



# Hunt-Lima Drainage & Levee District

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Location

Mississippi River Miles 341-359

## State(s)

IL

## Congressional District(s)

IL-17

## Status

408 approval was signed on 26 August, 2016. Following approval of the 408 request, a Provisional Section 10/404 Permit was issued on 26 August, 2016. Once the Applicant obtains Water Quality Certification from the State of Illinois, the Section 10/404 permit can be fully executed. Permit based upon revised plans received June 12, 2015.

## Description

The Hunt-Lima Drainage & Levee District has applied for a Department of the Army permit for 20.5 miles of levee improvements along the Mississippi River from river miles 341 to 359 in Hancock and Adams Counties, Illinois. The project will provide additional flood protection for 28,500 acres of agricultural land. The project will require a Department of the Army Section 404 and Section 10 Individual Permit. Compensatory wetland mitigation is required. Originally the proposed improvements included raising the levee to the 100-year Mississippi River elevation plus a sloping freeboard height. A public notice, for the originally proposed plans, was issued jointly with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, August 2, 2013, and expired August 31, 2013. Comments received expressed concerns with potential for increased flood damage across the river and downstream as result of raising the levee height. An Engineering Report was received June 15, 2015, revising the levee improvement plans. The proposal to raise the top elevation of the levee was removed. The levee will remain at original design height. The base width and landward side slope of the levee will be widened. The sand for the project will be taken from three Mississippi River dredge sites. Fill dirt required for the project will be removed from an existing PL84-99 borrow site. There are 8.01 acres of wetland within the project construction limits which will be permanently impacted, which includes 0.76 acres forested wetland and 7.25 acres emergent wetland. A Preliminary Wetland Mitigation Plan, dated November 2012, was submitted with the original levee improvement plans and found acceptable. A Comprehensive Wetland Mitigation Plan, dated June 9, 2015, was prepared by Klingner & Associates, P.C., and submitted with the revised plans updating the wetland impacts and mitigation. The mitigation site is south of Meyer, Illinois, adjacent to Martin Lake at the south end. The 19.5-acre site is a flood damaged area which previously consisted of wetland and farmland. 6.87 acres of wetland remain. As mitigation, 10.07 acres of non-wetland area will be restored to wetland composed of 2.28 acres forested wetland and 7.79 acres emergent wetland. The Phase I archaeological survey and geomorphological evaluation was delayed due to high river levels and field wetness earlier this year, but is now complete. The Phase I survey, and any subsequent actions, must be reviewed and approved by the Corps and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency before the DA permit may be issued. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing this project for a State Section 401 Water Quality Certification. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water

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Resources, is reviewing this project for a flood plain permit. Regulatory Branch is coordinating review with Emergency Management (EM) and Programs & Project Management Division (PM). The project is being reviewed by EM and PM for required Section 408 project modification approval.

**Authority Details**

Section 404 Clean Water Act; Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act; 33 USC 408

**Point of Contact:** Chief, Illinois/Missouri Section

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