



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

October 24, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Operations Division
Western Evaluation Section
Project Manager:
John C. Price
(504) 862-2272

Subject: MVN-2011-02558-WNN

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 U.S.C. 403); and/or [] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 U.S.C. 1344).

MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF SHIPYARD FACILITIES
IN TERREBONNE PARISH

Name of Applicant: Gulf Island, LLC, 583 Thompson Road, Houma, Louisiana 70361

Location of Work: Houma Navigational Canal, Lat 29.54610°, Lon -90.70604°, Sections 1, 15, & 17, T18S-R17E, and Sections 11 & 12, T17S-R17E, approximately 34.5 miles above the mouth of the waterway, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the attached drawings.

Character of Work: Maintenance dredge three existing slips and place the dredged material in previously-approved disposal areas, all to allow for access and ballasting of barges/vessels within the slips to proper draft in order to load-out and/or launch completed projects for transport to inland/offshore worksites for installation. Approximately 445,899 cubic yards of accumulated sediments are anticipated to be removed cumulatively from the three slips. The periodic maintenance activity is expected to occur on an as needed basis. The maintenance dredging and disposal activities are currently authorized under four separate permits with varying expiration dates. The applicant has requested that the work authorized by these permits be consolidated into a single permit encompassing the maintenance dredging and disposal at all three slips. No expansion of the authorized dredging and disposal areas is being requested. Project implementation would impact approximately 29.4 acres of non-vegetated water bottoms.

Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons therefor, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request. The comment period will close **15 days** from the date of this public notice advertisement. Letters must reference the applicant's name and the subject number, and be mailed to the letterhead address so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period.

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 **29.4** 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