



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Natural Resources**

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

February 1, 2002

Mr. Kenneth A. Barr, Chief  
Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch  
Department of the Army  
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers  
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Attn: Gail Clingerman

Dear Mr. Barr:

Reference is made to your letter of January 4, 2002 concerning the need for a sediment trap to be dredged out of a 5.1-acre portion of the Illinois River to interdict sediment discharged by the Sangamon River. The proposed sediment trap will be located at Illinois River mile 88.9 in Sections 10 and 11, Township 18 North, Range 12 West, at Beardstown, Cass County, Illinois.

We have consulted the Illinois Natural Heritage Database and find no records of threatened/endangered species or natural areas in close proximity to either the proposed sediment trap or the projected dredge placement site within the Beardstown Marina. Further, given the large amount of bed load sand delivered by the Sangamon River at the project site, we do not anticipate that any abundant mussel populations or other sensitive aquatic resources are present in the immediate area.

The sediment trap will likely provide some temporary off-channel, deep-water habitat with benefit to river fishes. It will also potentially help reduce the amount of sediment transported downstream to sensitive areas such as the side channel behind Grape Island.

We look forward to reviewing the Environmental Assessment, and to coordinating further with your involved staff as may be necessary. Please contact me at 217-785-4863 if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Schanzle  
Permit Program Manager  
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning

RWS:rs

cc: IDNR/ORC (Cochran), IDNR/OWR (Kennedy), IEPA (Yurdin), IDOA (Savko), USFWS (Clevenstine), USEPA (Fenedick)



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

June 3, 2003

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division

#### SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified the need for a new sediment trap and pilot channel to be dredged out of an approximate 7.2-acre area of the Illinois Waterway near Beardstown in the La Grange Pool, Cass County, Illinois (see enclosed map, Enclosure 1). The purpose of this project is to capture sediment from the mouth of the Sangamon River prior to its entrance into the Illinois Waterway. This action is proposed in order to determine if this type of dredging would reduce the dredging frequency in the navigation channel at the downstream chronic dredge cuts of Grape Island and Beardstown.

The sediment trap would be located at approximate River Mile (RM) 88.9, left bank, at the mouth of the Sangamon River. Approximately 96,000 cubic yards of sediment would be hydraulically dredged to a minimum 7-foot depth to create the sediment trap. An additional 7,000 cubic yards of sediment would be mechanically dredged to create a pilot channel from the navigation channel of the Illinois Waterway to the Beardstown marina entrance to provide access to the placement site within the Beardstown marina. The pilot channel would be approximately 40 feet wide, 6 feet deep, and 800 feet long.

If the pilot channel were dredged during low water, the excavated material would be temporarily placed within the Sangamon River delta until being hydraulically dredged and piped to the Beardstown marina placement site. If the pilot channel were dredged during high water, the excavated material would be placed along the existing slopes of the placement site. After the pilot channel has been excavated, the sediment trap would be hydraulically dredged and the material piped to the Beardstown marina placement site. The placement site is located at the left descending bank of the Illinois Waterway at approximate RM 89.0. The approximate 350-foot x 600-foot placement site is currently owned by the City of Beardstown as an open water area within the Beardstown marina. A permanent containment berm would be constructed to hold the dredged material as it dewater. The berm may be up to 20 feet in height, with 3:1 slopes and a 10-foot top width. Sandy material from the hydraulic dredging operations would be used to construct the containment berm. If inadequate sandy material were obtained from the dredging of the sediment trap to raise the containment berm to the proposed height, the remainder of the containment berm would be constructed from sandy material trucked to the

placement site from the Beardstown Dredge Cut Dredged Material Management Plan, Placement Site 1. The placement site would be bordered by the containment berm to the northwest, the existing levee to the southwest and southeast, and the marina peninsula to the northeast. A 100-foot staging area for access to and dewatering of the placement site would be located adjacent to the entire 600-foot length of the placement site along the marina peninsula.

Approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of wetlands and mudflats would be excavated to create the pilot channel. Approximately 2 acres of existing wetlands within the City of Beardstown are proposed to be preserved as compensation for the wetland impacts.

The Rock Island District plans to prepare an Environmental Assessment for this proposal. At this time we would like to identify any existing significant resources or other environmental concerns associated with the excavation or placement sites, such as wetlands, endangered species, land-use plans, floodplain issues, etc. Please inform us of any reports, studies, or other research concerning environmental resources in the project vicinity that may be of use in analyzing potential impacts of the project.

Please provide any comments you may have regarding this proposal within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Address your comments, concerns, or questions to Ms. Gail Clingerman of our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5791. Written comments may be sent to our address above, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (Gail Clingerman).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

*DORENE A. BOLLMAN*

*f* Kenneth A. Barr  
Chief, Economic and Environmental  
Analysis Branch

Enclosure

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