

Appendix A:

# **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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

### **LOCK AND DAM 2 PROTECTIVE ISLAND PROJECT**

The purpose of the project would be for the Corps to construct a protective island on the upstream side of the Lock and Dam 2 embankment. This action would provide protection to the embankment and provide diverse riparian and aquatic habitat with the potential to attract native species (e.g., nesting turtles, shorebirds, fish). The protective island would provide a beneficial use of dredged material, thus benefiting commercial navigation throughout the Upper Mississippi River.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following factors as discussed in the Environmental Assessment: The Proposed Alternative (constructing the protective island) would result in minor long-term benefits to noise levels, aesthetic values, commercial navigation, habitat diversity, and biological productivity; and substantial benefits to recreation, terrestrial habitat, and wetlands. The Proposed Alternative would result in temporary minor adverse effects on noise, aesthetics, air quality, and surface water quality; and result in a single minor event towards biological productivity and a long-term minor adverse effects to aquatic habitat within the Project Area. The project would have no adverse impacts on cultural resources or federally-listed threatened and endangered species. The protective island would provide a diverse riparian habitat with the potential to attract natives species (e.g., nesting turtles, shorebirds, overwintering fish) while providing the required protection to the existing embankment at Lock and Dam 2.

Our environmental review 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.

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**Terry Birkenstock**  
**Chief, Regional Planning**  
**and Environment Division North**