



# Public Notice

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

**Galveston District**

Permit Application No: SWG-1997-01754

Date Issued: 3 August 2021

Comments

Due: 2 September 2021

## 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:** Port of Beaumont Navigation District  
1225 Main Street  
Beaumont, Texas 77701  
POC: Brandon Bergeron  
Telephone: 409-835-5367  
Email: bmb@pobtx.com

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

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in the Neches River, approximately 2.94 miles east of Beaumont, in Jefferson County, Texas 77701. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Beaumont East, Texas.

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

**Latitude:** 30.075556° North; **Longitude:** 094.077778° West

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposes new work and modifications as an addition to previously authorized Permit SWG-1997-01754. Such activities include the demolition of the existing loading towers and foundations, existing pedestrian walkway, existing conveyor belt, existing grain dock wharf and the abandonment of the existing onshore mooring point. New work includes the construction of a new concrete pile supported 600-foot-long by 100-foot-wide dock, new concrete pile supported 200-foot 6-inch-long by 30-foot-wide approach way, approximately 421 linear feet of new proposed revetment system, new fender system and two proposed mooring dolphins. Additional new work activities include mechanical and/or hydraulic dredging of approximately 26,200 cubic yards of material (1.63 acres) to previously authorized depths of -40 MLLW with a 2-foot overdredge and the discharge of approximately 1,512 cubic yards of concrete fill for the construction of a new revetment system. Dredged material is proposed to be placed in PA No. 23, 24, 25 or 26, with associated effluent discharge. The proposed work will take place outside of the limits of the Federal Channel and within the proposed dredging and project areas included in the Port of Beaumont's plans to improve their facility. The purpose of the project is to remove and build a new grain dock that will allow for the transfer of grain products and multipurpose cargo for the Port of Beaumont.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts described above by proposing modifications and new work within the boundaries of the previously authorized project area included in the Port of Beaumont's plans to improve their facility. Impacts have been minimized by efficiently designing the layout of the dock so as to reduce any interference with wetlands or special aquatic sites.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant is not proposing mitigation as the proposed impacts will not directly affect any special aquatic resources.

**CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS:** The project site is located along an industrialized portion of the Neches River. The upland portion of the project site consists of mowed areas and paved roads, grain silos, an electrical substation, and a security fence. The project area within the Neches River consists of loading towers and foundations, pedestrian walkway, conveyor belt, grain dock wharf, and bulkhead.

**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 11 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.

The proposed project will trigger review under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Texas Commission on 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 contacted the TCEQ and submitted a pre-filing meeting request, on 30 July 2021. If you have comments or questions on this proposed project's State water quality certification process, please contact [401certs@tceq.texas.gov](mailto: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>.

**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 previous dredging and industrial development 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 **2 September 2021**. 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-1997-01754** , and should be submitted to:

North 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