JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

August 20, 2018

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

(504) 862-2675 Project Manager Jamie Crowe Jamie.M.Crowe@usace.army.mil Permit Application Number MVN 1998-02358-1 CO

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: [X] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

MODIFICATION TO AN EXISTING DOCK IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: CEMUS, LLC, c/o ELOS Environmental, LLC, 4317 East Pleasant Ridge Road, Hammond, La 70403.

LOCATION OF WORK Within the Mississippi River Basin, in the Lower Mississippi River – Baton Rouge hydrologic unit (HUC 08070100), in the Mississippi River, left descending bank, mile 233.8, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in East Baton Rouge Parish.

<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>: The dock was authorized via permit dated December 1, 1952. Because of the damage to the dock and dolphin system, as well as the conditions of the river during project construction, the elements of the dock were repaired and reconstructed with modifications from the original design. Modifications include a change in configuration of the upstream walkway such that the walkway attaches to the dock in the middle of the dock instead of the back; a 46' x 80' supplemental mooring structure at the downstream end of the dock; and replacement of two mooring structures located between the dock and the river bank downstream of the gangway. The dock will continue to be used for loading and unloading typical Panamax sized cargo ships. To minimize impacts, all construction has taken place from bargemounted equipment in the River, thus avoiding all wetland impacts.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close <u>30 days</u> 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 and 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 mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, <u>ATTENTION: REGULATORY</u> BRANCH.

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, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce. This project was determined not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). The project was also determined to have no effect on any other known endangered species. These determinations are based on Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES) dated October 22, 2014, between the US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of <u>n/a acres</u> 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 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.

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> John M. Herman Chief, Central Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



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