JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

February 10, 2020

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Attn: Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Ave. New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-3651

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

Project Manager: Darlene Herman (504) 862-2287 Darlene.C.Herman@usace.army.mil Application #: MVN 2020-0060 WB Project Manager: Elizabeth Hill (225) 219-3225 WQC Application Number: WQC-200204-01

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).

The application has also been mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in Louisiana Revised Statute 30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-17).

DRILL THE HOMER PROSPECT WELL IN TERREBONNE PARISH

<u>NAME OF APPLICANT</u>: Hilcorp Energy Company, c/o Providence Engineering and Environmental, 1201 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

LOCATION OF WORK: In Terrebonne Parish, located approximately 4.5 miles southwest of Chauvin, Louisiana, 29.472083, -90.646714, as shown on the attached drawings. Hydrologic Unit 08090302.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant proposes to use a drill barge to drill the Homer Prospect Well. Approximately 78,563 cubic yards of propwashing is required to achieve an access route depth of 7.5 feet to reach the prospect. If the prospect is successful, approximately 15,980 linear feet of four-inch diameter flowline will be installed from the Homer Prospect to the Houma South Test Platform to the Houma South Production Barge. A flowline will be installed on top of marsh via airboat and in open water via jetting to a minimum of four feet below the mudline. Bankline stabilization will also be installed to prevent erosion in the oil and gas exploration and production area. Permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands are not expected. All temporary impacted areas would be returned to pre-project conditions upon completion of the proposal. The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close <u>20 days</u> 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 submitted 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 forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, <u>ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH</u>. 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 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. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources. 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. Based on the South Louisiana **S**tandard Local **O**perating **P**rocedure for Endangered **S**pecies (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 to the West Indian Manatee.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction, alteration and/or disturbance of **45.79 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 Department of the Army 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.

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 invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Darrell S. Barbara Chief, Western Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



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