



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:  
Mike Webster  
Viking USA, LLC

Published: June 25, 2025  
Expires: July 10, 2025

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**Vicksburg District  
Permit Application No. MVK-2021-00286**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) **and/or** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). This public notice will also serve as a joint public notice with The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality for State Water Quality Certification. The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

**APPLICANT:** Mr. Mike Webster  
Viking USA, LLC  
5700 Canoga Street, Suite 200  
Woodland Hills, California 91367

**AGENT:** Ms. Madison Bologna  
Hargrove and Associates Incorporated  
4150 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The proposed project site is located in Section 19 T16N-R3E, Latitude 32.35436, Longitude -90.8830 within the Lower Mississippi Region—Lower Yazoo River Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 08030208), Warren County, Mississippi.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The project is located within the Yazoo Diversion Canal where there is currently a concern with navigation safety and efficient waterborne traffic within the canal.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE:**

**Basic:** Safe embarkation and debarkation of passengers that also provides walking access to downtown Vicksburg destinations.

**Overall:** To provide safe docking of Viking cruise ships within walking distance of downtown Vicksburg, Mississippi destinations that does not inhibit other commercial/private maritime transport activities in the Yazoo Diversion Canal.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant requests a modification of the previously permitted Department of the Army permit MVK-2021-00286. Viking proposes to construct the following:

- Construct a vessel landing ramp that is approximately 249 feet long by 133 feet wide and at a 11.5-degree inclination.
- Construct a box truck turning area that is approximately 48 feet long by 133 feet wide.
- Construct a road that is approximately 391 feet long by 11 feet wide to connect existing infrastructure to the box truck turning area.
- Construct a road that is approximately 172 feet long by 11 feet wide to connect existing infrastructure to the existing pedestrian railroad crossing.
- All concrete roads and ramps to be constructed of 8-inch-thick concrete.
- All concrete roads and ramps to be protected with riprap scour as specified in the drawings.
- Total surface area of the designed improvements is estimated to 1.1 acres.
- Total volume of concrete is estimated to be 1,178 cubic yards.
- Modifications to the original permit include no berthing or mooring dolphins will be constructed, no gangway access systems or flexi-floating platforms will be installed, and no additional land clearing is necessary.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The proposed project has been modified several times since the original request in 2021. The primary concern is navigation safety along with environmental impact minimization. The proposed structure arrangement was reduced in size and moved northward and landward in several iterations to reduce impacts to safe, efficient waterborne traffic in the Yazoo Diversion Canal. The 2021 and 2022 iterations proposed no wetland impacts at all; it is only out of an effort to move northward (providing more buffer space between the Viking and American Cruise Lines lease areas) that wetland impacts became unavoidable.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** The proposed modification does not include any additional land clearing or wetland impacts from the original permit; therefore, no additional mitigation would be required.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The Corps evaluated the undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) utilizing its existing program-specific regulations and procedures along with 36 CFR Part 800. The Corps' program-specific procedures include 33 CFR 325, Appendix C, and revised interim guidance issued in 2005 and 2007, respectively. The District Engineer consulted district files and records and the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and determined that impacts are within areas previously disturbed by canal, railroad, and industrial development. The Corps has determined there is no potential to cause effect to historic properties.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and

Consultation (IPaC) to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project may affect species and critical habitat listed below. No other ESA-listed species or critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action.

Northern Long Eared Bat – Endangered  
Alligator Snapping Turtle – Proposed Threatened  
Tricolored Bat – Proposed Endangered

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for ESA consultation for the proposed action. Any required consultation will be completed by the Corps.

**NAVIGATION:** The proposed action would be an improvement to navigation safety.

**SECTION 408:** The applicant has received approval for the proposed modification in accordance with Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408).

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Water Quality Certification may be required from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

**NOTE:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the jurisdiction of the Corps has not been verified by Corps personnel.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts 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 reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

**COMMENTS:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Vicksburg District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until July 10, 2025. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to CEMVK-RD, 4155 East Clay Street Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435 or at Michael.A.Maaninen@usace.army.mil or at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

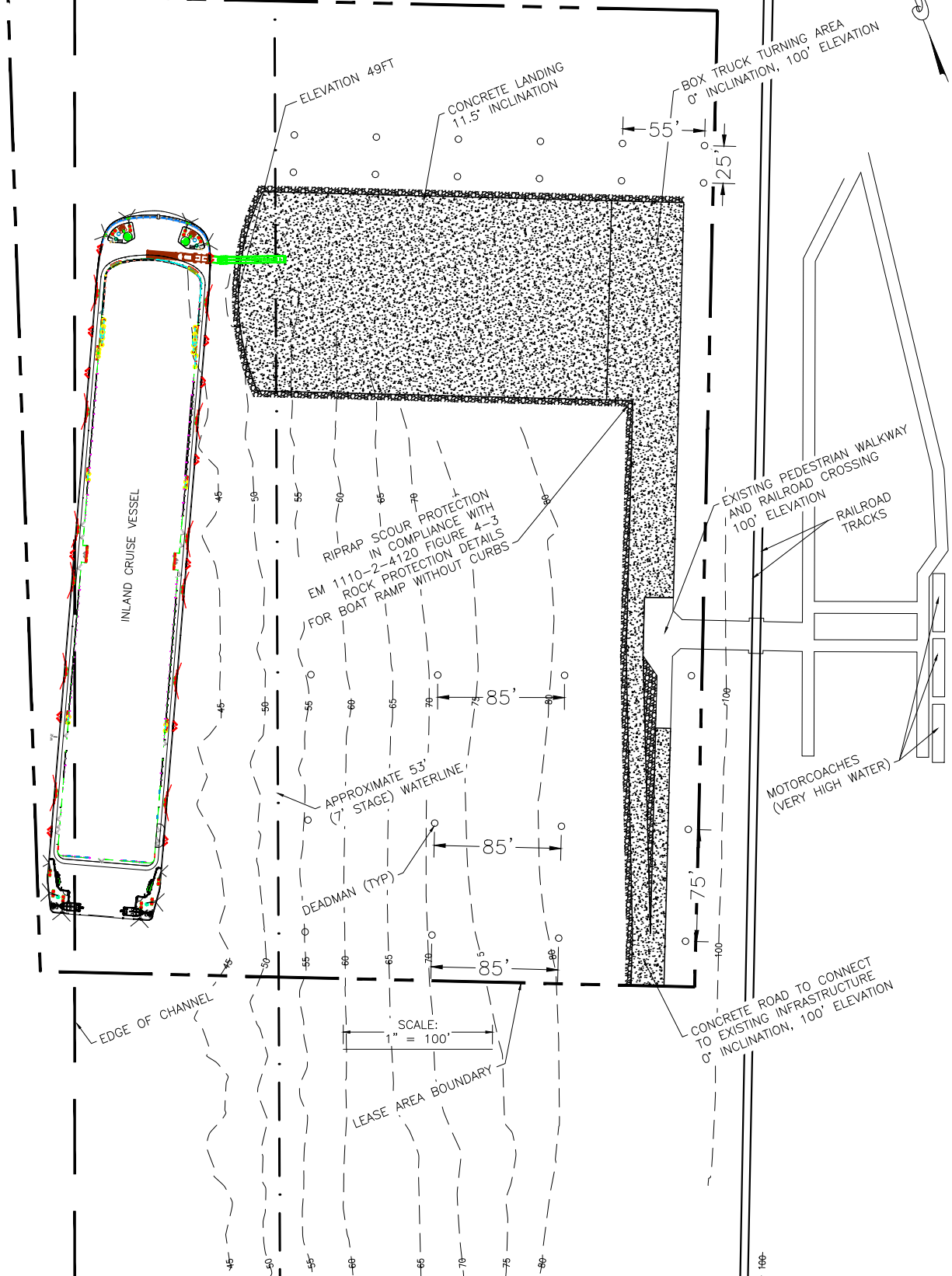
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

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/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

**Bryan Williamson  
Chief, Mississippi Branch/Deputy  
Regulatory Division**

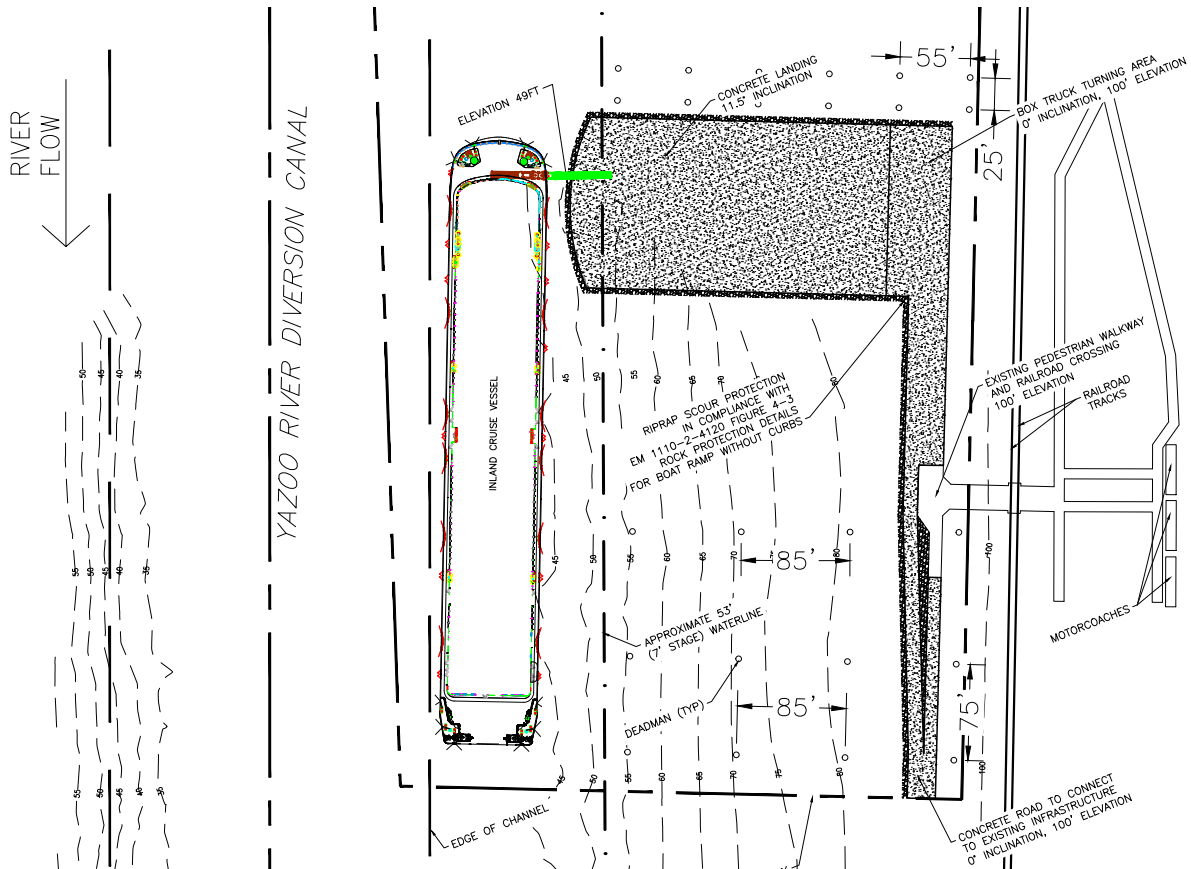
# YAZOO RIVER DIVERSION CANAL

RIVER  
FLOW  
←

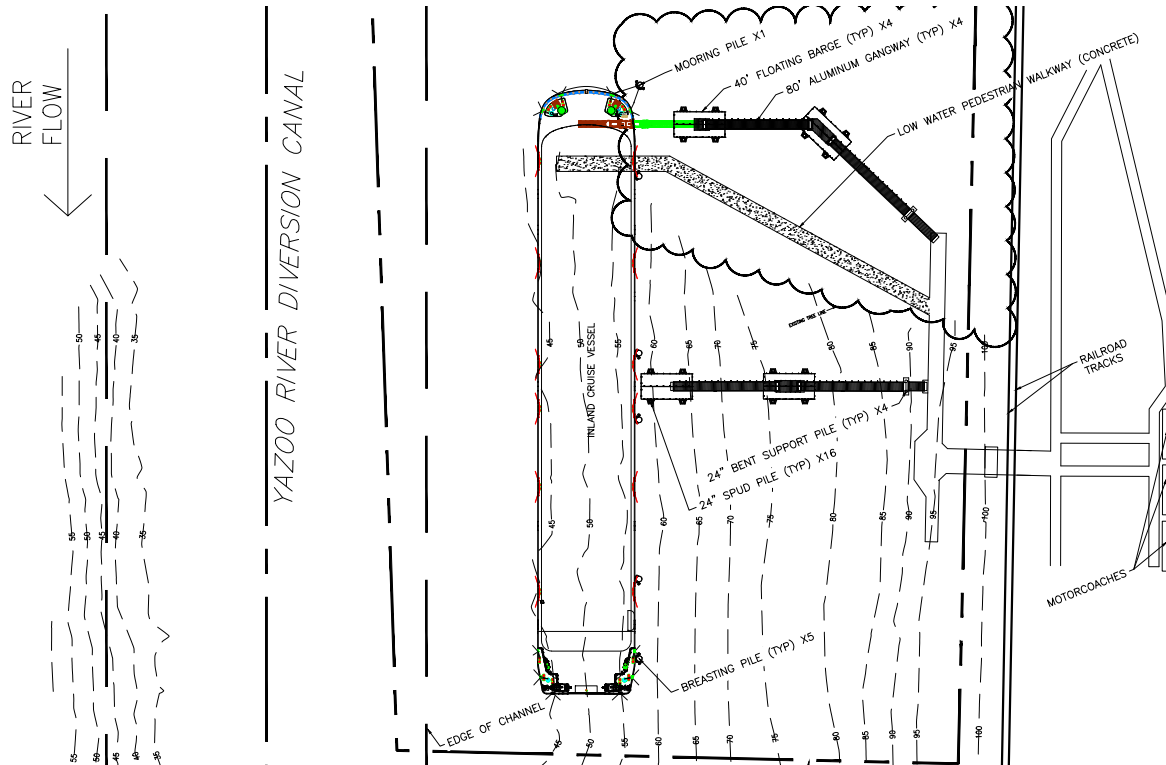


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|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| STATE<br>MISSISSIPPI      | LAT:<br>32.3534    | PROJECT NAME<br>VIKING CRUISES VICKSBURG |
| COUNTY OF<br>WARREN       | LONG:<br>-90.8830  | EMBARKATION FACILITY                     |
| DRAWN BY<br>WILLIAM CALLI | DATE<br>04-24-2025 | DATUM:<br>NAVD 88                        |
| SCALE<br>1" = 100'        | DRAWING NUMBER     | REV.<br>1                                |

MODIFIED EMBARKATION FACILITY  
SCALE: 1" = 150' DEPICTED AT EXTREME LOW WATER



PERMITTED EMBARKATION FACILITY  
SCALE: 1" = 150' DEPICTED AT MEDIAN RIVER STAGE



ADDITIONS

- CONCRETE RAMP
- CONCRETE ROAD
- DEADMEN

DELETIONS

- FLOATING BARGES
- ALUM. GANGWAYS
- PILES (ALL)
- LOW WATER WALKWAY

MODIFICATIONS

- GRADING TO MEET DESIGN ELEVATIONS AND INCLINATIONS

STATE  
MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF  
WARREN

LAT:  
32.3534  
LONG:  
-90.8830

PROJECT NAME  
VIKING CRUISES VICKSBURG  
EMBARKATION FACILITY  
LARGE CONCRETE RAMP

DRAWN BY  
WILLIAM CALLI

DATE  
05-06-2025

DATUM:  
NAVD 88

SCALE  
AS NOTED

DRAWING NUMBER

REV.  
2