## JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

24 January 2022

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Division (REG-E) 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

(504) 862-2279 angelle.v.greer@usace.army.mil Project Manager Angelle Greer Permit Application Number MVN-2020-00270-EG State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality ATTN: Water Quality Certifications Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225 Project Manager Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC 210113-01

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 [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344); and [X] Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## WHARF AND COMMERCIAL TERMINAL ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ST. BERNARD PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT**: Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, Attn: Chris Gilmore, 1350 Port of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, LA 70130

**LOCATION OF WORK**: At approximately Latitude: 29.885908, Longitude: -89.897235, on the Mississippi River, left-descending bank, 83 miles AHP, on East St. Bernard Highway and East Judge Perez Drive, in Violet, Louisiana, in St. Bernard Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings. Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090203 (Lower Mississippi- Eastern Louisiana Coastal)

**<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>**: Excavate approximately 1,051,600-cubic yards of native material and place approximately 3,869,273-cubic yards of hauled-in sand, and approximately 61,119-cubic yards

of rock rip-rap to facilitate the construction of a new commercial container terminal, including an approximate 3,500-linear foot wharf on the Mississippi River. The proposal includes the realignment of East St. Bernard Highway and the Norfolk-Southern railroad track segment within the project area. Relocation of the existing W. Smith Jr. Elementary School and the Violet Number 2 Park are also anticipated as a result of the project. The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable project-related impacts to approximately 404-acres of jurisdictional wetlands through the purchase of wetland credits from a Corps' approved mitigation bank within the appropriate watershed. Only the portions of the proposed activity located within the boundaries of the authorized Federal Project will be evaluated under 33 U.S.C. Section 408.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close <u>30 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.

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 Section 10/404 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.

This request will also be reviewed pursuant to Section 408 and USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, which provides policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter USACE

civil works projects. The decision whether to grant permission for the requested alteration will be based on several factors. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of the requests for modification will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

 Potential to Impair the Usefulness of the Project. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine whether the alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. If USACE determines that the usefulness of the authorized project would be impaired, the request will be denied.

2) Potential to be Injurious to the Public Interest. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks. If the potential detriments are found to outweigh the potential benefits, then it may be determined that the proposed alteration is injurious to the public interest.

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. Further, all factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project. The Section 408 review will consider the potential impact to the public interest. Policy and legal compliance will also be considered.

The New Orleans District is unaware of any 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, the Pallid Sturgeon, and the Eastern Black Rail. It has been determined that the activity may affect the Eastern Black Rail, and 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 added to the permit, if authorized.

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 may result in the destruction or alteration of approximately 15-acres 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 Branch

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - PORT OF NEW ORIFANS						
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1555	5 POYDRAS ST., SUITE	1200 NEW ORLEANS, LA., 70112	DESIGNED BY: JGM	LA REGI	STRATION NO: 30	508 STATE: LA































