

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



## **Public Notice**

 APPLICATION NO.:
 MVK-2019-217

 EVALUATOR:
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 DATE:
 May 21, 2019

 EXPIRATION DATE:
 June 21, 2019

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering a proposal to establish a single user Stennis Space Center Mitigation Bank (SSCMB). A prospectus has been received describing the proposed bank from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the bank Sponsor. The proposed restoration tracts, which are to be included in the proposed mitigation bank, are located within the Stennis Fee Area and Acoustic Buffer Zone in Hancock County, Mississippi.

<u>Description</u>: The single user SSCMB is being proposed by the bank sponsor as a means to meet the requirements for compensatory mitigation for future and yet unknown wetland and stream losses which may be permitted by the Corps under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The proposed bank sites are located within the Stennis Fee Area and Acoustic Buffer Zone, Hancock County, Mississippi. All proposed bank sites are part of the existing Special Use Management Area Plan.

Baseline Conditions / Current Land Use / Proposed Actions: The property consists of approximately 1,053 acres, in five distinct sites. The proposed SSCMB was historically managed for short rotation pine plantations, and converted to wet pine savannah and bottomland hardwood habitat.

<u>Service Area</u>: This Mitigation Bank would be established to provide mitigation to compensate for unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands, at the Stennis Fee Area located in the state of Mississippi. Decisions authorizing the use of credits from the Mitigation Bank will be made by the appropriate authority on a case by case basis in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Comments on this proposed mitigation bank may be provided to the Corps at the address below. Comments should be received no later than the expiration date of this public notice. The prospectus, which outlines the conceptual plan for the bank, is available at the following website:

<u>http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx</u> The prospectus is also available for review at the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers at the address given below.

Please provide comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3485

Thomas A. MECale

Thomas A McCabe Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch