JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

September 21, 2020

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch, ODR-E Room 280 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

(504) 862-1564
Stephanie.L.Castaing@usace.army.mil
Project Manager
Stephanie Castaing
Permit Application Number
MVN -2000-1009-EPP

State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality ATTN: Water Quality Certifications

Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225

Project Manager Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC 200916-01

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 [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

MODIFICATION/TIME EXTENSION PARISH TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN MOORING STRUCTURES FOR SPUD AND DERRICK BARGES WITHIN AND ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Cooper Consolidated, LLC, c/o Chad Poche, at Gulf South Engineering & Testing, 15 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Kenner, Louisiana 70062.

LOCATION OF WORK: Project site is located on the left descending bank of the Mississippi River, at about 133 miles above Head of Passes, at 665 Louisiana Highway 628, in Laplace Louisiana, in St. John the Baptist Parish, as shown on the attached drawings.

Latitude: 30.04944 Longitude: -90.47611

Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090100 Lower Mississippi-Baton Rouge.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Clear, grade and fill for a 300' x 30' access area with a 60' x 15' portable ramp and install and maintain 2 spuds for mooring a 252' x 54' spud barge and four (4) derrick barges (220' x 65' each). Approximately 0.21 acres of jurisdictional wetlands will be impacted by the proposed project. The applicant proposed to contract with an approved mitigation bank in order to offset the adverse impact to jurisdictional wetlands.

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 joint 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/or this WQC request 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, ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

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 has determined that the proposed activity may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the threatened West Indian manatee (Trichechus manatus) and the endangered Pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus) species based on the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

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 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 **0.2** 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 Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, 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.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

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.

Michael V. Farabee Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosure



Date: 03/12/2020

Gulf South File 20-901

Cooper Consolidated Barge Additions MR, LDB, MP 133 LaPlace, LA



GULF SOUTH

ENGINEERING AND TESTING, INC.
Geotechnical & Materials Consultants

For Cooper Consolidated LaPlace, LA

Vicinity Map

Figure 1



1 INCH = 50 US SURVEY FEET

27 Fig 2&3.dwg

