



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**P.O. BOX 1070**  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202-1070**

Project Planning Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, is proposing emergency bank stabilization along the shoreline in Sheffield Park, Sheffield, Alabama in Colbert County. The project is located adjacent to Tennessee River mile 253.5 on the right descending bank. Project location maps are attached (Figure 1). This project would be performed under authority of Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, as amended.

The project would involve approximately 400 linear feet of streambank downstream of a boat ramp and small dock owned by the City of Sheffield. Approximately 200 feet of the affected bank is constructed of a barge backfilled with soil. After several decades of use as a mooring site, the riverward barge walls have deteriorated and exposed the backfill to the river. The fill appears to be eroding into the river resulting in the formation of sinkholes at the soil surface.

The remaining 200 feet of bank appears to be constructed of discontinuous steel and concrete bulkhead, topped by railroad timbers and backfilled to top of bank. This portion appears to be eroding from top of bank downward, causing the unstable railroad ties to lean into the river. Adjacent light poles, parking lot, and stormwater drainage pipes could be damaged should the bank fail. Bank failure could also result in siltation into the river. The park is located adjacent to a "No Harvest" zone for mussels, and across the river from the Alabama Seven Mile Island Wildlife Management Area.

It is anticipated this project would meet conditions of the 2002 Nashville District Environmental Assessment (EA) Continued Emergency Streambank Protection Program with Special Conditions Pursuant to Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act as Amended.

This regional EA evaluated several alternatives for bank stabilization, which would be considered for this project:

(1) removal of riverward barge wall; back-slope fill to suitable grade and riprap, (2) same as alternative (1) except incorporate bioengineering instead of all riprap, (3) install a new retaining wall the length of the affected area; (4) remove the deteriorating barge wall and a portion of the bank and stack

gabions at the water's edge that may be capped to form a walkway at top of bank; and, (5) No Action. Alternatives (1), (2), and (5) would affect the location of existing utilities and parking lot.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and applicable implementing regulations, the regional assessment evaluated riprap, gabions, retaining wall, and bioengineering alternatives and associated impacts. Water quality certification was acquired from the State of Alabama for this EA. Further coordination as outlined in the EA would be followed during review process. If other alternatives not meeting conditions of this EA were developed, individual NEPA review would occur.

We are soliciting public and agency comments concerning any environmental concerns that should be addressed in the course of the planning process. We encourage comments not only about the immediate project area, but also of plans or proposals for any other development that may impact or influence project resources.

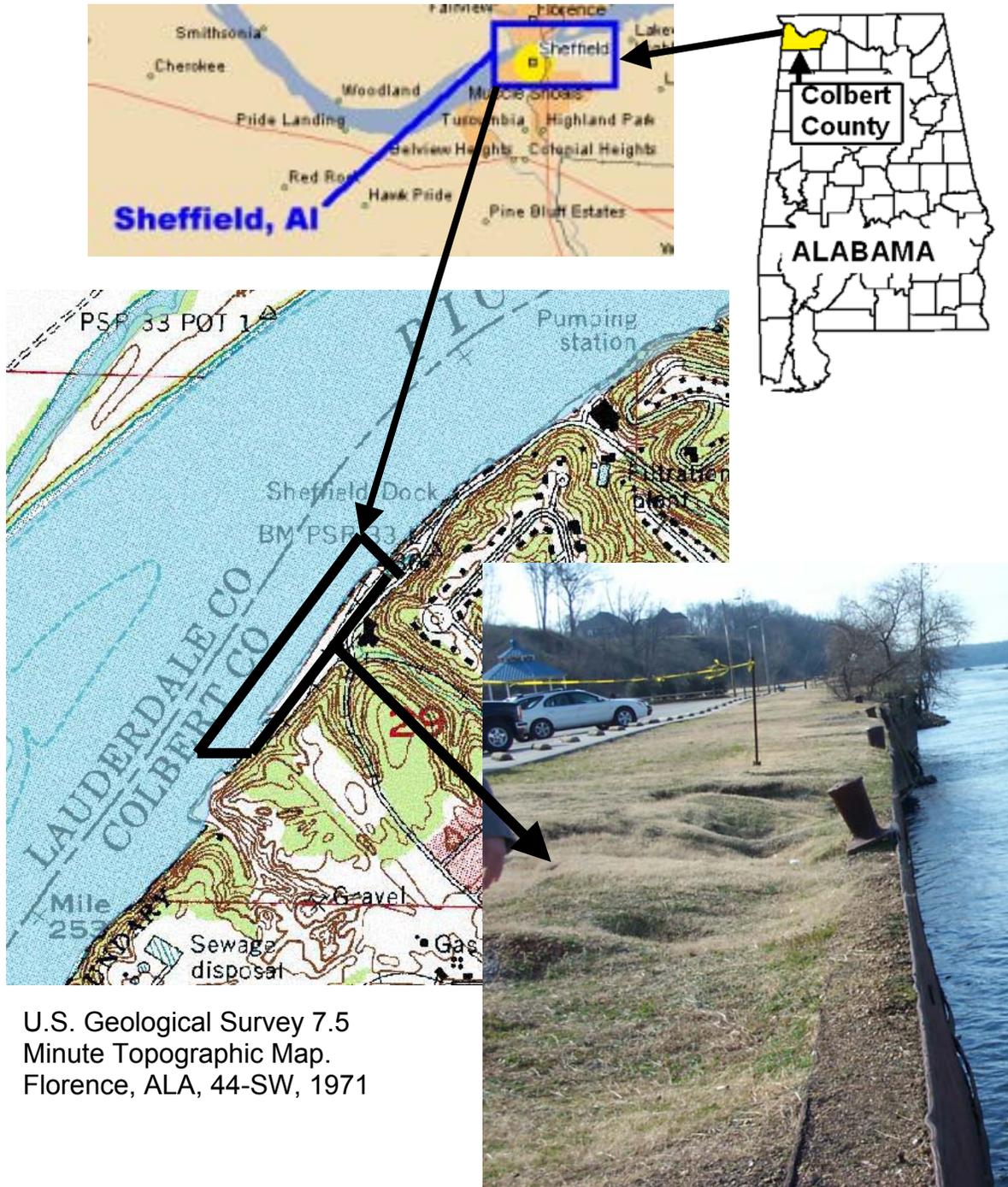
This letter also serves to initiate the public involvement requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Section 106, implemented by regulations at 36CFR800, requires the Corps of Engineers to consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties. If required, appropriate architectural and archeological investigations will be conducted within those areas affected by the proposed activities and resulting findings will be coordinated with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer and other offices as necessary.

The public is invited to submit written comments to this scoping no later than **November 30, 2003**. You may send your comments to the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1070 (PM-P), Nashville, TN 37202-1070, ATTN: CELRN-PM-P (Joy Broach). Information may also be obtained by calling Ms. Broach at (615) 736-7956.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Radley, A.I.C.P  
Chief, Project Planning Branch

Figure 1. Sheffield Park, Sheffield, Alabama, Colbert County. State, vicinity, and project site maps are shown below. Sheffield Park is located on the left descending bank of the Tennessee River near Mile 253.5



U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Map. Florence, ALA, 44-SW, 1971