



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P. O. BOX 60267

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

November 15, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DORIS

Operations Division
Western Evaluation Section

SUBJECT: General Permit)NOD-18

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

TIME EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF THE
GENERAL PERMIT FOR FLOWLINES IN
ESTABLISHED OIL AND GAS FIELDS IN OPEN WATERS
WITHIN THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 24 September 1982

EXPIRATION DATE: 30 September 2007

Interested parties are hereby notified that (General Permit) NOD-18, originally issued by this office on September 24, 1982, for flowlines in established oil and gas fields in open waters is being extended until September 30, 2007.

The proposed time extension was advertised for public comment on February 22, 2002. Several changes are being made to the general permit, including the following:

1. Condition q. of this authorization is being revised to state: "Plans to abandon flowlines in place must be submitted to and approved by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division."
2. Condition r. of this authorization is being revised to state: Approval by the State of Louisiana, Department of Environmental Quality or Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division, to abandon flowlines installed under this general permit does not alleviate the permittee from the obligation under this general permit to maintain the pipeline in good condition."
3. The following conditions are being added to this authorization:

bb. All flowlines within the Louisiana Coastal Zone will require a Louisiana Coastal Use Permit or other authorization from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division.

cc. All projects authorized under this general permit will use uncontaminated fill.

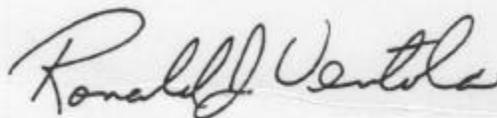
dd. Best management practices (BMPs) shall be utilized during construction to minimize erosion.

ee. Any exposed soils shall be stabilized by the use of BMPs, such as reseeded and re-vegetating the exposed area, in order to prevent erosion.

ff. A discharge permit shall be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for any discharge that is generated from the site.

Although the general permit is being extended, persons who become aware of problems or adverse impacts are requested to notify the Regulatory Functions Branch of this District at the above address. This general permit will be suspended, revoked, or modified if it is shown to be in the public interest to take such action.

A copy of the general permit is attached. Additional copies are available upon written request to the Regulatory Functions Branch of this District at the above address.



Ronald J. Ventola
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachment



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Under authorization granted by applicable sections of Parts 320 through 330 of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, and delegated authority from the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Commander and District Engineer at New Orleans has determined that it is not contrary to the public interest to issue a general permit time extension to:

Install and maintain flowlines in established oil and gas fields in open waters within the New Orleans District.

This general authorization for the above cited work is granted subject to the following conditions:

a. Open waters are considered to be lakes, bays, sounds and the Gulf of Mexico.

b. Work is not permitted in wetlands or in areas of submerged grass beds.

c. Flowlines convey oil, gas, air, brine, etc., within an oil and/or gas field. Flowlines under this authorization are limited to small pipelines not over 6 inches outside diameter and are to be used to connect such facilities as production wells, tank batteries, separator and heater platforms.

d. Flowlines must be jetted or buried to a depth not less than 3 feet below existing water bottoms. Dredged material is to be temporarily stockpiled adjacent to the trenches and used as backfill.

e. No access channel or canal dredging to facilitate flowline installation is permitted under this authorization.

f. This authorization is not applicable for flowlines over 10,000 feet in length.

g. This authorization is not applicable for flowlines under fairways, established anchorage areas or under established navigation channels.

h. This authorization is not applicable for installation of flowlines through areas under lease from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for commercial shell dredging or oyster harvesting without written approval of the lease holder. Additionally, this authorization is not applicable in oyster seed grounds or public oyster grounds.

i. Applicants wishing to perform work under authority of this general permit must make written application to the Regulatory Functions Branch of this District and receive written authorization before commencing work. Written requests must include an up-to-date map showing the location of the proposed work and sufficient letter size drawings to illustrate the work to be done as well as the approval of any lease holder stated in (h) above.

j. This general permit may be suspended, modified, or revoked by the Commander and District Engineer any time it is found to be in the public interest to do so.

k. The District Engineer may choose to not grant approval under this general permit and require the applicant to go through regular permit processing procedures when he finds that such action is in the public interest.

l. Public notice will be given any time this general permit is modified, revoked or suspended.

m. If cultural artifacts are discovered at a worksite, work must be suspended and notification given by the permittee to the State Historic Preservation Officer. Work may not resume until proper provisions are made for study, preservation, or recovery of the artifacts.

n. This authorization is not applicable for installation of flowlines within the boundaries of a national or state wildlife refuge, game management area, or similar area without specific authorization by the manager of the facility.

o. No activity that is likely to adversely affect federally listed threatened or endangered species, or a species proposed for such designation, or that is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species, is authorized under this general permit.

p. Flowlines installed under this general permit must be removed upon abandonment should they become underwater obstructions.

q. Plans to abandon flowlines in place must be submitted to and approved by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division.

r. Approval by the State of Louisiana, Department of Environmental Quality or Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division, to abandon flowlines installed under this general permit does not alleviate the permittee from the obligation under this general permit to maintain the pipeline in good condition.

s. Applicable provisions of the regular Department of the Army permit (ENG Form 1721) are made a part of this general permit. A copy of the form is attached.

t. The character of the work authorized by this general permit is illustrated on the attached drawing of a typical installation.

u. Additional conditions may be added to this permit any time it is found to be in the public interest to do so.

v. No activity that is within 0.5 mile of a bald eagle nest is authorized under this general permit.

w. Permittee will maintain the burial depth below the mudline, as shown on the attached drawings. Maintenance operations under this permit include lowering the pipeline to conform to erosive changes of the mudline contour. Burial of the pipeline below the elevation shown on the drawings is authorized for maintenance of the required burial depth or if erosion is expected at the site.

x. If, in the judgment of the Chief of Engineers, the said permittee does not at all time exercise due caution in the

transportation of oil, gas, or other pollutive, noxious, or lethal substances, to prevent conditions deleterious to health or seafood, or hazardous to navigation, this permit may be revoked and all operations authorized by it may be terminated.

y. Permittee must install and maintain, at his expense, any safety lights, signs, and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, on authorized pipelines.

z. Use of the permitted activity must not interfere with the public's right to free navigation on all navigable waters of the United States.

aa. The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration of the structure or work herein authorized, of if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

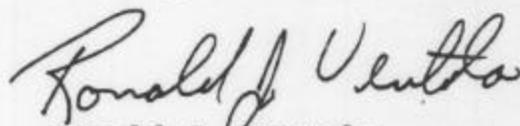
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Ronald J. Ventola
Chief, Regulatory Branch

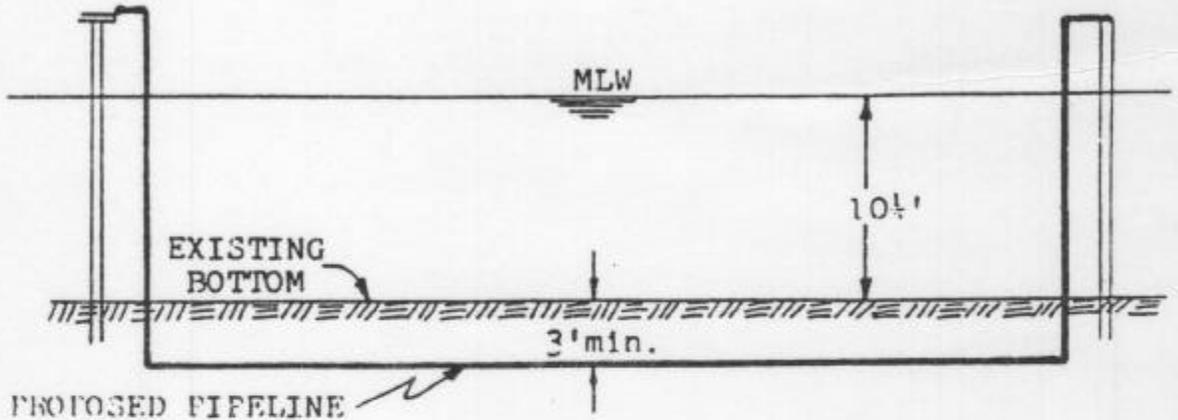
Attachments

1. Dwgs (3 sheets)
2. ENG Form 1721

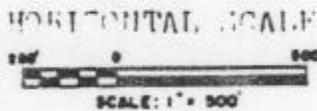
PIPELINE INSTALLATION

TANK BATTERY NO. 15
 LAT. 29° 00' 00"
 LONG. 90° 00' 00"

UNIT 23 WELL 1
 LAT. 29° 00' 00"
 LONG. 90° 00' 00"

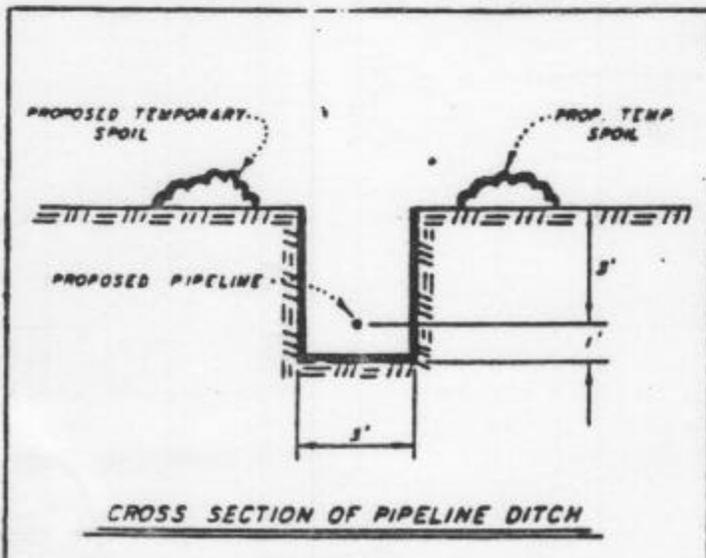


S 43° 46' E - 2320'



NOTE: PROPOSED LINE WILL BE BURIED
 3' BELOW EXISTING BOTTOM.

APPROXIMATELY 1032 CU. YDS. OF NATIVE MATERIAL TO BE
 DREDGED FOR PROPOSED DITCHES AND DEPOSITED TEMPORARILY
 ON EITHER OR BOTH SIDES OF SAME. UPON COMPLETING AND
 TESTING OF PIPELINE, DITCHES WILL BE BACKFILLED WITH SAME.



TYPICAL FLOWLINE INSTALLATION
 LMNOD-S (GENERAL PERMIT) NO