



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-2007-01408

Date Issued: 27 June 2017

Comments

Due: 28 July 2017

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is not the entity proposing or performing the proposed work, nor has the Corps taken a position, in favor or against the proposed work.

AUTHORITY: This application will be reviewed pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

APPLICANT: McMoRan Oil and Gas, LLC
700 Milam, Suite 28096
Houston, Texas 77022
Telephone: 281539-7624
POC: Ms. Tina Liberatore

AGENT: Blue Ox Environmental Planning Services, LLC
2851 Johnson Street, #1803
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503
Telephone: 337-534-0370
POC: Mr. Gregg Hamilton

LOCATION: The project site is located in the Gulf of Mexico, within Mustang Island Blocks 757, 758, 763, 764, and 782, approximately 46 miles east of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas.

Pipeline Segment #17271 – Decommissioned in Place

- **Begin:** Latitude: 27.640313 North; **Longitude:** 96.663923 West
- **End:** Latitude: 27.644225 North; **Longitude:** 96.661625 West

Pipeline Segment #18905 – Removed Within Aransas Fairway

- **Begin:** Latitude: 27.644316 North; **Longitude:** 96.661502 West
- **End:** Latitude: 27.661688 North; **Longitude:** 96.648694 West

Pipeline Segment #18906 – Decommissioned in Place

- **Begin:** Latitude: 27.661688 North; Longitude: 96.648694 West
- **End:** Latitude: 27.730795 North; Longitude: 96.567050 West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to retain impacts associated with the decommissioning in place and removal of segments of a 6-inch-diameter pipeline. The entire length of the pipeline was flushed and capped. The segment of the pipeline located within the Aransas Fairway was then removed by pulling and jetting where necessary. The applicant proposes to leave the segments located on either side of the Aransas Fairway decommissioned in place at approximately 3 feet below the mudline.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by there being no water bottom disturbances caused by those pipeline segments to be decommissioned in place.

MITIGATION: No mitigation is proposed.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is within the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico where no special aquatic sites are present.

NOTES: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 10 sheets.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Since permit assessment is a continuing process, this preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if data or information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS: N/A

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The staff archaeologist has not reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary indications are that no known threatened and/or endangered species or their critical habitat will be affected by the proposed work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on Essential Fish Habitat 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.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-332, the Regulatory Programs of the Corps, and other pertinent laws, regulations and executive orders. 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 benefits, 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: among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps 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 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 Impact Assessment and/or an EIS 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.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING: The purpose of a public hearing is to solicit additional information to assist in the evaluation of the proposed project. Prior to the close of the comment period, any person may make a written request for a public hearing, setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine if the reasons identified for holding a public hearing are sufficient to warrant that a public hearing be held. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this public notice must reach this office on or before **28 July 2017**. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. **If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections.** Comments and requests for additional information should reference our file number, **SWG-2007-01408**, and should be submitted to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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P.O. Box 1229
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409-766-3869 Phone
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DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
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