


US Army Corps of Engineers.

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



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: MVK-2019-438

EVALUATOR: Mr. Andy Sanderson

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DATE: March 3, 2020
EXPIRATION DATE: March 24, 2020

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 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261, 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:
Mr. Tommy Tillman
172d Airlift Wing
MS Air National Guard
141 Military Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39232

Name of Agent:
Mr. William D. Smith
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MS Air National Guard
141 Military Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39232

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 34, T6N-R2E, Latitude 32.3219N, Longitude -90.0817°W, within the Hog Creek-Pearl River Watershed in the Middle Pearl-Strong River Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 03180002), Rankin 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 to discharge dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional waters of the United States for the construction of a fire crash and rescue station to accommodate fire emergency services at the 172d Airlift Wing of the Mississippi Air National Guard in Rankin County, Mississippi. The stated purpose is to construct a facility to support the operation of a 42-member, three-shift, full-time fire/crash and rescue team, and a 39-member traditional guard fire department.

The proposed facility would include pull through vehicle bays for fire/crash rescue vehicles, a training classroom, administrative space, an control/alarm room, physical fitness training space, kitchen, living quarters, equipment maintenance space, recreation area, dining, and necessary storage space. The facility must be able to support a 24-hour/day operation. Construction would also include necessary utilities, communication support, parking, and access to the adjacent aircraft parking apron and taxiway.

The total project site is approximately 4.11 acres in size containing approximately 2.82 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, including 490 linear feet (If) of ephemeral drain. The proposed project would result in the fill of all 2.82 acres of wetlands, and the reroute of 490 If of ephemeral drain into a new 150 If channel and 552 If of culvert. The flow would be routed to a roadside swale which would be lined with riprap, and then allowed to enter the flow path of the original channel. The flow of several other linear wetland features would also be routed through swales and culverts into the original channel. Approximately 12,000 cubic yards of sand and fill material would be placed within the stream and wetlands.

The vegetative communities within the project area are dominated by Bermuda grass, buttercups (*Ranunculus spp.*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), and pennywort (*Centella spp.*). Soil within the project site consists primarily of Tippo silt loam with an NRCS hydric component percentage rating of 5.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from a USACE approved mitigation bank that services the project area.

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: Section 106 consultation was previously coordinated and completed by the lead federal agency prior to 404 application receipt.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered Species for this area include the ringed map turtle, wood stork, Gulf sturgeon, and Northern long-eared bat. Consultation between the applicant and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in the determination that the Air Guard base would be considered a Category II installation that does not contain suitable habitat for federally listed species. Since this consultation took place, the Northern long-eared bat has been added to the list of threatened species. Utilizing the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES) as signed on June 28, 2017, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity may affect the Northern long-eared bat, but any resulting incidental take is not prohibited by the final 4(d) rule. 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.

Floodplain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain 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 not 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.

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/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

Thomas A. McCabe Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch









