



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-2007-00606

Date Issued: 6 August 2019

Comments

Due: 6 September 2019

**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: Oiltanking North America
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Katy, Texas 77024

POC: Paul Ramsey
Telephone: 281-860-4080
Email: paul.ramsey@oiltanking.com

AGENT: Schneider Engineering & Consulting, Inc.
323 23rd Street
Galveston, Texas 77550

POC: Jene Adler
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LOCATION: The project site is located in the waters and adjacent wetlands of the Texas City Ship Channel Turning Basin, at 2800 Loop 197 South, in Texas City, Galveston County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Galveston, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.360719° North; **Longitude:** 094.912881 ° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to hydraulically or mechanically dredge 130,000 cubic yards from a 4.2-acre area of the turning basin to a depth of -40 feet below the mean lower low water line with an allowable 2 feet over dredge to facilitate the construction of a pile support dock. The proposed project includes:

- an access trestle to extend south to the shoreline
- pipe rack bents along the east side of the trestle to support the piping infrastructure
- the placement of four monopile breasting dolphins and four monopile mooring dolphins for ship berthing

The proposed project would impact approximately 3.65 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM) and estuarine emergent wetlands (EEM). Applicant proposes to purchase mitigation credits from Gulf Coast Plains Mitigation Bank for the PEM and EEM impacts. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 19 sheets.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by proposing the marine facility is designed to avoid and otherwise minimize adverse effects on critical areas from boat traffic to and from the proposed structure. The applicant states that the proposed dock is designed to the minimum necessary to serve the project purpose and will be constructed in a manner that does not significantly interfere with public navigation or natural coastal processes. The proposed marine facility is located at a site that minimizes the potential for adverse effects from construction and maintenance of other development associated with the facility. The applicant also states that dredging and the disposal and placement of dredged material will avoid or minimize adverse effects to coastal waters

MITIGATION: The applicant proposed to mitigate for the proposed impacts by purchasing mitigation bank credits from Gulf Coast Plains Mitigation Bank for the PEM and EEM impacts. The Wetland Functional Assessment and report is enclosed in 4 sheets.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is currently surrounded by an industrial developed area in shipping canal used for industrial purposes. There are two existing ship docking facility just west of the proposed project site or within the vicinity of the project basin. The area east of the proposed project is an undeveloped tract of land that consists of wetlands and uplands.

NOTES: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. As of the date of this public notice, the Corps has received but not yet verified the wetland delineation. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 19 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 would result in a direct impact of greater than three acres of waters of the state or 1,500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is above the threshold), and as such would not fulfill Tier I criteria for the project. Therefore, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) certification is required. Concurrent with 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 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.

The return water from the upland contained dredge material placement area(s) requires an independent certification by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (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.

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 permit area has been so extensively impacted by industrial development and 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.

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 **6 September 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-2007-00606**, and should be submitted to:

Central Unit
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RDE
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