



Public Notice

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

> APPPLICATION NO.: EVALUATOR: PHONE NO.: FAX NO.: E-MAIL: DATE: EXPIRATION DATE:

KWH-MVK-2013-388 Ms. Kristi Hall (601) 631-7528 (601) 631-5459 Kristi.W.Hall@usace.army.mil June 5, 2015 June 25, 2015

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Arkansas 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, at the above address, and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Post Office Box 8913, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-8913, 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.

<u>Name of Applicant</u>: Mr. Daryl Fultz EGN Investment Company, LLC 416 Travis Street, Suite 1200 Shreveport, Louisiana 71101 Name of Agent: Mr. Gary Tucker FTN Associates, Ltd. 3 Inwood Circle, Suite 220 Little Rock, Arkansas 72211

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 2, T18S-R26W, Latitude 33.2117, Longitude -93.7628, within the McKinney-Posten Bayous part of the Red River drainage basin (11140201), Miller County, Arkansas.

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 conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the purpose of constructing a green tree reservoir. The proposed project area is 91 acres. The project would

consist of repairing and enlarging an existing levee system and installing a water control structure. The existing levee is approximately 30 feet wide at its base, would be widened one to ten feet as needed, and elevated approximately one foot, levee height would be less than one foot. Fill material would be obtained from excavating borrow material from the levee toe.

Within the proposed green tree reservoir, seven areas (26.3 acres) would receive a forest improvement treatment. Using forestry best management practices, these areas would be mechanized land cleared, and planted with containerized nuttall oak (*Quercus nuttallii*) and willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) on 15 feet by 10 feet spacing in order to improve winter waterfowl habitat. Water would be impounded within the green tree reservoir starting November 1 of each season and would stand until approximately February 1. Water would be pumped from groundwater aquifers as a rate of 1,200 gallons per minute and would have a maximum drawdown rate of 2,293 gallons per minute. The water control structure would remain open during the growing season to avoid long term inundation. Water depth within the green tree reservoir would range from 0-18 inches, with less than 50% of the area at a minimum of 10 inches.

Approximately, 12,800 cubic yards of fill material obtained from an on-site source, would be utilized for this project. Approximately 3.3 acres of forested wetlands would be filled and 1.9 acres would be dredged in order to construct the levee and water control structure.

The vegetative communities within the project area are dominated by sugar berry (*Celtis laevigata*), American elm (*Ulmus Americana*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), green ash (*Graxinus pennsylvanica*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*), buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus*), sedges (*Carex cherokeensis* and *Carex crinita*), wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*), great ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*). Soil within the project site consists of Billyhaw clay and Bossier clay, having a respective hydric component percent rating of 15 and 92 by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through a mitigation bank.

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. The permit area is composed of low-lying wetlands with no existing or subsided natural levee landforms: and therefore, has a very low potential for yielding unidentified cultural deposits that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties. 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.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect the following endangered species or their critical habitats: interior least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon, fat pocketbook and scaleshell. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat would 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. The project is completely located within the 100 year floodplain.

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.

<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>.

Randel V. Holder Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch





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Figure 1.

Map showing proposed forest stand improvement areas and permanent access roads details based on 2010 Microsoft BING Imagery.