

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

July 25, 2011

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

(225) 342-3099
Project Manager
James W. Little, Jr.
Permit Application Number
MVN-2011-01601-WII

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

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Jamie Phillippe
WQC Application Number
WQC 110623-03

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 Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

A lease for Borrow Areas HF, and JF is required from BOEMRE. If you have any questions concerning the lease application, you may contact Kenneth Ashworth at kenneth.ashworth@boemre.gov (504) 736-2656 or Michael Miner at michael.miner@boemre.gov (504) 736-2700 or by fax at 504-736-2502. Comments and questions can also be or mailed to Kenneth Ashworth, The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., Mail Stop 5450, New Orleans, LA 70123.

NOTE: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) has sole regulatory authority over the use of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand resources from Borrow Areas HF, and JF under the OCS Lands Act. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) requires a permit for all other aspects of the project, including dredging of any state water borrow areas, as well as conveyance and placement of sand resources. BOEMRE and the Corps are working collaboratively to ensure effective implementation of the required National Environment Act (NEPA) process, the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultations, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat consultation (Section 305); the National Historic.

SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT IN CAMERON PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION, Attn: Ms. Kristi Cantu, P. O. Box 44027, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804.

LOCATION OF WORK: This project extends from Lat 29° 45' 43.81"N, Long 93° 20' 44.98"W (just west of the Calcasieu Ship Channel and the Cameron Pass Jetties) to Lat 29° 46' 08.75"N, Long 93° 29' 25.03"W (approx. 2 miles west of Holly Beach).

CHARACTER OF WORK: Re-establish an eroded headland/beach through the creation of a continuous beach and dune system for approx. 8.7 miles of shoreline. Sand via borrow source located 20 miles offshore would be delivered to the project site through a multi-step process: First, a hydraulic hopper dredge will remove the sand from the borrow sites and transport it to a site in Calcasieu Pass adjacent to the beach of the western side of the pass outside of the navigation channel. Then, two alternatives are available to the contractor to deliver the sand to the beach nourishment placement site. For Alternative 1, called the Calcasieu Pass Rehandling method, the hopper dredge will bottom dump the sand into a rehandling site; see Sheet 8 of the drawings. The sand will then be redredged via a hydraulic dredge and pumped through a temporary pipeline for beach placement. For Alternative 2, called the Calcasieu Pass pump out method, the hopper dredge will arrive at the pump out station (see Sheet 9 of the drawings) and directly connect to a pipeline and pump the sand from its holding tank through the temporary pipeline for beach placement. Material taken from offshore borrow sites (Borrow Areas HF and JF), located in the Sabine Banks, is regulated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). Approximately 621 acres of unvegetated waterbottoms will be impacted at the offshore borrow site. Approx. 16.7 acres of unvegetated waterbottoms will be impacted at sand rehandling site on the western side of, and just north of, the mouth of the Calcasieu Pass. Approx. 840 acres of degraded beach shoreline would be restored through strategic placement of sand material.

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. **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 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 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 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.

Ronnie W. Duke
Chief, Western Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures