## JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

September 4, 2018

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Services Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-1217 Project Manager Kenny Blanke <u>Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil</u> MVN 2014-2631-CQ (225) 219-3225 Project Manager Ms. Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC 180829-01

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: [] 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 LRS30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## EXPANSION OF EXISTING LANDFILL FACILITY NEAR SORRENTO IN ASCENSION PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT**: BFI Waste Systems of Louisiana, LLC, c/o CK Associates, Attn: Tre' Wharton, 17170 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

**LOCATION OF WORK**: Located in Section 42, Township 10 South, Range 3 East, adjacent to existing Colonial Landfill, located on an approximate 62-acre site, at 5328 Louisiana Highway 70, near Sorrento, Louisiana, located in Ascension Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings (Latitude 30.14186 N Longitude -90.86033 W). This project is located in the Pontchartrain Basin (Amite River HUC 08070202).

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant is requesting a modification to a previously authorized Department of the Army permit authorization covering the expansion of an existing landfill (BFI Waste Systems of Louisiana Colonial Landfill). The permit modification proposes the construction of 4 new cells and appurtenant features adjacent to the existing landfill required for the expansion of the facility. The construction activities include the clearing, grubbing, excavation for new cells, establishment of a soil liner within the new proposed cells, and establishment of a new interior and exterior drainage channel, and construction of a perimeter berm/access road adjacent to the southeast corner of the existing landfill. The proposed new cells would be excavated to an approximate depth of -16 feet. The proposed soil liner would be installed at the bottom of the proposed new cells. The proposed perimeter berm/access road at a height of +8.0 feet MSL. The excavated material from the proposed new cell construction would be placed and utilized for construction of access road berms and for lining as well as used for cover material where needed as capping of current landfill airspace.

period for the landfill for an additional 54 years. The original permit authorization was issued on June 15, 2016. Approximately 930,430 cubic yards of native material would be excavated and stockpiled onsite, dried, and then used for future landfill operations such as capping the cells. Approximately 36,490 cubic yards of clean earthen fill material would be placed as fill for construction of access roads and perimeter berm construction. Approximately 61.8 acres of jurisdictional forested wetlands would be impacted directly as a result of project implementation. The applicant has claimed that the project's proposed expansion need to remain contiguous to the current Colonial Landfill site, however because the adjacent property is surrounded by forested wetlands, wetland impacts are unavoidable. The applicant is proposing to utilize best management practices during and after the construction phase of the project. The applicant is proposing to compensate for the unavoidable impacts to wetlands by purchasing the appropriate amount of wetland credits form a USACE approved wetland mitigation bank or through the use of a permittee responsible mitigation project approved by USACE.

The comment period for the Department of Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will close in **<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 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. 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 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. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer.

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. Utilizing Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on any listed species.

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 <u>0</u> 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.

JOHN M. HERMAN Chief, Central Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

Enclosure









