



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: _____

Date Issued: _____

Comments _____

Due: _____

SWG-2017-00750

12 February 2019

15 March 2019

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 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

APPLICANT:

Celanese Ltd.
222 West Las Colinas Boulevard, Suite 900 North
Irving, Texas 75039
POC: Russ Stephens
Telephone: 972-443-4438
Email: russ.stephens@celanese.com

AGENT:

Anchor QEA
9797 Timber Circle, Suite B
Daphne, Alabama 36695
POC: Renee Robertson
Telephone: 251-375-5275
Email: rrobertson@anchoragea.com

LOCATION: The project site is located in the Colorado River, at the Celanese Bay City Dock Facility located at 2001 FM 3057, in Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Blessing SE, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 28.856283° North; Longitude: 96.029666° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to maintenance dredge their facility to an elevation of -15 Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)/ -15.45 Mean High Water (MHW) and to place the material in private, upland placement areas on site. The applicant proposes to dredge approximately 45,000 cubic yards of dredge material over 10 years.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: Department of the Army (DA) Permit 6593 was originally issued on 16 September 1965, and authorized dredging and the construction of a pier, walkways, and dolphins. We were unable to locate the expiration date. DA Permit 8042 was issued on 7 November 1969, and authorized the applicant to construct 16 permeable spur jetties, a system of 10 spur jetties, and 3-pile dolphins. This permit expired on 31 December 1972. DA Permit 14422 was issued on 26 May 1981, and authorized the applicant to construct a system of erosion control (riprap) in the Colorado River at the left bank of the applicant's facility. This permit expired on 31 December 1984. DA Permit 14423 was issued on 30 April 1981, and authorized the applicant to construct a bulkhead and fill the area behind. This permit expired on 31 December 1984. SWG-2017-00750 was a verification of Nationwide Permits 35 and 16. It was issued on 20 February 2018. These Nationwide Permits were authorized due to the emergent nature of the project following Hurricane Harvey.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by performing the minimum amount of dredging necessary to accomplish the goals of the project.

MITIGATION: The applicant has not proposed mitigation.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is located within a sparsely developed portion of the Colorado River, adjacent to an existing golf course. The applicant does not propose any impact to wetlands or other special aquatic sites.

This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. The wetland delineation has been completed and was verified by the Corps on 17 November 2017. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 5 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.

Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the CWA.

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS:

Consistency with the State of Texas Coastal Management Plan is required. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with Texas' approved Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said program.

This project incorporates the requirements necessary to comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Tier I project criteria. Tier I projects are those which result in a direct impact of three acres or less of waters of the state or 1,500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is below the threshold) for which the applicant has incorporated best management practices and other provisions designed to safeguard water quality. The Corps has received a completed checklist and signed statement fulfilling Tier I criteria for the project. Accordingly, a request for 401 certification is not necessary and there will be no additional TCEQ review.

The return water from the upland contained dredge material placement area(s) requires an independent certification by the TCEQ. The applicant must obtain a Section 401 water quality certification from the TCEQ for the effluent or return water discharge. A copy of the 401 certification must also be furnished to the Corps prior to the Corps making a decision on the proposed project.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The staff archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

The proposed project, maintenance dredging and placement of dredged material in an area that has been previously impacted by development, is of such limited nature and scope that it has no potential to effect historic properties, even if present within the project area.

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 **15 March 2019**. 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-2017-00750**, and should be submitted to:

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