

Appendix I:

Minnesota EAW Supplement

*Lower Pool 2 Channel Management Study:
Boulanger Bend to Lock and Dam No. 2*

Minnesota EAW Item Identification

A supplement prepared for the Minnesota DNR to identify locations of EAW Items within the Letter Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment

1. **Project Title:** Lower Pool 2 Channel Management Study: Boulanger Bend to Lock and Dam No. 2
2. **Proposer** – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Contact Person: Aaron McFarlane
Biologist
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3. **RGU** – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

4. **Reason for EAW Preparation** – Mandatory EAW

5. **Project Location**

See Chapter 1.2, Figure 3, and attached Topo Map (Exhibit 1)

County: Dakota and Washington Counties, Minnesota

City/Township: Cottage Grove and Nininger Township

Watershed: HUC-8 = 07010206

GPS (NAD83, UTM Zone 15N, meters): West Structure Center: 505,134.4 E; 4,957,893.6 N
East Structure Center: 506,314.4 E; 4,958,687.4 N
Channel Dredging (west): 503,059.7 E; 4,957,223.0 N
Channel Dredging (east): 507,048.3 E; 4,957,885.8 N
Placement Location: 502,527.9 E; 4,958,231.1 N

Tax Parcel IDs: Dredged Material Placement Site: 31.027.21.42.0001

Rock Sill Structure – multiple parcels, shown on Exhibit 2

PLSS Sections within footprint: Dakota T115, R18 W – Sections 11, 12, 13, 14

Washington T27, R21 W – Sections 33, 34

PLSS Sections at placement site: Washington T27 R21 Sec 30, SE1/4-SE1/4 & W1/2-SE1/4

6. Project Description

- a. **EQB Monitor Summary** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District is proposing to construct two new channel training structures in Lower Pool 2 of the Mississippi River near Hastings, Minnesota to improve navigability and safety by helping to maintain the full congressionally-authorized channel width.
- b. **Full summary** – Ch. 5.6
- c. **Project Magnitude** – **Total Acreage Directly Impacted:**
 Rock Structure footprint: 6.3 Acres
 Approximate dredging footprint: 27 acres
 Approximate placement footprint: Up to 75 acres
 Others N/A
- d. **Project Purpose** – Chapter 1.3, with additional details in Chapter 3.2
 The project would provide benefits to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in improving the ability to maintain the 9 Foot Navigation Channel Project; the U.S. Coast Guard in improving the ability to maintain Aids to Navigation; the commercial navigation industry by allowing larger tows; and the recreating public by improving safety of navigating in the main channel.
- e. **Future Stages** – None planned. Related studies and reports listed in Chapter 1.4.
- f. **Is this a subsequent stage** – No, but part of the ongoing management of the Nine-Foot Navigation Channel Project. The St. Paul District Corps of Engineers maintains a 9 foot-deep navigation channel on the Mississippi River from Minneapolis, MN to Guttenberg, IA using a combination of lock-and-dams, channel training structures, and annual maintenance dredging. The navigation channel facilitates a variety of commercial and recreational transportation. See Sections 1.1 & 1.4

7. Cover Types – Ch. 6.2.2, specifically Figure 6-3. The table from the figure that identifies the change in habitat types resulting from the project is copied below for convenience, but Figure 6-3 also identifies these areas on a map.

Habitat Type	Change in Acres
Impounded	- 7.8
Floodplain Shallow Aquatic	+ 4.9
Main Channel	+ 15.2
Main Channel Border	- 13.7
Revetment	+ 5.0
Wing Dam	- 3.6
Secondary Channel	0
Land	0
Contiguous Impounded Floodplain Lake	0

8. Permits and Approvals Required – Chapter 7

9. Land Use

- a. Describe:
 - i. Existing Land Use – Ch. 2.1
 - ii. Planned Land use – Ch. 6.1.5
 - iii. Zoning – Ch. 6.1.5
- b. Compatibility with nearby land uses – Ch. 6.1.5
- c. Identify land use compatibility mitigation – Since no land use incompatibilities were identified, no mitigation has been proposed.

10. Geology, soils, and topography/landforms

- a. Geology – 2.2.1, 6.2.1, Appendix J – Geotechnical Report
- b. Soil and topography – Appendix J – Geotechnical Report

11. Water Resources

- a. Features
 - i. **Surface Water** – The proposed project would take place in Lower Navigation Pool 2 of the Mississippi River (Public Water Inventory: “U.S. Lock & Dam #2 Pool 19-5 P”). This waterbody is listed by the MPCA as having an approved TMDL Plan for Mercury in Fish Tissue; Mercury in Water Column, and Additional Impairments of PCB in Fish Tissue, PFOS in Fish Tissue, and Turbidity. The area is part of the MNRRA. The project area is not a designated wild, scenic, or recreational river segment. The Lower St. Croix River, designated as a recreational river segment, flows into the Mississippi River 6.5 river miles downstream, beyond Lock and Dam No. 2. There are no designated Wildlife Lakes in Dakota or Washington Counties, no designated trout lakes or streams are in the project vicinity, and no calcareous fens identified in project vicinity.

Other water resources in the project area (Shown on Exhibits 3 and 4) include several unnamed streams, several named features of the Mississippi River (e.g., Spring Lake, Grey Cloud Slough, etc.), and several wetlands. The St. Croix River flows into the Mississippi River approximately 6.5 miles downstream of the project area, and appx. 3.5 river miles downstream of the proposed staging area at Lock and Dam 2.

Additional descriptions of the surface water features directly impacted by the proposed project can be found in the report, in Section 2.2.1.3: Hydrology & Hydraulics; and Section 2.2.8: Water quality.

- ii. **Groundwater** – No groundwater impacts are expected. The following considerations contributed to this determination:
 - 1. Depth to groundwater at the proposed placement site would be 0-feet as material will be placed into a ground water filled mine.
 - 2. Depth to groundwater at the proposed staging site is 10 Feet. One well is located near the staging area at Lock and Dam #2 (Well # 559259), and is located approximately 850-feet away from the proposed staging area.
 - 3. The project and staging areas are not within a WHPA (wellhead protection area) as of 2014. The map in Exhibit 5 shows the wellhead protection areas on September 1, 2014.
 - 4. Waters within the mine are separated from the surrounding watershed by the Mississippi River and Moore Lake. The Mine is located within the Quaternary aquifer, wells on the banks of the river are finished within the bedrock aquifer so there is little concern of contamination. There are sixteen known wells on lower Gray Cloud Island, as identified on Exhibit 6. Three of the wells are Corps of Engineers monitoring wells. The well labeled 15 on Exhibit 6 is to be sealed, and will be replaced with a new well by the group of wells on the shore of Moore Lake. Most wells on the island are finished within the Quaternary aquifer within the depth of the mined material. A monitoring program will need to be established prior to placement of any material to obtain background base levels.

b. Effects from project activities

- i. **Wastewater** – N/A – No wastewater is associated with the project.
- ii. **Stormwater** – N/A – No stormwater impacts would be expected, as the project is to be constructed within a water body.
- iii. **Water Appropriation** – N/A – The project will not involve water use.
- iv. **Surface Waters**
 - a) **Wetland alterations** – No wetlands are known to exist in the project area.
See report sections: Existing: 2.2.6; Effects: 6.2.6
 - b) **Other Surface Waters** – This project would involve the placement of fill in public waters. Ch. 5.6 describes the proposed project features and some of the best management practices that would be implemented. Environmental effects of the proposed actions are discussed in Chapter 6, organized by resource. Geomorphology and Hydrology and Hydraulic impacts are discussed in 6.2.1. Effects on Aquatic Habitat are discussed in

6.2.2. Effects on Water quality are addressed in 6.2.8. These effects are also discussed in the Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) analysis in Appendix B.

12. Contamination/Hazardous Materials/Wastes

- a. Pre-project conditions** – Ch. 2.2.8
- b. Project-related generation of solid wastes** – Ch. 5.6. The material dredged as a part of this project for the purposes of restoring the main navigation channel would be placed at an upland site that will be also be utilized for placement of future material dredged from the maintenance of the navigation channel. Planning for that site is proceeding concurrently as the “Pool 2 Dredged Material Management Plan.” The site or sites utilized will be evaluated for environmental effects etc. under that planning process.
- c. Project-related use/storage of hazardous materials**
The only expected hazardous materials to be used during construction would be fuels and oils for construction equipment. As part of the Corps’ contracting procedure, any contractor would be required to prepare and submit for approval a spill prevention and control plan for these materials prior to construction.
- d. Project-related generation/storage of hazardous wastes** – No hazardous waste expected to be stored or generated during project construction or operation.

13. Fish, wildlife, plant communities, and rare features

- a. Fish, wildlife, habitat, and vegetation** – Ch. 2.2, 6.2
- b. Rare features** – Ch. 2.2.5, 6.2.5

Heritage Database License Agreement Number: LA-768

Information in the report regarding species listed by the State of Minnesota as endangered, threatened, or special concern was compiled using the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) dataset. The following steps were conducted to locate potentially-affected rare species within the project area using the newest available NHIS layer (January 12, 2016) in ESRI ArcMAP:

- (1) A shapefile delineating a one-mile buffer around the proposed project area was created.
- (2) The “Select by Location” tool was used to select all polygons within the NHIS shapefile which intersected the buffered project area shapefile.
- (3) A list of unique species listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern with recorded Element Occurrences selected by this operation was recorded in Chapter 2.2.5 of the main report.
- (4) The metadata for records was examined and the results compared with the results of all available recent surveys of Lower Pool 2 to determine which species are likely to be extant within Lower Pool 2, and therefore potentially within the project footprint. Recent propagation efforts for freshwater mussels were also considered.

- c. **Effects** – Ch. 6.2
- d. **Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of effects** – Ch. 5.6, Appendix G – Mussel Mitigation

14. Historic properties – 2.3, 6.3; Concurrence letter from State Historic Preservation Office included as Exhibit 7

15. Visual - 2.1.3, 6.1.3

16. Air

- a. **Stationary source emissions** - N/A
- b. **Vehicle emissions** - 2.2.10, 6.2.10
- c. **Dust and Odors** - 2.2.10, 6.2.10

17. Noise –2.1 , 6.1.4

18. Transportation – No transportation impacts are expected during construction or operation of the proposed project.

19. Cumulative potential effects – Information from EA Item 6.4 used in the development of this section

- a. Describe the geographic scales and timeframes of the project related environmental effects that could combine with other environmental effects resulting in cumulative potential effects.

Anticipated environmental effects of the project include surface water effects, water quality effects, effects on aquatic wildlife, visual effects, and air effects. Additionally, short-term air and noise effects are anticipated associated with the construction of the project. The geographic scale for all environmental effects are expected to limited to an area immediately surrounding the project site. The anticipated timeframes of environmental effects will be short-term for construction related air and noise effects, and would conclude at completion of the project, which would occur no later than summer 2018. The timeframes of environmental effects resulting from the project are anticipated to occur for the life of the project, which the Corps estimated to be 40 years.

- b. Describe any reasonably foreseeable future projects (for which a basis of expectation has been laid) that may interact with environmental effects of the proposed project within the geographic scales and timeframes identified above.

While the Corps included several ongoing management plans and potential future projects, DNR is aware of one project that meet the standard of “reasonably foreseeable future projects for which a basis of expectation has been laid.” This project is the Proposed Nelson Mine Expansion, described in the EA on page 99.

- c. Discuss the nature of the cumulative potential effects and summarize any other available information relevant to determining whether there is potential for significant environmental effects due to these cumulative effects.

Short-term air and noise effects associated with the construction of the project are expected to have limited potential for cumulative effects due to the minor incremental increases of these effects during the project activities.

Potential cumulative effects to surface waters, water quality, aquatic wildlife, visual and air effects from the project in combination with the other reasonably foreseeable future projects are discussed on pages 99 through 101 of the EA under the following headings: Recreation, Aesthetic Values, Hydrology, Hydraulics and Sediment Transport, Mussels, and Water Quality.

20. Other potential environmental effects - N/A

Project Area Overview - 1:24,000 scale Topographic Map



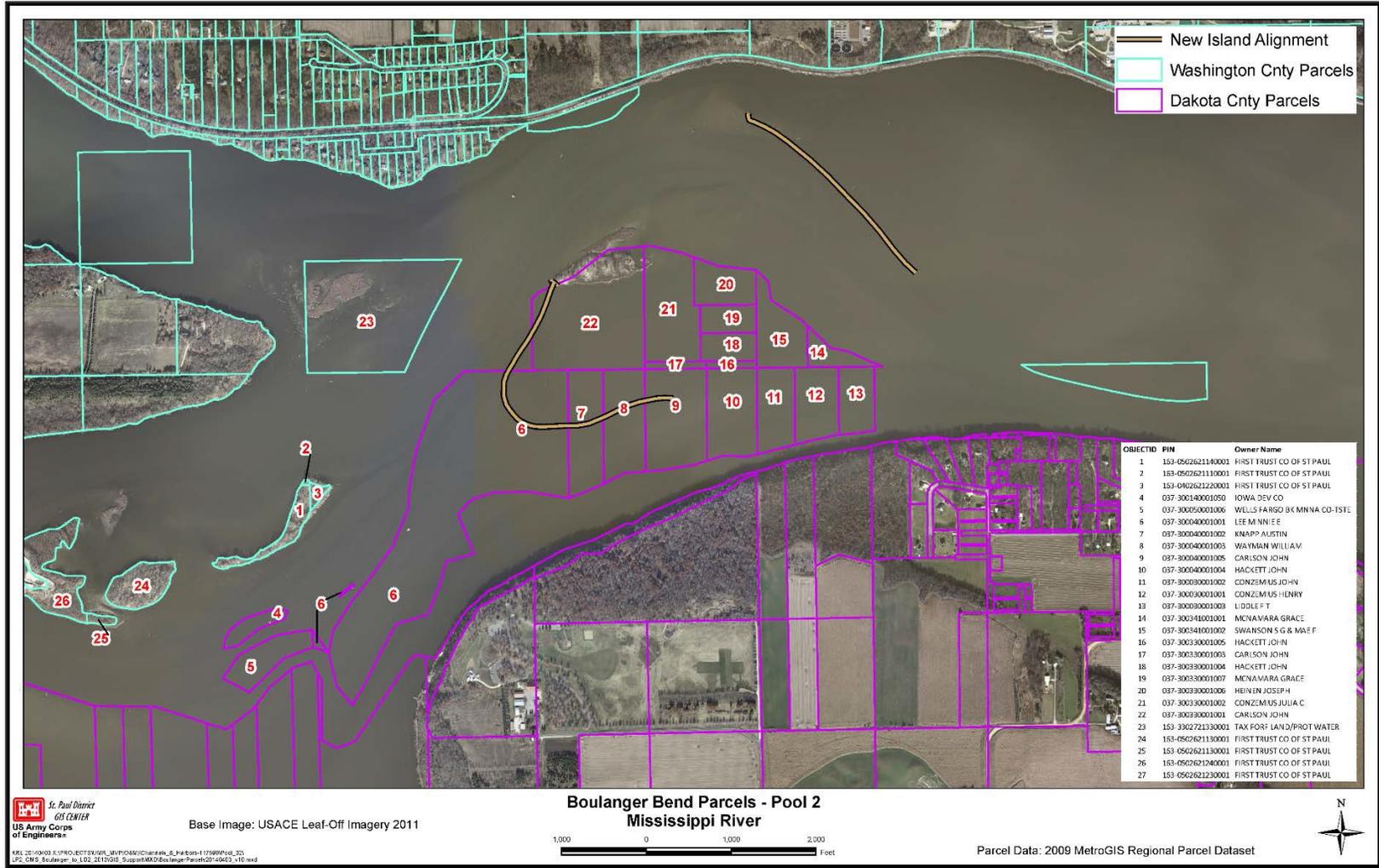
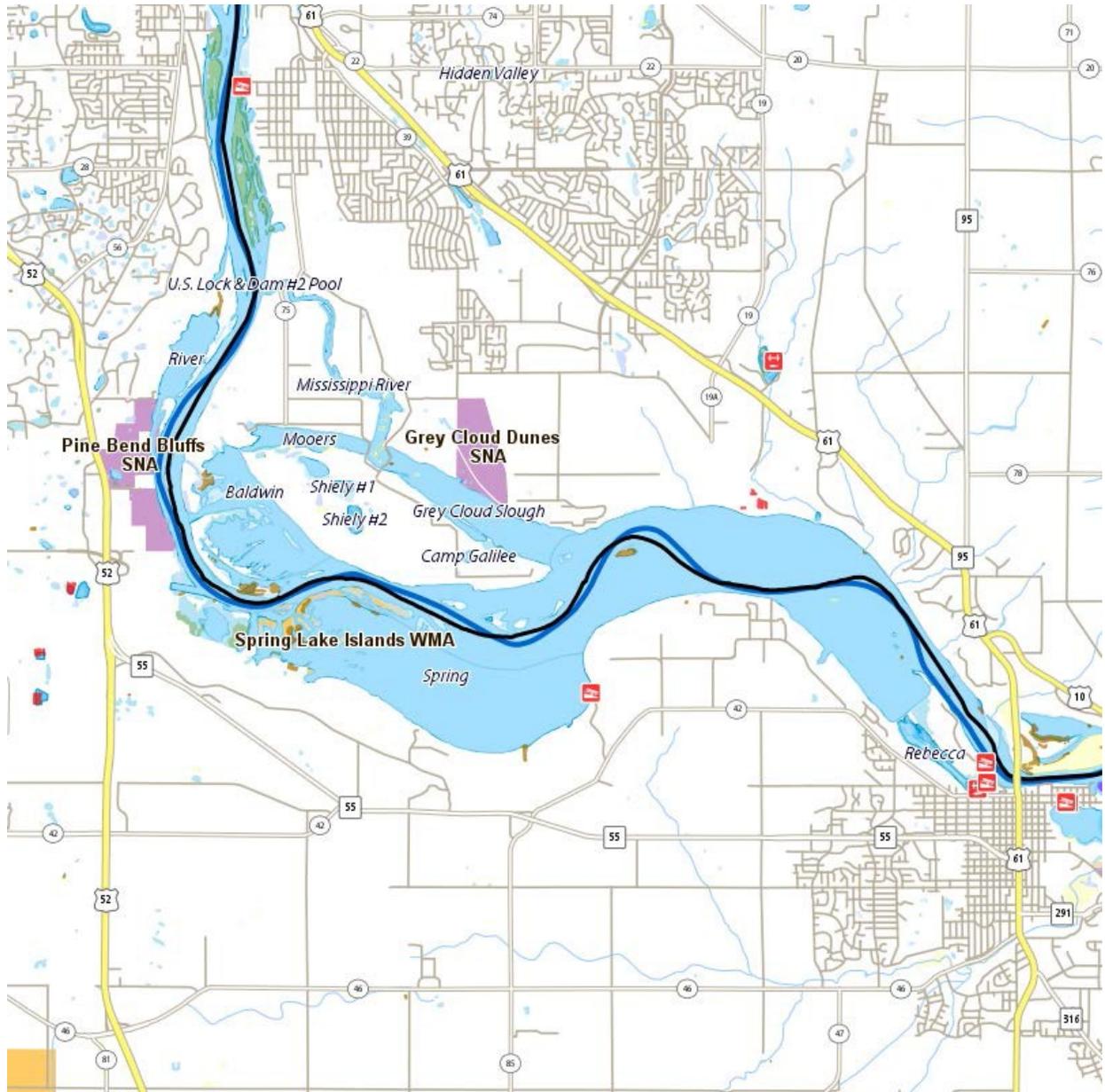
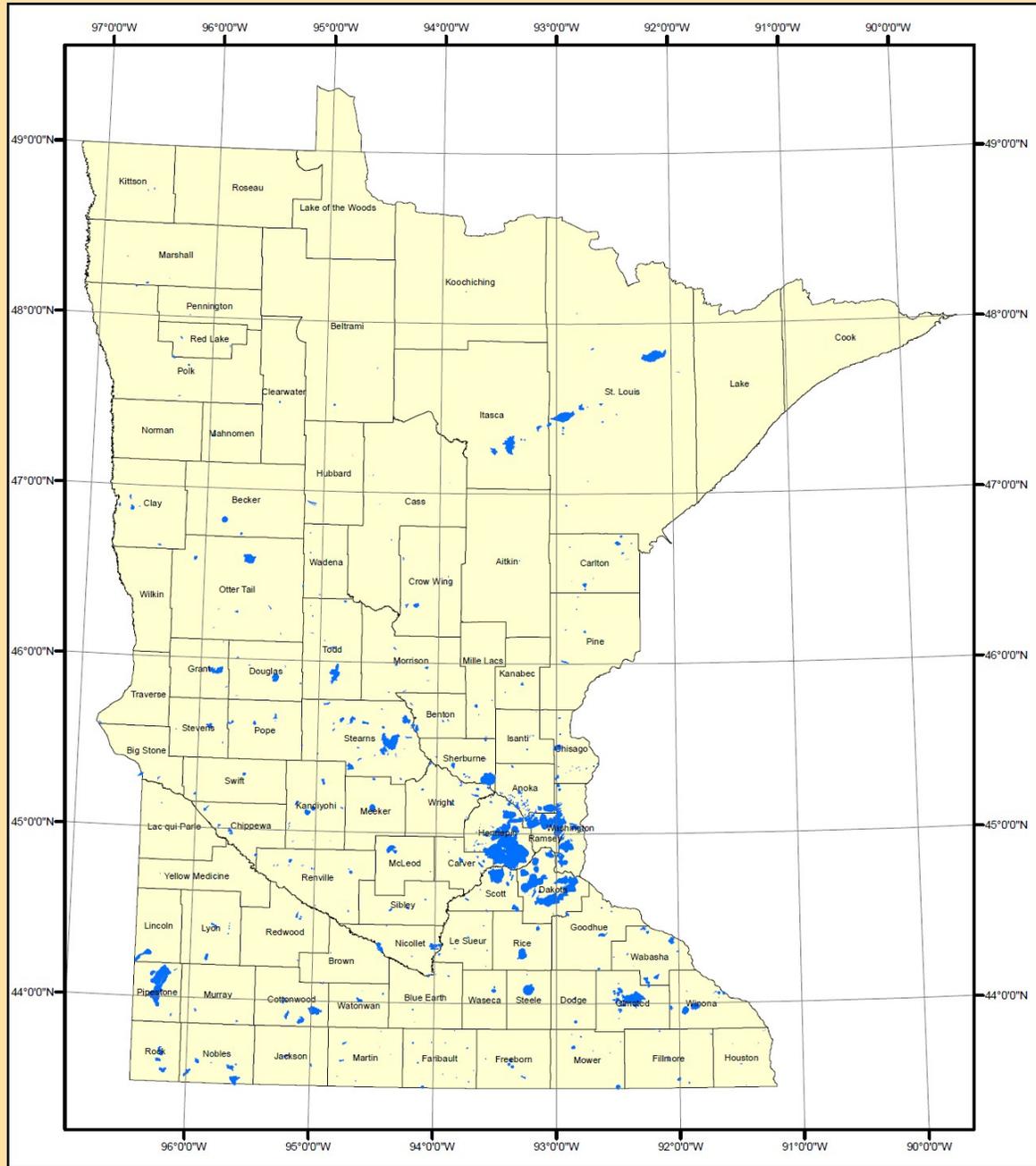


Exhibit 3



State of Minnesota Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA)



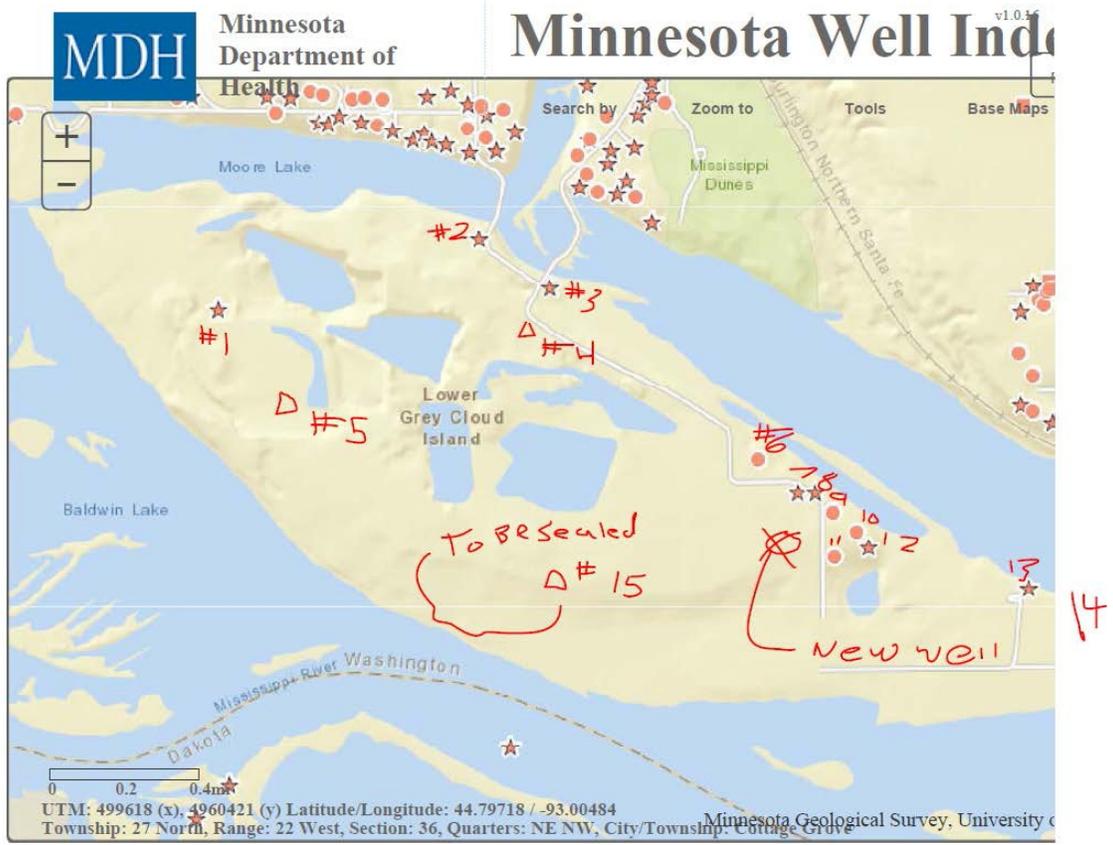
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 WHPA
 County

Minnesota Department of Health
Environmental Health
Source Water Protection Unit

September 1, 2014







STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

May 9, 2017

Terry Birkenstock
Regional Planning and Environment Division North
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 5th Street E, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

RE: Lower Pool 2 Channel Management Study: Boulanger Bend to Lock and Dam 2, Upper Mississippi River
Dakota and Washington Counties
MnHPO Number: 2017-1622

Dear Mr. Birkenstock:

Thank you for initiating consultation on the above project. Information received in our office on 6 April 2017 and via email on 2 May 2017 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

Area of Potential Effect: We have completed our review of your correspondence dated April 5, 2017 along with the documentation provided in regards to your agency's determination of the area of potential effect (APE) for the Federal undertaking. We agree that this APE determination is generally appropriate to take into account the potential direct and indirect effects of the proposed undertaking as we currently understand it. As the project's scope of work is further defined, or if it is significantly altered from the current scope, additional consultation with our office may be necessary in order to revise the current APE.

Identification of Historic Properties: We have reviewed the documentation in regards to your agency's identification efforts for historic properties in the APE. Our comments are provided below.

Archaeological Resources: No archaeological resources were identified as a result of the Phase I investigations. Although the Schilling Archaeological District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), is located near the project area, it has been determined to be outside the APE for this project.

Historic Structures: It appears that there were originally four (4) historic wing dams located within the APE for this project. The wing dams have previously been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. Via an 5/2/2017 email, Brad Perkl, USACE District Archaeologist, has clarified that three (3) of these wing dams are no longer extant due to scouring or as the result of previous dredging. The remaining historic wing dam has compromised integrity, having also been damaged by erosion and previous dredging activities. You have indicated that the remnant of this wing dam will be protected via burial in place as a part of this project.

Determination of Effect: Based upon information available to us at this time, we concur with your determination that the proposed project will have **no adverse effect** on historic properties.

Please feel free to contact me at 651-259-3456 or by e-mail at sarah.beimers@mnhs.org if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah J. Beimers'.

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: Brad Perkl, USACE District Archaeologist