



# Public Notice

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

**Galveston District**

Permit Application No: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

SWG-2017-00778  
(Formerly DA Permit  
16975)

12 December 2017

16 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:** Williams Gulf Coast Gathering Company, LLC  
2800 Post Oak Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77056-6100  
Telephone: 713-215-4235  
POC: Mr. Dan Byrne

**AGENT:** T. Baker Smith, LLC  
107 Global Circle  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503  
Telephone: 337-735-2800  
POC: Mr. Jude LeDoux

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in the Gulf of Mexico in the Aransas Pass Coastwise Fairway Block 669 and traverses east approximately 26.5 miles in Blocks 670, 682, 681, 680, 679, 707, A-2, A-3, A-4, and A-5 in the Matagorda Island Area where it terminates in the Brazos Area, South Addition Block A-133 in Texas Coastal Waters. There is no associated U.S.G.S. quadrangle map for this area.

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

**Point of Beginning:** Latitude: 28.002975 North;

**Longitude:** 96.429603 West

**Point of End:** Latitude: 27.854554 North;

**Longitude:** 96.036722 West

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposes to decommission in place a 20-inch natural gas pipeline Segment Number 7062 by cutting, flushing, capping, and filling it with native saltwater. No permanent impacts to water bottoms are proposed or anticipated. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 6 sheets.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** Due to the effects on shipping traffic and the amount of cover to jet this type of seafloor, the applicant believes removing this pipeline could cause unnecessary personnel and vessel safety exposure, potential interruption of navigation while the work is being completed, and unnecessary disturbance to the seafloor and environment; therefore, the alternative to remove the pipeline was not chosen as the applicant's preferred alternative.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant has not proposed to mitigate for the proposed impacts.

**CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS:** The proposed pipeline to be decommissioned in place is in water 135 to 165 feet deep within the Aransas Pass Coastwise Fairway in the Gulf of Mexico. Segment No. 7062 is to be decommissioned in place within this fairway.

**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 project site is not located within the Texas Coastal Zone and therefore, does not require certification from the Texas Coastal Management Program.

**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 **16 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-2017-00778**, and should be submitted to:

Corpus Christi Field Office  
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RD-CC  
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