



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2016-00043
	Date Issued: _____	6 November 2018
	Comments _____	
Galveston District	Due: _____	7 December 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.

APPLICANT: Lavaca Pipe Line Company
P.O. Box 769
Point Comfort, Texas 77978
Telephone 361-987-8904
POC: Wesley Lin

AGENT: Belaire Environmental, Inc.
P.O. Box 741
Rockport, Texas 78381
Telephone 361-729-1241
POC: Rebecca Muckleroy

LOCATION: The project site is the existing approximate 35,607-foot-long Steamboat Pass South Magnolia Beach 8-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline located in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), Espiritu Santo Bay, Shoalwater Bay, and adjacent wetlands extending south-southwest from a point approximately 2,785 feet south-southeast of the intersection of Lane Road and Deer Meadows Lane, to a point on South Pass Island, Seadrift, Calhoun County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps titled: Long Island, Texas and Seadrift NE, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Beginning Point - Latitude: 28.390481 North; Longitude: -96.593404 West
Ending Point - Latitude: 28.296174 North; Longitude: -96.621357 West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes the following work associated with the existing 8-inch-diameter Steamboat Pass South natural gas pipeline: 1) deactivate approximately 14,350 linear feet of pipeline north of the GIWW; 2) remove approximately 642 linear feet of pipeline from the GIWW; 3) remove approximately 990 linear feet of pipeline from the federal Dredge Material Placement Area (DMPA) No. 120; and 4) decommission-in-place approximately 19,625 linear feet of pipeline between the DMPA and South Pass Island. The pipeline decommissioning process will include: 1) cutting pipeline ends; 2) flushing by pigging and filling with seawater to equalize the line pressure; 3) capping pipeline ends; and 4) confirm 3-foot depth of cover at the pipeline ends and cover endpoints with protective concrete mats. Pipeline removal will include: 1) pipeline excavation and exposure; 2) pipeline flushing by pigging, and pumping; 3) pipeline extraction; and 4) restoration of pre-construction contours and conditions.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by decommissioning the bay portion of the pipeline underneath existing sensitive resources, incorporating best management practices, and restoring temporary impact areas to pre-disturbance contours and conditions.

MITIGATION: The applicant does not propose to mitigate for the proposed temporary impacts.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is currently a mix of undeveloped rangeland, unvegetated shoreline, tidal flats, high/low marsh, seagrass beds, and open water with unconsolidated water bottom. The wetland vegetation consists of shore grass (*Distichlis littoralis*), gulf cord grass (*Spartina spartinae*), saltwater cord grass (*Spartina alterniflora*), saltmeadow cord grass (*Spartina patens*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), marsh fimbry (*Fimbristylis castanea*), eastern baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*), and patches of black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*). The subject wetlands are adjacent to the GIWW.

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 9 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 Clean Water Act (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 incorporates the requirements necessary to comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Tier I project criteria. Tier I projects are those which result in a direct impact of three acres or less of waters of the state or 1500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is below the threshold) for which the applicant has incorporated best management practices and other provisions designed to safeguard water quality. The Corps has received a completed checklist and signed statement-fulfilling Tier I criteria for the project. Accordingly, a request for 401 certification is not necessary and there will be no additional TCEQ review.

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 is confined to an existing right-of-way that has been so extensively impacted by previous project activities 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 of Engineers, 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 of Engineers 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 of Engineers 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 Environmental Impact Statement 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 of Engineers 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 **7 December 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-2016-00043**, and should be submitted to:

Central Evaluation Unit
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