



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: _____

Date Issued: _____

Comments _____

Due: _____

SWG-2018-00783

(Formerly 1151)

6 November 2018

7 December 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: Copano Field Services/South Texas LLC
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Houston, Texas 77002-5089
Telephone: 713-420-5959
POC: Cody Mikeska
Email: cody_mikeska@kindermorgan.com

AGENT: BGE, Inc.
10777 Westheimer, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77042-3475
Telephone: 713-488-8217
POC: Brandon Wieme
Email: bwieme@bgeinc.com

LOCATION: The project site is located in the Guadalupe River approximately 13.5 miles northwest of Victoria, Victoria County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Mission Valley, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (decimal degrees):

Latitude: 28.948136 North; Longitude: 97.156663 West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to decommission-in-place (DIP) an existing pipeline under the Guadalupe River. Diver inspections concluded that the 4-inch natural gas pipeline was not exposed and according to the cross section profile view

(attached as Sheet 4/4) it is currently 5 feet below the river bed. Average depth for this stretch of the river is between -6 feet and -9 feet below the ordinary high water mark. Due to the age of the pipeline Copano Field Services Engineers believe there is a possibility that the pipeline will break off in segments during removal causing unnecessary adverse impacts the river. No discharges of fill are proposed.

The contractor has already completed the decommissioning process. The pipeline has been depressurized, the system has been isolated from all external gas sources, foam pigs have been run through the line, and air movers have been used to remove any liquid hydrocarbons and residual gas before installing weld caps at the ends of the line. Air was run over and over again till the air mover measured 0% gas concentration with a combustible gas detector. There is no plan to fill the abandoned pipeline with water, mud, etc. The pipeline only contains air at this point.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: Removal of the pipeline may potentially impose adverse impacts to the surrounding the environment if removed in its current state. Additionally, removal will pose temporary adverse impacts to navigation in the river. The pipeline is at a depth that will not pose navigation risks or adversely impact the surrounding environment; thus, the best minimization and avoidance measures taken is to decommission in place.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is located in the Southern Post Oak Savanna Level IV Ecoregion of Texas. This ecological region was historically a post oak (*Quercus stellata*) savanna. Current land cover is a mix of post oak woods, improved pasture, and rangeland with some invasive mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) to the south. A thick understory of yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) occurs in some parts. Soils typically consist of sand or sandy loam textures at the surface. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has mapped Sinton loam as the only soil type at this location and does not hold a hydric rating. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) has mapped lower perennial palustrine riverine habitat and 0.1 acre of palustrine forested broad-leaved, temporarily flooded wetlands within the project area. This region is categorized by irregular plains with elevations increasing from the southeast to the northwest.

The project was permitted as W-N-243-41-Permit-1151 on 13 February 1950 and expired on 31 December 1953. It authorized the pipeline to be installed under the river bed covered by 4 feet of fill and 1 foot of rock.

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 4 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.

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

No water quality certification is required.

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.

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-2018-00783**, and should be submitted to:

Corpus Christi Field Office
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Corpus Christi, Texas 78411-4318
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DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS