

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2022-00789-CSP

December 8, 2022

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL (MDEQ)

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES DMR22-000504

PROPOSED WETLAND FILL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS ROAD WITHIN AN EXISTING MISSSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY RIGHT-0F-WAY, PASCAGOULA, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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

APPLICANT: Mississippi Power Company

P.O. Box 4079

Gulfport, MS 39502-4047

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project is located near Bayou Cumbest Road in Pascagoula, Jackson County, MS within Section 27, Township 7 South, Range 5 West (Latitude 30.398888, Longitude -88.478509).

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to fill 1.8 acres of wetlands associated with the construction of an access road within an existing Mississippi Power Company (MPC) right-of-way near Bayou Cumbest Road in Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi. The proposed limestone access road is needed to provide permanent access to two MPC transmission lines to increase reliability and operational flexibility of the grid. The entire project site is wetlands. There are two areas proposed as low water crossings instead of culverts to minimize impacts and allow free flow. The applicant proposes the purchase of mitigation credits to offset wetland impacts.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources has issued coastal zone (CZ) consistency (DMR22-00504) in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program.

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The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and upon completion of the required advertising; a determination relative to certification will be made.

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 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 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, 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 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 Corps of Engineers 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.

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 affect historic properties. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined the permit area consists of the footprint of the proposed access road within the

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existing right-of-way. The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known to exist which would be affected by the proposed work. The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project would have no effect on historic properties. 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. This action constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations 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 that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the project area.

A preliminary review of this application, the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants and the National Marine Fisheries Service list of Mississippi's Threatened and Endangered Species indicates the proposed activity will have **no effect** on the Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus), Red Knot (Calidris canutus rufa), Alabama Red Bellied Turtle (Pseudemys alabamensis), Dusky Gopher Frog (Rana sevosa), Gopher Tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus), Loggerhead Sea Turtle (Caretta caretta), West Indian Manatee (Trichechus manatus) and Gulf Sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi),or their critical habitat. The project as proposed **may affect but is not likely to adversely affect** the Mississippi Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis pulla), Wood Stork (Mycteria americana), and Eastern Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis), or their critical habitat. This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

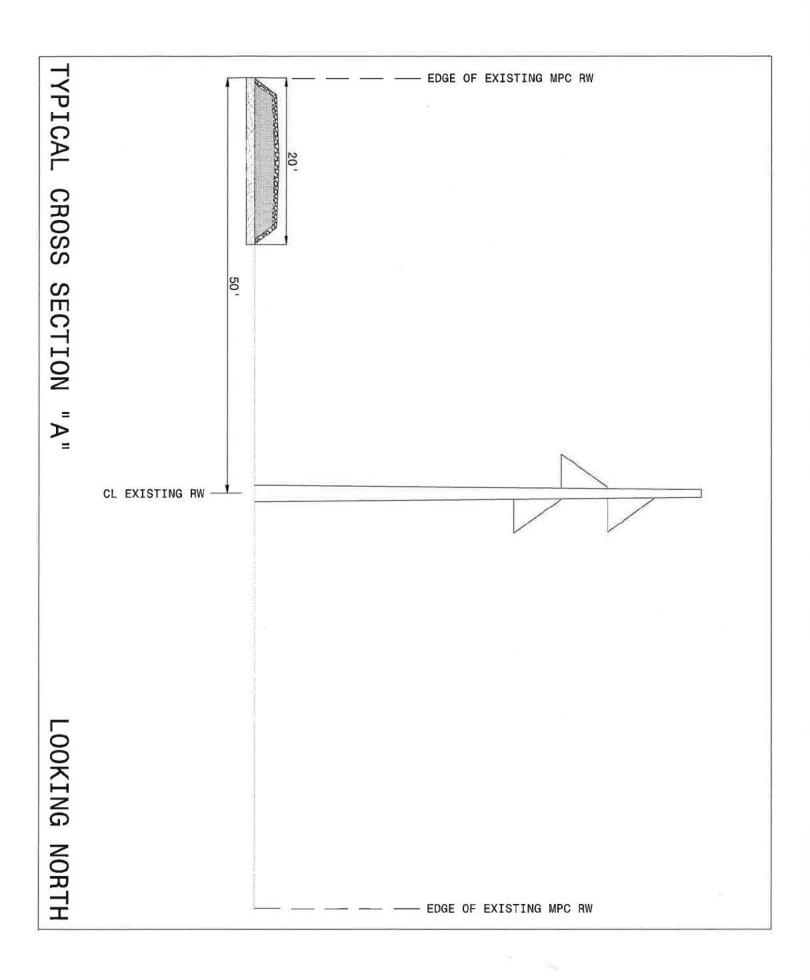
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2022-00789-CSP and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: South Mississippi Branch, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225.

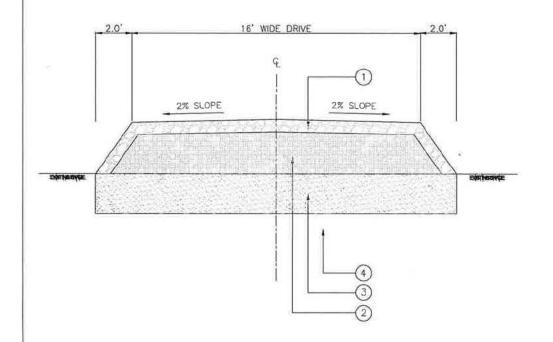
All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (251) 455-8627 or email at christopher.s.pickering@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures







- $\fbox{1}$ 8" THICK "610" LIMESTONE OR CRUSHED CONCETE COMPACTED TO 95% AS PER ASTM D698.
- 2 FILL \$8 DIRT AND SAND TO A MIN DEPTH OF 1'-6". COMPACT FILL TO 95% AS PER ASTM D698.
- 3 REMOVE AND REPLACE WITH SAND TO A MIN DEPTH OF 1'-6". COMPACT FILL TO 95% AS PER ASTM D698.
- 4.) PREPARED SUB-GRADE.

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION "B"

