



# Public Notice

<b>U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers</b>	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2017-00496
	Date Issued: _____	16 November 2017
	Comments _____	
<b>Galveston District</b>	Due: _____	18 December 2017

## 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  
Attention: Mr. Dan Byrne  
c/o: Ms. Cathy Thornton  
2800 Post Oak Road  
Houston, Texas 77056  
Telephone: 713-215-4235

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

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in the Gulf of Mexico in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), approximately 27 miles waterward of Surfside Beach. The pipeline traverses 11.9 miles across Galveston Area Blocks 391, 390, 389, 424, A35, and A34. The project can be located on the maps titled: "Vicinity Map (revised 10/3/2017), Sheets 1-2," and "Profile View, (dated 7/20/2016), Sheet 3," all prepared by T. Baker Smith for Williams Gulf Coast Gathering Company, L.L.C.

### LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Begin: **Latitude:** 28.60066° North;  
End: **Latitude:** 28.56826° North;

**Longitude:** 95.06963° West  
**Longitude:** 94.88848° West

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposes decommissioning in place of approximately 12.02 miles of a 6 5/8-inch in diameter natural gas pipeline (Segment Number 10971), buried below the mud line as shown on the attached Profile View drawing (Sheet 3). 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.

There will be no dredged or fill materials involved in these operations. No structures will be installed. The applicant noted, “no permanent impacts to water bottoms are anticipated within the scope of this application.” The applicant stated that, “the pipeline has already been placed out of service due to BSEE Standards, and has been cut, capped, and flushed with native seawater.” The applicants proposed plans are attached in 3 sheets.

**BACKGROUND:** An application was also submitted by the applicant to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) on 20 April 2015 with a response from BSEE on 14 June 2017 verifying 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 existing pipeline is buried beneath the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, buried below the mud line as shown on the attached Profile View drawing (Sheet 3).

**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 3 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 applicant has stated that the project is consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said 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, decommissioning of an existing pipeline, 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 **18 December 2017**. 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-2017-00496**, 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