

PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Kansas City District**

**Issue Date: July 17, 2015
Expiration Date: September 15, 2015**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING FOR KANSAS RIVER DREDGING NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed work requested by five commercial sand and gravel producers to extract these materials from the Kansas River by hydraulic suction dredging methods. A public scoping meeting has been scheduled for this proposal.

The public scoping meeting will be held on August 4, 2015 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the following location:

Lawrence Public Library
707 Vermont Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Permit Applicants: Holliday Sand and Gravel Company, LLC, (Lenexa, Kansas); Masters Dredging, (Lawrence, Kansas); Kaw Valley Companies, Inc. (Kansas City, Kansas); and Builders Choice Aggregates, (Topeka, Kansas). One permit applicant not currently authorized to dredge but seeking a permit is LBB, LLC (Topeka, Kansas).

Proposed Project (As shown on the attached drawings): The proposed dredging will occur within portions of the river between the mouth of the Kansas River and river mile 170 at the confluence of the Kansas, Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers. Department of the Army (DA) authorization under Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act is required for the work to obtain sand and gravel materials from the Kansas River. Commercial dredging in the Kansas River has occurred for more than 100 years but the quantity of sand and gravel materials annually withdrawn from the river has varied during this time period. Permits last issued in 2007 to five dredging companies allowed for an annual total of 3,150,000 tons of materials to be extracted from the Kansas River. The proposed permits request a total annual extraction of 1,900,000 tons.

Producer	Requested Quantity in Tons
Kaw Valley Sand and Gravel	400,000
Holliday Sand and Gravel	600,000
Master's Dredging	300,000
Builders Choice Aggregates	300,000
LBB, LLC	300,000
Total	1,900,000

PROJECT LOCATIONS (As shown on the attached drawing): Applicants have proposed permits for commercial sand and gravel dredging within segments defined by river miles (RM) of the Kansas River.

- Kaw Valley Companies, Inc.: RM 9.4 – 10.4, RM12.8 – 13.9 and RM 15.4 – 16.9
- Holliday Sand and Gravel Company, LLC: RM 18.65-20.15 and RM 20.55 – 21.15
- Masters Dredging: RM 26.1 - 27.1
- Builders Choice Aggregates: RM 77.1 – 78.6
- LBB, LLC: RM 89.7 – 91.0

Authority: The requested Department of the Army permits, if issued, would be authorized under authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, (33 USC 403).

Summary: The purpose of the public scoping meeting is to provide an opportunity for all concerned persons to present information which will be used to evaluate the Department of the Army permit applications submitted to the Corps of Engineers. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, the Corps of Engineers is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of continued commercial dredging of sand and gravel from the river. Officials of other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and all other persons will be given an opportunity to express their views. The public is invited to contribute additional information concerning the proposed project. Statements should be supported by factual information. Oral and/or written statements are welcome. Written statements may be presented to any representative of the Corps of Engineers at the meeting, or mailed to the Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers no later than the closing date shown on this notice.

The Kansas City District has required and the sand and gravel processing companies have paid for regular monitoring and documentation of river bed elevations in reaches of the river where dredging is allowed. Some degradation or down-cutting of the river bed in some areas where past dredging has been concentrated has been documented. The current dredging limits are also governed by a Regulatory Plan that helps determine the limits of acceptable degradation before dredging in those areas is suspended. Bed degradation may affect water intake structures, initiate tributary head cuts, promote streambank and levee instability, undermine pipelines and bridge piers and create navigation hazards. These effects have previously been observed in some areas of the river. Reaches that are not obviously directly affected by dredging operations may contain structures that are vulnerable to failure during floods or other catastrophic events.

The applications for Department of the Army permits are on file and may be inspected at the Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers, 601 E. 12th Street, Room 402, Kansas City, Missouri 64106 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Corps of Engineers is the lead Federal agency responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment for the proposed work was previously completed and the Corps of Engineers could not reach a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Therefore, an EIS will be completed for the proposed work that incorporates information gathered during that previous review. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was issued in the Federal Register on July 15, 2015.

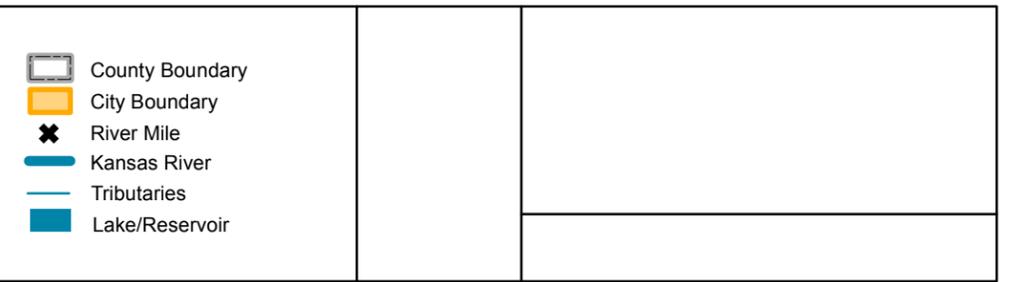
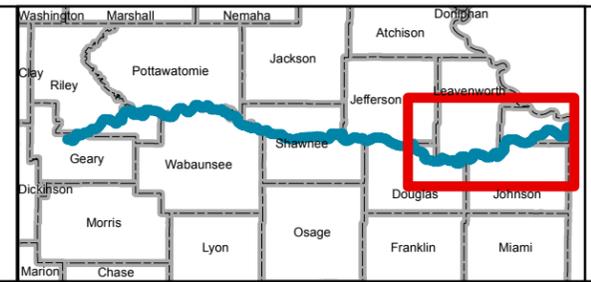
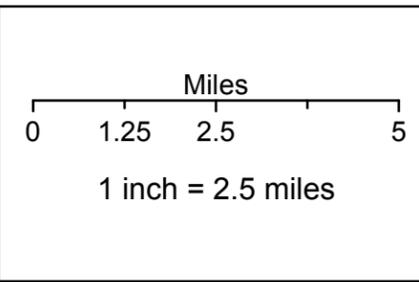
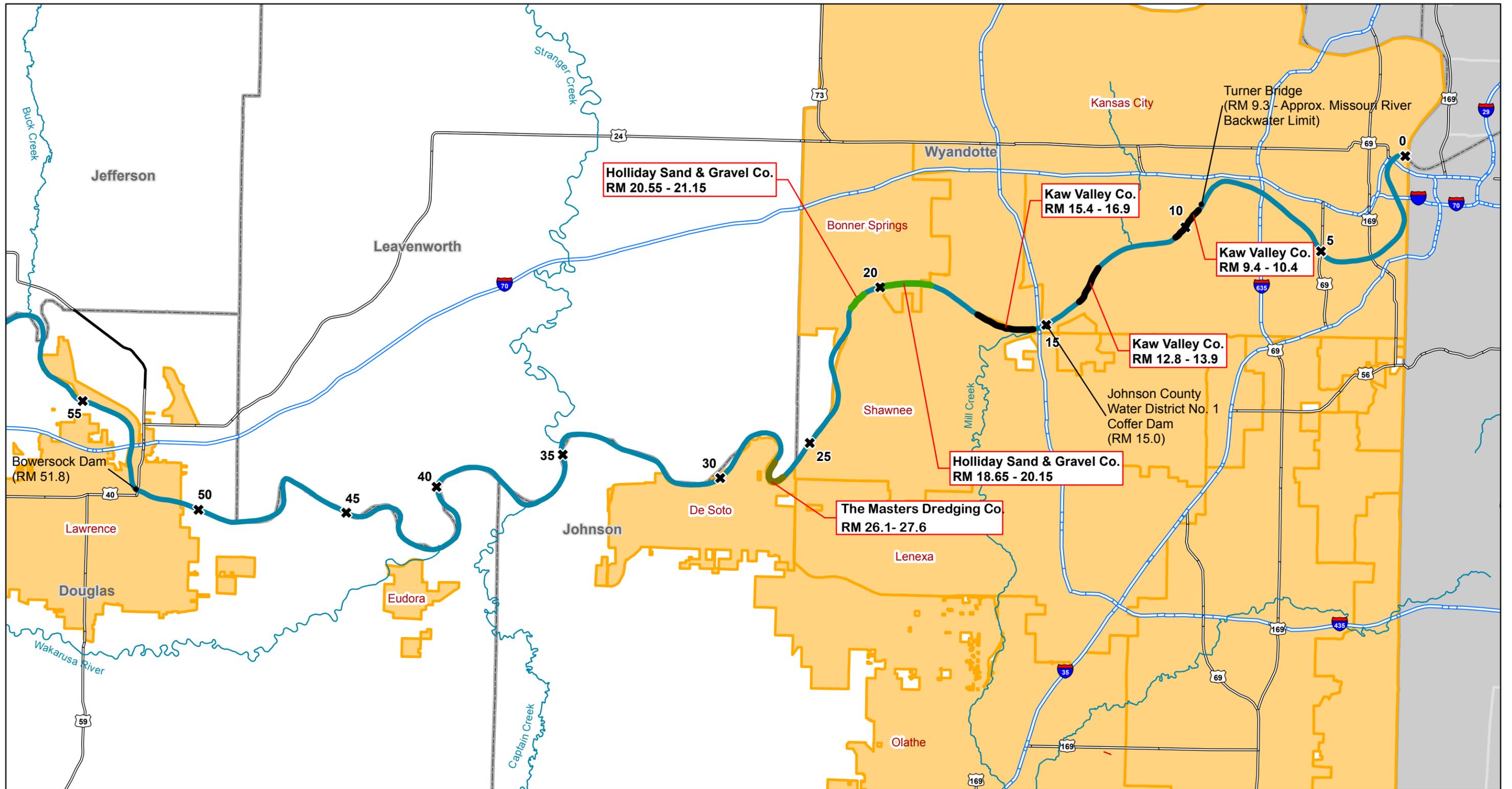
Additional Information: Additional information about these applications may be obtained by writing or contacting Mr. Brian Donahue, Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, ATTN: OD-R, 601 East 12th Street, Suite 402, Kansas City, MO 64106-2824. All written comments to this public notice should be directed to this address. You may also contact Mr. Donahue by phone at (816) 389-3703, by FAX at (816) 389-2032 or via email at: brian.t.donahue@usace.army.mil

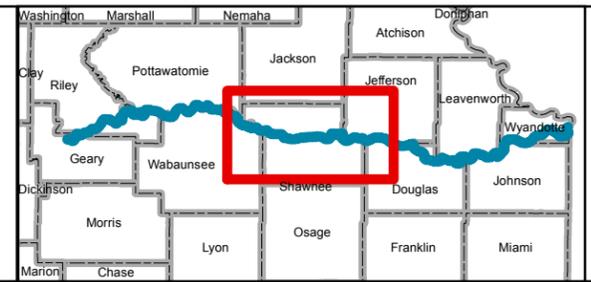
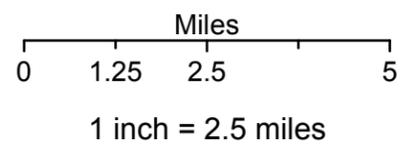
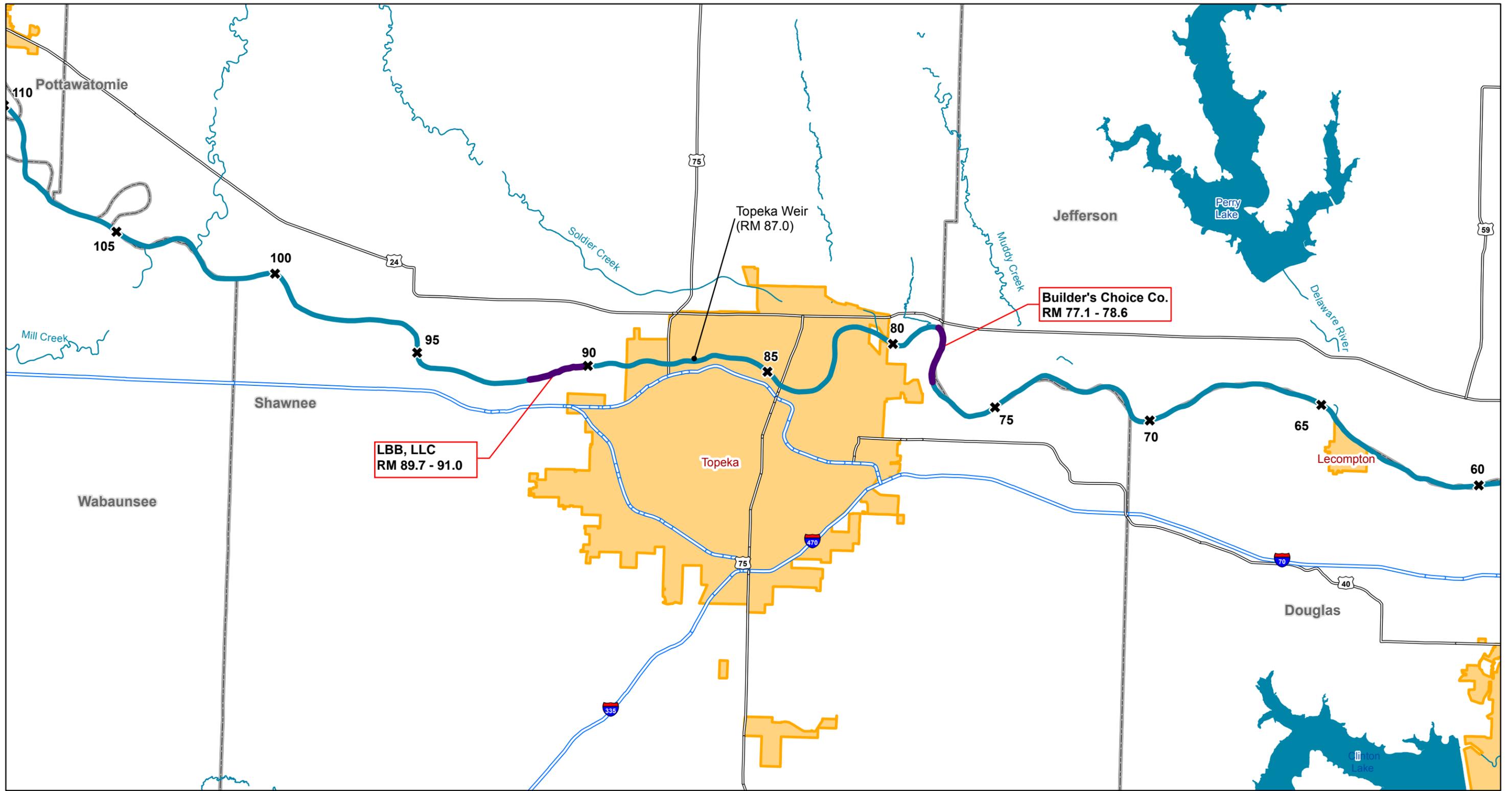
Available Web Links:

Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District:

<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryBranch.aspx>

Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/07/15/2015-17355/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-for-commercial-dredging-of>





- County Boundary
- City Boundary
- River Mile
- Kansas River
- Tributaries
- Lake/Reservoir