

US Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District



FILE NUMBER: MVM-2021-057 (JKB)

NOTICE DATE: September 17, 2021

21 Attn: Postmaster, Please Post Until EXPIRATION DATE: Ctober 18, 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 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent alterations of any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408.

### **APPLICANT:**

Michael Cantrell Arkansas Game and Fish Commission 1 Game and Fish Road Calico Rock, Arkansas 72519 (870) 297-4331

## AGENT:

Jeremy Bevill Fisher Arnold 404 Creath Ave. Jonesboro, Arkansas 72404 (870) 932-2019

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the proposed project is to provide the public boat access to the Mississippi River.

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in Section 24, Township 15N, Range 12E, in Mississippi County, Arkansas, at approximate Latitude 35.90147° and Longitude -89.75872° as shown on attachment 1.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The applicant proposes to construct a 305-foot by 22-foot boat ramp with an associated parking lot and observation deck (Attachment 2, Aerial Map). The length of the boat ramp below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of the Mississippi River would be 251.3 feet. The total "cut" area below the OHWM would be approximately 1,150 cubic yards of material removed including 450 cubic yards of rip rap. The total "fill" area below the OHWM would be 160 cubic yards of material placed. Approximately 125 cubic yards of that volume would be rip rap placed below the OHWM. (Attachments 3-5 include grading and drainage plan, cross sections, and construction details.)

**AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION:** Minimal vegetation and trees will be cleared for the boat ramp and associated parking lot and observation deck. Best management practices will be implemented to minimize the potential for adverse water quality and natural resources impacts.

MITIGATION: No mitigation has been proposed for this project.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective September 11, 2020, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a discharge from a federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the

ADEQ (certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Rule part 121.6, once the applicant submits a certification request the Corps of Engineers will determine the reasonable period of time for the certifying agency to act upon the certification and provide written notification.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Our preliminary determination is that the proposal would have no effect on the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Our preliminary determination is that the proposal may affect but not likely to adversely affect Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*). 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 phone: (901) 544-0926 fax: (901) 544-0211

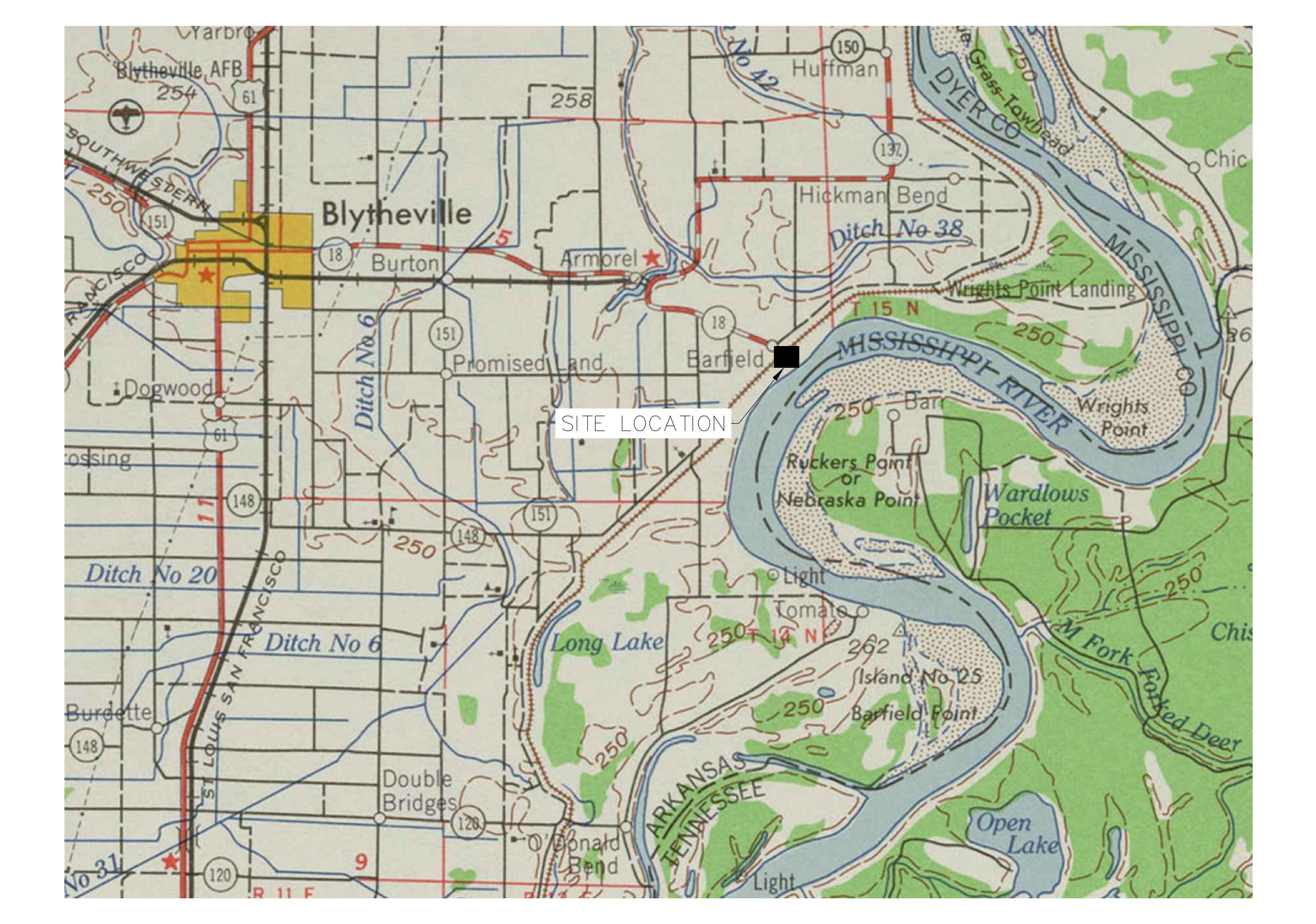
The Corps of Engineers may provide copies of all comments, (including name & address of those providing comments) to the applicant for consideration and response prior to a decision. Comments must be received by the expiration date listed on page one of this notice.

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

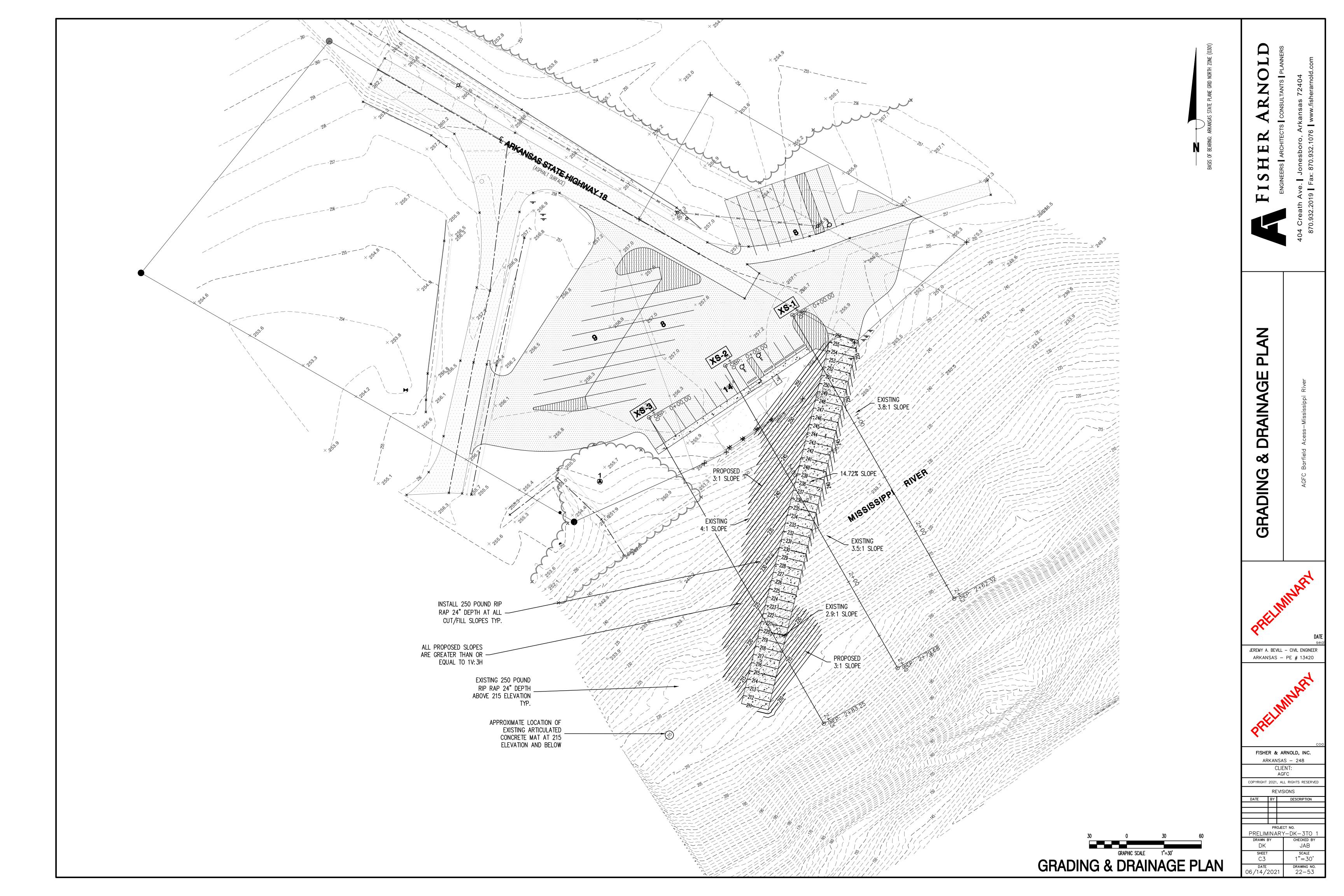
<u>http://permits.ops.usace.army.mil/orm-public</u>. Using the Filter by District drop down box, select MVM-Memphis District, then select the year and month (information will populate in the table below). All pending individual permits can be located by selecting the **"Pending IP**" tab above. All of 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.

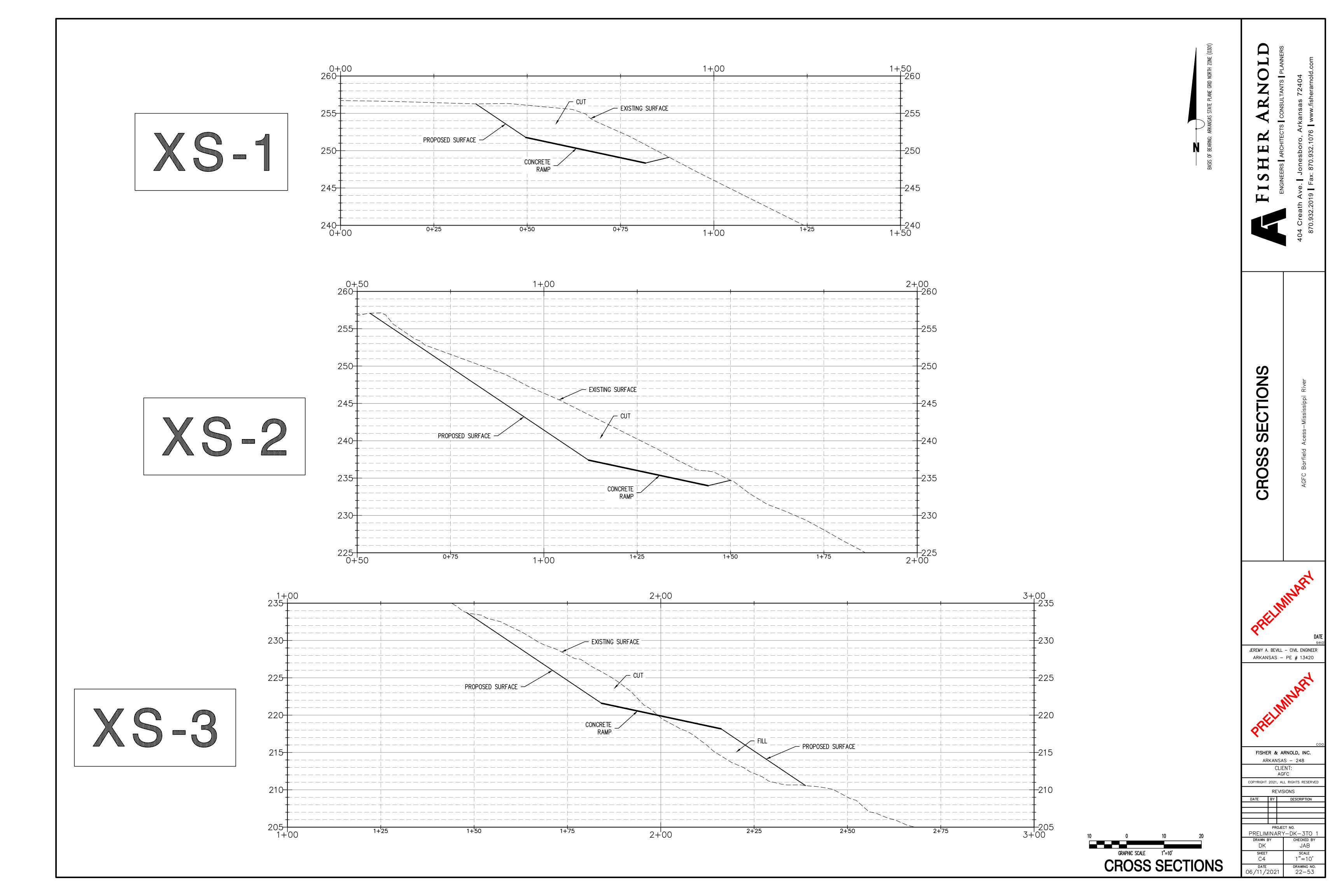
for: Gregg W. Williams Chief Regulatory Division

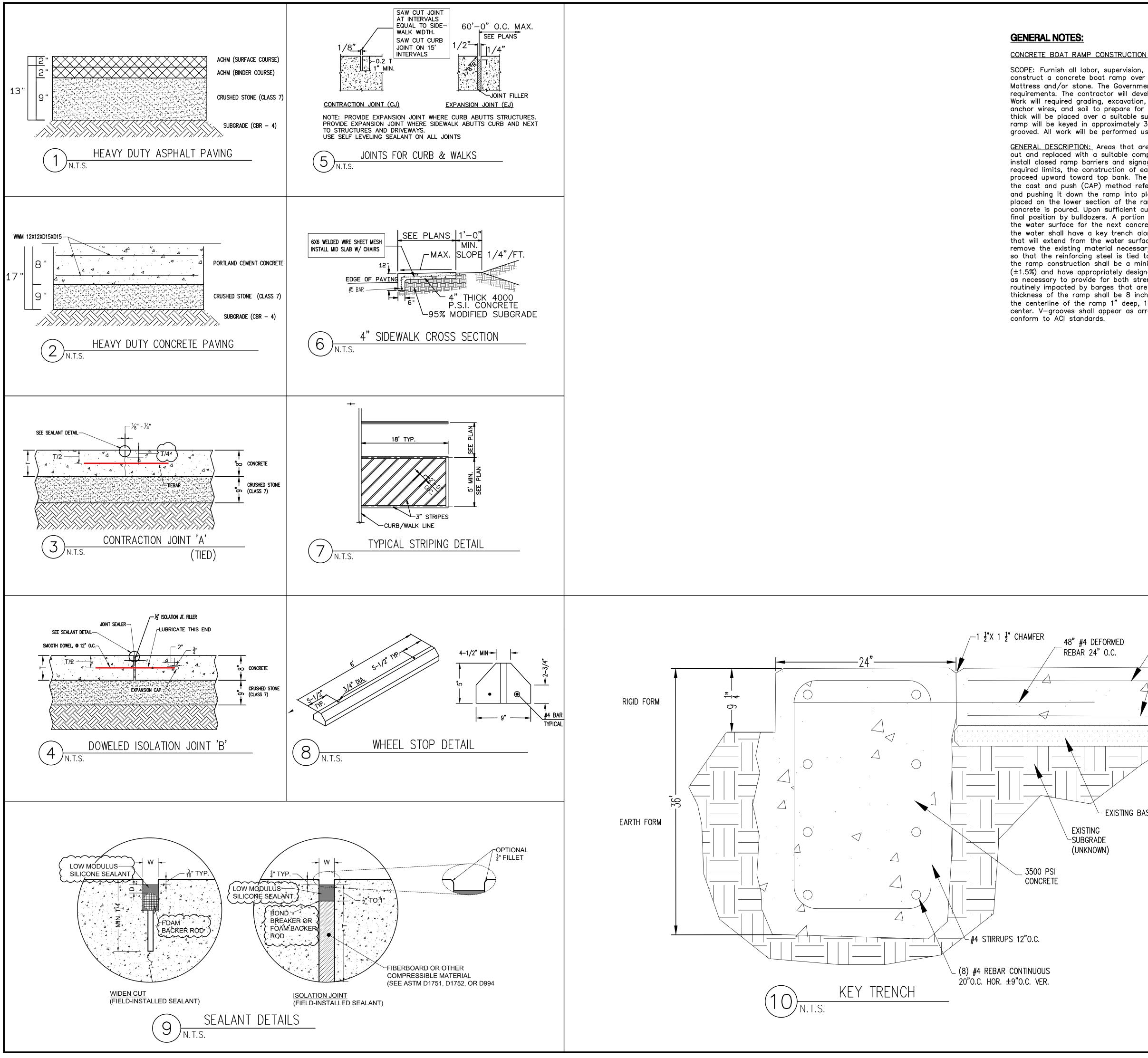
Attachments











SCOPE: Furnish all labor, supervision, tools, equipment, supplies and materials required to construct a concrete boat ramp over an existing ramp composed of Articulated Concrete Mattress and/or stone. The Government will provide surveys and general design requirements. The contractor will develop a design and construction proposal for approval. Work will required grading, excavation, and removal of portions of concrete mattress, anchor wires, and soil to prepare for concrete placement. Reinforced Concrete 8 inches thick will be placed over a suitable sub-base to construct the ramp. The sides of the ramp will be keyed in approximately 3 feet and the top surface of the ramp shall be grooved. All work will be performed using land based equipment during low river stages.

<u>GENERAL DESCRIPTION:</u> Areas that are unsuitable for concrete placement shall be graded out and replaced with a suitable compacted fill. Prior to construction the contractor shall install closed ramp barriers and signage during construction. Once river stages fall to the required limits, the construction of each ramp shall begin at the riverward limit and proceed upward toward top bank. The installation of the lower ramp section shall utilize the cast and push (CAP) method referring to casting the section above the water level and pushing it down the ramp into place. Polyethylene sheeting, sand and/or gravel is first placed on the lower section of the ramp, forming constructed, reinforcing added, then the concrete is poured. Upon sufficient curing, this slab is then pushed down the slope into final position by bulldozers. A portion of the slab and reinforcing steel will remain above the water surface for the next concrete sections to tie into. The portion of ramp above the water shall have a key trench along each side of the ramp that is 2" wide by 3' deep that will extend from the water surface to top bank. The contractor will excavate and remove the existing material necessary for the trenches. The trench shall be constructed so that the reinforcing steel is tied to the top slab of the ramp. All concrete used for the ramp construction shall be a minimum 3500 psi concrete with 5% air entrainment  $(\pm 1.5\%)$  and have appropriately designed reinforcing steel and polymer fiber reinforcement as necessary to provide for both strength and impact resistance. These ramps are routinely impacted by barges that are pushed into the ramp by large towboats. The thickness of the ramp shall be 8 inches. The surface shall be V-grooved at 60 degrees of the centerline of the ramp 1" deep, 1" wide at the top of the groove, and 2" spacing on center. V-grooves shall appear as arrows pointing up the ramp. All concrete paving shall

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- EXISTING BASE

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