

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

February 27, 2012

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

(504) 862-2041 FAX (504) 862-2117
Project Manager
Robert Tewis
Permit Application Number
MVN-2012-00242-ETT

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Water Quality Certification
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225; Fax (225) 325-8250
Project Manager
Jamie Phillippe
WQC Application Number
WQC JP 120224-01

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: ☐ 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).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

CONSTRUCT VA CEMETERY IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA

NAME OF APPLICANT: Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), c/o J.V. Burkes & Associates, Inc., Attention: Barbara Zelenka, 1805 Shortcut Highway, Slidell, Louisiana 70458.

LOCATION OF WORK: Abutting the north side of I-12, at 34845 Grantham College Road, Camp Villere, Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: A 78.7 acre parcel within the Louisiana National Guard's Camp Villere base containing approximately 39 acres of combined disturbed planted pine wetlands and jurisdictional drainage features. The remainder is comprised of uplands.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant is requesting Corps of Engineers authorization to clear, grade, excavate, and fill in waters of the US. The project would excavate 14,858 cubic yards of materials from 4.6 acres of wetlands and discharge 17,715 cubic yards of clean fill in those same wetlands to construct a VA cemetery that has been designed to conform to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs standards. The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts by purchasing the appropriate in-kind wetland acre credits at a Corps of Engineers approved mitigation bank located within the same watershed.

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, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. 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 during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 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 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 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.

The Corps of Engineers is unaware of any properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places at or near the proposed work site. 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 threatened or endangered by Endangered Species Act (ESA) nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any ESA listed species. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce.

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 approximately 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.

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 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.

Attachments