



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-M

October 30, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE NO: SAM-2009-01768-DMY

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PORT OF GULFPORT EXPANSION PROJECT,
MISSISSIPPI SOUND, HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On March 9, 2010, the Mississippi State Port Authority (MSPA) submitted an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources for authorization to impact waters of the United States associated with the proposed expansion of the Port of Gulfport, located in the Mississippi Sound, Gulfport, Harrison, Mississippi (Latitude 30.3557° North, Longitude 89.0977° West).

The USACE prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The proposed project evaluated in the Draft EIS is for impacts to approximately 282 acres of estuarine mud and sand bottom in the Mississippi Sound which would be dredged and/or filled for the construction of wharfs, bulkheads, terminal facilities, container storage areas, intermodal container transfer facilities, and construction of a breakwater. Included in the evaluation is the beneficial use and placement of new work and maintenance dredged material.

The MSPA requested a Department of the Army (DOA) permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The USACE is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of this DEIS in compliance with the requirements of Section 404 (b) (1) guidelines, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA. The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) are cooperating agencies for the preparation of the EIS. The original project was first advertised by a 30-day Public Notice April 16, 2010.

On October 30, 2015, a copy of the DEIS will be available for public review. The DEIS is available to the public at: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. Copies of the DEIS are available upon request from Mr. Philip A. Hegji, USACE Project Manager (contact information below). This document is being circulated to resource agencies and interested members of the public for a 45-day comment period ending December 14, 2015.

A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday December 8, 2015, at the Gulfport Marriott at 1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501, as indicated on the enclosed map. The purpose of public hearing is to provide information about the proposed project and to receive public input and comments on the DEIS. The USACE invites full public participation to promote open communication on the issues surrounding the DEIS. In addition, participation by Federal, State, local agencies and other interested organizations is encouraged. Both oral and written statements will be accepted at the hearing. An informal open house will be held from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the Gulfport Marriott to allow the public the opportunity to become familiar with the proposed project prior to the start of the formal hearing. Displays of the proposed project and associated impacts will be available. Representatives of the MSPA will be present to answer questions concerning the project and USACE representatives will be available to answer questions concerning the USACE' Regulatory and Civil Works processes.

The public hearing will be conducted in English. Those in need of language interpreters should contact the USACE' Public Involvement consultant, Crouch Environmental Services (713) 868-1043, by Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Any comments received at the hearing will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposed project. All comments will be considered in the final EIS pursuant to NEPA. Comments are also used to help determine the overall public interest of the proposed project. All comments must be received or postmarked by December 14, 2015, (6 days following the public hearing).

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice **Number SAM-2009-01768-DMY** and should be directed to the U.S. Army corps of Engineer Mobile District, Regulatory Division (RD-M), Attention: Mr. Philip Hegji, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the Project Manager, Mr. Hegji via e-mail at philip.a.hegji@usace.army.mil or by phone at **(251) 690-3222**. Please refer to the Public Notice **SAM-2009-01768-DMY**. 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



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Directions to the Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront Hotel

From Interstate 10 East/West:

Proceed on Interstate 10. Take exit 34A to merge onto US 49 South toward Gulfport. Turn left onto 25th Street/Pass Road. Turn right onto 15th Avenue (becomes Pratt Avenue after 22nd Street intersection). Turn right onto East Beach Boulevard (Highway 90). The Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront Hotel is on the corner of Pratt Avenue and East Beach Boulevard.

From Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport:

Proceed east on Airport Road. Turn right onto Washington Avenue. Continue onto Hewes Avenue. Turn right onto East Beach Boulevard (Highway 90). The Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront Hotel is on the corner of Pratt Avenue and East Beach Boulevard.

OR

Proceed west on Airport Road. Turn left onto US 49 South. Turn left onto 25th Street/Pass Road. Turn right onto 15th Avenue (becomes Pratt Avenue after 22nd Street intersection). Turn right onto East Beach Boulevard (Highway 90). The Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront Hotel is on the corner of Pratt Avenue and East Beach Boulevard.

Address is as follows:

Courtyard Marriott Gulfport Beachfront Hotel
1600 East Beach Boulevard
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

