

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

March 29, 2021

CESAM-RD-M
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2020-01009-AMR

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

PROPOSED DISHARGE OF FILL INTO 2.19 ACRES OF WETLANDS ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A LUMBERMILL, LUMBERTON, LAMAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Hardy Technologies, LLC

Attention: Mr. Marc Brinkmeyer

P.O. Box 472

Lumberton, Mississippi 39455

AGENT: FC&E Engineering, LLC

Attention: Mr. Jeremy Smith, PE

917 Marquette Road

Brandon, Mississippi, 39042

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project is located in the Carters Reed Brake and Red Creek watersheds, at 115 Old Highway 11 in Lumberton, Lamar County, Mississippi, Latitude: 31.008017 North, Longitude: -89.435847 West.

WORK DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to develop 94.19 acres of a 380 acre tract for the construction of a lumbermill that would involve fill of 2.19 acres of wetlands in order to provide a sawmill, planermill, kilns, log storage and crane, access roads, railroad spur and supporting facilities/buildings. In addition, the proposed construction would include stormwater conveyances and retention basins to extensively control and protect water quality in the area. Site maps and plans of the proposed construction are enclosed with this notice.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to meet the growing supply of raw timber and the growing need for lumber by constructing the lumbermill in an area that can provide access to raw materials and existing infrastructure and create new opportunities for jobs and economic growth. The need of the project design is to select a location and site layout that will allow the

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project to be developed with the most effective footprint and with the least amount of cumulative impacts to the environment. The proposed design meets this purpose and need, while avoiding and minimizing impacts to wetlands to the greatest extent practicable.

MITIGATION: Impacts to 2.19 acres of wetlands will be compensated for through the purchase of mitigation credits.

WATER QUALITY: The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority). The applicant has, however, completed preapplication filing for certification from the State of Mississippi.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES/CULTURAL RESOURCES: 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the permit area is the entire 94.19-acre project footprint (grading limits). The USACE has determined that the proposed project would have "No Effect" to cultural resources in the permit area due to the previous disturbance and clearing activities and based on the results of the two previous Phase I studies completed in 2008 and 2010. However, we are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicated the following species may be present within the project area: the Black Pine Snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi*) (T), Dusky Gopher Frog (*Rana sevosa*) (E), Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) (T), Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) (T), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) (T), and the Louisiana Quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*) (E). The review of the above species and the October 2020 Threatened and Endangered Species Report conducted at the project site suggests that the proposed activity will have no effect on the listed species. This determination is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via this public notice and will be submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for coordination via their website.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSES: Multiple on-site alternatives were investigated, and three final plans were considered. The final preferred site plan resulted in the least impacts to wetlands. For off-site alternatives, two other sites were investigated. The alternate sites would result in greater impacts to wetlands and streams than the preferred site.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can be based. 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 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, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The USACE 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 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.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2020-01009-AMR and should be directed to USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Angela M. Rangel, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permitting Division, Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225.

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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 email at angela.m.rangel@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

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











