



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Memphis District

Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM-2014-182 (RCW)

NOTICE DATE:
June 16, 2014

EXPIRATION DATE:
Attn: Postmaster,
Please Post Until  **July 16, 2014**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
and
State of Arkansas**

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 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

APPLICANT:

Billy Ussery
Griffin River Terminal
P.O. Box 650
Helena, Arkansas 72342
Office Phone: (870)338-8499

Agent:

Benton Pittman
Griffin River Terminal
P.O. Box 650
Helena, Arkansas 72342
Office Phone: (870) 338-8499

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to improve the overall efficiency of dock operations and increase worker safety.

LOCATION: The project site is located south of the City of Helena, Arkansas, on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River at river mile 660.2 and Lat/Lon, 34.474656° N/-90.593855° W, in Phillips County, Arkansas (Attachment 1: Topographic Map Project Location).

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to add a 40 foot by 160 foot rake type working barge on the river side of their existing dock. The rake barge will help to mitigate the force of the current. The working barge will hold a hydraulic track hoe and conveying equipment to move products to their existing conveying equipment. The working barge will be secured to two new 34 inch pylons fitted with a 4 foot long sleeve. The sleeve will allow the barge to rise and fall with the river level. The locations of the pylons are: Lat/Lon: 34.474762° N/-90.593851° W, north pylon, and 34.474440° N/-90.593768° W, south pylon, (Attachment 2: Aerial View Project Layout, Attachment 3: Project Plans Diagram). As an added security measure, a 75-80 foot cable attached to an upstream pylon structure will be attached to the barge bow. The applicant does not anticipate dredging or discharge of fill material.

AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION: The applicant believes this project will have very minimal effects on the surrounding area. They feel the work is not possible on the surrounding land parcel. The working barge will be floating on the river allowing them to accomplish their goals without disturbing the river bed. During low water periods (0-5 on the Helena gage) there is 25 – 30 feet of water in the area of the dock. They anticipate draft will be no more than 8 to 10 feet.

MITIGATION: No mitigation has been proposed for this project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: No discharge of fill material is proposed for this project. Therefore, water quality certification is not required.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: This notice is being coordinated with the USFWS. The interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) and pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) are known to utilize the Mississippi River. Any comments USFWS may have regarding these or other endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Memphis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct or require a survey of the project area.

FLOOD PLAIN: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed public notice and notify this office of any flood plain 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 project. We are 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 and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Comments may be sent via mail or E-mail to the following:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District
ATTN: Reginald Wuornos
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894
E-mail: reginald.c.wuornos@usace.army.mil
phone: (901) 544-0731
fax: (901) 544-0211

The Corps 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 should 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://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.


for Tim H. Flinn, P.E.
Acting Chief
Regulatory Branch

Attachments

MVM-2014-182, Griffin River Terminal, Add Working Barge

Location Map

Topo, Moon Lake, MS, AR Quad

Zone 15

S-32, T-2S, R-5E

Lat/Lon:

34.474656° N/-90.593855° W



Legend



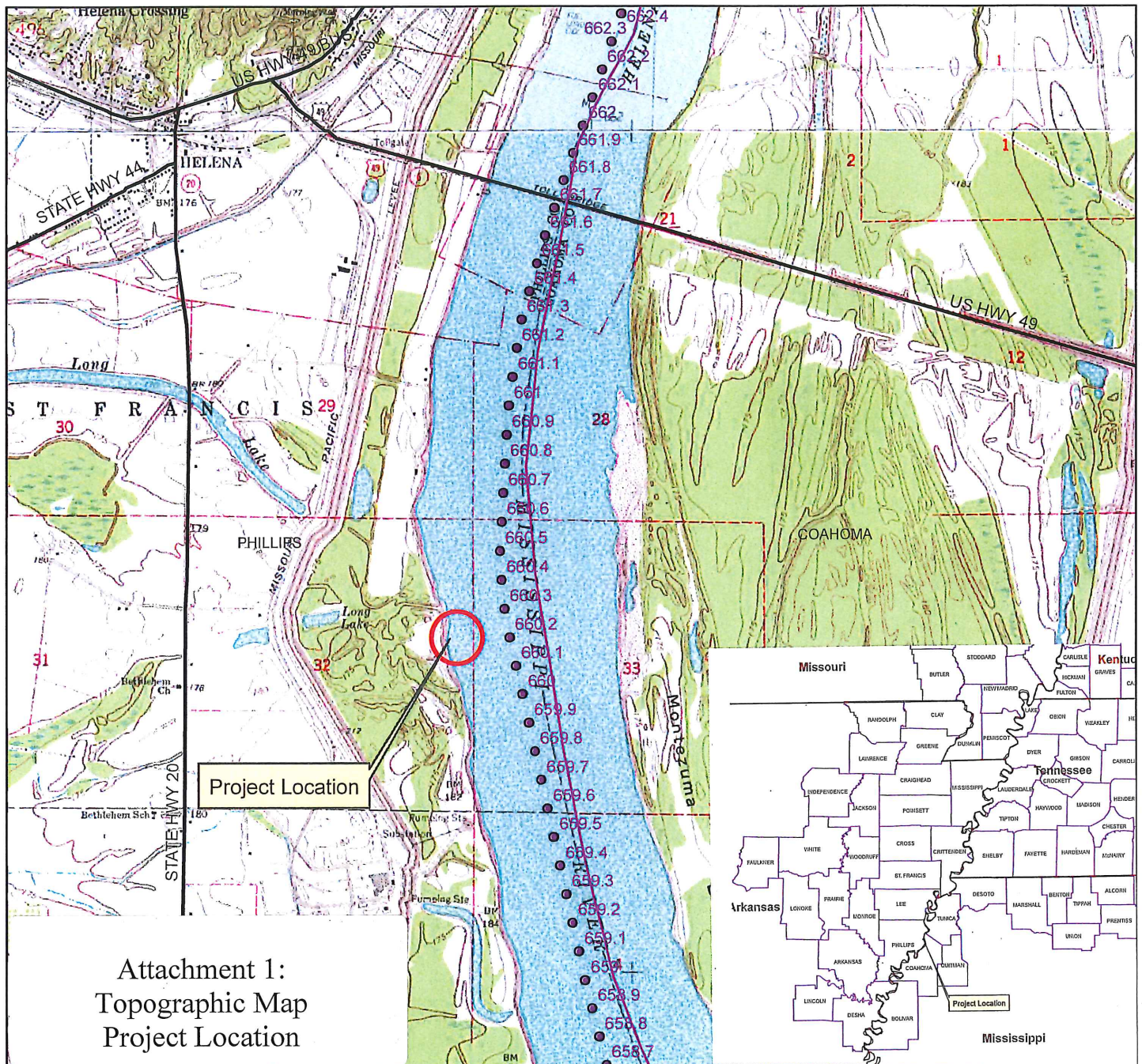
Counties



MS Rivermile_Tenths



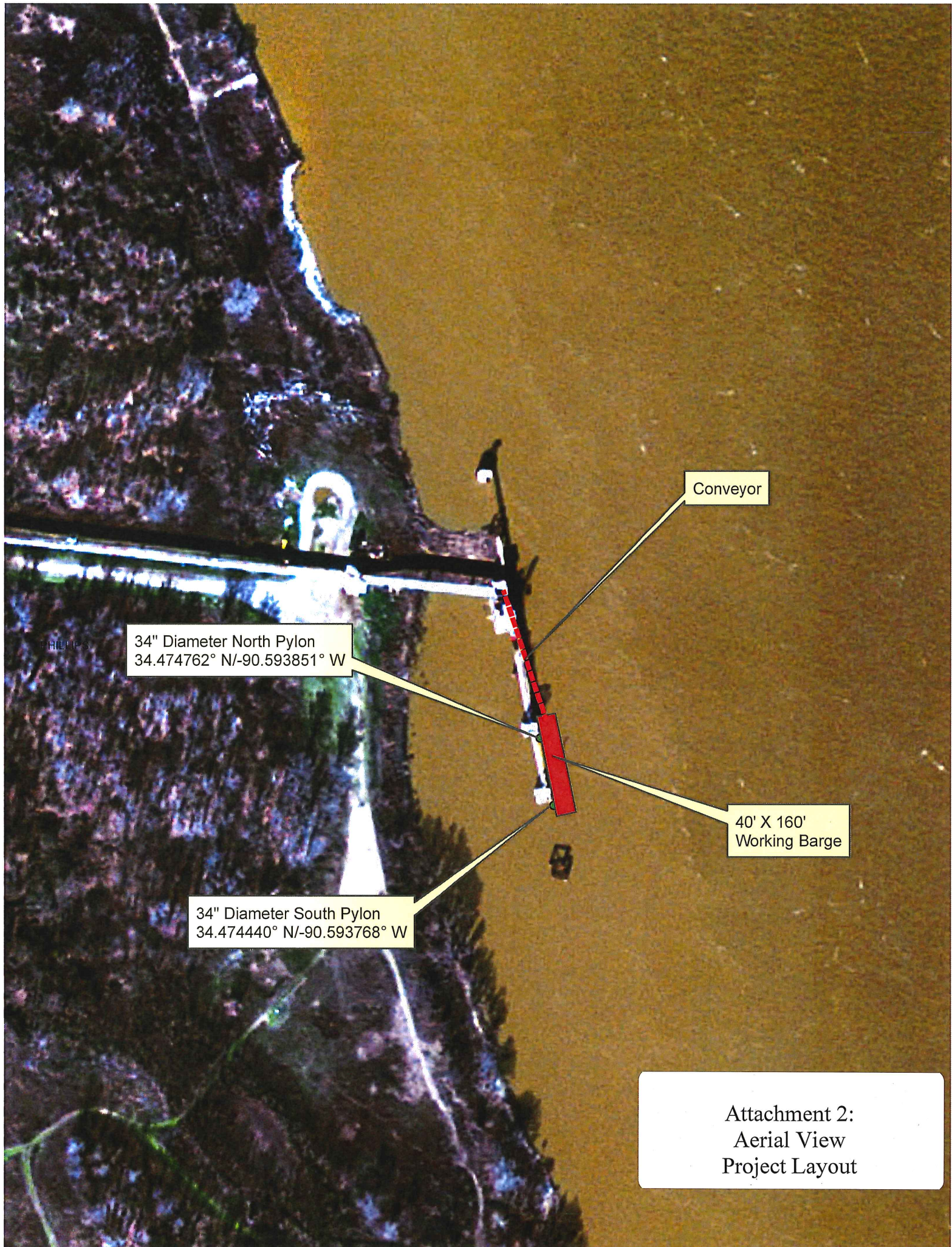
dist_major_roads



Project Location

Attachment 1:
Topographic Map
Project Location

0 1,950 3,900 7,800 Feet



Conveyor

34" Diameter North Pylon
34.474762° N/-90.593851° W

40' X 160'
Working Barge

34" Diameter South Pylon
34.474440° N/-90.593768° W

Attachment 2:
Aerial View
Project Layout

10 JUN 2014
GRIFFIN RIVER TERMINAL: WORK BARGE ADDITION

6. Wharf and Conveyor Trestle Evaluation

6.1 General Wharf Configuration

A site visit was conducted on November 14, 2012 to perform a visual evaluation of the accessible portion of the dock structure at G&B Terminal, West Helena, AR. The structure consists of seven separate structures, six of which are connected by catwalks, some with an adjacent pipe rack. Record drawings of the structure were not available. However Figure 6.1 was developed based on field observations.

PYLONS: 34" 125' SPACING

BARGE: 160'x40' (MAXIMUM)

Figure 6.1 – Wharf Configuration

