

Public Notice

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

> APPLICATION NO.: EVALUATOR: PHONE NO.: E-MAIL: DATE: EXPIRATION DATE:

MVK-2021-286 Mr. Jared Everitt (601) 631-7104 Jared.H.Everitt@usace.army.mil June 17, 2024 July 2, 2024

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-RD, 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.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule (Certification Improvement Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective November 27, 2023, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that has the potential to result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a discharge from a Federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Improvement Rule, once the applicant submits a certification request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the certifying authority will jointly establish the reasonable period of time for the certifying authority to act upon the certification request.

<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:

Mr. Mike Webster Viking USA LLC 5700 Canoga Street, Suite 200 Woodland Hills, California 91367 <u>Name of Agent:</u> Ms. Madison Bologna Hargrove and Associates Inc. 4150 South Sherwood Forest Blvd. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816 <u>Location of Work</u>: The proposed project site is located in Section 19 T16N-R3E, Latitude 32.35436, Longitude -90.883 within the Lower Mississippi Region—Lower Yazoo River Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 08030208), Warren County, Mississippi.

Description of Work: (See enclosed maps and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is seeking a Department of the Army permit to construct a docking facility along the Yazoo River Diversion Canal. The purpose of the project is to provide embarkation/disembarkation access for Viking USA, LLC, (Viking) cruise ship passengers at the Vicksburg, Mississippi waterfront along Levee Street. The need is to provide access for land-side excursions. Viking proposes to construct the following:

- One, 300 feet long by 8 feet wide, concrete sidewalk along the riverbank (To provide access at extreme low water stages).
- One, 100 feet long extension of existing sidewalk on top of the riverbank.
- One, approximately 234 feet long, 20 feet wide, elevated gangway with one fixed landing platform and two floating platforms to serve for passenger ingress/egress.
- One, approximately 230 feet long, 20 feet wide, elevated gangway with one fixed pier and two floating platforms to serve for materials re-supply and waste removal.
- Twenty, 36-inch diameter spud piles would be used to secure the two proposed elevated gangways.
- One, cluster mooring dolphin (3-piles per cluster)
- Seven, cluster berthing dolphins (3-piles per cluster)
- One pedestrian railway crossing.
- Utility extensions on Levee Street.

The applicant proposes to dock a vessel at the facility approximately one time per week, for eight to ten hours each iteration. On rare occasions, an overnight stay may be necessary if they vessel cannot disembark for some unforeseen reason.

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>, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following determination is based on 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.

Copies of this public notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered Species for this area include the northern long-eared bat, pondberry, and wood stork. 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 and the Service's IPAC system, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on the wood stork and the pondberry, and a not likely to adversely affect for the northern long-eared bat. In addition, the Corps has determined the proposed activity would not jeopardize the continued existence of the proposed threatened alligator snapping turtle.

<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. Some of project site is 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>.

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for Bryan Williamson Chief, Mississippi Branch Regulatory Division

















