

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-S-A
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2015-00058-LET

March 12, 2015

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE FILL MATERIAL IN WATERS OF THE U.S. ASSOCIATED WITH DECOMMISSIONING OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE, DAUPHIN ISLAND, MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of (33 USC 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: MoBay Storage Hub, LLC

Attention: Tore Nelson

1180 Peachtree Street NE, 30th Floor

Atlanta, Georgia 30309

AGENT: T. Baker Smith, LLC

Attention: Jude LeDoux

107 Global Circle

Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

LOCATION OF WORK: Mobile Bay Block 73, Section 26, Township 8 South, Range 2 West, north of Dauphin Island, Mobile County, Alabama, Latitude 30.258283° N, Longitude -88.2266917 W.

WATERWAY: Mississippi Sound (8-digit HUC watershed 03170009 Mississippi Coastal).

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is requesting authorization to decommission an existing off-shore oil and gas structure through abandoning in place a 12-inch pipeline and removal of the associated platform. These structures are located in a State of Alabama oil and gas lease block within state waters. The 12-inch pipeline to be abandoned would have a stopple installed on one end to break its connection with an

existing pipeline that will remain in production. Jetting of the waterbottom would be employed within a temporary work space in order to displace the sediment to expose the pipeline and install the stopple. The jetting would displace approximately 12 cubic yards of waterbottom material in an approximately 0.01-acre area around the pipeline junction and the material disturbed by the jetting would be allowed to settle from the water column and revert back to natural water bottom elevations, naturally filling in once the activities are concluded. A section of the pipeline near the caisson and platform would then be exposed by jetting in order to be cut, flushed, and capped to complete the pipeline abandonment.

The upper portion of the existing platform structure is proposed to be removed by mechanical severance means (cutting) then the supports will be removed by cutting 10 feet below the mudline. No explosives would be utilized in the severance and removal of the platform and supports. The removed platform structure would be towed to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Tatum-Winn North Reef Area to be deployed as a public artificial fishing reef structure. The Tatum-Winn North Reef Area and its associated operating procedures was previously reviewed and authorized under Department of the Army Permit AL97-01162-U issued to ADCNR.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: No information has been provided regarding avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources at this time. <u>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization.</u>

MITIGATION: The project as proposed would not result in a discharge of fill material into wetlands or other waters of the United States that would constitute a permanent loss of aquatic resources through conversion of these areas to uplands; therefore, the provision of mitigation for project impacts is not proposed.

WATER QUALITY/COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and for coastal zone consistency certification in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to water quality certification and coastal consistency will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to effect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area consists of the waterbottoms and temporary

workspaces that would be impacted to conduct the proposed structure removal and infrastructure abandonment. Unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work or that adequately documents a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area, the USACE will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer to make a final determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The following species, listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as being either threatened, endangered, or a candidate species for listing may be found within the watershed of the permit review area in Mobile County: Florida Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). Also, Critical Habitat is designated for the Piping Plover within the watershed. Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity "May Affect but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the Florida Manatee, Green Sea Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, Loggerhead Sea Turtle, and Gulf Sturgeon while the proposed activity would have "No Effect" on the Piping Plover and its designated critical habitat, Wood Stork, and Red Knot. This determination is being coordinated with the USFWS via this Public Notice.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. It is estimated the project would cause temporary disturbance of up to 3,050 square feet (0.07-acre) of waterbottoms in Mississippi Sound north of Dauphin Island, utilized by various life stages of various marine species, as a result of jetting of waterbottom sediment to expose infrastructure to be cut and abandoned, and the redistribution of the disturbed sediments across the waterbottoms as it settles out of the water column. Various life stages of species under the following Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) may at times utilize the permit area: Red drum, Reef fish, Coastal migratory pelagics, Shrimp, and the proposed Stone Crab FMP. Upon preliminary review of this application, our initial determination is that the proposed oil and gas infrastructure removal and abandonment in-place would not have a substantial netadverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries. 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 and/or the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

COMMENTS: This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons and serves to solicit comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties, in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based.

Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, 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 the 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.

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.

For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, 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, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

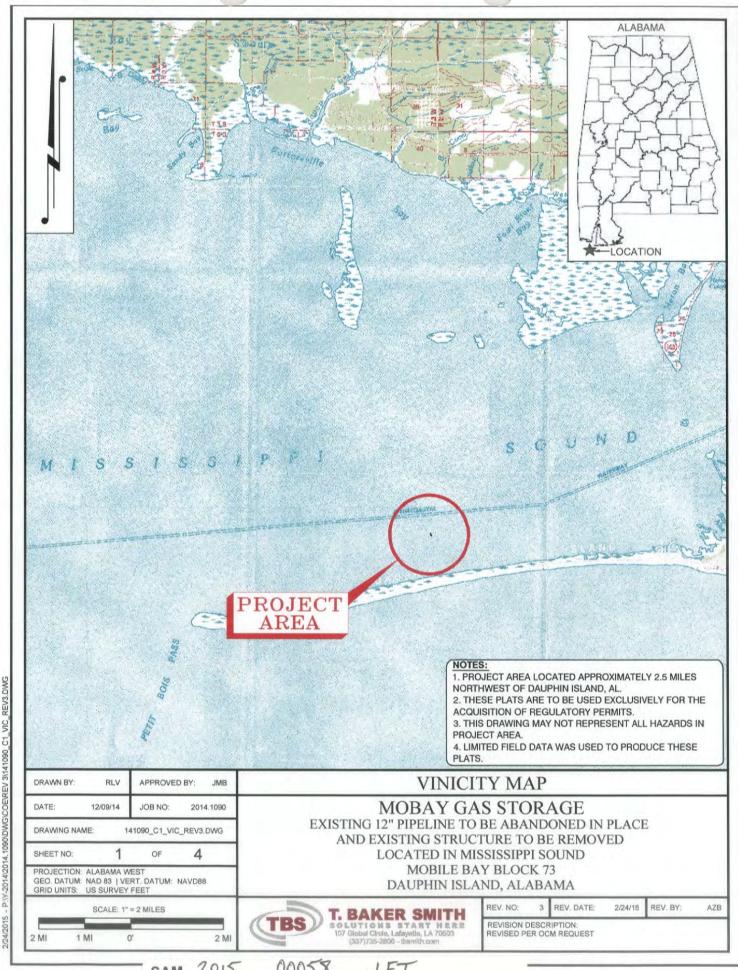
Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2015-00058-LET and should be directed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Regulatory Division (RD-A-S), Attention: Leslie E. Turney, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch, Coastal Section, 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile, Alabama 36608.

All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (251) 694-3873, or by e-mail at leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number SAM-2015-00058-LET.

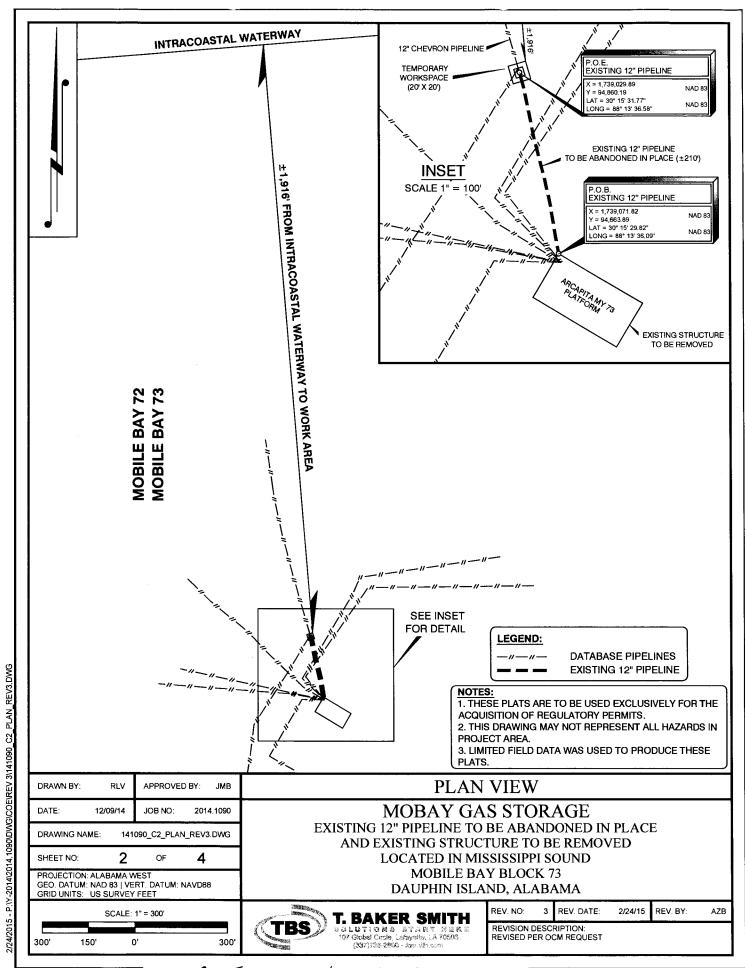
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

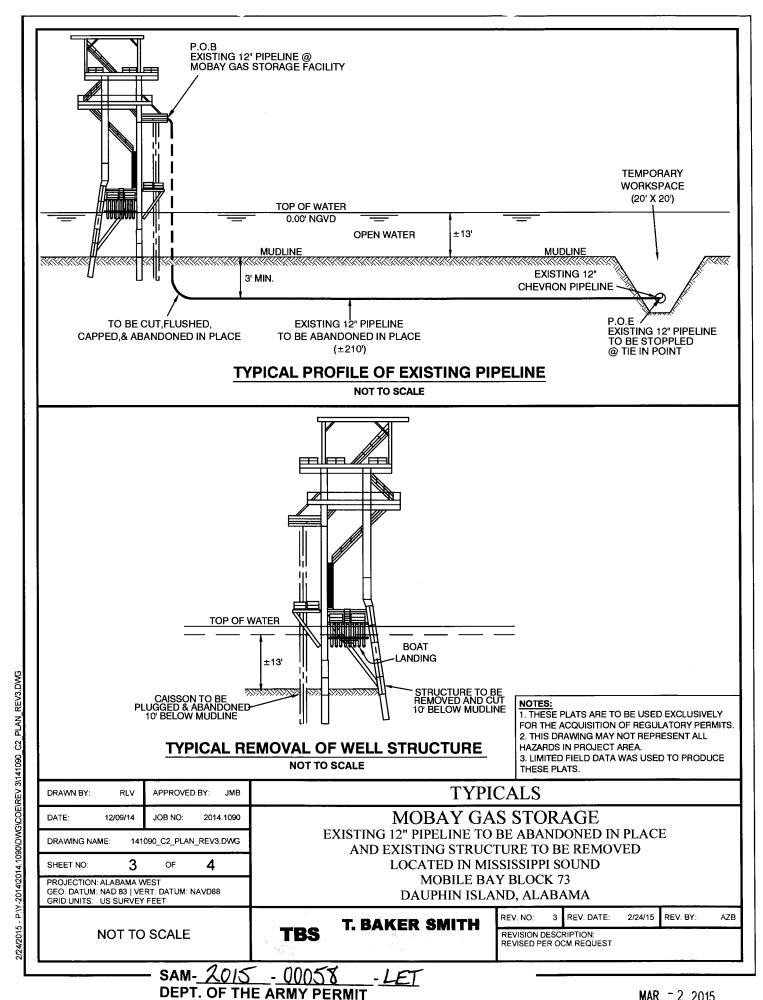
MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

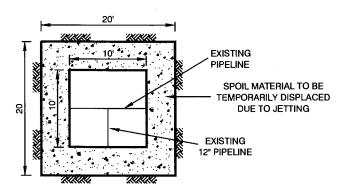
Enclosures



SAM-2015 - 00058 - LET DEPT. OF THE ARMY PERMIT

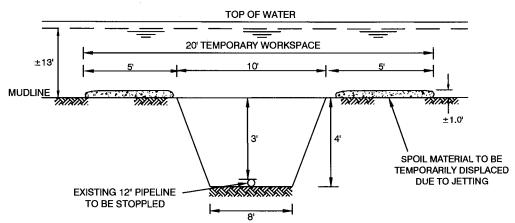






PLAN VIEW OF TYPICAL TEMPORARY WORKSPACE

NOT TO SCALE



CROSS SECTION VIEW OF TYPICAL TEMPORARY WORKSPACE NOT TO SCALE

CALCULATIONS & NOTES:

APPROXIMATELY 12 CU. YDS. TO BE IMPACTED DUE TO JETTING OF TEMPORARY WORKSPACE.

APPROXIMATELY 0.01 ACRES TO BE IMPACTED DUE TO TEMPORARY WORKSPACE.

THE PERMITEE SHALL ALSO CONTACT OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES THAT MAY HAVE OPTED OUT OF THE ONE CALL PROGRAM . THESE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MAY HAVE OPERATIONS LOCATED IN THE AREA OF THIS PROJECT.

NOTES:

- 1. THESE PLATS ARE TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REGULATORY PERMITS.
- 2. THIS DRAWING MAY NOT REPRESENT ALL HAZARDS IN PROJECT AREA.
- 3. LIMITED FIELD DATA WAS USED TO PRODUCE THESE PLATS.

| DRAWN BY: RLV | APPROVED BY: JMB | TYPICALS, CALCULATIONS & NOTES MOBAY GAS STORAGE | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|--|------------|------------|---------|----------|-----|
| DATE: 12/09/14 | JOB NO: 2014.1090 | | | | | | | |
| DRAWING NAME: 141090_C2_PLAN_REV3.DWG | | EXISTING 12" PIPELINE TO BE ABANDONED IN PLACE AND EXISTING STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED | | | | | | |
| SHEET NO: 4 | OF 4 | LOCATED IN MISSISSIPPI SOUND | | | | | | |
| PROJECTION: ALABAMA WEST GEO. DATUM: NAD 83 VERT. DATUM: NAVD88 GRID UNITS: US SURVEY FEET | | MOBILE BAY BLOCK 73 DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA | | | | | | |
| | | T RAKER SMITH | T. BAKER SMITH | REV. NO: 3 | REV. DATE: | 2/24/15 | REV. BY: | AZB |
| NOT TO SCALE | | TBS DAKER OMITTI | REVISION DESCRIPTION: REVISED PER OCM REQUEST | | | | | |

