



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CESAM-PD-EI
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. FP07-TT01-17

06 November 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

PROPOSED TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY
BARGE MOORING FACILITY
FOR
EXCAVATION, RIPRAP PLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE DREDGING

LUXAPALILA CREEK
COLUMBUS, LOWDNES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

A FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECT

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, proposes to perform excavation and placement of riprap activities in association with the construction of a fleet barge mooring facility at the mouth of the Luxapalila Creek approximately five miles downstream of the Stennis Lock and Dam on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW). Additionally, maintenance dredging activities have been proposed for the fleet barge mooring facility once constructed.

This public notice is issued in accordance with rules and regulations published in the Federal Register on 26 April 1988. These regulations provide for the review of dredging programs for federally authorized projects under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) whenever dredged or fill materials may enter waters of the United States.

The recipient of this notice is requested specifically to review the proposed action as it may impact on water quality, relative to the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. We also ask your comment on any other potential impact.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Luxapalila Creek, Lowndes County, Mississippi (see Figure 1).

DESCRIPTION OF ENTIRE AUTHORIZED PROJECT: The existing TTW project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 24 July 1946 (House Document 486, 79th Congress, Second Session). Construction was initiated in April 1975. The Water Resources Development

Act of 1996, Public Law 104-303 12 October 1996, Section 502 authorized changing the name of this project from Columbus Lock and Dam to John C. Stennis Lock and Dam. The proposed barge mooring facility would be part of the TTW project.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action consists of constructing a barge mooring facility at the mouth of the Luxapalila Creek, approximately five miles downstream of the Stennis Lock and Dam, adjacent to river mile 329. The proposed site is northwest of the Luxapalila Creek Park and is approximately 1500x300 feet (See Figures 2 and 3).

This proposal involves clearing and grubbing approximately 12 acres northwest of Luxapalila Creek and requires the excavation and removal of approximately 300,000 cubic yards of material to deepen the creek in the area by 3 feet. All excavated material will be placed in existing upland disposal areas. The excavation will extend to elevation 127 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum. Approximately 6,200 cubic yards of riprap will be placed along approximately 1200 feet of the north creek bank and approximately 140 feet on either side of the existing boat ramp for a total of 280 feet of the south creek bank to protect the new slopes.

The proposal includes the placement of six mooring dolphins. These dolphins would be constructed of three steel piles driven into the bottom and braced together to form a single mooring dolphin. Six concrete dead-men, approximately 10x10x9 feet in dimension will be constructed and located landward of the mooring dolphins and will be used in conjunction with steel cables to anchor the barges. Maintenance dredging will require the removal of approximately 5,000 to 10,000 cubic yards of material annually.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, state water quality certification is required for the proposed activities. A decision on state water quality certification will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality after completion of the comment period for this public notice.

USE BY OTHERS: The proposed project may have a temporary negative impact on local fishing or boating activities, but these activities will benefit long-term because the project will correct a safety hazard for commercial and recreational boaters.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) CONSIDERATIONS: The proposed barge mooring facility was addressed in a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). This assessment indicates an environmental impact statement for the barge mooring facility at Luxapalila Creek is not needed. The EA is available for review at the USACE, Mobile District webpage: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/pd/Pd1.htm>. Upon completion of the coordination period set forth in this notice, comments received will be incorporated into the EA and a final determination of NEPA documentation requirements made. If the determination is to finalize the

EA and prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact, these documents will be placed on the USACE, Mobile District webpage for future reference.

SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION REPORT: Water quality impacts associated with the placement of fill material into waters of the United States as a result of the proposed work, have been addressed in a preliminary evaluation report prepared in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The preliminary determination of this evaluation is that the proposed discharge of fill material complies with the guidelines. The preliminary evaluation report is available for review at the USACE, Mobile District webpage. The evaluation will be finalized upon completion of the coordination of this notice.

HISTORIC PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and there are no properties listed on, being nominated to, or that have been determined eligible for the National Register will be affected by the proposed work. A survey of the proposed project area did not identify potential cultural resource sites or culturally sensitive areas. A determination of no effect on cultural resources from the proposed action will be coordinated with the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Copies of this notice are being forwarded to the Mississippi SHPO and National Park Service.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES: Preliminary review of the proposed activities and the U.S. Department of Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, indicates that the following species potentially are located and have habitat in the project vicinity:

- T - Orange-nacre mucket mussel *Lampsilis perovalis*
- T - Alabama moccasinshell mussel *Medionidus acutissimus*
- E - Southern combshell mussel *Epioblasma penita*
- E - Ovate clubshell mussel *Pleurobema perovatum*
- E - Heavy pigtoe mussel *Pleurobema taitianum*
- E - Stirrup shell mussel *Quadrula stapes*
- E - Black clubshell *Pleurobema curtum*
- E - Southern clubshell mussel *Pleurobma decisum*

This public notice is being coordinated with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and prior consultation on the listed species above determined that the proposed action would not adversely affect federally protected mussel species.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to proceed with the proposed action will be based on evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may be reasonably expected to accrue from the

proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Inasmuch as the proposed work would involve the discharge of materials into waters of the United States, designation of the proposed placement sites associated with this federal project is being made through application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the EPA in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of the proposed disposal sites, any potential impairment of the maintenance of navigation, including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage that would result from the failure to use the disposal sites, will also be considered.

COORDINATION: The USACE is soliciting comments from the general public; federal, state, and local agencies, and officials; Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. The USACE will use any comments received to determine whether or not to proceed with the proposed action. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest in the proposed activity.

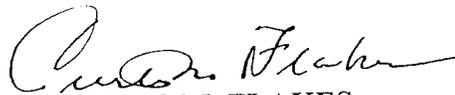
Among the agencies receiving copies of the public notice are:

Region 4, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service
Regional Director, National Park Service
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Mississippi Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Parks
Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to other parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person, who has an interest that may be affected by the placement of fill material, may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the 15 day comment period of this public notice. The request must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence concerning this public notice should refer to Public Notice No. FP07-TT01-17 and should be directed to the Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628, Attention: CESAM-PD-EI (Attn: Ms. Velma Diaz) within 15 days of the date on this public notice. For additional information please contact Ms. Velma Diaz at (251) 690-2025 or e-mail address velma.f.diaz@usace.army.mil.


CURTIS M. FLAKES
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers,
Mobile District

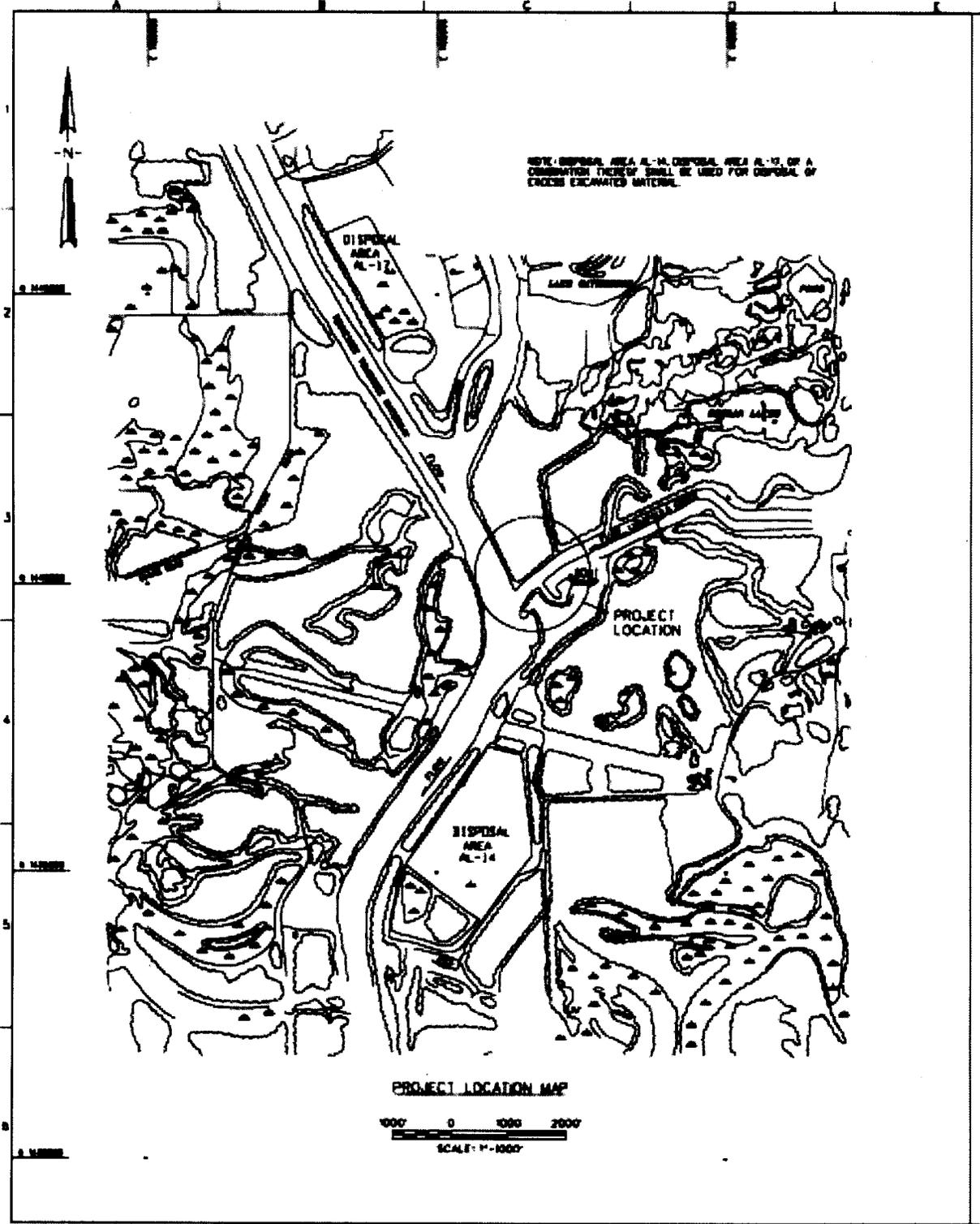


Figure 1: Project Location Map



Figure 2: Site Plan

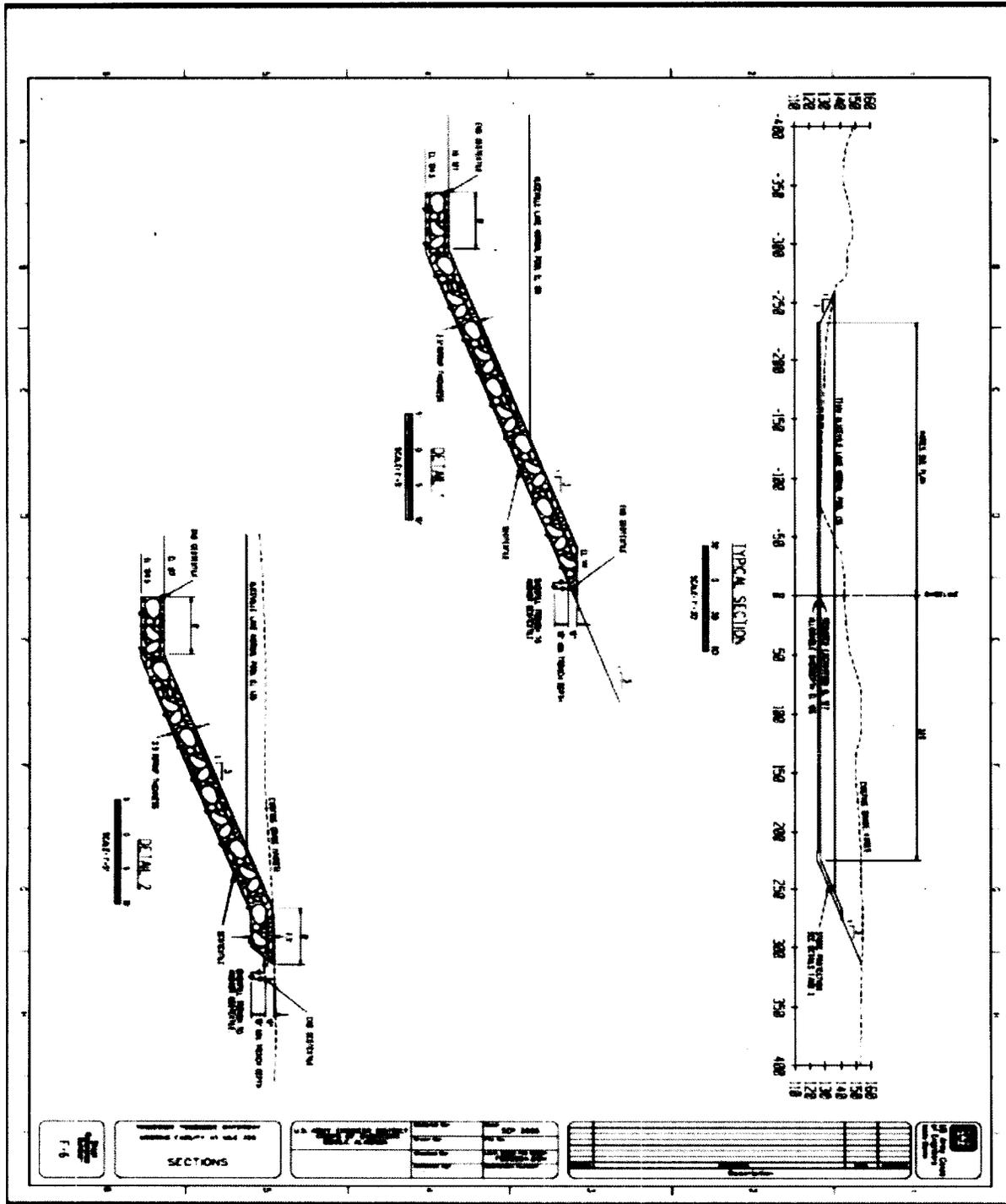


Figure 3: Cross Section View