

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

September 23, 2013

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District is required
Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

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robert.m.tewis2@usace.army.mil
Project Manager
Robert Tewis
Permit Application Number
MVN-2007-04431-ETT

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Water Quality Certification
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225
Fax (225) 325-8250
Project Manager
Jamie Phillippe
WQC Application Number
WQC JP # 080313-02

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 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, 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).

FILL WETLAND AREAS ADJACENT TO A RUNWAY TO REDUCE BIRD/WILDLIFE HAZARDS AT THE NAVAL AIR STATION, PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA

NAME OF APPLICANT: Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, Attention: Emilie Wien, 400 Russell Avenue, Bldg. 552, Belle Chase, Louisiana 70143-5012.

LOCATIONS OF WORK: Adjacent to an airport runway at the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, at Latitude: 29.80134, Longitude -90.01649, Belle Chase, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. Watershed HUC # 08090301.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: A Department of Army permit was issued to this facility, on 21 October 2009, authorizing wetland vegetation clearing adjacent to the same runway. Compensatory mitigation was provided for the clearing/conversion of forested wetlands to herbaceous wetlands. The issue of bird/wildlife hazards adjacent to the runways continues to be a problem and the current request is to fill wetlands areas (bird attractants) adjacent to the runway to reduce bird strike hazards for airplanes operating at this base.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Clear, fill, grade and maintain approximately 15 acres of wetland areas adjacent to the runway to reduce bird habitat to reduce flight (bird strike) hazards adjacent to the airport runway. Approximately 55, 923.6 cubic yards of Mississippi River sand would be used to fill the 15 acres of wetlands. No additional mitigation for the filling of the converted wetlands has been proposed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** 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**. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above. 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 Section 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.

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 receives approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

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. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

The Corps is unaware of any Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may be adversely affected by the proposed activity. Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any ESA listed species nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any ESA listed species.

This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would result in temporary adverse impacts to N/A acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum, blue crab and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action may have temporary adverse impacts on EFH or federally managed fisheries of 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 NMFS.

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.

Attachments



Project Site
Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, NO, LA

Lake Salvador

Couba Island

Ile De Barataria

Bonne Isle
Jean Lafitte

Lafitte

Meraux

Violet

St Bernard

Chalmette

Belle Chasse

New Orleans

Gretna

Timberlane

Woodmere

Westwego

Marrero

River Ridge

River Rd

Privateer Blvd

Bayou Bridge

Woodland Dr

Newton St

St Claude Ave

St Bernome Ave





NAS JRB
NEW ORLEANS

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GRADE PERMIT
PROPOSED SITE



Legend

- Wetlands
- Regrade Proposed Site

Coordinate System: UTM 15N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum : NAD83
 Sheet Size: 11" W x 8.5" H

Scale: 1:10,000

0 500 1,000 Feet
 0 150 300 Meters



PREPARED BY:
NAFAC
 Naval Facilities Engineering
 Command Southeast
 Asset Utilization Branch, AM4
 Contact: Robert Vaughan
 (504) 678-9871

Date: 06/25/2013

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"LOW AREA - TO BE FILLED"

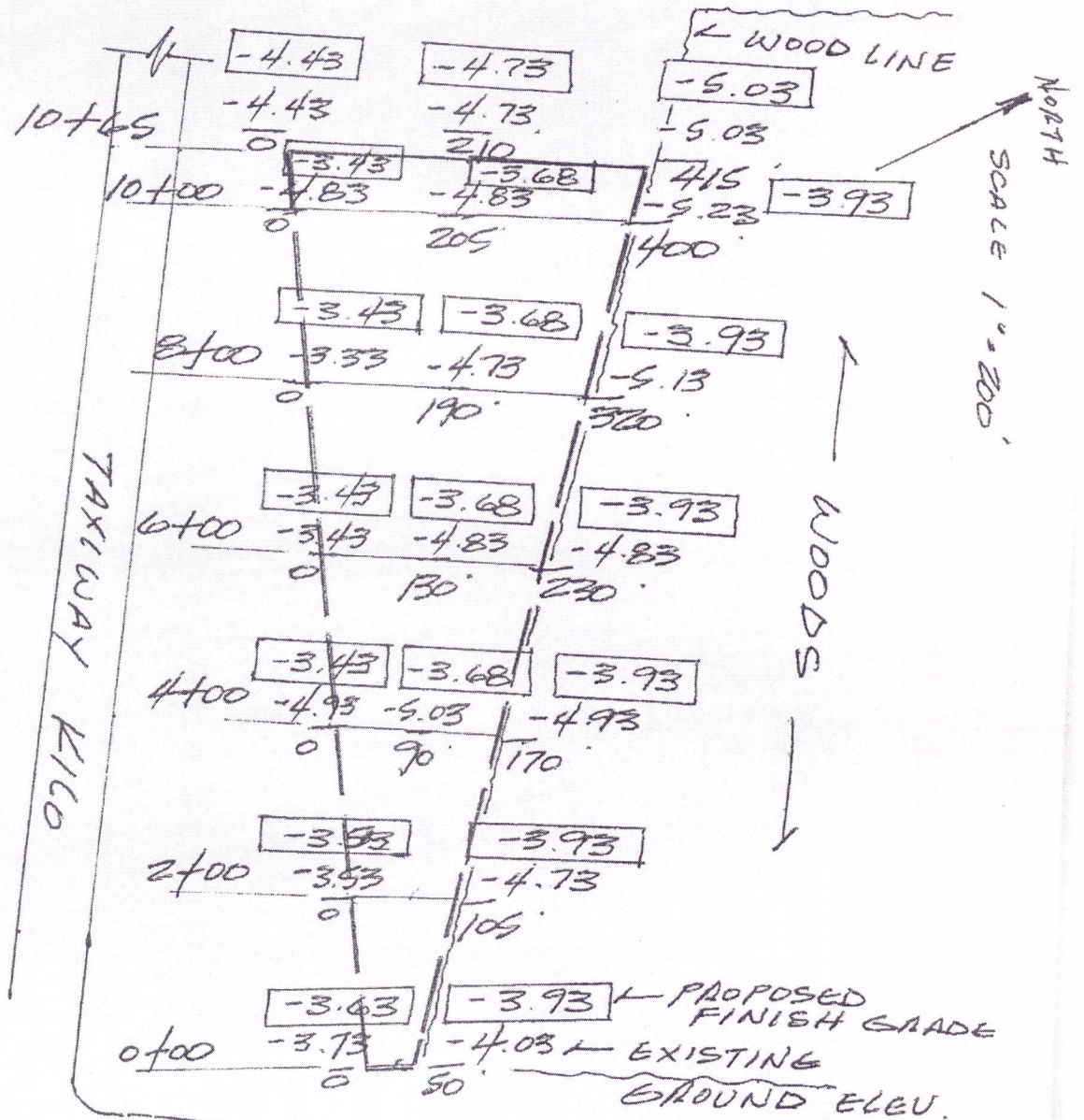
JONES BROS. CONST. CO.

HANGER #439

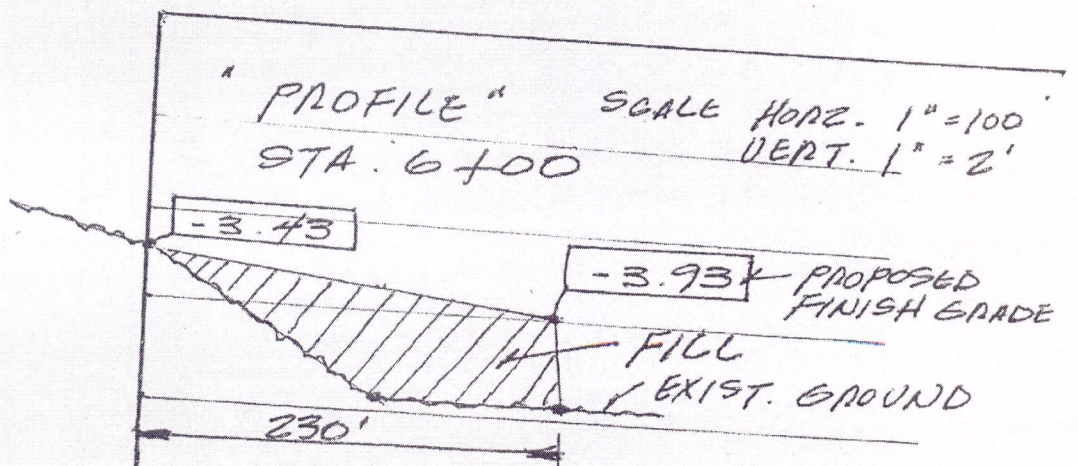
9-10-13

RA

Runway 14-32



FIRE DEPT. TRAINING AREA



PAUL H. H. 1/6

This Clearing Area A starting at the edge of the woods
out to middle ways before Taxiway K



Clearing Area B

New Clearing Area C

