



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SIBLEY SQUARE AT MEARS PARK
190 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 401
ST. PAUL MN 55101-1638

August 5, 2008

Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch

Dear Interested Parties:

Enclosed for your review and comment are the environmental assessment, including a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), for the dredging of up to 250 cubic yards of material near Island 116 at River Mile 690.3 in Lower Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System.

A project to stabilize Island 116 and reduce flows in an adjacent secondary channel was completed in July 2000; it included the construction of a partial closure structure. A scour hole has developed downstream of the closure structure and a sand bar has developed immediately downstream that hinders access into Lawrence Lake. The proposed action is to remove approximately 250 cubic yards of material from the sandbar to a depth of about 5 feet. Doing so would create a pilot channel that would encourage the development of a self-maintaining channel. The dredged material would be placed at the approved Above Brownsville Channel Maintenance Placement Site.

We ask that you review these documents and return your comments to us within 30 days. If we have not received your comments by that time, we will assume that you concur with our findings and we will sign the FONSI. If you have questions about the project, please call Mr. Jon Sobiech at (651) 290-5428 or email him at jonathan.j.sobiech@usace.army.mil.

Please address all correspondence on this project to me at the address above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry J. Birkenstock", written over a horizontal line.

Terry J. Birkenstock
Chief, Environmental and Economic
Analysis Branch

Enclosure

**DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
POOL 8 – ISLAND 116 DREDGING
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

July 2008

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
POOL 8 – ISLAND 116 DREDGING
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

1.0 SUMMARY

Island 116 is located at River Mile 690.3 in lower Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System near Lawrence Lake on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River (Figure 1). A project to stabilize Island 116 and reduce flows in an adjacent secondary channel was completed in July 2000, and included the construction of a partial closure structure. A scour hole has developed downstream of the closure structure and a sand bar has developed immediately downstream that hinders access into Lawrence Lake.

The proposed action is to remove approximately 250 cubic yards of material from the sandbar to a depth of about 5 feet. This would create a pilot channel that would encourage the development of a self-maintaining channel. The dredged material would be placed at the approved Above Brownsville Maintenance Placement Site.

An environmental review indicates the impacts associated with the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, as the probable effects in the area would be short term and minor. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. All dredged material would be placed in an approved upland dredged material placement site and there would be no discharge into a water of the United States. Therefore a 404(b)(1) evaluation will not be prepared.

Relationship to Environmental Requirements

The proposed action would be in compliance with Federal environmental laws, Executive Orders and policies, and State and local laws and policies including the Clean Air Act, as amended; the Clean Water Act, as amended; the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended; the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; Executive Order 11988 - Floodplain Management; and Executive Order 11990 - Protection of Wetlands.

2.0 NEED FOR AND OBJECTIVE OF ACTION

The Definite Project Report/Environmental Assessment (DPR) for the Lower Pool 8 Channel Management Study and Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) (signed May 1998)

evaluated the effects of constructing an emergent closing structure across the small secondary channel separating Island 116 and the Lawrence Lake peninsula (Figure 1). Armoring of the front tip and main channel shoreline of Island 116 was also evaluated in the DPR. Subsequent further evaluation resulted in minor modifications to the design which were covered in a Record of Environmental Considerations and 404(b) (1) Evaluation, signed April 2000. Project construction was completed in July 2000.

The original project purposes were to stabilize and protect Island 116 and reduce flows down the channel between Island 116 and Lawrence Lake. Erosion and the eventual loss of Island 116 would adversely affect the aquatic environment in the area and would likely result in increased channel maintenance requirements in the main channel. Protection/stabilization of Island 116 and reduced flow down the associated secondary channel would benefit the aquatic environment by maintaining the secondary channel and Lawrence Lake as productive aquatic habitats. Additionally, increased flows in the main channel resulting from closure of the Island 116 secondary channel would assist in reducing channel maintenance requirements in the Above Brownsville area of Pool 8.

The purpose of this action is to remove a sandbar that has formed in a backwater access channel as a result of the project completed in 2000. The proposed action would remove approximately 250 cubic yards of material that has been deposited downstream of the closure structure constructed by the Corps of Engineers. The current passing through the structure has created a scour hole immediately downstream of the structure. The eroded material quickly falls out of the water column just downstream of the scour hole. The deposition of this material has created a sand bar across a historic and frequently used access channel into the side channel areas. The sandbar restricts access to the backwater area from the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Authority for the Corps of Engineers to undertake this action is found in the River and Harbor Acts of 1930 and 1932. The legislation directed the Corps to construct and maintain the Mississippi River Nine-Foot Channel Project.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES

Because of the limited scope of the problem, other than no action, no other alternatives were developed.

No Action - No action assumes that no measures are taken to remove that sandbar that has developed below the structure. Access to Lawrence Lake via the secondary channel would continue to be limited. This alternative was not selected because it is not responsive to correcting the change in the access conditions created by the partial closure structure.

Selected Plan - The proposed action would be to create a pilot channel through the sand bar by mechanically dredging up to 250 cubic yards of material that has been deposited downstream of the closure structure. The pilot channel would be constructed to a depth of 4.5 feet with the intended purpose of establishing a self-maintaining recreational access channel through the notch

in the Island 116 structure. The dredged material would be placed at the approved Above Brownsville Channel Maintenance Placement Site.

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Socioeconomic Resources

The proposed dredging project area is located near Island 116 at River Mile 690.3 in lower Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System. The project is near Lawrence Lake, approximately 156 miles southeast of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River. The closest population center is Brownsville, Houston County, Minnesota, located approximately 1.5 miles to the south. The 2000 population of Brownsville was 517, an increase of 24.6% from 1990. Houston County's 2000 population totaled 19,718, an increase of 6.6% from 1990.

The Houston County labor force totaled 11,320 in April 2005, with an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent, compared to 4.1 percent for the State of Minnesota and 4.9 percent for the United States. The most significant industries in Houston County are education, health and social services (26.0% of employed persons); manufacturing (14.8%); retail trade (12.6%); and agriculture (7.9%). According to information from the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2004 median household income for Houston County was \$45,225, compared to \$51,202 for the State of Minnesota and \$44,334 for the United States.

According to 2004 census figures, in Houston County, 6.9 percent of the population is below the poverty level. This compares to the national average of 12.7 percent and the state average of 8.1 percent. Among persons 25 years and over, 85.5 percent of Houston County's population has achieved high school or higher educational attainment. This compares to 87.9 percent for the State of Minnesota, and 80.4 percent for the United States (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).

The Lawrence Lake Marina, a major access point to the Mississippi River, is located just to the west of the proposed project area. The sand bar acts as a barrier for one access route to this facility.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are a major component of the Upper Mississippi River valley and are integral, nonrenewable elements of the physical landscape. Collectively, the archaeological record indicates continual human occupation along the river for approximately 12,000 years. Preserving, or minimizing the degradation of significant archaeological resources contributes to our knowledge of the past and is one of the responsibilities of the Corps and other agencies.

Archaeological investigations have been ongoing along the Upper Mississippi River and in the Pool 8 locality for over a century and a half. Early research in the area was conducted by antiquarians focused on the upland sites around the Pool and was centered on the contents of burial mounds and who built them. As professional investigations ensued, a variety of academic and cultural resource management driven projects for road construction and other development

activities were conducted. However, significant investigations within the floodplain did not commence until 1975. Since then, the Corps and the USFWS have sponsored several cultural resource investigations within the pool for various projects, including dredge material placement sites, flood control features and shoreline surveys along with several literature based overviews, such as site inventories, geomorphic mapping, shipwreck locations and navigation features.

The most recent cultural investigations in the area, a shoreline survey of Pool 8, was completed in 1997. This study included an examination of the Island 116 shoreline. However, no subsurface testing occurred on the island. No cultural resources have been identified within the bounds of the Island 116 project area. The nearest cultural resource site to Island 116, archaeological site 21HU10, is approximately three-quarters of a mile to the north-northwest and located at the mouth of an unnamed tributary. This site once consisted of 58 burial mounds. Just under two miles to the east, a cluster of precontact sites are situated along the shoreline/terrace edge of Goose Island. Several historic wing-dams and a closing structure were located near the north end of the island, although they are no longer extant. Finally, approximately one-mile downstream lie the recorded wrecks of Barge 7 (lost 1859) and the *City of Houston* (lost 1906). There are no recorded standing historic structures or historic districts in the vicinity of the project area.

Natural Resources

General - The general project area provides habitat suitable for a variety of fish and wildlife species. The adjacent terrestrial area is primarily floodplain forest. It is relatively flat and dominated by willow stands and cottonwood, silver maple, and green ash. Raccoon, squirrels, rabbits, muskrat, beaver, white-tailed deer, other small mammals, and numerous songbirds make extensive use of the floodplain forest areas provided by the islands and riparian borders in the project vicinity.

A well developed sport and commercial fishery is present in the side channel and main channel of the Mississippi River. Common fish species in this reach of the river include sauger, walleye, northern pike, crappie, bluegill, white bass, and freshwater drum.

The Higgins' eye pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*), a federally listed endangered species is known to be present in lower Pool 8.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

An environmental analysis has been conducted for the proposed action, and a discussion of the impacts is presented below. As specified by Section 122 of the 1970 Rivers and Harbors Act, the categories of impacts listed in Table 1 were reviewed and considered in arriving at the final determination.

Socioeconomic Resources

There would be no significant social or economic impacts that would result from the implementation of the proposed project. Rather, dredging would have a positive beneficial impact on water transportation and recreational resources in the area after the project is complete with the elimination of the sand bar obstruction in the access channel to Lawrence Lake and the marina/boat launch.

During the dredging and the dredge material placement process, the short-term negative impact would likely be an increase in noise levels. This effect would be short lived, and terminate when dredging is complete.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources have been identified within or near the project area. The historic wing-dams and closure structure near the north end of the island are no longer extant; they were likely removed through frequent dredging of the main channel. Although a substantial amount of Island 116's land area has been lost through erosion since the installation of Lock and Dam 8 in 1937, there remains a high potential for the existing land mass to contain cultural resources. However, the proposed dredging project will take place entirely within the side channel. Historic maps indicate that the side channel has existed for at least the past 113 years, suggesting that the side channel has a low potential to contain cultural resources.

The dredged material will be placed at the approved Above Brownsville dredged material placement site.

Because the proposed dredging will take place within a historic side-channel where no cultural resources have been identified and with a low potential to harbor such resources, and the dredged material will be placed in areas with impacts to cultural resources, the Corps has determined that the project will have no effect on cultural resources.

Natural Resources

The proposed rehabilitation work would have only minor temporary adverse impacts on natural resources in the area. There would be short term, localized increases in turbidity during dredging operations. During project construction, bird and mammal species in the immediate project may be negatively affected by the noise and disturbance of heavy equipment operating in the area. The disturbance would be short term.

A biological assessment of the proposed project has been completed to determine the potential effects on the Higgins' eye pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*). The sandbar to be removed has only recently formed and it is highly unlikely that Higgins eye have colonized this unstable area. It is the St. Paul District's determination that the proposed project would have no effect on the Higgins' eye pearly mussel.

6.0 COORDINATION

The proposed project has been coordinated with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The draft environmental assessment was sent to interested citizens and the following agencies:

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

State of Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources

State of Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
State Historic Preservation Office

Others

Lawrence Lake Marina Owner

ATTACHMENT 1

Figures and Tables

Table 1 . Environmental Assessment Matrix

Section 122 of the River and Harbor and Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611)														
PARAMETER	No Action Alternative							Preferred Alternative						
	BENEFICIAL			ADVERSE				BENEFICIAL			ADVERSE			
	SIGNIFICANT	SUBSTANTIAL	MINOR	NO EFFECT	MINOR	SUBSTANTIAL	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SUBSTANTIAL	MINOR	NO EFFECT	MINOR	SUBSTANTIAL	SIGNIFICANT
A. SOCIAL EFFECTS														
1. Noise Levels				X										
2. Aesthetic Values				X							X			
3. Recreational Opportunities					X					X				
4. Transportation				X							X			
5. Public Health and Safety				X							X			
6. Community Cohesion (Sense of Unity)				X							X			
7. Community Growth and Development				X							X			
8. Business and Home Relocations				X							X			
9. Existing/Potential Land Use				X							X			
10. Controversy				X							X			
B. ECONOMIC EFFECTS														
1. Property Values				X							X			
2. Tax Revenue				X							X			
3. Public Facilities and Services				X							X			
4. Regional Growth				X							X			
5. Employment				X							X			
6. Business Activity				X							X			
7. Farmland/Food Supply				X							X			
8. Commercial Navigation				X							X			
9. Flooding Effects				X							X			
10. Energy Needs and Resources				X							X			
C. NATURAL RESOURCE EFFECTS														
1. Air Quality				X							X			
2. Terrestrial Habitat				X							X			
3. Wetlands				X							X			
4. Aquatic Habitat				X							X			
5. Habitat Diversity and Interspersion				X							X			
6. Biological Productivity				X							X			
7. Surface Water Quality				X									T	
8. Water Supply				X							X			
9. Groundwater				X							X			
10. Soils				X							X			
11. Threatened or Endangered Species				X							X			
D. CULTURAL RESOURCE EFFECTS														
1. Historic Architectural Values				X							X			
2. Prehistoric & Historic Archeological Values				X							X			

T = temporary impacts

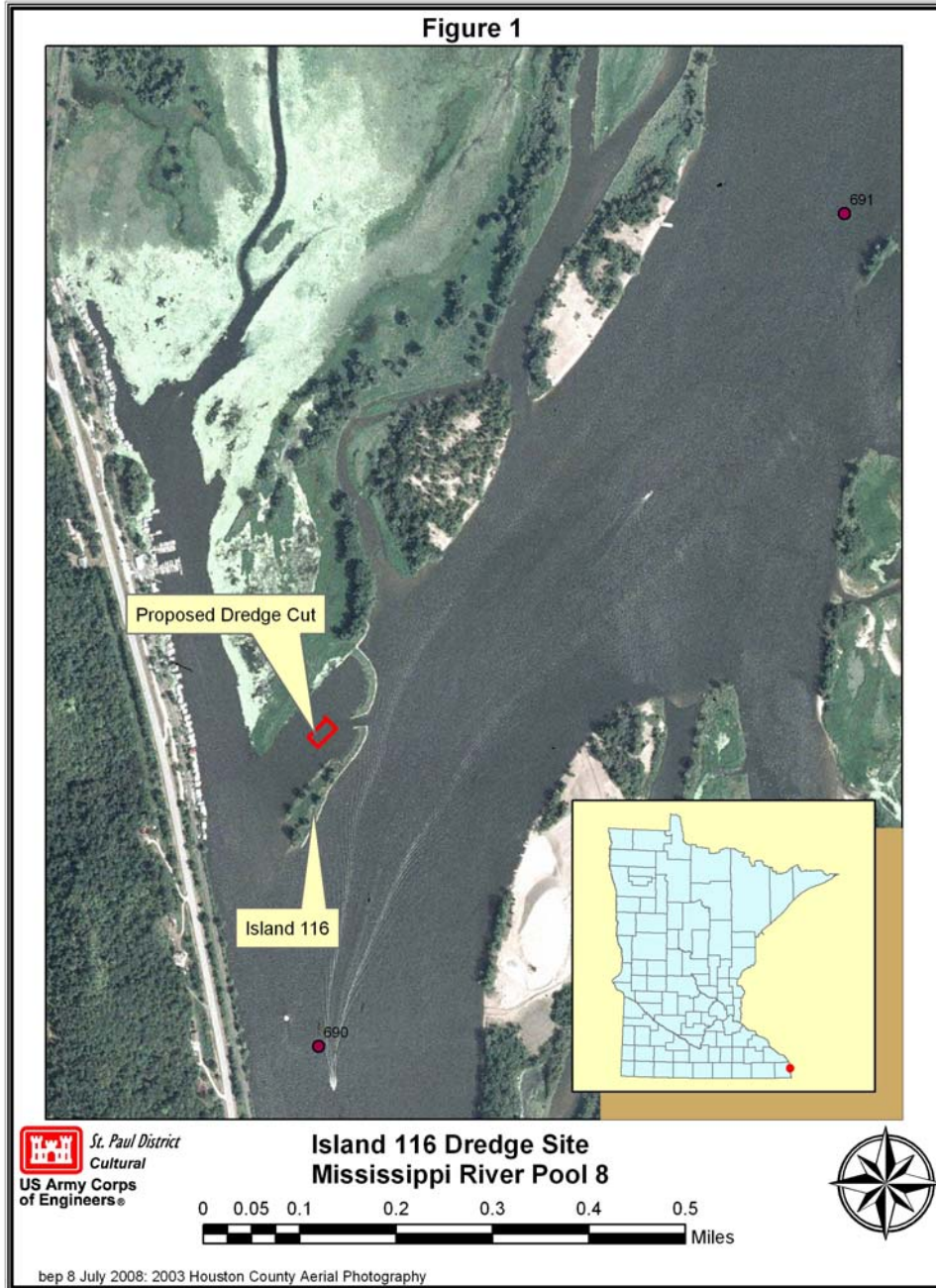


Figure 1. Proposed dredge cut.

ATTACHMENT 2

Correspondence

-11-

From: Gary_Wege@fws.gov
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 2:01 PM
To: Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP
Subject: Re: Island 116 dredging

Attachments: DN0710.pdf

Jonathan:

I recall conversations with Dick on this project before he left. Only concern/request is that the pilot channel be monitored over time to see how well it works and if future maintenance is warranted. Thanks for the update that material will be taken to the Above Brownsville containment site. Bye!

Gary

"Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP" <Jonathan.J.Sobie ch@usace.army.mil >	<Gary_Wege@fws.gov>	To
06/18/2008 01:49 PM	Island 116 dredging	cc
		Subject

Gary,
I am picking up where Dick Beatty left of on an EA for dredging behind Island 116 the material will be placed at the Above Brownsville containment site. It appears that this issue was already discussed with you and other parties but I wanted to run it by you again. I have attached the DN from last year, note that the placement site will not be what is indicated in the DN but the Above Brownsville placement site. Thanks for your time on this.

Jonathan Sobiech
Forester
US Army Corps of Engineers
190 East 5th St, Suite 401
St Paul, MN 55101
Office phone 651-290-5428
Cell 608-406-0108
fax 651-290-5258Jon,

From: Scot Johnson [Scot.Johnson@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 10:17 AM
To: Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP
Subject: Re: Dredging near Island 116

Jon,

The OSIT looked at it and we are OK with the small amount of dredging. Placement at the Above Brownsville site works for me. Hope this happens this year so Paul quits getting calls.

Scot

Scot Johnson
Mississippi River Hydrologist
scot.johnson@dnr.state.mn.us
651/345-5601
651/345-3975 fax

>>> "Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP" <Jonathan.J.Sobiech@usace.army.mil>
>>> 6/9/2008 10:04 AM >>>

Scot,

I am picking up where Dick Beatty left off on an EA for dredging behind Island 116 the material will be placed at the Above Brownsville containment site. It appears that this issue was already discussed with you and other parties but I wanted to run it by you again. I have attached the DN from last year, note that the placement site will not be what is indicated in the DN but the Above Brownsville placement site. Thanks for your time on this.

Jonathan Sobiech
Forester
US Army Corps of Engineers
190 East 5th St, Suite 401
St Paul, MN 55101
Office phone 651-290-5428
Cell 608-406-0108
fax 651-290-5258

From: Mader, Judy [Judy.Mader@state.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2008 1:44 PM
To: Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP
Subject: RE: Island 116 dredging

Jon:

I noted some errors in the EA, but, other than that, I agree with Scot J. that we can move forward with this. Am I safe in assuming that the Corps will monitor the area after the dredging to see if the channel truly is self-maintaining?

Judy M.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP [mailto:Jonathan.J.Sobiech@usace.army.mil
<mailto:Jonathan.J.Sobiech@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 1:26 PM
To: Mader, Judy
Subject: Island 116 dredging

Judy,

Here is what I have put together for the EA, can you look it over and offer any comments you may have? I have heard back from Scot Johnson and he is ok with this moving forward. Thanks.

Jon Sobiech

Forester
651-290-5428

<< File: Pool 8 - Island 116 - EA Draft.doc >> -----Original Message-----
From: Mader, Judy [mailto:Judy.Mader@state.mn.us
<mailto:Judy.Mader@state.mn.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 3:04 PM
To: Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP
Subject: Island 116 dredging

Jonathan:

I looked through all of my files (okay, not all of them, just the piles of files that should bear information on this) and the only thing more recent than last year's dredge notice that I could locate was the correspondence regarding the original construction of the closing structure and rock dike back in 2000.

Is the volume to be dredged going to remain the same as proposed last year? If so, then I have no problem with the dredging. While the secondary channel is now narrower than before construction of the closing structure, the reason for dredging is to encourage scour. That means even though we won't be disturbing much sediment, we want Mother Nature to. And although the volumes are likely to be low, will there be any influence on dredging where this side channel rejoins the main channel? Turbidity issues, which can lead to fisheries and plant issues?

Don't get me wrong. I would rather we remove the sand bar than have boaters do it with prop wash. I just wish I could locate the discussion that took place about this proposal.

Judy M.

-----Original Message-----
From: Sobiech, Jonathan J MVP [mailto:Jonathan.J.Sobiech@usace.army.mil
<mailto:Jonathan.J.Sobiech@usace.army.mil>
<mailto:Jonathan.J.Sobiech@usace.army.mil
<mailto:Jonathan.J.Sobiech@usace.army.mil> >]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 4:46 PM
To: Mader, Judy
Subject: Island 116 dredging

Judy,

I would like to introduce myself I am new to the St Paul District office coming from a field site in La Crescent MN, I am picking up on an EA that was started by Dick Beatty the EA is for dredging behind Island 116 the material will be placed at the Above Brownsville containment site. It appears that this issue was already discussed with you and other parties but I wanted to run it by you again.

I have attached the DN from last year, note that the placement site will not be what is indicated in the DN but the Above Brownsville placement site. If you have any questions on this give me a call. I look forward to working

with you. Thanks for your time on this.

Jonathan Sobiech
Forester
US Army Corps of Engineers
190 East 5th St, Suite 401

St Paul, MN 55101
Office phone 651-290-5428
Cell 608-406-0108
fax 651-290-5258

<< File: DN0710.pdf >>

Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch

SUBJECT: Access Channel Dredging Adjacent to Island 116, Houston
County, Minnesota

Mr. David Mather
State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Mr. Mather:

The St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is planning to dredge a backwater access channel adjacent to Island 116 at River Mile 690.3 in lower Pool 8 of the Upper Mississippi River Navigation System, Houston County, Minnesota (Figure 1). The access channel, approximately 1 mile north of Brownsville, Minnesota, will be mechanically dredged. The dredged material will be placed at an approved channel maintenance placement site. No historic properties are identified within the project area, and the Corps has determined that the proposed project will have No Effect to historic properties.

The purpose of this action is to remove a sandbar that has formed in a backwater access channel as a result of a closing structure the Corps constructed in 2000. The closing structure project was coordinated with your office in 1998/1999; your office concurred with a No Effect determination. The proposed action would remove approximately 250 cubic yards of material that has been deposited downstream of the closing structure. The access channel would be constructed to a depth of 4.5 feet with the intended purpose of providing a self-maintaining recreational access channel through the notch in the Island 116 structure. The current passing through the structure has created a scour hole immediately downstream of the structure. The eroded material quickly falls out of the water column just downstream of the scour hole. The deposition of this material has created a sand bar across a frequently-used access channel into the side channel areas and Lawrence Lake. The sandbar restricts access to the backwater area from the main channel of the Mississippi

River. None of the proposed dredging work will occur on terrestrial settings. The dredged material would be placed at the approved Above Brownsville or Brownsville Channel Maintenance Placement Site.

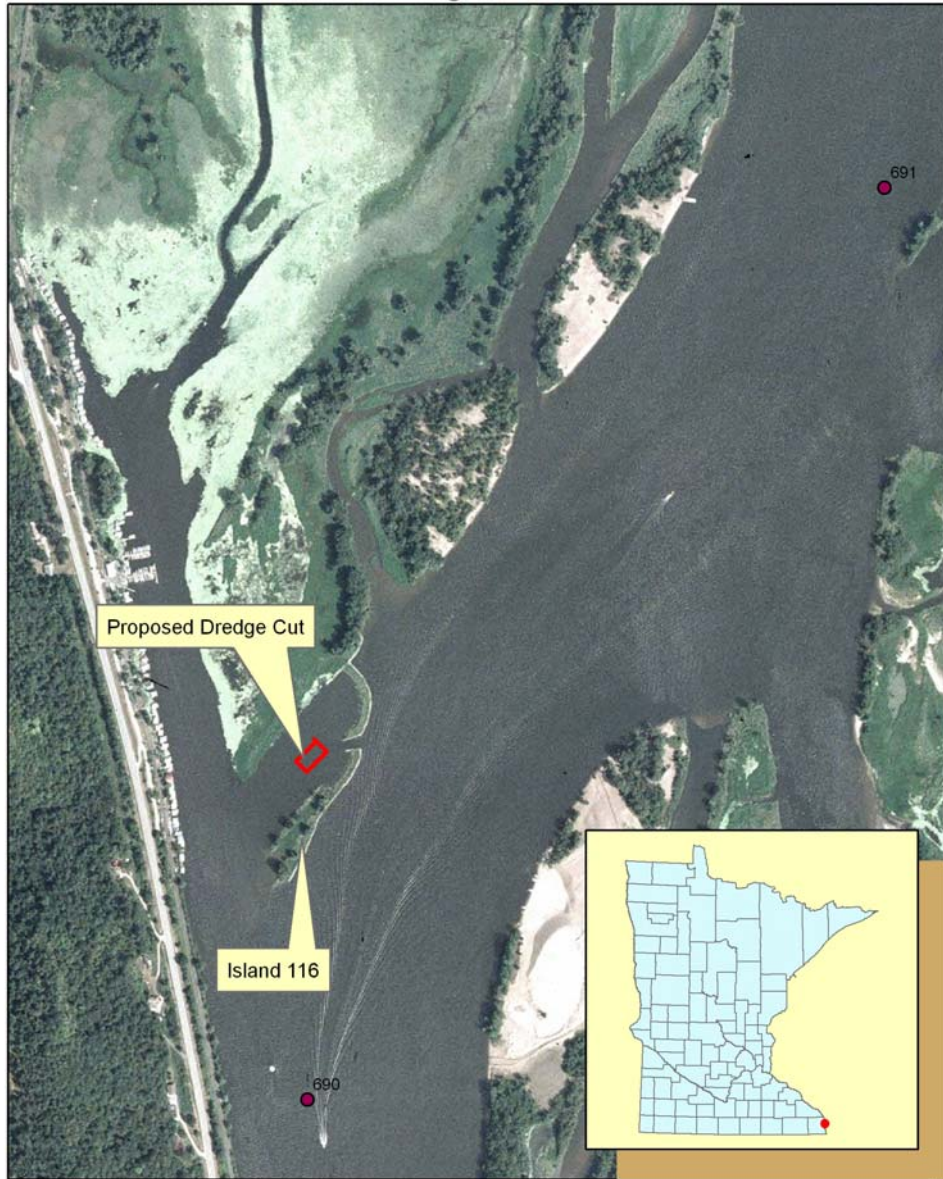
The most recent cultural investigation in the area, a shoreline survey of Pool 8, was completed in 1997 (Thomas Pleger, Robert Boszhardt and Wendy Holtz-Lieth 2000: *A Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Floodplain of Navigation Pool 8, Upper Mississippi River Valley*, Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center ROI 282, La Crosse). This study included an examination of the Island 116 shoreline. A substantial amount of Island 116's land area has been lost through erosion since the installation of Lock and Dam 8 in 1937. No cultural resources have been identified within the bounds of the Island 116 project area, which will take place entirely within the side channel. Historic maps indicate that the side channel has existed for at least the past 118 years, suggesting that the side channel has a low potential to contain cultural resources. The nearest cultural resource site to Island 116, a precontact mound group (21HU10), is approximately three-quarters of a mile to the north-north-northwest and located at the mouth of an unnamed tributary. Just under 2 miles to the east, a cluster of precontact sites are situated along the shoreline/terrace edge of Goose Island. Several historic wing dams and a closing structure were located near the north end of the island, although they are no longer extant and were likely removed through frequent dredging of the main channel. Finally, approximately 1 mile downstream lie the recorded wrecks of Barge 7 (lost 1859) and the *City of Houston* (lost 1906). There are no recorded standing historic structures or historic districts in the vicinity of the project area.

Because the proposed dredging will take place within a historic side channel where no cultural resources have been identified and with a low potential to harbor such resources and the dredged material will be placed in areas with no impacts to cultural resources, the Corps has determined that the project will have No Effect to historic properties. Please review the above and provide your comments as soon as practicable. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bradley Perkl, Corps archaeologist, at 651-290-5370.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Birkenstock
Chief, Environmental and Economic
Analysis Branch

Figure 1



 *St. Paul District*
Cultural
US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Island 116 Dredge Site
Mississippi River Pool 8



bep 8 July 2008: 2003 Houston County Aerial Photography

ATTACHMENT 3

FONSI

Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division

Draft

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, has determined the environmental impacts of the following project.

DREDGING BEHIND ISLAND 116
POOL 8
HOUSTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The purpose of the project is to dredge approximately 250 cubic yards to create a pilot channel which will encourage a self-maintaining recreational access channel through the notch in the Island 116 structure. The sand that is dredged will be placed at the Above Brownsville dredged material placement site. The alternative to the proposed action is no action.

The Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following determinations of project impacts: the proposed action would have temporary non-significant adverse impacts to noise levels and surface water quality; the proposed action would have permanent non-significant beneficial impacts on recreational opportunities; the proposed action would have no effect on cultural resources.

The environmental review process indicates that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Date

Jon L. Christensen
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer