

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

June 4, 2012

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Regulatory Branch  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

(504) 862-2272  
Project Manager: John C. Price  
Permit Number:  
MVN-2012-00326-WNN

State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of Environmental Services  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager: Jamie Phillippe  
WQC Number:  
WQC 120524-03

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [ ] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 U.S.C. 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 U.S.C. 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in La. R.S. 30:2074(A)(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217; 33 U.S.C. 1341).

## **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELL SITE IN VERNON PARISH**

**Name of Applicant:** Town of New Llano, c/o Pan American Engineers-Alexandria, Inc., 1717 Jackson Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

**Location of Work:** Bayou Castor, Lat 31.09778°, Lon -93.27°, Section 3, T01N-R09W, west side of US Highway 171, approximately 1 mile south of New Llano, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the attached drawings.

The work described below was partially completed prior to obtaining a Department of the Army permit and was in violation of Section 301 of the Clean Water Act. All legal issues concerning the unauthorized work have been deferred.

**Character of Work:** Perform construction activities as required to install a water well assembly, 200,000-gallon storage tank, and appurtenant structures, all to develop a potable public water supply source. Approximately 290 yd<sup>3</sup> of excavated native earthen material, along with approximately 1,940 yd<sup>3</sup> of hauled-in earthen material and 40 yd<sup>3</sup> of crushed stone, would be deposited as fill. Concrete pads will be placed to support equipment. Also, vegetative debris resulting from clearing operations would be disposed of through burial on site. Project implementation would impact approximately 0.5 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands. As compensation for any unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase mitigation credits from a Corps-approved mitigation bank.

The applicant may be required to fully or partially restore the project site to pre-project conditions, if issuance of a permit is determined to be contrary to the overall public interest.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed, so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Department of the Army permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the address above. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

## **Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among these being: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical sites or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of **0.0** acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Ronnie W. Duke  
Chief, Western Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure