



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

September 15, 2014

Charles Frerker  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Louis District, Regulatory Branch  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

**RE: Lhoist North America - Dredging and Open River Disposal.**  
**Project Number(s): 1504047 [P-2886]**  
**County: Randolph**

Dear Mr. Frerker:

This letter is in reference to the above mentioned project involving dredging activities at Lhoist North America in Ste. Genevieve County, MO along the right descending bank of the Mississippi River. Open river disposal of dredge material is proposed along the left descending bank in Randolph County, IL. The proposed project occurs between RM 127 and 127.5.

The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources in the vicinity of the proposed action. The Mississippi River - Mudds Landing Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) site occurs within approximately 0.5 miles downstream of the proposed open river dredge disposal site. This INAI site is a Category II, meaning specific suitable habitat for state-listed species or state-listed species relocations is present. Records of the state-endangered western sand darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*) occur within the INAI site.

The Department recommends all dredge material be disposed of in the alternative upland site to protect water quality and habitat in the downstream INAI site. If Lhoist North America still prefers the open river disposal method, the Department recommends a survey be conducted by a qualified biologist for the presence of western sand darter in the project footprint, including downstream areas impacted by open river disposal. The survey should also include suitable habitat for this species that may be impacted by the proposed project.

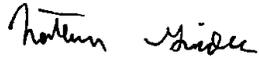
The Department concurs with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's recommendation in the letter dated September 12, 2014 that no dredging occur from April 15<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> to avoid impacts to the state and federally-endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and other fishes.

The Department requests notification if Lhoist North America plans to modify the proposed action to accommodate these recommendations or proceed as originally planned.

Please note that this review by the IDNR, Impact Assessment Section does not preclude permit decisions made by the IDNR Office of Water Resources under the Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan Grider".

Nathan Grider  
Biologist  
Impact Assessment Section  
Division of Natural Heritage

cc: IDNR, Butch Atwood  
USFWS, Matt Mangan  
MDC, Janet Sternberg