

Public Notice

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS St. Louis District **Gateway to Excellence**

Reply To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attn: CEMVS-OD-F 1222 Spruce Street

St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Public Notice No.

P-2985 to P-2988

Public Notice Date

February 21, 2017

Expiration Date

March 14, 2017

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Numbers: 2017-96 through 2017-99

Interested parties are hereby notified that Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act permit requests have been received to construct four fleets in the Mississippi River, as described below and shown on the attached.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public notice numbers shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date to become part of the record and be considered in the decisions. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (Charles Frerker) 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

APPLICANT: Mr. Mark Simpson, Simpson Materials, 1053 Headquarters Park, Fenton, Missouri 63026 (636-343-4944).

LOCATION: The four fleeting areas are proposed near the right descending bank, between approximate Mississippi River miles 156.0 to 157.0, located near 750 Sulphur Springs Road, in Barnhart, Jefferson County, Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant, Simpson Materials, has an existing limestone quarry and barge terminal located between the proposed barge fleets. The fleets would provide barges for loading and unloading of non-hazardous products at the applicant's terminal. The four fleets, each assigned a "P" permit number for easier identification and comment tracking purposes, represent maximum barge quantites when at full operating capacity. The applicant estimates 50 to 100 inbound barges, primarily filled with sand and other non-hazardous bulk products, would cycle through the facility per month. Approximately 30 to 70 outbound barges would cycle through the facility per month. Each fleet would have a permanent deck barge held in a captive position near the bank for tying off the other barges in the proposed fleet. The captive deck barge would stay in place by affixing it to an anchor chain, wire rope and related hardware connected to an engineered deadman structure installed in the river bank. The most upstream fleet is shown as P-2985 (2017-96) and would be 15 barge fleet configured in a 3 barge wide by 5 barge long arrangement at approximate river mile 157.0. The next downstream fleet is shown as P-2986 (2017-97) and would be a nine barge fleet configured in a 3 barge wide by 3 barge long arrangement at approximate river mile 156.7. The third downstream fleet, located below the confluence of Glaize Creek, is shown as P-2987 (2017-98) and would be a 25 barge fleet configured in a 5 barge wide by 5 barge long arrangement at approximate river mile 156.3. The most downstream fleet is shown as P-2988 (2017-99) and would be a 30 barge fleet configured in a 5 barge wide by 6 barge long arrangement at approximate river mile 156.0. The project area and associated fleet locations are shown on the attachment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Charles Frenker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Project Manager, at electronic mail address: charles f.frerker@usace.army.mil

AUTHORITY: The proposal will be processed under the provision of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING:</u> Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Request for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding the public hearing.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: The proposed project is within range of the endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), gray bat (Myotis grisescens), least tern (Sterna antillarum), pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus), pink mucket (Lampsilis abrupta), and the threatened northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis), piping plover (Charadrius melodus) and the rufa red knot (Calidris canutus rufa). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed permit renewal activities are not likely to affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited by this public notice from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES:</u> The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Leaders and the public in response to this public notice. In addition, we may require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to authorize the activity will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion, and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of these proposed activities. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of Statement of Findings and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

DANNY D MCCLENDON Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachment

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS: It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of issuance of this notice.



