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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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**SECTION 14  
EMERGENCY STREAMBANK PROTECTION**

**MAZON RIVER  
WHITETIE ROAD**

**GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT**

**OCTOBER 2011**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Rock Island District



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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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### SECTION 14 EMERGENCY STREAMBANK PROTECTION

#### MAZON RIVER WHITETIE ROAD GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

#### PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

### I. INTRODUCTION

The *Mazon River Section 14 Emergency Streambank Protection* project (Project) would protect a portion of Whitetie Road, Grundy County, Illinois from erosion from the Mazon River. The Mazon River flows in a generally northerly direction through eastern Illinois, emptying into the Illinois Waterway. The Project area consists of the right descending bankline starting from a point approximately 400 feet east of Gorman Avenue, then extending downstream for approximately 1,100 feet. The height of the bankline is between 35 and 40 feet. The channel in the Project area is approximately 75 feet wide with riparian woods adjacent to the left descending side of the river. The site is located in Section 30, Township 33 North, Range 8 East, 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle Meridian, in Grundy County, Illinois (figure EA-1). Most of the 455 square miles in the Mazon River watershed lie about 7 miles southeast of Morris. The surrounding landscape is predominantly agricultural.

In 1995, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District) completed a Section 14 streambank stabilization project in this reach of the Mazon River. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for that project was completed in October 1993 and revised January 1994. The 1995 project encompassed a total length of 850 feet. Within the 850 feet, the project stabilized 460 lineal feet with riprap. The additional 400 feet of streambank was not stabilized as it was considered stable because of the established mature vegetative cover and lack of active erosion or streambank instability. Since the project was completed, the areas treated with riprap have remained stable and continue to provide erosion control protection as originally designed. However, the areas that were not stabilized with riprap have recently become unstable and require additional stabilization measures. This Section 14 streambank protection Project would stabilize the approximately 400-foot unstable section(s) (and incorporate the same riprap measures that were successfully applied in 1995.

### II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The District and the Goose Lake Township Highway Commission, Grundy County, Illinois have partnered to protect Whitetie Road from further continued streambank erosion by the Mazon River. The Project engineer estimates annual erosion has averaged about 2 feet, with actual amounts varying from year to year. However, recent loss of bankline trees, vegetation, and bankline sediment due to flooding has accelerated erosion.

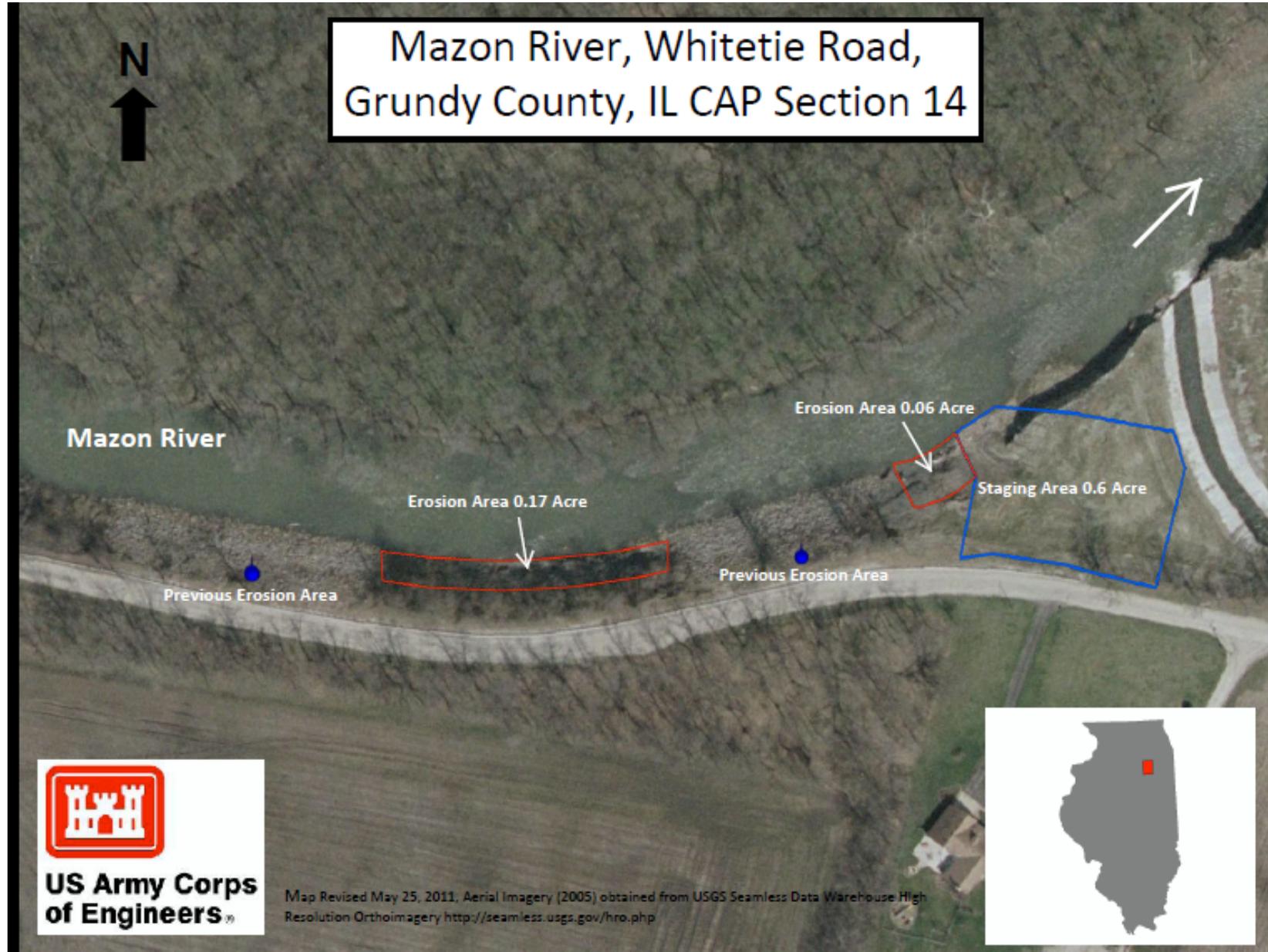


Figure EA-1. Project Map

The Mazon River is eroding the right descending streambank near and downstream of the intersection of Whitetie Road and Gorman Avenue. It threatens the stability of 400 feet in two separate sections of Whitetie Road.

Presently, the outside streambank bend adjacent to Whitetie Road is eroding. If immediate action is not taken, it is expected that future significant high water events on the Mazon River will continue to threaten the road's stability and safety. This Project is intended to mitigate/address that threat by reshaping the eroding bankline, if possible, and protecting it with riprap.

### **III. AUTHORITY**

The formal authorization for the District to perform this emergency streambank protection comes from Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended. This program is designed to implement projects to protect public or non-profit private facilities and/or services that are open to all on equal terms; have been properly maintained, but threatened by natural processes on streambanks and shorelines; and are essential and important enough to merit Federal participation in their protection.

### **IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The preferred alternative provides for shaping two separate sections of the bankline to a more stable slope (1.5H (horizontal) on 1V (vertical)) and placing riprap along the eroding right descending bankline from the landside and/or the riverbed (figure EA-1). Placement of a minimum 30 inches of Illinois Department of Transportation Gradation RR-5 riprap (about 5,600 tons) to provide a minimum 1.5:H on 1:V slope in the two erosion areas for a total of 400 feet along the right descending bankline adjacent to Whitetie Road. The bank protection would extend landward approximately 20 feet, and encroach approximately 4 feet into the water. Riprap revetment was selected due to the site conditions and the emergency nature of the problem. If implemented, this Project should be constructed in 30 to 60 days following all the pre-construction activities that must take place.

### **V. ALTERNATIVES**

**A. No Action.** Under the No Action alternative, a high probability exists of the bankline eroding adjacent to Whitetie Road would continue leading to failure of the adjacent bankline and slumping of the road into the Mazon River.

**B. Bankline Riprap Revetment.** This alternative consists of placement of riprap up to bankline elevation after the bankline has been cleared of vegetation.

**C. Bankline Weirs.** This alternative would consist of a series of low, stub dikes to deflect the flow back into the main river channel. However, bankline weirs would need to be keyed/tied into the eroding bankline and there is not enough room to accomplish this since the bankline is too steep and is comprised of shale bedrock.

**D. Vegetation Buffer.** Willow post planting and cedar trees anchored into the bank were examined and eliminated. These vegetative erosion control techniques were evaluated but were eliminated from further

consideration because, among other reasons the eroding bankline is shale bedrock and prevent anchoring of the cedar trees and willow posts. Environmental solutions to erosion problems are often desirable, but success is not always achieved even under ideal conditions. Additionally, the critical nature of Whitetie Road and the urgency of the emergency situation contributed to this alternative being dropped from further consideration at this location.

**E. Gabion Baskets.** This alternative consists of placement of gabion baskets up the elevation of the eroding slope/bankline after the bankline has its slope shaped to a more stable condition. This alternative was not considered due to: 1) the extra expense of the gabion baskets and shorter lifespan compared to riprap, and 2) gabion baskets are tied into the bankline and not constructed directly into the river. As mentioned previously, the eroding bankline here is unstable shale bedrock.

**F. Road Relocation.** This alternative was evaluated, but eliminated from further consideration because of cost.

*Alternative B is the preferred alternative for this Project.*

## **VI. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

**A. Natural Resources.** The affected environment for this Project entails both aquatic and terrestrial habitat. Some ground landward of the actual erosion protection area that would be used for machinery/equipment to access, maneuver and place the erosion protection.

The aquatic impact zone substrate seems to be limestone bedrock and shale and represents a series of pool/riffle complexes under normal flows. Portions of the Mazon River are listed as either an “A” stream segment (unique aquatic resource), or “B” stream segment (highly valued aquatic resource) by the Illinois Biological Stream Characterization Work Group.

Scattered vegetation of the steep, unstable impact area along the right descending bank that would be impacted include sparse woody vegetation such as cottonwood trees (*Populus deltoids*); hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*); dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*); silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*); and oak (*Quercus* sp.). The sparse herbaceous vegetation is comprised such species as Virginia wild rye grass (*Elymus virginicus*); foxtail (*Setaria* sp.); reed (*Phragmites australis*); Queen Anne’s Lace (*Daucus carota*); smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*); goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.); sleepy catchfly (*Silene antirrhina*); redtop grass (*Agrostis alba*); evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*); figwort (*Scrophularia marilandica*); thistle (*Cirsium* sp.); prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*); and bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*).

**B. Endangered Species.** Three federally threatened, endangered, or candidate species have been identified for Grundy County, Illinois: eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and sheepsnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*).

The eastern prairie fringed orchid is listed as threatened and considered to potentially occur in Grundy County. It occupies mesic to wet prairies. It requires full sun for optimal growth and flowering. The substrate of the sites where this orchid occurs includes glacial soils, lake plain deposits, muck, or peat. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or its destruction, malicious damage, or removal of this species from

Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including state criminal trespass law. This species should be searched for whenever wet prairie remnants are encountered.

The Indiana bat is federally endangered and known to occupy Grundy County IL, and potentially occurs statewide in Illinois. During the summer, it is predominantly found along small to medium river and stream corridors with well-developed riparian woods; woodlots within 1 to 3 miles of small to medium rivers and streams; and upland forests. During the summer, the Indiana bat frequents the corridors of small streams with well-developed riparian woods as well as mature upland forests. Indiana bats roost and forage in trees during summer months. The species rears its young beneath the loose bark of large trees—often dead or dying—but also live trees like the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). Loss of forested habitat, particularly stands of large, mature trees, can affect bat populations. Fragmentation of forest habitat may also contribute to declines.

The range of the freshwater sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*) is within the Project area. It is declining throughout its national range and is currently a Candidate species. This species is currently going through the listing process and may be included in the list of threatened and endangered species in the near future. The sheepnose mussel is primarily a larger stream species occurring mainly in shallow shoal habitats with moderate to swift currents over coarse sand and gravel but includes mud, cobble, and boulders as well. This includes larger rivers with deep runs, while those specimens found in streams occur mainly in stable flow refuges with little sediment turbidity.

Early coordination with state and Federal resource agencies has not revealed any objections or concerns over potential impacts to Indiana bats or eastern prairie fringed orchid.

Prior to construction, the District would need to determine the effect, if any, on the above listed species. A *no effect* determination would preclude the need for further consultation on a species unless the Project is modified or new information indicates endangered species may be affected. Any determination other than *no effect* would require additional coordination with the FWS as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**C. Cultural Resources.** A review of the District's archeological site and survey Geographic Information Systems databases determined that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within 1 mile of the Project. There are two previously conducted cultural resource surveys within 1 mile of the Project area. One of these surveys is located directly adjacent to the current Project area and is related to a previous Section 14 project in the vicinity. There is a limited amount of level ground left (approximately 3 to 15 feet) between the north edge of Whitetie Road and the sloped bank of the Mazon River in the Project area. Based on modern construction methods it is likely that this area was disturbed by the construction of Whitetie Road.

## **VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

**A. Created Resources.** The area adjacent to the river is all created resources. These structures/facilities would not be adversely affected by construction. Whitetie Road would be protected from further erosion by the placement of rock in the Project area.

**B. Natural Resources.** Temporary disturbances to vegetation, local wildlife, and fisheries may occur during the construction phase. The impact areas total 0.83 acre [0.6 acre terrestrial access area plus 0.23

*Mazon River Section 14 Emergency Streambank Protection  
Draft Environmental Assessment*

acre riprap repair areas (figure EA-1)]. Clearing, grubbing or grading may be necessary in places where current vegetation would inhibit the contractor from placing the riprap as specified. The District does not recommend clearing or grading of the entire bank. Riprap and the other rock for erosion protection for the Project is to come from a District-approved location, either new or existing. If the rock erosion protection is obtained from a new location, the area must be reviewed for impacts to endangered species by the resource agencies prior to commencement of the Project. The Project construction and staging areas for equipment would be at 300 feet most eastern portion of the Project boundary. This would result in minimal additional impacts to surrounding land or habitats. The marginal habitat value of the Project site, limits the scope and severity of potential impacts. The placed rock for bank protection also would provide additional attachment sites, shelter, and feeding areas for aquatic invertebrate organisms and small fish. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated due to implementation of the proposed Project.

This substrate would be covered with stone encroaching approximately 4 feet from the bankline into the water. The benthic community present in this area of the Mazon River should return after the shaping of the bankline and the placement of the riprap through natural migration from areas nearby but outside the impact zone, and downstream drift.

Large, loose-barked trees that are considered suitable habitat for the Indiana bat are sparse in the Project area and those present would not be removed for the Project; therefore, no adverse impact to this species is anticipated. If changes to the Project involve Indiana bat habitats, it may be necessary to conduct a survey to determine whether the bat is present. Indiana bat habitat may be altered (i.e., trees cleared) only between the dates of October 1 and March 31. No clearing of Indiana bat habitat would be necessary to access the site or to construct the erosion protection.

The habitat requirements for eastern prairie fringed orchids are not present in the Project impact area. They are not likely to be present in the Project area and should not be impacted by implementation of the proposed Project.

The impact zone for this Project would be surveyed for the presence of any sheepsnose mussel prior to construction. All sheepsnose mussels, indeed all mussels found would be relocated to nearby similar habitat. This action would be coordinated with the appropriate State and Federal resource agencies prior to field work commencing. These agencies also will have the opportunity to participate in field work. State and Federal agencies would be contacted if any federally listed species were found.

Some initial minor loss of riparian habitat and benthic organisms may result from access to and construction of Project features. Once the Project is completed, the area should quickly re-colonize with benthic organisms similar to the benthic community that was present prior to construction.

It is the District's determination that implementation of this Project, as proposed, should have no effect on any federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

**C. Cultural Resources.** Based on the modern disturbance of the area from the road construction and the erosion on the north side of the Project area there is little to no likelihood that cultural resources exist in the Project area. Therefore, it is the District's opinion that there would be no historic properties affected by the Project.

**D. Air Quality.** Minor, temporary increases in airborne particulates are anticipated to occur as a result of mobilization and use of construction equipment. Disturbances to nearby residents during workdays would be minimal, and no air quality standards should be violated.

**E. Water Quality.** Temporary increases in turbidity may occur during construction, but turbidity levels are expected to return to pre-Project levels or lower, since the bankline would no longer be eroding into the river. For these reasons, no long-term impacts to water quality would be anticipated. Any impacts to the stream ecosystem during Project construction would be offset by the ultimate preservation of the streambank.

**F. Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW).** An Environmental Site Assessment Transaction Screening Process was completed in general accordance with ASTM E 1528-06, ER 1165-2-132, and Mississippi Valley Division Regulation 1165-2-9 for the proposed Project Area. The inquiry consisted of a review of aerial photographs (2009, 2005, and 1930s), a United States Geological Survey Topographical Map, and interviews with Grundy County Emergency Management Office and the Gooselake Township Road Commissioner. The Project area is currently an eroding streambank on the right of way of Whitetie Road streambank, surrounded by agricultural lands and woodland. A search of United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Illinois EPA, the Illinois Bureau of Mines, and the National Response Center databases revealed no recognized environmental conditions within a 1 mile radius of the Project site. No further HTRW assessments are recommended at this site.

**G. Cumulative Impacts.** The construction on the original Mazon River Section 14 Project was completed in 1995 (EA was completed October 1993 and revised January 1994) and encompassed a total length of approximately 850 feet. Within the 850 feet, the Project stabilized approximately 460 lineal feet with riprap. The additional 390 to 400 feet of streambank was not stabilized as it was considered stable because of the established mature vegetative cover and lack of active erosion or streambank instability. Since the Project was completed the areas treated with riprap have stayed stable and continue to provide erosion control protection as originally designed. However, the areas that were not stabilized with riprap have recently become unstable and require additional stabilization measures.

Per Corps feasibility report: In 1995, placement of +4000 tons of 400 lb riprap 1.5H on 1V slope from toe of bankline up to elevation 530 in three separate areas within an 850 ft reach. An approximate total of 460 linear feet keying the riprap into the river bottom about 2 feet to prevent undercutting, from station 550 to 1100. At elevation 530.0 two rows of willow stakes were planted for the entire distance of the Project.

This new Section 14 Project would stabilize the two unstable sections (approximately total 400 ft.) and incorporate the same riprap measures that were successfully applied in 1995.

Per letter written by sponsor Goose Lake Highway Commissioner: In April 2009, Goose Lake Township placed 300 tons of riprap at station 500 to 550 to try to curb slumping.

Per phone conversation with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Contract number 9904: In 2000, the Illinois DNR diverted 75 feet of a drainage ditch flowing into Mazon River. The ditch flowed west, parallel to Whitetie Road, and was redirected north-northwest. The new outlet is located approximately 100 feet upstream of the Project area.

Per letter written by sponsor Goose Lake Highway Commissioner: In 1989, Goose Lake Township placed roughly 500 feet of riprap from the toe of the bankline to the top of the bank approximately 600 feet upstream from where the Township placed riprap in 2009.

Potential cumulative impacts should be insignificant.

## **VIII. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

**A. Community and Regional Growth.** The preferred alternative would ensure the viability of Whitetie Road along the Mazon River in Grundy County, Illinois. No incremental impact on community or regional growth is anticipated.

**B. Community Cohesion.** The Project would have a positive impact on community cohesion, as a highly used transportation route would remain intact for commercial, personal, educational, farm vehicle and emergency vehicle use. No public opposition is anticipated.

**C. Displacement of People.** No residential displacements would be caused by construction of the preferred alternative.

**D. Property Values and Tax Revenues.** The Project site and the construction staging areas are on land owned by the county/township; no change in property values or tax revenues would occur.

**E. Public Facilities and Services.** Whitetie Road is an essential traffic artery through Grundy County with an average daily vehicle count of 250. Positive impacts on public facilities and services are anticipated as a public transportation road would remain open and public emergency and school vehicles would maintain access to the transport route.

**F. Life, Health, and Safety.** Positive impacts to life, health and safety concerns are anticipated as safe road conditions would be maintained and emergency vehicle road access would continue. There were no hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste (HTRW) concerns associated with this Project site.

**G. Business and Industrial Growth.** A short-term increase in business activity would occur during Project construction; however, no long-term impacts to business and industrial growth would result.

**H. Employment and Labor Force.** No direct long-term impacts on employment and labor force in Grundy County, Illinois, would be realized from the Project.

**I. Farm Displacement.** The proposed Project would not result in the conversion of any prime, unique, or State or locally important farmland to nonagricultural uses. No farms would be displaced by the preferred alternative.

**J. Noise Levels.** A temporary increase in noise levels would occur during Project construction as the riprap would be placed from the top of bank instead of from the river. No permanent long-term impacts are evident.

**K. Aesthetics.** Disturbance to some ground vegetation, including some trees and shrubs, would occur so the equipment could access the banklines and maneuver to construct and maintain the bank protection. The surrounding landscape is predominantly rural and agriculture. No long-term negative impacts to the overall aesthetic resources of the area would result.

## **IX. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATUTES**

**A. Endangered Species Act of 1973**, as amended. The proposed action has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Illinois DNR, and other interested conservation groups. Those that have responded to the District's coordination effort have concluded that the Project would not impact any Federal or State endangered or threatened species. The Project would be in full compliance.

**B. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966**, as amended. The proposed action has been coordinated with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) and Tribes. The IHPA concurred there would be no historic properties affected. In addition, responses were received from the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. All of the responding tribes expressed an interest in the area, and requested to be contacted if human remains were encountered during construction, but had no objection to the construction of the Project.

**C. Federal Water Project Recreation Act.** No increases or decreases in current public recreational opportunities would be realized if this Project were implemented.

**D. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.** Project plans have been coordinated with the US EPA, the USFWS, and the Illinois DNR. Coordinating agencies can be found in Section XVI. Coordination responses can be found in Appendix A. The Project would be in full compliance.

**E. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968**, as amended. The Mazon River is classified as an inventory river under this Act. It is the District's opinion that the remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values of the Mazon River would not be significantly impacted or altered from its current free-flowing condition if this Project were to be implemented. The implementation of the proposed Project should not threaten the Mazon River's status under this Act. This Project would be in full compliance.

**F. Executive Order 11988 (Flood Plain Management).** Implementation of the preferred alternative would avoid, to the extent possible, long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of the base floodplain. The preferred alternative also avoids direct and indirect support of development or growth (construction of structures and/or facilities, habitable or otherwise) in the base floodplain wherever there is a practicable alternative. Therefore, the Project, as proposed, is judged to be in full compliance.

**G. Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands).** A jurisdictional wetland determination was performed on May 17, 2011. The Project would not impact jurisdictional wetlands and would be in full compliance with this Executive Order (EO).

**H. Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404)**, as amended. The Mazon River is determined to be a Waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Approximately 400 feet of bank stabilization work may be authorized under the Corps' Nationwide Permit 13, Bank Stabilization. This nationwide permit has been certified, with special conditions, by the Illinois EPA. The current set of nationwide permits will expire March 18, 2012. Therefore, a Nationwide Permit 13 issued for this Project would expire on this date. If Project work has commenced prior to March 18, 2012, then the permit remains valid for one additional year until March 18, 2013. State Section 401 Water Quality Certification has been issued by the Illinois EPA for this regional permit.

**I. Clean Air Act**, as amended. No aspect of the proposed Project has been identified that would result in violations to air quality standards. The outdoor atmosphere would not be exposed to contaminants/pollutants in such quantities and of such duration as may be or may tend to be injurious to human, plant, or property, or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life, or property, or the conduct of business. If implemented, this Project would be in full compliance.

**J. Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981.** The proposed Project would not result in the conversion of any prime, unique, or State or locally important farmland to nonagricultural uses.

**K. National Environmental Policy Act of 1970**, as amended. The compilation of the EA and the signing of The Finding of No Significant Impact fulfill National Environmental Policy Act compliance.

**L. National Economic Development (NED) Plan.** The NED Plan is the plan which best satisfies the Federal planning objectives of increasing the Nation's output of goods and services and produces the most improvement to the national economic efficiency. The proposed Project would be consistent with the NED objective.

**M. Executive Order 13186 (Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds).** Implementation of the preferred alternative, to the extent appropriate and practicable, would promote the conservation of migratory birds. This Project is not likely to have a measurable negative impact on migratory bird populations. This Project would be in full compliance.

**N. Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations).** This EO requires the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or a socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, State, local, and tribal programs and policies. Meaningful involvement means that:

- potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decision making about a proposed activity that could affect their environment and/or health;
- the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision making process; and
- the decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

The District has complied with the provisions of the EO through the coordination and the National Environmental Policy Act review process. No concerns regarding this EO surfaced during this process.

**O. Executive Order 13112 Invasive Species.** This Project does not authorize or carry out any actions that are likely to promote invasive species proliferation. Any subsequent occurrence of any invasive species in the Project vicinity should not solely be the result of the implementation of this Project. This Project is in full compliance.

## **X. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NON-PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES**

**A. No Federal Action.** Without Federal action, erosion of the bankline would continue with the potential for damage and/or failure of Whitetie Road.

**C. Bankline Weirs.** No significant environmental impacts would result from implementation of this alternative. This alternative would cost more than the preferred alternative and would not be more effective at protecting the bankline adjacent to Whitetie Road.

**D. Vegetative Buffer.** Bioengineering using willow post plantings, cedar trees, etc. would not be appropriate for the Project area. Due to the emergency nature of the Project and the amount of time before plantings would become effective for erosion control, this alternative would not be advisable at this time. Potential impacts from implementation of this alternative are difficult to evaluate. Failure of this alternative, if implemented could result in continued bankline erosion and instability of the road resulting in road failure.

**E. Gabion Baskets.** No significant environmental impacts would result from implementation of this alternative. This alternative would not be more effective at protecting the bankline adjacent to the Whitetie Road.

**F. Road Relocation.** Much land clearing would be required to relocate Whitetie Road, and possibly farm and home relocations.

## **XI. PROBABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED**

Due to the machinery and rock placement required for the Project, there would be a temporary increase in noise and a slight decrease in the air and water quality during construction. In addition, disturbance to some ground vegetation, including some trees and shrubs, would occur so the equipment could access the banklines and maneuver to construct and maintain the bank protection.

After initial construction is complete, the bank protection must be kept free of woody vegetation growing among the rocks. In addition, rock that may be displaced/damaged as a result of high water events must be replaced. Typically, measures to correct/protect stream embankments require a lane or road to be maintained directly adjacent to the rockwork (or other measure) in order to correct any future damage to the streambank protection. However, since the steep side slope of the area between Whitetie Road and the Mazon River is so steep, this is not possible. In the event that future high water events or ice causes damage to the rock bank protection, repairing the site would likely be performed from the riverbed as it would be during original construction.

## **XII. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY**

The temporary increase in noise and the slight, temporary decrease in air and water quality which would occur during construction, are minor, temporary negative environmental impacts associated with a Project that would produce major, positive social, economic, and environmental benefits. The Project would protect County Road Whitetie Road, and prevent some minor sediment loading into the Mazon River.

### **XIII. ANY IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES IF THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED**

The fuel which machinery uses and construction materials such as rock riprap would be irretrievable commitments of resources associated with this Project.

Net primary production (plant growth) from the vegetation currently in the impact zone (particularly the trees/saplings/grasses) would be lost and would be considered irretrievable. Loss of net primary production from the area of the impact zone that would require periodic clearing/maintenance to keep the access corridors open is considered irreversible and irretrievable for the life of the Project.

### **XIV. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO LAND-USE PLANS**

The proposed action is consistent with known land-use plans for this area.

### **XV. CONCLUSIONS**

A review of the proposed action indicates that there would be no significant adverse impacts on the environment, with any adverse effects being short-term and/or minor. The proposed action for bank stabilization would provide an environmental benefit by preventing further erosion and degradation of water quality in the Mazon River and protect the integrity of the road.

### **XVI. COORDINATION**

A copy of the District's coordination letters are found in Appendix A. Coordination for the Project has been and will continue to be maintained with the following state and Federal agencies and other interested publics:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 5
- National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Natural History Survey
- Illinois Department of Agriculture
- Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
- Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Worth County, Illinois
- Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
- The Nature Conservancy, Illinois River Project
- Kickapoo of Kansas Tribal Council
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe of Oklahoma
- Winnebago Tribal Council
- Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa

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Huron Potawatomi Nation  
Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma  
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas  
Ho-Chunk Nation  
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma  
Hannahville Indian Community Council  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council  
Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Council  
Forest County Potawatomi Cultural Center  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency responded by letter dated November 30, 2010. They state they have no objections to the proposed Project, as planned.

The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma responded by letter dated December 6, 2010 stating they have no objections to the proposed Project.

The Winnebago Tribal Preservation Office responded by electronic mail dated December 6, 2010 stating they have no objections to the proposed Project proceeding.

The Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma responded by letter dated December 8, 2010. They have no objections to the proposed Project.

The US EPA Region 5 responded by electronic mail dated April 28, 2011. They recommend a wetland analysis for both delineation and wetland quality purposes. (Wetland delineation showed no wetlands to be impacted). They recommend attaching all consultation records to be attached to the EA as an appendix. (Appendix A contains all relevant correspondence for the early coordination process). The US EPA Region 5 concurs with the District's purpose and need for this Project.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture responded by letter dated May 10, 2011. They state the proposed Project complies with the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act.

The USFWS responded by letter dated May 19, 2011. They provided a list of federally-listed species that have the potential to occur in Grundy County.



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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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**SECTION 14 EMERGENCY STREAMBANK PROTECTION**

**MAZON RIVER  
WHITETIE ROAD  
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**DRAFT**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

I have reviewed the information in this Environmental Assessment, along with data obtained from Federal and State agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and from the interested public. I find that providing emergency streambank protection along the right descending bank of the Mazon River in Grundy County, Illinois to protect a county owned road would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, it is my determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

This finding of no significant impact is based on the following factors:

1. The Project would have only minor and short-term impacts on fish and wildlife resources and on water quality.
2. The proposed Project would prevent further deterioration of the existing banklines and protect the sewage treatment plant from damages caused by high water and flooding events that have eroded the banks adjacent to Whitetie Roads at the Project site.
3. No significant adverse social, economic, environmental, or cultural impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.
4. Implementation of the Project, as proposed, would not result in increases in cost or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, nor would it impair in any way, the ability of the United States to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic or export markets.

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Date

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Shawn P. McGinley  
Colonel, US Army  
Commander & District Engineer



---

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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**SECTION 14 EMERGENCY STREAMBANK PROTECTION**

**MAZON RIVER  
WHITETIE ROAD**

**GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**DRAFT**

**APPENDIX A**

**PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE**





REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - PO BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

November 22, 2010

L:\HANCKS FILES\VOLLMAN2010 LETTERS\22NOV2010\MazonCoordinaton\mer/5857

Planning, Programs and Project  
Management Division

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District), is considering a Continuing Authorities Program, Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act, Stream Bank Erosion Protection Project on Mazon River in Sections 29 & 30, Township 33N, Range 8E, in Grundy County, Illinois (Enclosure 1). The south bank of Mazon River is eroding and putting a portion of Whitetie Road in jeopardy. The project plan includes placement of rip rap along the south bank of Mazon River to prevent further erosion.

#### **Federal Undertaking**

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, the District has determined that this project has potential to cause effects to archeological and architectural historic properties [36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)] and as a consequence will require a determination of effect within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

#### **APE**

The District has defined the APE as the area between the intersection of Gorman Road and Whitetie Road and the intersection of the Mazon River and an unnamed tributary to the east (Enclosure 1). The work will be limited to the south bank of Mazon River between the shoulder of Whitetie Road and the active channel (Enclosure 1). Construction will consist of one of or a combination of the following alternative plans:

- rip rap protection to the top of the bank;
- rip rap to a level of 530 feet above sea level; and / or
- bioengineering measures such as seeding live stakes or dormant post planting

#### **Consulting Parties**

The District finds the organizations identified on the Distribution List are entitled to be consulting parties, as set out in 36 CFR 800.2, and invites them by copy of this letter to participate in the Section 106 process.

### **State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Invitation**

#### **The District invites the SHPO to:**

- identify any other consulting parties as per 36 CFR 800.3(f);
- comment as per 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3) on the District's plan to involve the public by utilizing the Corps' normal procedures for public involvement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and,
- comment on or contribute to identification efforts including definition of the APE, all as per 36 CFR 800.4(a-b).

### **Identification of Historic Properties**

Review of Existing Information and Level of Future Identification Efforts. The District Geographic Information Systems (GIS) archeological site file database was queried for previously identified cultural resources and surveys in the vicinity of the project area. No previously recorded historic properties were identified in the APE. One previous cultural resource survey was identified adjacent to the current project (Enclosure 1). The identified survey was related to a previous Section 14 Emergency Stream Bank Erosion project.

During a field examination by a District Archaeologist, it was noted that the severe erosion taking place on the south bank of Mazon River in the APE of the project has left a very small amount of surface area between the edge of Whitetie Road and slope of the bank. The amount of surface area now varies from less than 3 feet to approximately 12 to 15 feet at the widest. The bank slope is very steep—greater than 40 degrees in some places—and eroding at a fast rate. Based on the field examination of the APE, it is the District's opinion that the area remaining between the edge of Whitetie Road and the top of the bank is within the area previously disturbed by the original construction of the road.

The GIS review and the field examination indicate that there is very low potential for intact cultural resources within the APE. Therefore, it is the District's opinion that this undertaking will have No Effect on historic properties as all construction activities are limited to the steep slope of the south bank of Mazon River, between the shoulder of Whitetie Road and the bed of the river.

Request for Information from Consulting Parties. The District is seeking information from all consulting parties regarding their concerns with issues relating to this undertaking's potential effects on historic properties and, particularly, the tribes' concerns with identifying properties that may be of religious and cultural significance to them and may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places [36 CFR 800.4(a)(3-4)]. Concerns about confidentiality [36 CFR 800.11(c)] regarding locations of properties can be addressed under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act which provides withholding from public disclosure the location of properties under several circumstances, including in cases where it would cause a significant invasion of privacy, impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners, endanger the site, etc.

We request your written comments on this project within 30 days, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(c)(4). If no comments are received, the District will assume that you have reviewed the information package and agree with our findings.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Brant Vollman of our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch at telephone 309/794-5857 or e-mail: brant.j.vollman@usace.army.mil or you may write to our address, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (Brant Vollman).

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Kenneth A. Barr  
Chief, Economic and Environmental  
Analysis Branch

Enclosures

- CF (all wo/encls):
- Dist File (PM-M) w/encl
- ✓ PD-E (Vollman)
- PD-F (Savage)

1/16/10  
 MK  
 RODKEY  
 PM  
 VOLLMAN  
 PD-E  
 BARR  
 PD-E  
 Barr

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

Chairperson  
Kickapoo of Kansas Tribal Council  
1107 Goldfinch Rd  
Horton KS 66349

Chairperson  
Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe of  
Oklahoma Business Committee  
1601 South Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee OK 74801

Chairperson  
Winnebago Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 687  
Winnebago NE 68071

Historic Preservation Coordinator  
Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa  
349 Meskwaki Road  
Tama IA 52339-9629

Chairperson  
Huron Potawatomi Nation  
2221 1&1/2 Mile Road  
Fulton MI 49052

Chief The Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1527  
Miami OK 74355

Chairperson  
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas  
HC 1 Box 9700  
Eagle Pass TX 78853

Ms. Anne E. Haaker  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield IL 62701-1507

Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
The Ho-Chunk Nation  
P.O. Box 667  
Black River Falls WI 54615-0667

Chief Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1326  
Miami OK 74355

Chairperson  
Hannahville Indian Community Council  
N14911 Hannahville B1 Road  
Wilson MI 49896-9728

Chairperson  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council  
16281 Q Road  
Mayetta KS 66509

Chairperson  
Kickapoo of Oklahoma Business Council  
P.O. Box 70  
McCloud OK 74851

Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the  
Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas  
P.O. Box 271  
Horton KS 66439

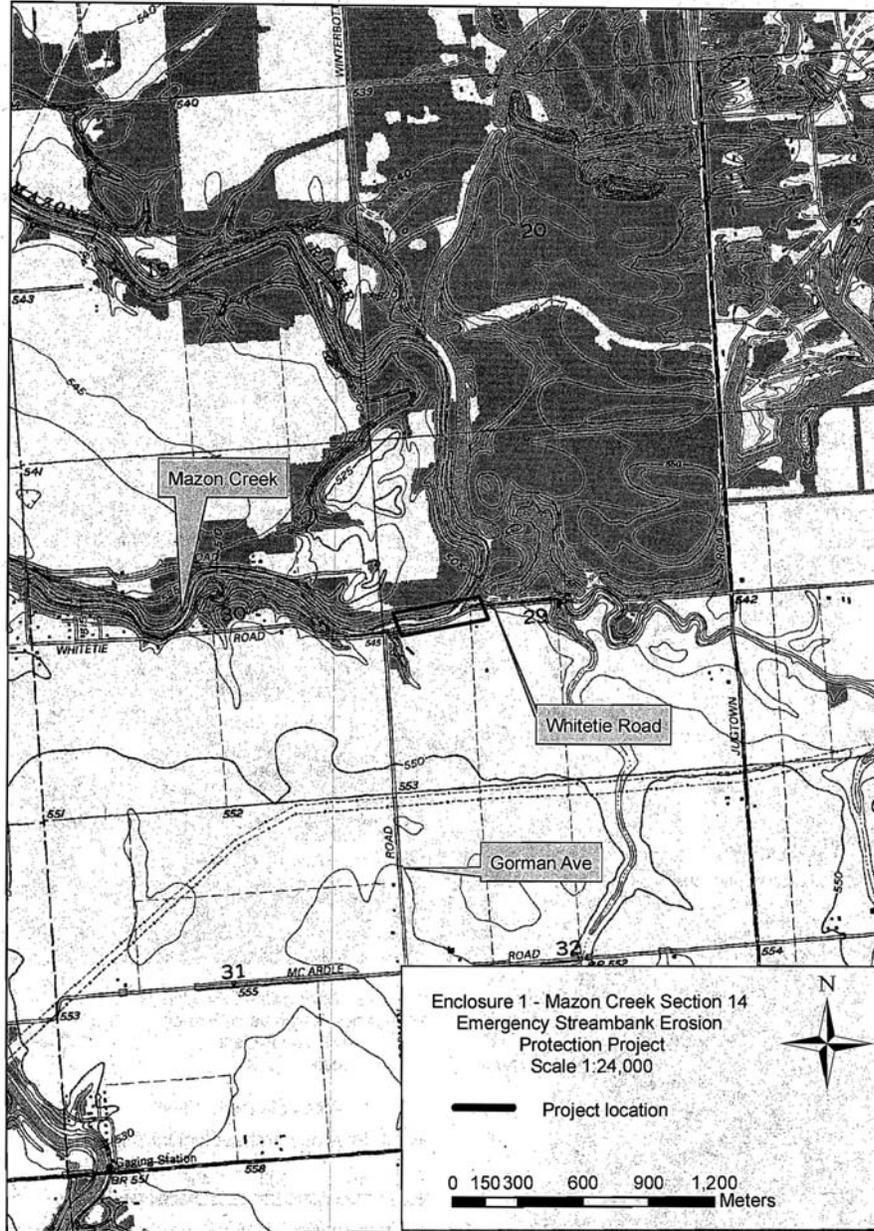
Cultural Preservation Officer  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 687  
Winnebago NE 68071

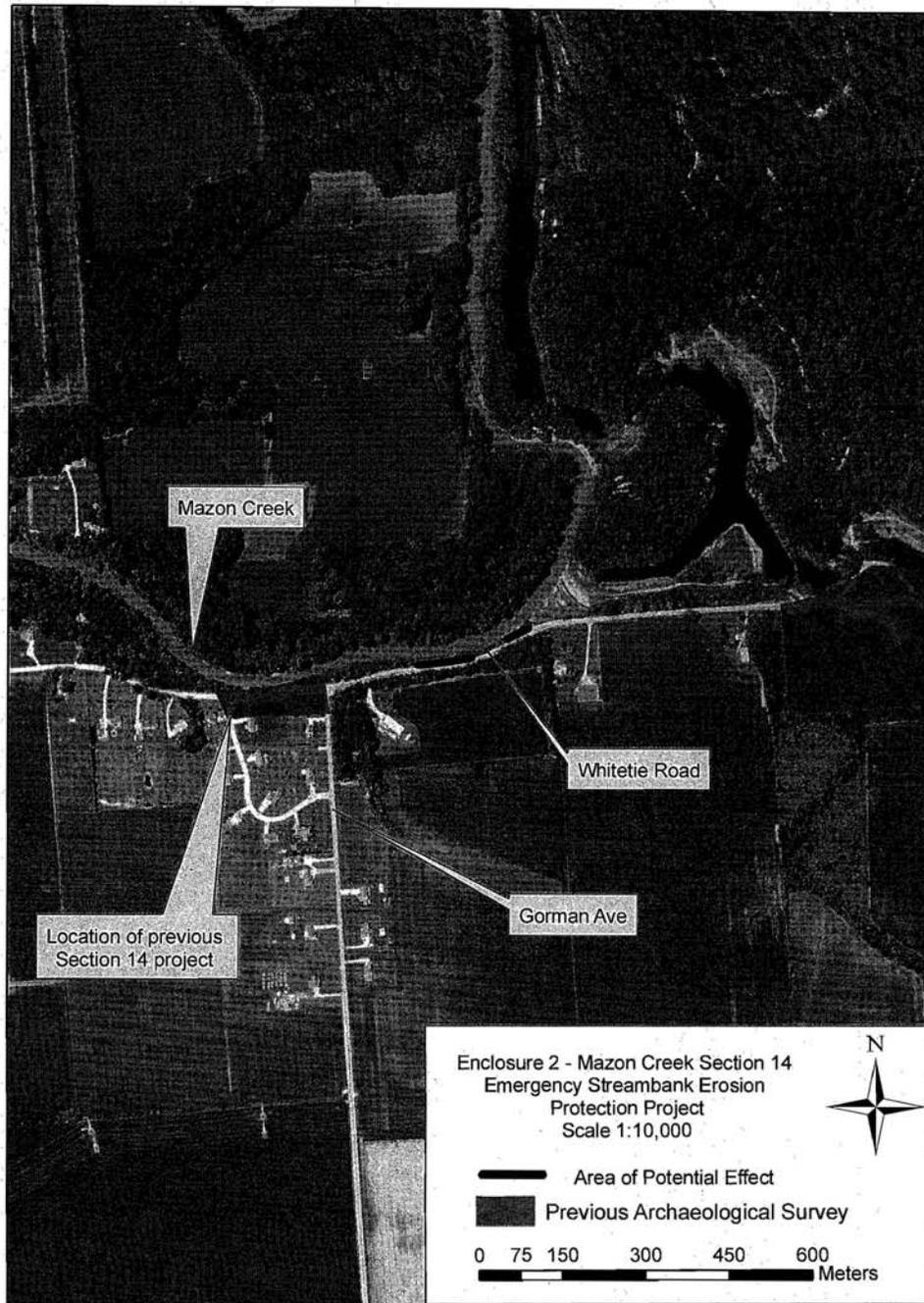
Forest County Potawatomi Cultural Center  
P.O. Box 340  
Crandon WI 54520

Chairperson  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
53237 Town Hall Road  
Dowagiac MI 49047

Chairperson  
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas  
HC 1 PO Box 9700  
Eagle Pass TX 78853

Chairperson  
Hannahville Indian Community Council  
N14911 Hannahville B1 RD  
Wilson MI 49896-9728







**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512 • [www.illinois-history.gov](http://www.illinois-history.gov)

Grundy County  
Carbon Hill

PLEASE REFER TO: IHPA LOG #003113010

Mazon River North of Whitetie Road, Sections:29 and 30-Township:33N-Range:8E

Erosion Protection Project on Mazon River

November 30, 2010

Kenneth A. Barr  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District  
Chief, Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch  
Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Barr:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project(s) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4. Based upon the information provided, no historic properties are affected. We, therefore, have no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This clearance remains in effect for two (2) years from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you are an applicant, please submit a copy of this letter to the state or federal agency from which you obtain any permit, license, grant, or other assistance.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Haaker  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

AEH

*A teletypewriter for the speech/hearing impaired is available at 217-524-7128. It is not a voice or fax line.*

# *Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma*

P.O.Box 70  
407 N. Hwy 102  
McLoud, Oklahoma 74851

Administration Department  
Phone: 405-964-4227; Fax: 405-964-4265  
Email: kwilson@kickapootribeofoklahoma.com

December 6, 2010

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Rock Island District  
ATTN: Brant Vollman  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

*RE: Sections 29 & 30, Township 33 N, Range 8 E*

Dear Mr. Vollman:

Thank you for consulting with the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma in regard to the above referenced site(s). At this time, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma has no objections to the proposed development at the intended site(s). However, in the event burial remains and/or artifacts are discovered during the development or construction process, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma would ask for immediate notification of such findings.

Should I be of any further assistance, please contact me at (405) 964-4227.

Sincerely,



Kent Collier  
NAGPRA Contact  
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

Cc: NAGPRA Consulting file

---

*Gilbert Salazar*  
APETOKA  
CHAIRMAN

*Everett Suhe*  
MOKITANOA  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

*Patricia Gonzales*  
MOKITANOCUA  
SECRETARY

*Jennell Downs*  
KISAKODICUA  
TREASURER

*John Scott*  
THAKIPOA  
COUNCILMAN

**Vollman, Brant J MVR**

---

**From:** Emily Deleon [smith\_deleon77@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 06, 2010 9:27 AM  
**To:** Vollman, Brant J MVR  
**Subject:** Winnebago Tribe of NE

December 6, 2010

RE: Sections 29 & 30. Township 33 N, Range 8E, in Grundy County, IL

Dear Mr. Vollman,

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska would like to inform you that the Winnebago Tribe has cultural properties in the area of your proposed construction. You may proceed with the construction, but if there are any burial sites, or cultural properties found you are required to please notify our office right away at 402-878-2380 x113. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emily Smith-DeLeon  
Winnebago Tribal Preservation Officer  
[smith\\_deleon77@yahoo.com](mailto:smith_deleon77@yahoo.com)



**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA**

118 S. Eight Tribes Trail (918) 540-2535 FAX (918) 540-2538  
P.O. Box 1527  
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74355

CHIEF  
John P. Froman  
SECOND CHIEF  
Jason Dollarhide

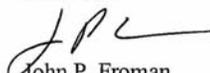
December 8, 2010

Department of the Army  
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Planning, Programs, and Project  
Management Division (Brant Vollman)  
Clock Tower Building-PO Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

RE: Continuing Authorities Program, Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act, Stream Bank  
Erosion Protection Project on Mazon River in Sections 29 & 30, Township 33N, Range 8E,  
In Grundy County, IL

Thank you for notice of the referenced project. Please note that the contact person has changed, Frank Hecksher is the new Section 106/NAGPRA representative. The Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma is currently unaware of any documentation directly linking Indian Religious Sites to the proposed construction. In the event any items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) are discovered during construction, the Peoria Tribe request notification and further consultation.

The Peoria Tribe has no objection to the proposed construction. However, if any human skeletal remains and/or any objects falling under NAGPRA are uncovered during construction, the construction should stop immediately, and the appropriate persons, including state and tribal NAGPRA representatives contacted.

  
John P. Froman  
Chief

xc: Bud Ellis, Repatriation/NAGPRA Committee Chairman

TREASURER  
John Sharp

SECRETARY  
Hank Downum

FIRST COUNCILMAN  
Carolyn Ritchey

SECOND COUNCILMAN  
Jenny Rampey

THIRD COUNCILMAN  
Alan Goforth



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT  
PO BOX 2004 CLOCK TOWER BUILDING  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

April 20, 2011

LAHANCKS FILES\MCGUIRE\2011 LETTERS\20APR2011Mazon River coord/mer/5540

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division (310-2d)

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST (Enclosure 1)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District) is preparing an Environmental Assessment for emergency streambank protection on the Mazon River in the vicinity of the City of Morris, Grundy County Illinois. Provisions of Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended, provide authority for the District to plan, develop, and construct emergency streambank protection projects to prevent damages to facilities such as roads, bridges, utilities, etc. Continuing erosion along the east bankline (right descending bankline) of the Mazon River is threatening a county road, Whitetie Road.

The proposed action includes reshaping the a very steep bankline, to the extent possible, to a more stable slope, and placing riprap along the bankline, approximately 400 feet in length, at two staggered locations adjacent to Whitetie Road (Enclosure 2). The stone riprap would be obtained from a quarry approved/certified by the District. Some additional ground would be impacted, mostly clearing of existing vegetation, to allow access of equipment to shape the bankline, and deliver and place the riprap. Vehicles and construction materials would access the Mazon River via this area. The staging area is a relatively flat grassy area that transitions into a steeper slope near the 100-foot erosion area. This steep slope area will either need to be cut into or built up with rock to allow for placement of the riprap. The majority of the riprap that will be placed for staging will become part of the project's erosion protection (Enclosure 2).

At this time, the District is requesting your comments regarding any significant resources that might be impacted by the proposed action, such as eagle nests, heron rookeries, wild and scenic river status, etc. Federally- and/or state-threatened or endangered species are of particular concern. Please provide your comments/concerns regarding this proposed action within 30 days of the date of this letter. A timely review of this information and a written response will be greatly appreciated.

The point of contact for this action is Mr. Lonm McGuire of our Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch, telephone (309) 794-5709. Written responses may be sent to our address above, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project management Division (Lonm McGuire).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Kenneth A. Barr  
Chief, Environmental and Economics Branch

2 Enclosures

*Section 14 Emergency Streambank Protection*

*Mazon River  
Whitetie Road  
Grundy County, Illinois*

**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR  
MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
601 RIVERFRONT DR  
OMAHA NE 68102

EDWARD BUIKEMA  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MGMT AGENCY - REGION 5  
536 S CLARK ST 6TH FLR  
CHICAGO IL 60605-1509

KATHLEEN KOWAL, LIFE SCIENTIST  
PLANNING & ASSESSMENT BR ME-19J  
US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REG 5  
77 W JACKSON BLVD MAILCODE 3-19J  
CHICAGO IL 60604-3590

WILLIAM FRANZ  
US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REG 5  
77 W JACKSON BLVD  
CHICAGO IL 60604-3590

RICHARD NELSON  
FIELD SUPERVISOR  
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1511 47TH AVE  
MOLINE IL 61265

JIM MICK  
RIVERS AND STREAMS PROG MGR  
HAVANA FIELD HEADQUARTERS  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
700 S 10TH ST  
HAVANA IL 62644

PERMIT PROGRAM MANAGER  
OFC OF REALTY AND ENVIRON PLANNING  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702-1271

BRUCE YURDIN, MANAGER  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SECTION  
IL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
1001 N GRAND AVE E  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9276

MIKE DIEDRICHSEN  
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702-1271

RICH LEWIS  
OFC OF REALTY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702

TERRY SAVKO  
IL DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATE FAIRGROUNDS PO BOX 19281  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9281

MATT O'HARA  
LONG TERM RES MONITORING STATION  
IL NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY  
704 N SCHRADER AVE PO BOX 590  
HAVANA IL 62644

BRANCH MANAGER  
ANDERSON LAKE STATE FISH WLDLIFE  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 52  
ASTORIA IL 61501-0052

JAMES ALLISON  
IL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
1021 N GRAND AVE E  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9276

PAUL YOUNGSTRUM  
DIST CONSERVATIONIST  
GRUNDY CO SOIL & WATER CONSRV DIST  
3585 N STATE ROUTE 47  
MORRIS IL 60450-8245

COUNTY ENGINEER  
WORTH COUNTY  
COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
1000 CENTRAL AVE  
NORTHWOOD IL 50459-1523

DOUG BLODGETT  
CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER  
THOMPSON LAKE DRAINAGE & LEVEE DIST  
IL RVR PROJECT DIR-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
11304 N PRAIRIE RD  
LEWISTOWN IL 61542

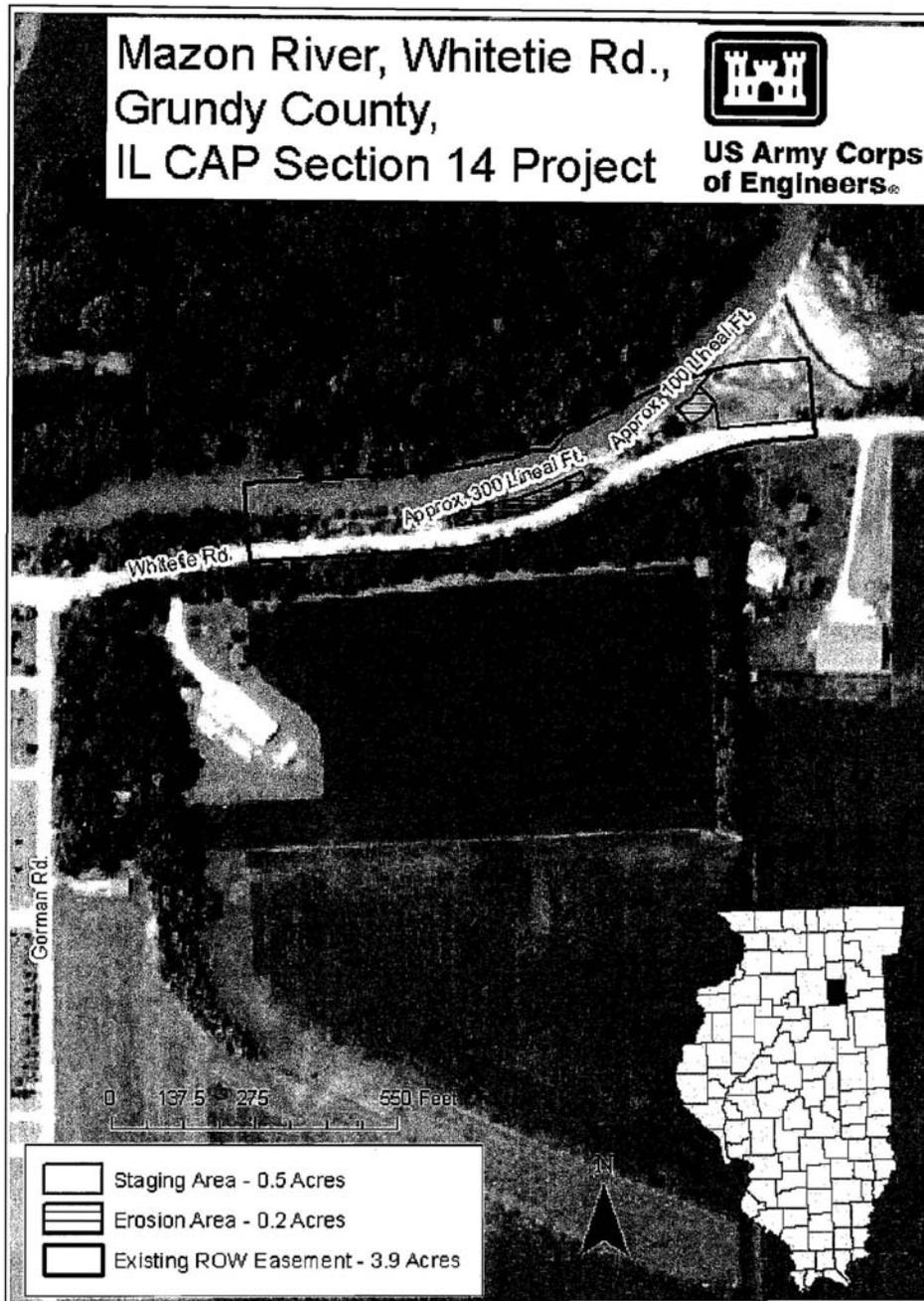
JACK DARIN  
STATE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE  
SIERRA CLUB ILLINOIS CHAPTER  
70 E LAKE ST STE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 50501-7447

**ENCLOSURE 1**

Mazon River, Whitete Rd.,  
Grundy County,  
IL CAP Section 14 Project



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



ENCLOSURE 2

**McGuire, Lonn I MVR**

---

**From:** Sedlacek.Michael@epamail.epa.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2011 8:06 AM  
**To:** McGuire, Lonn I MVR  
**Subject:** EPA Scoping Comments - Mazon River, IL

In regard to USACE's information request for the proposed Mazon River South Bank Reinforcement Project (Grundy Co., IL) , U.S. EPA has the following comments:

- \* EPA recommends conducting a wetland analysis for both delineation and wetland quality purposes. Much like the Corps, EPA is committed to wetland protection and/or mitigation (provided it is needed).
- \* Attach all consultation records to the Appendix of the EA: USFWS (endangered species), the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (cultural/historic), and Section 404 determination.
- \* EPA concurs with the purpose and need of this project.

Please address further communications to myself regarding these two projects. I look forward to reading/commenting on the draft EAs in the future. In the meanwhile, if there is anything that I may be of assistance for (or if any of the above needs clarification), feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Sedlacek  
Environmental Scientist  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
[sedlacek.michael@epa.gov](mailto:sedlacek.michael@epa.gov)  
(312) 886-1765



Illinois Department of  
Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
http://dnr.state.il.us

April 27, 2011

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District  
Bankline Stabilization and Regrading with Concrete Riprap  
IL CAP Section 14 Project

Mazon River  
Whitette Road  
Grundy County

STATEWIDE PERMIT NOTIFICATION LETTER

Thank you for your recent application regarding the project as shown on the enclosed copy of your submittal. Based on the information you have submitted, it appears that the project qualifies for approval under the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources statewide permit program. We have enclosed a copy of the applicable statewide permit(s) (as noted below) which appear to apply to your work. Please review this material to determine whether your work will meet the terms and conditions of the permit(s). If any of the conditions would not be met, please advise us of the differences and we will continue with the formal permit process.

If we do not hear from you within thirty (30) days, we will assume it is your intention to comply with the conditions of the statewide permit(s).

This letter should not be construed as a release from any other federal, state or local requirements. If you have not already done so, you should contact the local regulatory agency to ascertain applicable local floodplain construction requirements.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the person noted below at 217/785-1661.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Bishoff          | <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Campbell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Giesing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark McCauley  |

BY: Robert Giesing

Statewide Permit(s) Enclosed:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW 1 - Fringe Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> SW 8 - Underground Crossings           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW 2 - Rural Bridges       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SW 9 - Shoreline/Streambank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW 3 - Barge Fleeting      | <input type="checkbox"/> SW 10 - Additions/Accessory            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW 4 - Aerial Utility      | <input type="checkbox"/> SW 11 - Dredging                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW 5 - Minor Docks         | <input type="checkbox"/> SW 12 - Replacement Structures         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW 6 - Minor Floodway      | <input type="checkbox"/> SW 13 - Temporary Construction         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW 7 - Outfalls            | <input type="checkbox"/> SW 14 - Special Use of Public Water    |

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES  
ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62702-1271

STATEWIDE PERMIT NO. 9

AUTHORIZING MINOR SHORELINE, STREAM BANK, AND  
CHANNEL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Statewide Permit is to authorize minor shoreline, stream bank, and channel protection activities which have insignificant impact on those factors under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR). It is no longer necessary to submit applications to, or obtain individual permits from, IDNR/OWR for activities meeting the terms and conditions of this permit. If a project would not meet all of the terms and conditions of this permit, a formal permit application must be submitted.

**APPLICABILITY**

This permit applies to shoreline, stream bank, and channel protection activities on all Illinois rivers, lakes and streams under the Department's jurisdiction except Lake Michigan and those in Lake, McHenry, Cook, DuPage, Kane and Will Counties for which regulatory floodways have been designated pursuant to 17 Illinois Administrative Code 3708. Only those reaches of shoreline, stream bank, and channel which are experiencing active erosion are covered by this permit. In public waters, only the placement of protection materials on an eroded bank is authorized by this permit. This permit does not apply to the following activities: channel modifications such as the excavation of pilot channels; the placement of materials other than on an eroded bank of a public water (see attached list); and projects which conflict with a federal, state or local project or improvement or with any other rules of the Department.

**COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

This permit does not supersede nor relieve any permittee's responsibility to obtain other federal, state or local permits. The local (county or municipal) regulatory official and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' regulatory office should be contacted to obtain any additional design criteria and required permits. In addition, if any historical or archeological materials are revealed by any activity authorized by this permit, the activity shall be suspended and the permittee shall notify the staff archeologist, Historic Preservation Agency, One Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

In order to be authorized by this permit, an individual project must meet the following special conditions.

1. Only the following materials may be utilized in urban areas: stone and concrete riprap, steel sheet piling, cellular blocks, fabric-formed concrete, gabion baskets, rock and wire mattresses, sand/cement filled bags, geotechnical fabric materials, natural vegetation and treated timber. Urban areas are defined as: areas of the State where residential, commercial or industrial development currently exists or, based on land use plans or controls, is expected to occur within ten years. (The Department should be consulted if there is a question of whether or not an area is considered urban.)
2. In addition to the materials listed in special condition #1, other materials (e.g. tire revetments) may be utilized in rural areas provided all other conditions of this permit are met.

3. The following materials shall not be used in any case: auto bodies, garbage or debris, scrap lumber, metal refuse, roofing materials, asphalt or other bituminous materials, or any material which would cause water pollution as defined by the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5).
4. The affected length of shoreline, stream bank, or channel to be protected shall not exceed, either singularly or cumulatively, one thousand (1000) feet.
5. All material utilized shall be properly sized or anchored to resist anticipated forces of current and wave action.
6. Materials shall be placed in a way which would not cause erosion, or the accumulation of debris, on properties adjacent to or opposite the project.
7. Materials shall not be placed higher than the existing top of bank.
8. Materials shall be placed so that the modified bank full width and cross-sectional area of the channel will conform to or be no more restrictive than that of the natural channel upstream and downstream of the site.

For projects involving continuous placement of riprap along the bank, toe of the bank or other similar applications, in no case shall the cross-sectional area of the natural channel be reduced by more than ten percent (10%) nor the volume of material placed exceed two (2) cubic yards per lineal foot of stream bank or shoreline. The bank may be graded to obtain a flatter slope and to lessen the quantity of material required.

9. If broken concrete is used, all protruding materials such as reinforcing rods shall be cut flush with the surface of the concrete and removed from the construction area.
10. Disturbance of vegetation shall be kept to a minimum during construction to prevent erosion and sedimentation. All disturbed areas shall be seeded or otherwise stabilized upon completion of construction.
11. In the case of seawalls and gabion structures on lakes, the structure shall be constructed at or landward of the water line, as determined by the normal pool elevation, unless;
  - a) It is constructed in alignment with an existing seawall(s) or gabion structure(s);  
and
  - b) The volume of material placed, including the structure, would not exceed two (2) cubic yards per lineal foot.
12. Excess material excavated during the construction of the bank or shoreline protection shall be placed in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and rules and shall not be placed in a floodway.

The usual types of projects which provide bank or shoreline stabilization include: riprap or other materials placed along the eroded length of the bank or shoreline, riprap or other materials placed at regular intervals into the stream from the eroded bank (bendway weirs, dikes, jetties), riprap placed along the toe of the bank (toe points), and riprap keyed into the bank at regular intervals along the stream (hard points). Other similar construction activities, although not specifically listed above, may comply with the intent of this Statewide Permit and, therefore, may be authorized by this permit. For those projects not specifically listed, however, plans must be submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for review and an appropriate determination.

### DESIGN SUGGESTIONS

Flow velocities, existing bed and bank soils, and directions of flow at each site should be investigated before developing a shoreline or stream bank protection plan. The following design suggestions are provided as general guidance only. For assistance in designing shoreline or stream bank protection, it is suggested that you contact a registered professional engineer or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180, for a copy of the booklet, "Streambank Protection Guidelines...For Landowners and Local Governments."

The following suggestions are listed as general guidance for the placement of riprap on an eroded bank, one of the most common forms of bank protection.

1. A well distributed mix of stones weighing from 20 to 200 pounds should be used.
2. The thickness of the riprap layer should be from 12 to 18 inches. Portions of the riprap layer that would normally be under water should be increased to 18 to 30 inches.
3. Dumped riprap should be placed at a slope of 2 horizontal to 1 vertical or flatter. The slope may be increased to 1.5 horizontal to 1 vertical for hand-placed riprap.
4. A riprap trench or apron should be provided at the base of the protected bank for stability.
5. Both ends of the project should be "tied" into the bank; the most common method being to excavate a trench in the bank and fill it with riprap. Additionally, the project should be "tied" into the bank at regular intervals of between 100 ft. and 200 ft.

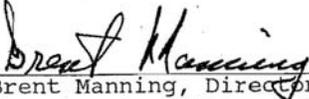
The following suggestions are listed as general guidance for the placement of riprap for the establishment of longitudinal peaked stone protection (a continuous stone dike placed along the toe of the bank).

1. Riprap with a gradation from a maximum stone size of 400 pounds to 50 to 70% smaller than a 90 pound stone size is placed in a "pyramid" or triangular shaped cross section at the toe of an eroding bank without shaping the banks.
2. The riprap should be "tied" into the bank at both the upstream and downstream ends. Additionally, short riprap dikes should be "tied" into the bank at regular intervals of between 100 ft. and 200ft.

6. In issuing this permit, the Department of Natural Resources does not approve the adequacy of the design or structural strength of any structure or improvement authorized by this permit.
7. This Statewide Permit shall remain in effect until such time as it is modified, suspended, or revoked by the Department of Natural Resources.

This Statewide Permit was issued on October 1, 1986 and last modified or corrected October 2, 1998.

APPROVED:

  
Brent Manning, Director (DNR)  
Department of Natural Resources

EXAMINED AND RECOMMENDED:

  
Martin J. Stralow, Manager  
Division of Water Resource Management

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED:

  
Donald R. Vonnahme, Director  
Office of Water Resources

The following suggestions are listed as general guidance for the placement of riprap for the establishment of bendway weirs (a low-level upstream-angled stone sill).

1. The weirs should be attached (keyed into) the outer bank of the bend.
2. They should be angled from 0 to 25 degrees upstream and spaced 50 to 150 feet apart.
3. They should be built of well graded stone with an upper weight limit of 650 to 1,000 pounds.
4. They are typically 2 feet high at the stream end and rise to 4 feet in height at the bank end.

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE STATEWIDE PERMIT**

1. This permit is granted in accordance with the Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act, 615 ILCS 5 (1996 State Bar Edition).
2. This permit does not convey title to any permittee or recognize title of any permittee to any submerged or other lands, and furthermore, does not convey, lease or provide any right or rights of occupancy or use of the public or private property on which the project or any part thereof will be located, or otherwise grant to any permittee any right or interest in or to the property, whether the property is owned or possessed by the State of Illinois or by any private or public party or parties.
3. This permit does not release any permittee from liability for damage to persons or property resulting from any activity covered by this permit and does not authorize any injury to private property or invasion of private rights.
4. This permit does not relieve any permittee of the responsibility to obtain other federal, state or local authorizations required for the construction of the permitted activity; and if any permittee is required by law to obtain approval from any federal or other state agency to do the work, authorization granted by this permit is not effective until the federal and state approvals are obtained.
5. The permittee shall, at the permittee's own expense, remove all temporary piling, cofferdams, false work, and material incidental to the construction of the project, from the floodway in which the work is done. If the permittee fails to remove such structures or materials, the Department may have removal made at the expense of the permittee. If the activity is on a public body of water and if future need for public navigation or public interests, by the state or federal government, necessitates changes in any part of the structure or structures, such changes shall be made by and at the expense of the permittee or permittee's successors as required by the Department of Natural Resources or other properly constituted agency, within sixty (60) days from receipt of written notice of the necessity from the Department or other agency, unless a longer period of time is specifically authorized.

**Public Bodies of Water**

The following public bodies of water were navigable in their natural condition or were improved for navigation and opened to public use. The entire length and surface area in Illinois, including all backwater lakes and sloughs open to the main channel or body of water at normal flows or stages, are open to the public unless limited to a head of navigation as stated. Head of navigation descriptions use the U.S. rectangular survey system and these abbreviations: T = township, R = range, PM = principal meridian, Sec. = section, 1/4 = quartersection, N = north, E = east, S = south, W = west, USGS = U.S. Geological Survey.

- 1) Lake Michigan;
- 2) Chicago River: Main Branch;
- 3) Chicago River: North Branch to North Shore Channel;
- 4) Chicago River: South Branch;
- 5) Chicago River: South Fork of South Branch;
- 6) Chicago River: East and West Arms of South Fork of South Branch;
- 7) Chicago River: West Fork of South Branch to Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal;
- 8) Calumet River;
- 9) Lake Calumet and entrance channel to Calumet River;
- 10) Grand Calumet River;
- 11) Little Calumet River;
- 12) Wolf Lake (Cook County);
- 13) Mississippi River (including all backwater lakes such as Fretress Lake in Jo Daviess County, Boston Bay in Mercer County and Quincy Bay in Adams County);
- 14) Sinsiniwa River to North Line of Sec. 9, T28N, R1W, 4th PM in Jo Daviess County, which is located approximately two-thirds mile downstream from the U.S. Highway 20 Bridge. This area is shown on the Galena, Ill.-Iowa, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;

- 15) Galena River to East Line of Sec. 6, T28N, R1E, 4th PM in Jo Daviess County, which is located approximately one-half mile upstream from the County Highway 67 Bridge. This area is shown on the Galena, Ill.-Iowa, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 16) Apple River to North Line of Sec. 35, T26N, R2E, 4th PM in Jo Daviess County;
- 17) Plum River to North Line, T24N, R3E, 4th PM in Carroll County, which is located approximately one and one-half miles upstream from the U.S. Highway 52 Bridge. This area is shown on the Savanna, Ill., 15 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 18) Rock River;
- 19) Pecatonica River;
- 20) Sugar River (Winnebago County);
- 21) Stillman Creek to South Line, T25N, R11E, 4th PM in Ogle County, which is located approximately one-third mile downstream from the Illinois Highway 72 Bridge. This area is shown on the Stillman Valley, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 22) Henderson Creek (new channel) to East Line, SW 1/4, Sec. 6, T10N, R5W, 4th PM in Henderson County. The river has been relocated and the old channel abandoned;
- 23) The Sny in Adams, Pike and Calhoun Counties. The area has been drained with levees and ditches and it is uncertain that any descendent body of water exists;
- 24) Bay Creek to West Line, Sec. 29, T8S, R3W, 4th PM in Calhoun County. The head of navigation is the limit of meanders on the official plat of survey; but it is uncertain that any descendent body of water exists;
- 25) Illinois River (including all backwater lakes such as Peoria Lake in Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford Counties; Matanzas Bay in Mason County; and Meredosia Lake in Cass and Morgan Counties);
- 26) Des Plaines River to Hoffman Dam in Cook County, which is located one-half mile downstream from the junction with Salt Creek. This area is shown on the Berwyn, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 27) Kankakee River;

- 28) Iroquois River to South Line, SW 1/4, Sec. 30, T27N, R12W, 2nd PM in Iroquois County, which is located approximately one mile downstream from the junction with Sugar Creek. This area is shown on the Gilman, 15 minute USGS quadrangle;
- 29) Fox River (Illinois River Basin);
- 30) Griswold Lake (McHenry County);
- 31) Fox Chain-O-Lakes (Lake and McHenry Counties): Bluff Lake, Lake Catherine, Channel Lake, Fox Lake, Grass Lake, Lake Marie, Nippersink Lake, Dunns Lake, Pistakee Lake, Lake Jerilyn, Lac Louette, Redhead Lake;
- 32) Vermilion River (Illinois River Basin) to approximately one-half mile above the mouth near Oglesby in LaSalle County;
- 33) Spring Lake (Tazewell County);
- 34) Spoon River to North Line, Sec. 24, T6N, R1E, 4th PM in Fulton County, which is located approximately one-half mile upstream from the Illinois Highway 95 Bridge. This area is shown on the Smithfield, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 35) Sangamon River to South Line, NE 1/4, Sec. 1, T15N, R4W, 3rd PM in Sangamon County, which is located approximately one mile south of the Mechanicsburg Road Bridge. This area is shown on the Mechanicsburg, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 36) Sangamon River: South Fork to South Line, Sec. 33, T16N, R4W, 3rd PM in Sangamon County, which is located approximately two miles upstream from the mouth. This area is shown on the Springfield-East, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 37) Macoupin Creek to East Line, Sec. 25, T9N, R13W, 3rd PM in Green and Jersey Counties, which is located approximately one mile downstream from the junction with Boyer Creek. This area is shown on the Boyer Creek, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 38) Otter Creek to East Line of Sec. 3, T7N, R13W, 3rd PM in Jersey County, which is located approximately two miles east of the Illinois Highway 100 Bridge. This area is shown on the Nutwood, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 39) Kaskaskia River to East Line, SW 1/4, Sec. 31, T8N, R2E, 3rd PM, which is located nine miles south and two miles west of Herrick. This area is shown on the Vera, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;

- 40) Big Muddy River to East Line T8S, R2W, 3rd PM in Jackson County, which is located approximately one mile northwest of the Southern Illinois Airport. This area is shown on the Murphysboro, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 41) Ohio River;
- 42) Wabash River;
- 43) Vermilion River (Wabash River Basin) to West Line, T19N, R11W, 2nd PM in Vermilion County, which is located approximately one mile upstream from the junction with the North Fork. This area is shown on the Danville, SW, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 44) Little Wabash River to the Illinois Highway 1 bridge in Carmi in White County;
- 45) Saline River to junction of North Fork and South Fork;
- 46) Saline River: North Fork to North Line, Sec. 5, T8S, R8E, 3rd PM in Gallatin County, which is located approximately three miles south of the junction of Illinois Highway 141 and U.S. Highway 45. This area is shown on the Ridgway, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 47) Saline River: South Fork to West Line, T9S, R8E, 3rd PM in Gallatin County, which is located at the Gallatin-Saline County line. This area is shown on the Equality, 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map;
- 48) Horseshoe Lake (Alexander County).

The following public bodies of water are primarily artificial navigable waters that were opened to public use.

- 1) Illinois and Michigan Canal;
- 2) Illinois and Mississippi (Hennepin) Canal and Canal Feeder;
- 3) North Shore Channel (Cook County);
- 4) North Branch Canal of North Branch Chicago River (Cook County);
- 5) Relocated South Branch Chicago River (Cook County);
- 6) Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal;
- 7) Calumet Sag Channel;

- 8) Marseilles Canal (LaSalle County);
- 9) Chain of Rocks Canal (Madison County);
- 10) Relocated Kaskaskia River.

The following public bodies of water are navigable waters that were dedicated to public use. This list is incomplete. It is believed there are numerous channels and slips in subdivisions on the margins of public bodies of water which have been dedicated by plat. Additional channels and slips have been dedicated by common law.

- 1) Petite Lake, Spring Lake and connecting channels between Bluff Lake and Fox Lake in Lake County.



Pat Quinn, Governor  
Thomas E. Jennings, Director

**Bureau of Land and Water Resources**

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-6297 • TDD 217/524-6858 • Fax 217/557-0993

May 10, 2011

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

Re: Environmental Assessment  
Emergency Streambank Protection on the Mazon River  
City of Morris, Grundy County, Illinois

Dear Mr. McGuire:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has examined the above-referenced project for its potential impact to agricultural land in order to determine its compliance with the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act (505 ILCS 75/1 et seq.). Our analysis also relates to the federal Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201 et seq.) that specifies federal actions affecting farmland conversion shall be consistent with state and local programs to protect farmland.

Continuing erosion along the east bankline of the Mazon River is threatening a county road, Whitetie Road near Morris, Illinois. The U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes reshaping a very steep bankline, to the extent possible, to a more stable slope and placing riprap along the bankline. Emergency repairs total ±400 feet in length at two staggered locations adjacent to Whitetie Road. Some additional ground would be impacted, mostly clearing of existing vegetation, to allow access of equipment to shape the bankline, and deliver and place the riprap.

Because the erosion repair project will not impact agricultural land, the IDOA has determined the USACE project complies with the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven D. Chard".

Steven D. Chard, Acting Chief  
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SDC:JL

cc: Agency project file



United States Department of the Interior

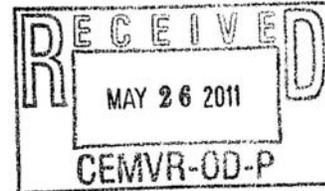


FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Rock Island Field Office  
1511 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Moline, Illinois 61265  
Phone: (309) 757-5800 Fax: (309) 757-5807

IN REPLY REFER  
TO: FWS/RIFO

May 19, 2011

Colonel Shawn McGinley  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Rock Island District  
Attn: Lonn McGuire  
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004



Dear Colonel McGinley:

This responds to your letter of April 20, 2011, requesting preliminary comments on the proposed emergency streambank protection on the Mazon River near the City of Morris, Grundy County, Illinois. The project, as proposed, will involve the regrading of an existing steep bankline, placement of 400 feet of riprap along the reshaped bank, and the creation of a staging area for equipment adjacent to the project site. The stated purpose of the project is to protect the adjacent roadway, Whitetie Road, from future erosion of the bankline of the Mazon River.

Threatened and Endangered Species

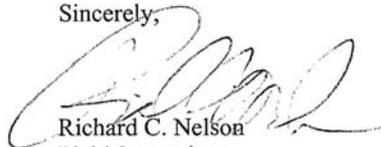
Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if they determine their project and associated actions "may affect" listed species or critical habitat. To assist with your review, I am attaching a list of federally threatened and endangered species that have the potential to be found in Grundy County, Illinois. In addition, recent surveys have indicated that the Illinois River corridor and its tributaries are heavily used by the Indiana bat. Therefore, project reviews should include a thorough assessment of the project action area to determine if suitable habitat for the Indiana bat is present. If you have any questions regarding this list or the habitat requirements of the species therein, please contact me at your convenience.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

Past records indicate that the Illinois River corridor adjacent to the project area contains important habitat for migratory birds including the bald eagle, which is now protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The project action area, which includes the proposed work area and surrounding habitat, should be reviewed for the presence of bald eagle and other migratory bird nest and roost sites.

This letter provides comments under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.); the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If you have any questions, please contact Amber Address of my staff at 309-757-5800, extension 222.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Nelson  
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

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### **Habitat Descriptions for Federal Threatened and Endangered Species in Grundy County, Illinois**

**Indiana bat** - The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is known to occur in several Illinois counties including Adams, \*Alexander, Bond, Clinton, Ford, \*Hardin, Henderson, \*Jackson, \*Jersey, Johnson, \*LaSalle, Lawrence, Madison, Macoupin, McDonough, \*Monroe, Perry, Pike, \*Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, \*Saline, Schuyler, Scott, St. Clair, \*Union, Vermillion, and Washington (\*counties with hibernacula; Critical Habitat - Blackball Mine, LaSalle County).

**Potential habitat for this species occurs statewide. Therefore, Indiana bats are considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois.**

Indiana bats migrate seasonally between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitats. Winter hibernacula include caves and abandoned mines. Females form nursery colonies under the loose bark of trees (dead or alive) and/or cavities, where each female gives birth to a single young in June or early July. A single colony may utilize a number of roost trees during the summer, typically a primary roost tree and several alternates. The species or size of tree does not appear to influence whether Indiana bats utilize a tree for roosting provided the appropriate bark structure is present.

During the summer, the Indiana bat frequents the corridors of small streams with riparian woods as well as mature upland forests. It forages for insects along stream corridors, within the canopy of floodplain and upland forests, over clearings with early successional vegetation (old fields), along the borders of croplands, along wooded fencerows, over farm ponds, and in pastures.

**Suitable summer habitat in Illinois is considered to have the following characteristics within a ½ mile radius of a project site:**

- 1) forest canopy cover of 35% or greater;
- 2) permanent water;
- 3) potential roost trees with 10% or more peeling or loose bark

If the project site contains **any habitat that fits the above description**, it may be necessary to conduct a survey to determine whether the bat is present. In addition, a search for this species should be made prior to any cave-impacting activities. If habitat is present or Indiana bats are known to be present, they must not be harmed, harassed or disturbed when present, and this field office should be contacted for further assistance.

**Eastern prairie fringed orchid** - The eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) is listed as threatened for Adams, Bond, Boone, Brown, Bureau, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Cook, Crawford, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Douglas, DuPage, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Fulton, Green, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jasper, Jersey, Jo Davies, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Lawrence, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McHenry, McLean, Menard, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Ogle, Peoria, Piatt, Pike, Putnam, Richland, Rock Island, Saint Clair, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Vermillion, Wabash, Warren Washington, Whiteside, Will,

Winnebago, and Woodford Counties in Illinois and for Decatur, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Appanoose, Cedar, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Monroe, Muscatine, Scott, Wapello, Washington, Wayne, and Van Buren Counties in Iowa. It occupies wet grassland habitats. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or the destruction, malicious damage or removal of this species from Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including State criminal trespass law. This species should be searched for whenever wet prairie remnants are encountered.

**Sheepnose mussel** – The project lies within the range of the freshwater sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*) that is declining throughout its national range and is currently a Federal Candidate species. Significant declines relative to its historical distribution and its small isolated remaining populations continue to be threatened due to habitat loss and degradation. This species is currently going through the listing process and may be included in the list of threatened and endangered species in the near future.

The sheepnose mussel is primarily a larger-stream species occurring mainly in shallow shoal habitats with moderate to swift currents over coarse sand and gravel but includes mud, cobble, and boulders as well. This includes larger rivers with deep runs, while those specimens found in streams occur mainly in stable flow refuges with little sediment turbidity.

At a minimum, project evaluations should contain delineations of whether or not sheepnose mussel habitat occurs within project boundaries. In cases where the species is known to occur or potential habitat is rated moderate to high, surveys may be necessary. Please contact this office for further information should this species or their habitat be suspected.

Habitat for the sheepnose mussel can be found in Adams, Carroll, Clark, Clinton, Crawford, Fulton, Gallatin, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, LaSalle, Lawrence, Mason, Massac, Menard, Mercer, Morgan, Pike, Pulaski, Rock Island, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Wabash, Washington, White, Whiteside, and Will Counties.

Known occurrences of the sheepnose mussel in Iowa include Lee, Muscatine, Scott, Allamakee, Clayton, Jackson, Louisa, Des Moines, Clarke, Lucas, Johnson, Polk, and Dickinson Counties. All counties bordering the Mississippi River should also be considered potential habitat counties.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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**SECTION 14 EMERGENCY STREAMBANK PROTECTION**

**MAZON RIVER  
WHITETIE ROAD**

**GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**DRAFT**

**APPENDIX B**

**DISTRIBUTION LIST**



**MAZON RVR SEC 14 GRUNDY COUNTY 10L**

HONORABLE MARK KIRK  
UNITED STATES SENATOR  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
387 RUSSELL SENATE OFC BLDG  
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BRANDON ROAD LOCK AND DAM  
1100 BRANDON RD  
JOLIET IL 60436-8538

SUPERVISOR  
USCG MSD QUAD CITIES  
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ROCK ISLAND IL 61204

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GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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SPRINGFIELD IL 62706

MATT O'HARA  
IL NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY  
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HAVANA IL 62644

**30 MAR 11**

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DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER  
US COAST GUARD  
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ST LOUIS MO 63103-2818

EDWARD BUIKEMA  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MGMT AGENCY - REGION 5  
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CHICAGO IL 60605-1509

REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
77 W JACKSON BLVD  
CHICAGO IL 60604

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST  
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SVC  
3605 N IL RTE 47 STE B  
MORRIS IL 60450

POSTMASTER  
POST OFFICE  
2000 MCDONOUGH ST  
JOLIET IL 60436-9998

JEFF BLAZEKOVIICH  
LOCKMASTER  
DRESDEN ISLAND LOCK AND DAM  
7521 N LOCK RD  
MORRIS IL 60450-9636

SUPERVISOR  
USCG MSD PEORIA  
FOOT OF WASHINGTON ST  
EAST PEORIA IL 61611

GEBHARD WOODS STATE PARK  
PO BOX 272  
MORRIS IL 60450

JIM MICK  
RIVERS AND STREAMS PROG MGR  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
700 S 10TH ST  
HAVANA IL 62644

MIKE DIEDRICHSEN  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702-1271

**MAZON RVR SEC 14 GRUNDY COUNTY 10L**

**30 MAR 11**

STEVE CHARD  
IL DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATE FAIRGROUNDS PO BOX 19281  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9281

TERRY SAVKO  
IL DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATE FAIRGROUNDS PO BOX 19281  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9281

RICH LEWIS  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62702

BRUCE YURDIN  
MANAGER  
IL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
1001 N GRAND AVE E  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9276

KEITH SHERMAN  
CHIEF-PLANNING & SYSTEMS SECTION  
IL DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
2300 S DIRKSEN PKWY  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62764

JOSEPH NYHOFF  
SITE SUPERINTENDENT  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
5010 N JUGTOWN RD  
MORRIS IL 60450-9628

BRANCH MANAGER  
IL DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 52  
ASTORIA IL 61501-0052

JAMES ALLISON  
IL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
1021 N GRAND AVE E  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9276

HONORABLE GARY DAHL  
IL SENATE REPRESENTATIVE DIST 38  
IL STATE SENATOR  
103D CAPITOL BLDG  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62706

HONORABLE CAREEN GORDON  
IL REPRESENTATIVE DIST 75  
IL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
760 E DIVISION ST  
COAL CITY IL 60416

HONORABLE CAREEN GORDON  
IL REPRESENTATIVE DIST 75  
IL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
276-S STRATTON OFC BLDG  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62706

LANA PHILLIPS  
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER  
GRUNDY COUNTY  
1320 UNION ST  
MORRIS IL 60450

COUNTY ATTORNEY  
GRUNDY COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
MORRIS IL 60450

PAUL YOUNGSTROM  
DIST CONSERVATIONIST  
GRUNDY CO SOIL & WATER CONSRV DIST  
3585 N STATE ROUTE 47  
MORRIS IL 60450-8245

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF GRUNDY CO BD  
1320 UNION ST  
MORRIS IL 60450

PAUL NELSON  
CHAIRMAN  
GRUNDY COUNTY BOARD  
1320 UNION ST  
MORRIS IL 60450

CRAIG CASSEM  
COUNTY ENGINEER  
GRUNDY COUNTY  
245 N IL RTE 4  
MORRIS IL 60450

MAYOR  
CITY OF BRACEVILLE  
PO BOX 187  
BRACEVILLE IL 60407-0187

BRUCE TROTTER  
HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER  
GOOSE LAKE TOWNSHIP  
525 N GORMAN RD  
MAZON IL 60444

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS  
GRUNDY COUNTY  
310 E DUPONT RD  
MORRIS IL 60450

**MAZON RVR SEC 14 GRUNDY COUNTY 10L**

**30 MAR 11**

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
CITY OF KINSMAN  
VILLAGE HALL  
KINSMAN IL 60437-0836

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
VILLAGE OF GODLEY  
PO BOX 89  
BRACEVILLE IL 60407-0089

HONORABLE C. RICHARD ELLIS  
PRESIDENT  
CITY HALL  
121 E MCVILLY RD  
MINOOKA IL 60447-9420

MAYOR  
CITY OF GARDNER  
302 N CENTER ST PO BOX 545  
GARDNER IL 60424-0545

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
CITY OF COAL CITY  
515 S BROADWAY ST  
COAL CITY IL 60416-1503

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
CITY OF SOUTH WILMINGTON  
PO BOX 67  
SOUTH WILMINGTON IL 60474-0067

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
CITY OF MAZON  
520 DEPOT ST PO BOX 33  
MAZON IL 60444-9999

HONORABLE RICHARD KOPCZICK  
MAYOR  
CITY OF MORRIS  
320 WAUPONSEE ST  
MORRIS IL 60450-2125

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
63 N CHICAGO ST  
JOLIET IL 60434

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
CITY OF CARBON HILL  
695 N HOLCOMB ST PO COAL CITY, IL  
CARBON HILL IL 60416-9709

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
CITY OF VERONA  
PO BOX 21  
VERONA IL 60479-0021

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
320 WAUPONSEE ST  
MORRIS IL 60450

HONORABLE ARTHUR SCHULTZ  
MAYOR  
CITY OF JOLIET  
150 W JEFFERSON ST  
JOLIET IL 60432-1148

VILLAGE PRESIDENT  
CITY OF EAST BROOKLYN  
PO BOX 338  
SOUTH WILMINGTON IL 60474-0338

CHRIS MANHEIM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GRUNDY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
112 E WASHINGTON ST  
MORRIS IL 60450

DIRECTOR  
MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
604 LIBERTY ST  
MORRIS IL 60450

DIRECTOR  
JOLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY  
150 N OTTAWA ST  
JOLIET IL 60432

KIRSTEN MICKELSEN  
DIRECTOR  
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN ASSOC (UMRBA)  
415 HAMM BLDG 408 ST PETER ST  
ST PAUL MN 55102

JACK DARIN  
STATE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE  
SIERRA CLUB ILLINOIS CHAPTER  
70 E LAKE ST STE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 50501-7447

DOUG BLODGETT  
CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER  
IL RVR PROJECT DIR-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
11304 N PRAIRIE RD  
LEWISTOWN IL 61542

**MAZON RVR SEC 14 GRUNDY COUNTY 10L**

**30 MAR 11**

PHYLLIS ELLIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CANAL CORRIDOR ASSOC  
754 1ST ST  
LA SALLE IL 61301-2536

GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE STAT NATURAL AREA  
5010 N JUGTOWN RD  
MORRIS IL 60450

IL STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
210 1/2 S 6TH ST STE 200  
SPRINGFIELD IL 62701-1503

MORRIS DAILY HERALD  
1804 DIVISION ST  
MORRIS IL 60450-1127

THE HERALD-NEWS  
300 CATERPILLAR DR  
JOLIET IL 60436

WCSJ RADIO  
219 W WASHINGTON ST  
MORRIS IL 60450

DR BOB & ALICE HENRY  
24 GRANDVIEW DR  
MACOMB IL 61455

KEITH GIORDANA  
4275 E WHITETIE RD  
MORRIS, IL 60450

JOHN LARDI  
4025 E WHITETIE RD  
MORRIS, IL 60450

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
RAINBOW COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER  
2600 N. WINTERBOTTOM ROAD  
MORRIS, IL 60450

INTERNAL:  
Commander, US Army Engineer Dist, Rock Island  
Clock Tower Bldg, PO Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

ATTN:  
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CEMVR-EC-DN (OMAN)  
CEMVR-EC-G (CLARK)  
CEMVR-EC-H  
CEMVR-EC-HH (STALEY)  
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CEMVR-PA  
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CEMVR-RE  
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