

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

April 11, 2011

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:
Operations Division
Eastern Evaluation Section
Project Manager
Melissa Ellis
(504) 862-2543

SUBJECT: MVN-2011-0618-EQ

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received by the District engineer for a Department of the Army permit to authorize the following pursuant to (X) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or () Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

CONSTRUCT BOATSHED AND PIER IN CANAL OFF LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN IN ST TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA

NAME OF APPLICANT: William & Julia Soniat, 7316 Windsor Drive, Harahan, Louisiana 70123.

LOCATION OF WORK: In a canal along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain at 195 Carr Drive, in the North Shore Beach subdivision at Latitude 30.22777, Longitude -89.82881, Slidell, St Tammany Parish, Louisiana as shown on the enclosed drawings.

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS: The project site consists of 0.26 acre of uplands with a 75 foot bulkhead protected shoreline along a canal on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. There is also an existing 184 square foot dock and four pilings. The canal at this point is approximately 60 feet wide. There are no wetlands and no known submerged aquatic vegetation.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Install and maintain a 406 square foot dock and a 300 square foot boat shed.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: 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.

The comment period will close 15 days from the date of this public notice advertisement. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons therefore, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request. Letters must reference the applicant's name and the subject number, be addressed and mailed to the above address, ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing to the project manager or clicking on the project manager's name on the public notice grid on the web page. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact 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, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The 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 Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, 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 the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or 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 in 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 or historical sites or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnus-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of $\underline{N/A}$ 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.

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 receives approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

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.

Mustal Francher Michael Farabee

Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosure