



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-1993-00889
	Date Issued: _____	30 August 2018
	Comments _____	
Galveston District	Due: _____	1 October 2018

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
AND
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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: Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation
5700 Procter Street Extension
Port Arthur, Texas 77642
POC: Lance DeJohn
Telephone: 409-983-1691

AGENT: Lanier & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
590 Orleans Street, #600
Beaumont, Texas 77701
POC: Joanne Scarf
Telephone: 409-212-1051

LOCATION: The project site is located in the Sabine-Neches Canal, at 5700 Procter Street Extension, in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Port Arthur North, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.918418° North;

Longitude: 093.888839° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is requesting maintenance dredging and to increase the depth and width of the previously authorized dredging. The applicant has requested a 10-year extension on a previously approved Permit 19845(03), and has requested a modification to deepen the dredge depth from -30 foot Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) to -40 foot MLLW, with a 2-foot overdredge. Within this modification there is a request to extend the dredge pad footprint 140 feet, approximately 1 inch downstream and 67 feet, approximately 6 inches upstream, and to extend the dredge pad out to the Federal Channel Limit. The applicant will be dredging 68,800 cubic yards from 2.6-acre dredge basin via mechanical or hydraulic dredge. The dredge material will be placed in Placement Area 11 where the applicant has requested to return water from the upland contained disposal area (Placement Area 11) back to the Sabine-Neches Canal.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant is requesting to increase the dredge footprint of a previously authorized permit. The applicant has avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

MITIGATION: The applicant has not proposed any compensatory mitigation.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is located in the Sabine-Neches Canal with depths ranging from -4.2 foot to -43.5 foot MLLW. On the western side of the project area there is the commercial development Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation and the eastern side is Placement Area No. 11. The current site has been historically dredged in the past.

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 proposed plans are attached on 7 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.

Although this project would result in a direct impact to less than three acres of waters of the state or less than 1,500 linear feet of streams, the project would impact certain types of rare or ecologically significant wetlands. Therefore, the project is not eligible for inclusion in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Tier I project criteria and an individual water quality certification is required, even though the project is below the Tier I thresholds. Concurrent with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) processing of this application, the TCEQ is reviewing 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. By virtue of an agreement between the Corps and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Any comments concerning this application may be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 401 Coordinator, MSC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas, 78711-3087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of the work is made available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office. The complete application may be reviewed in the Corps office listed in this public notice. The TCEQ may conduct a public meeting to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public meeting must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, application number, or other recognizable reference to the application; a brief description of the interest of the requester, or of persons represented by the requester; and a brief description of how the application, if granted, would adversely affect such interest.

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 permit area has been so extensively modified 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, 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 **1 October 2018**. 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-1993-00889** and should be submitted to:

North Unit
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RD
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229
409-766-3869 Phone
409-766-3931 Fax
swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS