



# Public Notice

<b>U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers</b>	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2016-01074
	Date Issued: _____	5 November 2019
	Comments _____	
<b>Galveston District</b>	Due: _____	20 November 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.

**APPLICANT:** WILLIAMS GULF COAST GATHERING COMPANY, LLC  
2200 Avenue A  
Bay City, Texas 77414  
POC: Ms. Cathy Thornton  
Telephone 713-215-4192  
Email: cathy.thornton@williams.com

**AGENT:** T BAKER SMITH, LLC  
107 Global Circle  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503  
POC: Mr. Brady Trahan  
Telephone 337-735-2800  
Email: brady.trahan@tbsmith.com

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in the Gulf of Mexico, starting at approximately 3 miles offshore from Padre Island National Seashore (PINS) and extending to approximately 9 miles from PINS to the onshore site.

**LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):**

Start: Latitude: 27.133056 North; Longitude: 97.323056 West

Finish: Latitude: 27.192555 North; Longitude: 97.450371 West

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposes to decommission approximately 9 miles of pipeline identified as Segment 5995 in place, starting at 27.133056, -97.323056 (approximately 3 miles offshore from PINS) and ending onshore at 27.192555, -97.450371. This proposed modification of Segment 5995 is under the National Seashore and under the Intra Coastal Water Way (ICWW). The applicant has proposed to cut, flush, cap and fill with native seawater. The applicant has stated that no impacts to the sea floor or waters of the US are anticipated.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts with their proposal to decommission in place.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant has not proposed any mitigation.

**CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS:** The existing pipeline is buried beneath the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, at a minimum of 3 feet below the natural bottom.

**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 6 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:**

The applicant has stated that the project is consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said Program. The Texas Railroad Commission will determine if the project is consistent with the goals and policies of the CMP.

Pursuant to 33 USC 408, the proposed project will require Section 408 coordination and review. This is a requirement for activities that seek permission, to temporarily or permanently, alter, occupy, or use a federally authorized United States Army Corps of Engineers civil works project. Changes to the proposed project, from the Section 408 process, may warrant additional coordination.

**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 work and/or structures are of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected 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 of Engineers, 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 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 Corps of Engineers 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 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.

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 of Engineers 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 NOVEMBER 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-2016-01074**, and should be submitted to:

Corpus Christi Field Office  
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RD-R  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
5151 Flynn Parkway, Suite 306  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411-4318  
361-814-5847 Phone  
swg\_public\_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
GALVESTON DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS