

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-2017-847	
Ms. Kristi Hall	
(601) 631-7528	
Kristina.W.Hall@usace.army.	mil
May 15, 2019	
June 05, 2019	

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 39226-2261, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States, and 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>: Mr. William Cork Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission 854 Highway 90, Suite A Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520 <u>Name of Agent</u>: Ms. Lisa Morrison Compton Engineering 3036 Longfellow Drive Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39521

<u>Location of Work</u>: Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T9S- R16W, Latitude 30.2378, Longitude -89.5657, within the Port Bienville Canal part of Mulatto Bayou watershed Bienville (8-digit USGS HUC 03180004), Hancock County, Mississippi.

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 making

improvements at the Port Bienville Industrial Park within a parcel identified as "Site 4". Work is proposed in two phases. The first phase of work includes the construction of an 850 foot bulkhead, placement of crushed gravel loading pad, and stormwater management basins, roadways and rail line improvements for the purpose of increased transportation capacity at the port. The second phase of work includes the construction of a new keyhole boat slip (370 feet by 290 feet), additional road improvements, warehouse construction, additional stormwater management basins, and bulk fuel storage area (tank farm) associated with a bulk storage facility for petroleum products.

Phase I of the proposed project would include 3.5 acres of permanent wetland impacts (1.4 acres of freshwater marsh impacts, 0.1 acre of emergent wetland impacts, and 2.0 acres of forested wetland impacts). Phase II of the proposed project would include 3.3 acres of permanent wetland impacts (0.8 acre of freshwater marsh impacts, 0.1 acre of emergent wetlands, 0.1 acre of permanent intertidal wetlands, 2.3 acres of forested wetland impacts) and 0.5 acre of temporary wetland impacts (0.2 acre of emergent wetlands and 0.3 acre of forested wetlands).

Based upon information provided by the agent, the woody vegetation within the forested areas are dominated by Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) Slash pine (*Pinus ellioti*), Red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Vegetation within emergent wetlands are dominated by switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), and Blue lobelia (*Lobelia puberula*). Watergrass (*Bulbostylis barbata*), Erect centella (*Centella erecta*), flatsedges (*Cyperus difformis*), yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*), Panicgrass (*Dichanthelium spp*), Canada spikesedge (*Eleocharis geniculate*), Slender fimbry (*Fimbristylis autumnalis*), Whorled marshpennywort (*Hydrocotyle prolifera*), Bahaia grass (*Paspalum notatum*), Vasey's grass (*Paspalum urvillei*), Chairmakers bulrush (*Schoenoplectus americanus*), and Pineywoods dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*). Soil within the project site consists of Beauregard silt loam, Poarch fine sandy loam, Handsboro association all considered hydric soils by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss emergent and forested wetlands through the purchase of credits from a commercial mitigation bank and for unavoidable losses of freshwater marsh and tidal wetlands through permittee-responsible mitigation.

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. A historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No sites determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are within the permitted area or affected area.

Endangered Species: Based on the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES) as signed on October 1, 2018 between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the proposed activity will have no effect on the following species: Gopher tortoise, Ringed map turtle, Louisiana quillwort and Inflated heelsplitter. A not likely to adversely affect determination was made for the Wood stork.

<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.

<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/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

Thomas A. McCabe

Thomas A. McCabe Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch



Regulatory Branch

Enforcement Section

Legend

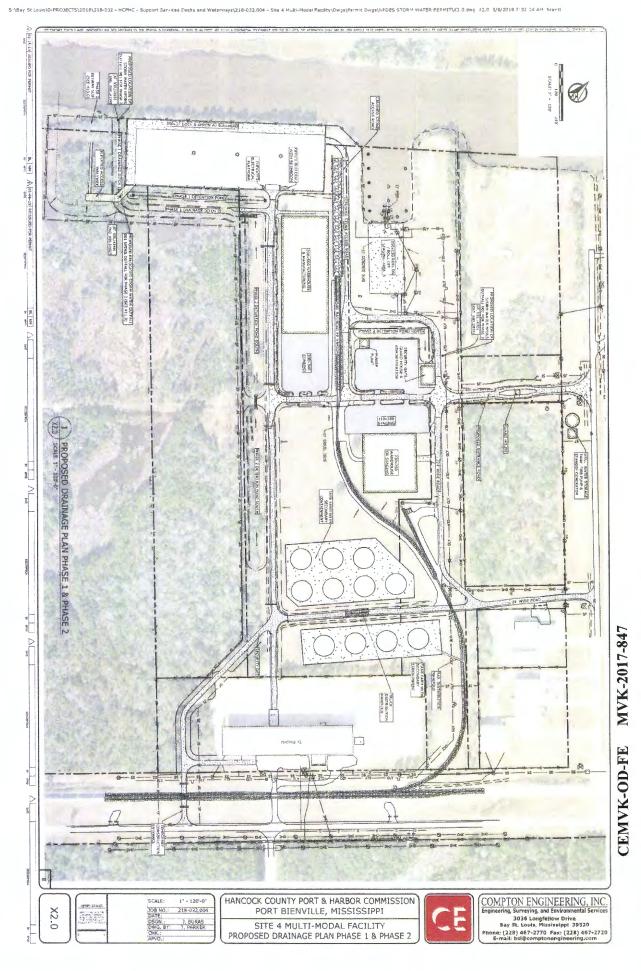
Project Boundary

Estuarine Intertidal Emergent - NWI (0.18 acre)

Forested Wetlands (4.60 acres)

Emergent Freshwater Marsh NWI (2.22 acres)

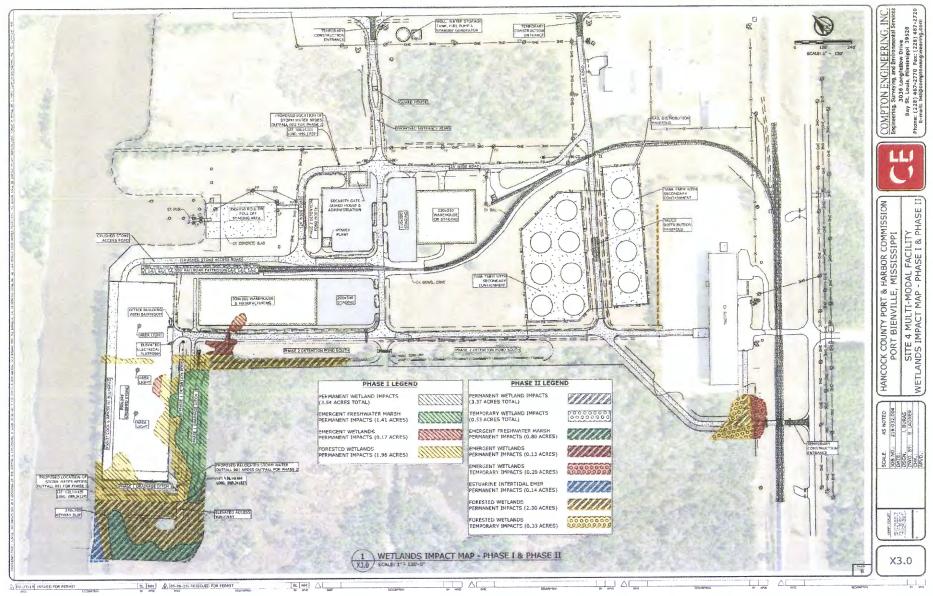
Emergent Wetlande (0.5 acres)

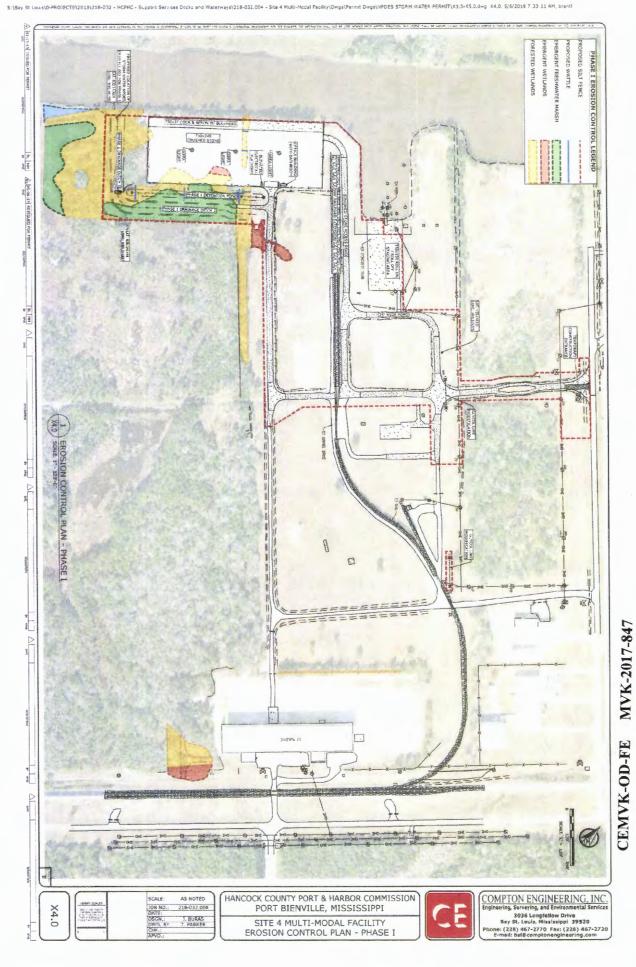


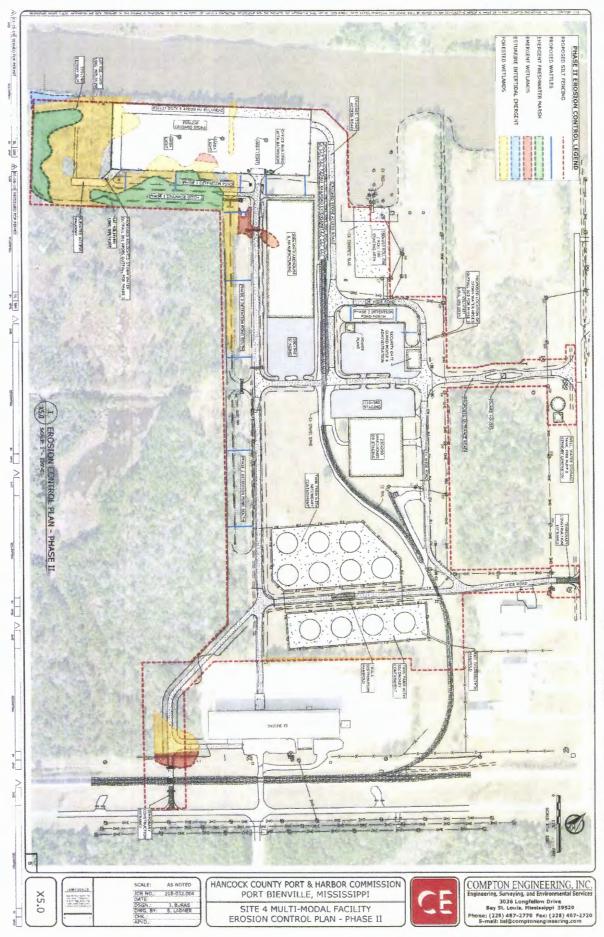
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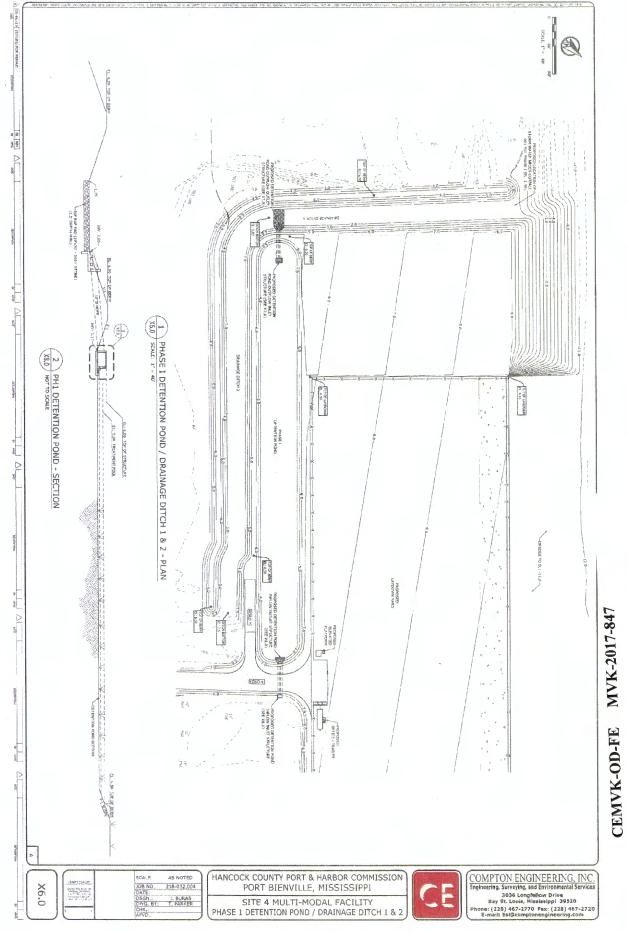


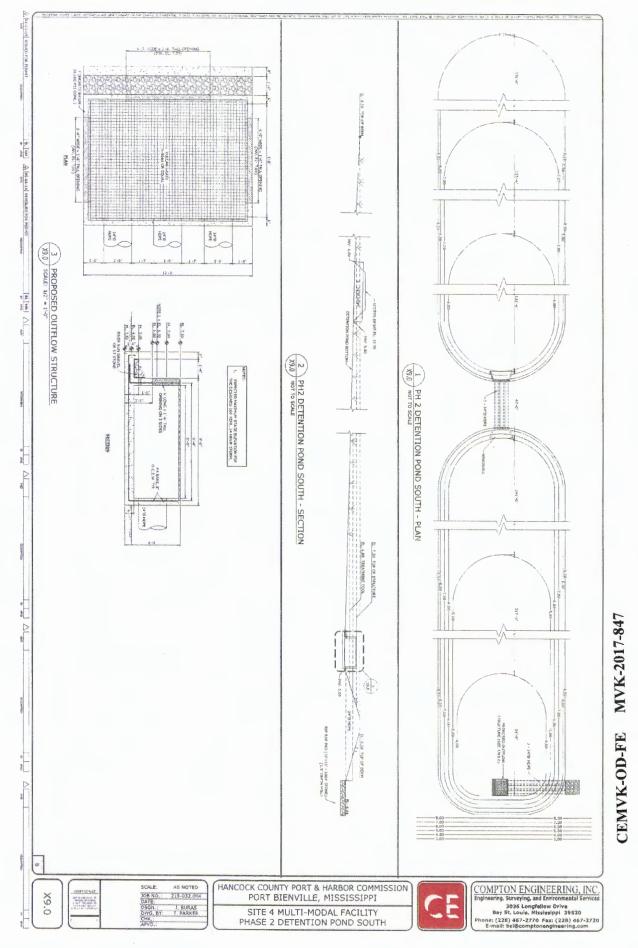




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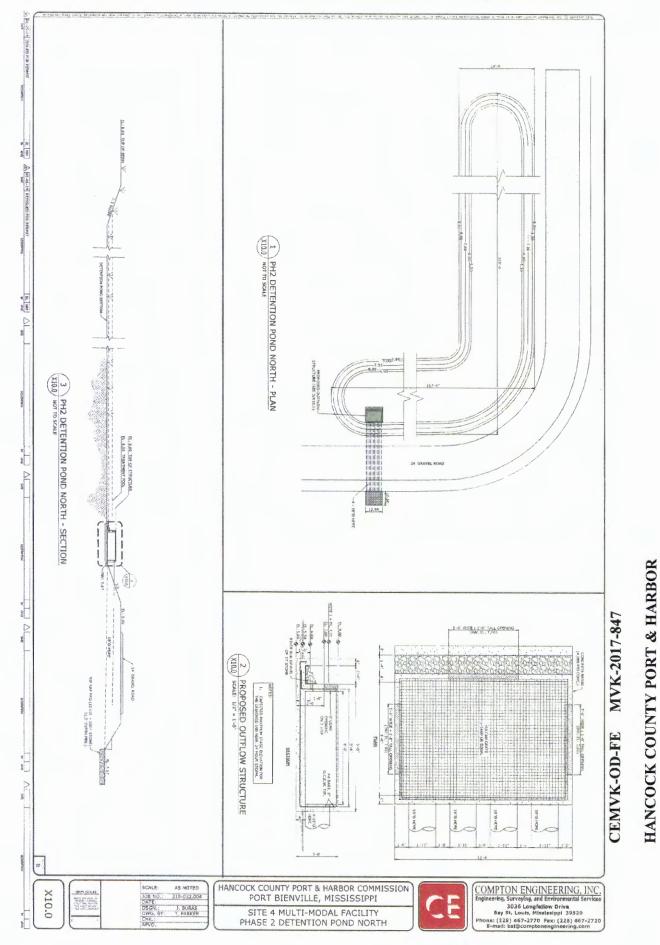
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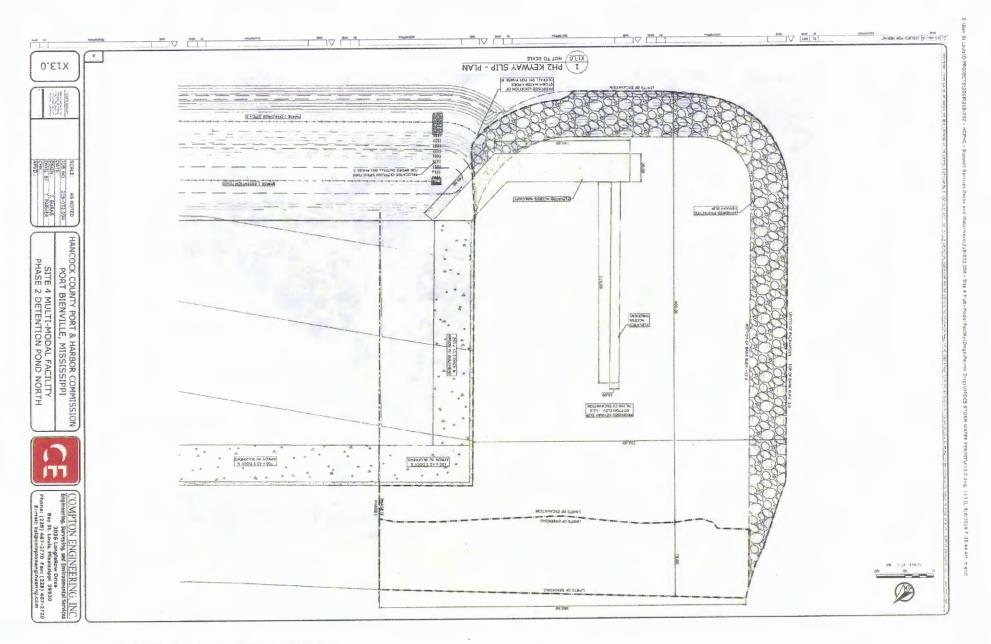
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PORT BIENVILLE INDUSTRIAL PARK SITE 4 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI