



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

March 7, 2011

Operations Division
Central Evaluation Section
Project Manager
Doris Terrell
(504) 862-1588

SUBJECT: MVN-1998-3422-CU
(Mississippi River) 1592

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [X] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403).

BARGE MOORING IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

NAME OF APPLICANT: AEP River Operations, c/o Richard Wright and Associates, Inc., 1010 Colony Place, Metairie, Louisiana 70003.

LOCATION OF WORK: In the Mississippi River, left descending bank, central to a point about 154 miles above the Head of Passes, near Convent, Louisiana, in ST. JAMES PARISH, as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Install 47 tiers with spar barges (11 wide), 94 dolphins and 49 anchor piles at an existing ship mooring facility. The proposed work is to be located within an area about 2,300 feet long and 455 feet wide, extending approximately parallel to the existing facility, as shown on the drawings.

The comment period will close **30 days** from the date of this public notice advertisement. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request. Letters must reference the applicant's name and the notice number, be addressed and mailed to the above address, to **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an 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 benefit which reasonably may be 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; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline 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.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. 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 used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

No properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical sites or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Interior nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of __ acre(s) of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services before a permit is issued.

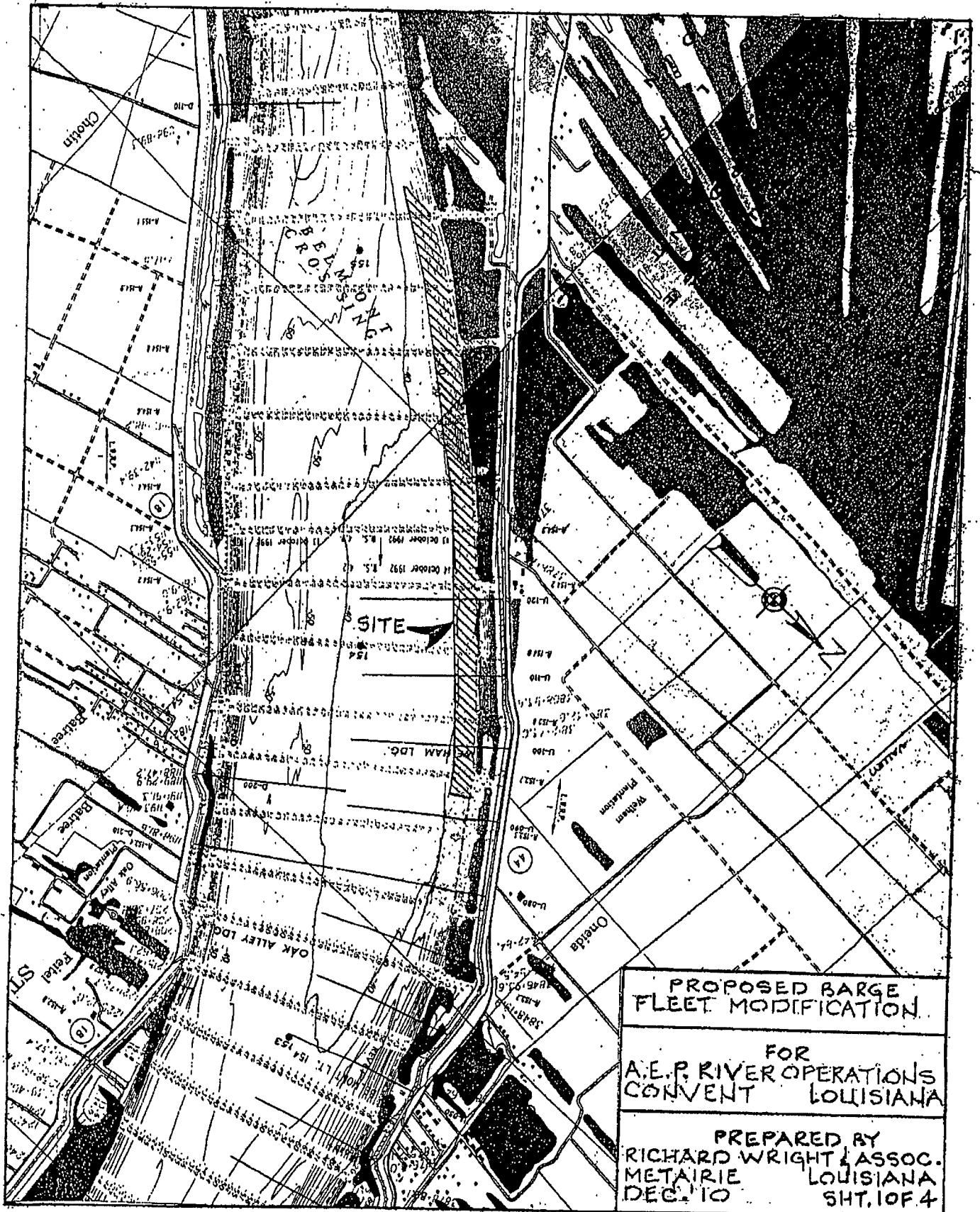
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

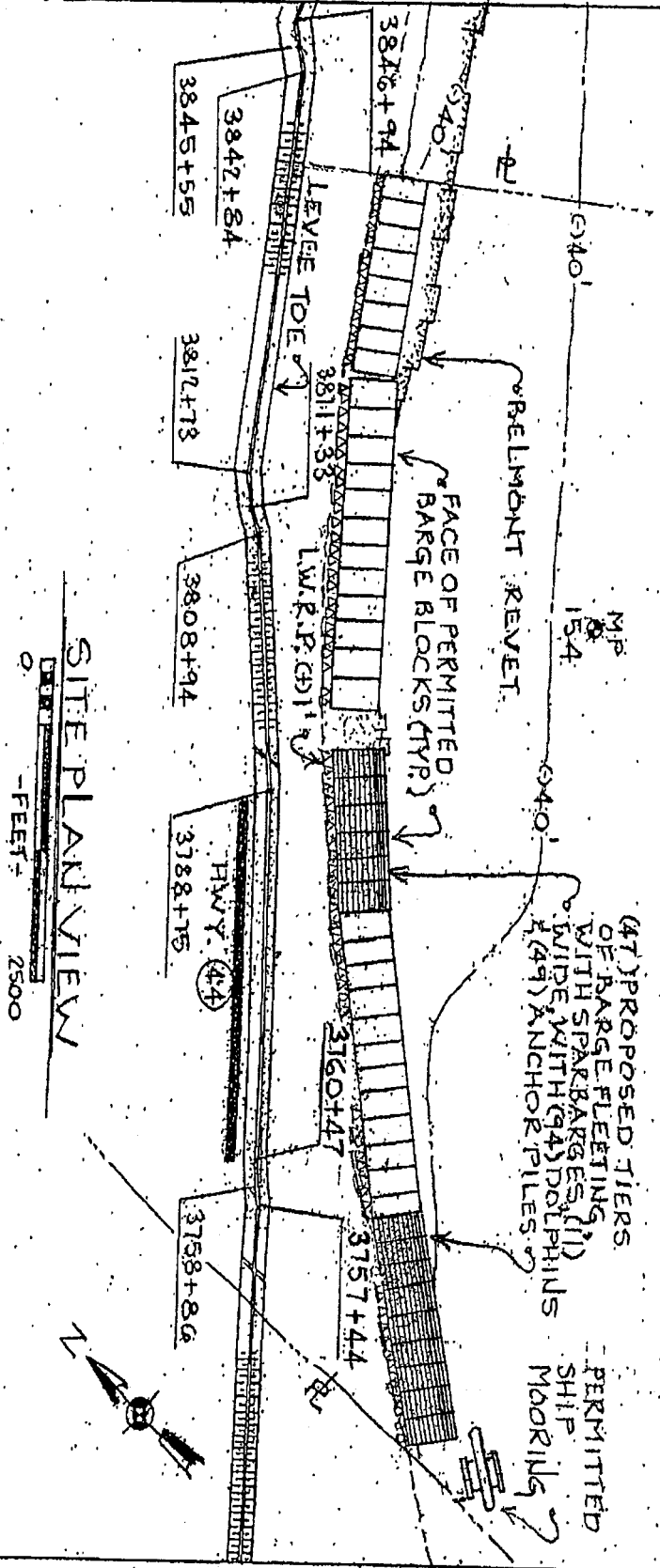
You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.



Martin S. Mayer
Chief, Central Evaluation Section



MISSISSIPPI RIVER FLOW

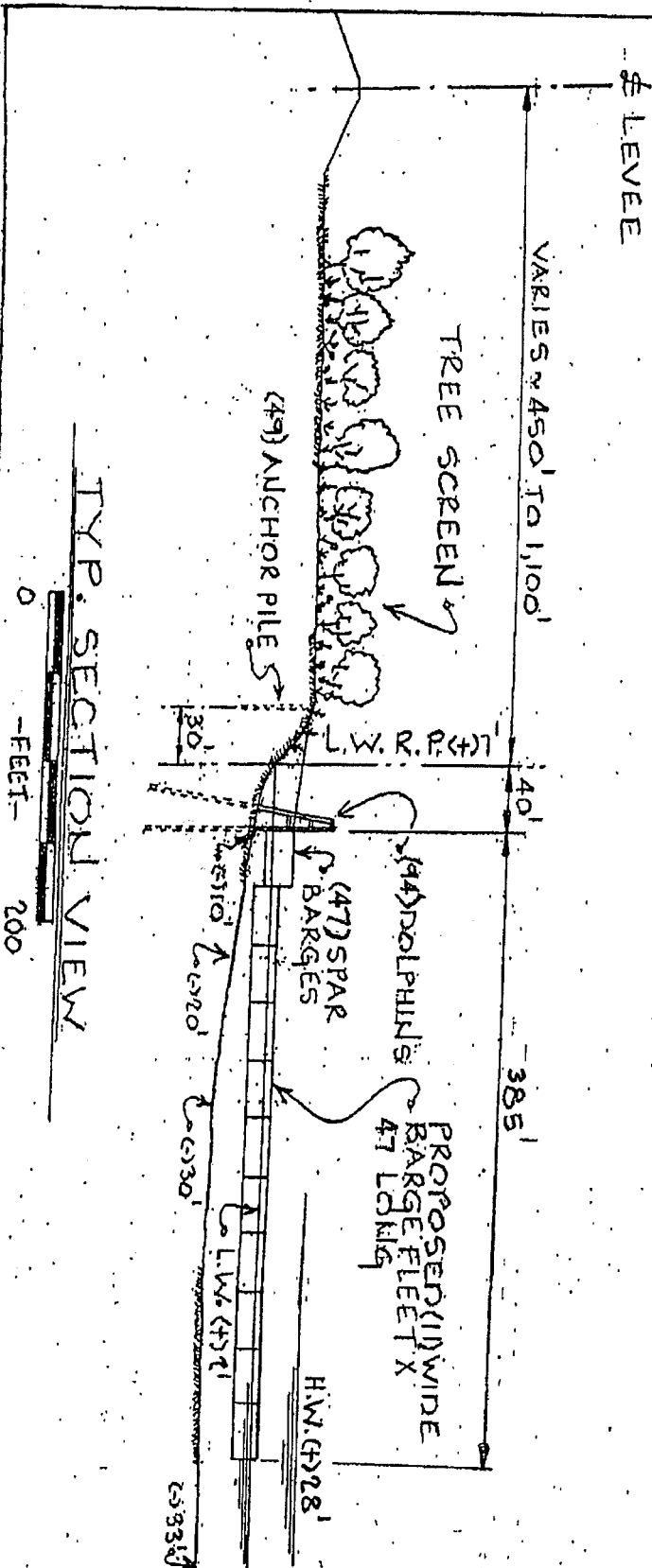


SITE PLAN VIEW

0 2500 FEET

PROPOSED BARGE FLEET MODIFICATION	
FOR A.E.P. RIVER OPERATIONS CONVENT LOUISIANA	
PREPARED BY RICHARD WRIGHT & ASSOC. METAIRIE LOUISIANA DEC. 10	SHT. 2 OF 4

NOTE:
PILE PLACED IN REVEEMENT AREA
PROVIDED WITH 10' Ø X 2' THK.
RIPRAP SHIELD.



PROPOSED BARGE FLEET MODIFICATION	
FOR A.E.F. RIVER OPERATIONS CONVENT LOUISIANA	
PREPARED BY RICHARD WRIGHT & ASSOC. METAIRIE LOUISIANA DEC. 110	
SHT. 3 OF 4	

As-built drawings will be submitted within 30 days of completion of this project to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, P. O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, and to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division, P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487.

All structures, facilities, well and pipelines/flowlines occurring in open water areas or in oilfield canals or slips shall be removed within 120 days of abandonment or the facilities for the herein permitted use unless prior written approval to leave such structures in place is received from the Coastal Management Division. This condition does not preclude the necessity for revising the current permit or obtaining a separate Coastal Use Permit, should one be required.

Structures must also be marked/lighted in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations.

In order to ensure the safety of all parties, the permitted shall contact the Louisiana One Call System (1-800-272-3020) a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of any excavation (digging, dredging, jetting, etc.) or demolition activity.

The pallid sturgeon is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (16U.S.C. 1531-1544) and is confined to the Miss. & Atchafalaya Rivers in southern La. The pallid sturgeon may occur in water bodies near this proposed project. This species requires large, turbid, free-flowing riverine habitat and is adapted to living close to the bottom of large shallow rivers with sand and gravel bars. Pallid sturgeon typically spawn from July-August but successful reproduction has been severely reduced due to habitat modification. This includes the loss of habitat through the construction of dams that have modified flows, reduced turbidity and lowered water temperatures. The permitted will take the necessary measures to avoid the breeding season and any degradation of water quality in the Miss. River.

The long-tailed weasel is considered rare in La. The species is found in habitats usually near water. Habitats include brush land, open woodlands, field edges, riparian grassland, swamps & marshes. Dens are in abandoned burrows of other mammals, rock crevices, brush piles, stump hollows or spaces among tree roots. Research indicates that the weasel may be sensitive to agriculturally induced fragmentation of habitat, showing the importance of maintaining landscape connectivity for the conservation of this species.

The area where the project is located is part of the aboriginal homeland of the Chitimacha Tribe of La. As such, villages, burial sites & sacred sites were in place in that entire area. If during the course of the work any cultural properties are discovered, Permittee shall immediately contact Kimberly Walden or Melanie Aymond at 337-923-9923 or 337-923-4395

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