

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT
OCTOBER 2002
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER – ILLINOIS WATERWAY
SYSTEM NAVIGATION STUDY



PURPOSE: These monthly status reports are intended to provide team members, partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties with a brief overview of significant events and activities occurring within the major components of the UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study. We welcome your comments and input on the status reports to ensure they provide timely and useful information. If you identify monthly events that we have overlooked, please let us know and we will correct it on the website. POCs: Denny Lundberg ph.: (309) 794-5632. or email address Denny.A.Lundberg@usace.army.mil or Scott Whitney ph.: (309) 794-5386. or email address Scott.D.Whitney@usace.army.mil

PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Lundberg and Whitney)

- *Interim Report* –
 - Interim Report submitted to OMB – The office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works transmitted the Interim Report to Office of Management and Budget on October 25, 2002.
 - Response to stakeholder review comments on May 02 Draft Interim Report were posted to the Nav Study website October 24, 2002. A notification e-mail was sent to stakeholder group.
- *Regional Contact Database* – The regional contact database is being updated and is scheduled to be distributed via e-mail and posted to the website in November. This will provide an up-to-date listing of individuals from the various Corps districts and disciplines along with Stakeholders actively engaged on this study.
- Denny Lundberg briefed the senior district staff at both St. Louis (10/8) and St. Paul (10/17) on Navigation Study status and future direction of the study.
- Rich Astrack (MVS) and Jeff DeZellar (MVP), in addition to being their districts representative Project Managers for the Nav Study, were assigned similar responsibilities for the management and plan formulation for the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan on 1 Oct 02.
- The Oval Team held a conference call on 5 Nov to discuss the upcoming environmental objectives workshops.

ENVIRONMENTAL (Barr)

Environmental Sustainability Component

- *Stakeholder Workshops* – A series of four regional stakeholder workshops will be held during November. As part of the final preparation for the workshop series, a ‘dry run’ was held at the St. Louis District office on October 28. Corps representatives from all six of the primary technical components along with the USFWS were in attendance. This “dry run” exercise was designed to review the structure, content, and presentation of the various elements of the 2-d workshop. Overall the exercise was a success and fine tuning adjustments to the workshop elements were made in preparation for the real thing beginning the first week of November.

- **Expert Panel** – Solicitation of potential members for the panel continues, and the study team has been in contact with several nominees to assess interest and availability. Most nominees have given a verbal agreement to participate. A working group will meet in Lacrosse, WI on 8 November to consider status of the formation of the group and discuss strategies to solidify the purpose and identify procurement mechanisms
- **Economic and Environmental Handoff Meeting** – 16 October 2002 A meeting between technical representatives of the Environmental and Economic workgroups was held in Oak Ridge, TN. The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss various details concerning the upcoming economic handoffs (traffic forecasts) that would serve as inputs to the environmental impact models. Another topic of discussion was the possible changes to operations and maintenance practices for environmental benefits. The idea of occasional seasonal closures has been suggested as one potential measure. Seasonal closures could be designed to avoid critical environmental windows such as fish spawning periods, or could allow periodic pool drawdowns for purposes of stimulating aquatic plant growth. Consideration of such measures must include potential costs in terms of economic benefits lost, which will require separate runs of the economic model. A description of likely data handoffs (e.g., length of closure, spatial or geographic extent, yearly rotation, etc.) was discussed between the two workgroups. The ORNL modeling team felt confident that the economic model structure could accommodate such considerations.

Environmental Impact Assessment Studies:

- **Adult Fish Entrainment** – Entrainment sampling was initiated in September 2002 using a newly-developed net that is deployed directly off the stern of a towboat. The initial data collection effort, in Pool 26 and the lower portion of the Illinois River, yielded one fish that clearly had been struck by the propeller, out of a total of about 2100 individuals netted. This effort, headed by the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), will conduct a second round of sampling the week of 4 November. An identical sampling protocol will be employed, and along with a planned third sampling period in December, will aim to detect any seasonal differences in adult fish entrainment.
- **Larval Fish Data Collection** – Contractor Mactec Engineering and Consulting (formerly Harding-ESE) is completing identification of the last sample of larval fish collected in Spring-Summer 2002 from Pools 16, 20 and 22. The Corps and the contractor agreed to proceed with identification of additional fish over and above the specified contract amount. This will delay slightly (< 1 month) the submission of the data and subsequent draft report.
- **Lock 25 Fish Mortality Study** - The Fish and Wildlife Service expressed concerns about fish mortality by towboats passing through the confined space of the locks on the Upper Mississippi River. A study to evaluate locking mortality was begun during the summer of 2002 in Lock 25. After a towboat passes through the lock, dead or injured fish are collected from the surface and approximately 50% of the lock bottom is sampled with a trawl. To date, a total of 42 towboat passages have been monitored during the months of June, August, and October. Results have been mixed. Not a single fresh-dead fish was collected during the 11 passages surveyed in June. In both August and October, a few dead fish were collected after most of tow passages, with one tow responsible for 51 fish killed. Gizzard shad make the majority of the mortalities. As part of this study, we are

also conducting a monthly hydroacoustic study of the lock to determine the number of fish in the lock. A winter survey will be conducted during the first week of December. Locking is responsible for some fish mortality but the numbers, to date, have been small.

- ***Fish Towboat Avoidance Study*** - A hydroacoustic beam is being transmitted across the river channel at River Mile 0.9 on the Illinois River to "watch" the behavior of fish as a towboats approach. This study is being conducted to determine how fish respond to passing tows - Do they move out of the way of approaching towboats? The river was sampled for 24 hrs a day for five days during August and November. This effort has generated a tremendous amount of data on individual fish movement patterns that are currently being analyzed. Preliminary results should be ready to report in the next newsletter.
- ***Underwater Noise/Fish Avoidance Study*** - If fish do have an active towboat avoidance cue, what is it? The thought is that towboats may be generating underwater noise that provides the cue for fish to move out of the way of passing towboats. An acoustic survey to determine just how much underwater noise is generated by towboats will be conducted during early December.
- ***Field Data Collection For Backwater/Side Channel Sedimentation*** - Another team from the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station has been collecting additional data for verification of the models used previously to identify side channels and backwaters susceptible to tow-induced sedimentation. Over the summer of 2002, the team collected sediment samples at 10 representative sites that were identified earlier in the Navigation Study. These samples were analyzed to help determine three sites for detailed study. Sediment sample analysis was completed and the sites for the field data collection on the Mississippi River and Illinois River have been determined. The sites selected are as follows:
 - a. Pool 10; Frenchtown Lake South; River Mile 619.8; Mississippi River
 - b. Pool 13; Big Soupbone Island South; River Mile 542.1; Mississippi River
 - c. LaGrange Pool; Sugar Creek Island and Treadway Lake Chute; River Mile 95.3; Illinois River

Final preparations of equipment and procedures were completed, and the crew departed in late October for the first site in Pool 10, then working their way down river. The last site will be the LaGrange Pool site. Timing of data collection was designed to coincide with predicted high traffic frequencies over the next few weeks, prior to fallofts as winter approaches. The plan is to monitor each site for 2-1/2 or 3 days, taking a day to set-up equipment on the front end and a day to remove the equipment at the end of the monitoring period. Instrumentation is placed near the head of backwater and side channel inlets, and records data on wave heights, sediment movement, current velocity and other parameters.

- ***Staff Changes*** – Two Rock Island District Navigation Study team members recently accepted new positions. Elliott Stefanik, a fisheries biologist, moved upstream to the St. Paul District's Environmental Branch in late August. Elliott's previous study duties included impact assessment studies, NECC meeting logistics and recording, and coordination of environmental report review, among others. Elliot will still retain some Nav. Study duties. Rich Fristik, general biologist, has accepted a position with the Corps' Institute for Water Resources in Alexandria, Virginia. Rich will be starting at IWR in late December. On the Navigation Study, Rich has been responsible for a

number of environmental work group activities, notably overall coordination of impact assessment studies, initial site-specific habitat assessments, preparation of the internal draft EIS, and preliminary mitigation planning.

ENGINEERING (Hughey)

- ***Re-evaluation of Cost and Performance*** –The re-evaluation of the cost and performance data for select structural small-scale and large scale measures will be completed by November 15, 2002 for handoff to ORNL. Means and standard deviations are required for the handoff. The actual shapes of the distributions will have to be determined with assistance from ORNL.
- ***Without Project river system information*** -The EWG has provided to ORNL all without-project system information for WAM runs. As a result of discussions in the Oct 29 Nav Study team meeting, there is a need to revisit Industry Self Help performance in the without-project condition.
- ***Lock Design Cost Review*** - Jacobs Engineering cost estimate review and COE analysis of the review is being documented to respond to an NRC comment. During the Corps' analysis of the review a possible error in the pile founded guidewall beam quantities was noticed. Follow-on work further investigated the alleged error and found that the quantities were not in error and that previous cost estimates will stand. The end result of the Jacobs work validates the Corps' cost estimates.

ECONOMICS (Manguno)

- ***Independent Technical Review (ITR) of Sparks Scenario Report*** – Harold Hommes, Iowa Dept of Agriculture; Dr. Darryl Ray, University of Tennessee; and Dr. John Urbanchuck, AUS Consultants have been selected as the ITR team. Review is currently underway. Estimated completion date is approximately the end of November.
- ***Revised Scope of Work (SOW) with Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) for Phase II of TOW COST model development:*** The Scope of Work for Phase II has been finalized and Phase II work is currently underway. Model results for the without-project condition will be completed on November 15.
- ***Development of SOW for Assessment of Scheduling and Traffic Management:*** A proposal has been submitted by the Volpe Center of the US DOT. An agreement is expected to be finalized in early November.
- ***Economics Coordinating Committee (ECC) Conference Call:*** Primary topic of discussion will be ITR of Sparks scenario work. This call will be scheduled for early December.
- ***Transportation Rate Analysis Review:*** A Scope of Work with the Tennessee Valley Authority is being negotiated for an update of a limited sample of grain movements. The update will provide information on potential condition changes since the original rate analysis .

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (Bluhm)

- ***Existing Data analysis effort:*** A effort to analyze existing public opinion data on the river/region is being initiated. Time will be spent in the next three months to draw conclusions and look for public values, interests, and other variables that may be meaningful during project plan formulation.

- **Newsletter:** The next Nav. Study newsletter is planned to be completed in Jan/Feb time frame. Main topics could include summaries of the Stakeholders workshops, w/o project preliminary findings, and study progress.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- ***SAME Meeting*** - Denny Lundberg, Rick Nelson, Mark Beorkrum, and Chris Brescia participated in a panel discussion on the Navigation Study at the Society of American Military Engineers in St. Paul, 3 Oct.
- ***USFWS Region 3 Director Meeting*** - Denny Lundberg and Rick Nelson met with Bill Hartwig, FWS Regional Director to discuss Navigation Study issues.
- ***Corps HQ meets with Environmental Defense*** - October 28, 2002. MG Robert Griffin and Fred Caver met with representatives from Environmental Defense to discuss their respective issues and concerns related to the UMR-IWW Navigation Study and UMR Comprehensive Plan.
- ***Cong. Lane Evans Staff Visit to MVR*** - Ms Erin Doyle, Ms Amanda Wimmer, and Mr Kevin Gash from the Washington Office of Congressman Lane Evans (D-IL17th) visited the district headquarters. They were briefed on the progress of the Upper Mississippi/Illinois Waterway Navigation Study as well as a tour of L/D 15 located here in Rock Island. Denny Lundberg, Col. William Bayles, and Ron Fournier conducted the briefing and tour.
- ***MARC 2000 Annual Meeting Presentations*** – 7-8 November 2002, A number of Corps personnel and representative from several regional stakeholders provided presentations on various aspects of the UMR-IWW Navigation Study at the 11th Annual MARC 2000 meeting in St. Louis, MO. The theme for this years meeting was “*Can Collaboration Really Work?*”. Corps presenters included: Fred Caver (CECW), Col. William Bayles (CEMVR), and Denny Lundberg (CEMVR). Stakeholder presenters included: Rick Nelson (USFWS), Dan McGuiness (Audubon), Paul Bertels (NCGA), Bob Goodwin (MARAD), Chris Brescia (MARC2000), Holly Stoecker (UMRBA), John Duyvejonck (UMRCC), and Mike Klingner (UMIMRA). Closing comments were provided by Dominic Izzo, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works

UPCOMING MEETINGS OR SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Expert Panel, Chairman’s Organizational Meeting (November 8, 2002) LaCrosse, WI.
- Sustainability Workshops: Peoria (Nov 6-7), St. Louis (Nov 13-14), La Crosse (Nov 18-19), and Moline (Nov 20-21)
- GLC (Nov 19) and UMRBA (Nov 20), Minneapolis, MN.
- Inland Waterway Users Board (November 21-22) Galveston, TX.
- NECC Meeting (Dec 10, 2002) Davenport, IA.