



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-1997-00449

Date Issued: 5 December 2017

Comments

Due: 8 January 2018

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: Fieldwood Energy, LLC
2000 West Sam Houston Parkway South, Suite 1200
Houston, Texas 77042
POC: Ms. Erin Rachal
Telephone: 713-969-1311

LOCATION: The project site is located in the Gulf of Mexico in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) approximately 14.11 statute miles east of Galveston Island, Galveston County, Texas. The project starts within Galveston Area Block 151 and continues to High Island Area Block 179 within the Galveston Entrance Anchorage and Fairway.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Start Latitude: 29.225435 North;	Longitude: 94.578343 West
End Latitude: 29.180526 North;	Longitude: 94.521397 West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to decommission in place an approximate 4.8-mile-long, 6.625-inch-diameter, gas pipeline (Pipeline segment 11438), in the Gulf of Mexico in the OCS that traverses from Platform A Galveston Area Block 151 to Platform A High Island Area Block 179 and is buried to a depth of 16.5 feet below the natural bottom. There will be no dredged or fill materials involved in these operations. No structures will be installed.

BACKGROUND: The pipeline was previously authorized via Department of the Army Permit 20951, issued on 25 June 1997 and the time limit for completing the work ended on 31 December 2000.

The decommissioning process is a two-step procedure whereby the first phase includes the operational aspects of cleaning and sealing the pipeline in accordance with decommissioning requirements under 30 CFR 250.1750. The second phase of the decommissioning procedure is retention in place of the existing pipe. An application was also submitted by the applicant to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) which was approved on 6 June 2017 and verified that the applicant must secure an independent permit approval from the Corps to decommission the aforementioned pipeline in place.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts.

MITIGATION: The applicant has not proposed any mitigation.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within Galveston Area Block 151 continuing to High Island Area Block 179 within the Galveston Entrance Anchorage and Fairway. The existing pipeline is buried at a maximum depth of 16.5 feet beneath the mud line of 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 2 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 project site is not located within the Texas Coastal Zone and therefore, does not require certification from the Texas Coastal Management Program.

No water quality certification is required.

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 project is of such limited nature and scope that it has no potential to effect historic properties, even if present within the project 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 **8 January 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-1997-00449**, and should be submitted to:

Central Unit/Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RD-E
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229
409-766-3869 Phone
409-766-6301 Fax
swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS