



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2019-00600
	Date Issued: _____	19 November 2019
	Comments _____	
Galveston District	Due: _____	20 December 2019

**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 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

APPLICANT: Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP
1001 Six Pines Drive
The Woodlands, Texas 77380
POC: Gary Scott
Telephone: 281-421-6935
Email: scottgk@cpchem.com

AGENT: Perennial Environmental Services, LLC
13100 Northwest Freeway, Suite 150
Houston, Texas 77040
POC: Amy Butler
Telephone: 713-462-7121
Email: abutler@perennialenv.com

LOCATION: The project site is located in wetlands adjacent to Taylor Bayou, approximately 12.5 miles south of Beaumont, within Jefferson County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Port Acres, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.903560° North; **Longitude:** 094.123403° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to permanently fill 6.586 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM) and 11 linear feet of ephemeral stream in order to construct new pipeline isolation valves, pig traps, switching stations, and an access road in order to connect existing and future pipeline infrastructure.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by configuring the facility to impact the least wetlands possible within the site, while maintaining safety and meeting the project purpose and need. Impacts were further minimized by utilizing an existing access road that requires minor improvements. The applicant will also employ best management practices such as silt fences, straw bales, and other measures during construction to minimize erosion and the transport of sediments. All fill dirt necessary for the project will be purchased from a reputable local vendor/contract and will be certified clean material that is free of environmental contaminants.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposed to mitigate for the proposed impacts by developing an offsite Permittee Responsible Mitigation (PRM) plan. The detailed PRM plan is provided with this public notice and will result in the restoration of 16 acres of herbaceous wetlands within the Lower Sabine watershed. The 16 acres of restoration will result in the following functional capacity units (FCUs): 3.69 Temporary Storage of Water (TSSW) FCUs, 4.06 Maintain Plant and Animal (MPAC) FCUs, and 2.72 Removal of Elements (RSEC) FCUs.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is currently open land consisting of pasture. The project site receives regular grazing, allowing mainly herbaceous vegetation to grow. The wetland vegetation consists of common carpetgrass (*Axonopus fissifolius*), giant cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis milliacea*), and sand spikerush (*Eleocharis montevidensis*). Upland vegetation primarily consists of smut grass (*Sporobolus indicus*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and white clover (*Trifolium repens*).

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 8 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.

This project would result in a direct impact of greater than three acres of waters of the state or 1,500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is above the threshold), and as such would not fulfill Tier I criteria for the project. Therefore, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) certification is required. Concurrent with Corps processing of this application, the TCEQ is reviewing 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. By virtue of an agreement between the Corps and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Any comments concerning this application may be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 401 Coordinator, MSC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of work is made available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office. The complete application may be reviewed in the Corps office listed in this public notice. The TCEQ may conduct a public meeting to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public meeting must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, application number, or other recognizable reference to the application; a brief description of the interest of the requester, or of persons represented by the requester; and a brief description of how the application, if granted, would adversely affect such interest.

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 was investigated for historic properties and none were identified as documented in the technical report titled "A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Garner Junction Project, Jefferson County, Texas" prepared by Perennial Environmental Services and dated September 2019.

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, 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 **20 December 2019**. 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-2019-00600**, 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
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swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS