

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

United States Army  
Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Regulatory Branch  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

DEC 26 2011

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

504-862-1025  
Project Manager  
Sara B. Fortuna  
Application Number  
MVN-2011-03187 WKK

225-219-3225  
Project Manager  
Jamie Phillippe  
WQC Application Number  
WQC 111219-01

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: [X] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## **3-D SEISMIC SURVEY IN IBERIA AND VERMILION PARISHES**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** CGG Veritas, c/o Peter Wray, 1920 Cheryl Street, Abbeville, Louisiana 70510.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Seismic survey would be conducted over 69.35 square miles including Palmetto Island State Park and near the communities of Henry, Erath, Abbeville, and Delcambre, Louisiana, in Iberia and Vermilion Parishes, (approximate project southwest corner: 29.82465, -92.13233), as shown in the attached drawings.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** Conduct drilling operations to install a total number of 4,988 4-inch wide by 80-foot deep shot holes to be located at 220 foot intervals along parallel transect lines spaced 1,760 feet apart, and install a cable free system known as the UNITE Recording System, all to conduct a 3-D seismic survey to obtain subsurface hydrocarbon imagery. Among the total amount, 3,230 shot holes would be placed in 2-foot wide by 3-foot long water pits within the dry marsh areas. Approximately 1,421 cubic yards of material excavated through drilling operations would be temporarily stockpiled and placed to fill seismic holes after testing. The requirement for compensatory mitigation will be determined as to the extent of natural regeneration of project disturbed areas after one full growing season.

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 Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the 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 those are 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, prehistorical, 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 acre(s)** 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 Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services 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.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

We ask that you utilize the following link to complete and submit a Customer Service Survey: <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>. The New Orleans District Regulatory Branch is committed to improving our service to you and would like your honest opinions of how we are doing. If you do not have internet access you may request a hard copy of the Customer Service Survey by calling (504) 862-2257. Your input is important to us, thank you for your time

Ronnie W. Duke  
Chief, Western Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure