

Navigable rivers bound a significant portion of Daviess County. The Green River forms most of the western boundary of the County, while the Ohio River delineates the northern boundary. No port or loading facilities are located on the Green River within Daviess County. Most river traffic on the Green is simply passing through the County on its way to the cities along the Ohio River. As would be expected, the greatest river traffic flow is on the Ohio River.

## RIVER FACILITIES

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Exhibit 543-M1 provides a graphic representation of the river facilities that are located along the Ohio River in Daviess County. According to the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers there are twenty-five locations along the Ohio River that provide access for individual industries or the public. Public access to the Ohio River is provided at two locations (Little Hurricane Island and the City of Owensboro Wharf at Smothers Park).

The U. S. Coast Guard and the Owensboro Riverport Authority are the two public entities with facilities on the Ohio River. The remaining twenty-one sites serve the needs of individual businesses and industries. Except for the Iceland River Terminal, which is located just outside of the Urban Service Area (USA), all other sites are within the USA and concentrated along the Ohio River from the Ohio Valley Terminals easterly to Wrights Landing Road.

## OWENSBORO RIVERPORT AUTHORITY

The Owensboro Riverport Authority (ORA) was established in 1976 to provide public riverport and warehousing facilities on the Ohio River and to offer developable land to industrial prospects, particularly river-oriented industries. The ORA is located in the northwestern quadrant of the urban area off River Road. The original riverport site contained over 400 acres. However, over time some acreage has been sold to various industries and businesses leaving the ORA with approximately 150 acres which is utilized for public river terminal and warehousing operation. All ORA property is zoned for heavy industrial use.

The ORA facility currently has over 400,000 square feet of on-site general commodity warehousing, 10 acres of paved outside storage capacity, 60 acres of compacted rock outside storage capacity, domed bulk storage of 14,200 tons, 15,000-bushel-per-hour grain loading facilities and storage capacity of handling 653,000 bushels of grain, two 110-ton capacity cranes with one located on a spud barge, and a full array of loaders, forklifts, and specialty equipment. The facility has eight mooring dolphins and tug/fleeting service is available 24 hours a day. At the current time, approximately 75 acres are presently available for additional outside storage yards or industrial use.

In addition to the current facility on River Road, the ORA purchased the vacant Green River Steel mill in April 2005. The over 90 acre abandoned mill site, including a 350,000 square foot building with 18 overhead cranes, is located at 4701 US 60 E and is adjacent to the Owensboro Municipal Utilities plant. The site is ideal for redevelopment since much of the needed infrastructure is currently in place. The property is located on the river with good vehicular access to US 60 E and access to the main CSX line with approximately 10,750 linear feet of rail spur and 10 switches on site. To begin the redevelopment process, a

master plan for the site and survey to determine the order of magnitude and opinion of probable cost for major repairs and development has been completed for the site.

The ORA is a customs port-of-entry and in December 2003, the riverport acquired Foreign Trade Zone status. The riverport also serves as a licensed warehouse as a delivery point of prime aluminum trade on the New York Mercantile Exchange's COMEX Division aluminum futures contract. In March 2005, the riverport received designation as a Licensed Warehouse for North American A-380.1 Aluminum Alloy on the London Metal Exchanges North American Special Aluminum Alloy Contract. The ORA is the only warehouse in the world serving contracts from the New York Mercantile Exchange and the London Metal Exchange.

A six-member board of directors, who are appointed by the Mayor of Owensboro and approved by the Owensboro City Commission, governs the ORA. With the growth of the riverport in recent years, ORA has become financially self-sufficient and debt free. This financial success has allowed for continuing improvement of equipment and facilities, thus enhancing service to existing customers and allowing better marketing efforts to potential customers.

The success of the Owensboro Riverport has enabled the facility to become a truly multimodal facility with access to water, rail, and highways. Located on Ohio River Mile 759, all major barge lines (including but not limited to American Commercial, Crouse, Ingram, Memco, Mid-South, and Ohio River) provide service to the Owensboro area. Tug and/or fleeting services are available 24 hours a day. Rail service is provided by CSX. The main rail line runs through the port property and directly serves several on-site industries and facilities. The Riverport is accessed via KY 331 from U.S. 60, or alternatively via Ewing and Medley Roads. The Audubon and Natcher Parkways provide access to Interstates 64 and 65 respectfully. The Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport, located just four (4) miles away, provides commercial commuter air service.

Total tonnage handled at the Owensboro Riverport annually is approximately 1,000,000 Short Tons. Included in this tonnage figure are approximately 10,000 warehouse truck transfers and 1,500 warehouse rail transfers. All the activity at the riverport has both direct and indirect economic benefits on the community as a whole. Based on 2000 estimates, the riverport is directly responsible for 102 jobs and generating \$15.8 million in economic activity annually. However, indirect benefits are even greater with approximately 449 jobs and \$88.7 million generated annually.

Exhibit 542-M1: River Facilities

