

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

March 24, 2014

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

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

(504) 862-2675
Project Manager
Jamie Crowe
Jamie.M.Crowe@usace.army.mil
Permit Application Number
MVN 2013-2665 CO

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Johnson

WQC Application Number
WQC 140314-02

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:
[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, Office of Environmental Services, 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).

MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT AN EXISTING BARGE FLEET IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ST. JAMES PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Consolidated Grain and Barge, Inc., Post Office Box 264, Convent, Louisiana 70723.

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, approximately 165 miles above the Head of Passes, near Convent, Louisiana, in St. James Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant proposes to hydraulically dredge under an existing barge fleet. Approximately 7,700 cubic yards of silt will be removed and deposited in the Mississippi River below the -55 ft. contour. Approximately 1.2 acres of non-vegetated waterbottoms will be impacted by the proposed activity. The site will be accessed via the Mississippi River by a tug boat and barge.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **30 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** 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. The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined 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 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 proposed activity is located in waters known to be utilized by the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), which is a listed species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Approximately 1.2 acres of foraging habitat will be directly impacted by the proposed activity. To minimize impacts to the pallid sturgeon, the applicant has agreed to implement the US Fish and Wildlife suction dredge recommendations. The Corps' determination is that the project, as proposed, 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 would result in the destruction or alteration of **N/A 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, 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.

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.

John M. Herman
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

DREDGING WILL LAST LESS THAN 2 WEEKS
IN DURATION AND WILL ONLY BE COMPLETED ONCE

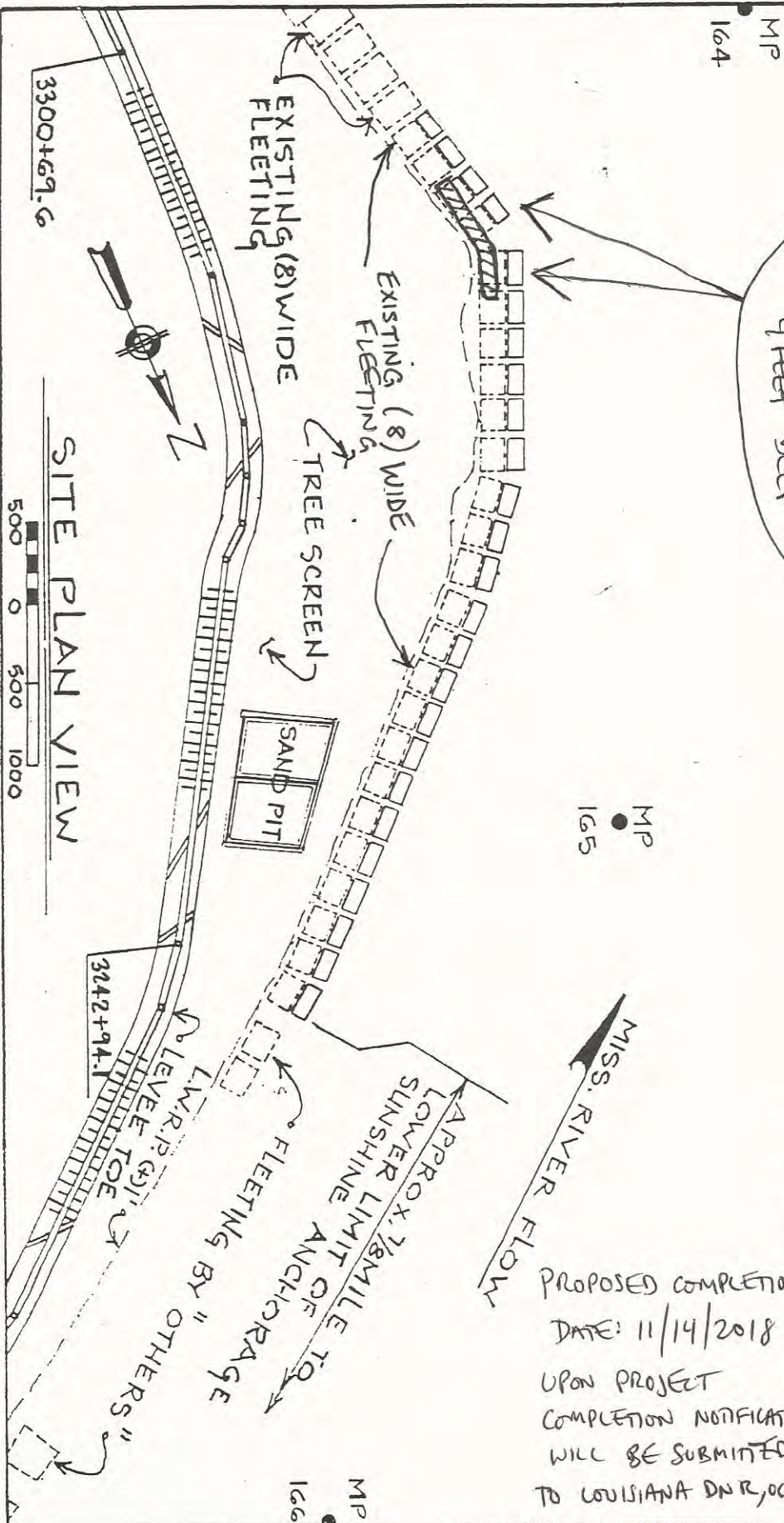
(General permit) NOD-23

Dredging profile:
800 FEET LONG
65 FEET WIDE
4 FEET DEEP

CGB MARINE SERVICES
AT M.P. 164
MAINTENANCE DREDGING
NOV. 2013

EXISTING BARGE FLEETING WIDTHS
FOR G.W. CONTRACTORS, INC HARAHAN LOUISIANA
PREPARED BY RICHARD WRIGHT & ASSOC METAIRIE LOUISIANA AUG. 190 SHT. 20F4

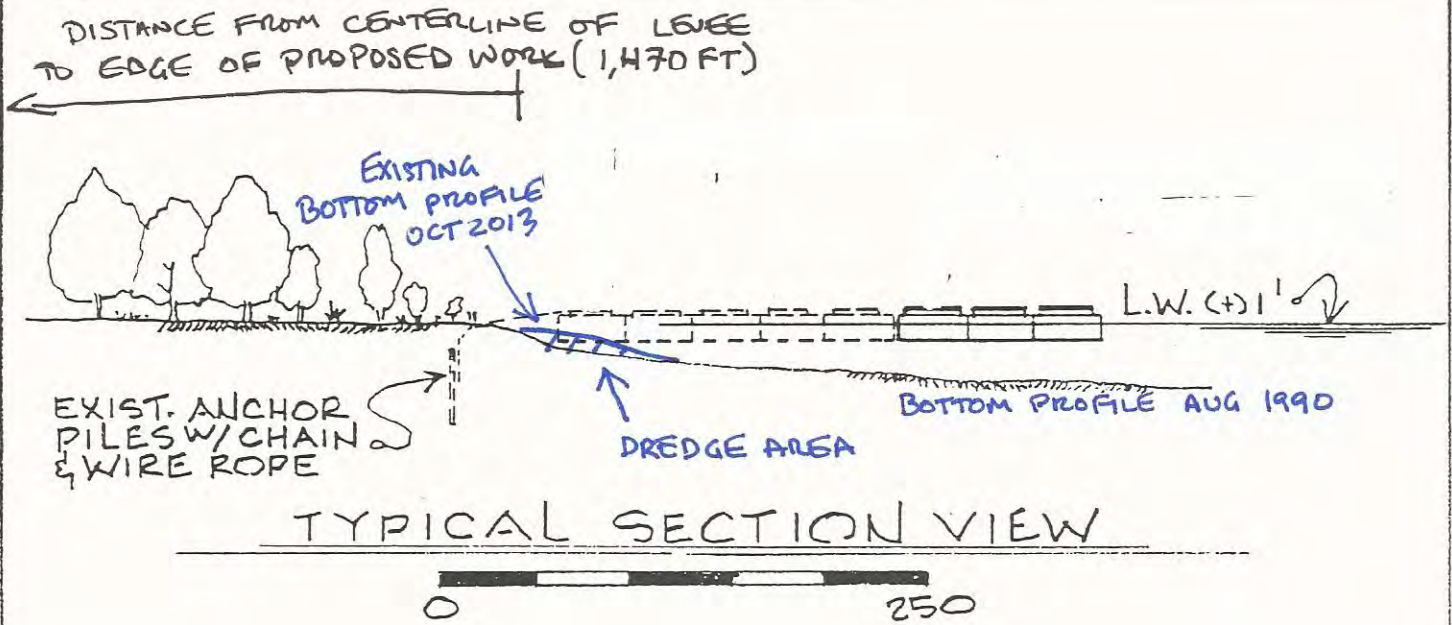
PROPOSED COMPLETION
DATE: 11/14/2018
UPON PROJECT
COMPLETION NOTIFICATION
WILL BE SUBMITTED
TO LOUISIANA DNR, OCM
WITHIN 30 DAYS OF COMPLETION



All structures, facilities, well and pipelines/flowlines occurring in open water areas or in oilfield canals or slips shall be removed within 120 days of abandonment or the facilities for the herein permitted use unless prior written approval to leave such structures in place is received from the Office of Coastal Management. This condition does not preclude the necessity for revising the current permit or obtaining a separate Coastal Use Permit, should one be required.

Structures must also be marked/lighted in accordance with U. S. Coast Guard regulations.

In order to ensure the safety of all parties, the permittee shall contact the Louisiana One Call System (1-800-272-3020) a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of any excavation (digging, dredging, jetting, etc.) or demolition activity.



(GENERAL PERMIT) NOD-23
 BARGES (INSHORE) ARE ALREADY SITTING
 ON THE BOTTOM - 4 FT OF SILT NEEDS REMOVAL.
 APPROXIMATELY 7,700 CUBIC YARDS
 OF ACCUMULATED SILT WILL BE
 DREDGED FROM UNDER THE EXISTING
 BARGE FLEET AND WILL BE
 DEPOSITED IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
 BELOW THE -55 FOOT NGVD CONTOUR

CGB MARINE SERVICES
 AT M.P. 164
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING
 NOV. 2013

EXISTING BARGE FLEETING WIDTHS	
FOR G.W. CONTRACTORS, INC HARAHAN LOUISIANA	
PREPARED BY RICHARD WRIGHT & ASSOC METAIRIE LOUISIANA AUG. '90	SHT. 3 OF 4

MISC.

The pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) may occur in water bodies near our proposed project. The pallid sturgeon is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) and occur in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in southern Louisiana. This species requires large, turbid, free-flowing riverine habitat and is adapted to living close to the bottom of large rivers with sand and gravel bars. Pallid sturgeon typically spawn from May-August, but successful reproduction has been severely reduced due to habitat modification. This includes the loss of habitat through the construction of dams that have modified flows, reduced turbidity and lowered water temperatures. We will take the necessary measures to avoid the breeding season and any degradation of water quality in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.

CCB MARINE SERVICES
AT M.P. 164
MAINTENANCE DREDGING
NOV 2013

SHT. 4 OF 4