

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
Eighth Coast Guard District

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ILLINOIS  
DIVISION

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St. Louis, MO 63103-2832  
Staff Symbol: dwb  
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Email: peter.j.sambor@uscg.mil  
www.uscg.mil/d8/westernriversbridges

16591.1/287.01 ILW  
December 3, 2010

Mr. Matt Fuller, Environmental Programs Engineer  
Federal Highways Administration  
3250 Executive Park Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62703

Subj: I-80 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, MILE 287.0, ILLINOIS WATERWAY

Dear Mr. Fuller:

This is in reply to your letter of November 29, 2010 concerning the proposed bridge project at Mile 287.0, Illinois Waterway.

The General Bridge Act of 1946 requires that the location and plans for bridges over navigable waters of the United States be approved by the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard prior to commencing construction. The Illinois Waterway is considered to be a navigable waterway of the United States for bridge administration purposes at the bridge site.

Applications for bridge permits should be addressed to Commander (dwb), Eighth Coast Guard District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2832, Attention: Bridge Branch. The application must be supported by sufficient information to permit a thorough assessment of the impact of the bridge and its immediate approaches on the environment. We recommend that the impacts of procedures for constructing cofferdams, sand islands, and falsework bents, etc., that will be employed to build the bridge and demolish the old bridge be discussed. The Environmental Assessment (EA) should also contain data on the number, size and types of vessels currently using the waterway. This information should be compared with past and projected future trends on the use of the waterway.

We agree to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the project from a navigation standpoint. We should be given the opportunity to review the EA and be consulted before a decision is made to prepare a FONSI in lieu of an EIS. Our review and recommendations on the vertical and horizontal clearance requirements for river traffic will be coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation Bridge and Structure Division office.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the project in this early stage. You can contact Mr. Pete Sambor at the above telephone number if you have questions regarding our comments or requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Washburn".

ERIC A. WASHBURN  
Bridge Administrator

By direction of the District Commander