

PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Little Rock District**

**Permit No. SWL-2016-00146
Issue Date: May 6, 2016
Expiration Date: June 5, 2016**

30-Day Notice

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON USE OF THE PROPOSED MISSOURI WETLAND ASSESSMENT METHOD (MWAM) FOR WETLAND MITIGATION

The five U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Districts in the State of Missouri (Kansas City, Little Rock, Memphis, Rock Island, and St. Louis Districts) are proposing to adopt the MWAM for determining mitigation requirements for impacts to jurisdictional wetlands in the State of Missouri.

The MWAM was developed in response to state and Federal resource agency requests for Corps implementation of a standard tool for the assessment of wetland impacts and mitigation actions to be used in all Corps Districts in the State of Missouri. The MWAM, if adopted, will be the primary tool used for the evaluation of wetland impacts and mitigation proposals for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) Department of the Army permit evaluations within the State of Missouri.

BACKGROUND: In 2008, the Corps assembled a team comprised of experienced Regulatory Program Project Managers and representatives from state and Federal agencies to develop this method in compliance with the Corps and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) joint regulation for Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resource; Final Rule (Federal Register / Vol. 73, No. 70 Pages 19594-19687, April 10, 2008) (herein referred to as Mitigation Rule

http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/Portals/29/docs/regulatory/mitigation/FinalRule_Apr2008.pdf).

This team also considered other applicable national guidance, available scientific research, statewide policies and Regulatory Project Manager experience with mitigation issues in Missouri. The DRAFT MWAM can be reviewed at the following website:

<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Portals/50/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/2016-04-22-MWAM.pdf>.

COMMENTS: This notice solicits input from the public on the DRAFT MWAM, especially on the ability of the method to provide for appropriate assessment of impacts to wetland functions, and proper crediting of actions undertaken to provide replacement of lost aquatic functions. Any interested party is invited to submit to this office written facts, suggestions or objections relative to the DRAFT MWAM on or before the public notice expiration date. All comments received will be considered in the Corps decision to adopt the MWAM as is, issue with modification, or conduct further analysis.

COMMENT SUBMITTAL: Comments on the DRAFT MWAM can be submitted to Mr. James Reenan at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, Missouri State Regulatory Office, 515 East High Street, Suite 202, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101 or by email at james.s.reenan@usace.army.mil.