

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT 7400 LEAKE AVE NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

September 12, 2022

Regulatory Division
Central Evaluation Branch

Project Manager:
Dirreen Arnold
(504) 862-2301
dirreen.s.arnold@usace.army.mil

Application #: MVN-2022-00841-CA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344), and/or [] Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408).

PROPOSED GAS STATION FACILITY EXPANSION ASCENSION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: RACETRAC, c/o Hydrik Wetlands Consultants, Attn: Mike Henry, 2323 Louisiana Highway 190 East, Suite 2, Hammond, Louisiana 70401.

LOCATION OF WORK: Section 36, Township 9 South, Range 2 East, located at 2838 Louisiana Highway 30 West, Gonzales, Louisiana, (30.21108, -90.955548), in Ascension Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings, within Hydrologic Unit Code 08070204, Lower Mississippi – Lake Maurepas Watershed.

<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade and place fill in jurisdictional wetlands to expand an existing gas station facility located at 2838 Louisiana Highway 30 West. Approximately 410 cubic yards of fill material will be deposited. Approximately 0.14-acre forested wetland habitat and approximately 0.53-acre herbaceous emergent wetland habitat will be permanently impacted by the proposed activity. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to use a Corps approved mitigation bank within the watershed of impact.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit will close **20 days** from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number and be preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineers project manager listed above or mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGC, Dirreen Arnold. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Branch Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days. This public notice is also available for review online at https://go.usa.gov/xennJ

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

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 benefit 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 including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, 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 other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental 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.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, pre-historical, historical sites, or data. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Interior, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species. Based on the Information and Planning Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana, as signed on January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the proposed project would have no effect to any listed species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction or alteration of 0.0 acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH 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.

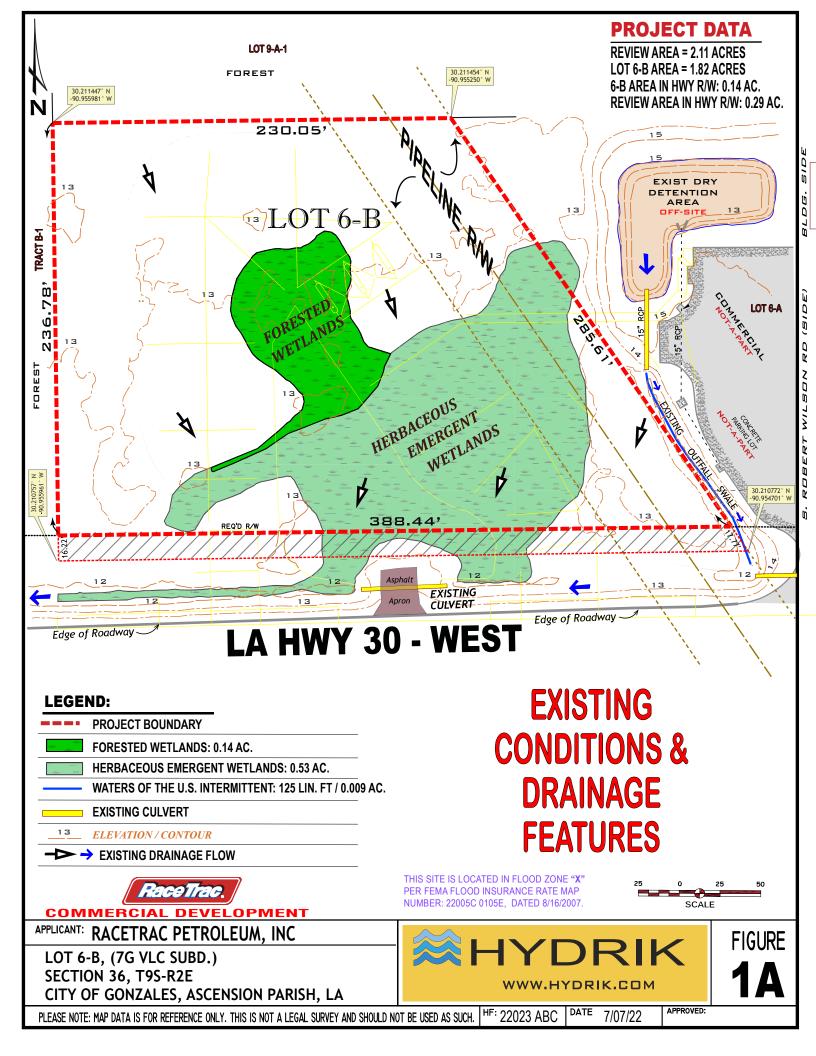
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, before a permit is issued.

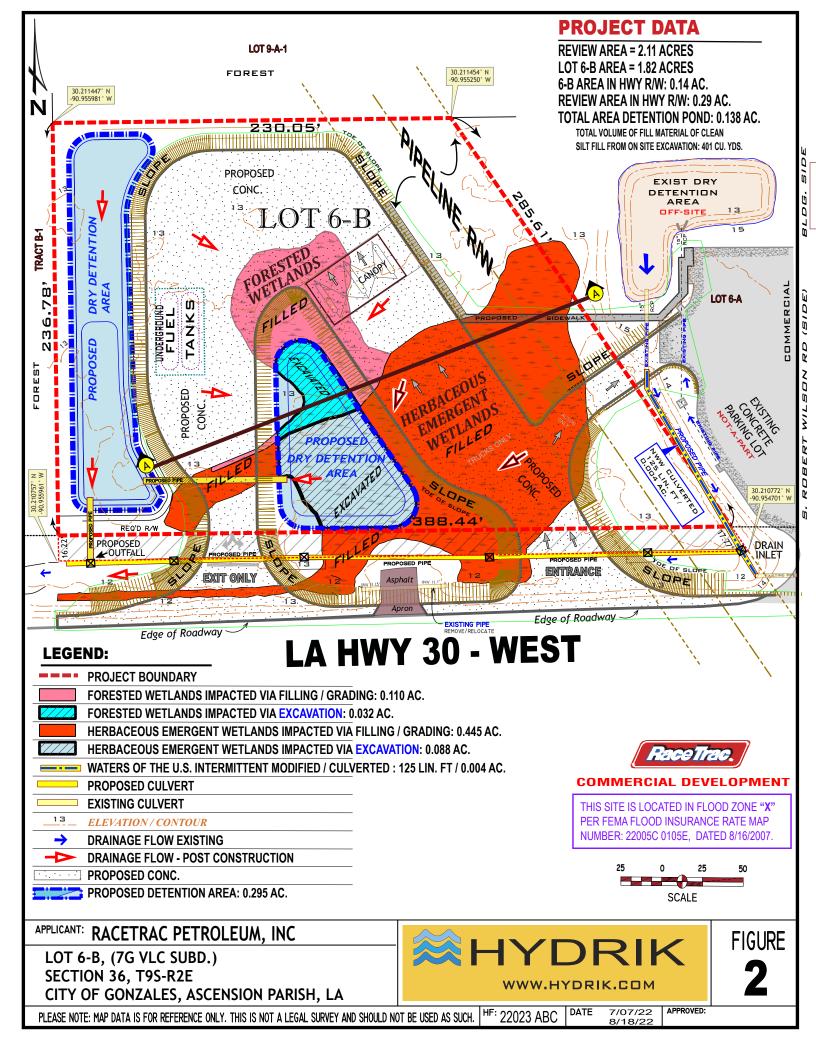
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

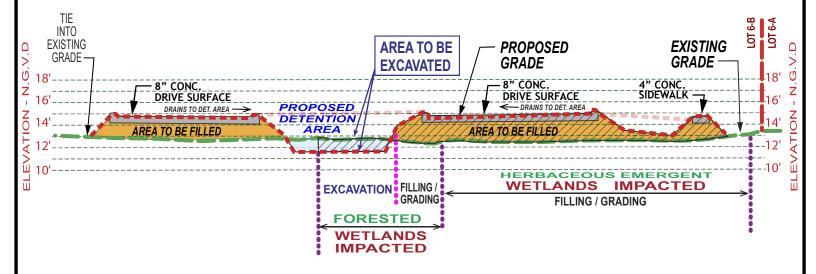
John M. Herman Chief, Central Evaluation Branch Regulatory Division

Enclosures



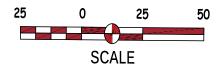






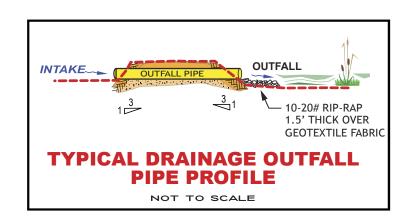
SECTION A-A

PROFILE VIEW - LOOKING NORTH



LEGEND:

EXISTING GRADE PROPOSED GRADE PROPOSED CONCRETE PROPOSED DETENTION AREA WETLANDS TO BE EXCAVATED AREA TO BE FILLED WETLANDS TO BE FILLED





RACETRAC PETROLEUM, INC

LOT 6-B, (7G VLC SUBD.) SECTION 36, T9S-R2E CITY OF GONZALES, ASCENSION PARISH, LA



FIGURE