

US Army Corps of Engineers.

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



# **Public Notice**

APPLICATION NO.: MVK-2019-692

**EVALUATOR:** Ms. Samantha Thompson

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DATE: January 31, 2020 EXPIRATION DATE: February 20, 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 39226 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 and / or fill material into waters of the United States.

#### Name of Applicant:

Tim R. Jones Georgia-Pacific Monticello LLC 604 N.A Sandifer Highway Monticello, Mississippi 39654

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 35, T8N, R21W, Latitude 31.623333, Longitude -90.078056, within Pearl Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC: 03180003), Lawrence 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 conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional waters of the United States for the purpose of upgrading and making improvements to the current Georgia-Pacific Monticello Mill in Lawrence County, Mississippi.

Upgrades being made to the wood yard area would allow for improvements to the quality of the wood chips manufactured on-site as well as increase the amount of wood chips processed on-site, reducing the amount of wood chips purchased from off-site sources and reducing the log truck "turn-around" time by approximately 35 minutes.

To accomplish the above mentioned objectives, the Mill proposes to replace two existing log cranes with two new, larger capacity log cranes. The Mill proposal would include the following new additions: long truck weigh scale, larger capacity debarking drum, larger capacity log chipper, wood chip resizer, bark hog, five bark transfer conveyors, and five chip transfer conveyors. Truck traffic would be re-routed within the wood yard by adding several new road segments and modifying several road segments to reduce the truck "turn-around" time and permanently shut down four existing bark transfer conveyors, four existing chip transfer conveyors, existing debarking drum and existing log chipper.

The vegetative communities within the project area are dominated by water oak, Chinese privet, poison ivy, muscadine, and yaupon holly. Soils within the project site consist of Wanilla Silt loam and Jena fine sandy loam.

The total project area is approximately 33.24 acres consisting of approximately 2.0 acres of wetlands (1.61 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.3 acre of isolated non-jurisdictional wetlands) and 2100.7 linear feet of jurisdictional stream (530 linear feet of ephemeral stream and 1810.7 linear feet of intermittent stream). Approximately 1.61 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 530 linear feet of jurisdictional stream would be permanently impacted by the project.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from a USACE approved 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 <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. The permit area has been so extensively modified that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: Our initial finding is that the proposed project will not affect the Black Pinesnake, Gulf Sturgeon, and the Ringed-map turtle utilizing the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES) as signed on June 6, 2017 between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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. Portions of the project are 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.

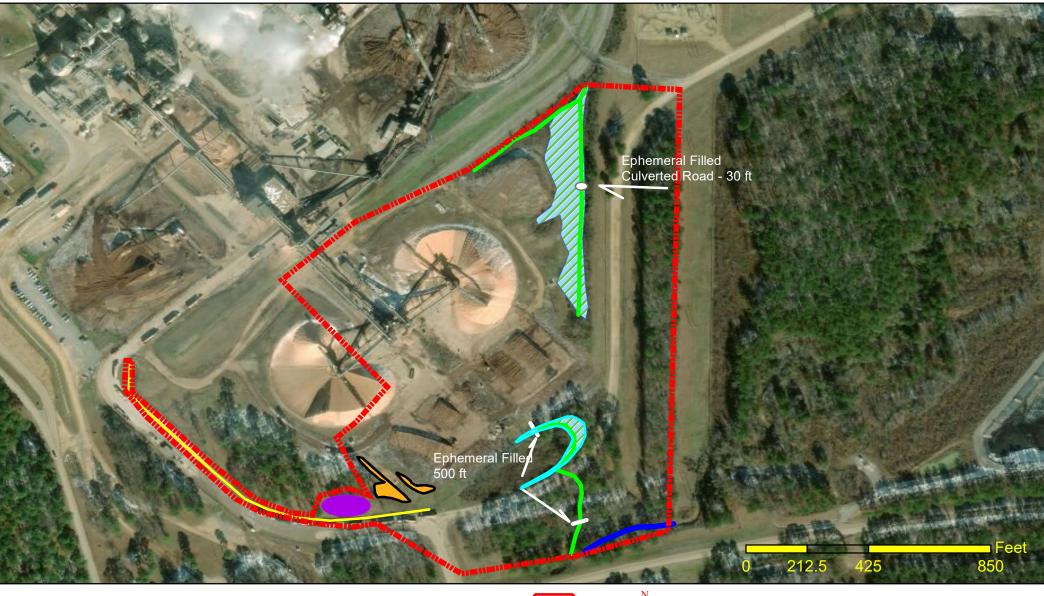
<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to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

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, <a href="http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx">http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</a>.

Thomas A. McCabe Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

## Project Site, Lawrence County, MS





Proposed Work Area

Wetlands - 1.61 Acres Filled

Isolated Wetlands
Non-Jurisdictional - Filled

Ephemeral Drain - 1810.7 ft
Intermittent Stream - 290 ft
Check Dam Along Road Ditch
Sediment Basin



Regulatory
Branch
Enforcement
Section
Enclosure 1

### **November 18, 2019**

Permit Required

Aerial Imagery: ESRI World Imagery

### MVK-2019-692

GPS coordinates: 31.624267, -90.077464

Georgia-Pacific Monticello LLC Monticello, Mississippi Request for Wetland Determination Lawrence County, MS

