

US Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District

Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM-2014-245 (RDM)

NOTICE DATE: June 24, 2014

Attn: Postmaster, Please Post Until EXPIRATION DATE: \implies July 24, 2014

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 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

APPLICANT:

Derek Farmer Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. 41 St. Jude Industrial Park Marston, Missouri 63866 Office Phone: (573) 643-6240

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to allow the New Madrid Power Plant to continue operations through low river conditions when the plant cannot intake the needed amount of water necessary to run at full capacity.

LOCATION: The project site is located east of Marston, Missouri, on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River at approximate river mile 884.3 and Lat/Lon, 36.520363° N/-89.561577° W, in New Madrid County, Missouri (Attachment 1).

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant has requested a five year permit to deploy floating pumps located on barges on the Mississippi River to pump water to the New Madrid Power Plant intake structures during low river flow conditions. The operation consists of eight, 300hp diesel pumps. The pumps will be split between the two intakes. Four pumps will be secured together and connected to each intake through 42" pipes and plates. The four pumps will be tied to the anchor point closest to each intake and will not extend past these anchor points (Attachment 2). These pumps will sit approximately 15-20 feet deep in the river with the bottom of the structure about 50 inches below the water surface (Attachment 3) Each pump is equipped with a bar screen on the bottom that have openings of approximately 2" by 18". Also included in the operation will be four diesel tanks. Attached to each pumping barge will be a work/fuel barge. These work/fuel barges will each have a 2,000 gallon diesel fuel tank attached that is located within a secondary containment. Also, there will be two 2,000 gallon double-walled tanks located on-shore for additional fuel. The applicant has also requested coverage under Nationwide Permit 39 for Commercial and Institutional Developments to place gravel and use areas on the bank for access roads (Attachment 4).

AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION: The applicant proposes to use areas on the bank for access roads which have already been cleared to avoid removing any additional trees or vegetation. The location of the ramps have historically been used in past low river conditions when additional pumps were required. The applicant states they will maintain erosion controls. All activities will be conducted in an area outside the navigation channel of the Mississippi River.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project has a Clean Water Section 404 component that consists of deposition of fill material below the ordinary high water mark for the purpose of bank access. The applicant has applied for a Nationwide Permit 39 for Commercial and Institutional Development for this aspect of the project. The project will be reviewed for verification under Nationwide Permit 39 which has been pre-approved by the State of Missouri for Water Quality Certification.

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. Comments may be sent to the following:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District ATTN: Damon McDermott 167 North Main Street, Room B-202 Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894 E-mail: <u>robert.d.mcdermott@usace.army.mil</u> phone: (901) 544-0732 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: <u>http://geo.usace.army.mil/egis/f?p=340:2:0::NO:RP</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 Branch office for examination.

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

Attachments

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Attachment 1





Attachment 3

