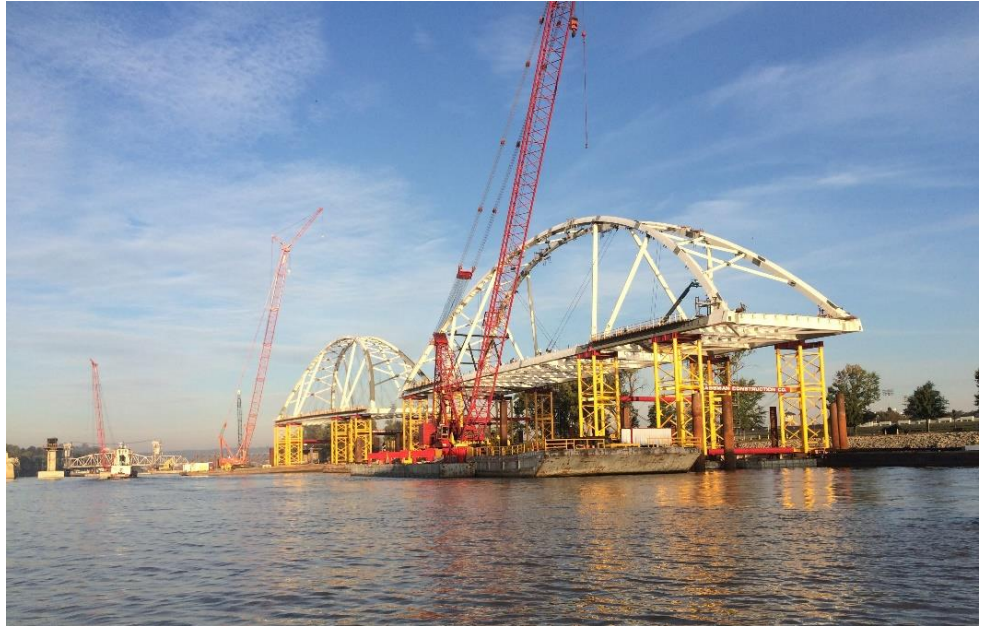


BARGE ZEBRA MUSSEL INSPECTION IN THE ARKANSAS RIVER

Little Rock, Arkansas



Client
Massman
Construction Co.

ES Project No. 9184

Location
Little Rock, AR

Key Services Provided

- Zebra Mussel Inspection Services
- Underwater filmography

Project Duration
November 2016

ES Project Cost
\$11,500

ES Key Staff
Matthew Johnson
Patrick Evankovich
Paul Eastbourn

EnviroScience, Inc. inspected several barges for the presence of zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) at an active construction site for Massman Construction in the Arkansas River in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Arkansas River is known to be infested with zebra mussels and serves as an infestation pathway of waterbodies in Oklahoma and Texas. Thus the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department requires all equipment stationed in the Arkansas River be inspected and de-contaminated prior to deployment in waterbodies where zebra mussels have not been observed.

EnviroScience mobilized a crew of ADCI-certified commercial divers and a USFWS federally-permitted malacologist to inspect the barges. The dive crew used a combination of visual, tactile, and underwater filmography methods to detect the presence of live zebra mussels. During the inspection, EnviroScience divers collected samples from multiple locations on each hull for the presence of small, live mussels. Later, we examined the samples under a microscope in an EnviroScience laboratory and determined that live zebra mussels and byssal threads were present on multiple hulls. EnviroScience promptly prepared and submitted a final report to Massman Construction Co. as these findings would influence plans for future construction projects in the state.

Through the course of this project, EnviroScience demonstrated its ability to mobilize quickly, coordinate across departments and offices, and provide the client with timely information needed to make decisions affecting multiple projects and internal deadlines.