



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Little Rock District

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

*CORPS OF ENGINEERS – STATE OF ARKANSAS*

**Application Number: SWL-2019-00224**

**Date: July 23, 2019**

**Comments Due: August 19, 2019**

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**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 regulator, Lisa Boyle, telephone number: (501) 340-1385, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: [Lisa.A.Boyle@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.A.Boyle@usace.army.mil)

Project Information. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

## **US Army Corps of Engineers - Little Rock District (SWL)**

has requested authorization for a new dredged material disposal area on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS). The proposed project is located in the Arkansas River near the Little Rock Port on the right descending bank at Navigation Mile (NM) 111.0, in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

There is a Memorandum of Agreement between the Little Rock Port and SWL for dredging. Although an upland disposal area has been utilized in the past, an in water disposal site is needed in order to more efficiently maintain the port. The existing upland disposal site is overgrown with vegetation and its capacity to hold dredged material is questionable. Maintaining the upland disposal site could become costly.

The average annual amount of material to be placed within the proposed In Water Dredged Material Disposal Area is less than 25,000 cubic yards (yd<sup>3</sup>). It is anticipated that with the rise and fall of river levels these materials will be flushed downstream annually due to the area being a natural area of scouring.

The Navigation Pool elevation is 231 feet mean sea level (msl). This elevation is maintained by David D. Terry Lock & Dam (L&D). The bottom elevation of the proposed In Water Dredged Material Disposal Area ranges from elevation 218.0 feet to 228.0 feet msl.

The MKARNS is dredged for commercial uses and to maintain the navigation channel. Natural creation of sand deposits and commercial and maintenance removal of these deposits is an ongoing process for the life cycle of the Arkansas River since the construction of the MKARNS. The Little Rock District Regulatory Division does not typically require compensatory mitigation for dredging activities. Due to this established standard operating procedure and the minor impacts of the project, no compensatory mitigation would be required if the project is permitted.

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.

Endangered Species. 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.

Floodplain. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate floodplain officials in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 60 (Floodplain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain 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 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 **August 19, 2019**. 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, floodplain 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 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

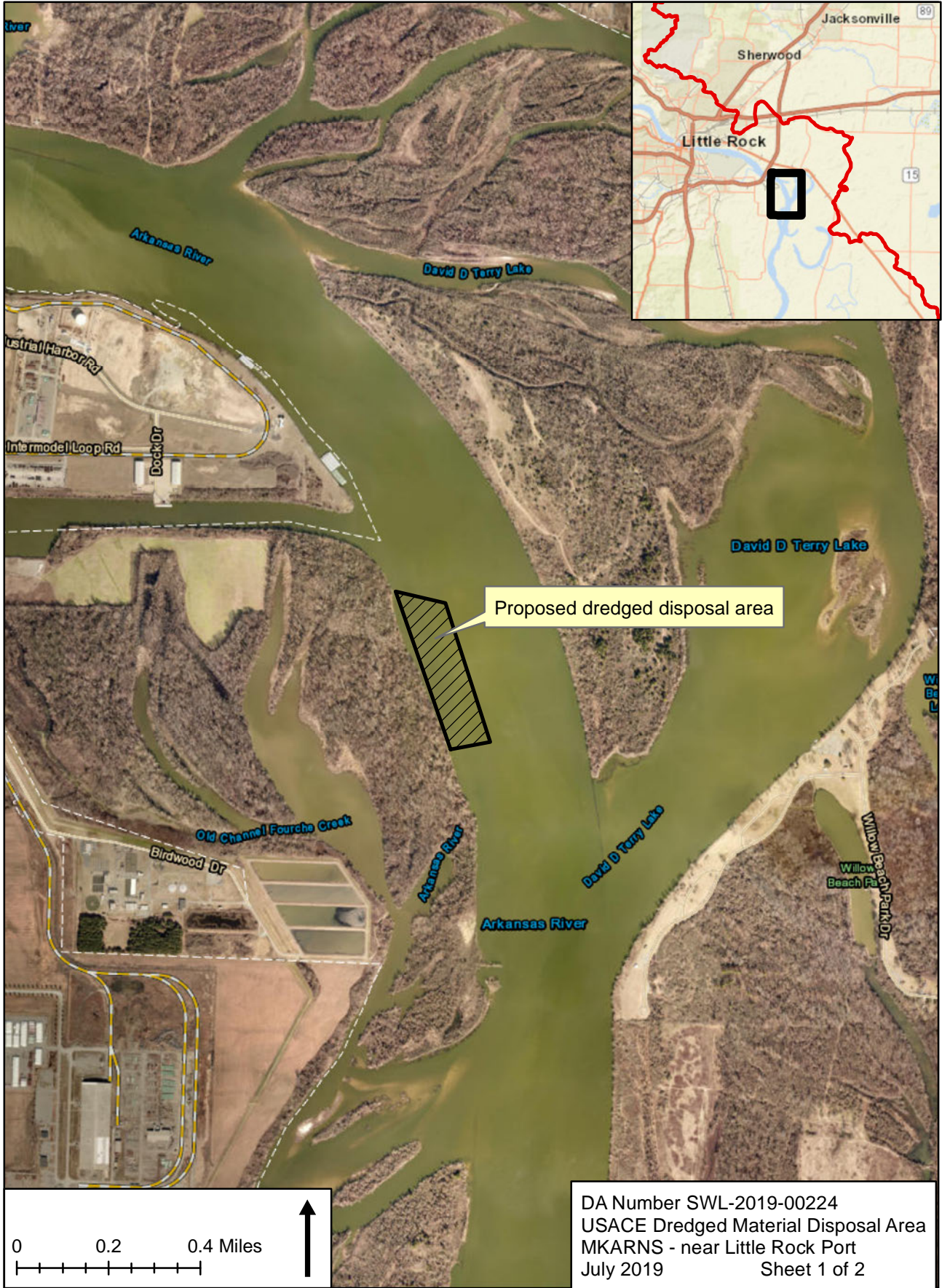
Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

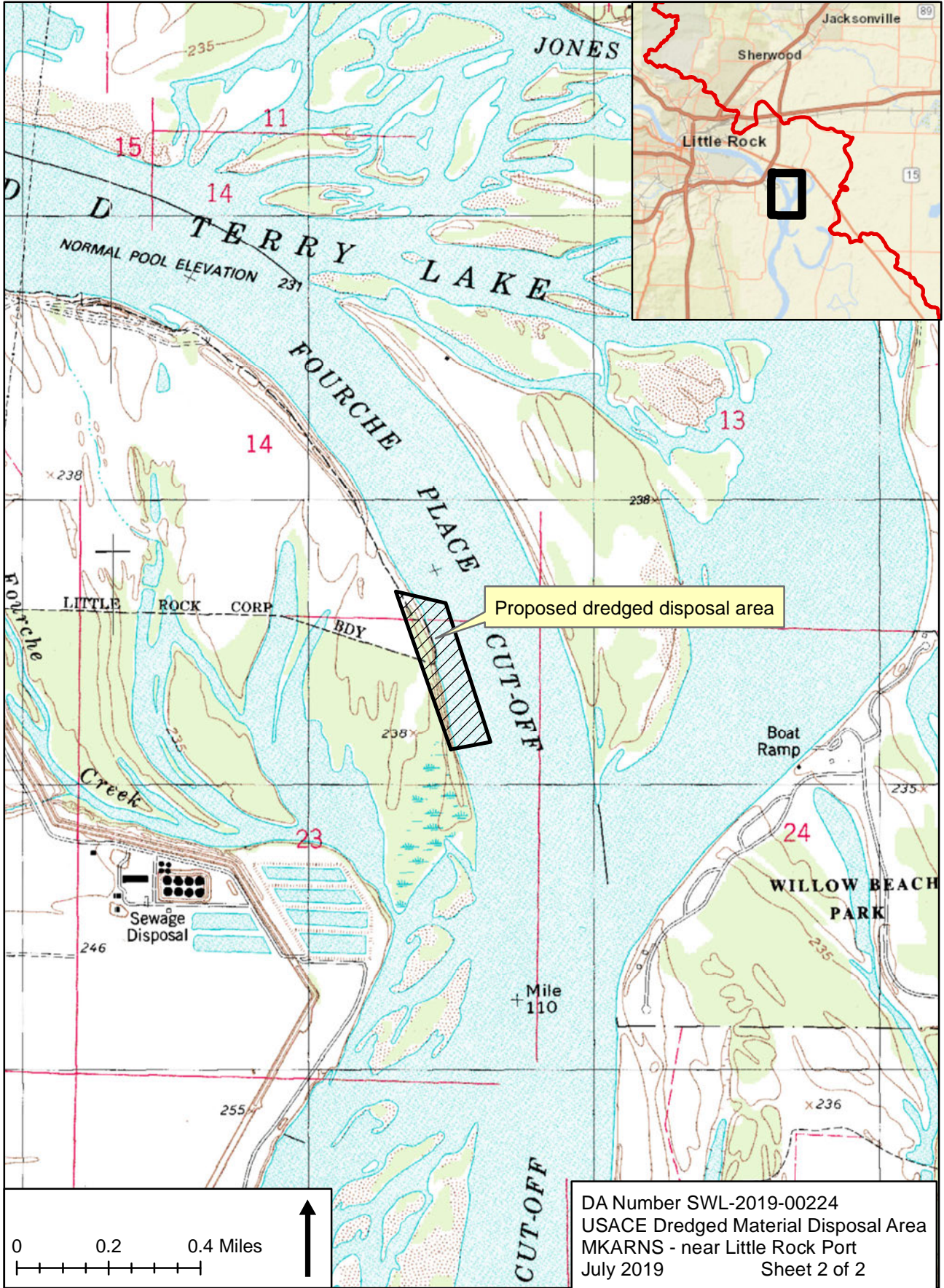
Latitude: **34.705072°N**

Longitude: **-92.154011°W**

UTM Zone: **15N** North: **3840599**

East: **577455**





DA Number SWL-2019-00224  
 USACE Dredged Material Disposal Area  
 MKARNS - near Little Rock Port  
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