

What Are The Environmental Impacts?

Environmental studies have been performed to identify potential impacts of the proposed project. Results of the studies are described below.

Waters and Wetlands: The proposed project will impact the channel of the Illinois River with the installation of the retaining wall and the temporary work platform. Due to the previously disturbed nature of the existing embankment and the removal of the temporary work platform following construction, permanent adverse impacts are expected to be minor. As proposed, the project will require an Individual Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Individual Permit application will be submitted after the completion of the public involvement process. Additionally, an application for Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be submitted to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Habitat surveys were conducted for federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as habitat for protected bird species. Potential habitat for threatened and endangered species was observed within the proposed project area, and as such, ODOT has initiated formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify and implement best practices to avoid and minimize impacts to protected species.

Cultural Resources: A cultural resources survey was conducted, which considers the potential to impact significant historic and archaeological resources. No significant cultural artifacts or materials were found during the survey.

Hazardous Materials: An Initial Site Assessment was conducted to determine the potential impact from hazardous materials or contaminants. No areas were identified that could pose an environmental risk to the proposed project. No additional investigations of hazardous materials are required.

Socioeconomic Impacts: Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice requires that ODOT identify any disproportionate adverse impacts of their federally-funded projects on disenfranchised populations, like low-income or minority communities. An environmental justice screening review was conducted, and no disenfranchised communities located within the area were identified that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed project. The proposed project will remain primarily within existing right-of-way, and where new right-of-way is required, no relocations are proposed. Access to homes and businesses will remain open during construction.