

**DRAFT**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**SARTELL, STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA**  
**SECTION 14, STREAMBANK PROTECTION**

## **SUMMARY**

### **Major Findings and Conclusions**

The purpose of this environmental evaluation is to assess the impacts of various measures to protect a portion of eroding stream bank along the Mississippi River in the city of Sartell, Stearns County, Minnesota. Erosion from the Mississippi River is threatening about 200 feet of an 18 inch sanitary sewer located in the riverbank. A failure has exposed two manholes, one of which is exposed up to 10 feet. Alternatives considered to protect the reach of eroding stream bank included taking no action, relocation of the sewer line and the selected plan.

An environmental review of the proposed action indicates that the project would not result in significant effects to the environment and that probable effects in the area would be short-term and minor. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. If the public review identifies significant issues, a revised NEPA document may be prepared. A 404(b)(1) evaluation has been prepared. A State Water Quality Certificate (Section 401) has been applied for and will be obtained before construction.

### **Relationship to Environmental Requirements**

The proposed action would comply with Federal environmental laws, Executive Orders and policies, and State and local laws and policies including the Clean Air Act, as amended; The Clean Water Act, as amended; The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended; the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; Executive Order 11988 - Floodplain Management; and Executive Order 11990 - Protection of Wetlands. The proposed action would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. Therefore, the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 does not apply to this project.

### **NEED FOR AND OBJECTIVES OF ACTION**

The proposed project area is located along the west bank of the Mississippi River in the City of Sartell, Stearns County, Minnesota, downstream from the confluence of the Watab River (Exhibit 1). The site is located approximately 800 feet downstream of the St. Regis Paper Mill Dam. Erosion on the outside bank of the channel is threatening the integrity of an 18-inch sanitary sewer line. Visual observations made during a recent site visit and examination of aerial photos of the site reveal that the orientation of the dam results in turbulent flows being directed toward the bank. The presence of ice in the channel during spring flood events adds to the magnitude of scour damage. The city has placed a variety of materials on the bank over the years

to protect it from scour, including broken up concrete slabs, rock, and grouted riprap. Scour damage in the spring of 1997 along the bank adjacent to Veterans Park resulted in the city shaping the bank and placing riprap along a 100 foot reach.

If nothing is done to protect the riverbank, continued erosion of the slope could eventually cause the sanitary sewer line to fail. To prevent eventual failure of the sanitary sewer line, the riverbank must be stabilized or the sanitary sewer line relocated. Based on conversations with the city, it appears that the slope failures were primarily the result of high river stages, velocity of the water, and the large ice chunks in the water resulting in the loss of about ten to fifteen feet of the upper bank. Further erosion of the bank could also jeopardize the integrity of the sewer pipe.

The sewer line serves residential, commercial, industrial and municipal facilities in Sartell. In addition, the failure of the line would result in the release of sewage into the Mississippi River. This site is located only a few miles above where the City of St. Cloud's water intakes are for the city's water treatment plant. The population of the City of St. Cloud is 63,800. The erosion appears to be typical of shoreline riverbank erosion.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternatives considered for preventing the failure of the sewer line included no action, sewer relocation, and bank protection measures. Several methods of bank protection were considered including bioengineering methods. However, due to the severity of erosion in this area and the exposure of the sewer line, selection of a proven and durable method, such as placement of rock riprap, was determined to be the most beneficial.

### **No Action (Without-project Condition)**

If no action would be taken, the bank erosion would continue until some action was taken by local units of government. Without action, there would be a high potential for failure of the bank and consequent failure of the sewer line with the possibility of contamination of the Mississippi River a short distance upstream of the St. Cloud, Minnesota drinking water intake.

### **Alternatives Not Selected**

Several construction alternatives were considered but not selected. Sewer relocation would avoid the necessity of bank stabilization, but would be extremely costly. Bioengineering techniques were not considered to be effective for this application.

### **Selected Plan**

The channel bank reach requiring protection is from the south end of the Veterans Park downstream to near the upstream limit of the grouted riprap section adjacent to the Highway 78 Bridge (Exhibit 2). The estimated reach length is 200 feet. The sewer line in this reach is near the base of the slope and has two manholes extending above the existing ground line. The manhole at the downstream end of the reach is exposed approximately 10 feet above the existing ground

line.

The proposed protection plan consists of the placement of approximately 7,500 tons, or 5000 cubic yards of riprap along 200 feet of the river bottom and up the failing bank up about 10-15 feet. The section would have a slope of 1V on 2H. Less than 0.33 acre of river bottom would be affected. Access to the site would be provided by creating a ramp on the rock section and reshaping it to bank protection as it is completed. Rock would be placed by mechanical equipment and would be 10-15 feet high and 3 feet thick with a toe section 8 feet wide and 4 feet thick at the base of the rock slope (Exhibit 3).

The existing bank in this reach is typically steep with rock and broken up concrete slabs placed at the toe and lower portion of the slope. This conglomeration of rock and concrete dumped on the slope for the most part appears to be stable. Several large trees were observed on portions of the bank indicating erosion in these areas is not significant. The area of most concern is at the upstream end of the reach near the park where slopes are steeper and more actively eroding.

Site preparation would consist of removal of trees within the permanent rock section by cutting them off at ground level and disposing off site. Rock would be placed on the existing ground. Materials placed along the bank, such as concrete rubble, would be left in place and covered by rock.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project area is located along the Mississippi River in the city of Sartell, Stearns County, Minnesota, directly downstream of the St. Regis Paper Mill Dam (Exhibit1). The existing conditions are described in the following paragraphs.

### **Natural Resources**

The proposed project would be constructed along a 200-foot stretch of the west bank of the Mississippi River directly downstream of the St. Regis Paper Mill Dam. The riparian vegetation in the area is composed of small to medium trees and shrubs and is adjacent to a park and a parking lot. The upper Mississippi River (above St. Anthony Falls, Minneapolis) has over 60 species including: walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, sunfish, crappie, bullheads, carp, white sucker, river herring, darters, shiners, and minnows.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were contacted by telephone or electronic mail. No State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species are evident in the immediate project area.

A small amount of house siding containing asbestos was found at the site. After consultation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the City of Sartell agreed to remove the material.

### **Cultural Resources**

The National Register of Historic Places was checked on June 7, 2007. There are no National

Register-listed historic properties within one mile of the project area. There are no National Register-eligible properties in the project area or its immediate vicinity. Historic buildings and structures within one-quarter mile of the project area with records in the standing structure files at the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society include the St. Regis Paper Mill and Dam (BN-STC-OOI) [now operated by the Verso Paper Company] on the east side of the river opposite the project area ; the Sartell Village Hall (STSTC-OO1) north of the Watab River near the west abutment of the dam; the Sartell Street Bridge (BN-STC-002) located 300 feet downstream of the project area; and the former location of five paper mill workers' houses (BN-STC-003) on the east side of the river south of that bridge. Except for the workers' houses which no longer exist, the remaining properties have not had their National Register eligibility determined.

There have been no prior cultural resources surveys of the Veterans Park area or its adjacent river bank. A survey of the river bank from the Watab River north past the dam was conducted in 1996 with negative results (ref. Bradley A. Johnson, 1996, *Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Sartell Real Estate Tract No. 1: A Prospective Lock and Dam Site on the Upper Mississippi River. Sartell. Stearns County, Minnesota*, Environmental Resources Branch, St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Because there will be no bank shaping and because of the presence of concrete slab fragments and rock covering much of the current project area, no cultural resources survey of the proposed bank stabilization area was conducted.

### **Socioeconomic Resources**

The proposed project area is located in the city of Sartell, Stearns County, in central Minnesota. It is approximately 65 miles northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota and 140 miles southwest of Duluth, Minnesota. Sartell is 4 miles north of St. Cloud, Minnesota and is part of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The 2000 population of Sartell is 9,256, an increase of 71.1% from 1990.

St. Cloud serves as the commercial and business hub for over 160,000 people and three counties. The 2000 population of St. Cloud, the county seat of Stearns County, is 59,107, an increase of 21.1% from 1990. Stearns County's 2000 population totaled 133,166, an increase of 11.6% from 1990. Stearns County ranks 7th in total population and 14th in size of Minnesota's 87 counties.

The St. Cloud MSA labor force totaled 101,453 in January 2002, with an unemployment rate of 5.3%, compared to 4.9% for the State of Minnesota and 6.3% for the United States. The most significant industries in the St. Cloud MSA are services (27.2% of employed persons), retail trade (23.0%), manufacturing (17.7%), and government (14.8%). According to information from the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2003 median household income for Stearns County was \$45,644, compared to \$50,750 for the State of Minnesota and \$43,318 for the United States.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

No significant adverse impacts would result from construction of the proposed project. As specified in Section 122 of the 1970 Rivers and Harbors Act, potential project impacts on the parameters listed in Table 1 were considered in arriving at a final determination. In compliance

with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, a 404(b)(1) evaluation has been prepared (Enclosure A).

### **Natural Resources**

Rock for riprap would be obtained from an operating quarry. No new land would be excavated to obtain rock. Material would be placed directly on the embankment and at the toe without excavation. Access to the placement site would be constructed on the rock section and reshaped into the rock section at the end of construction. Clearing of trees and shrubs would be required within the rock section but most would be lost if the bank continued to fail. Because of the limited extent of the proposed action, impacts on fish and wildlife resources would be minimal. Instream and riparian habitat is not limited near the area of the bank failure. The rock placed in the river, at the toe, would provide some increase in habitat for fish and other aquatic fauna. The project would not adversely affect any wetlands, aquatic habitat or threatened or endangered species.

Adverse effects would be limited and short-term because they are associated with construction. Temporary localized increases in turbidity may occur with disturbance of the river bottom during construction but these would be expected to be minimal and would end once the rock was in place. No additional turbidity would be expected because rock with a minimum of fines (small particles) would be used. Best Management Practices would be used to limit erosion from the construction site and sedimentation in the river. The installation of rock in the riverbed would have a minor positive effect on fish habitat in the immediate area since it would halt sedimentation from further bank failure and would provide stable substrate for benthic macroinvertebrates.

After consultation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, a small amount of house siding containing asbestos would be removed from the site by the City of Sartell prior to initiation of construction. The placement of rock would not be expected to have any effect on hazardous, toxic or radioactive waste.

As part of this analysis, it has been concluded that the project would have no adverse effects on any listed endangered or threatened species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination.

### **Cultural Resources**

Placement of riprap along the west bank of the Mississippi River south of Veterans Park will not have a direct effect on any historic properties. The riprap will be visible from the dam and possibly the village hall upstream, the paper mill across the river, and the utilities bridge downstream. The Corps believes that there will be no adverse visual effect to these unevaluated properties as there already is concrete and rock along the bank in the proposed bank protection area.

### **Socioeconomic Effects**

There would be no significant social or economic impacts that would result from construction of

the proposed project. Rather, reconstruction would have a positive impact on public health and safety, public facilities, and water supply in the area after the project is complete.

During riprap placement, short-term negative impacts would likely occur in the following areas: an increase in noise levels and disruption of normal community traffic patterns. These effects would be attenuated through the appropriate placement of construction and safety signage. These effects would be short lived and terminate when construction is complete.

### **Executive Orders**

The provisions of Executive Orders 11988 (Activities in floodplains) and 11990 (Wetland protection) would be satisfied. The project would prevent damage to existing facilities rather than encourage floodplain development. There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the proposed project. Only riverbank would be protected. The provisions of Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) would be satisfied because the project would not have adverse effects on any particular group but would benefit all local residents equally.

### **Cumulative Effects**

The area to be protected has been disturbed multiple times in attempts to remedy recurring damage to the bank. The proposed action would provide a permanent repair that would reduce adverse effects to the system and reduce the chance of failure of the sanitary sewer.

### **COORDINATION**

Coordination with the public and government agencies has been maintained during the planning process. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources were contacted (Enclosure B).

No special concerns were identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources suggested that reducing the overall rock quantity on the bank would be desirable.

A determination of no historic properties affected has been coordinated with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in a letter sent to that office. Written concurrence with this determination from the SHPO is expected. (Enclosure B).

This report will be sent to interested citizens and the following agencies:

#### **Federal**

Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **State of Minnesota**

Department of Health  
Department of Natural Resources

Pollution Control Agency State  
Historic Preservation Officer

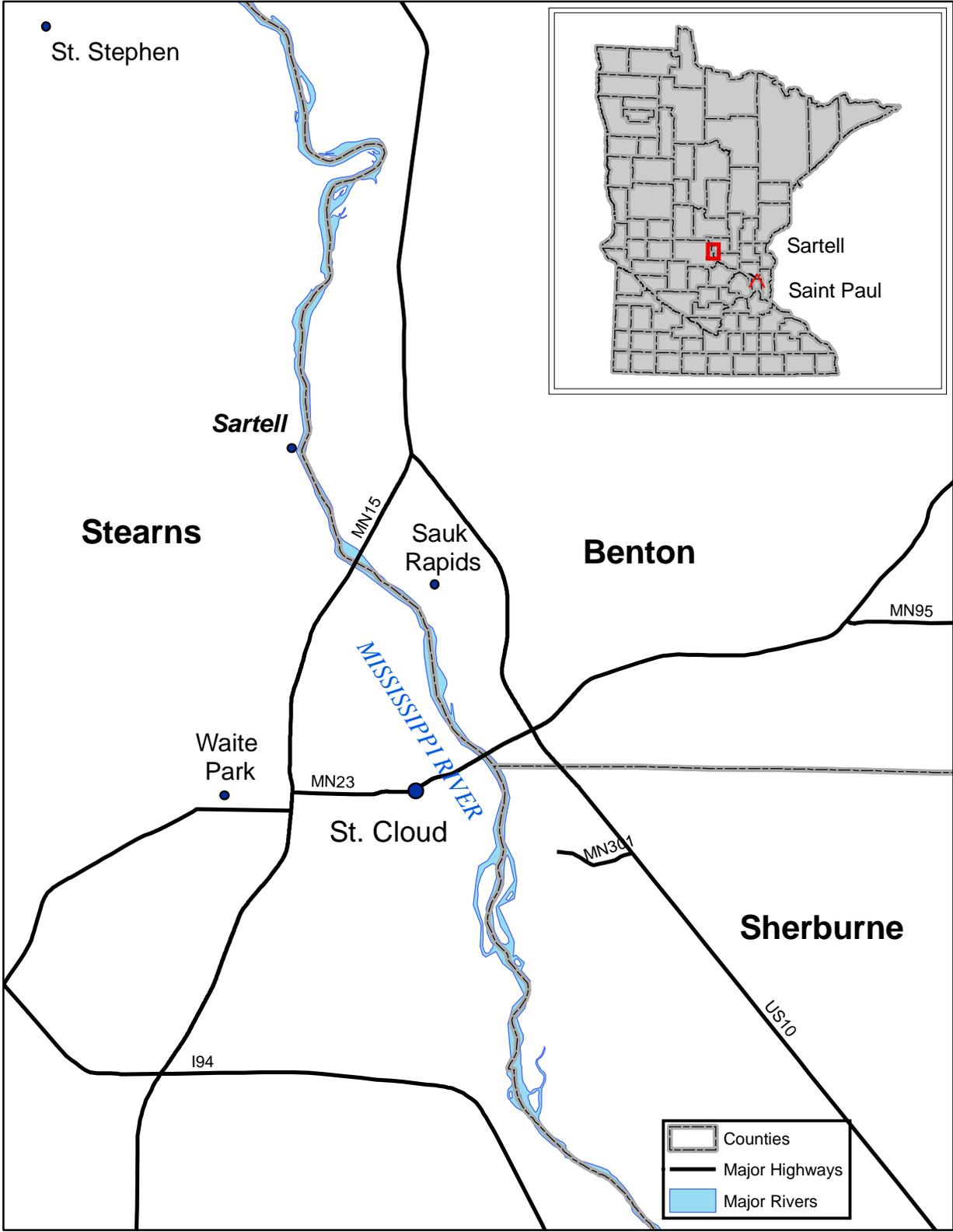
**Others**

Sartell City Administrator Stearns County Administrator St. Cloud Times

Table 1. Environmental Assessment Matrix

Section 122 of the River and Harbor and Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611)														
PARAMETER	No Action Alternative							Preferred Alternative						
	BENEFICIAL				ADVERSE			BENEFICIAL				ADVERSE		
	SIGNIFICANT	SUBSTANTIAL	MINOR	NO EFFECT	MINOR	SUBSTANTIAL	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SUBSTANTIAL	MINOR	NO EFFECT	MINOR	SUBSTANTIAL	SIGNIFICANT
<b>A. SOCIAL EFFECTS</b>				X							X			
1. Noise Levels				X								T		
2. Aesthetic Values				X							X			
3. Recreational Opportunities				X							X			
4. Transportation				X							X			
5. Public Health and Safety						X			X					
6. Community Cohesion (Sense of Unity)				X							X			
7. Community Growth and Development				X							X			
8. Business and Home Relocations				X							X			
9. Existing/Potential Land Use				X							X			
10. Controversy				X							X			
<b>B. ECONOMIC EFFECTS</b>														
1. Property Values				X							X			
2. Tax Revenue				X							X			
3. Public Facilities and Services						X			X					
4. Regional Growth				X							X			
5. Employment				X							X			
6. Business Activity				X							X			
7. Farmland/Food Supply				X							X			
8. Commercial Navigation				X							X			
9. Flooding Effects				X							X			
10. Energy Needs and Resources				X							X			
<b>C. NATURAL RESOURCE EFFECTS</b>														
1. Air Quality				X								T		
2. Terrestrial Habitat				X							X			
3. Wetlands				X							X			
4. Aquatic Habitat				X								T		
5. Habitat Diversity and Interspersion				X							X			
6. Biological Productivity				X							X			
7. Surface Water Quality				X								T		
8. Water Supply						X			X					
9. Groundwater				X							X			
10. Soils				X							X			
11. Threatened or Endangered Species				X							X			
<b>D. CULTURAL RESOURCE EFFECTS</b>														
1. Historic Architectural Values				X							X			
2. Prehistoric & Historic Archeological Values				X							X			

T: Temporary Effect



	Counties
	Major Highways
	Major Rivers

**St. Paul District**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
**US Army Corps of Engineers®**

**Sartell, Minnesota**

Exhibit 1





0 50' 100'  
SCALE: 1"=100'

RIVERSIDE AVE SOUTH

PROJECT LIMITS FOR ROCK PLACEMENT

SARTELL ST SW



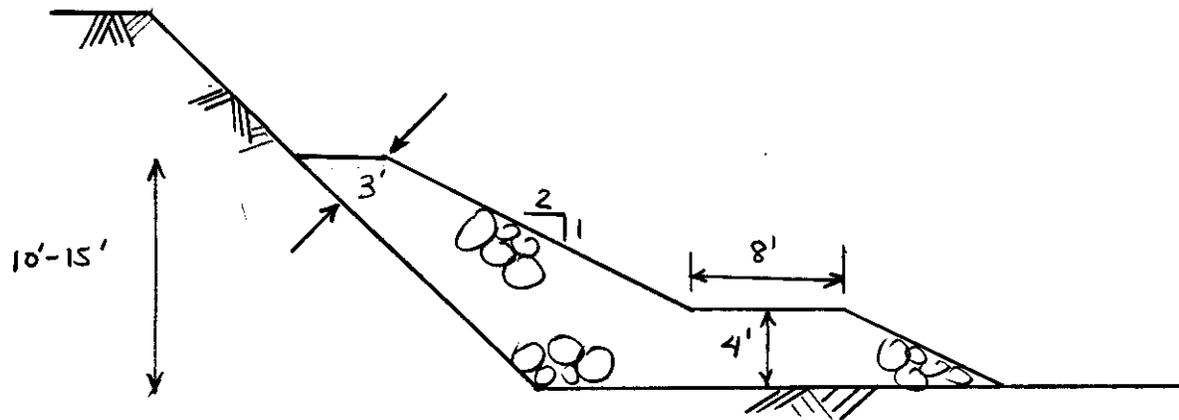
ED-D	DESIGNED BY:	DATE:
	CHECKED BY:	07 JUN 07
ED-H	DESIGNED BY:	CADD FILE NAME:
	CHECKED BY:	SARTELL_SEC14_C-SPXXXX.DGN

SARTELL - SEC 14  
SARTELL, MN  
**SITE PLAN**

Exhibit  
2  
SHEET 1 OF 1

**SARTELL SECTION 14**

**DESIGN SCOUR  
PROTECTION SECTION**



Enclosure A

Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation

**Preliminary  
Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation  
Bank Stabilization, Section 14  
Sartell, Minnesota**

**I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

A. Location - The proposed fill activity would take place in the Mississippi River in Stearns County, Minnesota immediately downstream of the St. Regis Paper Mill Dam. Fill activities would occur below the mean high water level of the Mississippi River for the placement of riprap for bank stabilization (Exhibit 1).

B. General Description - This evaluation addresses the impacts resulting from the placement of fill material in waters of the United States in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended. The proposed fill activities would consist of placing riprap in areas of potential erosion. The principal areas included in the project are portions of the shoreline of the Mississippi River.

C. Authority and Purpose - Federal authority for this project is provided in Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act. The purpose of the project is bank stabilization. The fill is intended to reduce potential erosion along a shoreline containing an 18 inch sanitary sewer.

D. General Description of Dredged or Fill Material

1. General Characteristics of Material - In all cases, the fill material would consist of clean rock of various sizes.

2. Quantity of Material - The fill material would be placed along the shore of the Mississippi River to protect the river bank from further erosion. The fill material would consist of 7,500 tons or 5,000 cubic yards of clean rock.

3. Source of Material - The fill would be obtained from an existing quarry.

E. Description of the Proposed Discharge Sites

1. Location - The proposed fill activities would take place along the shoreline and in the bed of the Mississippi River at Sartell, Minnesota. The site includes areas of potential erosion along the shoreline (Exhibit 2).

2. Size - The total area to be affected by the fill activities would be approximately 0.33 acres.

3. Type of Site - The fill activities would take place in a riverine setting. The material would be placed from above the waterline to the bottom of the riverbed approximately 10-15 feet. The top of the rock would be 5-15 feet from the top of the bank.

4. Types of Habitat - The habitat is river bank and shallow river bottom with a medium to coarse substrate and previously placed rock and concrete. No wetlands would be affected by the action.

5. Timing and Duration - Subject to approval, construction could begin in the year 2007.

F. Description of Disposal Method - The fill material would be moved and placed mechanically by supplementing existing rock to create an access ramp. Rock would be mechanically placed in a 10-15 foot high section with 1V on 2H slopes and a minimum 3 foot width. This would be placed over a base with a toe section 4 feet thick and a minimum 8 foot wide with a 1V on 2H slope. When all rock has been placed, the ramp would be reshaped to become part of the bank stabilization section (Exhibit 3).

## II. FACTUAL DETERMINATIONS

### A. Physical Substrate Determinations

1. Substrate Elevation and Slope - The fill material would be placed mechanically and constructed with side slopes of 1 vertical on 2 horizontal. The fill material would extend from the riverbed to approximately the 100-year flood elevation.

2. Sediment Type - Sediment in the proposed fill area is sand and rock .

3. Dredged/Fill Material Movement - The fill material would be placed directly into the river and on the bank along the shoreline. Some minor erosion may occur until the banks are stabilized with riprap. The long-term effect of the fill would be to stabilize the bank and reduce erosion.

4. Physical Effects on Benthos - Any organisms in the placement area would be covered but the area would be expected to recolonize rapidly.

5. Actions Taken to Minimize Impacts - Standard construction procedures in compliance with Federal and State requirements would be employed to minimize impacts. Because the placement of the material would affect a small area and have minimal impacts, no special actions to minimize adverse impacts would be taken.

### B. Water Circulation, Fluctuation, and Salinity Determinations

#### 1. Water

- a. Salinity - The fill activities would not affect salinity.
- b. Water Chemistry - The use of clean fill material and mechanical placement procedures would preclude any significant impacts on water chemistry.
- c. Clarity - Some minor, short-term decreases in clarity are expected from the proposed fill activities.
- d. Color - The proposed fill activities should have no impact on water color.
- e. Odor - The proposed fill activities should have no impact on water odor.
- f. Taste - The proposed fill activities should have no impact on water taste.
- g. Dissolved Gas Levels - The proposed fill activities should have no impact on dissolved gas levels in the water.
- h. Nutrients - The proposed fill activities should have no impact on nutrient levels in the water.
- i. Eutrophication - The proposed fill activities should have no impact on the level or rate of eutrophication of the water.
- j. Temperature - The proposed fill activities would have little impact on water temperature.

## 2. Current Patterns and Circulation

- a. Current Patterns and Flow - Because the proposed fill activities would take place at the shoreline and adjacent upland areas, they would have little long-term effect on current patterns and flow.
- b. Velocity - The proposed fill activities would have no effect on water velocity.
- c. Stratification - The proposed fill activities would have no effect on the development of stratified conditions in the river.
- d. Hydrologic Regime - The proposed fill activities would have little impact on the hydrologic regime.

3. Normal Water Level Fluctuations - The proposed fill activities would have no effect on normal water level fluctuations.

4. Salinity Gradient - The fill activities would have no effect on the salinity gradient.

5. Actions Taken to Minimize Impact - Standard construction procedures in compliance with Federal and State requirements would be used. The material would be placed mechanically.

C. Suspended Particulate/Turbidity Determination - Turbidity and suspended solids may increase during construction. This effect would be short-term until the shoreline is stabilized by riprap.

1. Expected Changes in Suspended Particulates and Turbidity Levels in the Vicinity of the Disposal Site - Although minor temporary increases in suspended particulates and turbidity would occur during project construction, the long-term effect would be to reduce erosion and turbidity.

2. Effects on Chemical and Physical Properties of the Water Column - No effects are expected on light penetration, dissolved oxygen, toxic metals and organisms, pathogens, or the aesthetics of the water column after the project is in place.

3. Effects on Biota - Biota would be lost or displaced during the placement of the fill material. The underwater portions of the fill would quickly recolonize and provide a more stable and diverse substrate.

4. Actions Taken to Minimize Impacts - No special actions are anticipated. Fill would be placed by standard equipment such as backhoes, trucks, and loaders.

D. Contaminant Determinations - The fill material would be large clean rock and would not introduce contaminants into the aquatic system. Neither the material nor its placement would cause relocation or increases of contaminants in the aquatic systems.

E. Aquatic Ecosystem and Organism Determinations - Approximately 1,600 square feet would be covered by riprap.

1. Effects on Plankton - Increases in turbidity and suspended solids near the fill activities would have a localized suppressing effect on phytoplankton productivity. However, these local effects are not considered significant. The plankton populations should recover quickly once the fill and other construction activities have ceased.

2. Effects on Benthos - Those benthic communities in the area of the proposed fill activities would be eliminated. However, immigration of benthic organisms would occur, and the submerged portions of the fill would be recolonized.

3. Effects on Nekton - None expected.

4. Effects on Aquatic Food Web - The long-term effect on total productivity of the area is expected to be a minor increase, although the existing aquatic biota would be temporarily disrupted.

5. Effects on Special Aquatic Sites - No special aquatic sites are located in the project area.

6. Threatened and Endangered Species - No Federal or State listed species would be affected by the project.

7. Other Wildlife - The fill activities would not result in the significant loss of aquatic or terrestrial habitat. The general diversity and productivity of the affected areas would be maintained or possibly increased by the creation of a more stable habitat.

8. Actions Taken to Minimize Impacts - No special actions are required.

#### F. Proposed Disposal Site Determinations

1. Mixing Zone Determination - The proposed fill activity would have a minimal mixing zone. The mixing zone would be small and would not constitute a significant problem because of the nature of the fill material and its placement by mechanical means. No liquid material would be discharged during construction. For these reasons, the mixing zone was not analyzed further.

2. Determination of Compliance with Applicable Water Quality Standards - The nature of the fill material and the type of construction should avoid violation of State water quality standards by project-related activities. The long-term environmental or water quality effects of the placement of fill material would be a reduction in erosion and associated turbidity.

3. Potential Effects on Human Use Characteristics - Because of the present and projected human use characteristics, the existing physical conditions, the proposed construction methods, and the nature of the fill material, this proposed action would have no significant effects on human use characteristics.

G. Determination of Cumulative Effects on the Aquatic Ecosystem - Implementation of the proposed action would cause no significant cumulative impact on the aquatic ecosystem.

H. Determination of Secondary Effects on the Aquatic Ecosystem - No significant secondary effects would be expected.

### **III. FINDING OF COMPLIANCE WITH RESTRICTIONS ON DISCHARGE**

The proposed fill activity would comply with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act, as amended. No significant adaptations of the guidelines were made for this evaluation. The placement of fill is required to provide the desired benefits. Other alternatives or other locations for fill material would not provide the desired results.

The proposed fill activities would comply with all State water quality standards, Section 307 of the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The proposed fill activity would not have significant adverse effects on human health and welfare, including municipal and private water supplies, recreation and commercial fishing, plankton, fish, shellfish, wildlife, and special aquatic sites. The life stages of aquatic life and other wildlife would not be adversely affected. Significant adverse effects on aquatic ecosystem diversity, productivity, and stability and on recreational, aesthetic, and economic values would not occur. Stabilization of the eroded site would not harm any endangered species or their critical habitat.

The purpose of the action is to stabilize the bank and reduce the potential for erosion. Minor and short-term impacts are associated with the placement of the fill material. The long-term effects would be a reduction in erosion and turbidity. Since the proposed action would result in few adverse effects, no additional measures to minimize impacts would be required.

On the basis of this evaluation, I specify that the proposed action complies with the requirements of the guidelines for discharge or placement of fill material.

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Date

Jon L. Christensen  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Enclosure B  
Correspondence

RECORD OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

June 20, 2007

PERSON CALLING: John T. Shyne	MVPPM-E	651-290-5270
PERSON CALLED: Michael North	MNDNR	218-828-2433

Subject: Sartell, Stearns County, Section 14

1. I described the bank failure and the nature of the proposed action to Mr. North.
2. He suggested that we consider reducing the effect of bank stabilization by using rock points rather than a continuous section.
3. I explained that the design was determined by the direct flow from the dam, ice damage and high water occurrences and that less rock would not be effective at this location. I also pointed out that the protection did not extend to top of the bank and trees would be left above the rock section.

From: Nick\_Rowse@fws.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2007 1:57 PM  
To: Shyne, John T MVP  
Subject: Re: sartell

John,

No federally listed species are documented near the project site. We have no concerns about impacting any listed species and would concur with your no effect determination.

Nick Rowse  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Twin Cities ES Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4101 American Blvd. E.  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665  
612-725-3548 x210

"Shyne, John T MVP" <john.t.shyne@mvp 02.usace.army.mil >	<Nick_Rowse@fws.gov>	To  cc
06/19/2007 01:41 PM	sartell	Subject

Nick,

I have a short deadline for the Sartell EA.

Do you have any preliminary comments, or questions on the proposed plan?

Thanks,

John

John T. Shyne  
Fishery Biologist  
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers  
CEMVP-PM-E  
190 Fifth St. East, Suite 401  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638  
Phone: 651.290.5270 Fax: 651.290.5258



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

190 FIFTH STREET EAST

ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1638

June 8, 2007

Planning, Programs and Project Management Division  
Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch

SUBJECT: Proposed Mississippi River Bank Stabilization Below the St. Regis Dam at the  
City of Sartell, Stearns County, Minnesota

Mr. Dennis Gimmestad  
Government Programs and Compliance Officer  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102-1906

Dear Mr. Gimmestad:

The City of Sartell requested that the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) stabilize part of the west bank of the Mississippi River below the St. Regis Paper Mill Dam at the south end of Veterans Park under the Section 14 Emergency Stream Bank Protection program. The project area is along an outside bend in the river channel approximately 800 feet below the dam in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 21, Township 125 North, Range 28 West (Figure 1). The orientation of the dam results in high flows from the dam's gates being directed at the bank below Veterans Park (Figure 2). Ice flowing through the emergency spillway along the right side of the river during spring flood events also scours the west bank along this reach.

Over the years the City of Sartell (City) has placed broken up concrete slabs, rock, and grouted granite riprap on this reach of bank. In December 1997 to spring 1998, the City shaped the bank and placed riprap along a 100 foot reach below Veterans Park. The purpose of the currently proposed bank stabilization is to protect an 18-inch sanitary sewer line located near the base of the river bank slope (Figure 3). Two manholes for the sewer line extend up to ten feet above the existing ground line. The river bank in this area is typically steep with rock and broken up concrete slabs placed by the City at the toe and lower portion of the slope.

The proposed bank stabilization will involve placement of riprap along approximately 200 feet of riverbank from the south end of Veterans Park downriver to where the grouted riprap protects the bank upstream of the Sartell Street Bridge, which carries utilities across the river. Material to be used for bank protection will come from an existing commercial quarry. No bank shaping is proposed and the material already on the bank will be left in place. An access ramp of riprap will be added to the bank slope from the south half of the park down to the toe. Riprap will be placed at the toe and along the lower portions of the slope to a height sufficient to protect the exposed portions of the manholes from damage or movement by debris during high river stages. The design rock section for the lower portion of the slope is approximately 10 feet high by a minimum of 3 feet thick with a maximum 1V on 2H riverward slope. The toe section at the base of the slope will be approximately 8 feet wide by 4 feet thick. Once the permanent

protection is in place, the ramp will be reshaped to provide additional protection for the bank along that portion of Veterans Park. Tree and brush removal will be necessary along the ramp and lower portion of the riverbank prior to riprap placement. Trees would be cut off at ground level and disposed of off site.

The National Register of Historic Places was checked on June 7, 2007. There are no National Register-listed historic properties within one mile of the project area. There are no National Register-eligible properties in the project area or its immediate vicinity. Historic buildings and structures within one-quarter mile of the project area with records in the standing structure files at the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society include the St. Regis Paper Mill and Dam (BN-STC-001) [now operated by the Verso Paper Company] on the east side of the river opposite the project area; the Sartell Village Hall (ST-STC-001) north of the Watab River near the west abutment of the dam; the Sartell Street Bridge (BN-STC-002) located 300 feet downstream of the project area; and the former location of five paper mill workers' houses (BN-STC-003) on the east side of the river south of that bridge. Except for the workers' houses which no longer exist, the remaining properties have not had their National Register eligibility determined.

There have been no prior cultural resources surveys of the Veterans Park area or its adjacent river bank. A survey of the river bank from the Watab River north past the dam was conducted in 1996 with negative results (ref. Bradley A. Johnson, 1996, *Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of Sartell Real Estate Tract No. 1: A Prospective Lock and Dam Site on the Upper Mississippi River, Sartell, Stearns County, Minnesota*, Environmental Resources Branch, St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Because there will be no bank shaping and because of the presence of concrete slab fragments and rock covering much of the current project area, no cultural resources survey of the proposed bank stabilization area was conducted.

Placement of riprap along the west bank of the Mississippi River south of Veterans Park will not have a direct effect on any historic properties. The riprap will be visible from the dam and possibly the village hall upstream, the paper mill across the river, and the utilities bridge downstream. The Corps believes that there will be no adverse visual effect to these unevaluated properties as there already is concrete and rock along the bank in the proposed bank protection area.

Please provide your comments on this proposed undertaking by July 12, 2007. If you have any questions on the above, please contact Ms. Virginia Gnabasik, Corps archeologist, at (651) 290-5262 or by email at [virginia.r.gnabasik@mvp02.usace.army.mil](mailto:virginia.r.gnabasik@mvp02.usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,



Terry J. Birkenstock  
Chief, Environmental and Economic  
Analysis Branch

Enclosures  
3 figures

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

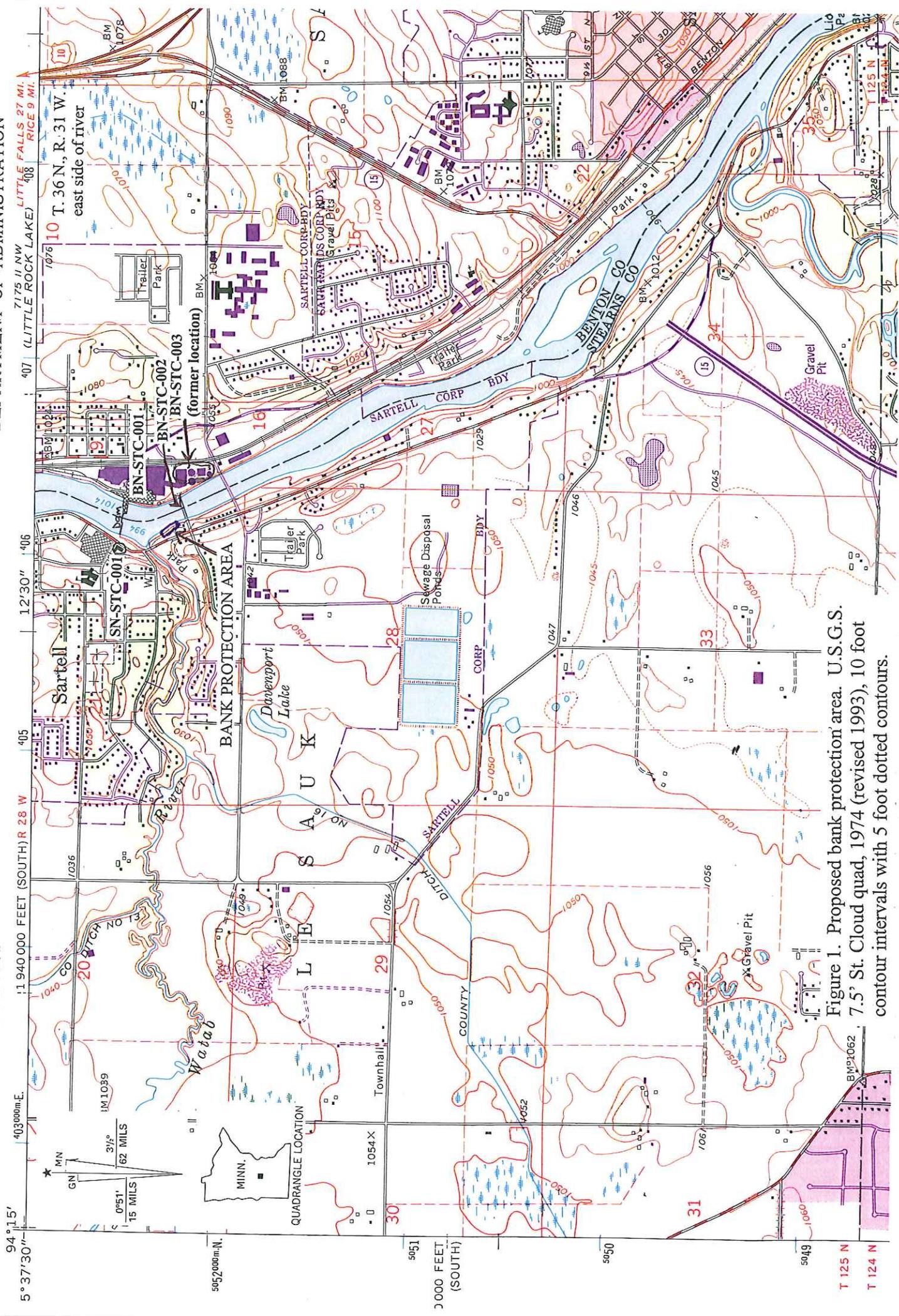
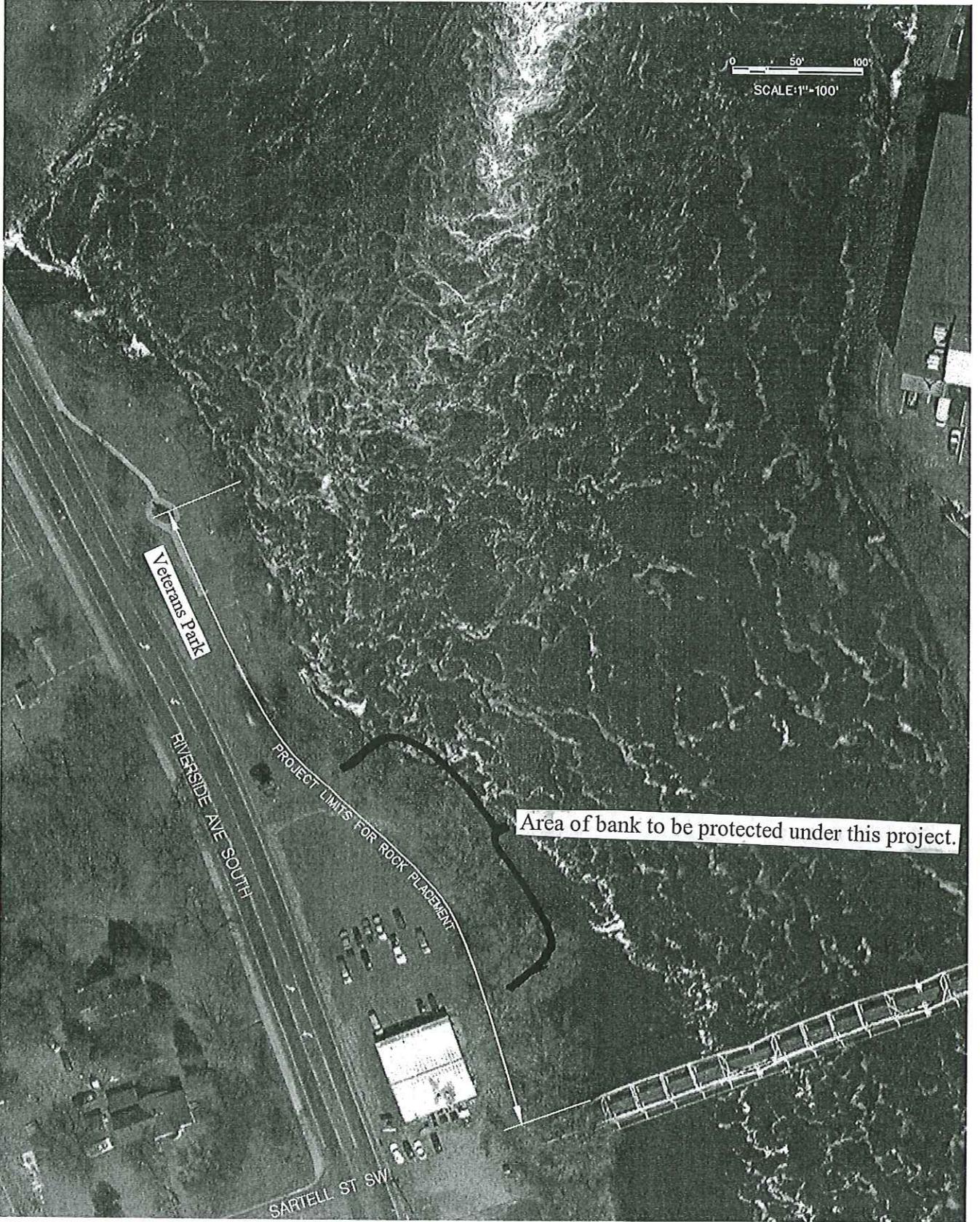


Figure 1. Proposed bank protection area. U.S.G.S. 7.5° St. Cloud quad, 1974 (revised 1993), 10 foot contour intervals with 5 foot dotted contours.



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SARTELL - SEC 14  
 SARTELL, MN  
**SITE PLAN**

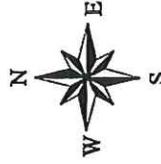
SHEET 1 OF 1

Figure 2.

# SARTELL VETERANS PARK

## Utilities

-  Sanitary Sewer
-  Water Main
-  Storm Sewer
-  Sanitary Manhole
-  Gate Valve
-  Hydrant
-  Storm Manhole
-  Catch Basin



**Bonestroo  
Williamson  
Kotsmith**  
Engineers • Architects  
Surveyors

Jan. 1998

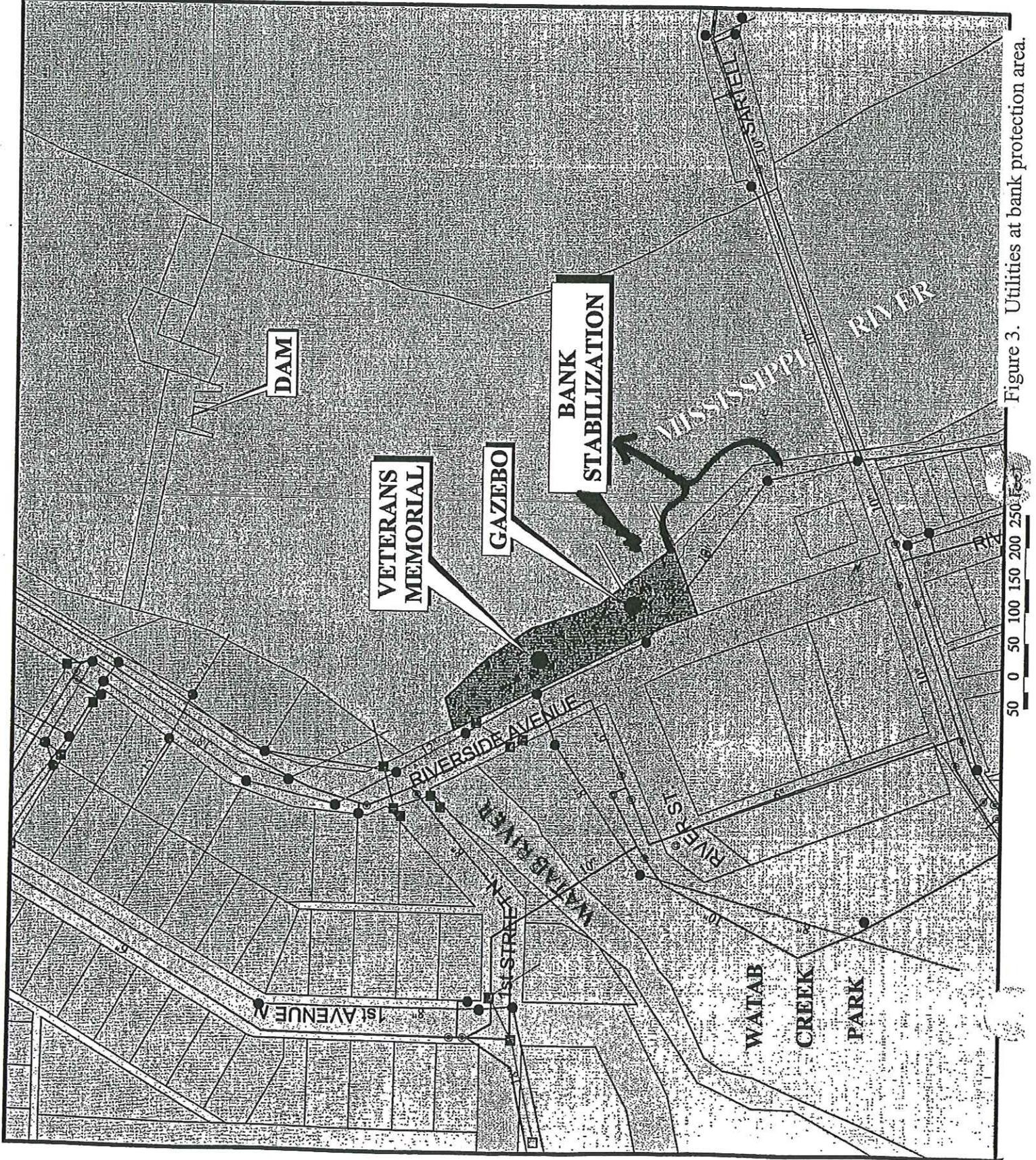


Figure 3. Utilities at bank protection area.

## Enclosure C

### Finding of No Significant Impact



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**SIBLEY SQUARE AT MEARS PARK**  
**190 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 401**  
**ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1638**

Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch  
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division

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

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

**BANK STABILIZATION,**  
**ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**  
**SARTELL, STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

The intent of this project is to provide bank stabilization along the Mississippi River in Stearns County at Sartell, Minnesota. The proposed project involves the protection, using riprap, of about 200 linear feet of eroding riverbank. This finding of no significant impact is based on the following factors: the project would have no adverse impacts on fish and wildlife resources or on air and water quality; the project would have short-term minor impacts on the social environment; the project would have no impact on the cultural environment; and continued coordination would be maintained with appropriate State and Federal agencies.

The environmental review process indicates that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Jon L. Christensen  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer