



*For more information, contact  
Andrew Gates at 314-340-4161 or 314-223-8003.*

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## **Geotechnical team to start drilling for MRB design**

**ST LOUIS** – Geology experts will start drilling in the Mississippi River Sept. 8 to gain the necessary data to design the piers for the New Mississippi River Bridge between East St. Louis, Ill. and St. Louis. The crews will use a barge to support the equipment needed to drill in the river between the Martin Luther King and McKinley bridges.

This drilling will provide information needed to determine the makeup of the riverbed and the exact depth of the bedrock. This will be used to help design the bridge piers in the river. The data gathered will allow designers to determine the size and shape of the river piers and determine how best to secure the piers during construction.

Crews will stage the equipment for drilling operations starting the week prior. Once drilling in the river begins, crews will be working on the barge weekdays around the clock until early October. There will be little to no impact from the drilling, although nearby businesses or residents may notice generator noise from equipment and may see lights on the river.

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**MEDIA NOTE:** Media will be able to travel out to the drilling vessel for video or photos on drilling operations on Sept. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. To ensure transportation to the drilling operation is available, media representatives must make previous appointments to participate in the media opportunity by calling Andrew Gates at 314/340-4161 or 314/223-8003. Media crews must wear closed toe shoes and sturdy clothing and will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement before going onto the barge.