

Gateway to Excellence

## **Public Notice**

Reply To:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: CEMVS-OD-F

1222 Spruce Street

St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Public Notice No.

P-2886

Public Notice Date

August 25, 2014

Expiration Date

**September 15, 2014** 

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:** 

File Number: 200307860

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached map and drawings.

<u>COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</u> Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. 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

<u>APPLICANT:</u> Lhoist North America, c/o Mr. Tom Reeder, 20947 White Sands Road, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri 63670-0488.

**LOCATION:** The proposed barge activities, dredging and upland disposal site are located near the right descending bank of the Mississippi River at approximate river mile 127.0. The proposed open river dredge disposal site is located along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River at approximate river mile 127.5. All proposed activities are located in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant, Lhoist, requests reauthorization of existing Department of the Army permit number P-2397, issued on June 30, 2004. P-2397 was originally issued to the Chemical Lime Company (now Lhoist) and expires on December 31, 2014. P-2397 authorizes the mooring a 235-feet long by 35-feet wide loading/offloading barge at the upstream end of two existing loading/offloading barges. The third barge would allow Lhoist to increase capacity of the loading/unloading facility to accommodate peak shipping periods. To provide adequate depth during the installation of the proposed third barge, Lhoist requests reauthorizing the one-time dredging of approximately 3,200 cubic yards of material from the area extending 230-feet upstream from the bow of the existing upstream loading/unloading barge, 75-feet riverward from the bank and 5-feet deep. Lhoist also requests reauthorization to conduct periodic maintenance dredging from an approximate 900-foot x 450-foot x 5 foot area in proximity to the existing barge load out facility and an approximate 225-foot x 450-foot area in front of the new third barge for a combined total of 93,750 cubic yards annually. The need for maintenance dredging would be determined by sedimentation patterns and available river depths. Without adequate river depth the applicant is unable to continue barge loading/offloading operations at low river stages. Removing accumulated silt, debris and some gravel material would be performed by utilizing an excavator or a hydraulic dredge. Hydraulically dredged material would be

discharged at the currently approved disposal site, which is located along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River, near the downstream end of an existing island, at approximate river mile 127.5. The hydraulically dredged material would be transferred from the dredge site in a contained 24-inch diameter pipe directed across the Mississippi River to the island disposal area. A workboat would be on-site during dredging operations to break down the dredge pipeline for passing river traffic as needed. When notified, the pipeline could be broken down in approximately five (5) minutes to minimize disruption to navigation. If open river disposal at the island area is not conducted, Lhoist would load excavated dredged material onto a barge and transfer it to their on-site quarry to an upland location where current reclamation activities occur. Excavation and upland disposal would typically occur if river depths drop too quickly to allow hydraulic dredge equipment access.

Lhoist also requests the following changes that are not currently authorized under P-2397:

- Due to the age and deteriorating condition of the existing barges, Lhoist needs to replace the two existing loading/offloading barges. The replacement barges would be permanently moored at the same locations as the existing barges. While the replacement barges may slightly differ in size from the current barges, the maximum size of the replacement barges would be 225' x 38'. In addition, the maximum size of the proposed third barge would also be 225' x 38'.
- The river bank in the vicinity of the existing barge load out areas was previously rip rapped. Due to ongoing settling and erosion, Lhoist requests authorization to re-rip rap the riverbank for continued stabilization. The area to be re-rip rapped is an approximate 800 linear foot section of river bank. Rip rap from the on-site quarry will be used and consist of appropriately sized stone to withstand anticipated high flow events.

See attached drawings for more details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting the applicant, Mr. Tom Reeder with Lhoist at 573-883-8550, or Mr. Charles Frerker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Project Manager, at (314) 331-8583 or by electronic mail at: <a href="mailto:charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil">charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil</a>

<u>AUTHORITY:</u> This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

<u>WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:</u> By issuance of this public notice, the project plans are considered submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

<u>SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION:</u> The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program guidelines and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water 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: The proposed project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus), and the proposed as endangered Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that this activity is not likely to affect the listed species. Previously authorized special conditions for P-2397, created by coordinated efforts with other Federal and state resource agencies, would be applied to further avoid impacts to these species. In order to further complete our evaluation, written comments are hereby solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested parties to ascertain any potential impacts upon these listed species, any others species or their critical habitats.

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

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit 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 a permit 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 an Environmental Assessment 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.

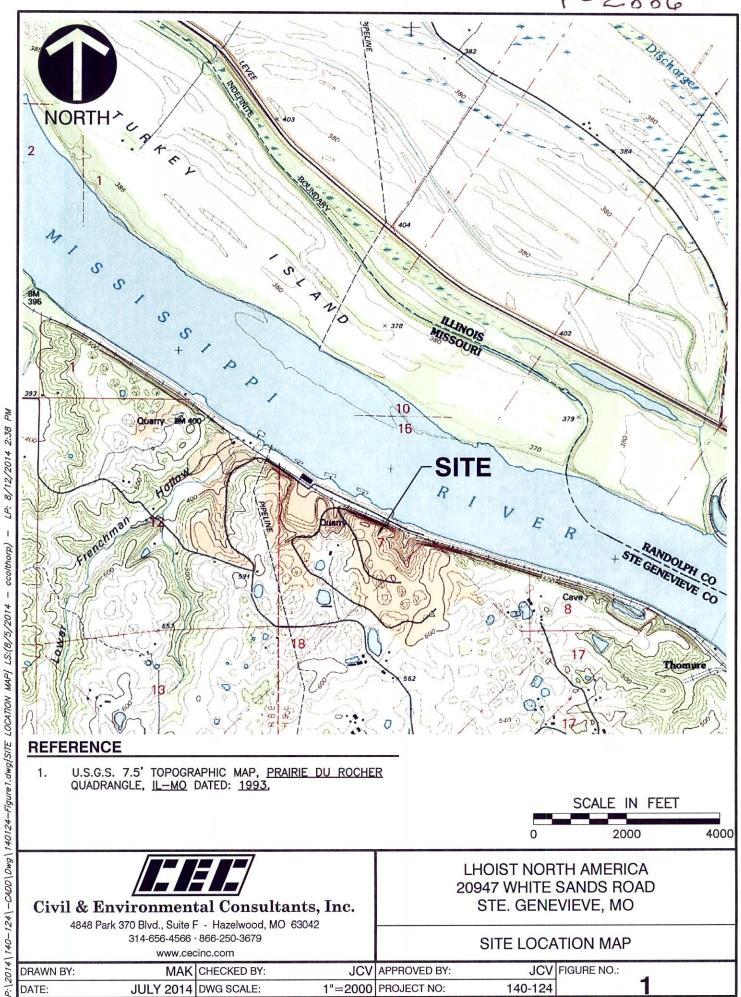
In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

Danny D. McClendon Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

## **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.



## **REFERENCE**

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