

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO MODIFY A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CHICAGO DISTRICT**

PUBLIC NOTICE/APPLICATION NUMBER: MC-15-01

COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS: 11 September 2015

COMMENT PERIOD EXPIRES: 13 October 2015

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604

REQUESTER

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
111 East Erie Street, Chicago, IL 60611

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is an alteration to the Federal Chicagoland Underflow Project (CUP) McCook Reservoir Project that includes the construction of a new 20-foot diameter tunnel from the Des Plaines 33-foot diameter Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) tunnel southern terminus straight to the reservoir. An outlet structure would be constructed at the terminus of the new tunnel in the reservoir. The new tunnel would be 5,350 feet long and would include isolation gates. The direct tunnel connection between the Des Plaines TARP Tunnel and the McCook Reservoir would allow for gravity flow into the reservoir under a full range of operating conditions. The gates would regulate up to 11,000 cfs of flow from the Des Plaines TARP tunnel into the reservoir. The authorized storage allocation for the Des Plaines TARP Tunnel system of 2000 acre-feet will not change with this modification. (See attached drawings). A detailed description of this proposal is provided on page 2 of this notice.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Location: McCook, Illinois; Township and Range: 38N12E

Interested parties are hereby notified that a request for permission to modify a Federal project has been received for the activity described herein and as shown on the attached drawings. You are invited to provide your comments by **13 October 2015** on the proposed work, which will become part of the record and will be considered in the decision on the request. Permission will be issued or denied under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 408).

Written comments shall be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District,
Planning, Programs and Project Management Division,
Project Management Branch
ATTN Mr. Michael Padilla, Project Manager
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1437

Electronic comments may be sent to:

chicagodistrict.pao@usace.army.mil

It should be noted that ALL comments received by this office (via hard copy or electronic) will only be accepted with the full name and address of the individual commenting, and must be received by the close of the public notice period.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The McCook Reservoir is under construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC), the project's non-Federal sponsor. The purpose of the McCook Reservoir, located in suburban McCook, Illinois, is to reduce flood damage in the greater Chicago combined sewer system area. When complete, the McCook Reservoir Project will provide 7 billion gallons of storage as part of Chicago's TARP system. The reservoir will store combined sewer overflows (CSO) conveyed from TARP's Mainstream and Des Plaines tunnel systems until floodwaters recede and the stored water can be pumped to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP). The Des Plaines Tunnel System consists of over 25 miles of tunnels. As authorized, the McCook project includes the ability to dewater the Des Plaines TARP Tunnel system by pumping out the tunnel through the reservoir dewatering tunnels and the Mainstream Pump Station. The reservoir is being constructed in bedrock at MWRDGC's Lawndale Avenue Solids Management Area (LASMA) site.

The proposed Des Plaines Inflow Tunnel would connect the Des Plaines System to the reservoir through a direct connection from the southern end of the Des Plaines System.

The project area is located between the southern terminus of the Des Plaines Tunnel System and the McCook Reservoir in McCook, Illinois. This proposed tunnel will provide additional relief for surcharges and flooding within the Des Plaines System by providing a direct connection to the McCook Reservoir that will facilitate dewatering of the Des Plaines TARP Tunnel system under a range of reservoir conditions. The proposed tunnel will be approximately 5,350 feet length with a finished diameter of 20 feet. The Des Plaines Inflow Tunnel will enter the reservoir on the northwest wall and has been sized for an estimated maximum inflow of 11,000 cfs. During reservoir dewatering, stored overflow will be pumped through the 12-foot diameter discharge tunnel to the SWRP. The proposed tunnel may be excavated by drill and blast or tunnel boring machine (TBM) at the discretion of the construction contractor. The two (2) shafts and the portal into the McCook Reservoir will be excavated using drill and blast techniques. The proposed tunnel will be located at approximately 250 feet below ground surface.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Based on an initial review of the documentation provided by the MWRDGC, it does not appear that the proposed project would result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

This request will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

JURISDICTION

This request will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

EVALUATION FACTORS

The decision whether to grant the requested permission for project modification under Section 408 will be based on several factors. 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. Review of the requests for modification will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

- 1) Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. The decision whether to approve a request for modification would be based on a determination of no impairments.

- 2) Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The decision whether to approve the requested modification will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks associated with the proposed modification. If the potential detriments are found to outweigh the potential benefits, then it may be determined that the proposed alteration is injurious to the public interest.

- 3) Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a Federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. While ensuring compliance is the responsibility of USACE, the requester is responsible for providing all information that the USACE district identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and ordinances. NEPA and other analysis completed to comply with other environmental statutes (e.g. Endangered Species Act) should be commensurate with the scale and potential effects of the activity that would alter the USACE project. The district will work with the requester to determine the requirements, which will be scaled to the likely impacts of the proposed alteration and should convey the relevant considerations and impacts in a concise and effective manner.

All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project. The review will consider whether the proposed project is injurious to the public interest, and its potential impact to the usefulness of the Federal project. Policy and legal compliance will also be considered.

The USACE is also soliciting comments from the public, Federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed activity. Once this office completes a review of the comments received, it will determine whether to provide permission to modify the project under Section 408.

To prepare this decision, comments are taken into consideration to assess impacts on the public interest factors listed above, as well as endangered species, historic properties, water quality, and general environmental effects. Comments will be used in

the preparation of environmental compliance documentation as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF SELECTED FACTORS

INJURIOUS TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION

It has been determined that the proposed alteration to the McCook Reservoir project to construct a new Des Plaines Inflow Tunnel direct to the reservoir will not be injurious to the public interest. Because the alteration is limited to the substitution of an improved tunnel for inflow from the Des Plaines TARP Tunnel System, the alteration will not affect any of the public interest factors. There will be no change to the allocation of 2,000 acre-feet of reservoir storage to the Des Plaines TARP system. Consequently, factors relevant to the public interest including conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water quality, flood hazards, residual risk, and induced damages, etc. are not changed by the alteration. All of these public interest factors were evaluated under NEPA and documented in the original project's environmental impact statement (EIS) during the pre-authorization phase of the project, and remain unchanged by the proposed alteration.

USEFULNESS OF THE PROJECT

It has been determined that the proposed alteration to the McCook Reservoir to construct a new Des Plaines inflow tunnel direct to the reservoir would have no deleterious impact on the usefulness of the project. To the contrary, the design of the proposed alteration will improve and simplify the operation to convey the Des Plaines TARP system storage allocation to the reservoir. The current design calls for inflow from the Des Plaines TARP up to a storage allocation of 2,000 acre-feet to the reservoir. The inflow path of the current design is not optimal; it uses the tunnels currently designated to pump out the Des Plaines TARP tunnel (and eventually the reservoir) to the Stickney Water Reclamation plant and a new connector tunnel to input flows to the reservoir. With the current design, inflow from the Des Plaines TARP Tunnel System must be pumped to a partially full reservoir, a severe limitation to the operational flexibility of the reservoir during storm events. The limitation on pumping from the Des Plaines TARP Tunnel system would be eliminated by the proposed Inflow Tunnel. Flows would enter the reservoir via gravity through the new tunnel and would be controlled by gates.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

An evaluation of environmental compliance has been initiated to support the issuance of permission under Section 408. An initial review of the documentation provided by the applicant, MWRDGC, and the existing McCook Reservoir Final EIS has been completed. A preliminary determination has been made that the applicant's request will not have a significant effect on the human environment. USACE will complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) utilizing the existing

EIS for the McCook Reservoir Project as well as the design documentation provided by the applicant. Concurrent with the environmental assessment, a public notice will be issued. Upon completion of the EA and public notice period, consideration will be given to comments received. It is anticipated that a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) can be completed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

SUMMARY

It should be noted that materials submitted as part of the Section 408 request become part of the public record and are thus available to the general public under the procedures of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the Chicago District Corps of Engineers, Office of Counsel.

Interested parties wishing to comment on the proposed activity must do so in writing no later **October 13, 2015**. It is presumed that all parties receiving this notice will wish to respond to this public notice; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the project as described.

This public notice is not a paid advertisement and is for public information only. Issuance of this notice does not imply Corps of Engineers endorsement of the project as described.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael Padilla, Project Manager, by telephone at 312-846-5427 or via email at michael.c.padilla@usace.army.mil. **It should be noted that ALL comments received by this office (via hard copy or electronic) will only be accepted with the full name and address of the individual commenting.**

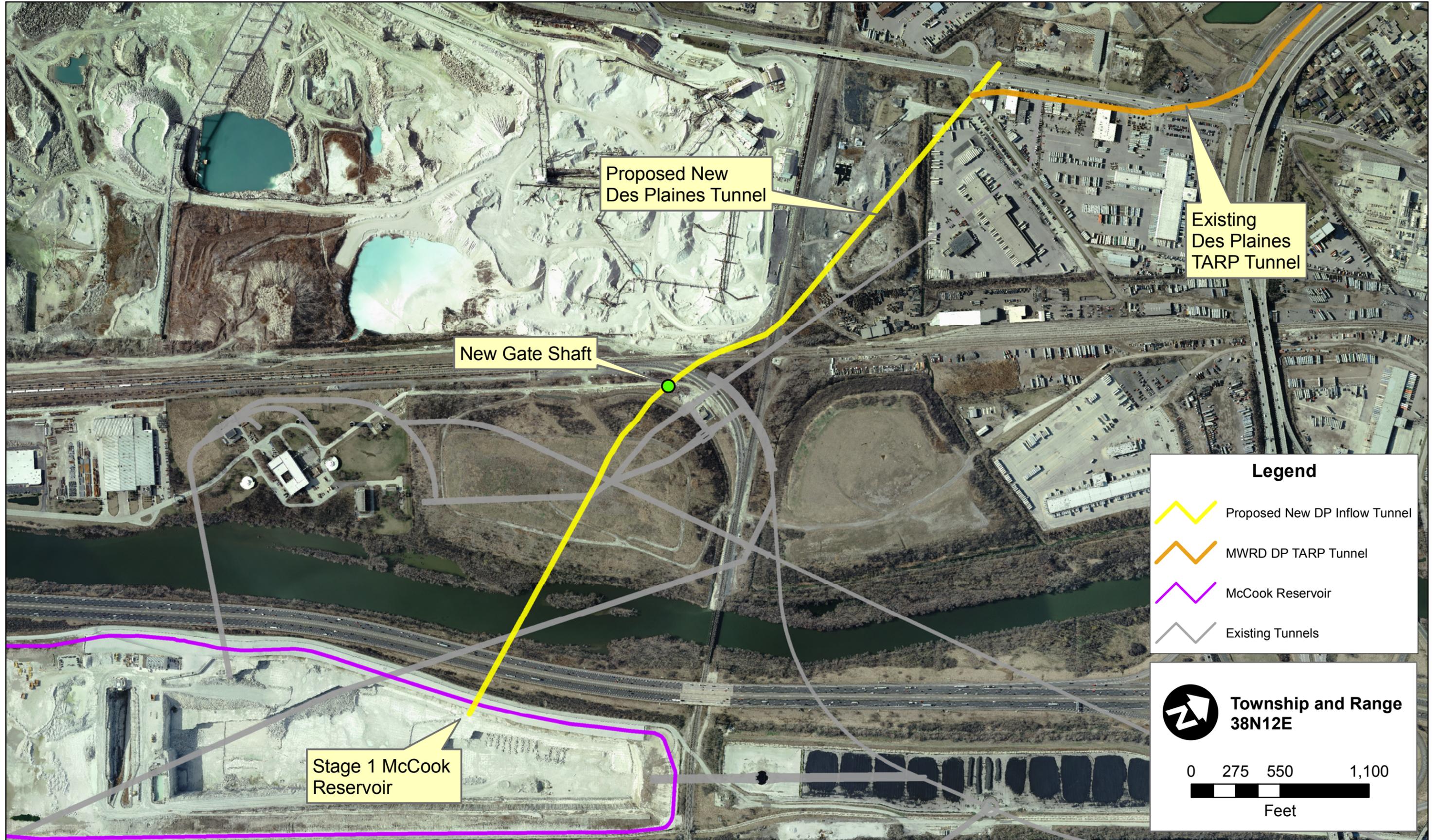
FOR THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Susanne J. Davis, P.E.
Chief, Planning Branch

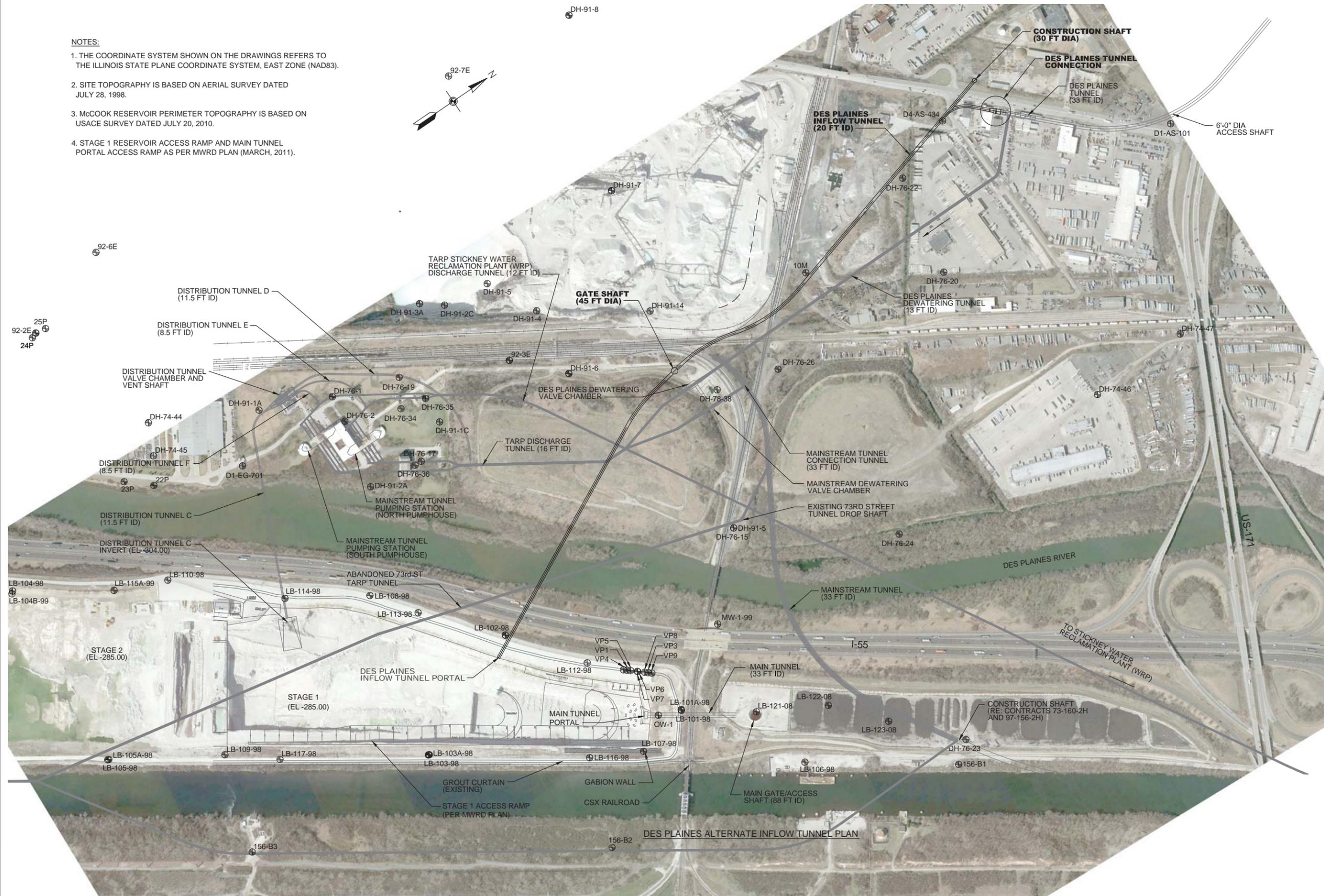
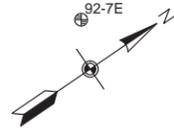


McCook Reservoir Location Map



NOTES:

1. THE COORDINATE SYSTEM SHOWN ON THE DRAWINGS REFERS TO THE ILLINOIS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, EAST ZONE (NAD83).
2. SITE TOPOGRAPHY IS BASED ON AERIAL SURVEY DATED JULY 28, 1998.
3. McCOOK RESERVOIR PERIMETER TOPOGRAPHY IS BASED ON USACE SURVEY DATED JULY 20, 2010.
4. STAGE 1 RESERVOIR ACCESS RAMP AND MAIN TUNNEL PORTAL ACCESS RAMP AS PER MWRD PLAN (MARCH, 2011).



Rev.	Description	Appr.	Date

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

Designed by: BCG	Checked by: XX	Project Manager	Approved:
Drawn by: WMT	Reviewed by: XX		
Date: XX	Scale: XX		

BLACK & VEATCH
Building a world of difference

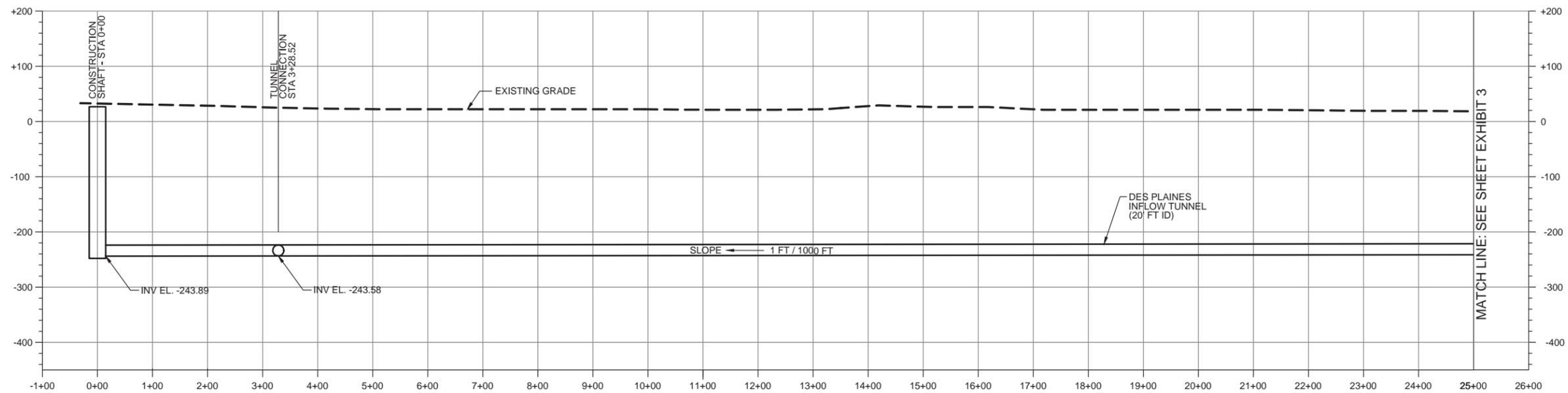
PRELIMINARY – NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DES PLAINES TARP SYSTEM
CONTRACT 13-106-4F
DES PLAINES
INFLOW TUNNEL
LOCATION MAP

Sheet Number:
EXHIBIT 1

Page Number: **XX**





PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DES PLAINES TARP SYSTEM
 CONTRACT 13-106-4F
 DES PLAINES
 INFLOW TUNNEL
 INFLOW TUNNEL - PLAN AND PROFILE
 (SHEET 1 OF 2)

Sheet Number:
 EXHIBIT 2
 Page Number: XX

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
 OF GREATER CHICAGO

Designed by: BCG
 Checked by: XX
 Drawn by: WMT
 Date: XX

Project Manager
 Approved:



Rev.	Description	Appr.	Date

