



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
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Regional Planning and Environment Division North

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:

Below Goose Bay Dredge
Upper Pool 4, River Miles 785.5 – 786.5

The purpose of the project is to engage in maintenance dredging of the channel below Goose Bay from river miles 785.5 – 786.5. This dredge cut would be added to the Channel Maintenance Management Plan (CMMP), allowing the Corps to dredge in a timely manner and reduce the chances of imminent closure dredging or closing navigation for emergency dredging. Dredged material from the proposed dredge cut would likely be placed at sites approved through the CMMP. The proposed action is necessary to maintain the 9-foot channel, ensuring safe navigation throughout this section of the Upper Mississippi River. 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 as discussed in the Environmental Assessment: The Proposed Project Alternative would have a substantial beneficial effect on commercial navigation and minor beneficial effects on noise levels, aesthetic values, recreational opportunities, air quality, aquatic habitat and surface water quality when compared to the No Action Alternative. The project would have no adverse impacts on cultural resources or federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Any comments received during the public comment period will be addressed in the Final EA. 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 threatened or endangered species.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, USACE determined that the project would have no adverse effect to historic properties and the Wisconsin and Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office concurred on March 24, 2025 and April 23, 2025 respectively.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the project would not result in filling of the waters of the United States. For this reason, a Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) analysis and a 401 Water Quality Certification are not required for the Proposed Alternative. No discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States is proposed.

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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