



# Wabasha Barge Facility

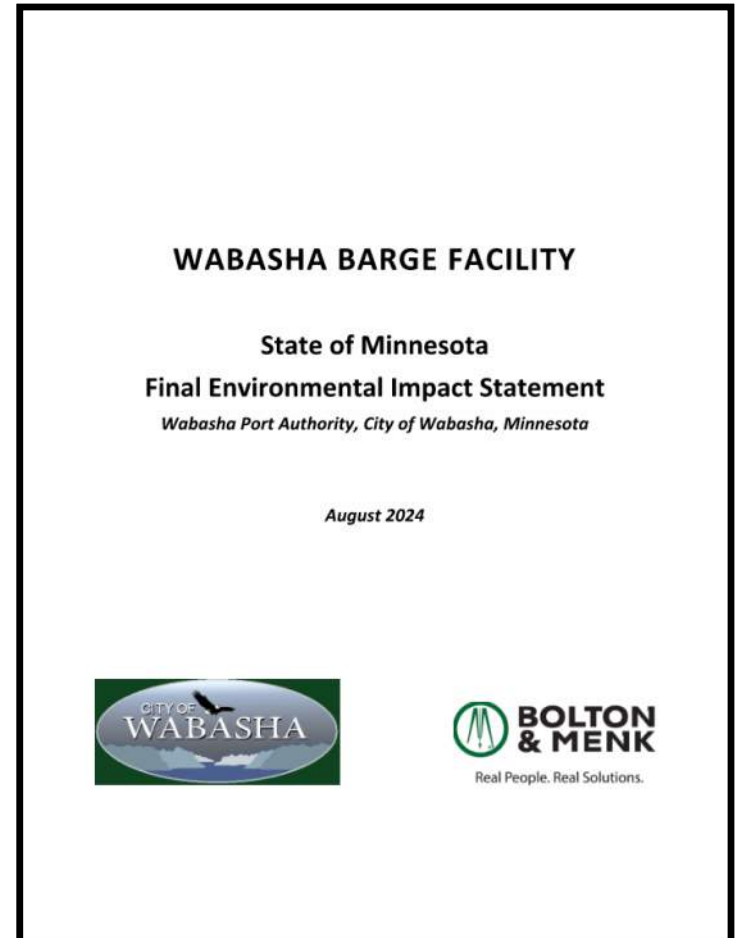
Final EIS Update – Wabasha Port Authority  
August 20, 2024



# Background

## Timeline:

- Draft EIS Agency Meeting: April 23, 2024
- Draft EIS Updated
- Draft EIS Update Agency Review: May 30, 2024
- Draft EIS Update Comments Received: July 1, 2024
- Port Authority Update: July 10, 2024
- Final EIS Prepared: August 20, 2024



# Final Round - Agency Comments

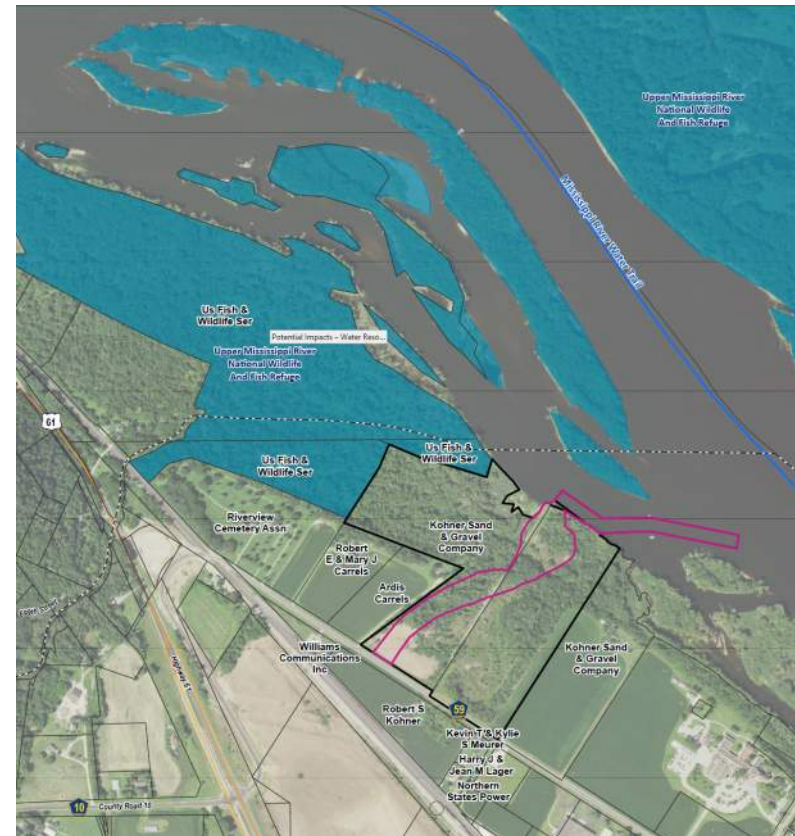
## Key Concerns

- Federal Land Impacts
- Future Use of Facility
- Future Development and Expansion
- Recreational Use Impacts
- Alternatives Analysis



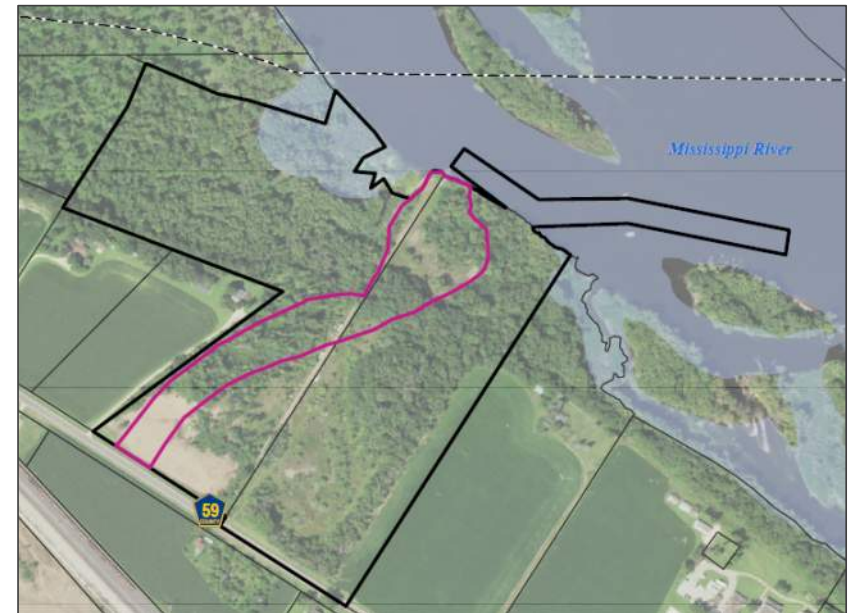
# Final Round – Agency Comments

- Federal Land Impacts (USFWS)
- Question of who “owns” the riverbed being dredged
  - Property maps updated showing ownership updated
  - Provided information from DNR indicating State ownership of riverbed
- Concern over impact to USFWS Refuge land
  - Provided information on size and types of tugs to be used
  - Highlighted buffer distance from channel to Refuge land
  - No wake operations in channel and “nose-in” mooring restrictions will be added to operational agreement



# Final Round – Agency Comments

- Future Use of Facility
- Operational Agreement restriction on use of facility for other products for 10-years minimum.
- Facility only has capacity for 2 barges per day and 100 trucks per day regardless of product - Same impacts as dredged material management



# Final Round – Agency Comments

- Future Development and Expansion
- Cumulative Impact, Connected and Phase Action Concern
- Adjacent property is zoned for Industrial Development
- Future development needs to meet zoning requirements and obtain necessary permits
- City has received no plans or proposals for adjacent development or expansion of port facility, therefore no cumulative impact, no connected and phased action



# Final Round – Agency Comments

- Recreational Use Impacts
- Only 2 barges per day
- No restrictions on recreational use of channel
- Minimal impact to recreational use



# Final Round – Agency Comments

- Alternatives Analysis
- Alternatives analysis updated with additional requested information
- Alternative Sites
- Alternative Scale/Magnitude
- Additional environmental analysis added for each alternative considered





# Summary of All Comments Received

## Comment Response Document

- 118 comments received throughout Draft EIS process
- Appendix P: Draft EIS Comments-Responses
  - Addresses each comment received.
  - Addressed comment directly, refers to section in Final EIS where issue is addressed if applicable.

Comment Number	Date Received	Agency / Commenter	Comment
116	7/2/2024	MnDNR	Section 4.17, Visual Resources: Because the project area is within an Important Bird Area, a National Wildlife Refuge, and migratory bird corridor, lighting for the facility will be especially important to limit impacts to wildlife. Animals depend on the daily cycle of light and dark for behaviors such as hunting, migrating, sleeping, and protection from predators. Light pollution can affect their sensitivity to the night environment and alter their activities. In addition to the undesirable effects of upward facing lighting, the hue of lights can also affect wildlife. LED lighting has become increasingly popular due to its efficiency and long lifespan. However, these bright lights tend to emit blue light, which can be harmful to birds, insects, and fish. The DNR recommends that any projects using LED luminaries follow the MnDOT Approved Products for luminaries, which limits the Uplight rating to 0. A nominal color temperature below 2700K is preferable for wildlife, and so we recommend choosing products that have the lowest number for backlight and glare (all approved products should already be 0 for Uplight). We also recommend that all non-essential lighting be turned off during the Mayfly hatch as well as follow the Audubon Society's Lights Out program. This program advocates for darkening all buildings and structures during the bird migration from midnight until dawn March 15 - May 31 and August 15 - Oct 31. Information on this program can be found at: <a href="http://mn.audubon.org/conservation/lights-out-faq">http://mn.audubon.org/conservation/lights-out-faq</a> .
			Section 4.18, Dust and Odors: Products containing calcium chloride or magnesium chloride

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Response to Comments	Final EIS Section	Page Numbers
Barge facility operations will occur primarily during day-time working hours. Exterior lights, if installed at the facility, will be down-casting and set on timers to reduce wildlife and aesthetic impacts during non-operating hours.	Land Use and Visual Impacts Section 3.1.4	51-54



# Specific Sections Updated in EIS

## Updated Sections

- All comments are addressed in Final EIS either in comment/response document or in modified sections of the EIS
- Specific Sections/Items Updated

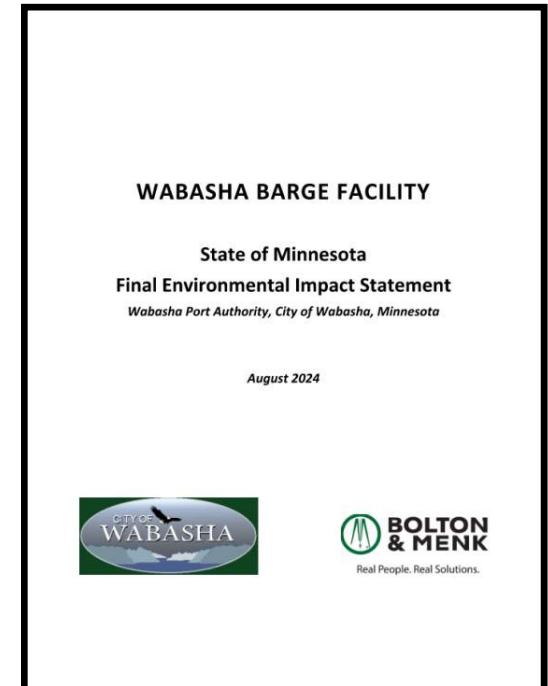
Section / Item	Update
Figure 10b	Updated ownership of project area and Mississippi River dredging area
1.9	Updated Project Schedule
2.1	Water/sewer utilities would be used for a small office with restroom Operation and operator of the proposed use clarified Project area and the remaining use(s) for the two parcels clarified Public use impacts of the river to alternative sites
3.1 Table 1	Alternative Sites Assessment – added a ranking system to evaluate alternative sites
3.2	Alternatives Considered Included impacts to state-listed species and sensitive ecological areas Future project lot standards Updated Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Concern clarified as state or federally listed
4.5.3	Updated clarity of need for utility extension to site
4.6.2	Land Use, Plans, Zoning; additional clarification on the future lot standards, and zoning process for the preferred and alternative sites
4.3.2.1 4.15.1.1	Floodplain forests have been clarified along the river
4.13.3.3	No need for winter operations clarified
4.15.1	Clarification on ownership of riverbed
4.15.2	Updated comments on impacts to upland portions and fee-title land
4.17.4	Updated comments on lighting standards for the project
4.18.4	Updated language on dust suppressants containing chlorides will not be used
4.20.2.3 5	Alternative Site – Recreational River assessment updated impacts to existing marinas
4.21.2	Future parcel details on use, zoning, and impacts to the environment



# State EIS and Federal EA Schedule

## Timeline:

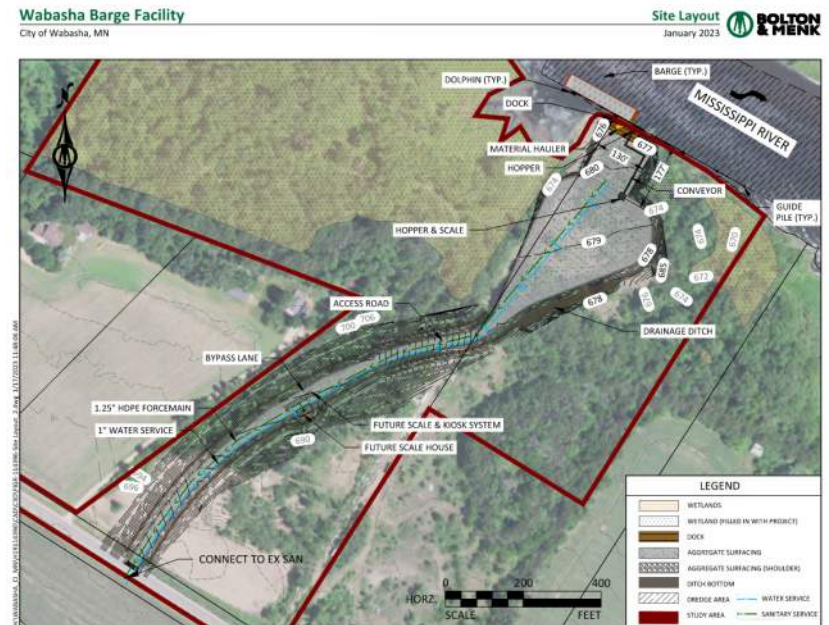
- Final EIS and Federal EA Port Authority Review and Approval: August 20, 2024
- Final EIS and Draft Federal EA Submittal: August 27, 2024
- Final EIS Review period: September 3-13, 2024
- Final EIS Notice of Adequacy by Port Authority: September 17, 2024
- Federal EA Agency Coordination: September – November 2024
- Federal EA Approval (anticipated): December 2024



# Final Design and Construction Schedule

## Timeline:

- Final Design – September 2024 - February 2025
- Permitting – September 2024 – May 2025
- Tree Removal Contract Bidding – February 2025
- Tree Removal – March 2025
- Site, Dock, and Dredging Contract Bidding – June 2025
- Site, Dock, and Dredging Construction – July 2025 – November 2025



# Requested Action and Next Steps

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## Requested Action:

- Approve Final EIS and Draft Federal EA for submittal.

## Next Steps:

- The “Notice of Adequacy” for the Final EIS, will complete this state-level process (September Port Authority Meeting).
- Anticipate one to two rounds of comments on the Federal EA.



# Thank you!

## Questions and Comments?

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Brian Malm, Principal Engineer  
Angie Smith, Senior Environmental Planner



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