

US Army Corps of Engineers_® -

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Maureen Anderson Put Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission Ex

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Mobile District Permit Application No. SAM-2024-01083-GSC

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

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

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES DMR24-000606

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

- APPLICANT: Maureen Anderson Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission 15054 Fred and Al Key Road Kiln, Mississippi 39556
- AGENT: Neel-Schaffer, Inc. Attention: Lisa Morrison 795 Howard Avenue Biloxi, MS 39530

LOCATION: Wetlands associated with the Jourdan River located at the Stennis International Airport, parcel number, 121-0-01-016.000, in Section 1, Township 8S, Range 15W; at Latitude 30.378546° N and Longitude 89.452295° W; in Kiln, Hancock County, Mississippi.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The approximate 3.00-acre project area is adjacent to existing aircraft infrastructure (aprons, hangars, and taxiways). The area has been previously cleared and graded during construction of the airport runways and taxiways, and is currently maintained by mowing. The surrounding area includes additional airport buildings and infrastructure along with open areas for maximum visibility.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: The Corps has determined that the basic purpose of the proposed project is to provide additional airport infrastructure.

Overall: The Corps has determined that the overall purpose of the proposed project is to provide expansion of airport infrastructure at the Stennis International Airport.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is requesting authorization to discharge 1,400 cubic yards of clean fill material into approximately 1.77 acres of emergent wetlands for the construction of a 105,000 sq. ft. aircraft parking and staging apron.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: The applicant has opted to reduce the apron size from the original proposal of 250' X 500' (125,00 sq. ft.) to the currently proposed 250' X 420' (105,000 sq. ft.). The applicant has also withdrawn plans to making any drainage improvements which may result in additional site grading which could result in possible minor discharges of fill material.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment: The applicant proposes to provide in-kind compensatory mitigation through an approved mitigation bank located within the service area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur within the boundary of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project will not affect any listed species or critical habitat.

Species Common Name
and/or Critical Habitat
NameScientific NameFederal StatusWest Indian ManateeTrichechus manatusThreatened

Table 1: ESA-listed species and/or critical habitat potentially present in the action area.

Eastern Black Rail	Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis	Threatened
Wood Stork	Mycteria americana	Threatened
Black Pinesnake	Pituophis melanoleucus Iodingi	Threatened
Gopher Tortoise	Gopherus polyphemus	Threatened
Dusky Gopher Frog	Rana sevosa	Endangered
Louisiana Quillwort	Isotes louisianensis	Endangered

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for ESA consultation for the proposed action. Any required consultation will be completed by the Corps.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Mississippi Department of Environmental 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).

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

EVALUATION: 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 benefits, 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 cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical 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, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps 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 to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Mobile District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until May 10, 2025. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs or to Greg Christodoulou at Gregory.S.Christodoulou@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Attention: Greg Christodoulou, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 2300, Biloxi, MS 39530. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.







