

Appendix B:

DRAFT

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

*Rolling Prairie Dredged Material Management Site: Gorman Creek
Restoration – May 2025*
Wabasha County, Minnesota



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DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Rolling Prairie Dredged Material Management Site: Gorman Creek Restoration
Wabasha County, MN

The purpose of the proposed action is to restore a stream channel within an area of wetlands on the Rolling Prairie Dredged Material Management Site. The proposed action is part of the long-term management plan for the site, and would restore ecological function at the site and on the adjacent McCarthy Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The EA and its attachments are incorporated in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference.

This FONSI is based on the following factors: the proposed project would have temporary minor adverse effects on noise levels, air quality, and surface water quality. The proposed project would have substantial beneficial effects on wetlands, aquatic habitat, and habitat diversity and interspersions, and minor beneficial effects on aesthetic values, recreational opportunities, terrestrial habitat, biological productivity, and surface water quality.

Best management practices (BMPs) and other avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented as detailed in Chapter 5 of the EA. No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the project.

Public review of the draft EA and FONSI was completed on _____. All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, USACE determined that the project will have no effect on federally listed species. Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, The Corps entered into a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office, Native American groups and other parties for the purchase of the Rolling Prairie Dredged Material Placement site on 30 October 2019. The PA was closed out 7 March 2024 with a finding of No Effect to Historic Properties and the completion of all the stipulations within the PA. The original compliance documentation that addressed the dredging and material placement at these locations is the CMMP EIS. Pursuant to the Clean

Water Act of 1972, as amended, all applicable general and regional conditions of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27 would be met by the Proposed Alternative. Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification is provided for NWP 27 through a December 21, 2020 letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to the Corps Regulatory Branch. The Corps would comply with all conditions of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. These would include marking construction area boundaries, washing equipment to avoid invasive species transport, minimizing sediment transport through incorporated project design, and constructing during low-flow or winter conditions. The contractor will also be required to utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to water quality.

For the reasons above, 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

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