

US Army Corps of Engineers. Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil



# **Public Notice**

APPLICATION NO.:CPM-MVK-2011-1237EVALUATOR:Ms. Charlene P. MosleyPHONE NO.:(601) 631-5264FAX NO.:(601) 631-5459E-MAIL:Charlene.P.Mosley@usace.army.milDATE:January 15, 2015EXPIRATION DATE:February 5, 2015

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army permit for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435.

Application also has been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with La. R.S. 30.2074(A)(93), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Additional information is on file with the above office, and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained upon payment of cost of copying. Comments concerning the application can be filed with the Office of Environmental Services within 20 days of this notice to the following address: Office of Environmental Services, P. O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit</u>: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

<u>Name of Applicant</u>: Gordon L. Shaw Dolet Hills Lignite Company 377 Highway 522 Mansfield, Louisiana 71052 <u>Name of Agent</u>: Edward F. Janak, Jr., CPSS 200 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 113 Corsicana, Texas 75110

Location of Work: Sections 2-5, 7-11, 15-18, and 20-22, T11N-R10W; Sections 11 and 12, T11N-R11W; latitude 31.946389N, longitude -93.400556W, within the Bayou Pierre drainage basin, DeSoto, Natchitoches, and Red River Parishes, Louisiana.

#### Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant. The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged and/or fill material in Desoto, Natchitoches and Red River Parishes, Louisiana. The purpose of the work is to continue supplying lignite to the CLECO power plant for electric power generation.

The proposed mining site covers approximately 15,427 acres, which consists of 13,750 acres of non-wetlands, 1,393.4 acres of forested wetlands, 125.1 acres of emergent wetlands, 154.4 acres of open water, and 41,242 linear feet (lf) of streams. As indicated on the attached maps, the project would proceed in three time phases: Phase I – 2016 to 2020, Phase II – 2021 to 2025, and Phase III – 2026 and beyond. During the life of the project (all three phases), approximately 405 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 11,362 linear feet of streams (150 lf of perennial stream, 4,843 lf of intermittent stream and 6,369 lf of ephemeral stream) would be impacted. Of these totals, approximately 168 acres of jurisdictional wetlands (52 acres of emergent wetlands and 116 acres of forested wetlands) and 150 lf of perennial stream would be impacted during Phase I (2016 to 2020).

The proposed site would be a continuation of ongoing surface coal mining operations. Mining operations in the project area would consist of infrastructure construction to support mining operations, overburden removal, lignite removal and reclamation of impacted areas, including restoration of waters of the United States following completion of mining. Infrastructure construction would include a dragline walkway, a utility corridor, slurry walls, diversions, roads, and sedimentation ponds. Approximately 1,200 cubic yards of fill would be used for the construction of the dragline walkway and utility corridor, and approximately 1,000 cubic yards would be discharged into waters of the United States by mining and related activities. The fill material would be obtained from the upland portions of the project area, and a clean off-site source.

Wetland vegetation within the project area consists of overcup oak and willow oak, black willow, water locust, and persimmon. The herbaceous layer of the vegetation in these areas consists of swamp smartweed, rough cocklebur, annual marsh holder, shallow and Cherokee sedge, Bermuda and Johnson grass, lizard's tail, and longleaf wood oats, with Alabama supplejack dominating the woody vine layer. Soils consist of: Buxin clay, Yorktown clay, Latanier clay, Moreland clay, and Perry clay, occasionally flooded.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in wetlands and other waters of the United States associated with mechanized land clearing and the overall mining operation requires a Department of the Army Permit. The applicant proposes to mitigate for jurisdictional losses by a combination of 1) on-site permittee responsible mitigation and 2) off-site permittee responsible mitigation and/or purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank within the same watershed.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>, state lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties: A cultural resources survey has been conducted. This office is currently coordinating with the Louisiana Department of Archives and History and Federally-recognized Tribes. Copies of the public notice have also been sent to other interested parties for comment on potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not likely adversely affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

<u>Flood Plain</u>: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact 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 may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

<u>Opportunity for a Public Hearing</u>: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

<u>Notification of Final Permit Actions</u>: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <u>http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>, and click on ORM Permit Decisions under Program Links.

Jennifer a. Mallard

Jennifer A. Mallard Chief, Regulatory Branch



# Legend



Walkway Project Area (Approximately 2200 Acres)
Other Waters of the US (Approximately 43.58 Acres)
Emergent Wetlands (Approximately 10.22 Acres)
Forested Wetlands Walkway (Approximately 152.3 Acres)





## Legend

Oxbow Permit Boundary (Approximately 15,427 Acres)

Jurisdictional Other Waters of the U.S. (154.4 Acres)

Forested Wetlands (Approximately 1393.4 Acres)

Emergent Wetlands (125.1 Acres)

Jurisdictional Streams (Approximately 41,242.1')

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23 January 2012	N
MVK-2011-1237 Applicant	HAN WARE
Dolet Hills Lignite Company	
Proposed Work: Oxbow Mine Expansion	US Army Corps S of Engineers.
Location:	Den 1 ton Den 1
Section 3, T11N-R10W	Regulatory Branch
Hanna LA Quadrangle	
Evolve LA Quadrangle	
Red River Parish, Louisiana	Enforcement Section
Map Background: NAIP Aerial Imagery (2010) Preliminary	0 2,750 5,500
<b>Iurisdictional</b> Determination	
Prepared by:	Feet
Jim Cole	



## Legend



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MR. GORDON L. SHAW DOLET HILLS LIGNITE COMPANY



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**DOLET HILLS LIGNITE COMPANY** 



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