PUBLIC NOTICE

22 March 2021

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch (ODR-E) 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 Permit Application Number: MVN-2021-00134-EG Project Manager: Angelle Greer (504) 862-2279 angelle.v.greer@usace.army.mil

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).

BARGE FLEET ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Wood Resources, LLC, c/o Lanier and Associates Engineers, Attention: John Maurin, 4101 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70115

LOCATION OF WORK: At approximately Latitude: 30.040278, Longitude: -90.675556, on the Mississippi River, right-descending bank, at approximately river mile 146.5, in Vacherie, Louisiana, in St. John the Baptist Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings. Hydrologic Unit Code: 08070100 (Lower Mississippi-Lake Maurepas)

<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>: Install and maintain a head and tail anchor pile and chain, 12 shore side anchor piles with chains, and place approximately 150-cubic yards of rock rip-rap for a new 12-tier barge fleet on the Mississippi River. All work will be performed from a barge-mounted crane and no impacts to vegetated wetlands are expected as a result of the project, therefore, no compensatory mitigation is proposed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit will close <u>30 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 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**.

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 Millet House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, exists on the opposite bank of the Mississippi River at 509 E. Jefferson Hwy. in Gramercy, Louisiana. The New Orleans District is unaware of any other 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 New Orleans District has determined that the project footprint is located in an area that may be known to be utilized by the West Indian Manatee and the Pallid Sturgeon. It has been determined that the activity is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian Manatee or the Pallid Sturgeon based on the Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana (IPaC), dated January 27, 2020 between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office. Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Activities will be included in the authorization, if granted. Our initial finding is that the proposed work is Not Likely to Adversely Affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal is not expected to result in the destruction or alteration of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would have no 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, Water Quality Certifications, before a permit is issued.

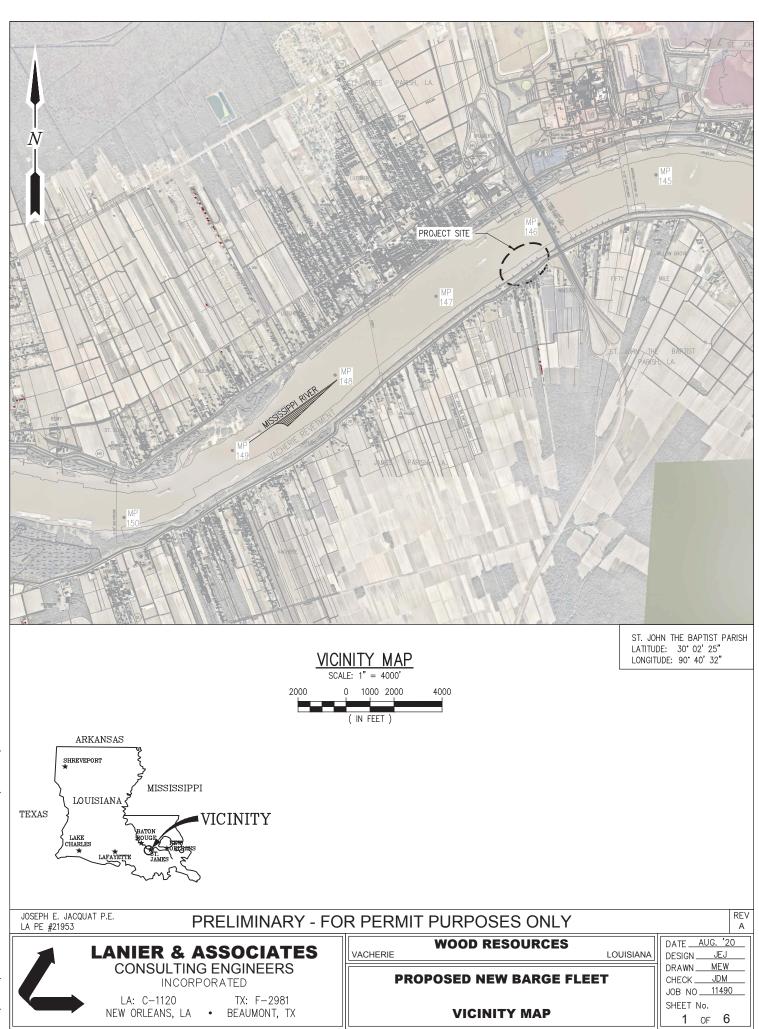
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

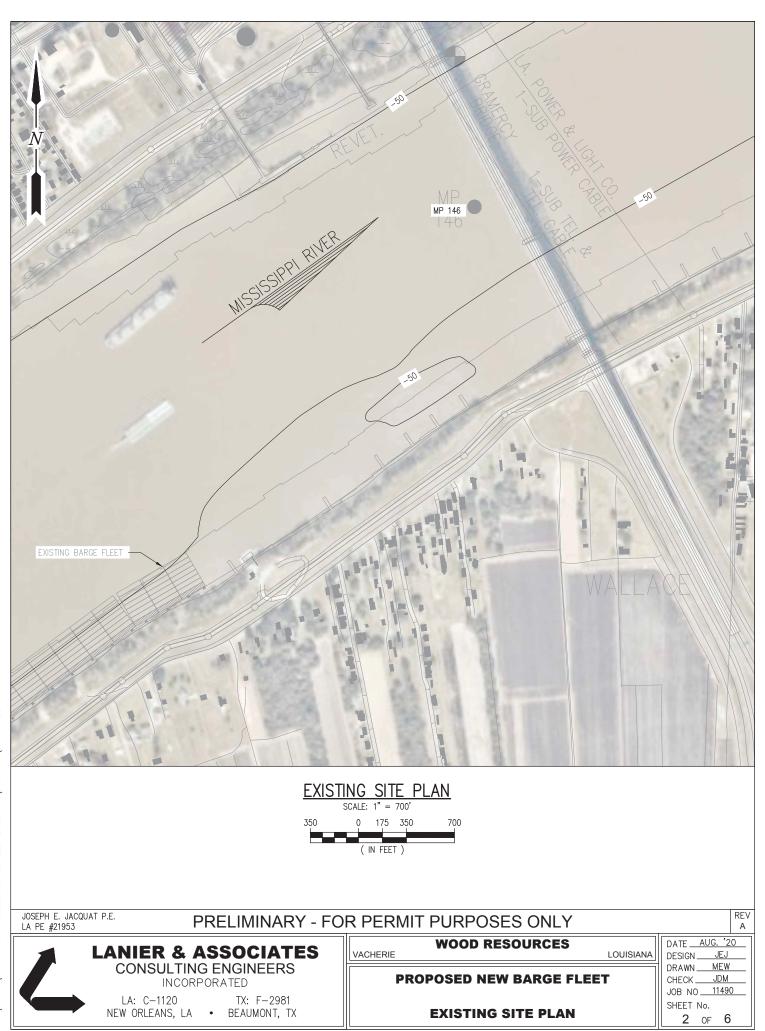
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

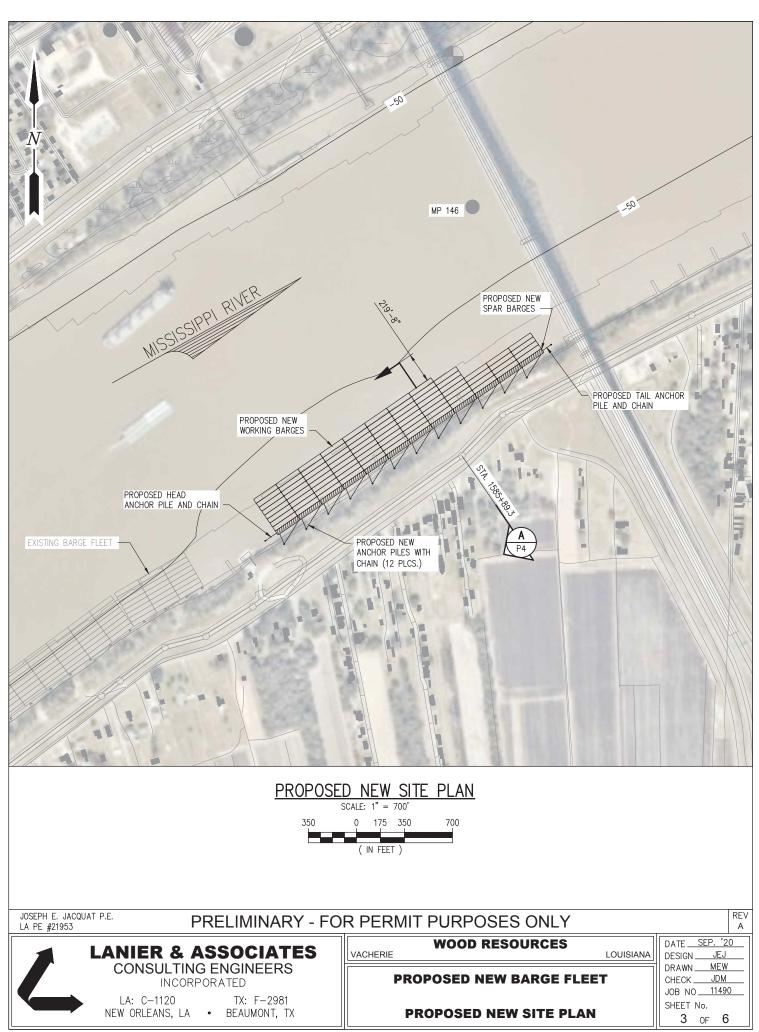
You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

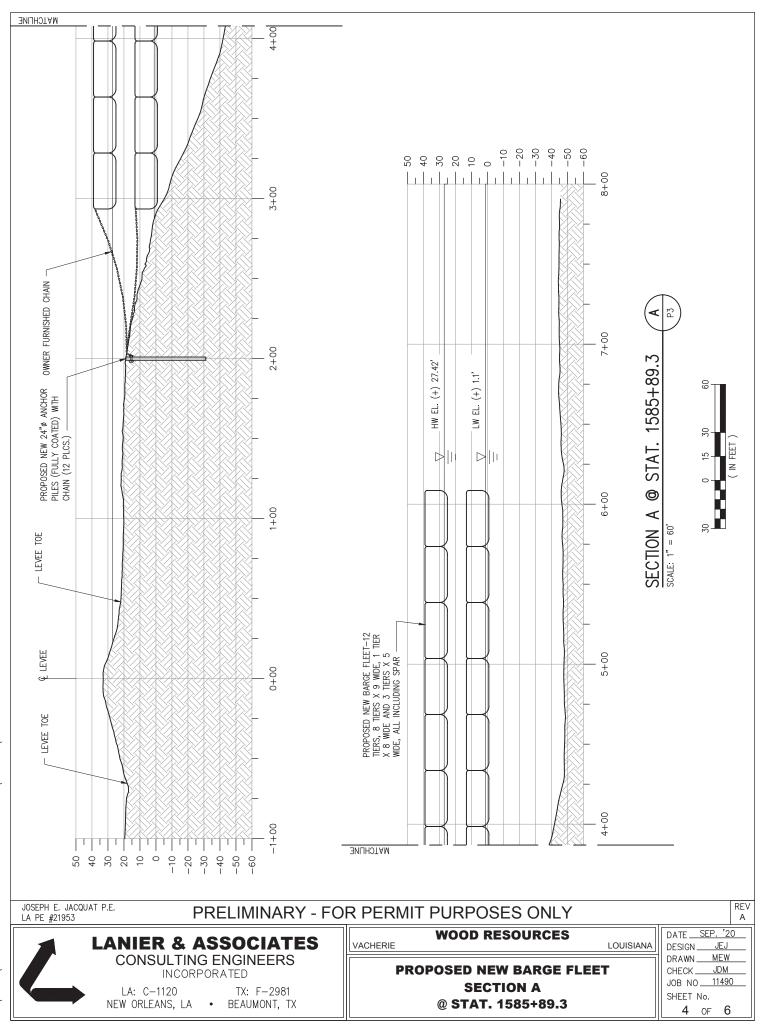
Michael V. Farabee Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosure









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