

## **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (ADEE),  
Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)



# ARKANSAS

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

February 22, 2021

Bill McAbee  
Environmental Project Manager  
Garver, LLC  
4701 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118  
Via email: [WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com](mailto:WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com)

RE: Comments Regarding Environmental Impact Statement for the Future I-57 Project, ARDOT Job No. 100512, Walnut Ridge to Missouri State Line

The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the Arkansas Department of Transportation's (ARDOT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study improvements between the Highway 41/Highway 67 interchange at Walnut Ridge and the Missouri state line. Comments were collected from DEQ's Office of Land Resources and Office of Water Quality. The Office of Air Quality has no comment at this time.

The Office of Land Resources (OLR) offers the following comments:

It is possible the project will be in proximity to potential hazardous waste locations or encounter aboveground and underground storage tanks, including inactive and abandoned sites. When a pathway is chosen, please contact DEQ to request a list of known Leaking Underground Storage Tank sites. Additionally, please ensure the following sites are taken into consideration when evaluating pathways: the Frit Industries facility in College City, adjacent to the Walnut Ridge Regional Airport, and the LA Darling Company facility in Corning, AR. Contact Dianna Kilburn in OLR's Assessment and Remediation Section if you have questions or need assistance. Dianna is available at [Kilburn@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:Kilburn@adeq.state.ar.us) or 501.913.3855.

The Office of Water Quality (OWQ) offers the following comments:

The applicant must comply with all provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit ARR150000 and submit a Pollution Prevention Plan to the OWQ. The permit is required prior to the start of construction. Information on the permit and its requirements can be found on DEQ's website, <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/permits/npdes/stormwater/>, or by contacting the OWQ, Construction Stormwater Section, at 501.682.0621.

Based on the project maps provided, it appears that waterbodies may be crossed or impacted in the proposed project area. The applicant should contact DEQ to obtain a Short Term Activity Authorization (STAA) from the OWQ for any instream activity associated with this project. The STAA allows for a one-time exceedance of the water quality standards for activity that is “essential to the protection or promotion of the public interest and where no permanent or long-term impairment of beneficial uses is likely to result (Rule No. 2, 2.305 DEQ).”

Further, special designated-use waterbodies are located within the proposed project area. The Current River runs through the northwest portion of the proposed project area and is designated in Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Rule No. 2 as an Extraordinary Resource Water (ERW). Additionally, Village Creek is located within the proposed project area and has a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for silt/turbidity. It is imperative that best available measures be taken to minimize sedimentation and turbidity from entering waterbodies during this project.

Section 404 permitting may be required if any of the proposed project areas are considered to be jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Little Rock District. Direct crossing or work within a one-mile buffer of an ERW stream or designated TMDL stream for silt/turbidity will require an Individual 401 Water Quality Certification from DEQ to accompany the 404 permit.

If the project causes water utilities to be relocated, coverage under the Non-Stormwater Hydrostatic Testing General Permit ARG670000 must be obtained. All applicable State and Federal laws must be met before, during, and after completion of the project. Additionally, any discharge of wastewater — whether domestic, industrial, process water, or such related activities — must be authorized by obtaining the appropriate permits prior to the activities taking place.

This letter is issued in reliance upon the statements and representations made in the submittal. DEQ has no responsibility for adequacy or proper functioning of the proposed project. Please contact the above-listed contacts in the OLR and the OWQ with any technical follow-up questions. If you have additional follow-up questions regarding DEQ input on this EIS, please contact Enterprise Services, as detailed below.

In the future, please address requests for input on Environmental Impact Statements or other environmental reviews to DEQ’s Enterprise Services section. You may email requests for comment to [EnterpriseServices@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:EnterpriseServices@adeq.state.ar.us). For questions on this process, please contact our Director of Enterprise Services, Julie Nicol, at [nicol@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:nicol@adeq.state.ar.us) or 501.350.1215.

Sincerely,



Becky W. Keogh  
Cabinet Secretary, Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment  
Director, Division of Environmental Quality

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

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**From:** Kilburn, Dianna <KILBURN@adeq.state.ar.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 5:40 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Cc:** McAbee, William C.  
**Subject:** RE: Future I-57 Project, ARDOT Job No. 100512, Walnut Ridge to Missouri State Line  
**Attachments:** Clay County Tanks reduced.pdf; Greene County Reduced.pdf; Lawrence County Reduced.pdf; Randolph County Tanks Reduced.pdf

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Dear Ms. Schmidt,

I apologize for the delayed response. I wanted to verify the capability of the new EPA UST-finder before I suggested it to you. A link to the EPA page containing the web based program and other information about the program can be found at this link <https://www.epa.gov/ust/ust-finder> . The program contains data from the states through 2019. Of greatest value will be the mapped locations and the closed or removed tank sites. For active or temporarily closed tank sites, I have pulled the county listings for Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties in Arkansas. These files are attached. For further information you may locate data on these sites from the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment web site under Online Services/ Databases/ Petroleum Tanks Program/ Storage Tank Facility Data. I hope you find these resources useful on your project. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
 Dianna Kilburn

**Dianna Kilburn** | Senior Manager  
**Division of Environmental Quality** | **Office of Land Resources**  
**Assessment and Remediation**  
 5301 Northshore Drive | North Little Rock, AR 72118  
 t: 501.682.0844 | c: 501.913.3855 | e: [kilburn@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:kilburn@adeq.state.ar.us)




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**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. [mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 12:13 PM  
**To:** Kilburn, Dianna  
**Cc:** McAbee, William C.  
**Subject:** Future I-57 Project, ARDOT Job No. 100512, Walnut Ridge to Missouri State Line

Good Afternoon Ms. Kilburn,

We are working on the Future I-57 project located between Walnut Ridge and the Missouri State Line (ARDOT Job No. 100512). In some past DEQ coordination (letter attached), we were encouraged to reach out to you to request location data for USTs or LUSTs that may be in the project area. As our alignments are still shifting a bit here and

there, would it be possible (assuming that's easiest for you) to just obtain a spreadsheet of RSTs within each of the four counties? (and we can cut out what we don't need)

Let me know what information you need from us to best get this kind of data.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance!

Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

📞 479-287-4673



STATE OF ARKANSAS

**Department of Finance  
and Administration**

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

1515 West Seventh Street, Suite 412  
Post Office Box 8031  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8031  
Phone: (501) 682-1074  
Fax: (501) 682-5206

<https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/intergovernmental-services>

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Technical Review Committee Members  
 FROM: State Clearinghouse  
 DATE: October 19, 2022  
 SUBJECT: #3226 - Walnut Ridge - Missouri State Line (Future I-57)  
 APPLICANT: ARDOT Job# 100512  
 LOCATION: Counties of Clay, Greene, Lawrence & Randolph

Please review the above stated document under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966), National Environmental Policy Act (1969), Clean Water Act (1972), Environmental Assessments / Environmental Impact Statements and the Arkansas Project Notification and Review System.

Your comments should be emailed by **November 18, 2022** to [Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov](mailto:Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov) from the office of Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). The Director of ANRC and the Technical Review Committee Chairman is Chris Colclasure Ms. Brown will ensure that he is informed of any needed information.

It is imperative that your response be sent by the date requested. If you have "No Comments," this should be indicated below and submitted. Should your Agency anticipate having a response which will be delayed beyond the stated deadline for comments, please contact Laura Brown at (501) 682-3985 or the State Clearinghouse Office at (501) 683-8070.

<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Support (Comments Attached)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Support with Following Conditions
<input type="checkbox"/> No Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Degradation Certification Issues (Applies to ADEQ Only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Print) Dalton Barnum Date 11/8/2022  
 Agency Department of Energy & Environment Phone Number 501-682-0648



## ARKANSAS ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

November 8, 2022

Technical Review Committee Members  
Office of Intergovernmental Services  
Department of Finance and Administration

RE: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Comments Requested Regarding IGS# 3226  
– Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57) Project; ARDOT Job #100512

The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is pleased to comment on the proposed City of Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line Interstate Facility Construction Project. The project will include the design and construction of an interstate facility from the City of Walnut Ridge to the State line within Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph County, Arkansas. The construction will begin at the interchange of Highway 67 and Highway 412 in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas and end at the Arkansas-Missouri state line, forty-two (42) miles away.

From an environmental compliance standpoint, based on the information provided, there are areas of concern. A Construction Stormwater General Permit ARR150000 is required if the project disturbs one (1) acre or more of land. The Construction Stormwater General Permit is required prior to the start of construction. Information on the permit and its requirements can be found on DEQ's website, <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/permits/npdes/stormwater/>, or by contacting DEQ's Office of Water Quality (OWQ), Construction Stormwater Section, at 501.682.0620.

The Construction Stormwater General permit does not authorize any activity to be conducted in Waters of the State or Waters of the United States. Work in Waters of the State requires a short-term activity authorization (STAA) from DEQ prior to working in the wetted area of a stream or water body and may require a U.S. Corps of Engineers permit. A STAA is necessary for any in-stream activity that could cause an exceedance of applicable water quality standards, including, but not limited to: gravel removal, bridge or crossing repair/maintenance, bank stabilization, debris removal, culvert replacement, flood control projects, and stream relocation. Appropriate Best Management Practices should be used during construction to ensure the protection of the water quality and prevent future impacts or impairment of the receiving waters. For more information and forms, see DEQ's website, <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/planning/instream/>, or call 501.682.0047.

Additionally, if the project causes water utilities to be relocated, the project will require coverage under the Non-Stormwater Hydrostatic Testing General Permit ARG670000. All applicable State and Federal laws must be met before, during, and after the completion of the project. Any discharge of wastewater — whether domestic, industrial, process water, or such



related activities — must be authorized by obtaining the appropriate permits prior to the activities taking place.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation and the City of Walnut Ridge should ensure that all waste from the project is properly disposed of or if the material removed meets the definition of beneficial fill, the material is used as beneficial fill. All solid waste must be disposed of at a permitted solid waste landfill. The Arkansas Department of Transportation should ensure all waste generated from or discovered on the subject property is properly classified as hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste. Any hazardous waste resulting from this project must be sent to a permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facility. Based on the information made available, DEQ's Office of Land Resources (OLR) does not anticipate this project resulting in a need for a Hazardous Waste Management permit. For additional information, please contact OLR's Compliance Section, at 501.682.0582.

This letter is issued in reliance upon the statements and representations made in the submittal. DEQ has no responsibility for the adequacy or proper functioning of the proposed project. Please contact the respective Offices with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Cross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lucy Cross  
Director of Enterprise Services, Division of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118

LC: tdb



# ARKANSAS

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

December 28, 2022

Caitlin Hetzel  
Communications Manager  
Garver USA  
4701 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118  
Via email: CEHetzel@GarverUSA.com

RE: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Comments Requested Regarding Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Job 100512 – Walnut Ridge to Missouri State Line Connection

Dear Ms. Hetzel,

The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is pleased to comment on the proposed Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Job 100512, Walnut Ridge to Missouri State Line Connection project. This project will construct an interstate facility from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, to the state line running through Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas. This project will help bridge the gap in the system linkage that diminished the connectivity and mobility of the National Highway System.

From an environmental compliance standpoint, based on the information provided, there are areas of concern. A Construction Stormwater General Permit ARR150000 is required if the project disturbs one (1) acre or more of land. The Construction Stormwater General Permit is required prior to the start of construction. Information on the permit and its requirements can be found on DEQ's website, <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/permits/npdes/stormwater/>, or by contacting DEQ's Office of Water Quality (OWQ), Construction Stormwater Section, at 501.682.0620.

The Construction Stormwater General permit does not authorize any activity to be conducted in Waters of the State or Waters of the United States. Work in Waters of the State requires a short-term activity authorization (STAA) from DEQ prior to working in the wetted area of a stream or water body and may require a U.S. Corps of Engineers permit. A STAA is necessary for any in-stream activity that could cause an exceedance of applicable water quality standards, including, but not limited to: gravel removal, bridge or crossing repair/maintenance, bank stabilization, debris removal, culvert replacement, flood control projects, and stream relocation. Appropriate Best Management Practices should be used during construction to ensure the protection of the water quality and prevent future impacts or impairment of the receiving waters. For more information and forms, see DEQ's website, <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/planning/instream/>, or call 501.682.0047.

Additionally, if the project causes water utilities to be relocated, the project will require coverage under the Non-Stormwater Hydrostatic Testing General Permit ARG670000. All applicable State and Federal laws must be met before, during, and after the completion of the project. Any discharge of wastewater — whether domestic, industrial, process water, or such related activities — must be authorized by obtaining the appropriate permits prior to the activities taking place.

All waste resulting from the proposed connection project should be properly disposed of, or if the material removed meets the definition of beneficial fill, the material is used as beneficial fill. Additionally, waste resulting from the proposed connection project should be properly classified as hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste. Any hazardous waste resulting from this project must be sent to a permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facility. Based on the information made available, DEQ's Office of Land Resources (OLR) does not anticipate the proposed project to result in a need for a Hazardous Waste Management permit. For additional information, please contact OLR's Compliance Section, at 501.682.0582.

This letter is issued in reliance upon the statements and representations made in the submittal. DEQ has no responsibility for the adequacy or proper functioning of the proposed project. Please contact the respective Offices with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Cross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "L" and "C".

Lucy Cross  
Director of Enterprise Services, Division of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118

LC: vdk

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC)



Pat Fitts  
Director

Chris Colclasure  
Deputy Director

Chris Racey  
Deputy Director

Roger Mangham  
Deputy Director

## Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

May 28, 2020

Mr. Randal Looney  
Federal Highway Administration  
700 W. Capitol Rm. 3130  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3298

Re: Environmental Impact Statement to support improving the U.S. Highway 67 corridor in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties in Arkansas

Mr. Looney,

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) is in receipt of a letter regarding our agency's involvement in the proposed Highway 67 expansion and future I-57 project. The notice we received states the following:

“The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), intend to initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support improving the U.S. Highway 67 (HWY 67) corridor in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties in Arkansas. The project will be designated as a section of future Interstate 57. The proposed limits of this section extend from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri state line, approximately 40 miles in length (map enclosed). The proposed project will examine alternatives to improve HWY 67 from Walnut Ridge to the Arkansas-Missouri state line to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System. Your agency is invited to become a participating agency with the FHWA in the development of the EIS for the Future I-57 project. Pursuant to 23 United States Code (U.S.C) section 139, participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts. Your agency's role in the development of the project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise”

The AGFC accepts the invitation to become a participating agency in the development of this EIS. Several proposed project alternatives appear to be in close proximity or perhaps even intersect the boundaries of Dave Donaldson Black River Wildlife Management Area, managed and owned by the AGFC. There are also several high priority aquatic species found in proximity to the proposed project in the Black and Current rivers. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission manages the fish and wildlife resources of Arkansas, therefore, we would like to offer our feedback and participation in avoiding and minimizing impacts to this public trust resource. The AGFC appreciates the opportunity to participate in this EIS process.

Sincerely,

Pat Fitts

Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

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**From:** Sheehan, Jennifer <jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 11:45 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Cc:** Jason Carbaugh; Brett Timmons; Allison Asher; Zackery Yancey; Jimmy Barnett; Allison Fowler  
**Subject:** Fwd: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request  
**Attachments:** I-57 Alignment Outlines.kmz; Future I-57 Alternatives Map.pdf  
**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Hello Cassie,

Many apologies for my delay in getting back to you! I have copied a few Game & Fishers that may be able to supplement the species data you have already collected:

- Jason Carbaugh - Assistant Biologist Supervisor for northeast Arkansas
- Brett Timmons - District Fisheries Supervisor for northeast Arkansas
- Allison Asher - Assistant Fisheries Supervisor for northeast Arkansas
- Zack Yancy - Dave Donaldson Black River WMA Manager
- Jimmy Barnett - Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator
- Allison Fowler - Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator

AGFC staff - please take a look at the below email from Cassie Schmidt who is working on the future I-57 project from Walnut Ridge to Missouri. If you all know of any additional species information to what she has listed could you please share that information with her?

Any of you, please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,  
jen

**Jennifer Elise Sheehan**

Chief, Environmental Coordination Division

Mobile: 501-680-0319

Phone: 501-223-6356

Email: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Schmidt, Cassie P.** <[CPSchmidt@garverusa.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@garverusa.com)>  
Date: Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 4:26 PM  
Subject: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request  
To: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov) <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)>  
Cc: McAbee, William C. <[WCMcAbee@garverusa.com](mailto:WCMcAbee@garverusa.com)>

Good Afternoon Ms. Sheehan,

On behalf of ARDOT and FHWA, I am working on a NEPA document for a large transportation project in northeast Arkansas. On May 28, 2020, the AGFC accepted the invitation to be a participating agency for the project.

The project involves a future interstate facility (to be designated I-57) located between Walnut Ridge, AR and the Missouri state line. Attached is a KMZ showing the alignment alternatives being evaluated for environmental impacts.

One component of the environmental analysis is to summarize terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species that are likely present within the footprints of the proposed alternatives (and of course how the proposed project may affect them). We have reached out to ANHC and have obtained data regarding species of special conservation concern, however, I was wondering if the AGFC has any other sort of element occurrence data that would apply to the specific project area (as opposed to just those species of concern). For example, are there county-level species occurrence lists for mammals, reptiles, fish etc.? Or perhaps something specific for the Black River, which each build alternative will cross, such as past surveys or inventories that have been conducted. Do such studies exist?

I have reviewed the Dave Donaldson Black River WMA Master Plan, as well as the State Wildlife Action Plan. Both are wonderful resources and I believe will supplement the data I'm hoping to find. For the Black River WMA, have any species inventories been done for the area? I saw that the Master Plan lists common tree species present as well as game species, but I was hoping there might be some information out there on what other fish, macroinvertebrates, and other wildlife occur there or within the Black River? Do you know if these kinds of surveys or inventories have been conducted? For the State Wildlife Action Plan, is there a GIS shapefile or layer file available delineating the locations of each of the Terrestrial Habitats identified in Section 4 (specifically those in Table 4.1)?

ALSO (sorry, I am so full of questions!), would AGFC be able to provide a list of any invasive species or noxious weeds that are likely to occur in the project area?

Okay, that's it. I would greatly appreciate any information you can give me and thank you in advance for your time. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

☎ 479-287-4673



**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

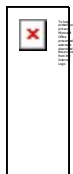
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**From:** Carbaugh, Jason <jason.carbaugh@agfc.ar.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sheehan, Jennifer  
**Cc:** Schmidt, Cassie P.; Brett Timmons; Allison Asher; Zackery Yancey; Jimmy Barnett; Allison Fowler  
**Subject:** Re: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request  
**Attachments:** DDBR WMA 1984 Master Plan Species Checklist.pdf  
**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Cassie/Jen,

I dug through our old 1984 Dave Donaldson/Black River WMA Master Plan and found a species list of birds, reptiles, fish, plants, etc. Attached is a scanned copy of that list. I hope this helps.

Thanks,



**Jason Carbaugh CWB®**

Assistant Regional Supervisor

Mobile: (870)-926-7072  
 Phone: (877)-972-5438  
 Email: [Jason.Carbaugh@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Jason.Carbaugh@agfc.ar.gov)  
 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
 600-B East Lawson Road, Jonesboro, AR 72404

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 11:45 AM Sheehan, Jennifer <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)> wrote:  
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Thank you,  
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**Jennifer Elise Sheehan**

Chief, Environmental Coordination Division

Mobile: 501-680-0319  
 Phone: 501-223-6356  
 Email: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)  
 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



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 To: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov) <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)>  
 Cc: McAbee, William C. <[WCMcAbee@garverusa.com](mailto:WCMcAbee@garverusa.com)>

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Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**  
Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

📞 479-287-4673

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

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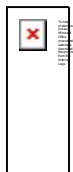
**From:** Timmons, Brett <brett.timmons@agfc.ar.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Cc:** Carbaugh, Jason; Sheehan, Jennifer; Allison Asher; Zackery Yancey; Jimmy Barnett; Allison Fowler; Jeffrey Quinn  
**Subject:** Re: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request  
**Attachments:** DDBR WMA 1984 Master Plan Species Checklist.pdf  
**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Cassie,  
Looking at this list I would add these sportfishes to the list.

Blue Catfish - Ictalurus Furcatus  
Spotted bass - Micropterus punctulatus

There would be other ANS fish species that are not on the list. Our ANS Coordinator can provide that information about the species that have been positively ID'd in the area. I have also cc'd our streams biologist to see if he has any additions of fishes on this list.

Thanks,



**Brett A Timmons**  
District 3 Fisheries Biologist Supervisor

Mobile: 870-552-5817  
Phone: 870-972-5438  
Email: [Brett.Timmons@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Brett.Timmons@agfc.ar.gov)  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
[600-B East Lawson Road Jonesboro, AR 72404](http://600-B East Lawson Road Jonesboro, AR 72404)

On Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 8:46 PM Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@garverusa.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@garverusa.com)> wrote:

Jason,

This is EXACTLY what I was hoping you might have. 😊 Great find and thank you so much for your efforts!!

Sincerely,

**Cassie Schmidt**

Garver  
479-287-4673

---

**From:** Carbaugh, Jason <[jason.carbaugh@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jason.carbaugh@agfc.ar.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sheehan, Jennifer <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)>  
**Cc:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>; Brett Timmons <[brett.timmons@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:brett.timmons@agfc.ar.gov)>; Allison Asher <[allison.asher@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:allison.asher@agfc.ar.gov)>; Zackery Yancey <[zack.yancey@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:zack.yancey@agfc.ar.gov)>; Jimmy Barnett <[Jimmy.Barnett@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Jimmy.Barnett@agfc.ar.gov)>; Allison Fowler <[allison.fowler@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:allison.fowler@agfc.ar.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Cassie/Jen,

I dug through our old 1984 Dave Donaldson/Black River WMA Master Plan and found a species list of birds, reptiles, fish, plants, etc. Attached is a scanned copy of that list. I hope this helps.

Thanks,



**Jason Carbaugh CWB®**

Assistant Regional Supervisor

Mobile: (870)-926-7072  
Phone: (877)-972-5438  
Email: [Jason.Carbaugh@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Jason.Carbaugh@agfc.ar.gov)  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
600-B East Lawson Road, Jonesboro, AR 72404

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 11:45 AM Sheehan, Jennifer <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)> wrote:

Hello Cassie,

Many apologies for my delay in getting back to you! I have copied a few Game & Fishers that may be able to supplement the species data you have already collected:

- Jason Carbaugh - Assistant Biologist Supervisor for northeast Arkansas
- Brett Timmons - District Fisheries Supervisor for northeast Arkansas
- Allison Asher - Assistant Fisheries Supervisor for northeast Arkansas
- Zack Yancy - Dave Donaldson Black River WMA Manager
- Jimmy Barnett - Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator
- Allison Fowler - Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator

AGFC staff - please take a look at the below email from Cassie Schmidt who is working on the future I-57 project from Walnut Ridge to Missouri. If you all know of any additional species information to what she has listed could you please share that information with her?

Any of you, please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

jen



**Jennifer Elise Sheehan**

Chief, Environmental Coordination Division

Mobile: 501-680-0319

Phone: 501-223-6356

Email: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Schmidt, Cassie P.** <[CPSchmidt@garverusa.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@garverusa.com)>

Date: Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 4:26 PM

Subject: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

To: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov) <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)>

Cc: McAbee, William C. <[WCMcAbee@garverusa.com](mailto:WCMcAbee@garverusa.com)>

Good Afternoon Ms. Sheehan,

On behalf of ARDOT and FHWA, I am working on a NEPA document for a large transportation project in northeast Arkansas. On May 28, 2020, the AGFC accepted the invitation to be a participating agency for the project.

The project involves a future interstate facility (to be designated I-57) located between Walnut Ridge, AR and the Missouri state line. Attached is a KMZ showing the alignment alternatives being evaluated for environmental impacts.

One component of the environmental analysis is to summarize terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species that are likely present within the footprints of the proposed alternatives (and of course how the proposed project may affect them). We have reached out to ANHC and have obtained data regarding species of special conservation concern, however, I was wondering if the AGFC has any other sort of element occurrence data that would apply to the specific project area (as opposed to just those species of concern). For example, are there county-level species occurrence lists for mammals, reptiles, fish etc.? Or perhaps something specific for the Black River, which each build alternative will cross, such as past surveys or inventories that have been conducted. Do such studies exist?

I have reviewed the Dave Donaldson Black River WMA Master Plan, as well as the State Wildlife Action Plan. Both are wonderful resources and I believe will supplement the data I'm hoping to find. For the Black River WMA, have any species inventories been done for the area? I saw that the Master Plan lists common tree species present as well as game species, but I was hoping there might be some information out there on what other fish, macroinvertebrates, and other wildlife occur there or within the Black River? Do you know if these kinds of surveys or inventories have been conducted? For the State Wildlife Action Plan, is there a GIS shapefile or layer file available delineating the locations of each of the Terrestrial Habitats identified in Section 4 (specifically those in Table 4.1)?

ALSO (sorry, I am so full of questions!), would AGFC be able to provide a list of any invasive species or noxious weeds that are likely to occur in the project area?

Okay, that's it. I would greatly appreciate any information you can give me and thank you in advance for your time. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

📞 479-287-4673



**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

---

**From:** Teel, Terence <terence.teel@agfc.ar.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 9:56 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Subject:** Re: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Cassie I drove out to the area where the initial loosestrife spraying took place and I didn't see any ditch other than Big Running Water Creek in that vicinity. I know 20 years is a long time and landscapes change (so does my mind :)) but I am certain the ditch is the Big Running Water Creek. I double checked with another individual that was part of the initial spraying and he also said it was the Big Running Water Creek.  
 Thanks

On Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 8:40 PM Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@garverusa.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@garverusa.com)> wrote:

Hi Terence,

Thank you so much for your response, this is exactly the kind of information I was hoping to get. First, copied below in blue is the text of my email that I originally sent to Ms. Sheehan (just to keep you fully in the loop). Also, attached is a KMZ of our project alternative.

Second, prior to contacting Ms. Sheehan, I reached out to different individuals at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture regarding invasive/noxious species. I received the attached email from Mr. Paul Shell. Like you, he is warning me about a historic population of loosestrife. However, he mentioned the population was in Little Running Creek (not Big Running Water Creek). Do you think it's safe to assume he meant Big Running Water Creek, or could both creeks have undergone historical hand spraying? As our project does not intersect Little Running Creek, but Alternative 2 would cross Big Running Water Creek, I want to be sure I get the location correct!

Please let me know your thoughts and how you would advise me to present the information. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance!

Sincerely,

Cassie

Good Afternoon Ms. Sheehan,

On behalf of ARDOT and FHWA, I am working on a NEPA document for a large transportation project in northeast Arkansas. On May 28, 2020, the AGFC accepted the invitation to be a participating agency for the project.

The project involves a future interstate facility (to be designated I-57) located between Walnut Ridge, AR and the Missouri state line. Attached is a KMZ showing the alignment alternatives being evaluated for environmental impacts.

One component of the environmental analysis is to summarize terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species that are likely present within the footprints of the proposed alternatives (and of course how the proposed project may affect them). We have reached out to ANHC and have obtained data regarding species of special conservation concern, however, I was wondering if the AGFC has any other sort of element occurrence data that would apply to the specific project area (as opposed to just those species of concern). For example, are there county-level species occurrence lists for mammals, reptiles, fish etc.? Or perhaps something specific for the Black River, which each build alternative will cross, such as past surveys or inventories that have been conducted. Do such studies exist?

I have reviewed the Dave Donaldson Black River WMA Master Plan, as well as the State Wildlife Action Plan. Both are wonderful resources and I believe will supplement the data I'm hoping to find. For the Black River WMA, have any species inventories been done for the area? I saw that the Master Plan lists common tree species present as well as game species, but I was hoping there might be some information out there on what other fish, macroinvertebrates, and other wildlife occur there or within the Black River? Do you know if these kinds of surveys or inventories have been conducted? For the State Wildlife Action Plan, is there a GIS shapefile or layer file available delineating the locations of each of the Terrestrial Habitats identified in Section 4 (specifically those in Table 4.1)?

ALSO (sorry, I am so full of questions!), would AGFC be able to provide a list of any invasive species or noxious weeds that are likely to occur in the project area?

**Cassie Schmidt**  
Garver  
479-287-4673

---

**From:** Teel, Terence <[terence.teel@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:terence.teel@agfc.ar.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:05 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>  
**Subject:** Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Cassie, I was not copied on the email that went to AGFC staff that included your questions concerning the Plant and Animal species occurring within the parameters of the project site, but I did want to pass along a bit of information concerning an invasive species (purple loosestrife) that occurred within the Big Running Water Creek just north of Walnut Ridge and crosses Hwy 67 just NW of College City. This plant was discovered in the late 1990's and with help from the state plant board a section of the creek was hand sprayed (by foot and boat) for about three consecutive years to the point we felt it had been removed. There may still be a seed bank that if the soil is disturbed may be able to re-establish. I just thought I would bring this to your attention as a heads up.

Thanks

--

**Terence Teel CWB®**  
Biologist Supervisor

Mobile: 870-219-3146  
Phone: 87-972-5438  
Email: [Terence.Teel@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Terence.Teel@agfc.ar.gov)  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205 (your office address)

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)

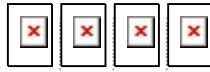


--

**Terence Teel CWB®**  
Biologist Supervisor

Mobile: 870-219-3146  
Phone: 87-972-5438  
Email: [Terence.Teel@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Terence.Teel@agfc.ar.gov)  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205 (your office address)

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

---

**From:** Fowler, Allison <allison.fowler@agfc.ar.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** Sheehan, Jennifer  
**Cc:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Subject:** Re: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Cassie,

I wanted to provide you with an answer regarding the terrestrial habitats in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan. These were mapped prior to me taking over as the AWAP coordinator. Unfortunately, I've never been able to locate the GIS files created, so we do not have maps for these (though we plan to in the next few years).

I'm not aware of any surveys for terrestrial wildlife at Black River. I did a quick look at eBird and the following bird species of greatest conservation need have been observed there: yellow-crowned night heron, loggerhead shrike, wood thrush, and yellow-billed cuckoo.

Thanks,

Allison



**Allison Fowler**  
Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator, CWB®

Mobile: 501-627-5898  
Phone: 501-470-3650, ext. 1202  
Email: [Allison.Fowler@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Allison.Fowler@agfc.ar.gov)  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
213 A Hwy 89 South, Mayflower, AR 72206

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 11:45 AM Sheehan, Jennifer <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)> wrote:  
Hello Cassie,

Many apologies for my delay in getting back to you! I have copied a few Game & Fishers that may be able to supplement the species data you have already collected:

- Jason Carbaugh - Assistant Biologist Supervisor for northeast Arkansas
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AGFC staff - please take a look at the below email from Cassie Schmidt who is working on the future I-57 project from Walnut Ridge to Missouri. If you all know of any additional species information to what she has listed could you please share that information with her?

Any of you, please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,  
jen



**Jennifer Elise Sheehan**

Chief, Environmental Coordination Division

Mobile: 501-680-0319  
Phone: 501-223-6356  
Email: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Schmidt, Cassie P.** <[CPSchmidt@garverusa.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@garverusa.com)>  
Date: Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 4:26 PM  
Subject: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request  
To: [jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov) <[jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:jennifer.sheehan@agfc.ar.gov)>  
Cc: McAbee, William C. <[WCMcAbee@garverusa.com](mailto:WCMcAbee@garverusa.com)>

Good Afternoon Ms. Sheehan,

On behalf of ARDOT and FHWA, I am working on a NEPA document for a large transportation project in northeast Arkansas. On May 28, 2020, the AGFC accepted the invitation to be a participating agency for the project.

The project involves a future interstate facility (to be designated I-57) located between Walnut Ridge, AR and the Missouri state line. Attached is a KMZ showing the alignment alternatives being evaluated for environmental impacts.

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ALSO (sorry, I am so full of questions!), would AGFC be able to provide a list of any invasive species or noxious weeds that are likely to occur in the project area?

Okay, that's it. I would greatly appreciate any information you can give me and thank you in advance for your time. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**

Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

📞 479-287-4673

Division of Arkansas Heritage (DAH),  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP)





**Asa Hutchinson**  
Governor  
**Stacy Hurst**  
Secretary

January 25, 2021

Ms. Vivien N. Hoang  
Division Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
Arkansas Division  
700 West Capitol, Rm. 3130  
Little Rock, AR 72201-3298

Re: Clay, Green, Lawrence, Randolph Counties – General  
Section 106 Review – FHWA  
NEPA Scoping – U.S. Hwy. 67 Corridor Improvements  
AHPP Tracking Number 505813.01

Dear Ms. Hoang:

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the document titled, “Highway 67 Project Purpose and Need” to provide early input on potential impacts to cultural resources within the Study Area demarcated on the provided maps. There are hundreds of archeological sites within the Study Area. Additionally, there are non-archeological resources potentially affected by the undertaking. The AHPP requests a shapefile of the route alternatives to assist in our effort to provide an opinion on a preferred route in consideration of documented cultural resources and previous cultural resource investigations.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mills of my staff at (501) 324-9784 or [eric.mills@arkansas.gov](mailto:eric.mills@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Eric Mills for

Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey  
Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor  
Stacy Hurst  
Secretary

July 15, 2021

Mr. John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division  
Arkansas Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

Re: Clay, Greene, Lawrence, Randolph Counties – General  
Architectural Resources Survey – FHWA  
Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line  
(Future I-57) P.E.  
Cultural Resources Survey Report – *Architectural Resources Survey for Future Interstate 57 (Job 100512), Lawrence, Randolph, Greene, and Clay Counties, Arkansas*  
(Panamerican Report No. 38110)  
ARDOT Job Number 100512  
AHPP Tracking Number 106363.02

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Architectural Resources Survey received July 9, 2021 for the above-referenced job in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties Please see the following comments.

Name/AHPP Resource Number	Address/Location	ARDOT/FHWA NRHP Determination/Status	AHPP Concurrence	Recommended Action
CY0071/American Legion Post No. 72	582 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., Knobel, Clay Co.	Listed	Yes	Avoidance
CY0075/Advance-Rumely Tractor	46 Clay County Road 148, Corning	Eligible/Demolished	N/A	N/A
CY0079/Knobel Grain Facility	Main St., Knobel, AR, Clay Co.	Eligible	Yes	Avoidance
CY0080/MOARK Depot	Clay County Road 148, Corning	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
RA0007/Old Rayno Community Archeological Site 3RA0417	T20N, R3E, S33	Undetermined	Yes	No Extant Structures / recommend a survey for archeological materials, as appropriate
Property1 McKnelly/Getson Farm	436 Greene 225 Road, Delaplaine, Greene County	Eligible	No	Recommend documenting the resource with an archeological site form and an NRHP status of Undetermined.

Table 1				
Name/AHPP Resource Number	Address/Location	ARDOT/FHWA NRHP Determination/Status	AHPP Concurrence	Recommended Action
Property 2	629 Main St., Delaplaine, Greene County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 3	1174 Main St., Delaplaine, Greene County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 4	833 Greene 225, Delaplaine, Greene County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 5	1049 Highway 231, Delaplaine, Greene County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 6	497 Lawrence Road 611 Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 7	1902 Clay County Road 218, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 8	304 Clay County Road 227, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 9	434 Clay County Road 227, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 10	2688 Highway 90, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 11	17 Clay County Road 250, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 12	163 Clay County Road 226, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 13	333 Clay County Road 250, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 14	474 Clay County Road 250, Knobel, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 15	5468 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 16	5424 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 17	5306 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 18	Clay County Road 155, Corning	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 19	932 Clay County Road 154, Corning	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 20a	1006 Clay County Road 154, Corning	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 20b	986 Clay County Road 154, Corning, Corning	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 21	1075 Clay County Road 154, Clay County	Eligible	No	Undetermined pending additional information regarding the integrity of the property.
Property 22	1094 Stateline Road, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 23	1024 Stateline Road, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A

Table 1				
Name/AHPP Resource Number	Address/Location	ARDOT/FHWA NRHP Determination/Status	AHPP Concurrence	Recommended Action
Property 24	1008 Stateline Road, Moark, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 25	11 Clay County Road, Moark, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 26	7167 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 27	7106 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 28	7036 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 29a	6868-6948 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 29b	798 Stateline Road, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 30-1 through 30-3	6915-6957 Highway 67, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 31	713 Highway 34, Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 32	767 Highway 34, Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 33	715 Highway 34 North, Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 34	127 Lawrence County Road, Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 35/Dunn Farm	Gazaway Road, Pocahontas, Randolph County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 36	329 Quapaw Trail, Biggers, Randolph County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 37	514 Clay County Road 109, Biggers, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A
Property 38	576 Clay County Road 125, Corning, Clay County	Not Eligible	Yes	N/A

Table 1-01 of the report also notes the previous demolition of the following properties.

Table 2.	
Name / AHPP Resource Number	Address
CY0069/Selmar Mercantile (eligible)	510 Main St., Knobel, Clay County
CY0070/Knobel Catholic Church (eligible)	4 <sup>th</sup> St., Knobel, Clay County
CY0075/Advance-Rumely Tractor	
CY0074/Peach Orchard Cotton Gin (not eligible)	AR-90, Peach Orchard, Clay County
CY0078/Knobel Gin (eligible)	Main St., Knobel, Clay County
GE0271/Peach Orchard Depot (not eligible)	Private Drive in Delaplaine, Greene County

The AHPP recommends documentation of Property 1 (McKnelly/Getson Farm) with an archeological site form. Based on the provided information, we do not concur that the property is eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The report notes online research as a source, although there is no citation and no associated entry in the References Cited. Additionally, the report mentions an article from a 1983 Paragould newspaper and "additional ARDOT research" without providing any citations. Although Criterion A may apply, the data in the report is insufficient to support our concurrence. The AHPP does not concur that Criterion C is appropriate for this historic farm landscape. In our opinion, further research may support an eligible determination based on Criterion A and/or Criterion D. However, at present, the AHPP recommends the property undetermined for National Register eligibility.

The AHPP does not concur that Property 21 is eligible for the National Register. The survey did not include a detailed examination of the property and therefore there is no data regarding the integrity of the structure. Based on the provided information, the AHPP recommends the property undetermined for National Register eligibility.

Otherwise, as provided in the Table 1 above, the AHPP concurs with the National Register determinations for Properties 2-20b and 22-38. Currently, we have no further comments regarding the previously documented resources. Thank you for noting the demolished resources. We will update our records accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Architectural Resources Survey. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mills of my staff at (501) 324-9784 or [eric.mills@arkansas.gov](mailto:eric.mills@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

**Eric R. Mills**

Digitally signed by Eric R.  
Mills  
Date: 2021.07.15  
11:58:41 -05'00'

*for*

Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration  
Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey



**Asa Hutchinson**  
Governor  
**Stacy Hurst**  
Secretary

August 11, 2021

Mr. John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division  
Arkansas Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

Re: Clay, Greene, Lawrence, Randolph Counties – General  
Architectural Resources Survey Addendum – FHWA  
Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57) P.E.  
ARDOT Job Number 100512  
AHPP Tracking Number 106363.03

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Architectural Resources Survey received August 6, 2021 for the above-referenced job.

Name/Bridge Number	ARDOT/FHWA NRHP Determination	AHPP Concurrence
Property 39 (ARDOT Bridge 00501)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 40 (ARDOT Bridge 00509)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 41 (ARDOT Bridge 00730)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 42 (ARDOT Bridge 00500)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 43 (ARDOT Bridge 00499)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 44 (ARDOT Bridge 00498)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 45 (ARDOT Bridge 00497)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 46 (ARDOT Bridge 00496)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 47 (ARDOT Bridge AO615)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 48 (ARDOT Bridge 03044)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 49 (ARDOT Bridge M1253)	Not Eligible	Yes
Property 50 (ARDOT Bridge M1255)	Not Eligible	Yes

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mills at (501) 324-9784 or [eric.mills@arkansas.gov](mailto:eric.mills@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

**Eric R. Mills**

Digitally signed by Eric R.  
Mills  
Date: 2021.08.11  
11:03:22 -05'00'

for

Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor  
Stacy Hurst  
Secretary

March 29, 2022

Mr. Andrew Buchner  
Regional Director  
Panamerican Consultants, Inc. – A Commonwealth Company  
91 Tillman St.  
Memphis, TN 38111

RE: Lawrence, Randolph, and Clay Counties: General  
Section 106 Review: FHwA  
Proposed Undertaking: *Work Plan for Cultural Resources Survey of the Future I-57 (Job 100512) Corridor in Lawrence, Randolph and Clay Counties, Arkansas*  
ARDOT Job Number 100512  
Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. Project Number: TN-0103  
AHPP Tracking Number: 106363.04

Dear Mr. Buchner:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the submission for the above referenced undertaking in Lawrence, Randolph, and Clay Counties. The proposed undertaking entails the preferred alignment for the future I-57 corridor.

Panamerican previously conducted a phase I cultural resources survey over 9.2 km of the I-57 preferred alignment (AHPP 106363.02), where the AHPP concurred with all but two recommendations. This *Work Plan* will survey the remaining approximate 56 km for cultural resources.

Based on the provided information, the AHPP concurs with Commonwealth's *Work Plan*. We look forward to receiving the completed phase I cultural resources survey.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Cherokee Nation, the Delaware Nation, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe. We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).

Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, call Kathryn Bryles at 501-324-9784 or email [kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov](mailto:kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

Kathryn  
Bryles

Digitally signed by  
Kathryn Bryles  
Date: 2022.03.29  
15:36:25 -05'00'

for  
Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration  
Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey



**Asa Hutchinson**  
Governor  
**Stacy Hurst**  
Secretary

April 21, 2022

Mr. John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division  
Arkansas Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

RE: Various Counties: General  
Section 106 Review: FHWA  
Proposed Undertaking: Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57) P.E.  
Route 67, Sections 19 & 20  
ARDOT Job Number: 100512  
AHPP Tracking Number: 10636.05

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the submission for the above referenced undertaking in Lawrence, Randolph, and Clay Counties. Panamerican Consultants, Inc. submitted additional information to address AHPP comments (dated July 12, 2021) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Name	ARDOT/FHWA NRHP Determination	AHPP Concurrence
Property 21	Not Eligible	Yes
3GE0168	Undetermined	Yes
3LW0394	Undetermined	Yes
3LW0395	Undetermined	Yes
3LW0396	Undetermined	Yes
3LW0397	Undetermined	Yes
3LW0398	Undetermined	Yes
3LW0399	Undetermined	Yes
3LW0400	Undetermined	Yes
3RA0417	Undetermined	Yes
3RA0540	Probably Not Eligible	Yes



The AHPP concurs that the Gilchrist Cemetery is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, the AHPP recommends avoidance of the site and prefers Alternate 3 as there would be no impact to the graves.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, call Kathryn Bryles at 501-324-9784 or email [kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov](mailto:kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

**Kathryn  
Bryles**

Digitally signed by  
Kathryn Bryles  
Date: 2022.04.21  
11:43:44 -05'00'

*for*  
Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor  
Stacy Hurst  
Secretary

June 21, 2022

Mr. John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division  
Arkansas Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

RE: Various Counties: General  
Section 106 Review: FHWA  
Project Undertaking: Walnut Ridge - Missouri State Line (Future I-57) P.E.  
Route 67, Sections 19 & 20  
ARDOT Job Number: 100512  
AHPP Tracking Number: 106363.06

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Draft Programmatic Agreement for the above referenced project. We request that one change be made to the PA regarding Stipulation III for Architectural Resources. Section III (B) does not explicitly state that eligibility recommendations for architectural resources will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review and concurrence. We request that this be edited to state that any architectural resources identified within the area of potential effect (APE) will be submitted to SHPO, who will then have the opportunity to review and concur on all reports, findings, and recommendations. Once this change is made to the draft PA, the AHPP will request that the document be signed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this PA. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Cogburn at 501-324-9357 or email [jessica.cogburn@arkansas.gov](mailto:jessica.cogburn@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,  
Jessica H.  
Cogburn

Digitally signed by Jessica H.  
Cogburn  
Date: 2022.06.21 15:29:30  
-05'00'

*for*  
Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration  
Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor  
Stacy Hurst  
Secretary

September 28, 2022

Mr. John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division  
Arkansas Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

Re: Clay, Lawrence and Randolph Counties: General  
Section 106 Review: FHwA  
Proposed Undertaking: Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57) P.E.  
Route 67, Sections 19 & 20  
Cultural Resources Survey Report: *Archeological Assessment for ARDOT Job 100512 Hwy. 412 – Missouri State Line P.E. Future I-57, Clay, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas*  
ARDOT Project Number 100512  
Commonwealth Heritage Group Report Number: TN-0103  
AHPP Tracking Number: 106363.10

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the cultural resources survey report for the above-referenced undertaking in Clay Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas. The proposed undertaking involves the assessment of 41.6 mile long I-57 Preferred Alternative route. Commonwealth Heritage Group conducted an archeological assessment of the area of potential effect (APE) to determine if any historic properties were present in the tract and if so, to make management recommendations regarding these properties.

A total of 3,822 shovel tests were investigated, including 10 positive, 3,551 negative, and 261 no-test locations. Two previously recorded archeological sites were revisited, sites 3RA0417 and 3RA0540; the AHPP concurs that these two sites are **not eligible** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

A total of 45 new sites were recorded during the assessment (sites 3CY0532-0539; 3LW0828-0836; 3RA0567-0593). These sites have been heavily disturbed and largely destroyed by farming practices. Of these sites, the AHPP concurs that sites, **3LW0830 and 3RA0577, are undetermined in eligibility for the NRHP and that these two sites should be avoided or undergo Phase II testing to determine eligibility.** The AHPP also concurs that the remaining 43 sites are **not eligible** for listing in the NRHP.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Cherokee Nation, the Delaware Nation, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe. We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).

We appreciate the opportunity to review this undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Bryles at (501) 324-9784 or [kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov](mailto:kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov). Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number above in any correspondence.

Sincerely,

Kathryn  
Bryles

Digitally signed by  
Kathryn Bryles  
Date: 2022.09.28  
14:09:32 -05'00'

*for*

Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey

Division of Arkansas Heritage (DAH),  
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC)



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson  
Governor

Stacy Hurst  
Director

Date: April 17, 2019  
Subject: Elements of Special Concern  
I-57 Study Area  
Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas  
ANHC No.: P-CF..-19-016

Mr. Ryan Mountain  
Garver  
2049 East Joyce Boulevard  
Suite 400  
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Arkansas Arts Council

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Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

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Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

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Arkansas State Archives

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Delta Cultural Center

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Historic Arkansas Museum

.

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

.

Old State House Museum

Dear Mr. Mountain:

Staff members of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) have reviewed our files for records indicating the occurrence of rare plants and animals, outstanding natural communities, natural or scenic rivers, or other elements of special concern within the I-57 Study Area in Northeast Arkansas. The results of this review have been provided in an electronic format. Our records indicate the occurrence of 39 species of conservation concern within the project study area.

A list of the sensitive species within the study area is attached for your reference. A legend is included to help you interpret the codes used on the list. The majority of these species are associated with the Current River, the Black River, and/or the Dave Donaldson/Black River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Efforts should be made to avoid or minimize impacts to these streams and to the WMA. The study area is also known to support several plant species of conservation concern, most notably pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), and corkwood (*Leitneria pilosa ssp. ozarkana*). Pondberry is a shrub listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered. Corkwood is a small tree or shrub with a distribution limited to southeastern Missouri and eastern Arkansas. Both of these species are associated with seasonally flooded wetlands (bottomland hardwood forests and forested swales), and the margins of sand ponds. There are three known locations for pondberry in the study area. We only can verify that the population at Stateline Sand ponds Natural Area (located on the northwestern edge of the study site) is still extant. Corkwood has been reported from at least 14 locations. Most of the available information for corkwood occurrences is not precise, but the species could be present throughout the study area within small wetlands and along ditches where remnants of native vegetation persist. Available habitat for these species is very limited in this area. To the extent possible, efforts should be made to avoid impacting suitable habitat. Any suitable habitat falling within the final selected alignment should be evaluated for the presence of these species.



1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9619  
fax: (501) 324-9618

[info@naturalheritage.com](mailto:info@naturalheritage.com)  
[www.naturalheritage.com](http://www.naturalheritage.com)

Please keep in mind that the project area may contain important natural features of which we are unaware. Staff members of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission have not conducted a field survey of the study site. Our review is based on data available to the program at the time of the request. It should not be regarded as a final statement on the elements or areas under consideration. Because our files are updated constantly, you may want to check with us again at a later time.

Thank you for consulting us. It has been a pleasure to work with you on this study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Osborne". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cindy Osborne  
Data Manager/Environmental Review Coordinator

Enclosures: Element List  
Legend  
Invoice

## **OTHER AGENCIES**



Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)



July 11, 2022

Mr. Randal Looney  
 Environmental Coordinator  
 Federal Highway Administration  
 700 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 3130  
 Little Rock, AR 72201

Ref: *Proposed Construction of a Four-Lane Divided Interstate Facility from Hwy 67/Hwy 412 Interchange at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri State Line Clay, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas ARDOT Job 100512 ACHP Project Number: 18462*

Dear Mr. Looney:

On June 14, 2022, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received a notification and supporting documentation regarding the potential adverse effects of the referenced undertaking on a property or properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Because the ACHP did not respond within 15 days with a decision regarding our non-participation, the ACHP assumes that the Federal Highway Administration has continued the consultation to resolve adverse effects.

However, if we receive a request for participation from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, affected Indian tribe, a consulting party, or other party, we may reconsider this decision. Should the undertaking's circumstances change, consulting parties cannot come to consensus, or you need further advisory assistance to conclude the consultation process, please contact us.

Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(b)(1)(iv), you will need to file the final Section 106 agreement document (Agreement), developed in consultation with the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office and any other consulting parties, and related documentation with the ACHP at the conclusion of the consultation process. The filing of the Agreement and supporting documentation with the ACHP is required in order to complete the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

If you have any questions or require our further assistance, please contact Ms. Mandy Ranslow at 202-517-0218 or by e-mail at [mranslow@achp.gov](mailto:mranslow@achp.gov) and reference the ACHP Project Number above.

Sincerely,

LaShavio Johnson  
 Historic Preservation Technician  
 Office of Federal Agency Programs

Arkansas Department of Agriculture



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205  
agriculture.arkansas.gov  
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture

ArDOT Job Number 100512

Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57) P.E.

Project Limits: Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri State Line

Counties: Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph

Request for Information

Dear Bill McAbee,

I received your Information Request on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Our staff have reviewed the project area to identify any forest concerns and we determined that the proposed I-57 routes would not have significant forest impact. In a brief analysis of the three proposed routes, we found that less than 100 acres of forested property would be affected by any of the routes (assuming the 1,000 foot width provided in the shapefile).

We are pleased to see that proposed routes are suitably distanced from the Dave Donaldson Black River WMA. Furthermore, the proposed crossings of the Black River appear to minimize forest land use conversion.

Please be advised, we have identified that the middle route (just west of the WMA) could cross the NW corner of a permanent Wetlands Reserve Program property, a conservation easement administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The approximate location of this intersection is 36.31325, -90.80039.

Thank you for including us on your due diligence for this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox".

Joe S. Fox,  
State Forester

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

---

**From:** Paul Shell <paul.shell@agriculture.arkansas.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 8:13 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Cc:** Autumn Causey; Scott Bray; Mark Stoll  
**Subject:** RE: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Good morning Cassie. The map you linked is missing some counties added since 2018. In Arkansas, we have added Logan, Prairie, Sebastian, and White Counties. There are also some counties added in OK, TN, and NC. The USDA Imported Fire Ant Quarantine is in place to prevent or slow the spread of fire ants to areas that do not yet have them. The quarantine only comes into play when regulated articles are moved from the quarantine to areas outside of the quarantine.

As to fire ants and construction projects, the main ways that these invasive insects can be spread would be through hay/straw used for erosion control, and through dirt moving equipment that could be caked with mud. Companies/individuals who reside in the quarantine can still move these articles to areas outside the quarantine if they are free from fire ants. With hay/straw, it must be stored in a way that prevents contact with the ground. This includes stored on a hard surface like concrete, asphalt, hard packed gravel, stored above the ground like on pallets, old tires, or stacked two or more high with the stack being eligible if not on the bottom, stored on visqueen, or loaded and transported within 24 hours after baling. We have several hay/straw producers under compliance agreements where they agree to one or more of these storage conditions. A producer can still ship hay/straw without a compliance agreement if we inspect the load(s) and issue a certificate attesting to these storage conditions.

With used dirt moving equipment, a company can also be under a compliance agreement where they agree to clean their equipment of all dirt before leaving the fire ant quarantine.

With hay/straw or equipment that originates outside of the fire ant quarantine, no inspections or compliance agreements are needed.

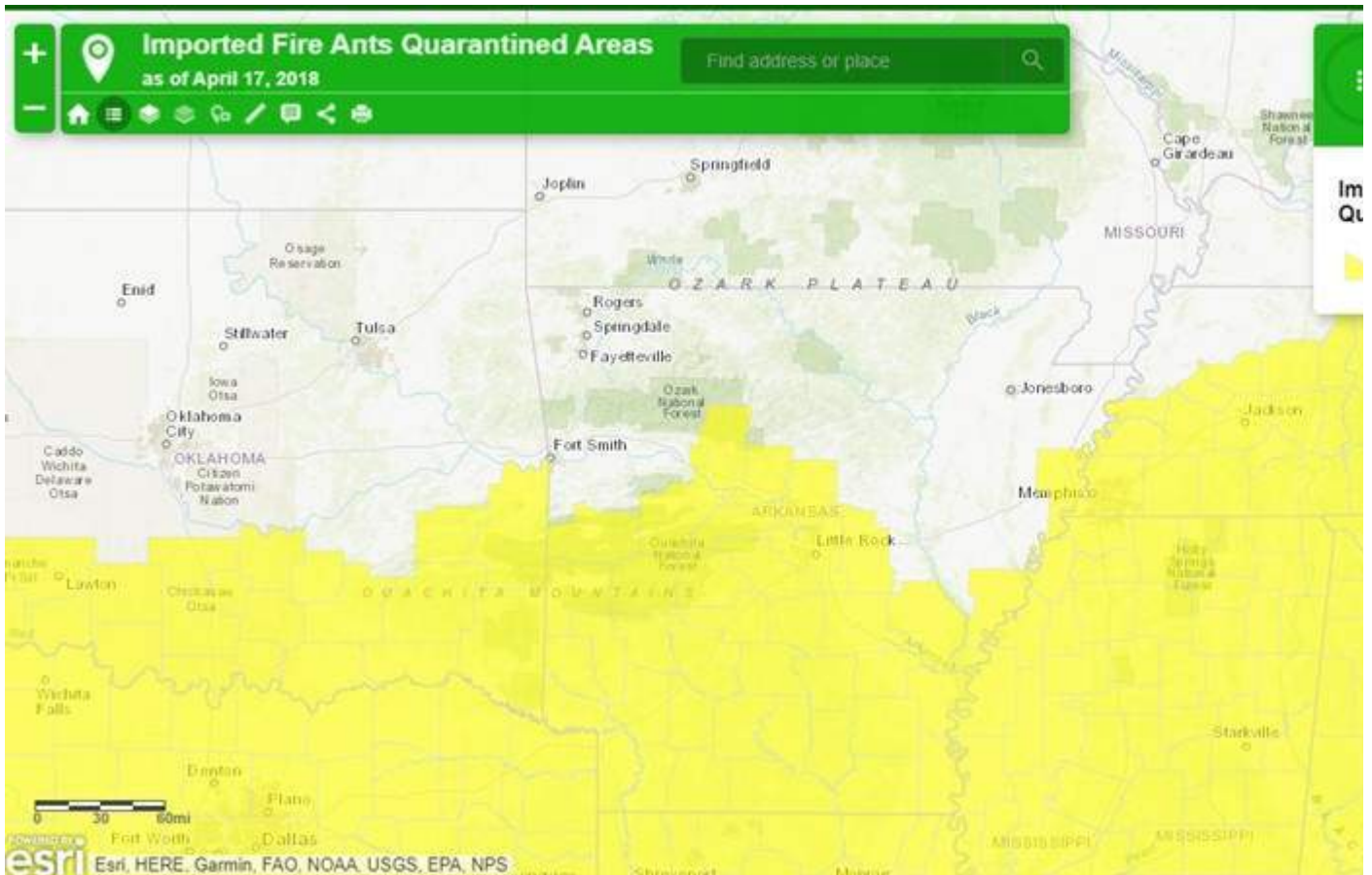
---

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 07, 2021 2:59 PM  
**To:** Paul Shell <paul.shell@agriculture.arkansas.gov>  
**Cc:** Autumn Causey <Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov>; Scott Bray <scott.bray@agriculture.arkansas.gov>; Mark Stoll <mark.stoll@agriculture.arkansas.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Hi Paul,

Thank you so much for your information (again, as you provided me similarly great info on purple loosestrife in February; so apologies for making you repeat yourself!).

With regard to the fire ant quarantine, would you recommend that I simply mention the quarantine in the NEPA document? Also, am I correct in interpreting your email to mean that fire ants would only be a concern if equipment for the project was coming from White County or any of the counties shown in yellow in the image below? [Which I found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/plant-health/ifa-quarantine-mapping>].



Thank you again for your time, Paul.

Sincerely,

**Cassie Schmidt**  
Garver  
479-287-4673

**From:** Paul Shell <[paul.shell@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:paul.shell@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 8:35 AM

**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>

**Cc:** Autumn Causey <[Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>; Scott Bray <[scott.bray@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:scott.bray@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>; Mark Stoll <[mark.stoll@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:mark.stoll@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Good morning, Cassie. For environmental assessment on the proposed interstate alternatives, I suggest that the botanists and biologists with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission will be much more experienced on the potential invasive species that are present in these locations, and the likelihood of them populating the area from the normal disturbances found through a construction project. Theo Witsell is their head botanist. His email is [Theo.Witsell@arkansas.gov](mailto:Theo.Witsell@arkansas.gov), and their office phone number is 501 324 9619. They work extensively with the University of Arkansas Herbarium in Fayetteville, and have access to historic plant information as well as current and potential problematic plant species. They are also the experts on any endangered or threatened species that could be affected by construction disturbance. This would include all species, not just plants.

That being said, The Arkansas Department of Agriculture; Plant Industries Division (Formerly Arkansas State Plant Board) has been working on eradicating a historic population of Purple Loosestrife – *Lythrum salicaria* from Little Running Water Ditch or Little Water Running Creek. This is a channelized drainage located between Walnut Ridge and Pocahontas. The proposed interstate will likely cross this creek/ditch at some point. Purple loosestrife is a highly invasive plant from Europe that typically grows in shallow water and was growing along the banks of this

creek. The perennial plant grows tall with spikes of pink/purple showy flowers throughout the summer. While ornamental, the plant is prohibited in Arkansas with no sales or use in the landscape allowed. We have surveyed and sprayed extensively for many years, and finally got to the point where we no longer found it. However, dredging and other related soil work could expose seed buried in the sediment of the creek and new sprouts could emerge from this activity. Most of the plants we have seen were downstream (west) of current highway 67. This watershed does flood on occasion and could be a shortcut of the Black River in floods as it drains a diagonal line southwest until it meets the Black River.

Another potential invasive species problem would be introduction of new plant species from the dirt moving equipment if mud/dirt is caked on this machinery and this becomes dislodged during construction and introduces new weed seeds from previous construction sites. This is the likely introduction of Lythrum growing in this creek as railroad tracks were removed in this area decades ago. This part of the state is currently outside of the USDA Imported Fire Ant Quarantine. Any dirt moving equipment that has been used within this quarantine must be cleaned of mud/dirt before moving into areas outside of the quarantine so as to not introduce fire ants into areas that do not yet have them. The quarantine currently extends to White County (Searcy/Bald Knob) and all areas south of White County. For more information on the fire ant quarantine, I'll be happy to help you out.

Please feel free to call or write any time if I can be of further assistance. Thank you.

Paul Shell  
 Plant Inspection and Quarantine Program Manager  
 Arkansas Department of Agriculture; Plant Industries Division  
 501 225 1598

---

**From:** Scott Bray <[scott.bray@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:scott.bray@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 7:37 AM  
**To:** Paul Shell <[paul.shell@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:paul.shell@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>  
**Cc:** Autumn Causey <[Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Paul

Could you assist?

---

**From:** Autumn Causey <[Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 7:13 AM  
**To:** Scott Bray <[scott.bray@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:scott.bray@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Can you assist? Thanks.

## Autumn Causey

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/PROJECT MANAGER

Arkansas Department of Agriculture

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

(501) 219-6368 O | 501-413-7452 M [agriculture.arkansas.gov](http://agriculture.arkansas.gov)

[Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:Autumn.causey@agriculture.arkansas.gov)



---

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 24, 2021 8:55 PM  
**To:** [marsh.matthewc@gmail.com](mailto:marsh.matthewc@gmail.com) <[marsh.matthewc@gmail.com](mailto:marsh.matthewc@gmail.com)>; AAD Info <[info@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:info@agriculture.arkansas.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ewing, Anne (Kayti) <[Kayti.Ewing@ardot.gov](mailto:Kayti.Ewing@ardot.gov)>  
**Subject:** Future I-57 Project (ARDOT Job Number 100512) - Data Request

Good Evening Mr. Marsh,

On behalf of ARDOT and FHWA, I am working on a NEPA document for a large transportation project in northeast Arkansas. The project involves a proposed interstate facility (to be designated I-57) located between Walnut Ridge, AR and the Missouri state line. Attached is an exhibit and a KMZ showing the alignment alternatives being carried forward in the NEPA document and evaluated for environmental impacts.

One component of the environmental analysis is to summarize invasive species or noxious weeds that are likely to occur within the footprints of the proposed alternatives (and of course how the proposed project may affect or benefit them). ARDOT suggested I reach out to you (the State Plant Board) and check if you have any information on invasive species and noxious weeds that are known to occur, or with the potential to occur, within the project limits. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**  
Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

📞 479-287-4673



Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

---

**From:** Kyle Johnson (ADH) <Steven.Johnson@arkansas.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 5, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Subject:** RE: Future I-57 (ARDOT Job 100512) data request for SWIs, PWS, wells, and other features - Northeast AR  
**Attachments:** Data.zip  
**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Cassie,

Attached is a .zip folder containing the shapefile information you have asked for (7 total):

- 5 Mile buffer of project area
- Sources within project area (as well as within 5 mile buffer)
- PWS boundaries (as well as within 5 mile buffer)
- Assessment Areas (as well as within 5 mile buffer)

Let me know if you need any more on this or if something isn't to your liking!

Thanks and have a great weekend.

Kyle.

***Kyle Johnson***

*Environmental Health Specialist - GIS  
 Source Water Protection  
 Engineering Section, AR Dept. of Health  
 4815 W Markham St, Slot 37  
 Little Rock AR 72205  
 501-661-2067  
[Steven.Johnson@arkansas.gov](mailto:Steven.Johnson@arkansas.gov)*




---

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 4:41 PM  
**To:** Kyle Johnson (ADH) <Steven.Johnson@arkansas.gov>  
**Cc:** McAbee, William C. <WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com>  
**Subject:** Future I-57 (ARDOT Job 100512) data request for SWIs, PWS, wells, and other features - Northeast AR

Good Afternoon Kyle,

In cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), we are working on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed transportation project located

in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas. The project will be designated as a section of future Interstate 57.

I have attached shapefiles showing the project area. A site location maps is also available upon request. If you could please provide us with a GIS shapefile or layer showing any surface water intakes, public water supplies, or wellhead protection areas within our project area and within a 5 mile radius of our projects' boundary line, I would appreciate it very much. However, please be aware that a more formal FHWA request is coming soon and will be sent to Mr. Jose Romero (at 4815 West Markham in Little Rock).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information from me. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**  
Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

📞 479-287-4673

Arkansas Geological Survey



STATE OF ARKANSAS

## Department of Finance and Administration

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

1515 West Seventh Street, Suite 412  
Post Office Box 8031  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8031  
Phone: (501) 682-1074  
Fax: (501) 682-5206

<https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/intergovernmental-services>

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: State Clearinghouse

DATE: October 19, 2022

SUBJECT: **#3226 - Walnut Ridge - Missouri State Line (Future I-57)**

APPLICANT: ARDOT Job# 100512

LOCATION: Counties of Clay, Greene, Lawrence & Randolph

Please review the above stated document under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966), National Environmental Policy Act (1969), Clean Water Act (1972), Environmental Assessments / Environmental Impact Statements and the Arkansas Project Notification and Review System.

Your comments should be emailed by **November 18, 2022** to [Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov](mailto:Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov) from the office of Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). The Director of ANRC and the Technical Review Committee Chairman is Chris Colclasure Ms. Brown will ensure that he is informed of any needed information.

It is imperative that your response be sent by the date requested. If you have "No Comments," this should be indicated below and submitted. Should your Agency anticipate having a response which will be delayed beyond the stated deadline for comments, please contact Laura Brown at (501) 682-3985 or the [State Clearinghouse Office](#) at (501) 683-8070.

Support  Do Not Support (Comments Attached)

Comments Attached  Support with Following Conditions

No Comments  Non-Degradation Certification Issues  
(Applies to ADEQ Only)

Name (Print) David Johnston Date 11/18/2022

Agency Arkansas Geological Survey Phone Number (501) 683-0126

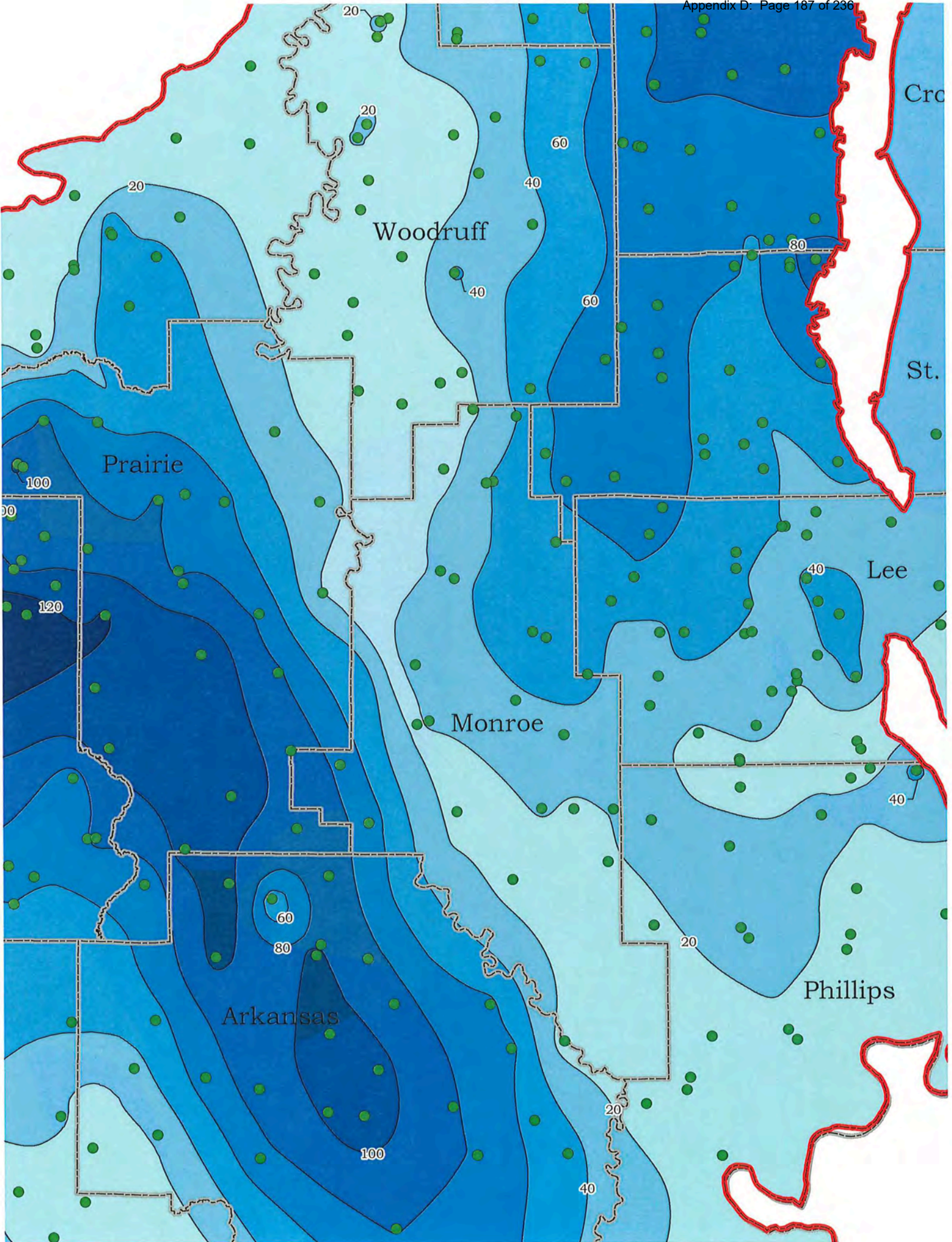
AGS Comments Future I-57 Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line, ArDOT Job 100512:

It's noteworthy that the referenced project area, which includes all three preliminary-action alternative routes, is within the area of influence of the New Madrid seismic zone (NMSZ) where a series of at least three catastrophic earthquakes occurred during the winter of 1811-1812, all of which have been estimated at greater than 7.0 in magnitude. Were a similar sized event to occur on the NMSZ today, the study area would be subjected to very strong to severe levels of shaking. Although the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has stated that the probability of such an event occurring today is rather low at 8 – 10% over the next fifty years, the probability goes up significantly to 25 – 40% for an event in the 6.0 to 7.0 range. It's estimated that an event within this lower magnitude range could still result in moderate to very strong shaking in the project area. The 2018 USGS National Seismic Hazard map which serves as the basis for national building codes is attached for reference.

It's also worth noting that during previous NMSZ events, significant soil liquefaction occurred at and near the surface in the Bootheel of Missouri and parts of northeast Arkansas (primarily Mississippi and parts of Craighead and Poinsett Counties) where groundwater in the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer (MRVAA) is typically less than 20 feet below ground surface and the likelihood of soil liquefaction during a major seismic event is rated very high, as shown on attached AGS liquefaction susceptibility map. However, the map indicates that the liquefaction susceptibility is reduced somewhat in the project area where, in general, there is an increased depth to groundwater in the MRVAA, although it still indicates a high susceptibility for the occurrence of liquefaction.

Attached Documentation:

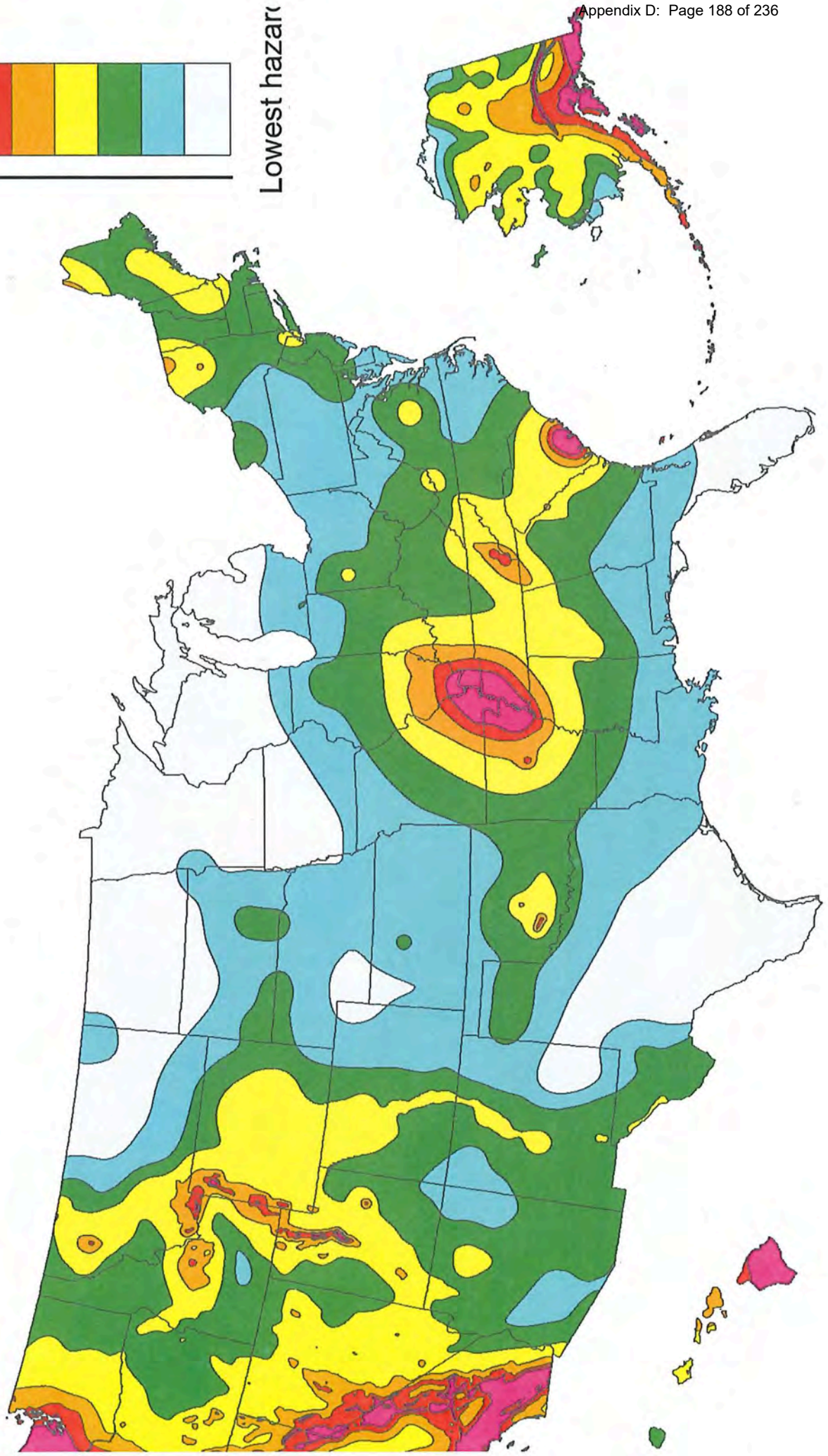
- Long-Term National Seismic Hazard Map (USGS, 2018)
- Depth to Groundwater in the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer in Eastern Arkansas (Ausbrooks and Prior, 2008)
- Liquefaction Susceptibility Map of Northeast Arkansas (AGS, 2019)



Highest hazard



Lowest hazard





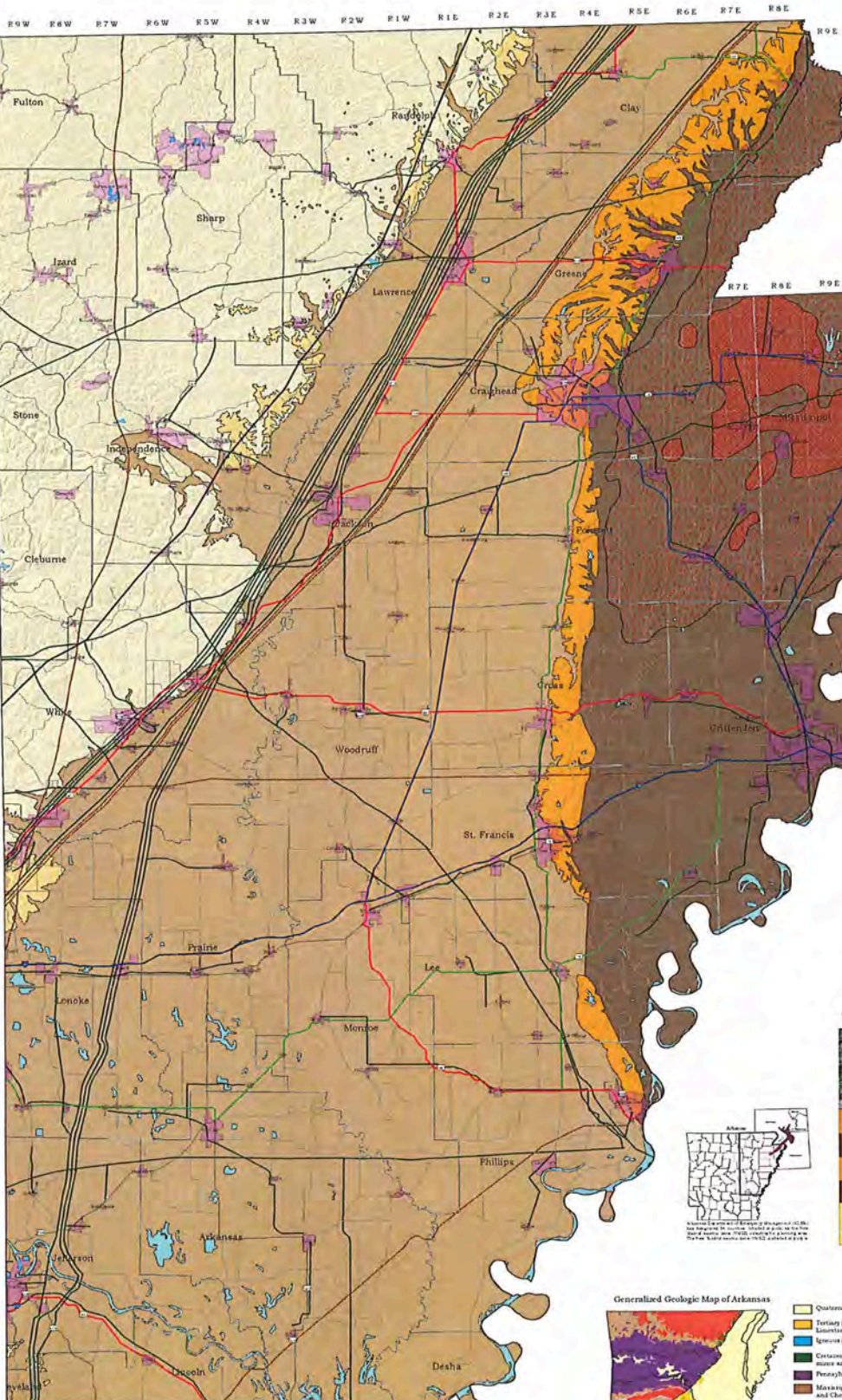
# Liquefaction Susceptibility Map Of Northeast Arkansas

GIS-EQ-LM-007

## About the Map

Earthquake-induced ground failures such as liquefaction have historically brought loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure. Liquefaction is the transformation of a granular material from a solid state into a liquefied state as a consequence of increased pore-pressure and decreased effective stress (Youd, 1973). Types of ground failure resulting from liquefaction can include sand boils, lateral spreads, ground settlement, ground cracking and ground warping. The distribution of liquefaction is not random but is restricted to areas underlain by loose, cohesionless (unconsolidated) sands and silts that are saturated with water. Areas of liquefaction susceptibility can be qualitatively assessed and delineated on the basis of physical properties of near-surface deposits and depth to groundwater through geologic, geomorphic, and hydrologic mapping and map analysis (Tinsley and Holzer, 1990; Youd and Perkins, 1978).

This liquefaction susceptibility map was developed from existing geologic and surficial materials maps including the USGS 1:2789, *Map of Surficial Deposits in the Eastern and Central United States (Fullerton, D.S., et al. 2003)*, as well as available groundwater and standard penetration (SPT) data. The correlation between the near-surface materials and their relative susceptibility to liquefaction was determined on the basis of three factors: (1) presence of loose, cohesionless, sandy or silty deposits within 50 feet of the surface (depth threshold defined by Tinsley and others in 1985), (2) presence of groundwater which saturates these deposits, and (3) historical records of liquefaction during previous earthquakes. Liquefaction susceptibility values obtained from this map may be incorporated into the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) HAZUS software for estimating potential losses from earthquakes. This map is for screening purposes only and is not intended to be a substitute for a site specific evaluation. Copies of this map are available from the Arkansas Geological Survey, Little Rock, Arkansas.



LIQUEFACTION SUSCEPTIBILITY CLASSIFICATION		
HAZUS Number	Susceptibility	Unit On Map
4	Very High	Yes
3	High	Yes
2	Moderate	Yes
1	Low	Yes
0	Very Low	Yes
0	None	No
W	Water	Yes

## Symbols

- Primary Route
- Secondary Route
- Tertiary Route
- Interstate
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Gas Pipeline
- Oil Pipeline
- Product Pipeline
- Sand Blow Area (Coverage greater than 25%)
- Sand Blow Area (Coverage 1% to 25%)
- Incorporated Areas

## References

Fullerton, D.S., Bush, C.A., and Pennell, J.N., 2003. Map of surficial deposits and materials in the Eastern and Central United States (east of 102° west longitude). U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Investigations Series Map I-2789, 1 sheet, scale 1:2,500,000, pamphlet, 48 p. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2003/2789/>

Rhee, Susan, and Wheeler, R.L., 1995. Map showing synopsis of seismotectonic features in the vicinity of New Madrid, Missouri. U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Series Map I-2521, 1 sheet, scale 1:250,000.

Sims, J.D. and Garvin, C.D., 1995. Recurrent liquefaction at Soda Lake, California, induced by the 1909 Loma Prieta earthquake, and 1990 and 1991 aftershocks—implications for paleoseismicity studies. *Estimological Society of America Bulletin*, v. 85, p. 51-55.

Tinsley, J.C. and Holzer, T.L., 1990. Liquefaction in the Monterey Bay region. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 90-334, pp. 642-643.

Tinsley, J.C., Youd, T.L., Perkins, D.M., and Chen, A.T.F., 1985. Evaluating Liquefaction Potential. In *Gravity, J.L., ed. Evaluating earthquake hazards in the Los Angeles Region—an earthquake engineering perspective*. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1399, p. 253-316.

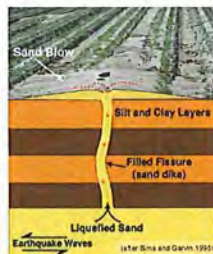
Youd, T.L., 1973. Liquefaction, flow, and associated ground failure. U.S. Geological Survey Circular 688, 12 pp.

Youd, T.L. and Perkins, D.M., 1978. Mapping of Liquefaction Induced Ground Failure Potential. *Journal of Geotechnical Engineering Division, American Society of Civil Engineers*, Vol. 104, No. 4, pp. 433-446.

Aerial Photograph of Sand Blows  
Source: USGS



Graphic Illustration of a Sand Blow



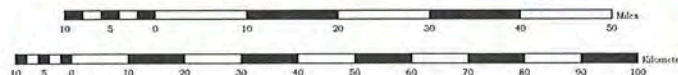
Generalized Geologic Map of Arkansas



- Legend**
- Quaternary (sand, silt, clay and loess)
  - Tertiary (sand and clay with minor amounts of limestone and lignite)
  - Igneous (granite and gneiss)
  - Cretaceous (sand, chalk, clay and marl with minor amounts of limestone)
  - Permian (shale and sandstone)
  - Mississippian (limestone, shale, sandstone and chert)
  - Illinoian (limestone and shale and upper portion of Mississippian, Arkansas River section)
  - Shinarump (limestone, shale and sandstone)
  - Oolite (limestone, shale and sandstone)
  - Carboniferous (shale and limestone)
  - Water

## Disclaimer

Although this map was compiled from digital data that was manually reviewed, it is not a replacement for the Arkansas Geological Survey's field data. The map is intended to be used as a guide only. The user should consult the original data and maps of the area for more detailed information. The Arkansas Geological Survey is not responsible for any errors or omissions that may appear in this map. The Arkansas Geological Survey is not responsible for any damage or injury resulting from the use of this map.



Commissioner of State Lands



STATE OF ARKANSAS

## Department of Finance and Administration

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

1515 West Seventh Street, Suite 412  
Post Office Box 8031  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8031  
Phone: (501) 682-1074  
Fax: (501) 682-5206

<https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/intergovernmental-services>

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: State Clearinghouse

DATE: October 19, 2022

SUBJECT: #3226 - Walnut Ridge - Missouri State Line (Future I-57)

APPLICANT: ARDOT Job# 100512

LOCATION: Counties of Clay, Greene, Lawrence & Randolph

Please review the above stated document under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966), National Environmental Policy Act (1969), Clean Water Act (1972), Environmental Assessments / Environmental Impact Statements and the Arkansas Project Notification and Review System.

Your comments should be emailed by **November 18, 2022** to [Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov](mailto:Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov) from the office of Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). The Director of ANRC and the Technical Review Committee Chairman is Chris Colclasure Ms. Brown will ensure that he is informed of any needed information.

It is imperative that your response be sent by the date requested. If you have "No Comments," this should be indicated below and submitted. Should your Agency anticipate having a response which will be delayed beyond the stated deadline for comments, please contact Laura Brown at (501) 682-3985 or the [State Clearinghouse Office](#) at (501) 683-8070.

Support  Do Not Support (Comments Attached)

Comments Attached  Support with Following Conditions

No Comments  Non-Degradation Certification Issues  
(Applies to ADEQ Only)

Name (Print) Trevor Drown Date October 26, 2022

Agency Commissioner of State Lands Phone Number 501-291-9430

Division of Arkansas State Parks

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

---

**From:** Randy Roberson <randy.roberson@arkansas.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:24 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Cc:** McAbee, William C.  
**Subject:** RE: I-57 - Identification of 6(f) Protected Resources  
**Attachments:** (20210512) ARDOT Job Numbmer 100512 Future I-57.pdf

Cassie / William:

Thank you for the opportunity to review information pertaining to the above subject. As the Environmental Review Coordinator for the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program for Arkansas State Parks, the focus of my review is on a project's potential to impact outdoor recreation sites that have received grant funds from our program.

After review of the information you provided, I find that the none of the alignment alternatives for ARDOT Job Number 100512 Walnut Ridge – Missouri Line (Future I-57), as illustrated by the interactive map available at <https://future57.transportationplanroom.com/environmental-map>, appear to conflict with public outdoor recreation sites monitored by our program. I have attached a copy of the letter from Vivien N. Hoang, P.E. that has been stamped to indicate this finding.

Sincerely,

**RANDY ROBERSON,**  
 Project Officer – Environmental Review Coordinator

Division of Arkansas State Parks  
 One Capitol Mall  
 Little Rock, AR 72201  
[randy.roberson@arkansas.gov](mailto:randy.roberson@arkansas.gov)  
 p: 501.682.6946 | f: 501.682.0081

[OutdoorGrants.com](http://OutdoorGrants.com)  
[ArkansasStateParks.com](http://ArkansasStateParks.com)




---

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 7:48 AM  
**To:** Randy Roberson <randy.roberson@arkansas.gov>  
**Cc:** McAbee, William C. <WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com>  
**Subject:** I-57 - Identification of 6(f) Protected Resources

Good Morning Randy,

Back in February you should have received the attached letter regarding the Future I-57 Walnut Ridge -Missouri State line project. We have an important project meeting occurring this afternoon and need to be able to review any 6f/park impacts. Is this something you could get back to us on today? Would a KMZ or shapefile of the alignment be helpful for your review? Please let me know what you need from us to assist you.

Thank you for your help and feel free to give me a call if that is easier.

I hope this email finds you well. 😊

Most Sincerely,



**Cassie Schmidt**  
Environmental Scientist/Environmental Specialist  
*Transportation Team*

📞 479-287-4673



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Randy Roberson  
Project Officer – Environmental Review Coordinator  
Division of Arkansas State Parks  
1 Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
#501-682-6946; randy.roberson@arkansas.gov

Arkansas Division  
February 10, 2021

<b>ADPHT-ORGP</b>	
No apparent or Immediate conflict with public outdoor recreation at this time.	
Date: <u>12 May 2021</u>	Little Rock, AR 72201-3298 (501) 324-5625
Signature: <u>Randy Roberson</u>	
<b>Randy Roberson</b>	
ADPHT-ORGP Project Officer One Capitol Mall, Suite 4B.215 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-6946 randy.roberson@arkansas.gov	

Re: ARDOT Job Number 100512  
Walnut Ridge – Missouri State Line (Future I-57) P.E.  
Project Limits: Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri State Line  
Counties: Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph  
**Request for Information**

Dear Mr. Roberson:

Early in the planning stages of a transportation project, views from federal, state and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist us with the early identification of environmental, economic, and social effects or concerns.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), is requesting your input for a transportation project in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties. The project will be designated as a section of future Interstate 57. The proposed limits of this section extend from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri state line, approximately 40 miles in length (map enclosed). The proposed project will examine alternatives to improve Hwy. 67 from Walnut Ridge to the Arkansas-Missouri state line to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System.

Please review the attached information and provide us with your views and comments within 30 days from your receipt of this letter. Replies should be addressed to Bill McAbee, 4701 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118, or at WCMcabee@GarverUSA.com. Please reference the project name and job number in your response. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Randal Looney at (501) 324-6430 or email randal.looney@dot.gov. Your assistance in this regard is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Vivien N. Hoang, P.E.  
Division Administrator

Enclosure:  
Future I-57 Study Area Map

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

---

**Subject:** Docket No. FHWA-2021-0009 - NOI to Prepare an EIS for a Proposed Highway**From:** Randy Roberson <[randy.roberson@arkansas.gov](mailto:randy.roberson@arkansas.gov)>**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2021 11:06 AM**To:** Looney, Randal (FHWA) <[Randal.Looney@dot.gov](mailto:Randal.Looney@dot.gov)>**Subject:** Docket No. FHWA-2021-0009 - NOI to Prepare an EIS for a Proposed Highway

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Randal,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the DOT's Notice of Intent to Prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for proposed improvements related to the Future Interstate 57 from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas/Missouri state line. As the Environmental Review Coordinator for the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program of Arkansas State Parks, I focus on the potential of a project to affect public outdoor recreation sites with particular emphasis on those that have received grant funding administered by our program. Based on scoping information received through Garver USA, and information associated with the NOI to Prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed highway project, it currently appears that none of the proposed alternatives would be in immediate conflict with public outdoor recreation sites monitored by our program. We look forward to receiving additional information to include the EIS and associated information.

Sincerely,

**RANDY ROBERSON,**  
Project Officer – Environmental Review Coordinator

Division of Arkansas State Parks  
One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[randy.roberson@arkansas.gov](mailto:randy.roberson@arkansas.gov)  
p: 501.682.6946 | f: 501.682.0081

[OutdoorGrants.com](http://OutdoorGrants.com)  
[ArkansasStateParks.com](http://ArkansasStateParks.com)





**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

---

**From:** Randy Roberson <randy.roberson@arkansas.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 3:36 PM  
**To:** Randal.Looney@dot.gov  
**Subject:** ARDOT Job 100512 Wanut Ridge - Missouri State Line (Future I-57) - Draft Programmatic Agreement

Randall,

I recently received a copy of the above referenced Draft Programmatic Agreement which identifies responsibilities of the Federal Highway Administration, the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Arkansas Department of Transportation regarding ARDOT Job 100512 (Future I-57 from Walnut Ridge, AR to Missouri State Line).

As the Environmental Review Coordinator for the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program of Arkansas State Parks, my review focuses on a proposed undertaking’s potential to negatively affect public outdoor recreation sites with emphasis on those sites that have utilized grant funds administered by our program. We have previously reviewed and provided comments regarding potential effects of the proposed I-57 improvements. I have now reviewed the proposed programmatic agreement referenced above and believe the proposed agreement to have no effect on outdoor recreation sites monitored by our program.

Sincerely,

**RANDY ROBERSON,**  
Project Officer – Environmental Review Coordinator

Division of Arkansas State Parks  
One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[randy.roberson@arkansas.gov](mailto:randy.roberson@arkansas.gov)  
p: 501.682.6946 | f: 501.682.0081

[OutdoorGrants.com](http://OutdoorGrants.com)  
[ArkansasStateParks.com](http://ArkansasStateParks.com)





STATE OF ARKANSAS

## Department of Finance and Administration

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

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Phone: (501) 682-1074  
Fax: (501) 682-5206

<https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/intergovernmental-services>

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Technical Review Committee Members

FROM: State Clearinghouse

DATE: October 19, 2022

SUBJECT: #3226 - Walnut Ridge - Missouri State Line (Future I-57)

APPLICANT: ARDOT Job# 100512

LOCATION: Counties of Clay, Greene, Lawrence & Randolph

Please review the above stated document under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966), National Environmental Policy Act (1969), Clean Water Act (1972), Environmental Assessments / Environmental Impact Statements and the Arkansas Project Notification and Review System.

Your comments should be emailed by **November 18, 2022** to [Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov](mailto:Laura.Brown@arkansas.gov) from the office of Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). The Director of ANRC and the Technical Review Committee Chairman is Chris Colclasure Ms. Brown will ensure that he is informed of any needed information.

It is imperative that your response be sent by the date requested. If you have "No Comments," this should be indicated below and submitted. Should your Agency anticipate having a response which will be delayed beyond the stated deadline for comments, please contact Laura Brown at (501) 682-3985 or the [State Clearinghouse Office](#) at (501) 683-8070.

Support  Do Not Support (Comments Attached)

Comments Attached  Support with Following Conditions


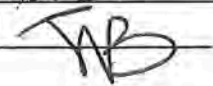
No Comments  Non-Degradation Certification Issues  
(Applies to ADEQ Only)

We previously indicated none of the proposed alternatives appeared to be in conflict with public outdoor recreation. Preferred Alternative 2C continues not to be in conflict with public outdoor recreation.

Name (Print) Randy Roberson Date 7 November 2022

Agency ADPHT Outdoor Recreation Grants Program Phone Number 501-682-6946

Technical Review Committee (State Clearinghouse)

*Order of Review*#1-Josh Burns #2-J. Ryan Benefield 

RETURN TO LAURA

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Christopher Rice  
State Clearinghouse

**FROM:** Chris Colclasure, Chairman  
Technical Review Committee

**SUBJECT:** ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT # 3226  
Walnut Ridge-Missouri State Line (I-57)  
ARDOT Job #100512  
Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties

**DATE:** November 18, 2022

---

Members of the Technical Review Committee have reviewed the above-referenced project:

The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System, provide a roadway more resilient to extreme weather events, and create increased opportunity for economic development in Northwest Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. This proposed project would extend I-57's connection in Sikeston, Missouri to Highway- 67's connection to I-40 in North Little Rock. This would extend I-57's corridor from Chicago, Illinois to North Little Rock, Arkansas. The proposed project would consist of the main corridor portion and the Missouri connectors that would allow for greater flexibility of the final termini at the Arkansas-Missouri border. The proposed main corridor portion consists of up to 41.3 miles of a four-lane divided interstate with frontage roads and a 60-foot-wide open depressed median. The proposed Missouri connector would include up to 2.8 miles of a four-lane divided highway and an expanded footprint of the proposed interchange on the Arkansas-Missouri state line. With the alternatives being considered up to 2,496 acres of land would result in the direct conversion of land from its present use to highway ROW with cultivated croplands taking up a substantial portion of the proposed project area. With the alternatives presented the proposed project would result in up to 58 acres of wetlands.

**The Committee supports this project.**

Memorandum  
Environmental Assessment # 3226  
Page 2.  
November 18, 2022

Agency comments are included for your review. The opportunity to comment is appreciated.

The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism Outdoor Recreation Grants Program sees no direct or immediate conflict with public outdoor recreation at this time but would like to note that alternative 2C is the preferred alternative due to no conflict with public outdoor recreation.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation is to coordinate with the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment on the following items:

- a) The applicant is required to obtain a Construction Stormwater General Permit and short-term activity authorization (STAA) prior to beginning work in wetted areas of streams or water bodies that would be impacted by the proposed activities.
- b) The applicant must obtain a Non-Stormwater Hydrostatic Testing General Permit before any testing of relocated water utilities is begun.
- c) The applicant is required to obtain an Industrial Stormwater General Permit ARR150000 if stormwater associated with the industrial activity is discharged. The Industrial Stormwater General Permit is required prior to the start of industrial activity.
- d) The applicant should ensure that all solid waste from the project is to be properly disposed of at a permitted solid waste landfill. Waste generated from or discovered on the subject property should be properly classified as hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste. Any hazardous waste resulting from this project must be sent to a permitted hazardous waste treatment storage or disposal facility. DEQ's Office of Land Resources does not anticipate this project resulting in a need for a Hazardous Waste Management permit.

The Arkansas Geological Survey wants to make sure the Arkansas Department of Transportation is aware:

- a) The referenced project area is within the area of influence of the New Madrid seismic zone (NMSZ). Three catastrophic earthquakes occurred, during the years 1811-1812, in this area with an estimated 7.0 magnitude. In the chance that a similar event was to happen today, the study area would experience strong to severe levels of shaking.
- b) The United States Geological Survey (USGS) states that the probability of such an event is rather low at 8-10% over the next fifty years, but the probability goes up to 25-40% for an event in the 6.0-7.0 magnitude range.
- c) In the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer groundwater is typically less than 20-feet below the ground surface indicating a high susceptibility to the occurrence of soil liquefaction in the project area.

U.S. Coast Guard

**Subject: RE: 080615\_08-24-2020\_USCG Advance Approval Letter Reduced.pdf**

---

**From:** Washburn, Eric A CIV USCG D8 (USA) <Eric.Washburn@uscg.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 9:21 AM  
**To:** McAbee, William C. <WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com>  
**Cc:** Orzechowski, David A CIV USCG D8 (USA) <David.A.Orzechowski@uscg.mil>  
**Subject:** RE: 080615\_08-24-2020\_USCG Advance Approval Letter Reduced.pdf

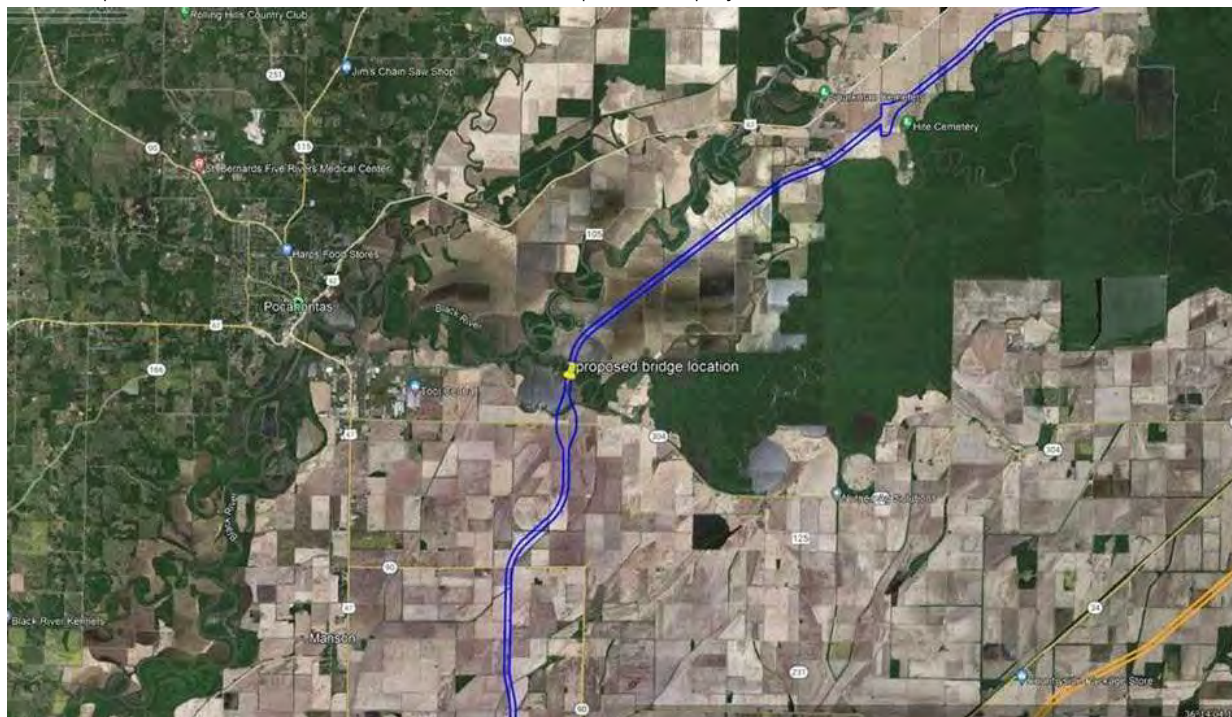
Good morning Bill. You are correct: we do not need to issue a USCG Bridge Permit but we will need to see a dwg showing the bridge can pass debris in high water. Thanks for the heads up.

Eric

---

**From:** McAbee, William C. <WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 8:39 AM  
**To:** Washburn, Eric A CIV USCG D8 (USA) <Eric.Washburn@uscg.mil>  
**Cc:** Orzechowski, David A CIV USCG D8 (USA) <David.A.Orzechowski@uscg.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] FW: 080615\_08-24-2020\_USCG Advance Approval Letter Reduced.pdf

Morning Eric, I hope all is going well. We had visited with you or David several years ago about a project in NE Arkansas (Future I-57) with a crossing of the Black River near Pocahontas. I can't find that correspondence unfortunately, it may have been a phone call. Do we need to send you a letter like the attached or would you be able to reply to this email that a Section 9 permit and coordination with the USCG is not required for a project at this location of the Black River? Thanks



**Bill McAbee**

Garver  
501-537-3259

---

**From:** Ruddell, John, H <[JHRuddell@GarverUSA.com](mailto:JHRuddell@GarverUSA.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 8:01 AM  
**To:** McAbee, William C. <[WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com](mailto:WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com)>  
**Subject:** 080615\_08-24-2020\_USCG Advance Approval Letter Reduced.pdf

This is what Rick sent the USCG for Petit Jean.



U.S. Department of the Interior



# United States Department of the Interior

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
**Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance**  
 1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 348  
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

Electronic Submittal Only  
 ER 22/0522

January 17, 2023

Garver  
 Attn: John Hetzel  
 4701 Northshore Drive  
 North Little Rock, AR 72118

**Subject:** Comments on the Walnut Ridge-Missouri State Line Future I-57 Connection in Clay, Greene, Lawrence and Randolph Counties, Arkansas Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Hetzel:

The Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the Walnut Ridge-Missouri State Line Future I-57 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We understand the purpose of the project is to address a gap in the system linkage that diminishes connectivity and mobility of the National Highway System, a lack of reliable transportation infrastructure to support economic development, and a need to enhance resiliency along the route to extreme weather events while minimizing negative impacts to the natural, cultural, and social environments. In addition, federal legislation designated this a high priority corridor for the future Interstate Route 57 (I-57). The project alternatives analyzed in the DEIS consist of the No Action Alternative, Main Corridor Alternatives 2 and 3, and the Missouri Connector Alternatives A, B, and C. Main Corridor Alternative 2 and the Missouri Connector Alternative C have been identified as the Preferred Alternative.

We welcome this opportunity to cooperate with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Arkansas Department of Transportation and Development (ARDOT) and offer the following comments for your consideration.

## U.S. Geological Survey comments

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has reviewed the DEIS for the proposed Walnut Ridge-Missouri State Line Future I-57 Connection in northeast Arkansas. This letter is intended to

**INTERIOR REGION 4 • MISSISSIPPI-BASIN\***  
**INTERIOR REGION 6 • ARKANSAS-RIO GRANDE-TEXAS-GULF**  
**INTERIOR REGION 7 • UPPER COLORADO-BASIN\***

inform readers of a potential disturbance to nearby USGS ground water wells as a result of roadway construction.

The USGS operates ground water wells throughout the U.S. to collect water quantity and quality data for a variety of purposes. These wells are permanent infrastructure and are vulnerable to disruption from nearby construction activities and/or surface/subsurface contamination. Also, the data they provide may be affected. The USGS maintains 4 active ground water wells (see table below) for collecting water level data in close proximity to the proposed I-57 route for the preferred alternative.

Site Number	Site Name	Nearest Town	Period of Record
362759090332401	21N05E17ABB1	Moark	1955-2022
362428090371101	20N04E02BB1	Corning	2001-2022
362433090371601	20N04E03ADA1	Corning	1984-2022
362112090423801	20N03E25BAA1	Rayno	1996-2022

The DEIS should list this streamgage and well as sites to be safeguarded and describe a process for coordination with the USGS during bridge design and construction. The USGS Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center should be contacted and given sufficient advance notice before construction near these sites. Efforts should be made to both preserve streamgages minimize impacts to the data collected at these sites.

The USGS thanks you for the opportunity to review and comment on this study. For any questions about the USGS' comments, please contact Jon Janowicz, USGS Manager for Environmental Document Reviews, at (609) 771-3941 or at [jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov).

If you have any questions for the Department or need assistance, please contact me at 720-814-6167, or [rebecca\\_hunt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_hunt@ios.doi.gov).

Sincerely,

**REBECCA  
HUNT**

Digitally signed by  
REBECCA HUNT  
Date: 2023.01.17  
13:40:55 -07'00'

Rebecca Hunt  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Cc: Jon Janowicz, United States Geological Survey, [jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)

**Schmidt, Cassie P.**

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**From:** McAbee, William C.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 12:33 PM  
**To:** Janowicz, Jon A  
**Cc:** Schmidt, Cassie P.  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

**Categories:** Filed by Newforma

Stepping in although I don't need to as Cassie is on top of this. But we will add this coordination requirement for this well into the commitments section of the FEIS.

**William McAbee**

Garver  
501-537-3259

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**From:** Janowicz, Jon A <jjanowicz@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 12:24 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>; Westerman, Drew A <dawester@usgs.gov>; Collins, Rebecca L <rebecca\_collins@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <agordon@usgs.gov>; Kopec, Brett A <bkopec@usgs.gov>; Williams, Shannon D <swilliam@usgs.gov>; Nottmeier, Anna M <anottmeier@usgs.gov>; Perrin, Cory - FPAC-NRCS, Little Rock, AR <Cory.Perrin@usda.gov>; McAbee, William C. <WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Thanks Drew and Cassie. This coordination and information sharing is what I hoped could be accomplished at this stage.

Cassie, please do keep this one on the list for future coordination. There will obviously be coordination with the owner on land acquisition at some point if the alignment remains the same. There is a good chance that the owner will want to establish a new water supply to irrigate the remaining portion of the parcel. At that point, it would be helpful to engage the NRCS and the USGS in the planning for decommissioning the current well and potential drilling of a new well.

Thanks, Jon

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**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 1:13 PM  
**To:** Westerman, Drew A <dawester@usgs.gov>; Janowicz, Jon A <jjanowicz@usgs.gov>; Collins, Rebecca L <rebecca\_collins@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <agordon@usgs.gov>; Kopec, Brett A <bkopec@usgs.gov>; Williams, Shannon D <swilliam@usgs.gov>; Nottmeier, Anna M <anottmeier@usgs.gov>; Perrin, Cory - FPAC-NRCS, Little Rock, AR <Cory.Perrin@usda.gov>; McAbee, William C. <WCMcAbee@GarverUSA.com>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Thank you so much for the additional information, Drew!

Based on the current preliminary alignment this well would be directly impacted. As funding becomes available and higher level of design develops, options for avoidance and/or minimization of impacts would be fully considered. In the event this well would be impacted, the USGS would be contacted to discuss mitigation measures.

Sincerely,

**Cassie Schmidt**  
Garver  
479-287-4673

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**From:** Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>; Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Collins, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_collins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_collins@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>; Nottmeier, Anna M <[anottmeier@usgs.gov](mailto:anottmeier@usgs.gov)>; Perrin, Cory - FPAC-NRCS, Little Rock, AR <[Cory.Perrin@usda.gov](mailto:Cory.Perrin@usda.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Good morning Cassie, Jon, and team.

We've been able to do a review of the Groundwater well - AR008 362112090423801 20N03E25BAA1 and attached a word document with our summary. The well and data are visited and collected by the staff with NRCS and I've cc'd Cory Perrin who is the groundwater point of contact for NRCS in AR. I've also included Anna, who helps to oversee our groundwater program in AR and helped to review and provided information about the groundwater wells.

Highlights:

- 362112090423801 - actively used by NRCS to collect water-level data in direct support of USGS investigative effort for calibrating a groundwater model and tracking aquifer trends. Complete write-up attached.
- 362759090332401 - worth noting a very long period of record that helps to support groundwater modeling and tracking trends of aquifer.

I hope this information is helpful and please let us know if you need anything else to move forward,  
Drew

Drew A. Westerman, CFM  
Assistant Director - Data Chief  
U.S. Geological Survey - Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center  
401 Hardin Road Little Rock, Arkansas 72211  
Email: [dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)  
Cell Phone: 501-516-6399  
Office Phone: 501-228-3643  
FAX: 501-228-3601

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**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:15 AM  
**To:** Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>; Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Collins, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_collins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_collins@ios.doi.gov)>; Collins, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_collins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_collins@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Good Morning Drew,

Just checking in to see if I could still anticipate getting something back from you this week about any mitigation measures required resulting from well 362112090423801 being removed by the future I-57 project.

Thank you and I hope this email finds you well (pun intended 😊).

Sincerely,

**Cassie Schmidt**  
Garver  
479-287-4673

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**From:** Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 5:15 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>; Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Collins, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_collins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_collins@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Hi Cassie,

You are never bugging, I'm very sorry for my delay. I'm putting it now on my calender to ensure I provide you a response next week.

Thank you for following up.

Thanks,

Drew

Drew Westerman  
Sent from mobile device  
USGS, Lower Mississippi-Gulf  
Little Rock, AR  
501-516-6399  
[Dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:Dawester@usgs.gov)

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**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 3:58:04 PM  
**To:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Collins, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_collins@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_collins@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Hi Jon,  
I don't mean to be annoying, but I just wanted to follow up on this and see if you all had anything for us on that well within the Future I-57 ROW.

Thanks and I hope you all have a great weekend!  
Sincerely,

**Cassie Schmidt**  
Garver  
479-287-4673

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**From:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 5:15 PM  
**To:** Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>; Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Hunt, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_hunt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_hunt@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Thanks Drew. If you can focus on 362112090423801 initially, that may be all that we need to understand and discuss, as it seems to be the only well in the proposed ROW.

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**From:** Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 6:11 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>; Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Hunt, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_hunt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_hunt@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Hi Cassie,

Thank you for providing the information on the proposed route. I'll be sure to review what you sent tomorrow and begin working to dig up as much information as possible and provide a report next week.

Drew A. Westerman, CFM  
Assistant Director - Data Chief  
U.S. Geological Survey - Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center  
401 Hardin Road Little Rock, Arkansas 72211  
Email: [dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)  
Cell Phone: 501-516-6399  
Office Phone: 501-228-3643  
FAX: 501-228-3601

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**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 5:02 PM  
**To:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>; Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Hunt, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_hunt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_hunt@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Hi Jon,  
Do you know about when you guys will have more information on those wells as to whether or not relocation is an option?

Thank you!! 😊  
**Cassie Schmidt**  
Garver  
479-287-4673

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**From:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 4:37 PM  
**To:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>; Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Hunt, Rebecca L



<[rebecca\\_hunt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_hunt@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Works for me! Thanks Cassie. This definitely tells the story and I can see that it looks like an active ag irrigation well.

Thanks, Jon

---

**From:** Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 5:06 PM

**To:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>; Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>

**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Hunt, Rebecca L <[rebecca\\_hunt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_hunt@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good Afternoon Team 😊

How do you all feel about Google Earth KMZs?? I’ve attached one showing the FHWA-approved Preferred Alternative for the project as well as the location of the 4 wells (based on USGS lat/long data).

My daughter received an award at school today so I am working from home the rest of the day and cannot access my measure tool in Google Earth or my mapping program. Uggg, technology is wonderful yet can be frustrating at the same time!

If this KMZ does not give you the proximities you need, please let me know and I will give you exact offsets on Monday morning.

By the way, the “not for at least 2 years” construction statement was entirely a best guess!

Most Sincerely,  
**Cassie Schmidt**  
Garver  
479-287-4673

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**From:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:11 PM

**To:** Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>; Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>; Schmidt, Cassie P. <[CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com](mailto:CPSchmidt@GarverUSA.com)>

**Cc:** Gordon, Alison D <[agordon@usgs.gov](mailto:agordon@usgs.gov)>; Kopec, Brett A <[bkopec@usgs.gov](mailto:bkopec@usgs.gov)>; Hunt, Rebecca L

<[rebecca\\_hunt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:rebecca_hunt@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Next step in coordination - Re: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Hi Shannon and Drew:

Cassie Schmidt from Garver Engineering is working on the Arkansas DOT I-57 Environmental Impact Statement that we exchanged emails about last month. She evaluated our list of 4 wells near the proposed road alignment and has determined that one well (362112090423801 near Reyno) is definitely within the preferred proposed alignment.

**Cassie, please reply** with your observations about the proximity of all 4 wells to the current proposed alignment. Figures would help tremendously but offset distances will suffice.

Given the long period of record for the purpose of water level data collection, it seems important to begin closer collaboration on potential impacts and options. Cassie has told me that these wells are in the area planned for earliest construction, but that actual work would not commence for 2 years minimum.

**Shannon and Drew, can you reply** with a brief history of the 4 wells including ownership, especially 362112090423801, and their significance in well networks (local, regional, national). Through that, we can begin to understand the importance this infrastructure has for the USGS and our cooperators. The Mississippi River Valley Alluvium Aquifer (MRVA) has received a lot of attention from the USGS and others in terms of data collection and interpretive science.

Site Number	Site Name	Nearest Town	Period of Record
362759090332401	21N05E17ABB1	Moark	1955-2022
362428090371101	20N04E02BB1	Corning	2001-2022
362433090371601	20N04E03ADA1	Corning	1984-2022
362112090423801	20N03E25BAA1	Reyno	1996-2022

Finally, Rebecca Hunt is the Regional Environmental Office for the Department of Interior overseeing our activities and coordination. We'll need to keep her in the loop on our communications.

I'll suggest that we can accomplish all needed coordination by email, but if a conference call would be helpful, I am happy to arrange for that.

Reply with any questions.

Thanks everyone,

Jon Janowicz, P.E.  
 USGS NJ Water Science Center  
 Bureau Environmental Documents Review Manager  
 Desk Phone - 609-771-3941  
 Mobile Phone - 609-203-7534

**From:** Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2022 4:00 PM  
**To:** Spitz, Frederick J <[fspitz@usgs.gov](mailto:fspitz@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>; Westerman, Drew A <[dawester@usgs.gov](mailto:dawester@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Fred,  
Thanks for the update and information. I'm also cc'ing Drew Westerman, our Arkansas & Tennessee Data Chief so he can help look over the information.  
Shannon

Shannon Williams  
Associate Director - Hydrologic Monitoring Networks Branch  
USGS Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center

615 837-4755 (office) 615 390-3282 (cell)  
640 Grassmere Park, Suite 100 Nashville, TN 37064

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**From:** Spitz, Frederick J <[fspitz@usgs.gov](mailto:fspitz@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** Williams, Shannon D <[swilliam@usgs.gov](mailto:swilliam@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** Janowicz, Jon A <[jjanowicz@usgs.gov](mailto:jjanowicz@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Arkansas DOT Proposed Route I-57 Connection near USGS GW wells

Hi Shannon,

The USGS Environmental Document Review Team was asked by DOI to look at the Arkansas DOT Route I-57 Project from Walnut Ridge, AR to the Missouri State line (near Moark, AR). This is an informational email to let you know that the preferred route appears to be close to 4 active USGS GW wells although at map scale it is impossible to know for sure. We discovered this issue through our standard NEPA review process. We are preparing a memo to DOI through Don Cline to inform Arkansas DOT of our concern, which we will copy you on.

Attached is my Environmental Review Document, for your information. No action is required on your part. Reply with any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Fred Spitz  
*Frederick J. Spitz | U.S. Geological Survey*  
*3450 Princeton Pike | Lawrenceville, NJ 08648*  
~~*office 609-771-3954*~~ / *cell 609-240-8118*

Groundwater well - AR008 362112090423801 20N03E25BAA1

NWIS web link:

[https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/gwlevels/?site\\_no=362112090423801&agency\\_cd=AR008](https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/gwlevels/?site_no=362112090423801&agency_cd=AR008)

A screenshot of the construction form from the Arkansas water-well database is included below and a direct link to the form. In 2015 the well appears to have undergone maintenance and is likely the reasons for the 2015 completion date:

[https://wise.er.usgs.gov/driller\\_db/view.php?well\\_id=904235362112&dated=12-APR-15](https://wise.er.usgs.gov/driller_db/view.php?well_id=904235362112&dated=12-APR-15)

The alluvial aquifer is a critical water source for irrigation in Arkansas. To help track how the aquifer responds to both water-use demands and recharge, groundwater-levels are measured at this well (362112090423801) twice a year, pre- and post-irrigation season. The groundwater-level data are an important component when developing and calibrating a water-availability model. The well is measured in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The well is completed within the Mississippi River Valley Alluvium Aquifer (MRVA) with a depth of 108ft. NRCS first collected a water-level measurement 5-7-1996 and the most recent measurement was 10-05-2022 with a total of 41 water-levels collected over the period of record. Our database currently has William Oxner listed as the owner. The USGS does not visit this well but works with NRCS to archive the data and uses the data for calibration of a groundwater model for evaluating future water substantiality scenarios. Consistent water-level data from the same well are critical for accurately evaluating aquifer trends. Cory Perrin ([Cory.Perrin@usda.gov](mailto:Cory.Perrin@usda.gov)) with the NRCS is the point of contact for their groundwater program.

<b>A</b>		1 Contractor Name & Number 1590 M AND M WELL DRILLING	2 Driller Name & Number 7086 DELMER MOORE	3 Pump Installer Name & Number 8113 DELMER MOORE
4 Date Well Completed: 04/12/2015 New Well		6 FRACTION 1/4 of 1/4 SECTION:		8 TOWNSHIP 9 RANGE
5 COUNTY: (21)		11 LONGITUDE 90-42-35		12 LATITUDE 36-21-12

<b>B</b>	DEPTHS IN FEET	WATER BEARING	IF YES DEPTH		
	DESCRIPTION OF FORMATION			FROM	TO
	Sand	0	46	No	
	Gravel	46	108	Yes	46
2 TOTAL DEPTH OF WELL 108		3 STATIC WATER LEVEL 21 Ft below land surface		4 YIELD 3000 gallons per min	
5 DIAMETER OF BORE HOLE 26 IN		6 SEaled WITH BENTONITE		7 DISINFECTED WITH	
8 USE OF WELL: IRRIGATION OTHER		9 HEATPUMP TYPE WELLS		10 Is there an abandoned water well on the property?	

<b>D</b>	1 LAND OWNER OR OTHER CONTACT PERSON NAME Bill Wright STREET ADDRESS 1 CITY AR
CASING FROM 0 TO 68 W 16 Inner Diameter	CASING FROM TO W Inner Diameter
TYPE CASING PVC	
3 SCREEN	
TYPE PVC DIA 16 SLOT GA 50	SET FROM 68 FT TO 88 FT
TYPE PVC DIA 16 SLOT GA 32	SET FROM 88 FT TO 108 FT
4 GRAVEL PACK FROM FT TO FT	
5 BACK FILLED WITH GRAVEL	
FROM 5 FT TO 108 FT	
6 SEaled WITH BENTONITE	
FROM 0 FT TO 5 FT	
FROM FT TO FT	
7 DISINFECTED WITH	
8 USE OF WELL: IRRIGATION OTHER	
9 HEATPUMP TYPE WELLS	
(For A-C only) Will system also be used for purposes other than Heating and Air Conditioning? If yes, name use	
(For A-C open-loop only) Into what medium is water returned?	
11 REMARKS	
12 SIGNED	DATE

## **TRIBAL COORDINATION**

Outgoing Tribal Coordination



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Arkansas Division**

March 13, 2019

700 West Capitol Ave  
Suite 3130  
Little Rock AR 72201  
(501) 324-6430

In Reply Refer To:  
ARDOT Job 100512  
Future Interstate 57 (I-57)  
Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and  
Randolph Counties  
HDA-AR  
FAP No. NHPP-0076 (178)

Dr. Andrea Hunter  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
The Osage Nation  
P.O. Box 779  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Dear Dr. Hunter:

This letter is written in order to initiate consultation between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Arkansas Division Office and the Osage Nation regarding a federal-aid highway project that may potentially affect ancestral lands or properties that may be of religious or cultural significance to your Nation.

The FHWA has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to improve the Highway 67 (Hwy. 67) corridor in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties, Arkansas. The proposed limits for the project extend from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri State line, approximately 40 miles in length (see enclosed map). The project will examine alternatives to improve this section of Hwy. 67 to interstate standards on existing or new location to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System. The improvements will be designated as Future I-57. A background study on previously recorded archaeological sites will be conducted as part of the project, and in an effort to further identify any additional archeological sites, the Arkansas Department of Transportation is planning to conduct a cultural resources survey of the project area.

Please review this information and notify us of any constraints or concerns that you may have regarding this undertaking. We would appreciate your input regarding not only this project but also sites or properties in the immediate area that might be of cultural or religious significance to your Nation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (501) 324-6430.

Sincerely,

Randal Looney  
Environmental Coordinator

Enclosure



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Arkansas Division**

March 13, 2019

700 West Capitol Ave  
Suite 3130  
Little Rock AR 72201  
(501) 324-6430

In Reply Refer To:  
ARDOT Job 100512  
Future Interstate 57 (I-57)  
Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and  
Randolph Counties  
HDA-AR  
FAP No. NHPP-0076 (178)

Ms. Sheila Bird  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
United Keetoowah Band of  
Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 746  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Ms. Bird:

This letter is written in order to initiate consultation between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Arkansas Division Office and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma regarding a federal-aid highway project that may potentially affect ancestral lands or properties that may be of religious or cultural significance to your Band.

The FHWA has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to improve the Highway 67 (Hwy. 67) corridor in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties, Arkansas. The proposed limits for the project extend from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri State line, approximately 40 miles in length (see enclosed map). The project will examine alternatives to improve this section of Hwy. 67 to interstate standards on existing or new location to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System. The improvements will be designated as Future I-57. A background study on previously recorded archaeological sites will be conducted as part of the project, and in an effort to further identify any additional archeological sites, the Arkansas Department of Transportation is planning to conduct a cultural resources survey of the project area.

Please review this information and notify us of any constraints or concerns that you may have regarding this undertaking. We would appreciate your input regarding not only this project but also sites or properties in the immediate area that might be of cultural or religious significance to your Band. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (501) 324-6430.

Sincerely,

Randal Looney  
Environmental Coordinator

Enclosure





U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Arkansas Division**

March 13, 2019

700 West Capitol Ave  
Suite 3130  
Little Rock AR 72201  
(501) 324-6430

In Reply Refer To:  
ARDOT Job 100512  
Future Interstate 57 (I-57)  
Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and  
Randolph Counties  
HDA-AR  
FAP No. NHPP-0076 (178)

Mr. Joey Barbry, Jr.  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1589  
Marksville, LA 71351

Dear Mr. Barbry:

This letter is written in order to initiate consultation between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Arkansas Division Office and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Inc. regarding a federal-aid highway project that may potentially affect ancestral lands or properties that may be of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe.

The FHWA has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to improve the Highway 67 (Hwy. 67) corridor in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties, Arkansas. The proposed limits for the project extend from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri State line, approximately 40 miles in length (see enclosed map). The project will examine alternatives to improve this section of Hwy. 67 to interstate standards on existing or new location to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System. The improvements will be designated as Future I-57. A background study on previously recorded archaeological sites will be conducted as part of the project, and in an effort to further identify any additional archeological sites, the Arkansas Department of Transportation is planning to conduct a cultural resources survey of the project area.

Please review this information and notify us of any constraints or concerns that you may have regarding this undertaking. We would appreciate your input regarding not only this project but also sites or properties in the immediate area that might be of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (501) 324-6430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Looney".

Randal Looney  
Environmental Coordinator

Enclosure



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Arkansas Division**

March 13, 2019

700 West Capitol Ave  
Suite 3130  
Little Rock AR 72201  
(501) 324-6430

In Reply Refer To:  
ARDOT Job 100512  
Future Interstate 57 (I-57)  
Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and  
Randolph Counties  
HDA-AR  
FAP No. NHPP-0076 (178)

Mr. Everett Bandy  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
The Quapaw Nation  
(The O-Gah-Pah)  
P.O. Box 765  
Quapaw, OK 74363-0765

Dear Mr. Bandy:

This letter is written in order to initiate consultation between the Federal Highway Administration, Arkansas Division Office and the Quapaw Nation regarding a federal-aid highway project that may potentially affect ancestral lands or properties that may be of religious or cultural significance to your Nation.

The FHWA has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to improve the Highway 67 (Hwy. 67) corridor in Clay, Greene, Lawrence, and Randolph counties, Arkansas. The proposed limits for the project extend from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Missouri State line, approximately 40 miles in length (see enclosed map). The project will examine alternatives to improve this section of Hwy. 67 to interstate standards on existing or new location to enhance connectivity and continuity of the National Highway System. The improvements will be designated as Future I-57. A background study on previously recorded archaeological sites will be conducted as part of the project, and in an effort to further identify any archeological sites, ARDOT is planning to conduct a cultural resources survey of the project area.

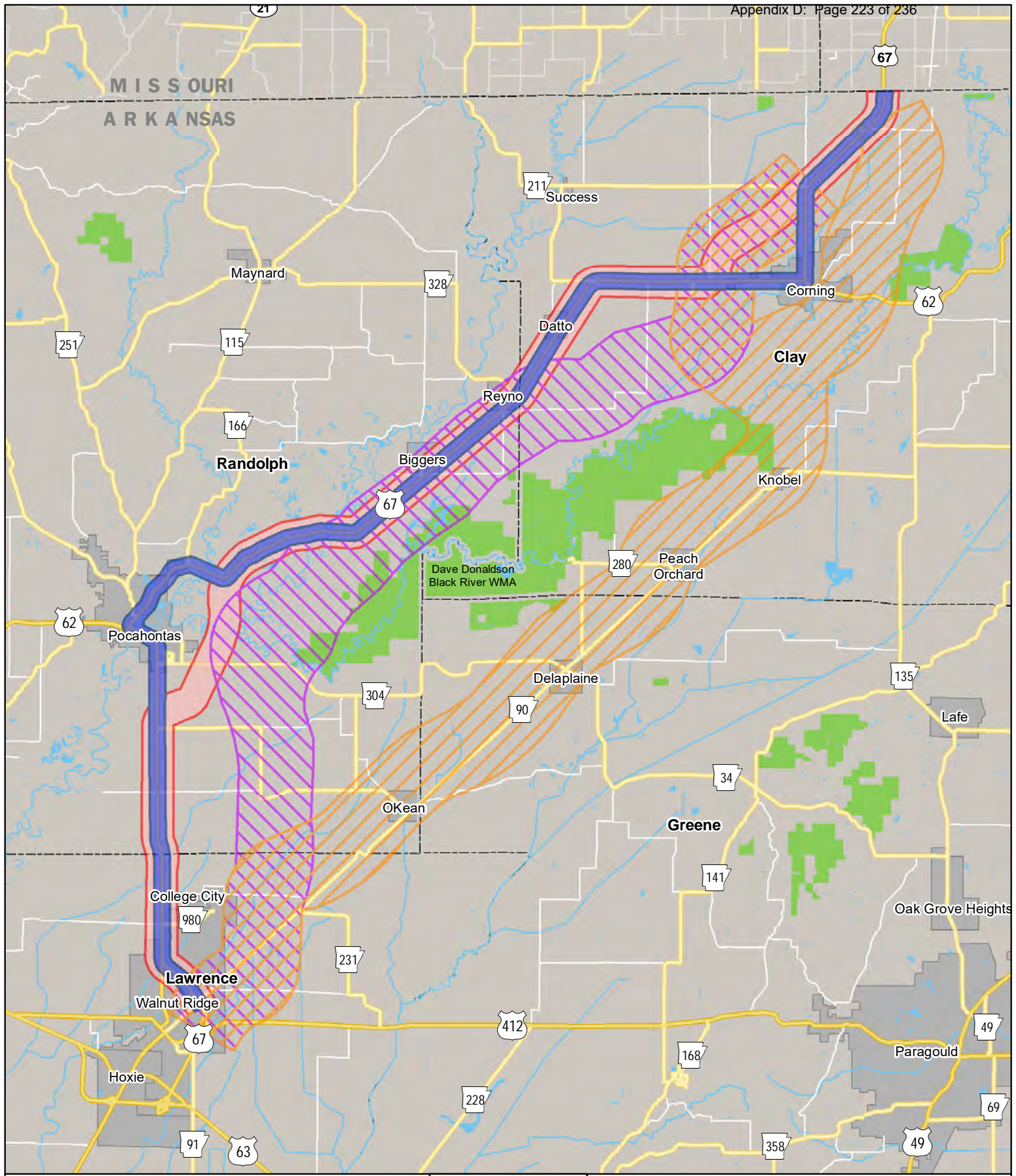
Please review this information and notify us of any constraints or concerns that you may have regarding this undertaking. We would appreciate your input regarding not only this project but also sites or properties in the immediate area that might be of cultural or religious significance to your Nation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (501) 324-6430.

Sincerely,

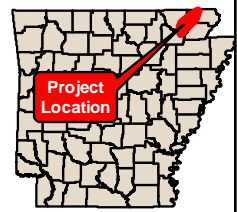
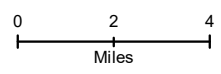
Randal Looney  
Environmental Coordinator

Enclosure

MISSOURI  
ARKANSAS



- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3
- Alternative 4
- City Limit
- County
- Wildlife Mngmt Area
- River / Stream



**Future I-57 Study Area**  
Randolph, Clay, Greene and Lawrence Counties



Osage Nation



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JUL 11 2019

# Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

FHWA  
ARKANSAS

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ARDOT

JUL 15 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

File: 1819-3352AR-3

Date: July 3, 2019

RE: AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas

Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department  
Randal Looney  
700 West Capitol Ave, Suite 3130  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Looney,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office has received notification and accompanying information for the proposed project listed as AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas. There are no known Osage cultural resources within the project area. This office looks forward to future updates and reviewing the final report.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Sincerely,

James Munkres  
Archaeologist



## Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

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Date: October 26, 2021

File: 2122-562AR-10

RE: AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas

Arkansas Division, FHWA  
Randal Looney  
700 West Capitol Ave., Suite 3130  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Looney,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office has received notification and accompanying information for the proposed project listed as AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas. **The Osage Nation requests that a cultural resources survey of the entirety of the chosen preferred alternative for I-57 along with the chosen alternative for the connector into Missouri be conducted for this project.**

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in 54 U.S.C. § 302706 (a), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969).

The Osage Nation has a vital interest in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources. **The Osage Nation anticipates reviewing and commenting on the planned Phase I cultural resources survey report for the proposed AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas.**

Should you have any questions or need any additional information please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Deseray Helton

Deseray Helton  
Archaeologist



## ***OSAGE NATION***

### ***HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE***

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#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY STANDARDS**

The following archaeological survey standards are the minimum amount of work acceptable for archaeological surveys conducted on the Osage Nation Reservation/Osage County and throughout Osage Nation ancestral territory as determined by the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office (ONHPO). Additional archaeological work (i.e. more shovel tests or transects) or methods (backhoe trenches) can always be incorporated into the research design to help locate and identify archaeological sites depending on the area or potential for encountering significant cultural resources. Alternative, project-specific, standards may be developed in conjunction with the ONHPO for projects with unique or unusual circumstances as appropriate.

#### **Professional Qualifications:**

Archaeological investigations must be conducted by an archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualification Standards for Archeology* (36 CFR Part 61; 48 FR 44716). At a minimum, all field surveyors must possess a BA or BS in anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology. At a minimum, the supervisor who is in the field and supervises the field survey, interprets the results of the field survey, determines the cultural resource recommendation, and produces the cultural survey report must possess an MA or MS in anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology. Supervisors must accompany and oversee all field surveyors during the fieldwork. With the first cultural resource survey report, include curriculum vitae for all project archaeologists and identify work performed.

#### **Background Research:**

Archaeologists must conduct a background literature search prior to field investigations. At a minimum this shall include searches of the SHPO's databases for previously recorded archaeological sites and historic properties, and previous archaeological work in the vicinity. For projects in Osage County, OK, the archaeologists would also include searches of the Osage Allotment Maps, Oklahoma Geological Survey Archives (Norman, Oklahoma) for early USGS 7.5 and 15-minute topographic maps and aerial photographs, plus the GLO map archive available online ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)).

#### **Deeply Buried Cultural Deposits:**

Archaeologists must assess the potential for deeply buried cultural deposits within the block area prior to starting field investigations. At a minimum, this shall include a review of the USDA soil surveys and geologic maps. If there is a potential for deeply buried cultural deposits within the

Revised December 2018

believed to be previously disturbed, including but not limited to previously developed lands, agricultural fields, and buried utilities, are not to be omitted from subsurface testing. Systematic shovel testing in the manner stated above is required in those areas to establish the presence of archaeological sites, to determine the level of ground disturbance, and to evaluate the impact of previous ground disturbance on any archaeological sites located in the area.

Notes should be kept on each shovel test documenting the shovel test location (including GPS coordinates), soil stratigraphy referencing USDA soil descriptions and actual soils encountered, soil color description (Munsell color codes if possible), depth, and the presence or absence of artifacts. A representative sample of shovel tests should be documented with photographs and profile drawings all of which should be incorporated into the survey report. The survey report will also include a shovel test log and a shovel test map that clearly depicts each labeled shovel test location.

### **B. Pedestrian Survey**

While pedestrian survey may be used in addition to systematic shovel testing, it may not be used in lieu of shovel testing in any area, except for those areas consisting of a slope 20 degrees or greater. Sloped areas exceeding 20 degrees should be investigated via pedestrian survey at intervals no wider than 10 meters.

### **C. Linear Projects**

For linear projects exceeding 1 mile, such as power line corridors, shovel test intervals may be extended to a maximum of 100 meters. A linear project is defined as an undertaking with an APE width no greater than 30 m. Additional judgmental shovel tests, as appropriate, should be placed in areas with particularly high probability or potential for significant, intact archaeological deposits.

If shovel test transects parallel the edge of the APE, the transect nearest the edge of the APE should be no further than half a standard shovel test interval as defined for the project from the edge of the APE. For example, if the shovel test interval being used for a particular project is 25 m, the transects nearest the edges of the APE should be no further than 12.5 m from the edge of the APE. If the APE is 60 m wide and shovel tests are being excavated at 25 m intervals, there should be three shovel test transects, and the transects nearest the edges of the APE would be 5 m from the edge of the APE. If shovel tests were excavated on only two transects, the distance from the transects to the edge of the APE would be 17.5 m, which is greater than half of a standard shovel test interval as defined for the project, and not deemed adequate coverage for a high probability area.



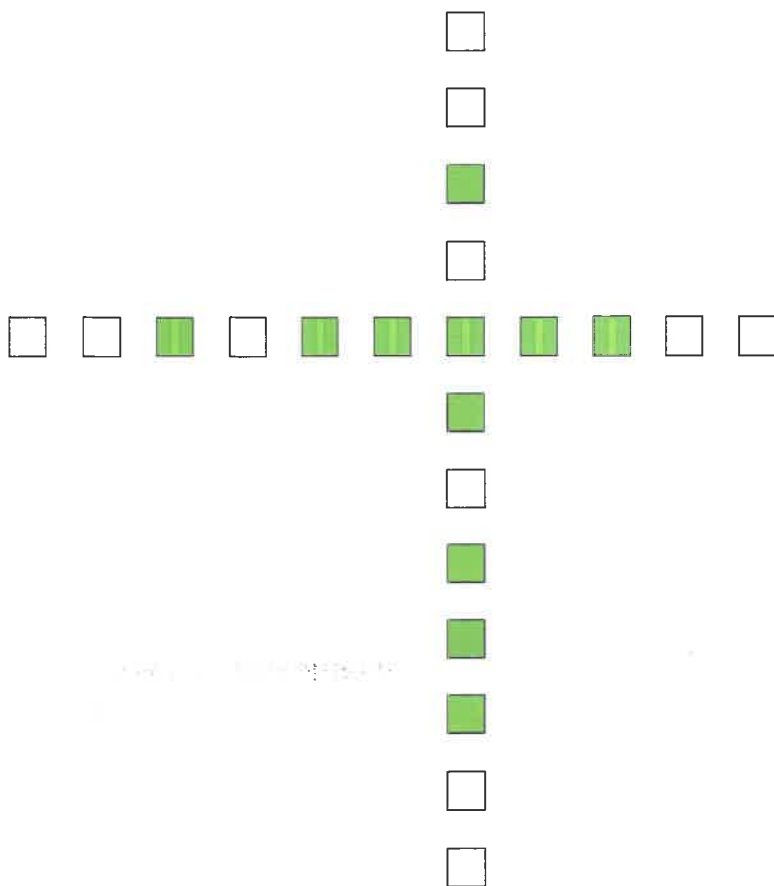
Revised December 2018



**Determining Site Boundary:**

Shovel testing is required to determine site boundaries.

A minimum of nine (9) shovel tests must be placed in a + pattern that is perpendicular extending from the center of the artifact discovery location.

A shovel test must be placed every five (5) meters until two (2) negative shovel tests are sequentially excavated in each direction. All surface finds and positive shovel tests must be bounded by radial shovel tests in this manner.



-  Positive shovel test
-  Negative shovel test

**Archaeological Consultants (preferred to work in Osage Ancestral Territory)**

Dean Afendras  
Afendras Archaeology, LLC PO Box 441  
Norman, OK 73070  
(405) 708-1151  
[afendras.archaeology@yahoo.com](mailto:afendras.archaeology@yahoo.com)

Chris Branam  
Flat Earth Archeology, LLC  
117 Financial Drive  
Cabot, AR 72023  
(501) 286-7124  
[chrisb@flateartharcheology.com](mailto:chrisb@flateartharcheology.com)

Chris Cojeen  
Cojeen Archeological Services  
PO Box 1186  
Norman, OK 73070  
(405) 360-9996  
[cojeenarch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cojeenarch@sbcglobal.net)

Todd McMakin  
Stone Point Services, LLC 11827 County Road 41  
Tyler, TX 75706  
(903) 484-4041  
[Todd@stonepointservices.com](mailto:Todd@stonepointservices.com)

Charles M. Niquette  
Cultural Resource Analysts  
151 Walton Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 252-4737  
(859) 254-3747 –fax  
[cmniquette@crai-ky.com](mailto:cmniquette@crai-ky.com)

Jacquie Payette  
Environmental Resources Management  
30775 Bainbridge Road, Suite 180  
Solon, OH 44139  
(440) 542-0750  
(866) 573-1093 (toll free)  
[jacquie.payette@erm.com](mailto:jacquie.payette@erm.com)

Archaeologists **NOT** preferred to work in Osage Ancestral Territory

Craig Sturdevant

James Holt

Steve Dasovich

Kevin McGowan

Billy McCarley

Larry Stillwell, Archaeological Consultants of Ossian

Ryan Weller

Virginia M. Janssen, Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc..

Gary Rex Walters

Jake Rieb, Edge Consulting Engineers

Katherine Turner-Pearson, Central Texas Archaeological Resources

Craig Keener, Professional Archaeological Services Team

Randy Dickson, Midwest Archaeological Consultants

Thomas Shelby, Environmental Engineers

TRC Environmental Corporation, Austin, TX

Joe Harl, Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis, Inc.

Donald O. Henry, Ph.D., Consulting Archaeologists, LLC

---

**From:** Deseray Helton <[deseray.helton@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:deseray.helton@osagenation-nsn.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 8:21 AM  
**To:** Looney, Randal <[Randal.Looney@dot.gov](mailto:Randal.Looney@dot.gov)>; Boykin, Kristina <[Kristina.Boykin@ardot.gov](mailto:Kristina.Boykin@ardot.gov)>  
**Cc:** ahunter <[ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:ahunter@osagenation-nsn.gov)>; Colleen A. Bell <[colleen.bell@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:colleen.bell@osagenation-nsn.gov)>; Sarah O'Donnell <[sodonnell@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:sodonnell@osagenation-nsn.gov)>  
**Subject:** PA regarding ArDOT job 100512 (207AR-A) Osage Nation Comments  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of ARDOT. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Looney,

Please find attached the Osage Nation's comments on the draft programmatic agreement regarding ArDOT job 100512 Walnut ridge – Missouri state line (future I-57) P.E. Clay, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas.

Thank you,

**Deseray Helton (Wrynn)**

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Archaeologist, MA

Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

627 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056

Office:918-287-9719 | Fax: 918-287-5376

[deseray.helton@osagenation-nsn.gov](mailto:deseray.helton@osagenation-nsn.gov)

<https://www.osageculture.com/culture/historic-preservation-office>



## Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office

WA[A[E KOSY KY]EA

Date: February 3, 2023

File: 2223-283AR-10

RE: AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas

Arkansas Division, FHWA  
Randal Looney  
700 West Capitol Ave., Suite 3130  
Little Rock, AR 72201

*Sent via email*

Dear Mr.Looney,

The Osage Nation has received notification and accompanying information for the proposed project listed as AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas. **The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office is in agreement with Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (formerly Panamerican Consultants) that newly identified sites 3LW830 and 3RA577 warrant Phase II testing to determine their eligibility for the NRHP.**

**The Osage Nation anticipates receiving the Phase II eligibility testing results for sites 3LW830 and 3RA577 pursuant to the Programmatic Agreement among the FHWA, Arkansas SHPO, ARDOT, USACE, and the Osage Nation regarding ArDOT Job 100512 project for review and comment.**

**The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office is in agreement with Commonwealth that the remaining newly identified sites and the seven previously recorded sites that are now destroyed (3LW394-400) are recommended not eligible for the NRHP and no further work is necessary.**

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in 54 U.S.C. § 302706 (a), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969).

The Osage Nation has a vital interest in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources. **The Osage Nation anticipates receiving a copy of the Phase II eligibility testing of sites 3LW830 and 3RA577 for review and comment for the proposed AHTD, 100512, Future Interstate 57 (I-57), Clay, Green, Lawrence, and Randolph Counties, Arkansas.**

Should you have any questions or need any additional information please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Deseray Helton  
Archaeologist

OSAGE NATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
WA[A]E KOSY KY]E A



cc: Kristina Boykin, Section Head - Cultural Resources, Arkansas Department of Transportation

Quapaw Nation

# QUAPAW NATION

P.O. Box 765  
Quapaw, OK 74363-0765

(918) 542-1853  
FAX (918) 542-4694

April 4, 2019

Arkansas State Highway and  
Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

Re: ArDOT Job 100512, Future Interstate I-57 Clay, Greene, Lawrence and Randolph Counties, Arkansas

To whom it may concern,

The Quapaw Nation Historic Preservation Office has received and reviewed the information provided for the proposed ArDOT Job 100512, Future Interstate I-57 Clay, Greene, Lawrence and Randolph Counties, Arkansas and concurs with your recommendations for this project conducting a cultural resources survey.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (NHPA) [16 U.S.C. 470 §§ 470-470w-6] 1966, undertakings subject to the review process are referred to in S101 (d) (6) (A), which clarifies that historic properties may have religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. Additionally, Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) as does the National Environmental Policy Act (43 U.S.C. 4321 and 4331-35 and 40 CFR 1501.7(a) of 1969).

The Quapaw Nation has vital interests in protecting its historic and ancestral cultural resources. We do not anticipate that this project will adversely impact any cultural resources or human remains protected under the NHPA, NEPA, or the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. If however, artifacts or human remains are discovered during project construction, we ask that work cease immediately and that you contact the Quapaw Nation Historic Preservation Office.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Quapaw Nation on this matter.

Sincerely,



Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Quapaw Nation  
P.O. Box 765  
Quapaw, OK 74363  
(w) 918-238-3100

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ARDOT  
APR 08 2019  
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DIVISION