

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

October 3, 2011

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
Attn: Water Quality Certifications
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-1217
Project Manager
Kenny Blanke
Permit Application Number
MVN 2011-1768-CQ

(225) 219-3003
Project Manager
Mr. Jamie Phillippe
WQC Application Number
WQC 110822-02

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 LRS30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

SOUTH BATON ROUGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND 54-INCH TREATED EFFLUENT LINE DISCHARGED INTO MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: City of Baton Rouge/East Baton Rouge Parish, c/o CH2M Hill, Attn: Ed Prestemon, 700 Main Street, Suite 400, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

LOCATION OF WORK: In Section 41, Township 8 South, Range 1 East, located near Baton Rouge, Louisiana extending southwesterly along Gardere Lane (LA Hwy 327) to River Road, along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River, river mile 216.4 above Head of Passes, in EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, 30.34250 N and -91.14528 W, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Install and maintain the South Wastewater Treatment Plant facility along Gardere Lane. A 54-inch ductile iron outfall pipeline will be constructed from the South Wastewater Treatment plant facility to the Mississippi River to discharge treated sanitary wastewater. The project includes an above ground levee crossing with pipe to be secured to concrete spread footings with restrained joints beginning 25 feet from the landside toe of the levee and crossing above ground to a point of 25 feet past the riverside toe of the levee. The existing concrete "bridge" located on the levee will be modified to accommodate the new crossing by removing approximately 86 feet of the bridge on the downstream side of the existing crossing and extending the bridge by approximately 182 feet to provide a smooth transition. In addition, the 54-inch discharge pipeline will be installed below grade from a point of 25 feet past the riverside toe of the levee to a point below mean low water at elevation 42.3, approximately 930 feet from the riverside toe of the levee. There will be a drop manhole constructed approximately 632 feet from the riverside toe of the levee to accommodate the drop in elevation encountered with this area. The drop man hole will be supported on piles as per the structural drawings. Pipeline installation along the riverside batture would potentially impact approximately 3.2 acres of forested batture wetlands from construction and permanent servitudes associated with project implementation. Of this acreage, approximately 2.2 acres of batture wetlands would be temporarily

impacted from project construction and then the construction servitude shall be restored to pre-project grade. The permanent conversion of forested wetlands to herbaceous wetlands within the right-of-way totals approximately 1.0 acre. The remaining areas of the project, including the facility, have been determined to be located in non-jurisdictional areas. This project is part of the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Control and Wastewater Facilities Program. The applicant proposes to contract with an approved compensatory mitigation bank to offset impacts associated with the project.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **30 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**. 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