This purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments on the proposed project.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District

Applicant: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Date: 27 February 2023

Expires: 20 March 2023

CEMVM-2023-050 Section: 10/404

Public Notice U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Re-issuance of Regional General Permit 26
Emergency Reconstruction and Repair Activities for Flood Damaged Areas
In All Waters of the United States
In the State of Illinois

- **1. Applicant**. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, 167 North Main Street, Room B-202, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.
- **2. Project Location**. This Regional General Permit will authorize work associated with emergency reconstruction and repair activities in all waters of the United States (including rivers, lakes, streams and wetland areas) in the State of Illinois within the regulatory boundaries of the Rock Island District, St. Louis District, Chicago District, and Memphis District.
- **3. Project Description**. The District Engineer, Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, is proposing to reestablish this regional general permit for emergency flood repair fills and for proposed emergency repair measures for flood damaged areas. In the past, the regional general permit was only authorized for work in waters of the United States associated with emergency reconstruction and repair activities in counties declared flood disaster areas by the State of Illinois. Regional General Permit 26 is being proposed to include emergency flood repairs in counties in the State of Illinois, regardless of whether a federal disaster has been declared. It will be in effect for a period of five years, at which time it will be reevaluated. There were no individual projects authorized under Regional General Permit 26 between the period May 15, 2017 and May 15, 2022, in Rock Island District. There was one (1) individual project authorized under Regional General Permit 26 between the period May 15, 2017 and May 15, 2022, in St. Louis District. Chicago and Memphis Districts did not participate in Regional General Permit 26 in the previous 5 years but are participating in this re-establishment of RGP 26.
- a. This Regional General Permit (RGP) authorizes activities to excavate and/or place fill material for protection and/or repair of existing flood damaged structures, damaged land areas and/or damaged fills. This regional general permit authorizes the following emergency protection and repair measures that are not exempted or already authorized by Nationwide, Regional, or Individual permits:
- (1) Repair of levees to existing/authorized elevations and cross-section, including breach closures and borrow operations.
 - (2) Bridge embankment protection (armoring) and/or repair.
- (3) Repair of pre-existing highway or railroad embankments and the addition or repair of stone (armoring) protection.

- (4) Repair of pre-existing utility protection structures.
- (5) Placement of rock and/or earth materials for stream or ditch bank protection and/or stream or ditch bank restoration.
- (6) Drainage ditch restoration to pre-flood capacity and flow line unless the flow line must be altered due to other damage associated with the flood event.
 - (7) Restoration of creek channels to pre-flooding alignment and capacity.
 - (8) Construction of temporary haul roads to facilitate the completion of any of the listed activities.

Note: Maintenance of existing flood damaged structures and/or flood damaged fills, which have been previously authorized, may be authorized by Nationwide Permit No. 3 or exempted by Part 323.4 of Federal Regulations 33 CFR 320-331. The repair of uplands damaged by storms, floods or other discrete events may be authorized by Nationwide Permit No. 45 (Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events) upon notification and review by the appropriate Corps of Engineers District, Regulatory Division.

- **Note 1**: For utility line activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of RGP authorization.
- **Note 2**: Utility lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the United States (which are defined at 33 CFR part 329) must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).
- **Note 3**: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this Regional General Permit. Access roads used solely for construction of the utility line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.
- **Note 4**: Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, not utility lines, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such pipelines will require a Section 404 permit (see RGP 15).
- **Note 5**: This RGP authorizes utility line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act Section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.
- **Note 6**: For overhead utility lines authorized by this RGP, a copy of the preconstruction notification and RGP verification will be provided to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

b. General Conditions:

- (1) The permittee must notify the District Engineer (DE) in their respective Corps Regulatory District for authorization of this Regional General Permit. The notification must include detailed drawings and sufficient information to determine if the proposed work conforms to the criteria and conditions of the RP, as well as a mitigation plan (see Section D), if unavoidable stream or wetland impacts will occur as a part of the project. Department of the Army (DA) permit application (ENG Form 4345) should be used for this purpose.
- (2) The time limit for submittals ends 60 days prior to the expiration of the RGP, unless the RGP is modified, reissued or revoked. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before that date is reached. If you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date the

RGP is modified or revoked, you will have twelve months from this date to complete your activity under the present terms and conditions of this Regional General Permit.

- (3) You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party. If you sell the property associated by this permit, you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
- (4) If you discover any previously unknown historic or archaeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- (5) You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.
- (6) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States requires the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army of his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration

c. Special Conditions:

- (1) This Regional General Permit authorizes the discharge of dredged or fill material and other work associated with emergency restoration, repair, or reconstruction measures performed in waters of the United States within the State of Illinois as a result of damages incurred during flooding. Work will be limited to that necessary to restore damaged areas to pre-flood conditions. The time period for completing the proposed work is 180 days from each permit determination. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before that date is reached.
- (2) All channel restoration work will be limited to restoring the area to pre-flood conditions and verified using United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, aerial photographs; or other qualified data, plans, etc. Channel restoration of areas not caused by the flooding is not authorized under this regional general permit.

Note: This RGP cannot be used for repairs to damage caused by gradual erosion or to reclaim lands lost to normal erosion processes over an extended period.

- (3) Clean, uncontaminated materials must be used for fill in order to minimize excessive turbidity by leaching of fines, as well as to preclude the entrance of deleterious and/or toxic materials into waters of the United States by natural runoff or by leaching. Use of cementitious grout bags, grout mattresses or similar are prohibited unless used in conjunction with coffer dams. All fill materials must be obtained from upland non-wetland sources or authorized excavation sites. Use of small aggregate materials, such as creek gravel, for stabilization and erosion control is prohibited under this Regional General Permit.
- (4) Temporary levees, accesses, and other fills must involve the least damaging and minimum disturbance or impacts to waters of the United States. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain near normal downstream flows and to minimize flooding. Fill must be of materials and placed in a manner that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fill (including sandbags) must be entirely removed to upland non-wetland areas following completion of the construction activity and the affected

areas restored to the pre-project conditions. Cofferdams cannot be used to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas so as to change their use.

- (5) Any construction debris or waste materials may not be disposed of below the ordinary high water mark of any water body, in a wetland area, or at any location where the material could be introduced into the water body or an adjacent wetland as a result of runoff, flooding, wind, or other natural forces.
- (6) All dredged or excavated materials, with the exception of that authorized herein, will be placed on an upland site above the ordinary high water line in a confined area, not classified as a wetland, to prevent the return of such material to the waterway.
- (7) All excavation, dredging, and/or filling in the watercourse must be conducted in a manner that will minimize increases in suspended solids and turbidity which may degrade water quality and damage aquatic life outside the immediate area of operation.
- (8) All debris during every phase of the project must be immediately removed and properly disposed of in order to prevent accumulation of unsightly, deleterious and/or toxic material in or near the water body.
- (9) All construction materials, equipment, and/or petroleum products, when not in use, must be stored above anticipated high water levels.
- (10) All structures will be designed and constructed in such a way that they do not result in stream channel constriction or in redirection of flows in such a way as to cause upstream or downstream erosion, or other property damage.
- (11) The clearing of timber and other vegetation will be restricted to the absolute minimum required to accomplish the work. The removal of mature trees must be avoided to prevent potential impacts to bald eagle roost sites. To protect the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat maternity roosting trees, tree removal will not occur between April 1 through September 30. If tree clearing will occurring during this time period, the Corps of Engineers will coordinate further with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to determine the impacts of the Indiana Bat and the Northern Long-Eared Bat.
- (12) Upon completion of earthwork operations, all fills in the water or on shore, and other areas on shore disturbed during construction must be seeded, replanted, or otherwise protected from erosion. The use of Crown Vetch, (*Corinilla varia*), Birdfoot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), Eurasian Honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*), Buckthorns (*Rhamnus cathartica and R. frangula*), White and Yellow Sweet Clovers (*Melilotus alba and M. officinalis*) Japanese Hops (*Humulus japonicus*), Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Smooth Brome Grass (*Bromus inermis*), and Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) should be avoided. If seeding does not successfully vegetate the disturbed areas by the end of the first growing season, alternate measures, such as placing riprap, slope terracing with untreated railroad ties, gabions or concrete blocks, or additional vegetative plantings to protect the disturbed areas from further erosion must be implemented. You must contact the Corps of Engineers prior to beginning work on any additional erosion control measures so that we can determine if further authorization will be required.
- (13) Only graded rock, quarry-run rock and/or clean concrete rubble may be used for riprap. The material must be reasonably well graded, consisting of pieces varying in size from 20 pounds up to and including at least some 150-pound pieces. Generally, the maximum weight of any piece should not be more than 500 pounds. Gravel and dirt should not exceed 15 percent of the total fill volume. If concrete rubble is used, all large slabs must be broken to conform to the well-graded requirement. All exposed reinforcement rods, trash, asphalt, and other extraneous materials must be removed before the rubble is placed in waters of the United States.
- (14) All temporary fills, including sand bags, in the waters of the United States must be completely removed within 30 days of the end of the flood emergency and disposed of in accordance with special conditions included in the regional general permit.

- (15) This permit does not authorize construction in any environmentally sensitive area, such as mussel beds, fish spawning areas, waterfowl nesting areas, etc.
- (16) Measures must be taken for heavy equipment usage in wetland areas to minimize soil disturbance and compaction. All exposed soils and other fills as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date using permanent native vegetation, bioengineering methods, or armoring.
- (17) Any excavation or placement of temporary or permanent fill must be performed in a way that would not result in the physical destruction of important fish spawning areas, including smothering of downstream spawning areas via turbidity.
- (18) Petroleum products, other chemicals, and other unsuitable materials (e.g. trash, debris, asphalt, etc.) will be prevented from entering water bodies, streams, and wetlands.
- (19) Appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures must be used and maintained during project construction.
- (20) Temporary and permanent structures must be installed to maintain low flow conditions and to pass normal and expected high flows.
- (21) This RGP also authorizes temporary structures, levees, cofferdams, temporary mats, and other fills and discharges, necessary to conduct the repair activity and must involve the least damaging and minimum disturbance or impacts to waters of the United States. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable. After construction, temporary fills (including sandbags) must be removed in their entirety to an upland, non-wetland area and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations and conditions. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate. Cofferdams cannot be used to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas so as to change their use.
- (22) The United States shall not be responsible for damage to property or injuries to persons which may arise from or be incident to the work herein authorized, and the permittee shall hold the United States harmless from any and all such claims, except to the extent that the damage or injury is caused solely by the negligence of the United States.
- (23) The project proponent must notify the appropriate public or private utility in advance of any work within 250 feet of an underground utility so that the utility is not damaged during construction activities.
- (24) Parties proposing to undertake work under the provisions of this regional general permit must provide prior notification to the appropriate Corps of Engineers District. Information submitted by the proponent must clearly determine whether or not the proposed work complies with the conditions and limitations of the regional general permit. The proponent will be notified within approximately 15 workdays if the project is in compliance with the conditions of the regional general permit and whether project construction may proceed. However, this will not alleviate the need of the proponent to obtain other applicable state or local authorization. The following information is required:
 - A completed application form.
 - A drawing showing the location and details of the proposed or completed work.
 - Publicly available hydrological or climatological data or other public information sufficient to reasonably substantiate the occurrence of flood conditions at the project location.
 - The information submitted must clearly describe the proposed or completed work.

- (25) Work that may affect a Corps of Engineers civil works project must obtain Section 408 authorization from the Corps of Engineers prior to commencing work.
- (26) This authorization does not eliminate the requirement that you must still acquire other applicable federal, state, and local permits. If you have not already coordinated your project with the Illinois

Department of Natural Resources – Office of Water Resources, please contact them at 217/782-3863 to determine if a floodplain development permit is required for your project.

- (27) Applicable general conditions from the standard individual Department of the Army permit will also be included as conditions of this regional general permit.
- (28) Water quality certification. The conditions listed in the Section 401 water quality certification from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will be considered to be part of this regional general permit (once issued).

d. Mitigation:

- (1) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal. If the cumulative permanent loss of wetland exceeds 0.10 acres or for stream losses that exceed 3/100 acres, compensatory mitigation is required and the permittee will provide a mitigation plan for approval which must follow the regulations published in the Federal Register dated April 10, 2008 under 33 CFR Parts 325 and 332 and 40 CFR Part 230 Subpart J entitled "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources," and any such Corps of Engineers regulation/guidance that would supplement these mitigation requirements. Proposed projects resulting in wetland, streams, or other special aquatic sites loss will be required to provide adequate mitigation to replace lost aquatic functions and values.
- (2) The amount of mitigation required will be determined during review for authorization under this permit as per the mitigation rule requirements. Mitigation must be adequate to offset unavoidable impacts or losses to regulated waters of the United States. For all permanent stream losses greater than 3/100 acre, completion of the applicable Illinois Stream Mitigation Method will determine adequate compensatory stream mitigation. The Corps of Engineers has the final approval in determining the appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary. The discharge of fill material into waters of the United States prior to Corps of Engineers approval of the mitigation plan is prohibited.

4. Historical/Archaeological:

- a. Section 106 consultation is not required when the Corps of Engineers determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). In cases where the DE determines that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the activity is not authorized, until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are met.
- b. Federal permittee's should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 of NHPA, permittee's must provide the DE with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.
- c. Non-federal permittee's must submit information to the DE if the authorized activity may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the information must state which historic properties may be affected by the proposed work and include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of or potential for the presence of historic resources can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic

Preservation Officer (THPO), as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). The DE shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to ensure that appropriate identification efforts are carried out, which may include background research, consultation, history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. Based on the information submitted and these efforts, the DE shall determine whether the proposed activity has the potential to cause an effect on the historic properties. Where the non-federal applicant has identified historic properties which the activity may have the potential to cause effects, and so notified the Corps of Engineers, the non-federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the DE either that the activity has no potential to cause effects, or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed.

- d. The DE will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete application whether NHPA Section 106 consultation is required. Section 106 consultation is not required when the Corps of Engineers determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). If NHPA Section 106 consultation is required the non-federal applicant cannot begin work until Section 106 consultation is completed.
- e. Permittee's should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 16 470h-2(k)) prevents the Corps of Engineers from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps of Engineers, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps of Engineers is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, explaining the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on Tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.
- f. <u>Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts</u>. If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify the district engineer of what you have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the federal, Tribal and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

5. Endangered Species:

- a. No activity is authorized under this regional general permit which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity is authorized under this regional general permit which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed to address the effects of the proposed activity on a listed species or critical habitat.
- b. Federal permittees and their designated state agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Federal permittees must provide the Corps of Engineers with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The Corps of Engineers will review the documentation and determine whether it is sufficient to address ESA compliance for the activity, or whether additional ESA consultation is necessary.

- c. Non-federal permittees must provide the Corps with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with the Endangered Species Act. If the authorized activity may have the potential to effect any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or is located in designated critical habitat, permittee shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the DE that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that may affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. The DE will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" on listed species and designated critical habitat.
- d. Authorization of an activity by this regional general permit does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the Endangered Species Act. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the USFWS webpage.

6. Agency Review and Where to Reply:

a. <u>Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers</u>. The regional general permit is being processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

b. State of Illinois.

- (1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Coordinator at EPA.401.bow@illinois.gov or (217) 782-3362 for review and coordination for Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- (2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5). Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the Office of Water Resources at dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov or (217) 782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at http://dnr.state.il.us/owr.
- 7. **Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines:** The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).
- 8. **Public Interest Review:** The decision whether to issue the Corps of Engineers permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

- 9. Who Should Reply: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; 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. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.
- 10. **Public Hearing Requests:** 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 public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.
- 11. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers:** Comments concerning the Corps of Engineers permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-PE (James Kelley), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. Mr. James Kelley may be contacted by phone or e-mail for additional information: Ph. (309) 794-5373 or james.c.kelley@usace.army.mil.

Attach Plan Gregg W. Williams Chief Regulatory Division

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