

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT P.O. BOX 60267 NEW ORLEANS LA 70160-0267

March 23, 2015

Operations Division
Eastern Evaluation Section

Project Manager Jennifer Burkett (504) 862-2045 jennifer.e.burkett@usace.army.mil SUBJECT: MVN 2014-2119 EBB

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

RAISED WALKWAY AND DOCK ON GEOGHEGAN CANAL IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Madcat Properties, LLC at 535 Betz Place, Metairie, Louisiana 70005.

LOCATION OF WORK: On Geoghegan Canal at Lot 5 of the Las Conchas Geoghegan Canal Subdivision, on Highway 90, Slidell, in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the attached drawings.

HUC: 080090201; Liberty Bayou – Tchefuncte River

CHARACTER OF WORK: To install and maintain a 6' x 310' raised walkway, a 6' x 68' pier, and 35' x 72' boathouse, all to serve a future residence. The structures will extend 80' into the canal, which is approximately 450' wide at this location. Mats and a light backhoe will be used to drive piles in the wetlands, and a barge-mounted pile driver will be utilized to construct the portion over the water. Project implementation will temporarily impact 0.03 acre of tidal marsh and 0.03 acre of scrub-shrub wetlands. No fill is required. No special aquatic sites will be permanently impacted by this project; no mitigation is anticipated.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit will close <u>15 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 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. 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 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.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would have no effect on the Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) or any other 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.

Based on the South Louisiana Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES), as signed on October 22, 2014, between the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the project would have no effect on the Dusky Gopher Frog (*Lithobates sevosus*) or Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

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 before a permit is issued.

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.

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.

Michael V. Farabee Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosures





