



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: _____ SWG-2018-00418

Date Issued: _____ 18 October 2018

Comments

Due: _____ 19 November 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 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

APPLICANT: Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America LLC
1001 Louisiana Street, Suite 1000
Houston, Texas 77002
Attention: Gina Dorsey
713-215-4224

AGENT: Ms. Megan Cochran
Perennial Environmental Services, LLC
13100 Northwest Freeway, Suite 150
Houston, Texas 77040
713-462-7121

LOCATION: The proposed project is located in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the City of Sabine Pass, Texas. The site can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Port Arthur South, Texas-Louisiana.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.760167° North; Longitude: -93.8825° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to construct a new natural gas fired compressor station, to be known as CS 348, along Natural's existing Louisiana Line Nos. 1 and 2 in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Natural proposes to install one ISO rated Solar Titan 130 turbine/compressor unit on a new 43,200-square-foot elevated platform to be located adjacent to the existing KMLP Meter Station platform, which is adjacent to the existing SPL Terminal. The proposed elevated platform base will be approximately 19.1 feet above existing grade (equivalent to approximately 22.3 feet above mean sea level) and supported by approximately 140 concrete piles, each approximately 100 feet in length and approximately 20 inches in diameter.

During project construction and operation, CS 348 will be accessed from Duck Blind Road, an existing gravel road that abuts the eastern boundary of the existing KMLP Meter Station and the proposed site for CS 348. In addition, Natural will utilize an existing gravel road and associated driveways, which extend west from Duck Blind Road and into the northern boundary of the KMLP Meter Station. Natural proposes to permanently expand the road turning radius where it intersects with Duck Blind Road in order to accommodate safe ingress and egress of large equipment during construction and operation of the project. In addition, Natural proposes to construct a new temporary access road extending west from Duck Blind Road to the project site to be utilized during construction.

Natural also proposes to construct a new Tie-in Facility located east of CS 348 and directly adjacent to the existing NGPL Tap in Cameron Parish. The proposed Tie-in Facility will connect CS 348 to Natural's existing Louisiana Line Nos. 1 and 2 as well as the existing NGPL Lateral via new suction and discharge pipelines. The proposed 36-inch-diameter suction and discharge pipelines will extend approximately 340 feet north and east of CS 348 to the new Tie-in facility. The new suction and discharge pipelines will allow CS 348 to take suction gas from Natural's existing Louisiana Line Nos. 1 and 2 and discharge to the NGPL Lateral as well as back into Louisiana Line Nos. 1 and 2 through an overpressure protection valve.

The new valves and associated aboveground piping at the proposed Tie-in Facility will be supported by a total of approximately 36 concrete piles, each approximately 50 feet in length and 14 inches in diameter. The piles will extend a maximum of four feet above existing grade (equivalent to approximately 7.2 feet above mean sea level). Natural will remove the existing security fence located along the southwest boundary of the NGPL Tap and install security fencing around the outer perimeter of the Tie-in Facility.

During project construction, the proposed Tie-in Facility will be accessed from Duck Blind Road and an existing gravel driveway associated with the NGPL Tap. Natural will also use this existing gravel driveway to provide operational access to the Tie-in Facility.

Construction of the project will result in a total of 2.79 acres of temporary impacts on five wetlands, including a total of 1.76 acres associated with two estuarine intertidal emergent ("E2EM") wetlands and a total of 1.03 acres associated with three estuarine intertidal scrub/shrub ("E2SS") wetlands. Following project clearing activities, board mats will be placed in wetlands located within temporary workspaces to prevent rutting and compaction associated with operation of construction equipment.

The project will result in a total of 2.69 acres (4,343.09 cubic yards) of permanent fill impacts (i.e., loss) on six wetlands, including a total of 1.85 acres associated with three estuarine emergent wetlands and 0.84 acre associated with three scrub/shrub wetlands. Permanent wetland loss will occur as a result of the installation of piles to support the new elevated platform for CS 348. In addition, crushed stone (fill) will be placed within wetlands located below and adjacent to the new elevated platform as well as adjacent to an existing facility access road to accommodate heavy construction equipment and operational access to CS 348. Permanent wetland loss will also occur as a result of the placement of crushed stone fill for operation of the new Tie-in Facility.

Wetland crossings for the suction and discharge pipelines will be accomplished via the conventional lay method in accordance with all applicable permits and the FERC Procedures. Construction techniques are similar to the open-cut method in upland areas; however, topsoil segregation techniques will be utilized to facilitate revegetation following the completion of construction activities. In some cases, site-specific conditions may not support construction equipment, but the area will still be crossed using the conventional lay method. In these instances, construction mats will be used to minimize disturbances to wetland hydrology and maintain soil structure.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by modifying the compressor station and selecting a facility layout that minimizes impacts to the maximum extent practicable while still maintaining safe construction and facility operations. In addition, the impacts were also minimized by integrating the new design into existing facilities and infrastructure.

MITIGATION: Upon completion of the project, the applicant will determine the appropriate number of credits to purchase from an approved LDNR mitigation bank to compensate for the unavoidable loss (fill) of 2.69 acres of estuarine emergent wetlands. It is currently anticipated that the LDNR will request that fresh marsh credits be purchased from the South Fork Coastal Mitigation Bank since the project is located within its primary service area. Therefore, Natural will purchase the appropriate amount of mitigation credits, as determined by the State of Louisiana and the Corps.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is currently adjacent to the Chenier Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility. The surrounding property is largely undeveloped estuarine and palustrine emergent wetlands. The Corps maintains Sabine Pass as a federally managed project. Port Arthur is on the Texas side of the waterway, approximately 7 miles north-northwest of the project site.

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 15 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:

State of Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Consistency is also required.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) water quality certification is required. Concurrent with processing of this application, the LDEQ is reviewing this application under Section 401 of the CWA and in accordance with LRS 30:2074A(3) to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards and other applicable provisions of the CWA. By virtue of an agreement between the Corps and the LDEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the LDEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Comments concerning this application should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice with the Office of Environmental Services using the above permit application number as reference. Comments should be sent to: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Attn: Water Quality Certifications, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313. Additional information is on file with LDEQ, and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. weekdays. Copies may be obtained upon payment of cost of printing. A final decision on this application will be made within 60 days after the date of this notice. The LDEQ 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 has been so extensively impacted by industrial development and use as a placement area for dredged material 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 federally-listed 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 **19 November 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-2018-00418**, 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
409-766-3869 Phone
409-766-6301 Fax
swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS