

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

October 8, 2012

United States Army  
Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Regulatory Branch  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Water Quality Certifications  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-1217  
Project Manager  
Kenny Blanke  
Permit Application Number  
MVN 1998-4602-CQ

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager  
Mr. Jamie Phillippe  
WQC Application Number  
WQC 990419-01

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [ ] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## **TIME EXTENSION FOR COMMERCIAL SAND MINING OPERATION AND MODIFICATION TO ONSITE RESTORATION PLAN IN SAINT HELENA PARISH**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Fleniken Sand and Gravel, Inc., c/o EcoScience Resource Group, LLC, Attn: Ms. Lori Frick, 11827 Sunray Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

**LOCATION OF WORK:** In Section 55 Township 2 South, Range 4 East, located off of LA Highway 448, approximately 2.6 miles north of the intersection of LA Highway 37 and LA Highway 448, near Grangeville, Louisiana, in SAINT HELENA Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** Excavation of an approximately 39.6 acre site for commercial sand and gravel activities has recently been completed. A time extension and modification to the previously authorized permit's onsite mitigation plan have been requested. The permittee is requesting additional time to complete the onsite restoration areas and also modify the previously authorized permit and restoration footprint (authorized April 3, 2000, extended 12/1/2004; with expiration date of February 28, 2008). All work has been completed in accordance with the attached drawings. The permittee is requesting that the original mitigation plan be modified to reflect the final constructed footprint of the project site. The original permit was authorized to directly impact approximately 7.5 acres of jurisdictional forested wetlands and approximately 0.5 acre of Other Waters of the U.S. The permit's original mitigation plan (affixed to the permit and referenced in the permit's special condition number 9) called for restoration of 9.5 acres of mixed pine bottomland hardwood habitat, the creation of 5.6 acres of mixed pine bottomland hardwood habitat, and the enhancement of 5.5 acres of mixed pine bottomland hardwood habitat. The permittee has requested that this plan be changed to reflect the reduced number of wetland acreage being impacted as a result of the project. The permittee has claimed that the during the extraction processes, the vein deposit of sand became unproductive; therefore, stopping the extraction process resulted in the impact of approximately 3.5 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. The permittee is proposing to leave two areas of forested habitat undisturbed (3.97 acres and 4.29 acres, as depicted in the

attached drawings), a fill area totaling 5.79 acres to be replanted with appropriate mixed pine bottomland hardwood species, and an additional area totaling approximately 3.0 acres that was created by pushing clay piles into the shallow water areas of the remnant dredge pond.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing to the project manager or clicking on the project manager's name on the public notice grid on the web page. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days. Letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

### **Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria**

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, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, 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 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.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of NA acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, before a permit is issued.

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.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

MARTIN S. MAYER  
Chief, Central Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure