

May 18, 2020

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

(504) 862-1577 Project Manager Patricia Clune <u>Patricia.R.Clune@usace.army.mil</u> MVN 2007-02494-CE

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US 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).

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING BARGE FLEETING OPERATION IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER WITHIN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

<u>NAME OF APPLICANT</u>: Perry Verret Investments, LLC., c/o Lanier & Associates Consulting Engineers Inc., 4101 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70115.

LOCATION OF WORK: In the Mississippi River, left descending bank, at MP 224, in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, within the Lower Mississippi-Baton Rouge Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070100), as shown on the attached drawings (Latitude 30.369444, N, Longitude -91.231667 W).

<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to add an additional 20 barges to an existing fleet. The project is an addition to an existing barge fleet that consists of 3 tiers by 5 barges wide. The proposed addition would be to add 2 tiers and 1 barge wide resulting in a total of 5 tiers by 6 barges wide. The proposed project is not expected to impact wetland resources.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in <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 BRANCH</u>.

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 US 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 US 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 the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

The New Orleans District has determined that the proposed project is located in waters known to be utilized by the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). Utilizing Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, the Corps has determined that the proposed work is not likely to adversely affect the Pallid Sturgeon.

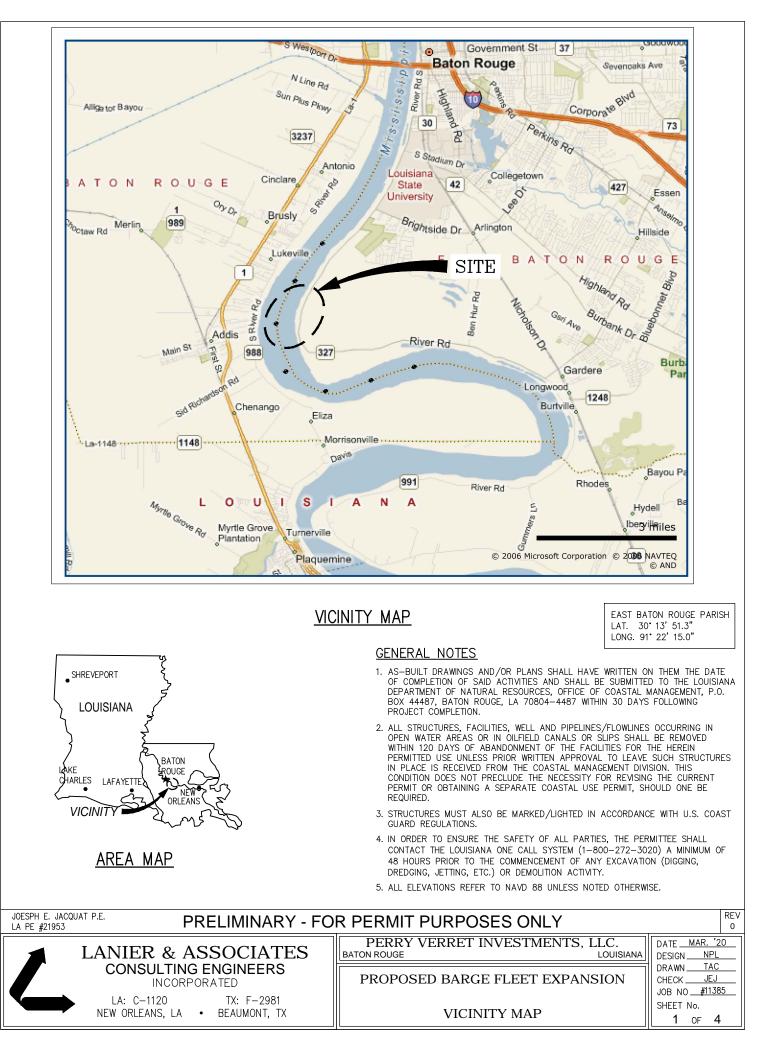
This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal will not result in the destruction or alteration of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial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

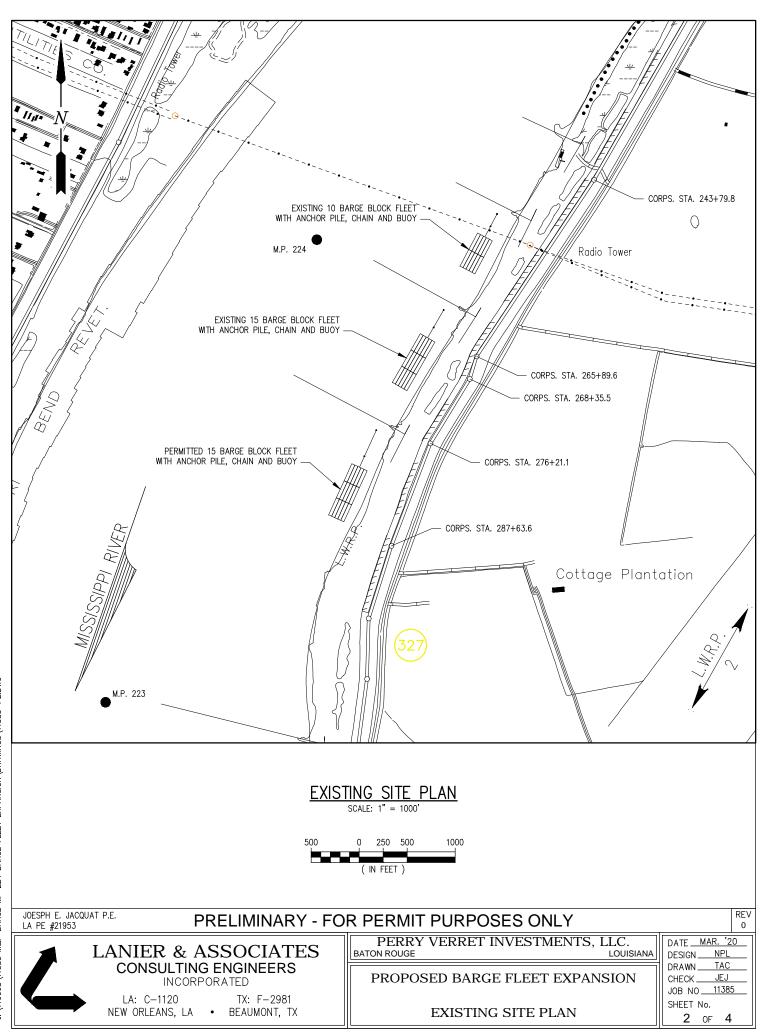
Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

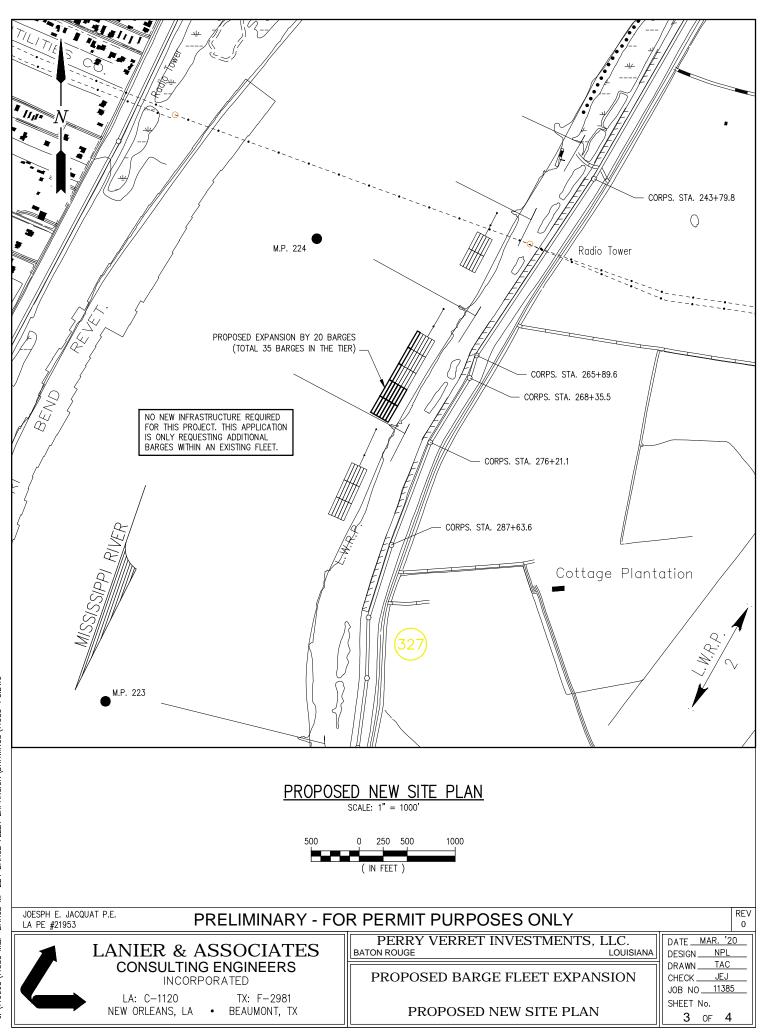
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information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

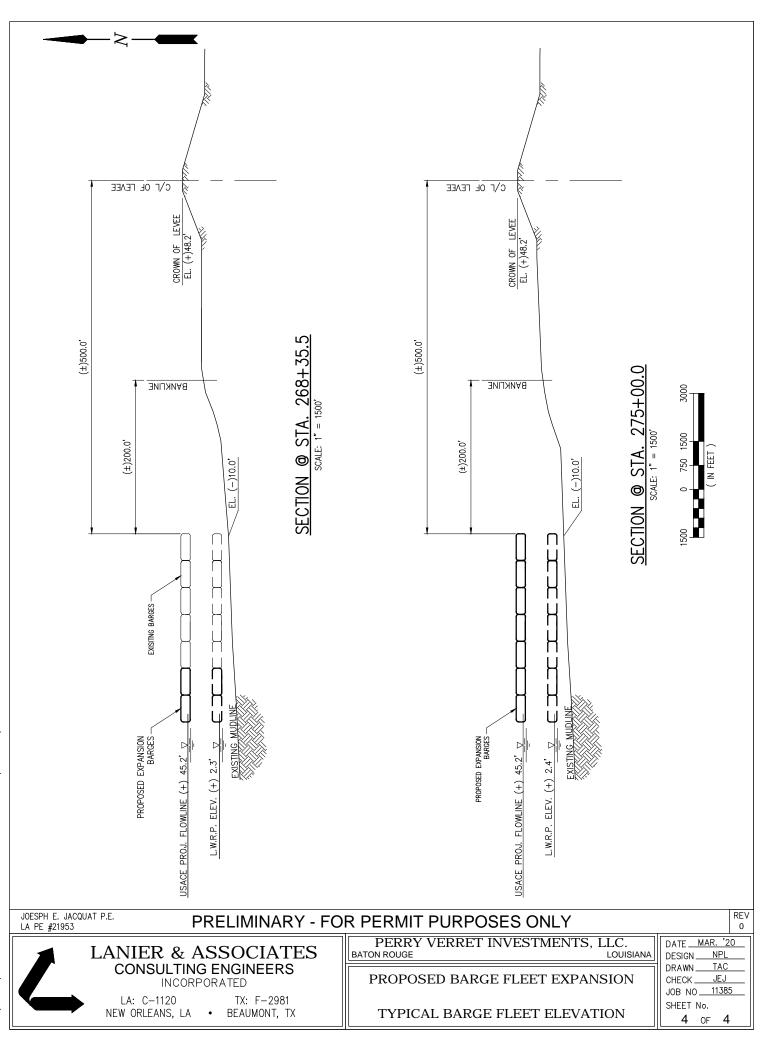
JOHN M. HERMAN Chief, Central Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

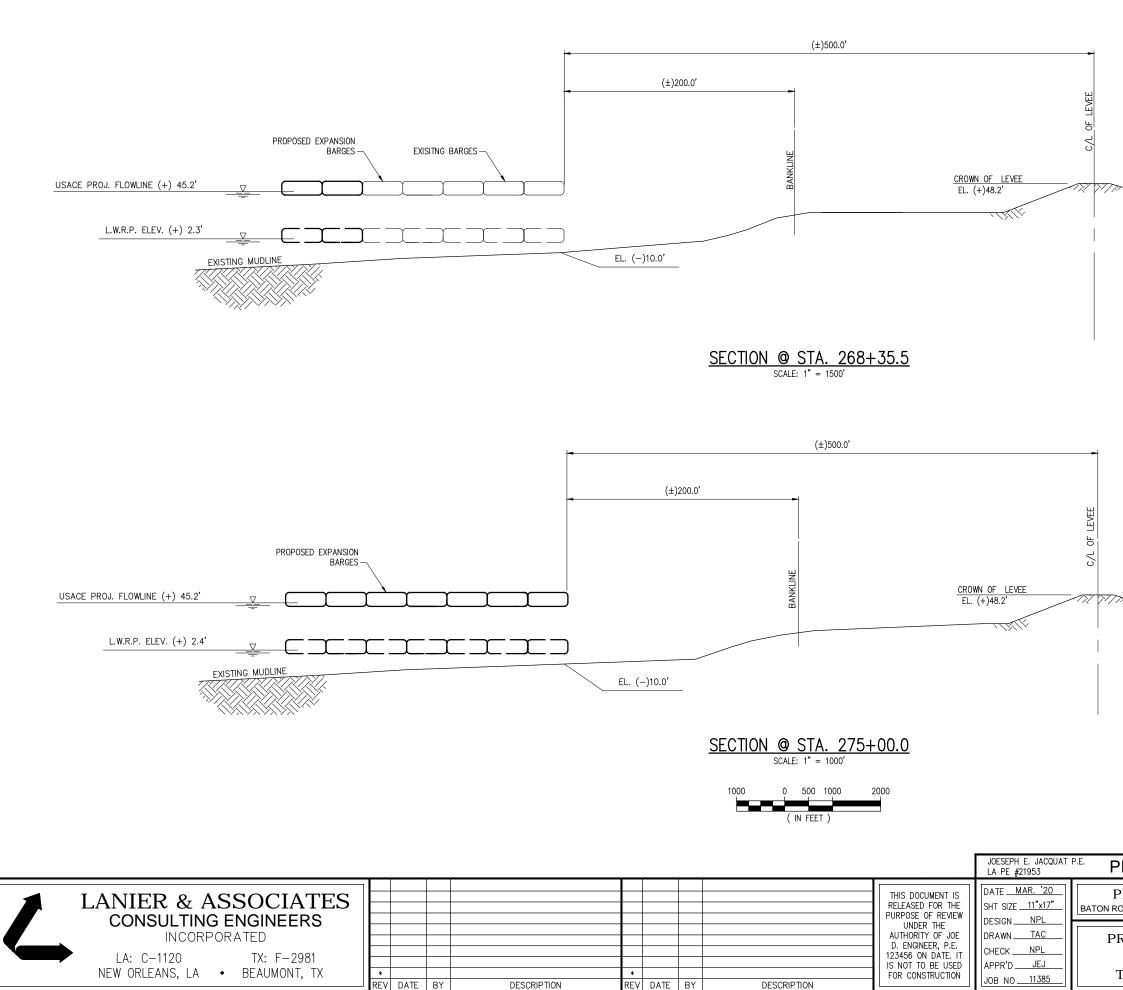
Enclosures











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PROPOSED BARGE FLEET EXTENSION	X-1
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