



Public Notice

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| U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers Galveston District | Permit Application No: _____ | SWG-2011-01183 |
| | Date Issued: _____ | 11 January 2013 |
| | Comments Due: _____ | 11 February 2013 |

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT GENERAL CONFORMITY DETERMINATION BAYPORT SHIP CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS HARRIS AND CHAMBERS COUNTIES, TEXAS

The Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a Draft General Conformity Determination for Department of the Army Permit Application SWG-2011-01183 for the Bayport Ship Channel (BSC) Improvements Project (Project). The Port of Houston Authority is the permit applicant, and is the proponent for the Project. The applicant proposes to use a hydraulic pipeline dredge to deepen and widen portions of the BSC Turning Basin and Flare. The depth of the channel and turning basin would be increased from -40 feet (ft) Mean Low Tide (MLT), plus 2 ft of advanced maintenance and 2 ft of overdepth dredging, to -45 ft MLT, plus 2 ft of advanced maintenance and 2 ft of overdepth dredging. The channel bottom would be widened by 100 ft to the north from Station 214+00 to the land cut (Station 120+00), and by 50 ft to the north from the land cut to the Turning Basin. As part of a separate project the USACE will ease (widen) the wide channel turning area connecting the BSC with the Houston Ship Channel, the Flare, to a radius of 4,000 ft and a depth of -40 ft MLT, and the applicant proposes to deepen the Flare easing to -45 ft MLT plus 2 ft of advanced maintenance and 2 ft of allowable overdepth. All new work dredged material would be placed in existing dredged material placement areas (PAs) 14 and/or 15 to raise levees for increased capacity, and/or to build levees already planned by the USACE for the PA14/15 Connection, and/or Atkinson Marsh Cell M11.

The Draft General Conformity Determination was prepared for the Project pursuant to Section 176(c)(1) of the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR Part 93 Subpart B. In accordance with the General Conformity regulations, the Draft General Conformity Determination has been prepared to analyze and document the General Conformity-related air emissions that will result from the proposed project and document that these emissions conform to the United States Environmental Protection Agency-approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) applicable to the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) ozone non-attainment area (NAA).

The results of the analysis were coordinated with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), who determined the project emissions would not exceed the emissions budgets specified in the most recent SIP revision approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, confirmed in writing via a 5 November 2012 letter to the applicant.

Therefore, the project emissions resulting from the Federal action of approving the permit would result in a level of emissions, which, together with all other emissions in the HGB NAA, would not exceed the emissions budgets specified in the SIP, and the action can be considered to conform with the HGB NAA SIP.

The Draft General Conformity Determination can be downloaded from the USACE website at <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/media/PublicNotices.aspx>. A hard copy of the report will also be made available upon request. Requests and comments should be submitted to Ms. Denise Sloan, Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-RB, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, Texas 77553-1229. All comments pertaining to this public notice must reach this office on or before 11 February 2013. A request for a hard copy of the report can also be submitted by phone at 409-766-3962, or to (denise.l.sloan@usace.army.mil). After all comments are reviewed, a Final General Conformity Determination will be published with availability of this document announced in a public notice within 30 days of its completion.

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
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