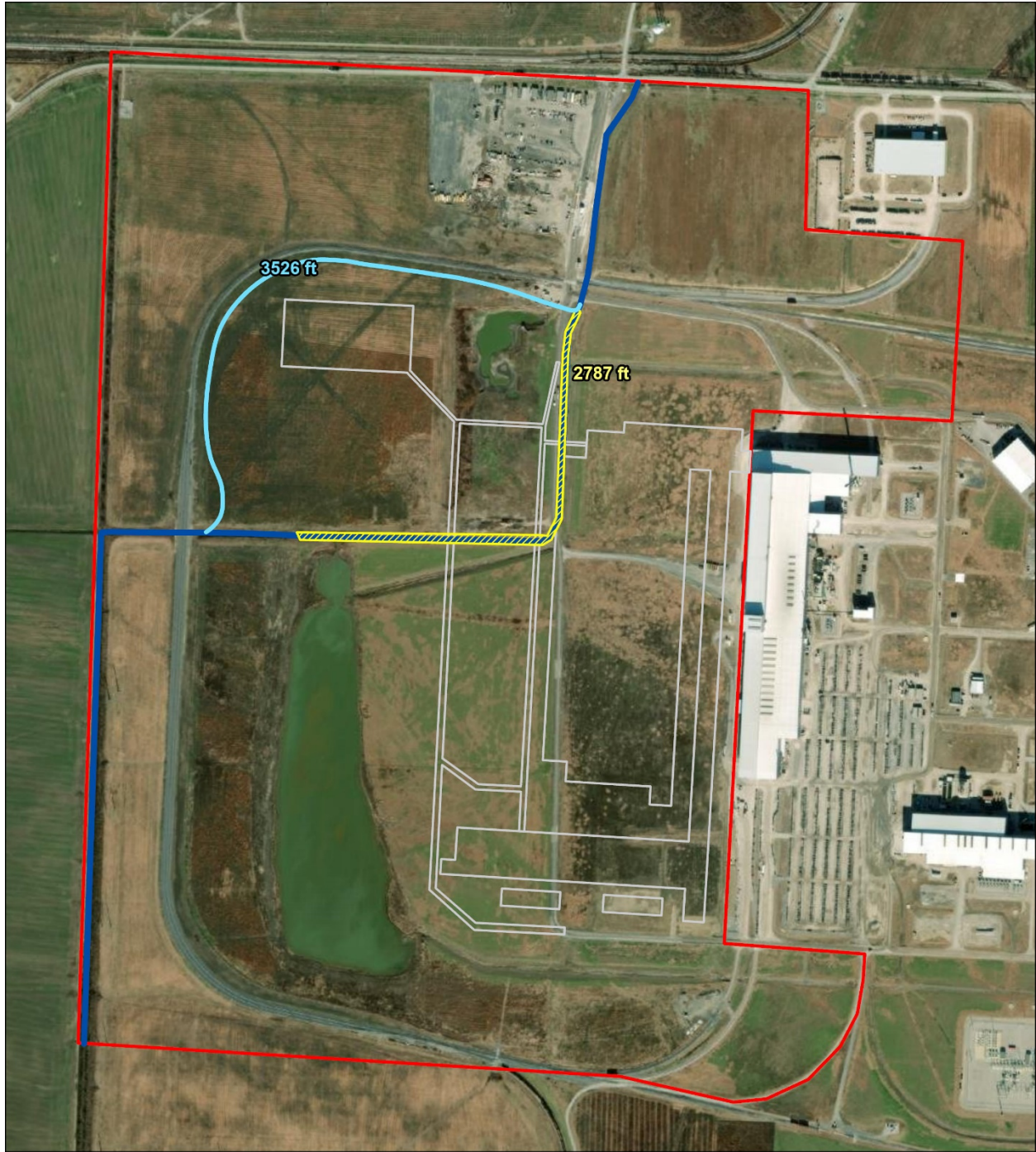
 <p><b>SWCA</b> ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS</p>	<p><b>BIG RIVER STEEL PHASE 2B EXPANSION - OSCEOLA, AR</b></p> <p>Figure 1. Vicinity Map Mississippi County, Arkansas</p>	 Project Area	<p>1:24,000</p> <p>Created By: D Magditch Project Number: 61685 Date: 7/10/2020 NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N</p> 
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Figure 1. BRS Ditch No. 10 Relocation Project location map



Page 11 Project# 000-01485 2B Phase 2b Expansion Site Area Support#KOD\_APR01900 2BPS Data.sxd

	<p><b>BIG RIVER STEEL PHASE 2B EXPANSION - OSCEOLA, AR</b></p> <p>Figure 3. Ditch 10 Fill and Selected Reroute Map Mississippi County, Arkansas</p>	<p>— Selected Route</p> <p>— SA004 - Ditch No. 10</p> <p>— Project Area</p> <p>— Phase 2b Expansion Footprint</p> <p>— Fill Extent</p>	<p>1:11,000</p> <p>Created By: J.Fontenot Project Number: 61685 Date: 8/20/2021</p>

Figure 3. Proposed Ditch 10 Fill and Relocated (Mitigation) Segment