



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	<u>SAM-2021-01360</u>
EVALUATOR:	<u>Mr. Anthony Lobred</u>
PHONE NO.:	<u>(601) 631-5470</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>Anthony.R.Lobred@usace.army.mil</u>
DATE:	<u>April 5, 2022</u>
EXPIRATION DATE:	<u>April 26, 2022</u>

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality are considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit and State Water Quality Certification for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-RD, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Mr. Scot Ehrgott
Mississippi Department
of Transportation
Post Office Box 1850
Jackson, Mississippi 39215

Name of Agent:
Mr. Adam Johnson
Mississippi Department
of Transportation
Environmental Division
Post Office Box 1850
Jackson, Mississippi 39215

Location of Work: Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, T6S- R7W, Latitude 30.4656, Longitude -88.72, within the Old Fort Bayou Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 03170009) and Bluff Creek Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 03170006), Jackson County, Mississippi.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the proposed widening and realignment of State Route 57 (SR 57) located in Jackson County, Mississippi. The widening will encompass adding an additional 2 lanes along SR 57 from Interstate 10 to Gautier Vancleave Road. Realignment activities will involve constructing a 4-lane highway west of SR 57 from the intersection of Gautier Vancleave Road and SR 57 to north of Jim Ramsay Road at Station marker 506+00 (Mariposa Lane).

The proposed infrastructure improvement project includes an approximate 3.2 miles of additional 2-lane expansion and approximate 5.5 miles of new 4-lane alignment with a minimal median configuration. To facilitate construction of the proposed construction, the proposed activities would include clearing, filling, grubbing, and dredging in jurisdictional areas. The traffic capacity increase of the SR 57 would allow MDOT to maintain future regional mobility demands for a 20-year period of time.

Approximately 36.14 acres of emergent wetlands, 11.1 acres of pine savannah wetlands, 69.96 acres of mixed pine/ bottomland hardwood wetlands, and 1,737 linear feet of other would be impacted by the proposed activities. A total of approximately 117.14 acres of wetlands would be impacted by the planned project over the course of the proposed project.

The applicant proposes to purchase compensatory mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank for the proposed impacts. Proof of mitigation purchase must be satisfied prior to commencing work.

The dominant vegetation within the project consists of slash pine, loblolly pine, gallberry, sweet bay, Tupelo gum, and wax myrtle. Soil within the project area consists predominantly of Atmore loam, Benndale fine sandy loam, Daleville silt loam, Hyde silt loam, Smithton Loam, Vancleave loamy sand, Escambia sandy loam, Smithdale-Boykin complex, Malbis fine sandy loam, Rusto Fine sandy loam, Croatan and Johnson, Freest sandy loam, and Nugent and Jena soils.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: FHWA and MDOT have completed Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 4(f) of the Department of transportation Act Section requirements by conducting a cultural resources study of the corridor areas. The findings of the report were forwarded to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and each of the six Federally recognized Native American Tribes of Mississippi. On February 9, 2022, MDAH concluded that no sites determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are within the proposed permit area or affected area.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered Species for this area include the Eastern Black Rail, Mississippi Sandhill Crane, Black Pine Snake, Gopher Tortoise, Dusky Gopher Frog, and Louisiana Quillwort. Utilizing the ongoing coordination on March 2, 2022, between the Federal Highway Administration, MDOT, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps will determine if the proposed activity will have any effect on these species or their habitats.

Floodplain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The project is not located within the 100-year floodplain.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

Bryan Williamson

**Bryan Williamson
Chief, Permit and Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division**