

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT 600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203 THE SHELBY BUILDING VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216

September 6, 2023

CESAM-RD-N PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2023-00455-AMR

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANGAEMENT

PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS, OPEN WATER AND STREAMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXPANSION OF A DOLOMITIC LIMESTONE QUARRY IN BRIERFIELD, BIBB COUNTY, ALABAMA

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: Lhoist North America

Attention: Mr. Jason Lauer 14786 Montevallo Road Brierfield, Alabama 35035

Agent: TRC C

TRC Companies, Inc.

Attention: Mr. Jeff Bradstreet 4155 Shackleford Road NE Norcross, Georgia 30093

LOCATION: The project is located in wetlands and un-named tributaries to Mahan Creek south of Alabama State Road 25, Brierfield, Bibb County, Alabama, Latitude: 33.046475 North, Longitude: 86.932307 West.

WORK DESCRIPTION: The Project proposes to expand the western boundary of the current existing approximately 1,252-acre dolomitic limestone quarry to continue to mine the seam of dolomitic limestone. This expansion would result in the loss of 0.49 acre of palustrine forested (PFO) wetland, 1.38 acres of ponds, and 1,104 linear feet of intermittent streams due to expansion of the existing quarry. A further 2.77 acres of potentially isolated wetlands and ponds are proposed to be impacted.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the expansion is to gain access to areas containing high-quality subsurface limestone and to use suitable areas for overburden storage. This is necessary to continue to meet construction needs of the road building, steel processing, glass and ceramics, soil conditioning, and concrete aggregate industries for decades to come.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: On-site alternatives were limited due to the location of the limestone seams. Expansions to the north, south and east were analyzed for dolomitic limestone accessibility. However, these options failed to meet the project need and purpose because of the location and orientation of known limestone seams. Off-site alternatives were limited due to the lack of high-quality limestone with similar chemical and physical characteristics as those being produced by the Brierfield Quarry. The Montevallo Plant near Montevallo, AL; the O'Neal Quarry near Calera, AL; and the Alabaster Plant near Alabaster, AL were off-site quarries considered.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase wetland and stream credits from an approved mitigation bank.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant is in the process of acquiring 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 by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

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 affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not made a determination of effects to historic properties at this time. The USACE is 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: Northern Long-eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis) (T), Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalist) (E), Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens) (E), Cahaba shiner (Notropis cahabae) (E), Goldline Darter (Percina aurolineata) (T), Alabama Moccasinshell (Medionidus acutissimus) (T), Finelined Pocketbook (Hamiota altilis) (T), Orangenacre Mucket (Hamiota perovalis) (T), Ovate Clubshell (Pleurobema perovatum) (E), Southern Acornshell (Epioblasma othcaloogensis) (E), Southern Clubshell (Pleurobema decisum) (E), Triangular kidneyshell (Ptychobranchus greenii) (E), Upland Combshell (Epioblasma metastriata) (E), Cylindrical Lioplax (Lioplax cyclostomaformis) (E), Flat Pebblesnail (Lepyrium showalteri) (E), Round Rocksnail (Leptoxis ampla) (T), Wood Stork (Mycteria americana), Gentian Pinkroot (Spigelia gentianoides) (E), Georgia Rockcress (Arabis georgiana) (T), Mohr's Barabara's Buttons (Marshallia morhrii) (T), Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass (Xyris tennesseensis) (E), Alligator Snapping Turtle (Macrochelys temminckii) (PT), and Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) (C). The USACE has not made a determination regarding effects of the project on the above-listed species at this time. Further coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be performed as determined to be appropriate. A copy of this public notice is being sent to the USFWS for review and comment.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the 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-2023-00455-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 Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Office of Field Services, Attention: Mr. Richard Hulcher, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at angel@usace.army.mil and to ADEM at fieldmail@adem.alabama.gov.

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) 455-6785 or email at angela.m.rangel@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

CESAM-RD-N Public Notice SAM-2023-00455-AMR

September 6, 2023 Page 4 of 4

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



