



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Omaha District

---

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Application No: 2003-11573**

**Applicant: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District**

**Waterway: West Branch Papillion Creek**

**Issue Date: May 21, 2004**

**Expiration Date: June 11, 2004**

**21 DAY NOTICE**

---

Reply To:

NEBRASKA REGULATORY OFFICE – WEHRSPANN

8901 SOUTH 154<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 1, OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68138-3621

---

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE:** This public notice is issued jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), P.O. Box 98922, State House Station, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509. NDEQ will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. NDEQ hereby incorporates this public notice as its own public notice and procedures by reference thereto. For the purposes of NDEQ, this public notice will expire 30 days from the issue date shown above.

**AUTHORITY:** Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

**APPLICANT:** Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, c/o Martin Cleveland, 8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE, 68138

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project is located in portions of Section 20, 21, 22, and 27, Township 14 North, Range 12 East, Sarpy County, Nebraska. The upstream boundary of the project is Giles Road. The downstream boundary is West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposes to increase the flood capacity of the West Branch of Papillion Creek by excavating and widening approximately the upper half of the creek bank, construct a maintenance road/trail, install seven culverted crossings on tributaries to the West Branch and realigning 416 feet of the channel to prevent the bank from scouring. The widening of the channel will begin 12 vertical feet above the flow line of the creek and continue downstream for 12, 800 linear feet. Approximately 140 square feet of riprap will be placed at the outlet of each of the seven culverted crossings. Between Sta. 352+00 and 356+00 (416 feet) will be realigned approximately 40 feet to the north. The channel will be shortened by 95 feet. The new channel will have the same width and have 2:1 side slopes. Disturbed areas will be reseeded with a standard Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District seed mix. Oats will be sowed as a cover crop.

Sixty-six foot wide buffer strips of native upland vegetation will be established on each side of the relocated channel.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The project purpose is to reduce the flooding in Papillion and LaVista by increasing the storage capacity within the bankfull area of the West Papillion Creek. This channel project is listed in the Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District Annual Long Range Implementation Report and is the final of phase of three. The trail along this stretch of the West Branch of Papillion Creek is part of the larger West Papio Trail that will connect to the Keystone trail in 2004. Culvert crossings are needed at each tributary waterway so that maintenance equipment as well as hikers and bikers can move along the trail.

**SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES:** Approximately 0.23 acres of R4SBC streambed and 0.07 acres of PFOC wetlands will be impacted by the filling of the stream channel. Approximately 0.34 acres of PEMC debited from the Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District wetland bank.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

**FLOODPLAIN:** This activity is being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. By this notice, comments are requested from individuals and agencies that believe the described work will adversely impact the floodplain.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This public notice serves as an application to the state in which the discharge site is located for certification of the discharge. The discharge must be certified before a Department of the Army permit can be issued. Certification, if issued, expresses the state's opinion that the discharge will not violate applicable water quality standards.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The decision whether to issue the Corps' permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed/completed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against their 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. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

**COMMENTS:** 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 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 project. 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 activity.

Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed/completed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to the Nebraska Regulatory Office – Wehrspann, 8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1, Omaha, NE 68138-3621. The District Engineer is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic system's functional values, cumulative and secondary effects and endangered species. All comments received will be considered public information; copies of all comments, including names and addresses of commentors, may be provided to the applicant unless confidentiality is requested. Comments must be submitted on or before the expiration date (located at the top of the first page) of this notice to be considered in the subsequent actions on this application.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information about this application may be obtained by writing to John Moeschen at the address shown on page one or by calling him at (402) 896-0896. You can also e-mail him at [John.L.Moeschen@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.L.Moeschen@usace.army.mil).

**REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS:** Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page one.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display advertising.