



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

APPLICANT: Mike McDermitt
Wisconsin Central
Limited / Canadian
National

REFER TO: MVP-2015-02864-DJM

Public Notice

ISSUED: May 20, 2016
EXPIRES: June 20, 2016

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act
SECTION: 10 – Rivers and Harbors Act

1. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO temporarily discharge fill material into 0.30-acre of the St. Croix River below the ordinary high water mark in conjunction with the construction of four separate 30-foot by 80-foot construction work pads adjacent to Piers 7-10 and for the excavation and backfill adjacent to each of 12 concrete pedestals (Piers 6-11) for the rehabilitation of the existing Wisconsin Central Limited (WCL) Minneapolis Sub Bridge 424.25. In total, 34 concrete pedestals (Piers 2-18) would be rehabilitated. Piers 6-11 are located below the ordinary high water mark of the St. Croix River.

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: Wisconsin Central Limited / Canadian National
1006 East 4th Street
Waterloo, Iowa 50703

AGENT: Peter Schierloh
AGENT'S ADDRESS: SW Bridge Engineers, LLC
P.O. Box 608
DeForest, Wisconsin 53532

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 32, Township 31 North, Range 19 West. The approximate UTM coordinates are Zone 15, X Coordinate 520230.775972113, Y Coordinate 4996658.17179316 The railroad bridge crosses the St. Croix River with the east end of the bridge located in Somerset, Wisconsin and the West end located in Withrow, Minnesota.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The bridge pedestal rehabilitation project would generally include the in-kind encasement of 34 existing concrete pedestals, a pair at each pier (2-18). The contractor would access the pier site locations (6-11) using rail equipment. To access the rail with equipment, an existing upland trail on the west side (Minnesota) would be utilized.

Pedestal rehabilitation work would include:

1. Deteriorated concrete chipped on top and sides of the pedestal down to sound concrete. Concrete chipping beneath the column would not extend more than 50% of the area under the span bearing (support structure connecting the bridge girder to the concrete pedestal) unless the bearing is properly blocked with hardwood blocking. Concrete debris resulting from the chipping process would be secured onsite with the use of silt fencing and matting.

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Debris would be gathered by hand and removed by the hyrail crane in large buckets. Debris would be hauled offsite to an upland location.

2. Cleaning of all chipped surfaces.
3. Repeat of the above steps for all bearings on each pedestal top.
4. All vegetation to be completely cleaned and removed from pedestal surfaces and joints, top to bottom.
5. Blast cleaning of all chipped surfaces.
6. #5 dowels drilled and set vertically into existing pedestal footings. Dowels would be embedded to a depth of 12 inches.
7. #5 dowels drilled and set horizontally into the pedestal sides. The dowels would be embedded to a minimum depth of 6 inches into the concrete and set to extend outward from the surface a minimum of 6 inches. Dowels would be drilled on 24 inch centers each direction.
8. One vertical mat of #5 rebar tied to the dowels, 12 inches on center each way.
9. Construction and installation of forms for pedestals. The forms would be tapered or stepped to match the existing profile of the pedestals, forming an encasement back to the original lines of the pedestal.
10. Extension of the form upward to the top of the concrete bearing areas, followed by the placement of the cement into the form. The cement would be brought in by rail mounted equipment.
11. Stripping of forms once concrete is set, followed by site clean-up and placement of backfill as needed to return the site to previous contours.
12. Removal of all temporary work pads.

To accomplish the rehabilitation project, the contractor would utilize a hyrail mounted crane to handle and bring equipment to the bridge. The pedestals are approximately 200 vertical feet below the rail line. Workers would access the site using a suspended scaffold system that would be hung from the bridge structure.

Removal of the existing deteriorated concrete would be done using hand-held pneumatic chipping guns and breakers. The cement would be brought into the site and placed using concrete buckets. Excavation around the pedestals would be completed by hand or with a small mini-excavator that can be delivered by the hyrail crane.

QUANTITY, TYPE, AND AREA OF FILL: The project would include the temporary discharge of fill material into 0.30-acre of the St. Croix River below the ordinary high water mark.

VEGETATION IN AFFECTED AREA: Vegetation is unknown due to the remoteness of the site and lack of access.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: Cement material would be obtained from a licensed provider and back fill material would be obtained onsite, utilizing previously excavated material.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The proposed project is located along an existing rail line. Surrounding land use is predominantly agricultural with some wooded areas.

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THE FOLLOWING POTENTIALLY TOXIC MATERIALS COULD BE USED AT THE PROJECT SITE: Potentially toxic materials to be used would be consistent with construction activities and rail transportation.

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE APPLICANT: Silt fence and silt socks would be placed around the temporary excavation locations. Turbidity barrier curtains would be installed where the water elevation precludes the use of the silt fence or silt socks. The described erosion control measures would be maintained in place throughout the duration of the work and until the vegetation has been re-established. The contractor would inspect the silt fence and turbidity curtain on a regular basis and make necessary repairs to maintain the integrity of the control. All temporary excavation locations would be backfilled and shaped to the original contours. Following the back fill, the site would be seeded with a native mix with protective erosion control matting.

All excess material would be disposed of in an approved upland site with appropriate BMPs for potential run-off in place.

MITIGATION: No mitigation has been proposed by the applicant.

3. REPLIES/COMMENTS.

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Dan Munson at the St. Paul office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290-5191.

To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: http://mvp-extstp.mvp.usace.army.mil/list_server/ and add your information in the New Registration Box.

4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.

None were identified by the applicant or are known to exist in the permit area. However, Washington County, MN and St. Croix County, WI are within the known or historic range of the following Federally-listed threatened (T) and endangered (E) species:

Species

Northern long-eared bat (T)

Habitat

Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. During summer, roosts and forages in upland forests.

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Higgins' eye pearl mussel (E)	St. Croix River
Winged mapleleaf mussel (E)	St. Croix River
Gray wolf (E)	Northern forested areas
Snuffbox (E)	Small to medium-sized creeks and some larger rivers, in areas with a swift current
Spectaclecase (E)	St. Croix River
Prairie bush-clover (T)	Dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soil

This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

5. JURISDICTION.

This application is being reviewed in accordance with current practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If an approved jurisdictional determination is completed as part of the review process for this application, a copy will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at the following link:
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

THE APPLICANT HAS STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATE, COUNTY, AND/OR LOCAL PERMITS HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR/ISSUED:

6. STATE SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION.

Minnesota:

Valid Section 404 permits cannot be issued for any activity unless state water quality certification for the activity is granted or waived pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The state Section 401 authority in Minnesota is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The St. Paul District has provided this public notice and a copy of the applicant's Section 404 permit application form to the MPCA. If MPCA needs any additional information in order for the Section 401 application to be considered complete by MPCA, the MPCA has indicated that it will request such information from the applicant. It is the permit applicant's responsibility to ensure that the MPCA has received a valid, complete application for state Section 401 certification and to obtain a final Section 401 action from the MPCA.

The MPCA has indicated that this public notice serves as its public notice of the application for Section 401 water quality certification under Minnesota Rules Part 7001. The MPCA has also indicated that the Section 401 process shall begin to commence upon the issuance date of this public notice unless the MPCA notifies both the St. Paul District and the permit applicant to the contrary, in writing, before the expiration date of this public notice.

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Any comments relative to MPCA's Section 401 Certification for the activity proposed in this public notice may be sent to:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Resource Management and Assistance Division,
Attention: 401 Certification, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194.

Wisconsin:

The State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, has evaluated this activity for water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and Chapter NR 299, Wis. Adm. Code. The Department has determined that this activity will result in a discharge to waters of the state and that there is reasonable assurance that this activity will be conducted in a manner which does not violate the standards enumerated in Section NR 299.04, Wis. Adm. Code. Certification is granted provided the following conditions are complied with:

The applicant shall notify the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources of its intent to start the discharge at least five business days prior to the beginning of the discharge.

Within 5 business days after the completion of the discharge, the applicant shall notify the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources of the completion of the discharge.

The applicant shall allow the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reasonable entry and access to the discharge site to inspect the discharge for compliance with the certification and applicable laws.

The applicant is hereby advised that the activity may require additional authorization under requirements of state law administered by the Department which are not related to water quality.

Notice of Appeal Rights. Any person whose substantial interest may be affected by the Department's determination may request a contested case hearing by serving a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department within 30 days after publication.

This determination shall become final in accordance with the provisions of NR 299.05(7), Wis. Adm. Code. The final decision of the Department shall be judicially reviewable as provided under ch. 227, Wis. Stats.

For judicial review you have 30 days after the decision becomes final to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. The petition shall name the Department as the respondent.

7. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL.

This public notice is being sent to the National Park Service and the State Archaeologist for their comments. The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

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8. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS.

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, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

9. PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW.

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. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Environmental and other documents will be available for review in the St. Paul District Office.

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 an 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.

Jeffrey M. Olson
Chief, Northeast Section

Enclosures

Drawings labeled MVP-2015-02864-DJM, Page 1 of 2, through Page 2 of 2.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This public notice is provided as background information and is not a request or contract for publication.

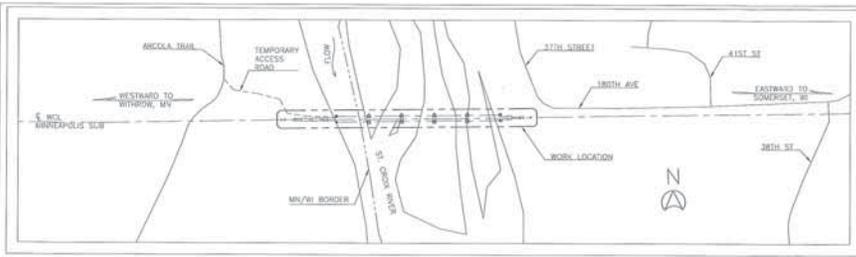
DESCRIPTION OF BRIDGE MAINTENANCE PROJECT
WCL Minneapolis Sub Bridge 424.25
Crossing St. Croix River
Near Village of Somerset, St. Croix County, Wisconsin

Site Location:

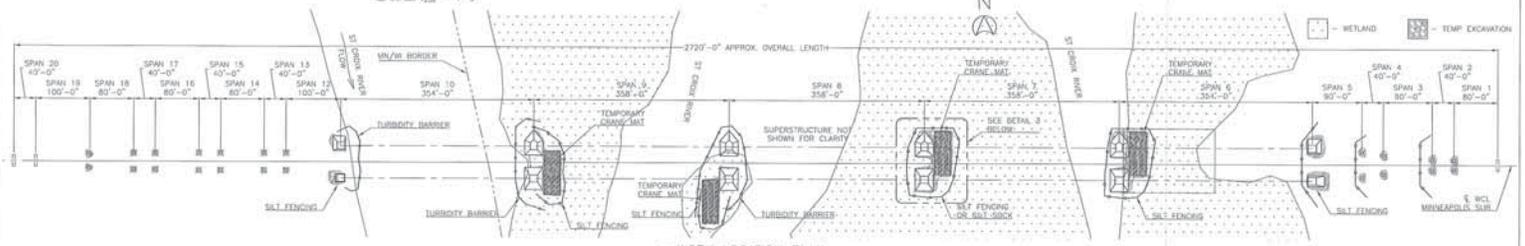


Photo 1: Aerial View of Bridge and Surrounding Area
Scale: 1"=1000'

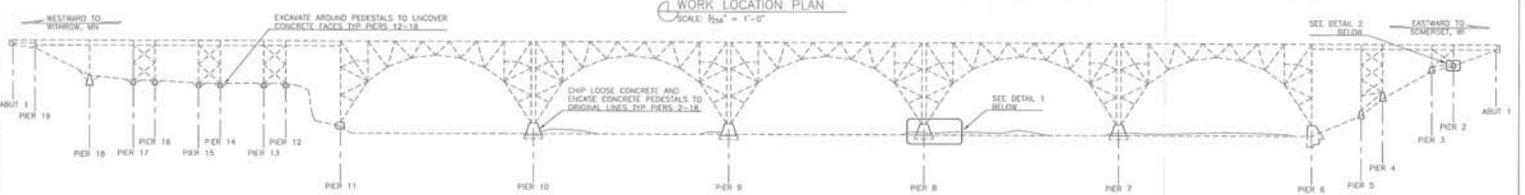




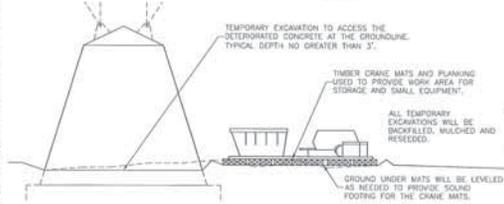
OVERALL PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



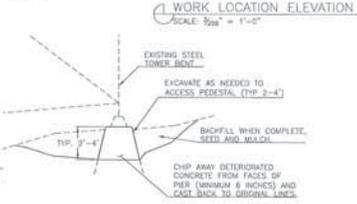
WORK LOCATION PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



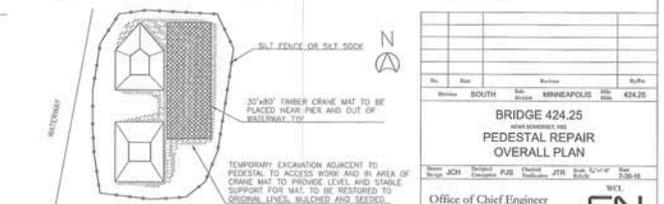
WORK LOCATION ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



DETAIL 1 - TYP RIVER SITE ELEVATION (PIERS 7-10)
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



DETAIL 2 - TYP UPLAND SITE (PIERS 2-6, 11-18)
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



DETAIL 3 - TYP RIVER SITE LAYOUT (PIERS 7-10)
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

- NOTES**
- SCOPE OF WORK SHALL INCLUDE THE ENCASEMENT OF EXISTING CONCRETE PIERS 2-18.
 - ALL WORK SHALL BE ACCESSED FROM RAIL USING ON TRACK EQUIPMENT. THE ONLY ACCESS ROADS ON WILL ALLOW CONTRACTOR TO CONSTRUCT ARE ON WEST END OF BRIDGE, AWAY FROM THE WATERWAY. CH WILL NOT ALLOW CONTRACTOR TO CONSTRUCT CAUSEWAYS IN WATERWAY, ANCHORING BARGES OR FLATS IN THE STREAMBED WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.
 - PIER REPAIRS WILL BE PERFORMED AT LOW FLOW CONDITIONS.

- WATERWAY IMPACTS:**
- NO PERMANENT FILL SHALL BE PLACED IN THE WATERWAY.
 - NO PERMANENT EXCAVATION WILL BE PERFORMED AT THE BRIDGE.
 - 12500 SF OF TEMPORARY EXCAVATION WILL BE NEEDED IN WETLAND ADJACENT TO THE BRIDGE.
 - TOTAL OPENING OF STRUCTURE WILL NOT CHANGE.
 - THE MAINSPAN SPAN OPENING WILL NOT CHANGE.

Sheet No.	Sheet	Section	Scale	Sheet
	SOUTH	1st	MINNEAPOLIS	424.25
BRIDGE 424.25				
PEDESTAL REPAIR				
OVERALL PLAN				
Drawn	Checked	Publ	Checked	Scale
JCH	PKS		ZTR	1/8" = 1'-0"
Office of Chief Engineer Bureau de l'ingénieur en chef				
WISCONSIN				
Project No.	Sheet No.	Sheet Title	AA1493-424-25-XX	