

Public Notice

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil

APPLICATION NO.:

CPM-MVK-2014-238

EVALUATOR:

Ms. Charlene Mosley

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DATE:

July 9, 2014

EXPIRATION DATE:

July 30, 2014

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality are considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit and State Water Quality Certification for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

<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.

Name of Applicant:

Name of Agent:

Mr. Chris Talley

Mr. Oby Easley
Easley Consulting

489 Mississippi Highway 3 Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963

105 Nash Circle

Oxford, Mississippi 38655

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 34, T28N-R1W, latitude 34.251264N, longitude -90.289142W, within the Coldwater drainage basin, Quitman County, Mississippi.

<u>Description of Work</u>: (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 for the mechanized land clearing and associated discharge of dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional wetlands for agricultural purposes. The applicant's stated purpose is to square-up fields so that it will improve the efficiency of the water management and land utilization.

The purpose of the project is to create a larger agricultural area. The impacted area would be used for growing crops. Approximately 3.4 acres of jurisdictional bottomland hardwood wetlands would be impacted by the proposed project. The area would be cleared and precision leveled adjoining an existing 17-acre section of an agricultural field. The proposed work would also involve the construction of a levee on the west-side of the project area. The proposed levee would be approximately 1,300 feet in length, with a 14-foot top width, 32-foot bottom width, 1.5-foot height, and 6:1 side slopes. Approximately 1,661 cubic yards of soil obtained onsite would be used in filling the wetlands.

Vegetation growing in the wetland area includes Water hickory, Bald-cypress, American elm, Red maple, Lizard's tail, Looseflower, and Water-willow. Soils within the project site consist of Dowling clay series.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of wetland impacts through permittee responsible mitigation.

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.

State Water Quality Permit: 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 following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. A site visit was performed and no historic properties were identified within the affected area. A no effect determination has been made. Copies of this public notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not likely adversely affect any endangered species or their critical habitats. 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.

Flood Plain: 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.

Evaluation Factors: 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.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: 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.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: 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, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/Monthly Notice/pnmain.asp.

Anne S. Woerner

Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch



Quitman County, MS

28 May 2014 MVK-2014-238

Chris Talley - Farm Field Realignment

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination

Kevin Philley



Legend



Limits of Jurisdictional Determination

\$88

Jurisdictional Wetlands (3.4 acres)

1:5,000







Regulatory Branch

Enforcement Section

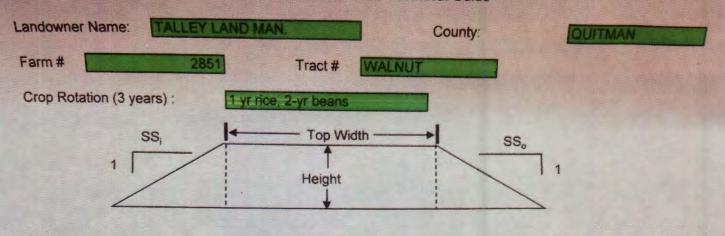
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Feet

EQIP Permanent Pad Computation Worksheet Class III Dike - Practice Code 356 Section IV - Field Office Technical Guide



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Title:
Date: 6/16/2014

CEMVK-OD-FE CPM-MVK-2014-238

MR. CHRIS TALLEY

Farm: 2851

Tract: 3021





105 NASH CIRCLE **OXFORD, MS 38655** 662-645-6450 OBY@EASLEYCONSULTING.NET

550 1,100 2,200 3,300 Feet Date CEMVK-OD-FE

MR. CHRIS TALLEY