

US Army Corps of Engineers. Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: EVALUATOR: PHONE NO.: E-MAIL: DATE: EXPIRATION DATE: MVK-2007-1396 Ms. Kristi Hall (601) 631-7528 Kristi.W.Hall@usace.army.mil March 20, 2018 April 11, 2018

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army permit for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.

Application also has been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with La. R.S. 30.2074(A)(93), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Additional information is on file with the above office, and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained upon payment of cost of copying. Comments concerning the application can be filed with the Office of Environmental Services within 20 days of this notice to the following address: Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit</u>: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged and / or fill material into waters of the United States.

<u>Name of Applicant</u>: Albert M. Smoak American Electric Power 428 Travis Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 36, T19N-R13W, latitude 32.5933°N, longitude 93.6622°W, within the Willow Chute Bayou watershed in the Red-Saline Basin (HUC: 11140204), Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

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 mechanized land clearing and the associated discharge of dredged and/or fill material into wetlands for the purpose of constructing an electrical substation and access road. This project was previously authorized in March of 2009, and the permit was allowed to expire in 2014 without performing authorized activities. The current application is for identical work under a new authorization.

The proposed project site consists of a 5.35 acre right-of-way. The project would fill approximately 1.92 acres of emergent wetland and 0.7-acre of forested wetland. The placement of dredged and/or fill material in wetlands associated with mechanized land clearing and construction of an access road and electrical substation requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Vegetation within the project site consists primarily of emergent and forested wetlands. Emergent wetlands are dominated by finger dogshade, lance-leaf water-willow, spikerush, and water primrose. Forested wetlands are dominated by willow and green ash. Soils within the proposed project site are mapped as Buxin clays, a frequently flooded, poorly drained hydric soil.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from a commercial 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 National Register of Historic Places, 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 area has been previously assessed for cultural resources: No historic properties will be affected by the proposed re-authorization of work. <u>Endangered Species</u>: In a letter dated September 6, 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concurred with the Corps findings that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the Northern long-eared bat. No further coordination under the ESA is required with the FWS unless there are changes in the scope or location of the proposed project.

<u>Floodplain</u>: 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 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.

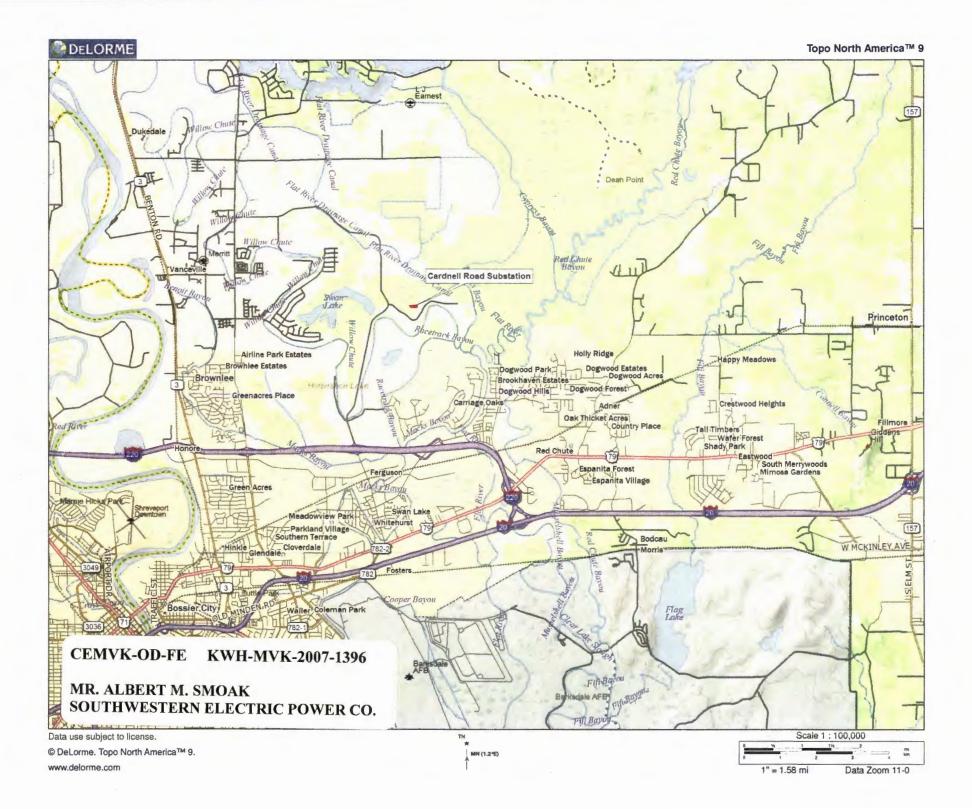
<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to 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>.

Thomas A. ME Cale Thomas A. McCabe

Thomas A. McCabe Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch





Legend



Project Area(5.35 Acres)

Emergent Wetlands (2.53 Acres) Forested

Wetlands (0.7 acres)

Area to be Cleared (2.62 acres wetlands)

NOTE: Added Areas to be Cleared to USACE drawing

Jurisdictional Determination

Enclosure 1

Aerial Imagery: ESRI World Imagerv

November 17, 2017

MVK-2007-1396

AEP Request for Wetland Determination

Bossier Parish, LA

Preliminary





