

**DRAFT**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Mississippi River Levee Maintenance**  
**Farrenburg Levee Culvert Replacement**  
**Near Levee Milepost 10 (LMP 10)**  
**New Madrid County, Missouri**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Memphis District (CEMVM), is proposing to replace an existing Farrenburg Levee culvert near LMP 10 located approximately 6 miles northeast of New Madrid, Missouri. The Farrenburg Levee was constructed by the USACE in the 1930s before the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) was implemented. The proposed action requires clearing wetland habitat and a search within CEMVM records was unable to locate NEPA documentation directly pertaining to the proposed project. Therefore, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared to evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed project action.

Proposed Project Action: The proposed project would replace the existing Farrenburg Levee culvert near LMP 10 and install a new 48-inch diameter culvert approximately 100 feet north of the existing culvert. A backhoe or other equipment would excavate a trench through the levee to accommodate the new culvert. The proposed action includes several design features to reduce erosion, including construction of concrete inlet and outlet structures at the ends of the culvert pipe, placing approximately 1,755 tons of riprap and 550 tons of filter gravel around the inlet and outlet structures, within a landside drainage ditch and a 3-tiered drop structure floodside of the outlet structure. Gravel would be placed on the levee crown after completion of the culvert replacement. Additional project work includes flattening the floodside slope of the levee within the project limits, removal of the existing culvert, and repairing the eroded section of the levee. An estimated 3,500 cubic yards of suitable earthen material would be obtained from material previously dredged from the Setback Levee Ditch that was stockpiled on the left-descending bank of the ditch. Silt fences would be placed along the boundary of the project work areas in compliance with Missouri regulations to contain runoff material during construction activities.

Approximately 0.2 acres of an adjacent farmed field landside of the Farrenburg Levee would be used as a temporary stockpile/staging area. A total of approximately 0.9 acres of forested wetlands would be impacted by the proposed project. To mitigate for the loss of 0.9 acres of forested wetlands, approximately 2.7 acres of prior converted or non-wet agricultural land would be restored to a bottomland hardwood wetland or a comparable amount of forested wetland mitigation credits would be purchased from an approved mitigation bank. Mitigation for project impacts would occur concurrently with project construction. Bottomland hardwoods planted would include those species historically found within the St. Johns Bayou Basin and Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway such as oak, cypress, pecan, ash, locust, and sycamore. Priority for mitigation sites would be given to land within St. Johns Bayou Basin and Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway. If no willing sellers were found in those areas, willing sellers would be sought within New Madrid County and the boot-heel area of southeastern Missouri.

CEMVM biologists conducted a survey for threatened and endangered species within the proposed Farrenburg Levee project areas. No threatened or endangered species were found, but trees and snags that could potentially be used as roosting habitat by the endangered Indiana bat were

found within the project work areas. Acoustic monitoring equipment was set up on May 22, 2014 at the culvert replacement project area and the area used to stockpile the dredged material. Preliminary results of the acoustic survey indicate that no Indiana bats are utilizing the proposed project area or the stockpile site. Coordination is currently ongoing with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and a copy of the survey results will be provided to the USFWS.

A cultural resources survey of the project rights-of-way for the proposed Farrenburg Levee culvert replacement work area was conducted in March 2014 by a CEMVM archeologist. No cultural resources were found during the survey and no previously recorded cultural resources were found in the State of Missouri data base. As earthen material to repair the levee would be obtained from previously stockpiled dredged material, no cultural sites would be disturbed to obtain the borrow material. No further archeological work is recommended. A negative finding letter will be coordinated with the Missouri State Historical Preservation Officer.

Requirements for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act are fulfilled by the Nationwide Permit Section 3 Maintenance (a). The proposed project action also meets the requirements set forth in the State of Missouri, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, 2012 General and Specific Conditions. The project does not trigger any new permit requirements set forth in the conditions noted in the Missouri Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions for all Nationwide Permits. In particular, the wetlands within the proposed culvert replacement project area are not designated as a priority watershed by the State of Missouri.

Based on a review of the analysis performed in the environmental assessment and supporting documentation, I have determined the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required.

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Date

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Jeffery A. Anderson  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer