

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



Public Notice

APPPLICATION NO.:	RHW-MVK-2013-611
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Ramona Warren
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	July 22, 2014
EXPIRATION DATE:	August 12, 2014
EATING TION DATE:	August 12, 2014

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit and State Water Quality Certification for the work described herein. A Water Quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A (3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313, 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> Bossier Parish School Board Mr. Keith E. Norwood 2719 Airline Drive Bossier City, Louisiana 71111 <u>Name of Agent</u>: Mr. Tom Bourland Tom Bourland and Associates, LLC 9847 Neesonwood Drive Shreveport, Louisiana 71106

Location of Work: Section 15, T18N-R11W, latitude 32.548853, longitude -93.495989, within the Red Chute Bayou Drainage Basin, Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

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

The following description 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 discharge of dredged/fill material into waters of the United States associated with the construction of the new Haughton Middle School. The proposed project would relieve school overcrowding and meet anticipated population growth that would require increased educational capacity.

The project would consists of constructing school buildings, athletic fields, drop off lane for buses and cars, parking, new street access to Louisiana Highway 3227, and drainage features.

The school building would be three levels with approximately 50,703 square feet of classroom space. Each floor would consist of 16 typical classrooms, 3 science labs, 1 robotics/exploratory lab, and one computer lab. Also, the first floor of the building would house the administration office, art library/media area, dining commons, kitchen, band/music, gymnasium/lockers, and ancillary spaces for a total of 176,785 square feet. The maintenance building and covered walkways would be total of 400 and 15,500 square feet respectively. Athletic fields would consist of 1 softball field, 2 baseball fields, and 1 football/soccer field.

Parking would accommodate pick-up and drop-off traffic during school days for 200 vehicles and 40 buses which could be converted to 500 event parking spaces. A new three-lane access road to Louisiana Highway 3227 would be constructed with this project, and would measure 50' from back of curb to back of curb with an 8' grassed median. Two 7' x 4' reinforced concrete box culverts would be constructed at the stream crossing with the proposed access road. These culverts would be 73.5' in length from headwall to headwall. A detention pond would be constructed onsite to detain storm water runoff. The pond would be approximately 240' x 125' with an average depth of 3' of storage capacity. Storm water would exit the pond through a concrete outfall structure with an 18" square opening to control the discharge rate and a weir opening to accommodate potential overflow discharge. Storm water would exit the concrete outfall structure via a 36" RCP and connect to the storm sewer system for the access road. An emergency roadway connection to the existing residential street east of the proposed school would also be constructed.

The proposed project would involve the mechanical clearing and filling of approximately 7.88 acres of jurisdictional bottomland hardwood wetlands and 0.013 acres (151 linear feet) of jurisdictional intermittent stream. Approximately 23,000 cubic yards of fill material would be used for raising the existing grade to finished sub grade to support site paving, roadways, and building foundations within the limits of the aforementioned jurisdictional wetland acreage. Fill material would come from a clean, off-site source or suitable in situ material that meets the construction specification for select fill. Other material that would be discharged onto the onsite jurisdictional wetland limits would be as follows: 280 cubic yard concrete/asphalt (access drive & emergency roadway connection) 90 cubic yard concrete (reinforced box culvert construction) and 715 cubic yards of concrete (parking lot / drive aisles)

Vegetation within the project site consists of Cherrybark oak, Red maple, Loblolly pine, Black willow, Willow oak, Winged elm, Groundsel tree tall goldenrod, Straw-color flat sedge, White-edge sedge, Bushy bluestem, Southern dewberry, Fringed greenbrier, Horsebrier, and Evening trumpet-flower. Soils within the project site consists of Kolin silt loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes, Metcalf silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, and Wrightsville silt loam, slopes are less then 1 percent. Wrightsville silt loam is listed as hyrdric soils according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service 2013 National Hydric Soils List by State.

The applicant proposes In kind- off site permittee responsible mitigation for the proposed impacts.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, requires a Department of the Army Permit.

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>, 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 proposed work and/or structures are of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area. A no determination has been made. <u>Endangered Species</u>: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not effect the following endangered species or their critical habitat: Northern Longeared Bat, Spragues Pipit, Pallid Sturgeon, Interior Least Tern and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. 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/offices/od/odf/main.asp</u>, 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.

S. Warner Anne S. Woerner

Anne S. Woerner Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch









