



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: _____

Date Issued: _____

Comments _____

Due: _____

SWG-2017-00596

14 November 2017

15 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: Panther Interstate Pipeline Energy, LLC
Attention: Mr. Luis Guzman
16000 Stuebner Airline, Suite 420
Houston, Texas 77379
Telephone: 832-552-3600

AGENT: J. Connor Consulting, Inc.
Attention: Ms. Suzy Younger
19219 Katy Freeway, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77094
Telephone: 281-698-8520

LOCATION: The project site is located in the Gulf of Mexico in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), approximately 18.5 statute miles east of High Island, Texas. The pipeline crosses into the Calcasieu Pass Fairway in High Island Block 50 and continues in an easterly direction to High Island Block 40 exiting at fairway. The pipeline, 26.27 miles in length, then continues to High Island Block 48, where it terminates at a subsea tie-in. The project can be located on the map titled: "Proposed Abandonment, 16" Gas Pipeline (SEG # 5895), Blocks 139 to 48, High Island Area, Gulf of Mexico, Texas, Chart 1 of 12," prepared by Panther Interstate Pipeline Energy, LLC and dated 23 October 2017.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Begin: **Latitude:** 29.441944° North;

Longitude: 94.036111° West

End: **Latitude:** 29.439722° North;

Longitude: 93.981667° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to decommission the pipe in place for 26.27 miles of a 16" gas pipeline, buried to a depth of 10 feet below the natural bottom. The pipeline was previously authorized via Department of the Army Permit 14628. An application was also submitted by the applicant to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) on 13 June 2017. 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. Hydrocarbons were transported through the pipeline until August 2000, at which time the pipeline was disconnected at the subsea tie-in point in High Island Block 48. The first phase of in-place operations to clean and decommission was completed on 24 August 2004.

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 to a depth of 10 feet below the natural bottom.

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 12 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 work and/or structures are of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected 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 **15 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-2017-00596**, 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