



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-1998-02413

Date Issued: 22 July 2025

Comments

Due: 20 August 2025

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of a proposed Regional General Permit (GP) 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.

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

APPLICANT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550

LOCATION: The GP will be valid within navigable waters of the U.S. within the SWG boundaries, excluding waters located in Louisiana.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This GP authorizes Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) and/or Directional Drilling (DD) activities under navigable waters of the U.S. for the installation and/or relocation of utility lines.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The GP is conditioned to result in no more than minimal impacts.

MITIGATION: The GP does not authorize temporary impacts or permanent loss of special aquatic sites and does not require compensatory mitigation.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The Corps evaluates an average of 5-6 HDD/DD GPs annually. While the actions may be stand alone activities, they may all be combined with other general permits, like Nationwide Permits, to install or replace larger sections of utility lines.

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:

The GP is conditioned to be consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said Program. The TXGLO will determine if the GP is consistent with the goals and policies of the CMP.

No water quality certification is required.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The GP requires pre-construction notification. During this review, the staff archaeologist will review the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information and make a determination on presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Threatened and/or endangered species and their critical habitat may be affected by the proposed work. The GP requires pre-construction notification. During this review, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service will be completed to assess the effect on endangered species.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed GP may affect species listed in the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Plans including: red drum, triggerfishes (*Balistidae*), jacks (*Carangidae*), wrasses (*Labridae*), snappers (*Lutjanidae*), tilefishes (*Malacanthidae*), groupers (*Serranidae*), and coastal migratory pelagic species, shrimps, stone crabs, and spiny lobsters.

Impacts may include temporary increases in turbidity and sediment plumes during drilling operations. These impacts may reduce light penetration, clog fish gills and potentially release contaminants trapped in sediments. While distance and pipe diameter will affect timing, average HDD operations are estimated to have a 3-6 week duration.

The GP is conditioned to prohibit the temporary and/or permanent loss of special aquatic sites such as wetlands, oyster reefs, and seagrasses. Impacts to these resources are further minimized by prohibitions on open-cut trenching and discharges of dredged or fill material.

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 **20 August 2025**. 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-1998-02413**, and should be submitted through the RRS system or the physical address listed below: <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs/public-notices> OR

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DISTRICT ENGINEER
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CORPS OF ENGINEERS