



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678

20 March 2025

Regional Planning and Environment Division North

SUBJECT: Initiating Consultation for the Below Goose Bay Dredge Cut, Near Wacouta, Goodhue County, Minnesota, and Isabelle, Pierce County, Wisconsin

Ms. Amy Spong
State Historic Preservation Office
Administration Building #203
50 Sherburne Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Spong,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (Corps) is initiating consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, per its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800, on the proposed dredging action below Goose Bay on the Mississippi River between river mile (RM) 785.5 and 786.5, near Wacouta Minnesota, and Isabelle, Wisconsin (Undertaking) (Figure 1). Due to the position of this channel section and increased sedimentation rate over time, the channel is naturally filling with sand which will impact navigation. The Corps has determined that the proposed Undertaking has potential to cause effect to historic properties under 36CFR§800.3(a), and consequently will require a determination of effect within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

Undertaking

The Corps is responsible for maintaining the 9-foot navigation channel as an important component of the inland navigation system. The Corps proposes a new dredge cut located between RM 786.5 and 785.5 (T24N, R17W, Section 16). This dredge cut would be approximately one (1) mile long, and within the boundary of the 9-foot navigation channel. The Undertaking will adhere to the Channel Maintenance Management Plan (CMMP), a long-term plan for guiding channel maintenance activities in the St. Paul District. The CMMP discusses the dredging process and methods (mechanical and hydraulic), as well overall maintenance and placement management. The full CMMP can be found on the Corps' public website: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Channel-Maintenance/Channel-Maint-Mgmt/>

Dredged material will be placed on one of the approved placement sites, likely Red Wing, outlined in the CMMP and the Pool 4 Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). The CMMP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Pool 4 DMMP addressed compliance for transportation and material placement at these locations. If planned placement of dredged

material deviates from the DMMP, the Corps will reopen Section 106 consultation and coordinate with your office at that time.

Area of Potential Effect

The Undertaking is limited to dredging activities, therefore the horizontal Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the width (10-feet) of the navigation channel and the length of one (1) mile between RM 786.5 and 785.5 (Figure 1). The vertical APE is on average 12 feet below the low control pool elevation

Historic Properties Identification

The Corps reviewed the Minnesota Statewide Historic Inventory Portal, the Office of the State Archaeologist Portal, the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD), the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Corps Project files and reference library of cultural resource reports to identify historic properties within the APE. There are no historic properties, including submerged historic wrecks and historic wingdams, within the APE. Additionally, there is low probability of impacting intact archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the NRHP given the increased rate of sedimentation triggering this Undertaking.

Determination of Effect

In accordance with 36 CFR§800.4(d)(1), the Corps has made the determination of 'No Historic Properties Affected' as there are no historic properties within the APE.

The Corps has determined compliance for transportation and placement previously coordinated under the CMMP EIS and Pool 4 DMMP is sufficient. With regards to the proposed new dredge cut, the Corps has made the determination of 'No Historic Properties Affected', pursuant to 36 CFR§800.4(d)(1). No historic properties exist within the APE, which is limited to the 9-foot navigation channel between RM 786.5 and 785.5.

Request for Comment

The Corps will post the Environmental Assessment for the Below Goose Bay dredge cut on the Corps' public website. This will fulfill the Corps' obligation to seek public comment, pursuant to 36 CFR§800.2(d). We look forward to your review and comment. If you have any questions please contact Darcy Calabria, archaeologist, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

**Vanessa
Alberto**

Digitally signed by
Vanessa Alberto
Date: 2025.03.20
11:42:29 -05'00'

FOR:

Jonathan J. Sobiech
Deputy Chief, Regional Planning and
Environment Division North

Figure (1)

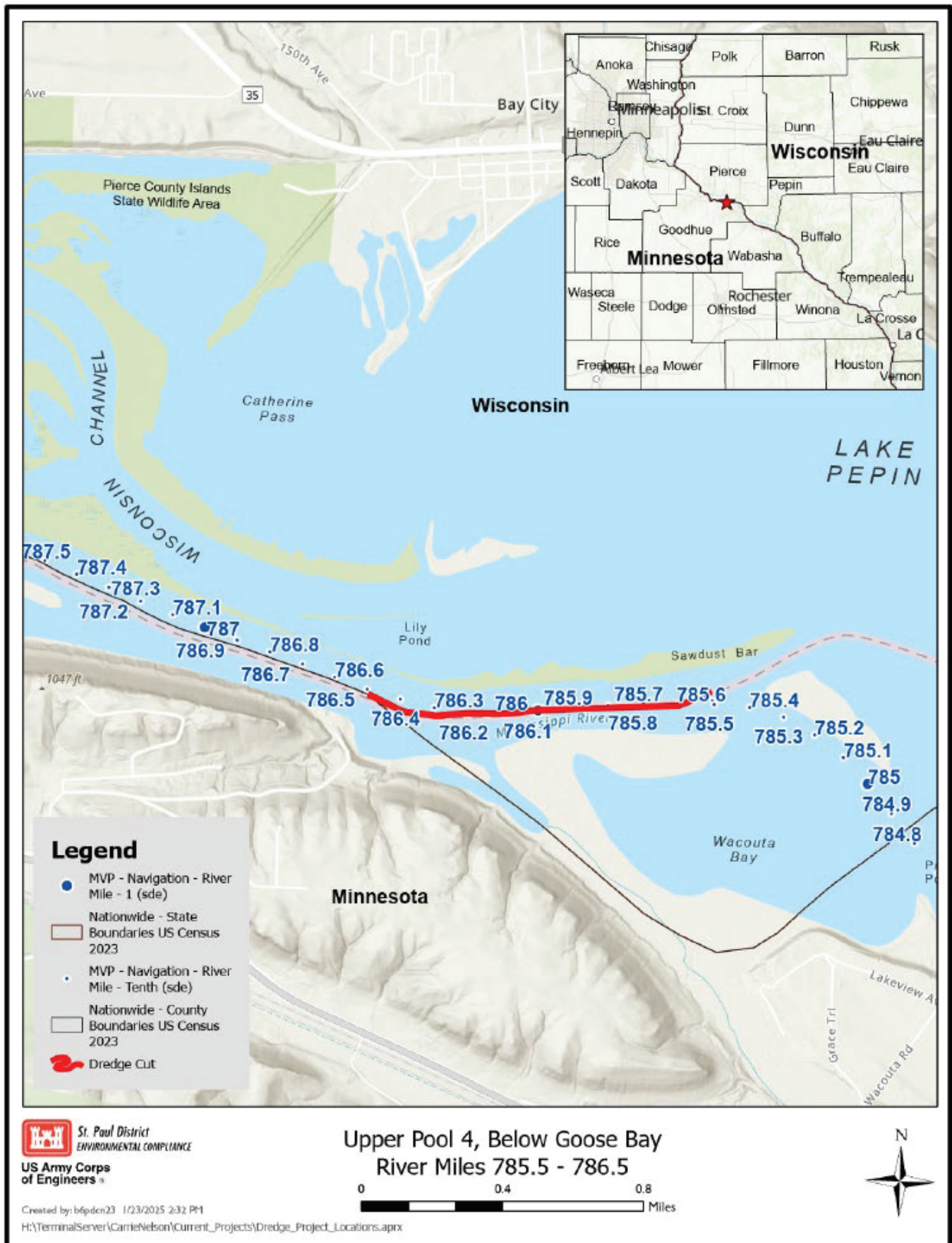


Figure 1: Proposed Below Goose Bay Dredge Cut, APE in red

April 23, 2025

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Jonathan J. Sobiech, Deputy Chief
Regional Planning and Environment Division North
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1323

RE: Below Goose Bay Dredge Cut
Wacouta, Goodhue County
SHPO Number: #2025-0880

Dear Jonathan Sobiech:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Documentation received on March 20, 2025, has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC 306108) and its implementing federal regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800), as well as the *Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office, Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Dredged Material Placement for the Continued Operation and Maintenance of the Upper Mississippi River 9-Foot Channel Project* (2022).

Because this undertaking will affect the 9-Foot Navigation Channel, a property previously treated as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by both the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO), we disagree with the USACE finding of No Historic Properties Affected. For reasons noted below, it is our opinion that the project will result in No Adverse Effect to historic properties.

Definition of Federal Undertaking

From the materials received, we understand the USACE will create a new dredge cut within the boundary of the 9-Foot Navigation Channel. The dredging process, methods, and dredged material placement will adhere to the [Channel Maintenance Management Plan](#) (CMMP) and the [Lower Pool 4 Dredged Material Maintenance Plan](#) (DMMP, 2002). Although the USACE has not

yet chosen the precise material placement site, any placement that deviates from a previously approved placement site will result in additional Section 106 consultation.

Consulting Party/Public Notification

Thank you for providing a summary of consulting party and public involvement planned for this undertaking. We agree that the level of engagement sounds reasonable for this undertaking and consistent with 36 CFR 800.2.

Delineation of Area of Potential Effects

We reviewed the documentation provided for the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and we agree the APE 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 what was proposed in the documentation provided, additional consultation with our office may be needed as you revise the APE.

Identification of Historic Properties

We reviewed the historic property documentation provided and note the undertaking involves modifications to the 9-Foot Navigation Channel. Because past consultation efforts have treated the channel as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and no documentation has been provided to contradict previous eligibility conclusions, we must disagree with USACE's assertion that there are no historic properties in the APE. We understand evaluation of the entire navigation resource, which extends across multiple states and includes many lock and dam complexes, is outside the scope of this undertaking. Instead, we propose treating the entirety of the 9-Foot Navigation Channel as eligible for inclusion in the National Register for the purposes of reviewing this undertaking.

As part of our review, we noted the Minnesota Statewide Historic Inventory Portal (aka MnSHIP) includes just a few records for portions (or "segments") of the 9-Foot Navigation Channel, none of which include the portion this undertaking will affect. In a discussion with Vanessa Alberto and Darcy Calabria earlier today, our Environmental Review Historian, Barbara Howard, relayed MnSHIP will be creating a MnSHIP record for the entire Minnesota portion of the channel to facilitate future consultation. The new record will reflect the property's status as an unevaluated resource with documentation showing that it likely meets National Register Criterion A as detailed in the records for the previously inventoried segments. Should USACE ever fully evaluate the resource or pursue National Register listing for the property, further research and investigation will be needed to document the full extent of the navigation project, contributing and noncontributing resources, period(s) of significance, and character-defining features.

Finding of Effect

Based on information available to us at this time, including past treatment of the 9-Foot Navigation Channel as a historic property, we cannot concur with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this undertaking. However, in our opinion, the undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to the historic property if the USACE implements it as proposed. The dredging

proposed meets the terms of previously reviewed management plans and is needed for proper maintenance of the historic resource.

Implementation of the undertaking per the documentation provided fulfills the agency's responsibilities under Section 106. USACE will need to reopen consultation with our office if you disagree with the comments provided in this letter, if you receive an objection from another consulting party, or if the project will not be implemented as proposed. This includes, but is not limited to, projects with engineering or design changes that would result in a revised APE and/or changes to the nature or scale of potential effects.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Barbara Howard, Environmental Review Historian, at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Amy Spong
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Vanessa Alberto, USACE
Darcy Calabria, USACE



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678

20 March 2025

Regional Planning and Environment Division North

SUBJECT: Initiating Consultation for the Below Goose Bay Dredge Cut, Near Wacouta, Goodhue County, Minnesota, and Isabelle, Pierce County, Wisconsin

Dr. Tyler Howe
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 63706

Dear Dr. Howe,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (Corps) is initiating consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, per its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800, on the proposed dredging action below Goose Bay on the Mississippi River between river mile (RM) 785.5 and 786.5, near Wacouta Minnesota, and Isabelle, Wisconsin (Undertaking) (Figure 1). Due to the position of this channel section and increased sedimentation rate over time, the channel is naturally filling with sand which will impact navigation. The Corps has determined that the proposed Undertaking has potential to cause effect to historic properties under 36CFR§800.3(a), and consequently will require a determination of effect within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Request for Comment

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Figure (1)

Sincerely,
**Vanessa
Alberto**
FOR: Jonathan J. Sobiech
Deputy Chief, Regional Planning and
Environment Division North

Digitally signed by
Vanessa Alberto
Date: 2025.03.20
11:41:49 -05'00'

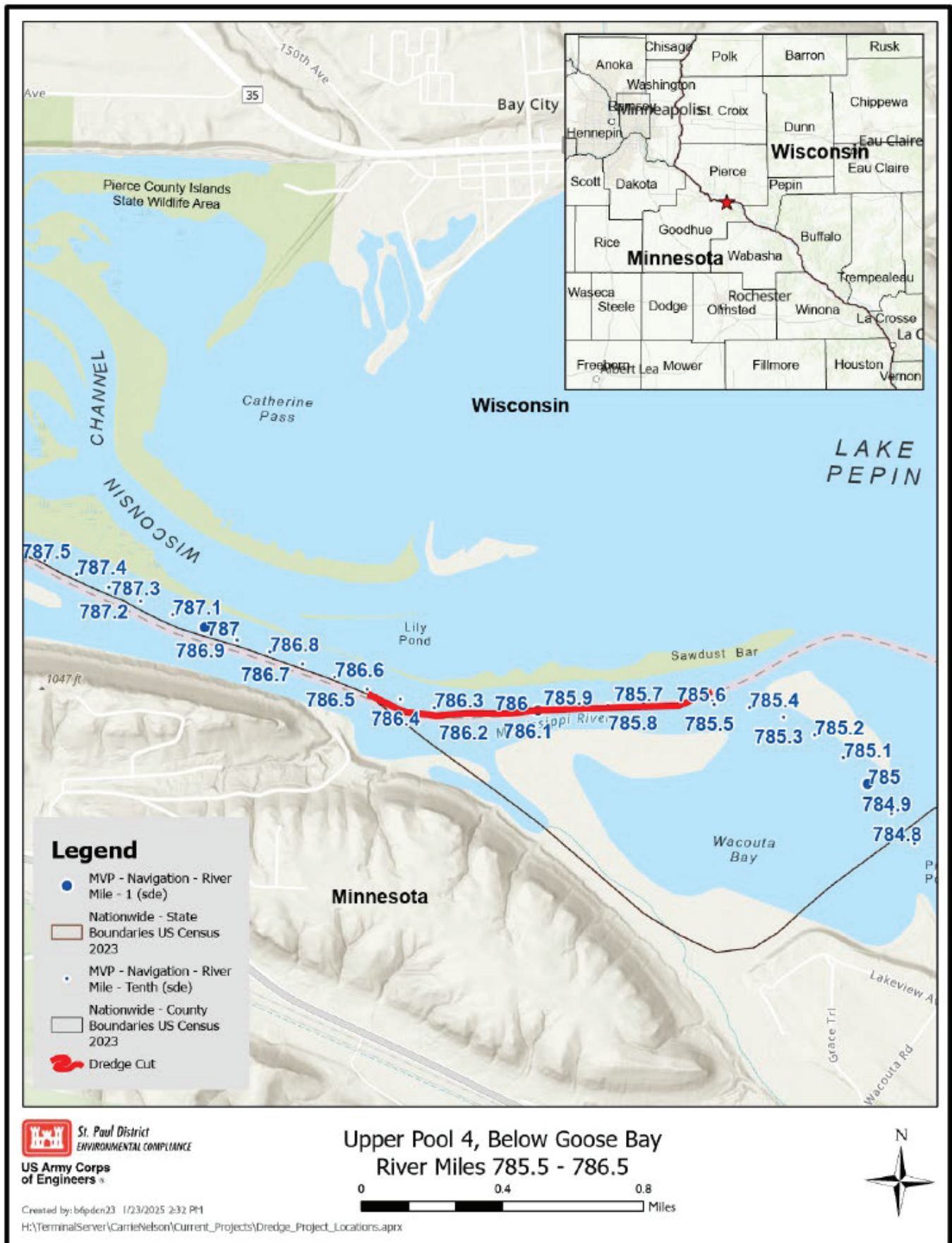


Figure 1: Proposed Below Goose Bay Dredge Cut, APE in red

From: tyler.howe@wisconsinhistory.org
To: [Calabria, Darcy C CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] SHPO Review: 25-0649/PI - Below Goose Bay Dredge Cut
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 2:02:58 PM

Good afternoon, Darcy:

We have completed our review of WHS #25-0649, Below Goose Bay Dredge Cut project and concur with your determination that no historic properties eligible for, or included on, the National Register of Historic Preservation (NRHP) were encountered within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). Therefore, it is the opinion of the WI SHPO the proposed federal undertaking will have No Effect on historic properties.

As such, it is the opinion of the WI SHPO you have fulfilled your section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultation requirements with our office. If your plans change or cultural materials/human remains are found during the project, please halt all work and contact our office.

Please use this email as your official SHPO concurrence for NHPA requirements of the project. If you require a hard copy signed form, please contact me and I will provide you a signed copy as soon as possible.

Take care,

Tyler

Tyler B. Howe, PhD
Compliance Section Manager
State Historic Preservation Office

Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706



Wisconsin Historical Society
[Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories Since 1846](#)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793



In Reply Refer To:

05/29/2025 18:40:47 UTC

Project code: 2025-0054762

Project Name: Below Goose Bay, Upper Pool 4 Dredge Cut

Subject: Technical Assistance letter for 'Below Goose Bay, Upper Pool 4 Dredge Cut' for specified threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location consistent with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey).

Dear Carrie Nelson:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **May 29, 2025** your effect determination(s) for the 'Below Goose Bay, Upper Pool 4 Dredge Cut' (Action) using the Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey within the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. You have submitted this key to satisfy requirements under Section 7(a)(2). The Service developed this system in accordance of with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

Based on your answers and the assistance of the Service's Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Higgins Eye (pearlymussel) (<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Monarch Butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Proposed	No effect
	Threatened	
Spectaclecase (mussel) (<i>Cumberlandia monodonta</i>)	Endangered	NLAA
Whooping Crane (<i>Grus americana</i>)	Experimental	No effect
	Population, Non-Essential	

Determination Information

Thank you for informing the Service of your “No Effect” determination(s). Your agency has met consultation requirements and no further consultation is required for the species you determined will not be affected by the Action.

Additional Information

Sufficient project details: Please provide sufficient project details on your project homepage in IPaC (Define Project, Project Description) to support your conclusions. Failure to disclose important aspects of your project that would influence the outcome of your effects determinations may negate your determinations and invalidate this letter. If you have site-specific information that leads you to believe a different determination is more appropriate for your project than what the Dkey concludes, you can and should proceed based on the best available information.

Future project changes: The Service recommends that you contact the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate the project in IPaC if: 1) the scope or location of the proposed Action is changed; 2) new information reveals that the action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; 3) the Action is modified in a manner that causes effects to listed species or designated critical habitat; or 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Service should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

Species-specific information

Freshwater Mussels: Freshwater mussels are one of the most critically imperiled groups of organisms in the world. In North America, 65% of the remaining 300 species are vulnerable to extinction (Haag and Williams 2014). Implementing measures to conserve and restore freshwater mussel populations directly improves water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. An adult freshwater mussel filters anywhere from 1 to 38 gallons of water per day (Baker and Levinton 2003, Barnhart pers. comm. 2019). A 2015 survey found that in some areas, mussels can reduce the bacterial populations by more than 85% (Othman et al. 2015 in Vaughn 2017). Mussels are also considered to be ecosystem engineers by stabilizing substrate and providing habitat for other aquatic organisms (Vaughn 2017). In addition to ecosystem services, mussels play an important role in the food web, contributing critical nutrients to both terrestrial and aquatic habitats, including those that support sport fish (Vaughn 2017). Taking proactive measures to conserve and restore freshwater mussels will improve water quality, which has the potential to positively impact human health and recreation in the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Bald and Golden Eagles: Bald eagles, golden eagles, and their nests are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d) (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act prohibits, except when authorized by an Eagle Act permit, the “taking” of bald and golden eagles and defines “take” as “pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb.” The Eagle Act’s implementing regulations define disturb as “... to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.”

The following species and/or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and **are not** covered by this conclusion:

- Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* Endangered

- Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* Proposed Endangered

Coordination with the Service is not complete if additional coordination is advised above for any species.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

Below Goose Bay, Upper Pool 4 Dredge Cut

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Below Goose Bay, Upper Pool 4 Dredge Cut':

The purpose of the proposed dredging would be for the maintenance of the navigation channel from river miles 785.5 – 786.5. This new dredge cut would be called Below Goose Bay and would be added to CMMP as a routine cut, allowing the Corps to dredge in a timely manner and reduce the chances of imminent closure dredging or closing navigation for emergency dredging. Dredging within the Project Area will be necessary to maintain the 9-foot channel, thus ensuring safe navigation throughout this section of the UMR.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.5625371,-92.44511539761882,14z>



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. This determination key is intended to assist the user in evaluating the effects of their actions on Federally listed species in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It does not cover other prohibited activities under the Endangered Species Act (e.g., for wildlife: import/export, Interstate or foreign commerce, possession of illegally taken wildlife, etc.; for plants: import/export, reduce to possession, malicious destruction on Federal lands, commercial sale, etc.) or other statutes. Additionally, this key DOES NOT cover wind development, purposeful take (e.g., for research or surveys), communication towers that have guy wires or are over 450 feet in height, aerial or other large-scale application of any chemical (such as insecticide or herbicide), and approval of long-term permits or plans (e.g., FERC licenses, HCP's).

Click **YES** to acknowledge that you must consider other prohibitions of the ESA or other statutes outside of this determination key.

Yes

2. Is the action being funded, authorized, or carried out by a Federal agency?

Yes

3. Are you the Federal agency or designated non-federal representative?

Yes

4. Does the action involve the installation or operation of wind turbines?

No

5. Does the action involve purposeful take of a listed animal?

No

6. Does the action involve a new communications tower?

No

7. Does the activity involve aerial or other large-scale application of ANY chemical, including pesticides (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, rodenticide, etc)?

No

8. Will your action permanently affect local hydrology?

No

9. Will your action temporarily affect local hydrology?

No

10. Will your project have any direct impacts to a stream or river (e.g., Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), hydrostatic testing, stream/road crossings, new stormwater outfall discharge, dams, other in-stream work, etc.)?

Yes

11. Does your project have the potential to impact the riparian zone or indirectly impact a stream/river (e.g., cut and fill; horizontal directional drilling; construction; vegetation removal; pesticide or fertilizer application; discharge; runoff of sediment or pollutants; increase in erosion, etc.)?

Note: Consider all potential effects of the action, including those that may happen later in time and outside and downstream of the immediate area involved in the action.

Endangered Species Act regulation defines "effects of the action" to include all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (50 CFR 402.02).

No

12. Will your action disturb the ground or existing vegetation?

Note: This includes any off-road vehicle access, soil compaction (enough to collapse a rodent burrow), digging, seismic survey, directional drilling, heavy equipment, grading, trenching, placement of fill, pesticide application (herbicide, fungicide), vegetation management (including removal or maintenance using equipment or prescribed fire), cultivation, development, etc.

Yes

13. Will your action include spraying insecticides?

No

14. Does your action area occur entirely within an already developed area?

Note: Already developed areas are already paved, covered by existing structures, manicured lawns, industrial sites, or cultivated cropland, AND do not contain trees that could be roosting habitat. Be aware that listed species may occur in areas with natural, or semi-natural, vegetation immediately adjacent to existing utilities (e.g. roadways, railways) or within utility rights-of-way such as overhead transmission line corridors, and can utilize suitable trees, bridges, or culverts for roosting even in urban dominated landscapes (so these are not considered "already developed areas" for the purposes of this question). If unsure, select NO..

No

15. Your project is within the range of federally listed freshwater mussels. Have surveys for freshwater mussels been conducted according to a Service-approved survey plan?

Note: You must receive prior approval for any proposed mussel survey by contacting the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office. All mussel surveys in Minnesota and Wisconsin must comply with State approved protocols.

Minnesota Mussel Protocol: <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/mn-mussel-survey-and-relocation-protocol.pdf>.

Wisconsin Mussel Protocol: https://molluskconservation.org/Library/Protocol%20PDFs/WI%20Wadable%20Mussel%20Protocol_8-18-15.pdf

Yes

SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS

- *UP4 Below Goose Bay Dredge 2025.xlsx* <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/VY7CWPNLWBB7FJMBNBJVPV4TE4/projectDocuments/162636357>

16. Was spectaclecase observed during surveys?

Note: A positive observation includes collection of any spectaclecase shells (live or dead and in any condition)

No

17. Was Higgin's eye observed during surveys?

Note: A positive observation includes collection of any Higgin's eye shells (live or dead and in any condition)

No

18. Have you determined that the action will have no effect on individuals within the whooping crane nonessential experimental population (NEP)?

Yes

19. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect the monarch butterfly species list area?

Automatically answered

Yes

20. Under the ESA, monarchs remain warranted but precluded by listing actions of higher priority. The monarch is a candidate for listing at this time. The Endangered Species Act does not establish protections or consultation requirements for candidate species. Some Federal and State agencies may have policy requirements to consider candidate species in planning. We encourage implementing measures that will remove or reduce threats to these species and possibly make listing unnecessary.

If your project will have no effect on monarch butterflies (for example, if your project won't affect their habitat or individuals), then you can make a "no effect" determination for this project.

Are you making a "no effect" determination for monarch?

Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Name: Carrie Nelson

Address: 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500

City: St. Paul

State: MN

Zip: 55101

Email

Phone:



From: [Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD \(USA\)](#)
To: ["Utrup, Nick J"; Perry, Vanessa \(WDNR\); Boyd, Sammi \(WI DNR\); Masek, Alison M \(WI DNR\); Rude, Neil \(MDNR\); Lucas Youngsma; Liz Scherber \(Elizabeth.Scherber@state.mn.us\)](#)
Cc: [Clark, Steven J CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
Subject: New 9 ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4
Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 10:01:26 AM
Attachments: [UM_SP_P04_20250428_CS_7880_7890.pdf](#)

Greetings all,

We are preparing an EA to address a new dredge cut within the 9 ft. navigation channel in upper pool 4 from river mile 785.5 - 786.5. Though part of the 9 ft. nav channel, this cut was not originally included in the CMMP. This section has been experiencing increased sediment shoaling in recent years and is in urgent need of dredging to ensure safe navigation access within the channel. The attached document reflects the most recent hydrographic survey of the project area.

Dredged material produced from this cut would be placed at dredge material placement sites approved through the CMMP. If capacity is not available among approved sites, dredged material would be placed in accordance with the CMMP guidelines.

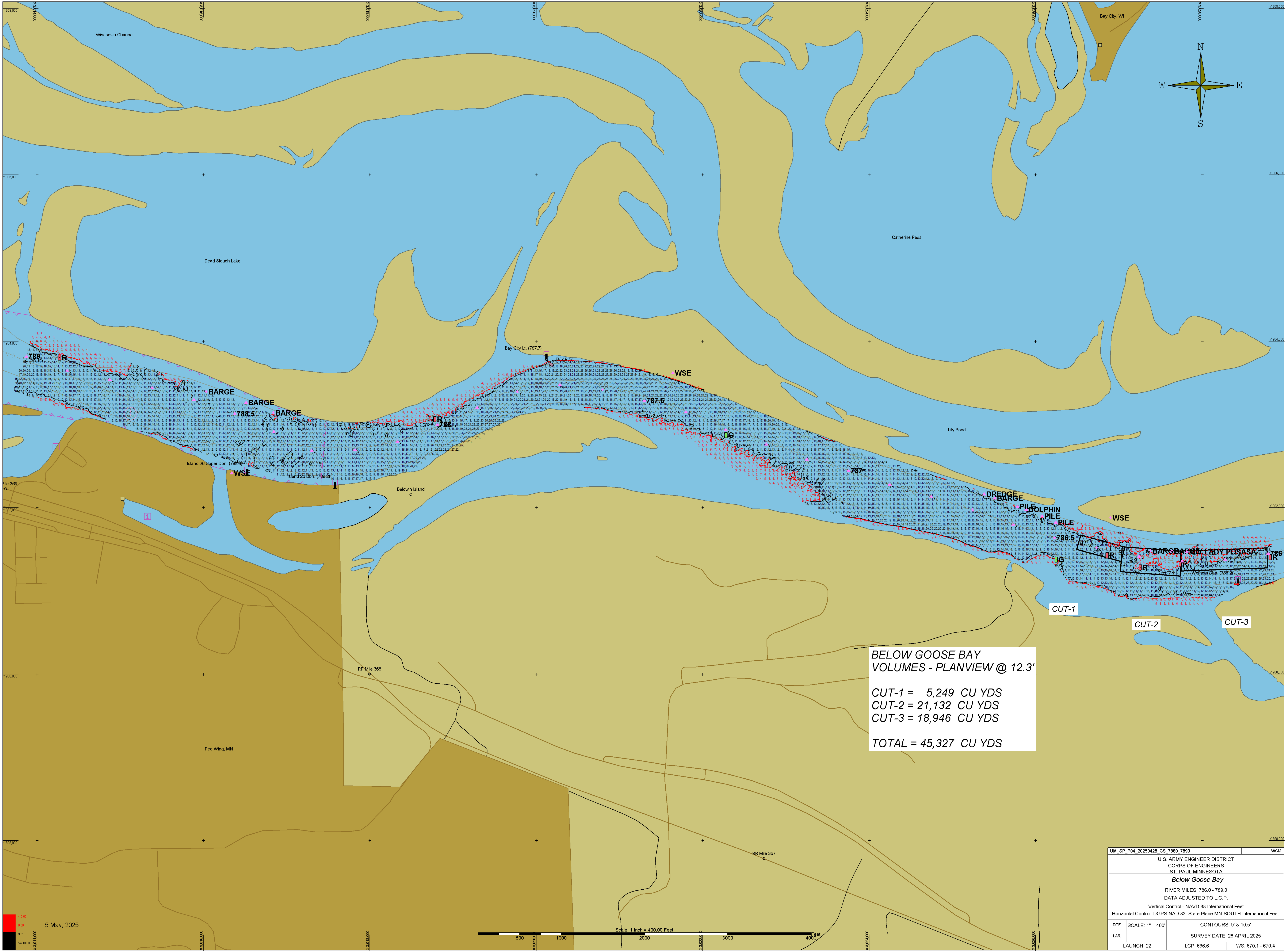
Due to the urgent need for dredging this EA is a high priority project. Sediment sampling and mussel surveys will be completed within the project area as soon as possible.

Please respond with any comments , concerns, or questions you may have about the project. You will have an additional opportunity to submit comments when the draft EA is sent out for public and agency comment.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Nelson
USACE - RPEDN
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101





BELOW GOOSE BAY
VOLUMES - PLANVIEW @ 12.3'

CUT-1 = 5,249 CU YDS
CUT-2 = 21,132 CU YDS
CUT-3 = 18,946 CU YDS

TOTAL = 45,327 CU YDS

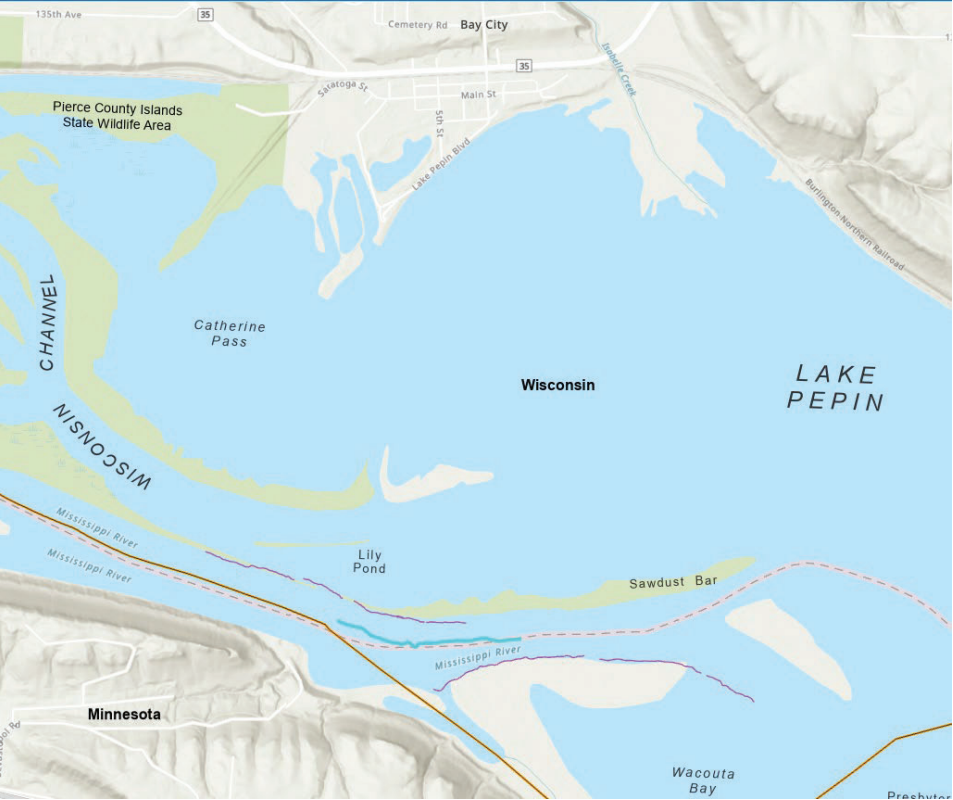
UM_SP_P04_20250428_CS_7880_7890		WCM
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS ST. PAUL MINNESOTA		
Below Goose Bay		
RIVER MILES: 786.0 - 789.0		
DATA ADJUSTED TO L.C.P.		
Vertical Control - NAVD 88 International Feet		
Horizontal Control DGPS NAD 83 State Plane MN-SOUTH International Feet		
DTF	SCALE: 1" = 400'	CONTOURS: 9' & 10.5'
LAR	SURVEY DATE: 28 APRIL 2025	
LAUNCH: 22	LCP: 666.6	WS: 670.1 - 670.4

From: [Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD \(USA\)](#)
To: [Boyd, Samantha J - DNR \(Sammi\)](#)
Cc: [Perry, Vanessa M - DNR](#); [Masek, Alison M - DNR](#); [Clark, Steven J CIV USARMY CEMVP \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: New 9 ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025 12:46:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Greetings Sammi,

We were able to complete the mussel surveys last week within the proposed project footprint. Over the 889 m of surveyed transects we only found 1 live Hickorynut mussel, and no empty shells of any species.

The recent survey transects are highlighted:



Date	Transect ID	Species	Transect Length (m)	# Live	Age	# Dead	# Zebra Mussels	Depth ft. (Min-Max)	Substrate %
5/22/2025	20250522006	Obovaria olivaria	432	1	4	0	2	9 - 17	5% woody, 95% sand
5/22/2025	20250522007	NA	457	0		0		8 - 14	5% woody, 95% sand

Sediment surveys are still pending.

Thank you for your coordination,

Carrie Nelson
USACE - RPEDN
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD (USA) <Carrie.L.Nelson@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Boyd, Samantha J - DNR (Sammi) <samantha.boyd@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Perry, Vanessa M - DNR <vanessa.perry@wisconsin.gov>; Masek, Alison M - DNR <alison.masek@wisconsin.gov>; Clark, Steven J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Steven.J.Clark@usace.army.mil>
Subject: RE: New 9 ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4

Hi Sammi,

Thank you for your expedient response, and your questions for clarification.

- The most likely placement site will be the Red Wing Commercial Harbor placement site.
- If this site were to run out of additional capacity, the dredged material would be placed at the next closest dredge material placement site which is approved through the CMMP.
- We will be conducting mussel surveys and sediment sampling within the proposed project footprint ASAP. While we do not currently have sample results from within the footprint, we have previous sample results from directly below the proposed site and those results are attached.
- We will be looking to begin the public review period within the next 2-3 weeks.
- Dredging will begin as soon as the FONSI is signed and the NEPA process is completed.

Thank you for your coordination,

Carrie Nelson
USACE - RPEDN
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

From: Boyd, Samantha J - DNR

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:24 AM

To: Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD (USA)

ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4

Hi Carrie,

Thank you for sending this notice of the new dredge cut out, I appreciate the early coordination and communication.

A few initial questions:

- Which placement site is this material likely being placed at?
- What is the tentative plan if the approved placement site runs out of capacity?
- Is there sediment and mussel data to share? Or if that data hasn't been collected yet, when do you expect to be able to do sampling?
- When to expect the EA for agency and public review?
- When will dredging start in this cut?

As a note, I am out of the office next week (May 19-26) so if anything comes up, please include Vanessa and Alison since I won't have access to phone or email until I'm back.

Thanks!

Sammi

Sammi Boyd

Mississippi River Planner
Office of Great Waters – Mississippi River, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan
Environmental Management Division
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



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From: Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD (USA) <Carrie.L.Nelson@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 10:01 AM

To: Utrup, Nick J <nick_utrup@fws.gov>; Perry, Vanessa M - DNR <vanessa.perry@wisconsin.gov>; Boyd, Samantha J - DNR (Sammi) <samantha.boyd@wisconsin.gov>; Masek, Alison M - DNR <alison.masek@wisconsin.gov>; Rude, Neil (DNR) <Neil.Rude@state.mn.us>; Lucas Youngsma <Lucas.Youngsma@state.mn.us>; Liz Scherber <Elizabeth.Scherber@state.mn.us>

Cc: Clark, Steven J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Steven.J.Clark@usace.army.mil>

Subject: New 9 ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4

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Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings all,

We are preparing an EA to address a new dredge cut within the 9 ft. navigation channel in upper pool 4 from river mile 785.5 - 786.5. Though part of the 9 ft. nav channel, this cut was not originally included in the CMMP. This section has been experiencing increased sediment shoaling in recent years and is in urgent need of dredging to ensure safe navigation access within the channel. The attached document reflects the most recent hydrographic survey of the project area.

Dredged material produced from this cut would be placed at dredge material placement sites approved through the CMMP. If capacity is not available among approved sites, dredged material would be placed in accordance with the CMMP guidelines.

Due to the urgent need for dredging this EA is a high priority project. Sediment sampling and mussel surveys will be completed within the project area as soon as possible.

Please respond with any comments , concerns, or questions you may have about the project. You will have an additional opportunity to submit comments when the draft EA is sent out for public and agency comment.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Nelson
USACE - RPEDN
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101



From: [Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD \(USA\)](#)
To: [Rapp, Jacob \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: RE: New 9 ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025 12:51:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Greetings Jacob,

I am reaching out with additional information regarding item E. below. The best estimate from our Channels and Harbors crew for ongoing maintenance of the dredge cut is approximately 20,000 cy of material every 5 years.

Thank you for your coordination,

Carrie Nelson
USACE - RPEDN
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

From: Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Rapp, Jacob (MPCA) <Jacob.Rapp@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: New 9 ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4

Greetings Jacob,

Thank you for your timely response. The dredge cut information will be as follows:

- A. The new dredge location will be in Pool 4. This pool is a 26-mile section of the Mississippi River, created by Lock and Dam 4 near Red Wing, Minnesota and Hager City, Wisconsin.
- B. The name of the new dredge cut will be "Below Goose Bay".
- C. The cut will occur between River Miles 785.5 - 786.5.
- D. The estimated initial dredge volumes to establish the cut is 45,327 CU YDS.
- E. I have reached out to our C&M crew for more specifics related to this question and I will relay that info ASAP.
- F. The anticipated frequency of maintenance dredging is every 5 years.
- G. The most likely placement site will be the Red Wing Commercial Harbor placement site.
- H. We will be conducting site specific sediment sampling within the proposed dredge cut soon. Because this location is in urgent need of dredging to allow for continued barge use, we may need to release the Draft EA for public review prior to having the final testing results. However, we will have the results prior to finalizing the document.
We do have results from sampling that has occurred immediately downstream within the navigation channel, and that information is attached to this email. I will provide you with the within project area results as soon as they are available.

Thank you for your coordination,

Carrie

From: Rapp, Jacob (MPCA) <Jacob.Rapp@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:02 AM
To: Nelson, Carrie L CIV USARMY CEMVD (USA) <Carrie.L.Nelson@usace.army.mil>; Schnick, Emily (MPCA) <emily.schnick@state.mn.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: New 9 ft navigation channel dredge maintenance in UP4

Good morning Carrie,

Thank you for reaching out with this information. The new cut is covered by the previously issued permit. Ahead of this next cut, please follow the instructions listed in section 2.1.18 – I will attach a picture of the language here:

2.1.18	Approval for Dredged Material Placement from New Dredge Cuts. [Minn. R. 7001]
2.1.19	<p>The Permittee shall submit the information below to the MPCA for approval for dredged material placement from each new dredge cut as the need arises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The Pool location;B. The designated dredge cut name;C. The beginning and ending River Miles;D. The estimated initial volume to be dredged to establish the dredge cut;E. The anticipated volume of material from maintenance dredging;F. The anticipated frequency of maintenance dredging;G. The anticipated placement site(s) for the dredged material; andH. The results of sediment grain size characterization and chemical analyses. <p>Submittal to the MPCA shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled dredging activity to allow review of the proposed new dredge cut and placement plan. No placement from dredging at the new cut shall commence until the Permittee has received written approval from the MPCA. The thirty (30) day review period may be waived at the discretion of the MPCA. [Minn. R. 7001]</p>

If there are any other questions or concerns do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Jacob Rapp
Environmental Specialist – Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in UP4

[REDACTED]

Thank you, Emily. I will pass along Jacob’s name and contact info to the rest of the office for future dredge cut coordination.

Best,
Carrie

[REDACTED] dredge maintenance in UP4

Carrie,

I will review ASAP. Jacob Rapp is taking over all dredge permits. Please include him on future emails.

Thanks,
Emily

Greetings Ms. Schnick,

We are preparing an EA to address a new dredge cut within the 9 ft. navigation channel in upper pool 4 from river mile 785.5 - 786.5. Though part of the 9 ft. nav channel, this cut was not originally included in the CMMP. This section has been experiencing increased sediment shoaling in recent years and is in urgent need of dredging to ensure safe navigation access within the channel. The attached document reflects the most recent hydrographic survey of the project area.

Dredged material produced from this cut would be placed at dredge material placement sites approved through the CMMP. If capacity is not available among approved sites, dredged material would be placed in accordance with the CMMP guidelines.

Due to the urgent need for dredging this EA is a high priority project. Sediment sampling and mussel surveys will be completed within the project area as soon as possible.

Please respond with any comments, concerns, or questions you may have about the project. You will have an additional opportunity to submit comments when the draft EA is sent out for public and agency comment.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Nelson
USACE - RPEDN
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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