



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2011-01232
	Date Issued: _____	12 April 2022
	Comments _____	
Galveston District	Due: _____	12 May 2022

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: Howard Energy Partners
22024 Route 14
Troy, Pennsylvania 16947-8791
POC: Jim Townsley
Telephone: 570-209-9427
Email: JTownsley@howardep.com

AGENT: Lanier & Associates Consulting Engineers
595 Orleans Street, Suite 600
Beaumont, Texas 77701-3227
POC: Joanne Scarf
Telephone: 409-212-1051
Email: jscarf@lanier-engineers.com

LOCATION: The project site is located in the Port Arthur Canal, at 2350 South Gulfway, in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Port Arthur South, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.832072° North; **Longitude:** 093.964733° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to extend the authorized dredge limits of a previously authorized area in front of an existing dock to the limit of the adjacent federal channel. The applicant also requests authorization to deepen this area to a depth of 48 feet below mean lower low water with allowances for 1 foot of over dredge and 1 foot of advanced maintenance. The previously authorized depth was 42 feet below mean low tide.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by avoiding all impacts to special aquatic sites.

MITIGATION: This project is a modification to an existing dredging permit. No loss of waters of the United States is proposed as part of this project, therefore, no compensatory mitigation is proposed for this project.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is upriver of the Port Arthur Canal and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The surrounding area is heavily industrialized to the north, and contains emergent wetlands and dredged material placement areas to the south and west of the project. The project is approximately 11 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico.

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:

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.

The effluent from the dredged material placement areas that will occur as a result of this project will trigger review under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Texas Commission Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will review this application under Section 401 of the CWA and in accordance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. The applicant has not yet reached out to the TCEQ to initiate the Section 401 CWA process. If you have comments or questions on this proposed project's State water quality certification, please contact 401certs@tceq.texas.gov. You may also find information on the Section 401 process here: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-401/basic-information-cwa-section-401-certification>.

This public notice will serve as the notification to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator pursuant to Section 401(a)(2). The Regional Administrator is responsible for performing a review of the application/certification to determine if there is reason to believe that a discharge may affect the quality of the waters of any State or States other than the State in which the discharge originates. If EPA determines that the proposed discharge may affect the quality of the waters of any state other than the state in which the discharge will originate, it will so notify such other state, the District Engineer, and the applicant. If such notice or a request for supplemental information is not received within 30 days of issuance of this public notice, the District Engineer will assume EPA has made a negative determination with respect to Section 401(a)(2).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The Corps' 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 permit area has been so extensively impacted by previous dredging that there is no potential for historic properties to exist within the permit area. Therefore, the proposed project has no potential to effect historic properties.

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 **12 May 2022**. 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-2011-01232**, and should be submitted to:

North Evaluation Unit
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RDE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550
409-766-3869 Phone
409-766-3931 Fax
swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS