

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

September 1, 2014

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

(504) 862-1301
Project Manager
Neil T. Gauthier
Neil.T.Gauthier@USACE.army.mil
MVN 2014-01469-CM

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

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Johnson
WQC Application Number
WQC 140826-02

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); 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 Section, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

PROPOSED BARGE FLEETING OPERATION ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ST. JAMES AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHES

NAME OF APPLICANT: St. James Sand Co., c/o Gulf South Engineering & Testing, Inc., Attn: Chad Poche, 2201 Aberdeen Street, Suite B, Kenner, Louisiana 70062.

LOCATION OF WORK: On the Right descending bank of the Mississippi River between mile 146.5 and 148.9 above Head of Passes, approximately one mile east from Paulina, Louisiana, in St. James and St. John the Baptist Parishes, within the Lake Maurepas Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070204), as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, and deposit crushed stone/gravel and earthen fill for the installation of 50 in river buoys, 52 3-pile mooring clusters, 50 onshore deadmen, an electricity and water levee crossing, and an office trailer, parking, and land to barge bridge. Revetment will be penetrated during construction and repaired with stone rip-rap. The project will support a barge fleeting operation that is eight barges wide and sixty barges long. A preliminary analysis has determined that approximately 0.05 acre of forested batture wetlands subject to Corps Jurisdiction will be permanently impacted. It is anticipated that the proposed action would have minimal impact on adjacent wetlands.

The applicant has designed the project to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable. Any further reduction would limit usage of the property and, therefore function deeming the project impracticable. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to mitigate in-kind wetland credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank located in the watershed.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **30 days** 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, **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.

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 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. 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*). Less than 0.1 acre of foraging habitat will be directly impacted by the proposed activity. Because the impact is minimal and occurs over an existing revetment, the Corps has determined that this activity 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 up to 0 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 water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications Section 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.

JOHN M. HERMAN
Chief, Central Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures



Date: 04/04/2014



Gulf South File
14-503

For
St. James Sand Co.
Kenner, LA

St. James Sand Co.
Barge Fleeting & Mooring
Vacherie Fleet, MP 147.5
Vacherie, LA

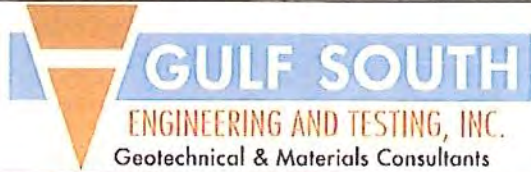
Vicinity Map

Figure 1



Gulf South File 14-503
(Date: 05/30/14)

St. James Sand Co.
Barge Fleeting & Mooring
Vacherie Fleet, MP 147.5
Vacherie, LA



For
St. James Sand Co.
Kenner, LA

Site Plan

Figure No. 2



Gulf South File 14-503
 (Date: 04/04/14)



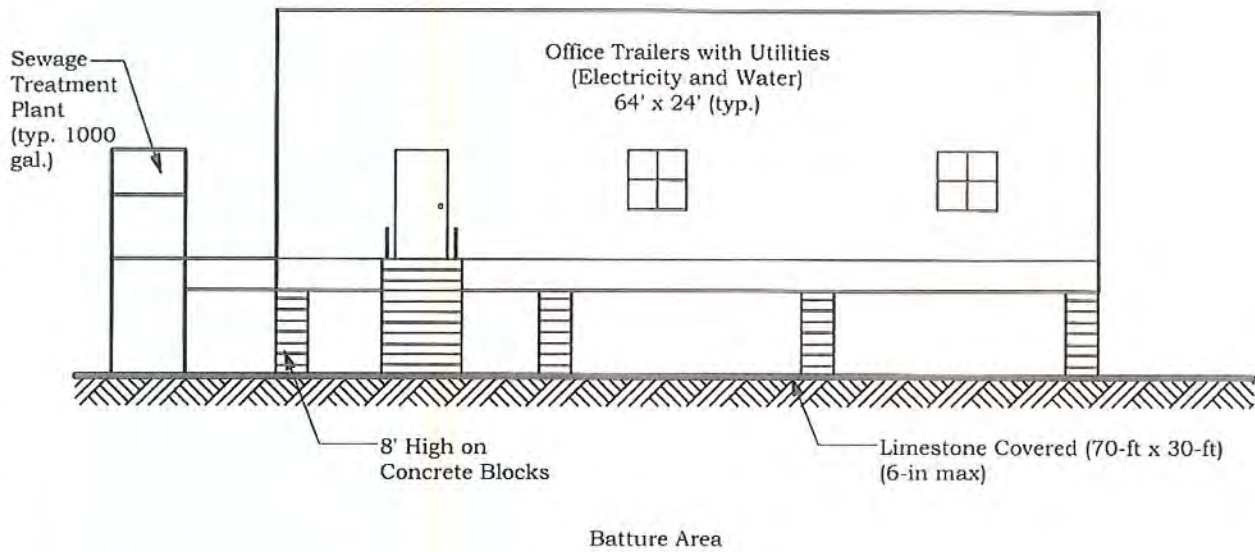
St. James Sand Co.
Barge Fleeting & Mooring
Vacherie Fleet, MP 147.5
Vacherie, LA

For
St. James Sand Co.
Kenner, LA

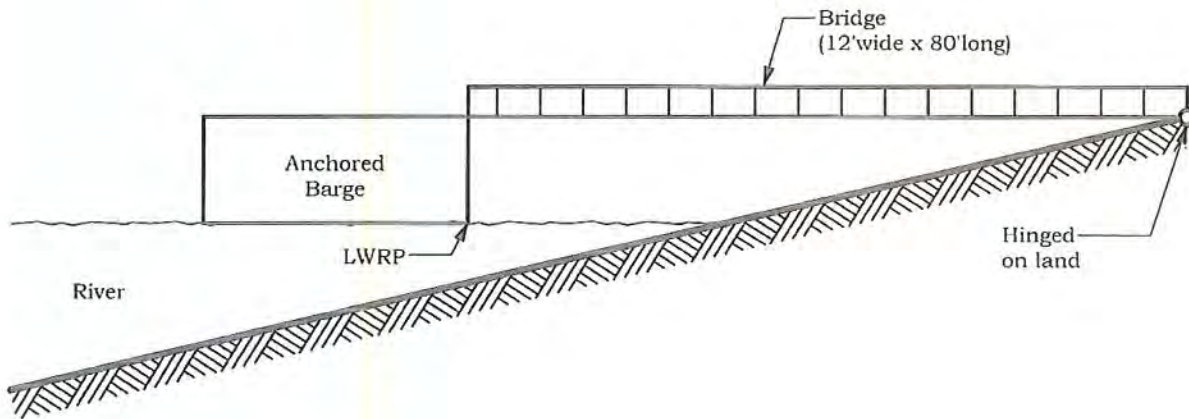
Batture Facilities
Site Plan

Figure No. 3

OFFICE TRAILER:



LAND TO BARGE BRIDGE:



**Gulf South File 14-503
(Date: 05/30/14)**



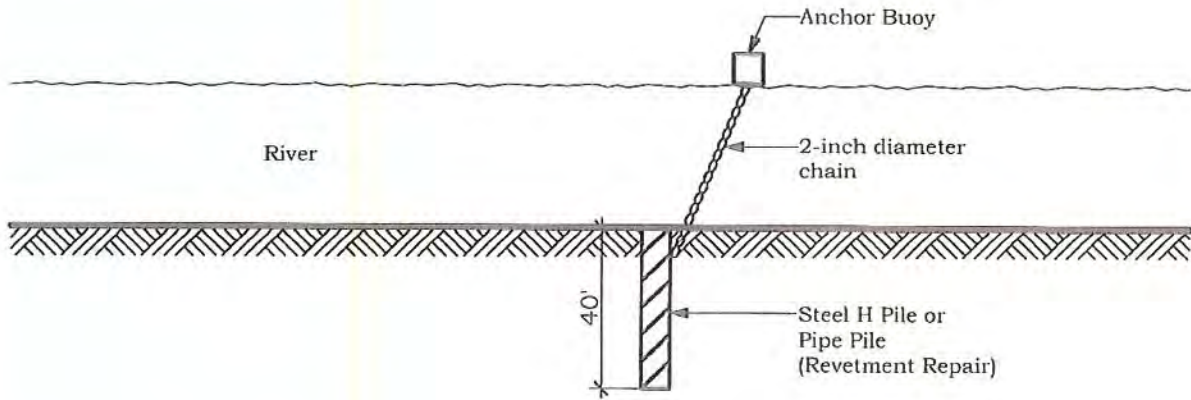
**St. James Sand Co.
Barge Fleeting & Mooring
Vacherie Fleet, MP 147.5
Vacherie, LA**

**For
St. James Sand Co.
Kenner, LA**

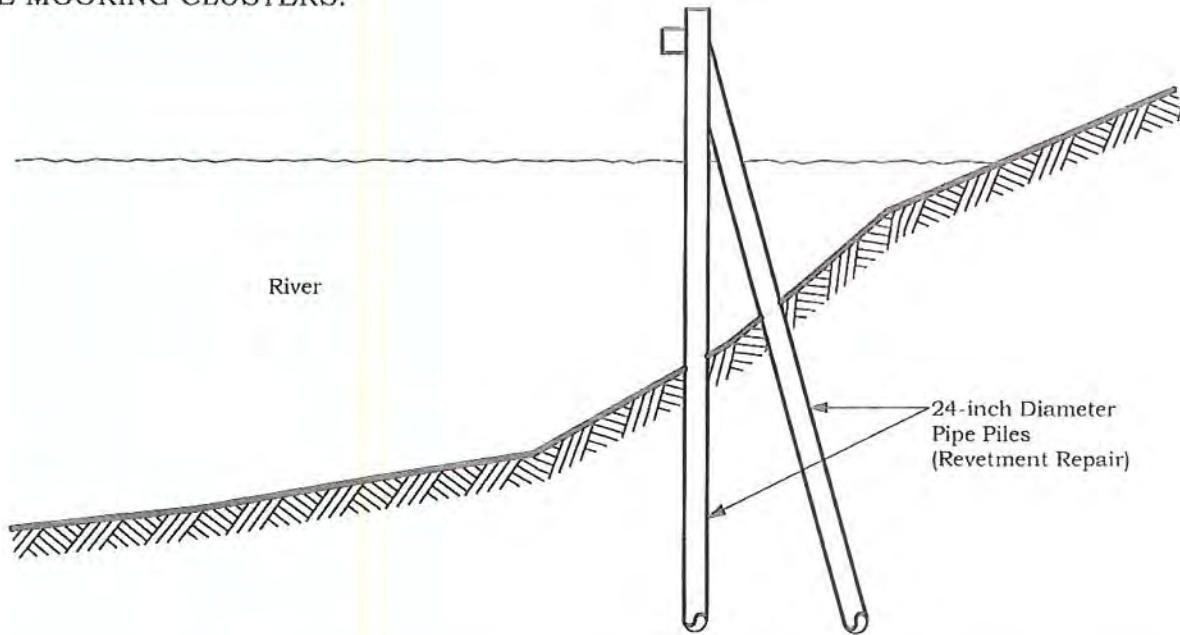
**Batture Facilites
Detail**

Figure No. 4

ANCHOR BUOYS:



3-PILE MOORING CLUSTERS:



**Gulf South File 14-503
(Date: 04/04/14)**

**St. James Sand Co.
Barge Fleeting & Mooring
Vacherie Fleet, MP 147.5
Vacherie, LA**

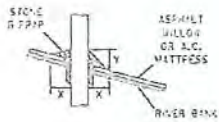


**For
St. James Sand Co.
Kenner, LA**

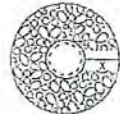
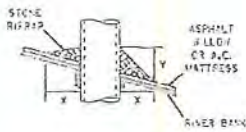
**Anchoring
System Details**

Figure No. 5

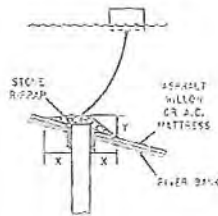
PILE



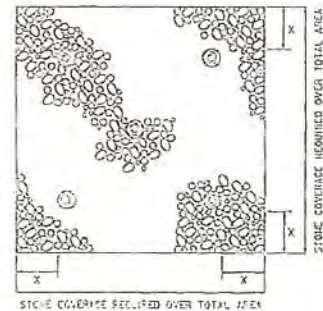
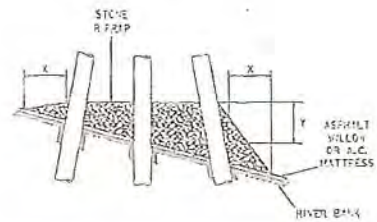
CAISSON



SPUD PILE
(BUOY AND ANCHOR CHAIN)



PILE CLUSTER



NOTES:

1. SIZE OF RIPRAP TO VARY BETWEEN 8 POUNDS AND 125 POUNDS WITH 40 PERCENT TO 60 PERCENT OF THE STONE WITHIN THE RANGE OF 25 POUNDS TO 75 POUNDS.
2. WHEN PENETRATING THE UPPER BANK PAVING IN A REVETMENT AREA WITH PILES, CAISSONS AND/OR PILE CLUSTERS, A 10 INCH THICK RIPRAP STONE LAYER SHALL BE PLACED OVER ALL AREAS WHERE THE BANK PAVING IS DISTURBED BY DRIVING OPERATIONS.
3. WHEN USING AN ANCHOR CHAIN AND BUOY SYSTEM, THE ANCHOR CHAIN MUST BE ATTACHED AT THE TOP OF THE PILE TO MINIMIZE REVETMENT DAMAGE.

DEPTH OF WATER IN FEET AT POINT OF PENETRATION AT TIME OF STONE PLACEMENT	DIMENSIONS IN FEET FOR PROTECTION AREA REQUIRED							
	PILE		CAISSON		SPUD PILE BUOY AND ANCHOR CHAIN		PILE CLUSTER	
	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
1' - 10'	3	1.5	5	2			3	1
11' - 40'	5	2	8	3	7	3	6	2
41' - 60'	8	3	12	4	12	4	10	3

Date: 4/21/2014

Gulf South File
14-503

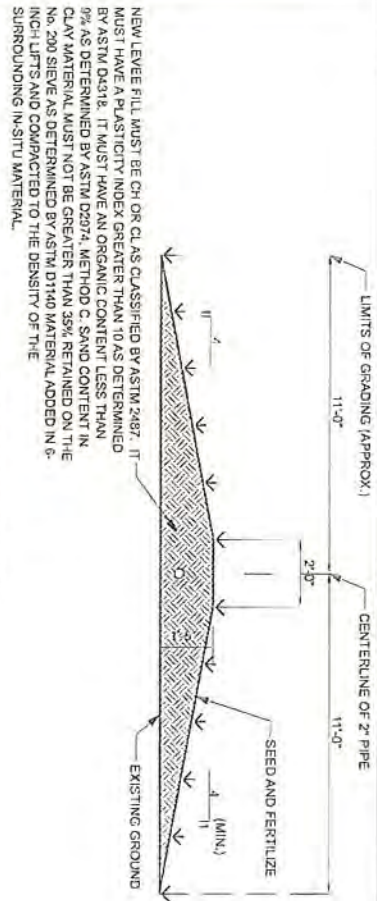


St. James Sand Co.
Barge Fleeting &
Mooring
Vacherie Fleet, MP
147.5
Vacherie, LA

For
St. James Sand Co.
Kenner, LA

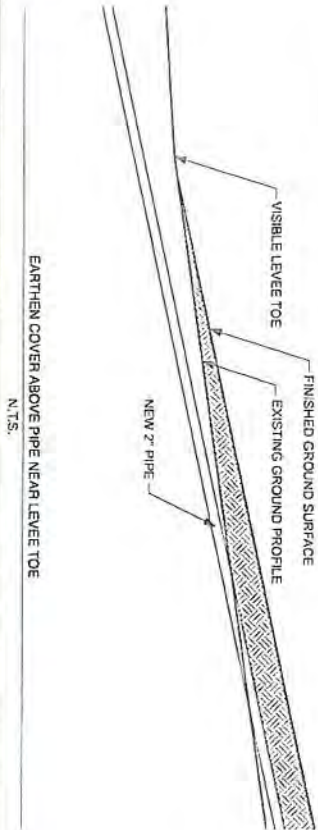
Revetment Repair
Details

Figure 6

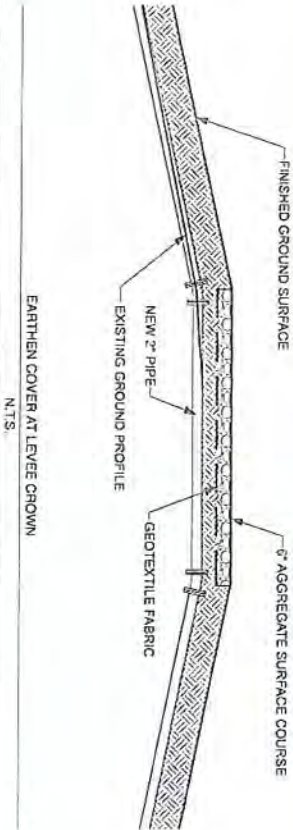


NEW LEVEE FILL MUST BE CH OR CL AS CLASSIFIED BY ASTM 2487. IT MUST HAVE A PLASTICITY INDEX GREATER THAN 10 AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D4318. IT MUST HAVE AN ORGANIC CONTENT LESS THAN 5% AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D2974, METHOD C. SAND CONTENT IN CLAY MATERIAL MUST NOT BE GREATER THAN 35% RETAINED ON THE No. 200 SIEVE AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D1140 MATERIAL ADDED IN 6-INCH LIFTS AND COMPACTED TO THE DENSITY OF THE SURROUNDING IN-SITU MATERIAL.

TYPICAL EMBANKMENT SECTION
N.T.S.

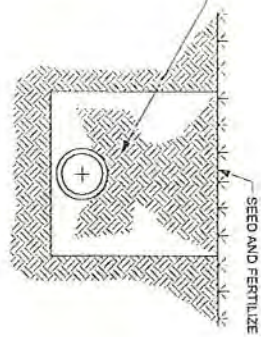


EARTHEN COVER ABOVE PIPE NEAR LEVEE TOE
N.T.S.

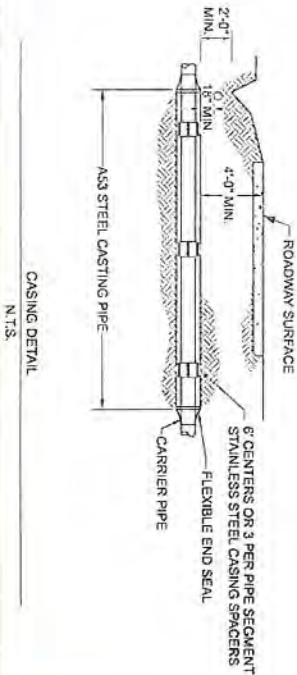


EARTHEN COVER AT LEVEE CROWN
N.T.S.

NEW LEVEE FILL MUST BE CH OR CL AS CLASSIFIED BY ASTM 2487. IT MUST HAVE A PLASTICITY INDEX GREATER THAN 10 AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D4318. IT MUST HAVE AN ORGANIC CONTENT LESS THAN 5% AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D2974, METHOD C. SAND CONTENT IN CLAY MATERIAL MUST NOT BE GREATER THAN 35% RETAINED ON THE No. 200 SIEVE AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D1140 MATERIAL ADDED IN 6-INCH LIFTS AND COMPACTED TO THE DENSITY OF THE SURROUNDING IN-SITU MATERIAL.



TYPICAL TRENCH REPAIR ON LEVEE SIDE OF LA 18
N.T.S.



CASING DETAIL
N.T.S.

Gulf South File 14-503
DATE: 04/25/14
St. James Sand Co.
Barge Fleeting & Mooring
Vacherie Fleet, MP 147.5
Vacherie, LA



For
St. James Sand Co.
Kenner, LA

Details
Figure No. 7

May 30, 2014

Reference:
P20140725

Additional Notes for Permit Application:

1. As-built drawings will be submitted within 30 days of completion of this project to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management, P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487.
2. 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 Coastal Management Division. This condition does not preclude the necessity for revising the current permit or obtaining a separate Coastal Use Permit, should one be required.
3. Structures must also be marked/lighted in accordance with U. S. Coast Guard regulations.
4. 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.