



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Little Rock District

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS – STATE OF ARKANSAS

Application Number: SWL 03765-8

Date: March 14, 2013

Comments Due: April 08, 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: **Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the Public Involvement section for details on submitting comments.**

Point of Contact. If additional information is desired, please contact the project manager, Mr. Rod Kelley, telephone number: (501) 324-5295, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: rodney.kelley@usace.army.mil.

Project Information. Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. Code 403), notice is hereby given that

**Ronnie Duffield Gravel Company
16 Bluff Drive
Russellville, Arkansas 72802-7866**

has requested a time extension of their existing permit to remove sand, gravel, and soil from dike fields along the Arkansas River. The proposed project is located on the left descending bank of the Arkansas River from Navigation Mile 200.0 to Navigation Mile 201.3, in section 3, T. 6 N., R. 20 W., in Pope County, Arkansas.

The material would be removed by land-based equipment, placed into dump trucks, and hauled from the site. No material would be removed from within 200 feet of the dikes. The removal sites are above the ordinary high water mark of the Arkansas River. No sand processing would be done on-site. This sand and gravel removal operation has been in this location for over 25 years. Approval of the current request would extend the excavation period for the previously permitted site for five years.

The basic purpose of the project is to provide sand, gravel, and soil for commercial use. The overall purpose of the project is to perform removal operations within existing dike fields along the Arkansas River. The project is water dependent.

The Little Rock Regulatory Division does not typically require mitigation for Standard Permits specific to Section 10 activities, such as dredging. Due to this established standard operating procedure and the minor impacts of the project, no mitigation will be required if the authorization is extended.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets.

Water Quality Certification. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment

period and a public hearing, if held, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. Evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit.

Cultural Resources. A Corps staff archeologist will review topographic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, and other data on reported sites in the area. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area. This public notice initiates consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with any Tribe that has information or concerns with historic properties in the proposed permit area.

Endangered Species. The project occurs within a geographic region containing a known population of the endangered Interior Least Tern. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

Flood Plain. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate flood plain officials in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Flood Plain Management.

Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 230.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **April 08, 2013**. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. 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 thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

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.

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, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

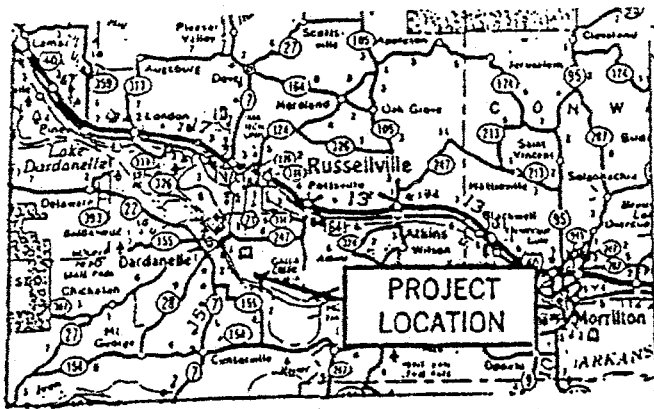
NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and also includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosures

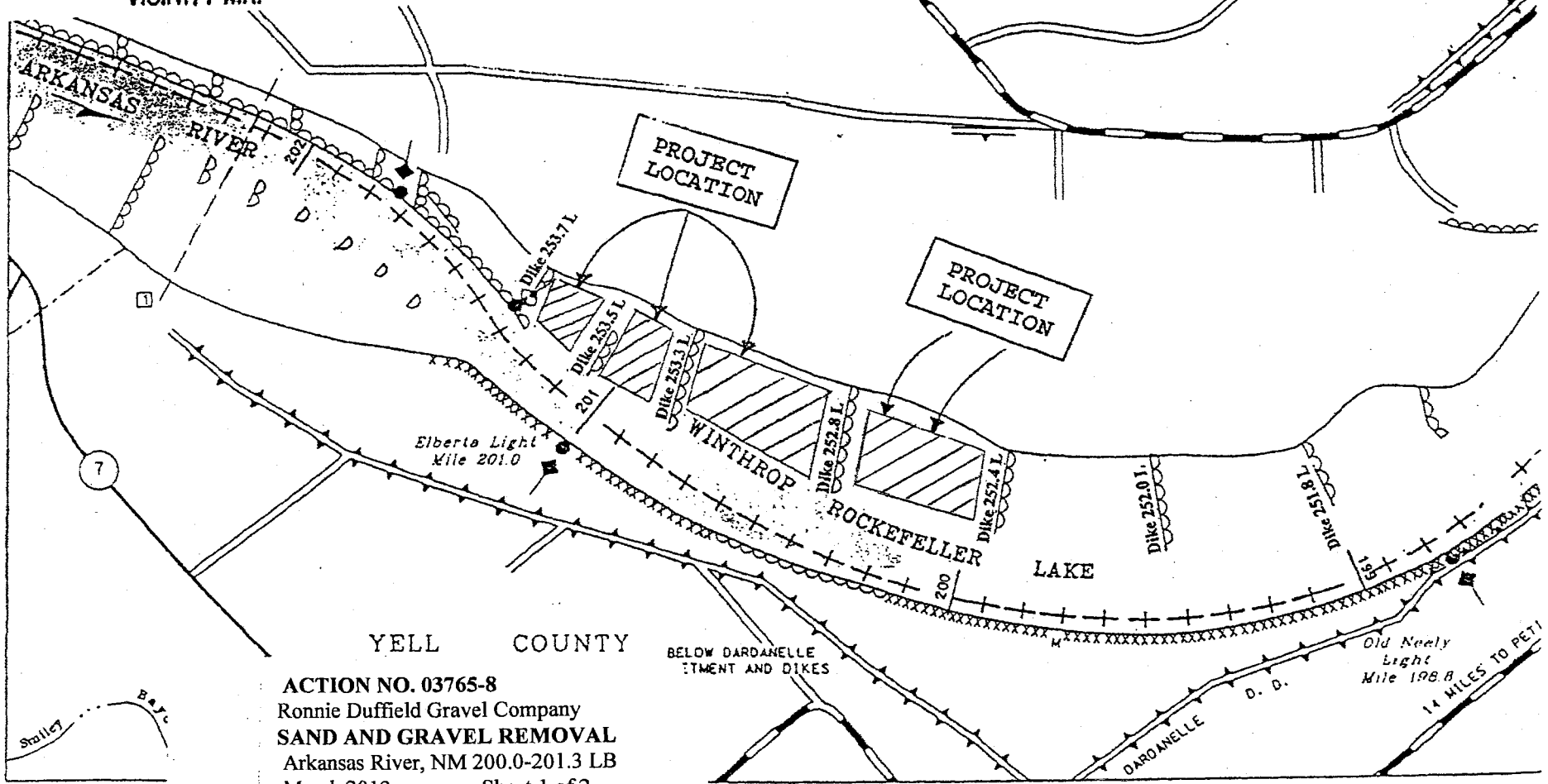
Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

Latitude: **35.190272** Longitude: **-93.132645**

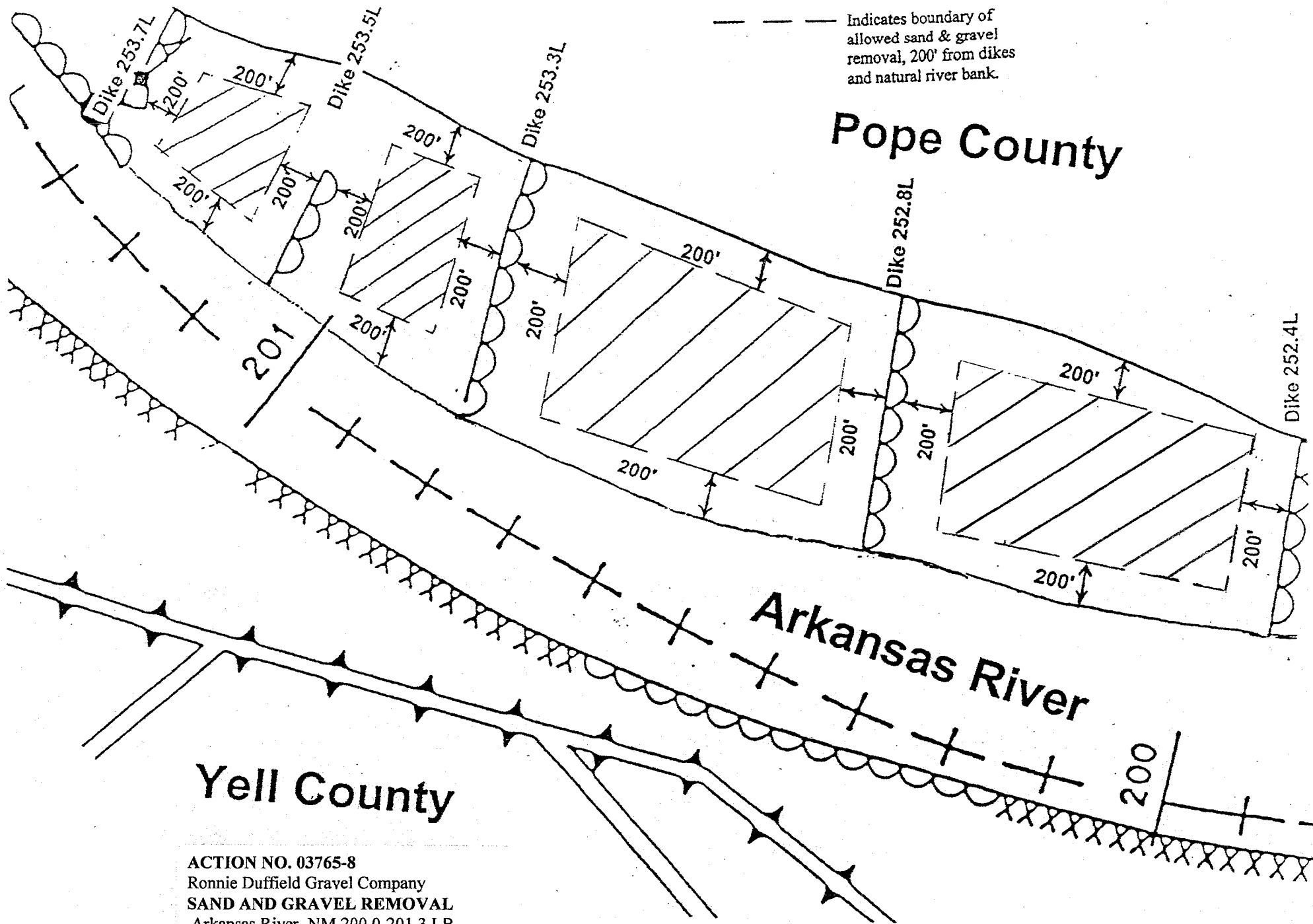
UTM Zone: **15** North: **3894252** East: **487924**



VICINITY MAP



ACTION NO. 03765-8
 Ronnie Duffield Gravel Company
SAND AND GRAVEL REMOVAL
 Arkansas River, NM 200.0-201.3 LB
 March 2013 Sheet 1 of 2



--- Indicates boundary of allowed sand & gravel removal, 200' from dikes and natural river bank.

Pope County

Yell County

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