

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

June 4, 2012

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

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

(504) 862-1217
Project Manager
Kenny Blanke
Permit Application Number
MVN 2007-825-CQ

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Mr. Jamie Phillippe
WQC Application Number
JP 070306-04

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 [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 Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

PERMIT MODIFICATION TO ADDRESS PERMIT NONCOMPLIANCE AND TIME EXTENSION TO DRILL THE LAWS 94 WELL NO.1 IN WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Park Exploration Inc., c/o C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, Inc., attn: Terry Dugas, 135 Regency Square, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508.

LOCATION OF WORK: In Sections 88 and 94, Township 7 South, Range 10 East, near Grosse Tete, Louisiana, in West Baton Rouge Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Permit modification and extension of time for 5 years to drill the Laws 94 Well No. 1. Clear, grade, place and maintain fill for an approximate 4,300' long x 20' wide access road and 280' x 300' ring levee to drill the Laws 94 Well No.1. The access road has two (2) 72-inch wide by 40-foot long culverts installed for the crossing of Bayou Tommy, three (3) 15-foot wide x 150-foot long truck pullover locations situated on the eastern side of the constructed access road, and six (6) 15-inch by 20-foot culverts installed to help maintain sheet flow to adjacent areas. The proposed clearing and placement of fill would impact approximately 2.8 acres of potentially jurisdictional bottomland hardwoods and 0.03 acre of potential Other Waters of the U.S. by fill placement. The proposed fill placement would impact approximately 1.2 acres of potentially jurisdictional wetlands for access road construction and 1.6 acres of potentially jurisdictional wetlands for drill site construction. A jurisdictional determination is still pending from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Approximately 2,027 cubic yards of limestone material is to be placed in potentially jurisdictional areas for access road and drill site construction. Approximately 578 cubic yards of limestone/earthen material mix is to be placed in potential Other Waters of the U.S. Approximately 4,472 cubic yards of earthen fill material is to be placed in potentially jurisdictional wetlands for access road and drill site construction as shown on the attached drawings.

The original permit, authorized on June 22, 2007, stipulated that an existing historic logging road was to be used as access from the south connecting to Louisiana Hwy 77. An access road was constructed from the north and east in Section 88 from an existing oil and gas well pad, as described above and shown in the attached drawings. The well pad was constructed in a northeast orientation as opposed to the permitted north-south orientation. The well pad was also constructed smaller than authorized (280' x 300'; 300' x 300', respectively) in the

original permit. The access road and well pad were both constructed in noncompliance of permit conditions; the well has not been drilled. The well pad impacts have been mitigated under the original authorization at Cholpe Acres Wetland Mitigation Area, a Corps approved mitigation bank.

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**. 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. 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 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 NA 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 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.

MARTIN S. MAYER
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure