PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

Applicant: Goose Pond Mutual Drainage and Levee District

Date: July 17, 2008

Expires: August 15, 2008

CEMVR-OD-P-2007-336

Section: 10/404

Joint Public Notice
US Army Corps of Engineers
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Department of Natural Resources / Office of Water Resources

1. **Applicant**. Goose Pond Mutual Drainage and Berm District, 10 Park Avenue West, Princeton, Illinois 61356-2099.

2. **Project Location**.
   - Sections 31 and 32, Township 15 North, Range 10 East; southeast Bureau County, Illinois; and Sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, and 17, Township 14 North, Range 10 East; northwest Putnam County, Illinois; near Hennepin; approximate Illinois River miles 203.5 – 206.5.
   - Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 16, Northing 4 567 713.922, Easting 300 721.303.
   - Latitude: 041.2363. Longitude: -089.3779.

3. **Project Description**.

a. Background. The purpose of the project is to perform scientific and economic research over a 10-year period to assess the efficacy of nutrient farming, a water quality trading strategy that uses managed wetlands to offset nutrient loads from point source dischargers. The goal of the project is to demonstrate that through water quality trading nutrient farmers can sell nutrient removal credits to municipalities or industries that release excess nutrients and cannot cost-effectively remove these nutrients through mechanical or chemical means themselves. The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) is serving as agent for this project to oversee and manage the design, construction, and operation of the project and to coordinate the necessary scientific research. TWI projects that the 4-cell system annually will remove 230 tons of nitrogen and 27.3 tons of total phosphorus when operating at half maximum capacity.

b. Previous Proposal. The project was described in a public notice dated May 23, 2007 – June 21, 2007. The project was redesigned to address various issues raised in response to the previous design. The primary changes have been to modify the configuration of the project to allow Mullin's Slough to maintain flow into Goose Pond from the Illinois River, and to incorporate the existing 'Narrows' into the project while creating a wider and deeper channel connecting Goose Pond to Senachwine Lake. These changes have resulted in a new layout for the perimeter and interior project berms.

c. Proposed Project – Revised. The Goose Pond project includes the construction of approximately 8.08 miles of external berm and 2.17 miles of internal berms, excavation for the construction of these berms, the construction of spillways, the construction of pump stations, the construction of flow control structures, the widening of the area known as the 'Narrows', and the construction of mitigation. The project will restore and enhance 1250 acres of wetland. The proposed project area is located in the eastern side of Goose Pond. Water will be taken from the Illinois River, passed through the series of 4 cells, and discharged back to the Illinois River.

Main outer berm construction. The proposed project area will be isolated from Goose Pond and the Illinois River by the construction of 8.08 miles (42,060 feet) of peripheral (outer) berm. Top elevation of the main outer berm will be at elevation 453 feet, approximately at the 3-year flood stage on that section of the Illinois River.

- With the exception of the western peripheral berm which will be constructed in open water, the proposed berm alignment will run on top of existing berms. The length of the section of new peripheral berm is approximately 2,060 feet. The ground elevation along the berm alignment indicates that from 1 to 14 feet of fill will be required. The berms will have a crest width of 10 feet to allow for vehicular traffic. Exterior side slopes will be 4:1, with 3:1 slopes on the interior.

- For the most part, the berms will be constructed from material excavated adjacent to the berm alignment along the inside and/or outside of the berms. Exterior excavations within the open water area will leave a trench not to exceed 6 feet deep and 300 feet wide. Interior excavations will leave a trench not to exceed 3 feet deep and 200 feet wide.
- Additional material will come from both a nearby 59-acre borrow area west of Big Bureau Creek and from a 34-acre borrow area on the west side of the current 'Narrows'. This material will be transported from the borrow area to the site by truck. Flow through both Big Bureau Creek and the 'Narrows' will not be impaired during construction.
- Four emergency spillways (one for each cell) will be constructed along the eastern side of the outer berm to avoid the berm from being overtopped before the interior areas are full of water. This is to prevent failure of the berm during high water events. The overflow structures will be at elevation 451.5 (slightly less than the 3-year flood level on the Illinois River). Energy dissipation will be provided by turf reinforcement mats.

Interior berm construction. The project area will be divided into four experimental cells by the construction of three interior berms. The north, central, and southern berms will have final crest elevations of 448.0, 447.0, and 446.0, respectively. The three berms from north to south are about 4260 feet, 3850 feet, and 3350 feet long. All of the berms will have a crest width of 10 feet to allow vehicular traffic and side slopes of 4:1. The northern and southern berms will be built on existing berms from material excavated adjacent to the berm alignment. Some borrow material will be excavated along the northern side of each berm, leaving a trench not to exceed 2 feet in depth and 100 feet in width. If needed, additional material may be taken from the designated borrow areas located west of Bureau Creek and/or west of the 'Narrows'. It will be transported from these areas by truck.

Flow control structures. At each internal berm, there will be one flow control structure to provide a way to maintain the pool levels in each cell at a preset elevation. Each structure consists of one 20-foot-wide overflow structure and box culvert with stop logs to provide water elevation control.

Pumping Station No. 1. Pumping Station No. 1 (PS-1) has been relocated adjacent to exterior berm on the east side of Cell 2 near the junction with Cell 1. The intake structure for PS-1 will be located on the north bank of Mullin's Slough. Approximately 800 feet of open trench will connect PS-1 to the intake structure north of Mullin's Slough. A closed conduit line may be substituted for a portion of the open trench through the open field section south of PS-1. This station includes a 6-foot by 10-foot slide gate to allow gravity entry of water from the Illinois River under high-flow conditions. Under low-flow conditions, the northern pump station will divert water from the Illinois River and direct it into either Cell 1 or Cell 2. From these cells, the water will flow by gravity to the outlet on the southern end. Under higher river stages, but below flood stage, water will enter the project by gravity. Water flow will be controlled by gates in each of the internal berms.

Cell One. Cell 1 is 339 acres in size. The berm around Cell 1 is existing but will be enhanced. A channel will be excavated inside the cell so that water may flow to the overflow structure and passed to Cell 2. This channel will measure approximately 1020 feet long, 33 feet wide, and up to 6 feet deep. The excavated material will be used in berm construction. The water surface in this cell is approximately 327 acres at elevation 446.

Cell Two. Cell 2 is 355 acres in size. The berm around Cell 2 on the west and south sides is a new berm. A channel will be excavated so that water may flow from the overflow structure adjoining the northern berm. This channel will measure approximately 960 feet long, 33 feet wide, and 5 feet deep. The excavated material will be used in berm construction. The water surface in this cell is approximately 305 acres at elevation 445.

Mullins Slough. The northern two cells will be separated from the southern two cells by Mullins Slough. The general west to east flow of water in Mullins Slough will remain unchanged. Water flowing between Cell 2 and Cell 3 will pass under the slough via an inverted siphon. A temporary or permanent bridge will span Mullin's Slough along the east-alignment of the berms to provide access between Cells 2 and 3 for construction and research activities. A temporary or permanent bridge may be located across the slough near the river to provide access to the lower end of the project area during construction. Both bridges have adequate clearance to allow canoe or small boat access during flat pool from the river to Goose Pond.

Cell Three. Cell 3 is 248 acres in size. The north and west berm is new berm. The excavated material will be used in berm construction. The water surface in this cell is approximately 242 acres at elevation 444.

Cell Four. Cell 4 is 308 acres in size. Portions of the berms on the west and east side are new. One channel will be excavated so that water may flow from Cell 4 to the intake area of pump station 2. This channel will measure approximately 1,000 feet long, 33 feet wide, and 4 feet deep. The excavated material will be used in berm construction. The water surface in this cell is approximately 291 acres at elevation 443.

'Narrows'. The area between Goose Pond and Senachwine Lake identified as the 'Narrows' will be relocated to the west of the existing channel in an area formed from Senachwine Creek depositional material. The 'Narrows' will be widened from its current width of 300 feet to 600 feet and will be excavated to a depth of approximately 7 feet at pool stage (currently < 2 feet in depth at pool stage). The material excavated from the west bank of the 'Narrows' will be used as borrow for the construction of southern berms. Construction activities will not stop flow between Goose Pond and Senachwine Lake. Once the excavation of the new channel has taken place, additional material from the new channel's west bank will be removed to create a contoured surface merging back up to the delta's native elevations approximately 300 to 400 feet from shore. The contouring will transition from pool edge at 441 feet up to 445 feet MSL, with slopes ranging from 1:75 to 1:100.

Pumping Station No. 2. Pumping Station No. 2 (PS-2) will be located on the west bank of Cell 4 so water can be discharged to the 'Narrows'. It will be used when gravity flow is not possible due to high water levels outside the bermed area. This station includes a 6-foot by 10-foot slide gate to allow gravity return of water to the Illinois River under low-flow conditions.

Cell 1 Diversion Structure. A sediment diversion structure will be constructed between Big Bureau Creek and Cell 1. As part of the research activity during peak flows, this structure will allow sediment-laden Big Bureau Creek water to be diverted into the project site rather than flowing into Goose Pond. With the proposed structure, water and sediment will be introduced into Cell 1 at controlled rates and closely monitored for positive and negative impacts to the plant and microbial communities. The effect of sediment accumulation on nutrient removal and the development of wildlife habitat will also be investigated. If the sediment deposition is negatively impacting the plant community or nutrient removal processes, then water and sediment diversion will be reduced or ceased.

Emergency Spillway No. 1 (ES-1). A side-channel weir (ES-1) will be constructed on the east bank of Bureau Creek at the northern end of the Princeton Game and Fish Club's (GFC) property. Diverting flow through this structure will reduce energy and sediment movement in the lower reach of Big Bureau Creek, and it will remove a portion of the suspended sediment load from the creek. The invert of this structure may be set such that it diverts Big Bureau Creek water during high flow events that may occur on average 4% of the year. The overflow water will be conveyed by the existing or improved canal system that is located throughout the PGFC's property north of the project. The tributary canals will be tied to a main canal, which will flow southeast towards the Illinois River. As the water is diverted from Big Bureau Creek into the canal system, the water velocity will be reduced, allowing for suspended material to settle out. The overflow water will run by gravity to a box culvert/gate system (Off-site Pump 1) and will be discharged to the Illinois River. A pump will be located near the canal/Illinois River juncture to assist in draining the area after it has been inundated by moderate to high Illinois River flood events and to assist in flooding the area south of the pump during hunting season. Part of the channel system may need to be widened and/or re-graded to provide storage and to ensure water flow towards the Illinois River. Excavated material will be used in berm improvements or construction.

Berm Design. The berms will have a 4 to 1 river side slope and a 3 to 1 project side slope and with a standard 10-foot-wide berm top set at 453 MSL. This will result in a small increase in the berm footprint estimated to less than 5% and a corresponding increase in the mitigation acreage. Passive overflow spillways will remain set at 451.5 MSL. During construction, it may be necessary for the contractor to postpone construction of the berm top allowing 15-foot-wide access to the spillways and other structures to move large equipment and materials. Final shaping of the berm top could take place after completion of the pump stations and spillways.

Access Roads. Three access roads needed during construction will be built by enhancing existing roads. The first two roads will provide access from the north. The primary road will be built on the existing Big Bureau Creek levee road from the PGFC south past ES-1 to the head of Cell 1 near the diversion structure. A second road from the north will run from the Consolidated Grain Terminal along the existing road along the west edge of the Illinois River, across the Mullin's Slough bridge, to the spillway in Cell 4. A turn-around area will be constructed at the end of each these roadways. The second road may be up to 16 feet wide and surfaced with a minimum of 8 inches of gravel as needed by the contractor for construction access. After construction, the gravel will be removed and/or re-graded to cover only the existing 10-foot-wide road surface. The third road is for temporary access to PS-2 through the Winship property. The contractor will provide gravel base as needed during construction of PS-2. Upon completion of PS-2 and excavation of the 'Narrows' between Goose Pond and Senachwine Lake, all gravel on the temporary road will be removed and the road will be returned to its original condition.

Borrow areas.

- The Big Bureau Creek borrow area is about 59 acres in size. It is covered with mostly sandbar willow (56 acres) and some herbaceous vegetation (3 acres). It will be excavated to about 1 foot above pool level. It will be planted with a mix of floodplain meadow and marsh plant species. It is located just west of the Cell 2 on the west side of Big Bureau Creek.
- The 'Narrows' borrow area is approximately 81 acres in size. The area currently consists of 72 acres of floodplain forest habitat, 3 acres of sandbar willow habitat, and 6 acres of emergent marsh vegetation. A new 600-feet wide 'Narrows' channel (twice the current 300-feet width) will be excavated to a depth of up to 7 feet deep, with the western shore transitioning up to the native elevation of 446 MSL. The excavated area outside of the new 'Narrows' will be planted with a mix of floodplain marsh and forest species.

Off-site pump stations. Three or four off-site pumps will be installed outside the peripheral berm to control off-site flooding and drainage for the purpose of waterfowl hunting. One pump will be located on Princeton Game & Fish Club property, and two to three pumps will be installed on Senachwine Club property. The pump located on Princeton Game & Fish Club property will discharge to the Illinois River. The pumps constructed on Senachwine Club property will move water south through an existing ditch system running along the exterior side of the eastern exterior berm to and into Senachwine Lake.

Watercraft pullover. There will be a watercraft pullover located on the southwestern perimeter of Cell 2. This will provide access to public waters which will be enclosed by the berm. The enclosed area will remain public waters. The boat pullover includes a lifting winches and reinforced turf.

Erosion protection. At the southern end of the project where the external berm will pass through the middle strait that connects Goose Ponds to Lake Senachwine, erosion protection will be added at the outer slope of the outer berm. This bank protection may be up to 3100 feet long.

Existing habitat. The 1345 acres of project area to be enclosed are composed of the following: 709 acres of wetlands (52.7%), 572 acres of open water (42.5%), and 64 acres of upland (4.7%). Wetland areas include: 209 acres of forested wetland (15.5% of the total); 391 acres of herbaceous wetlands (29.1% of the total); 109 acres of shrub-scrub (8.1% of the total); and 36 acres of farmed wetland (2.7% of the total). Ground disturbance will be 42 acres of delineated wetlands and 31 acres of open water comprising the footprint of the exterior berm, interior cross berms, and two pump stations. The 59-acre borrow area located outside the bermed area west of Big Bureau Creek is dominated by sandbar willow (56 acres) with a fringe of floodplain meadow (3 acres). The 81-acre borrow area west of the 'Narrows' is primarily floodplain forest (72 acres), with 3 acres of sandbar willow and 6 acres of floodplain meadow.

Acreage of the current habitat types for Goose Pond project cells 1 – 4, plus the 'Narrows' and Big Bureau Creek (BBC) borrow zones:

	Cell 1	Cell 2	Cell 3	Cell 4	'Narrows' Borrow	BBC Borrow	Total
Upland	36	21	2	5	0	0	64
Wetlands	280	246	74	109	80	59	849
Water	42	111	201	218	0	0	572
Upland	36	21	2	5	0	0	64
Water > 4 ft deep (at pool)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water 0 - 4 ft (unvegetated)	42	111	201	218	0	0	572
Marsh 0 - 4 feet deep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Floodplain Meadow	262	66	11	52	6	3	400
Sandbar Willow	2	94	13	0	3	56	168
Floodplain Forest	16	86	50	57	72	0	281
Total	**358**	**378**	**277**	**332**	**81**	**59**	**1485**

[Goose Pond depth at pool stage was determined from the WSEL at pool stage, approximately 440.25 NGVD29. The mean WSEL measured at the Henry, IL USACE/USGS gauge (river mile 196) from January 1, 1970 to June 1, 2008 is 442.20, so that average pool depth is 1.95 feet deeper. The median pool elevation is 441.55, i.e., WSEL < 441.55 for 50% of the time.]

Acreage of the planned habitat types for Goose Pond project cells 1 – 4, plus the 'Narrows' and Big Bureau Creek (BBC) borrow zones:

	Cell 1	Cell 2	Cell 3	Cell 4	'Narrows' Borrow	BBC Borrow	Total
Upland	20	23	28	24	0	0	95
Wetlands	158	259	119	308	54	59	957
Water	181	96	130	0	27	0	434
Upland (berms)	20	23	28	24	0	0	95
Water > 4 feet deep	181	96	130	0	27	0	434
Marsh 0 – 4 feet deep	147	209	113	291	17	0	777
Floodplain Meadow	4	23	4	16	13	56	116
Floodplain Forest	7	27	2	1	24	3	64
Total	**358**	**378**	**277**	**332**	**81**	**59**	**1485**

Mitigation Plan. Construction of the berm system will require fill to be deposited on 95.7 acres of land surface area. Of these, 73.1 acres will receive fill in either wetland (42.0 acres) or water (31.1 acres). Excavation activities providing soil for the berms will be primarily taken from Goose Pond in order to utilize as much of the Big Bureau Creek sediment load as possible. The volume and area of excavation will depend upon the quality of the material being mined. No borrow will be excavated from the area to be developed as floodplain forest within the project berm perimeter. Borrow will be excavated from approximately 70 acres of floodplain forest in the 'Narrows' borrow zone. Borrow will be excavated from approximately 75 acres of sandbar willow both inside and outside of the project berm perimeter.

The project will create, restore, or enhance 93.0 acres within existing degraded wetland area by planting shallow marsh, floodplain meadow, and floodplain forest in areas with the appropriate hydrology once the pools have been established. An additional 15.1 acres will be created on upland, for a total of 108.1 acres. These 108.1 acres will serve as mitigation for the 73.1 acres of wetland filled in construction of the berm system. All mitigation acres will be developed in Cell 2.

- The loss of 31.1 acres of waters of the US (WUS) will be mitigated at a ratio of 1:1 with restoration of 31.1 acres of shallow marsh habitat. The existing waters currently do not support any plant life, so that the restored marsh vegetation will represent a significant improvement in habitat quality. A mix of upland and wetland habitat flooded to less than 24 inches depth will be planted with a range of shallow marsh vegetation.
- Mitigation for the loss of 20.4 floodplain forest acres will be in kind with the restoration of 21.9 acres and creation of 15.5 acres of mixed floodplain hardwoods.
- Mitigation for the loss of 9.3 acres of sandbar willow habitat will be out of kind as it will be replaced with 28.0 acres of higher quality shallow marsh and floodplain meadow habitat.
- Mitigation for the loss of 12.3 acres of three emergent wetland types will be in kind as they will be replaced with 18.4 acres of higher quality shallow marsh habitat.
- A shallow marsh complex will be developed around the margins of the pools, which will grade up into a complex of floodplain meadow and floodplain forest. Interior borrow excavations will primarily run parallel to the berm, except for trenches excavated to facilitate in site drainage. Even where the pool edge is against the berm, e.g. the west shore of Senachwine North, the borrow area will be set back far enough to develop a shallow marsh edge out to a foot or more of depth.
- Four small islands (1.5 acres each) located in Pools 3 and 4 will be planted with a mix of marsh and sedge meadow.

Less than one acre of decurrent false aster occurs on the site and will be flooded in pool 2. Since some of this acreage will be flooded for a period longer than *decurrens* may survive, two new populations of *decurrens* (2.5 and 1.4 acres) will be established just outside of the project boundaries in mitigation for potential losses that may occur. In addition, the existing population that will not be affected by project activities will be expanded by moving intact plants and seeding an additional 1.5 acres within the project boundaries. These measures will take place in consultation with and approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists experienced with *decurrens* population dynamics. Seed will be collected from the current population, dried and stored for use in expanding the existing population and establishing new populations as the project develops. Some of the seed will be sown directly, and some will be used to grow *decurrens* plugs for planting on each of the two mitigation areas.

#	delineated habitat	restored habitat acres								total restored habitat	berm	total project acres
		open water 5-6 ft Z	open water 4-5 ft Z	hemi marsh 3-4 ft Z	hemi marsh 2-3 ft Z	marsh 1-2 ft Z	shallow marsh	open forest meadow	floodplain forest			
1	Silver Maple	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.14	12.57	14.06	10.76	8.71	48.24	10.72	58.96
2	Black Willow	0.00	0.00	5.77	23.03	36.53	60.44	13.83	1.03	140.63	9.68	150.32
3	Sandbar Willow	0.00	0.01	8.18	26.77	21.71	19.26	10.54	12.57	99.04	9.33	108.37
4	Emergent Vegetation	0.57	144.57	129.23	46.99	12.39	41.76	3.01	0.20	378.71	12.27	390.98
5	Open Water	2.21	259.24	208.61	63.40	5.43	0.77	0.05	0.01	539.72	28.62	568.34
6	Ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.17	0.84	0.13	0.02	0.00	2.17	2.45	4.62
7	Farmed Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.12	2.11	7.61	7.28	8.80	8.99	34.91	0.84	35.75
8	Road	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.24	0.33	0.47	0.28	0.55	1.92	18.61	20.53
9	Upland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.01	0.00	0.00	4.61	4.90	3.14	8.04
Total		**2.78**	**403.82**	**351.97**	**166.13**	**97.40**	**144.17**	**47.29**	**36.67**	**1,250.24**	**95.66**	**1,345.90**

Goose Pond Nutrient Farm Pilot Project mitigation credits developed to comply with Section 404of the Clean Water Act								
#	wetland habitat	berm acres	mitigation ratio	credits needed	enhancement credits	restoration credits	creation credits	total credits developed
1	floodplain forest	20.40	1.5 : 1	**30.60**		17.45	13.15	**30.60**
2	sandbar willow	9.33	1.5 : 1	**14.00**	14.00			**14.00**
3	herbaceous wetland	12.26	1.5 : 1	**18.39**		18.39		**18.39**
4	WUS	31.08	1.0 : 1	**31.08**		31.08		**31.08**
	total	**73.07**		**94.07**	**14.00**	**66.92**	**13.15**	**94.07**

4. **Agency Review**.

a. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Department of the Army application 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 applicant has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. A copy of the written comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions, please contact IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

(2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Natural Resources (IDNR/OWR), application is being processed pursuant to an Act in Relation to the Regulation of the Rivers, Lakes and Streams of the State of Illinois, Chapter 615, ILCS 5 (Illinois Compiled Statutes (1994)). Comments concerning the IDNR/OWR permit should be addressed to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for address). Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, IDNR/OWR (217/782-3863), may be contacted for additional information.

5. **Historical/Archaeological**. In July 2007, the Public Service Archaeology Program (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) recommended against additional survey for cultural resources due to the low potential to find buried resources above the water table. On August 13, 2007, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency concurred that the project would have no effect on historic properties. Since the 'Narrows' area consists of recent deposits from Senachwine Creek, there is a low potential to find buried resources.

6. **Endangered Species**. District staff have performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as occurring in Bureau County and Putnam County, Illinois:

- Indiana bat (Bureau and Putnam). The endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. Berm construction will result in the loss of 10.12 acres of floodplain forest dominated by silver maple. The loss in acreage associated with levee construction will be minor relative to the remaining silver maple acreage on the site and on the river floodplain and upstream and downstream of the site. There should be no effect on the Indiana bat.
- Bald Eagle (Bureau and Putnam). The threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as wintering along large rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Berm construction will result in the loss of 10.12 acres of floodplain forest dominated by silver maple. The loss in acreage associated with levee construction will be minor relative to the remaining silver maple acreage on the site and on the river floodplain and upstream and downstream of the site. There will be no effect on the bald eagle.

- Prairie Bush Clover (Bureau and Putnam). The prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) is considered to potentially occur statewide based on historical habitat and could potentially be found in any Illinois county. It occupies dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soil. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Since there is no dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soil to be affected by the project, there should be no effect on the prairie bush clover.
- Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (Bureau and Putnam). The eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) may potentially be found in any Illinois county. It occupies wet prairie remnant habitat. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Since there is no wet prairie remnant habitat to be affected by the project, there should be no effect on the eastern prairie fringed orchid.
- Decurrent False Aster (Putnam). The decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) is listed as threatened and known to occur in Putnam County, Illinois (Illinois River floodplain). There is a population of plants (10 acres) that will be inundated by the project. The applicant has stated that seeds will be collected from the population and used to establish a new population within the sedge meadow and wet prairie habitat being developed just upslope of the current population.

A Biological Assessment has been prepared and is being coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Formal consultation was requested with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service since the project is likely to adversely affect the decurrent false aster (Boltonia decurrens). This coordination is ongoing.

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 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; Indian 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 permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P (Wayne Hannel), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. **Mr. Wayne Hannel (309/794-5378)** may be contacted for additional information.

Wayne Hannel

Attach
Plan

Wayne Hannel
Project Manager
Regulatory Branch

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

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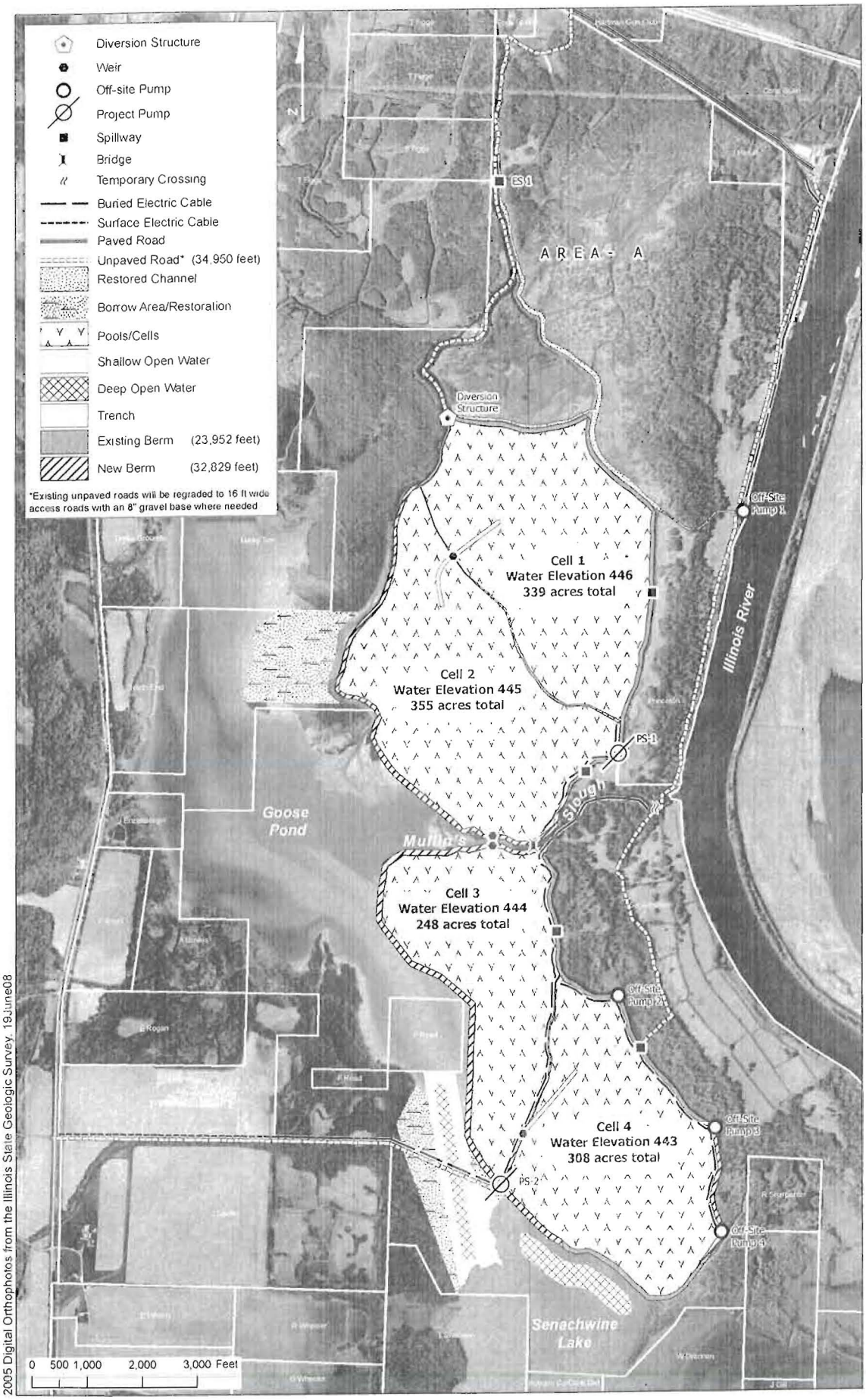

Goose Pond Nutrient Farm Pilot Project

Proposed Project Plan

CEMVR-OD-P-2007-336

Vicinity Map

Sheet 1 of 1