



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-2024-00468

Date Issued: 24 September 2024

Comments

Due: 25 October 2024

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: WR Production, LLC
820 Gessner, Suite 1275
Houston, Texas 77024
POC: Vincent J. Manara
Telephone: 713-706-3090
Email: vmanara@woodstoneresources.com

AGENT: C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates LLC
135 Regency Square
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508
POC: Chris Guidry
Telephone: 337-237-2200
Email: chris@fenstermaker.com

LOCATION: The project site is located in Galveston Bay, approximately 0.92 miles east-southeast of San Leon and immediately north of the Dickinson Ship Channel, in Galveston County, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.478241° North; **Longitude:** 094.902695° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to discharge 2,778 cubic yards (CY) of shell material in Galveston Bay to install a 250-foot by 100-foot shell pad for a proposed well structure for hydrocarbon exploration. The applicant also proposes to dredge 4,369 CY of material from 6 acres of the open waters of Galveston Bay to create an access for the drilling barge to the proposed well. The dredged material will be sidecast adjacent to the dredged access channel. The drilling barge will require installation of 13 piling clusters driven 30 to 55 feet below the mudline for drilling barge stabilization. A 10-foot by 20-foot well protector platform will be constructed after well completion.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that the most direct access route to the proposed well location was chosen with the deepest water depths to minimize and reduce water bottom impacts and the cubic yards needed to be dredged. Impacts to wetlands and other special aquatic sites are avoided.

MITIGATION: The applicant is not proposing mitigation.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is located in open water of Galveston Bay and consists of a sandy bottom substrate with no vegetation. An oyster reef is approximately 500 feet adjacent to the project site. Vessel traffic is moderate and there are several aids to navigation along with three existing pipelines located along the proposed access route.

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 four 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:

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. The Texas Railroad Commission will determine if the project is consistent with the goals and policies of the CMP and will review this application under Section 401 of the CWA to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards.

The proposed project will trigger review under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Texas Railroad Commission will review 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. The applicant has not yet reached out to the Texas Railroad Commission to initiate the Section 401 CWA process. If you have comments or questions on this proposed project's State water quality certification, please contact 401certs@tceq.texas.gov.

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 state tracts proposed for work under this permit are included in the Texas Historical Commission's list of Sensitive state tracts. Additionally, the scope and magnitude of the project is such that a marine archeological investigation is warranted.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Threatened and/or endangered species or their critical habitat may be affected by the proposed work. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service will be initiated to assess the effect on endangered species.

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 **25 October 2024**. 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-2024-00468**, and should be submitted to:

Central Unit
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2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550
409-766-3869 Phone
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DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS