

Public Notice

Reply To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: CEMVS-OD-F 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 File Number: 2020-711

Public Notice Date: August 9, 2022

Expiration Date: August 22, 2022

Interested parties are hereby notified that proposed plans have been received for a Department of the Army permit to add two railroad spurs and construct a rail access road in 0.98 acre of jurisdictional waters of the United States, as described below and shown in the attachments.

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

<u>COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice 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

APPLICANT: Holcim (US) Inc., Mr. Andrew Horrell, 2942 US Highway 61, Bloomsdale, Missouri 63627.

LOCATION: The 3-acre project area is adjacent to Lee Island slough, at the applicant's existing Ste. Genevieve quarry facility. The coordinates at the approximate center of the project area are latitude 38.108689, longitude -90.247478, near Bloomsdale, in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri. (See Attachments)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to extend two existing railroad spurs approximately 1,400 linear feet and construct a 15-feet wide, 2,550-feet long access road along the proposed and existing rail spurs. A total of 0.98 acre of wooded wetlands, of which 0.41 acre are part of a previously required compensatory deed restricted wetland mitigation area, would be impacted by the proposed discharge of fill material to raise the rail spur extensions and access road area up to grade with the existing rail infrastructure. Proposed impacts to the 0.41-acre existing deed restricted wetlands would be compensated at a 10:1 mitigation ratio and a 5:1 mitigation ratio for the proposed 0.57-acre forested wetland impacts not protected under an existing deed restriction. The applicant proposes to offset impacts by purchasing mitigation credits from the Land Learning Foundation or the Shaw Nature Reserve Wetland Bank. The applicant's stated project purpose is to increase their storage capacity to meet current and future economic demands for limestone/cement products delivered by domestic rail shipment. The applicant stated there is a demand for Type I-II Low Alkali and Type IL (10% Limestone Addition) products currently produced at the facility within the northern-Midwest rail market. The Ste. Genevieve Plant is currently limited to approximately 285 rail cars per week. However, their loading system is capable of 300 or more rail cars per week. While the northern-Midwest rail market demand is currently being met with products from the applicant's other facilities (Alpena and Michigan Plants, and imports from the Eckshaw Alberta, Canada Plant), the applicant contends product railed via their Ste. Genevieve Plant is more economical. The project would allow the applicant to add approximately 15 (or more) rail cars per week to increase the optimal goal production capacity of an additional 750 rail cars per year or 82,500 tons per year. The proposed access road is requested to meet requirements under the applicant's Rail Safety Policy, which is a 25-foot minimum distance between workers and active mainline railroad tracks. Currently, workers are only permitted to travel adjacent to the mainline rail track if there are critical needs. Appropriate sediment and erosion control, including silt fence, will be installed and maintained at the limits of construction areas. Final stabilization of the access road's side slope will be a combination of riprap, and/or where practicable seeded and strawed with a native vegetation seed mix.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting the applicant at 636-524-8425 or Charles Frerker, Regulatory PM, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at <u>charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil</u> or 314-331-8583.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: The impact of the activity on public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of dredged or fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The project plans will be submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program (MDNR) in accordance with Section 401. While the Corps of Engineers may provide all relevant information to MDNR and request Section 401 review on behalf of the applicant, the applicant assumes final responsibility to ensure that both agencies receive all information required to complete their independent reviews. If issued, Certification will express the MDNR'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 a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may submit a written request, within the specified comment period, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

LISTED SPECIES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) correspondence generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system under Consultation Code 03E14000-2020-SLI-3378 and Event Code 03E14000-2020-E-08458 states the project is within range of the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), and the threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The FWS iPaC coordination document concluded there are no critical habitats within the project area. A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposal is not likely to adversely affect listed species or their critical habitat. The proposed rail spurs and access road is adjacent and within the corridor of a busy mainline rail system where frequent passage of fast-moving locomotives and rail cars create elevated noise, vibration and evening light disturbances. An existing bald eagle nest was made directly adjacent to the applicant's existing rail spur (see attached picture). The proposed rail spurs and access road would be constructed in the same area adjacent to the existing rail infrastructure and bald eagle nest tree. The Corps will continue to coordinate with the FWS and the applicant to ensure measures are incorporated into the proposed project design to minimize potential effects and to comply with the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. To further complete our evaluation, written comments are solicited by this public notice from the FWS and other interested agencies and individuals.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: Cultural resource surveys and a Memorandum of Agreement were completed twenty years ago for the applicant's Ste. Genevieve facility, originally authorized by Department of the Army permit P-2259 in 2002. In accordance with 33 CFR 325 Appendix C and 36 CFR Part 800.4, the St. Louis District has determined the proposed rail spur expansion and access road location is in a highly disturbed corridor and is not in close proximity to previously identified eligible sites. The proposed activities should have no effect on cultural, historic, or prehistoric areas. This office will evaluate any new or additional information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Native American Tribes, and the public in response to this public notice.

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 that 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.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: 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 to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. 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.

Robert S. Gramke

Robert S. Gramke Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS: It is requested that this document be conspicuously and continually displayed until the expiration date of this public notice.







NORTH

AREA 1 - WETLAND DISTURBANCE 0.76 ACRE

LEE ISLAND MITIGATION AREA NON-WETLAND DISTURBANCE - AREA 1 0.0076 ACRE

LEE ISLAND MITIGATION AREA WETLAND DISTURBANCE - AREA 1 0.3983 ACRE

LEE ISLAND MITIGATION AREA NON-WETLAND DISTURBANCE - AREA 2 0.0018 ACRE



HOLCIM (US) INC. STE. GENEVIEVE PLANT - RAIL EXTENSION BLOOMSDALE, MISSOURI

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF EXISTING RAIL SPURS

FIGURE NO:

* Hand signature on file

KLA'

304-719

	LEE ISLAND MITIGATION AREA WETLAND DISTURBANCE - AREA 1 0.3983 ACRE CONTINUED FROM 2A
	AREA 1 - WETLAND DISTURBANCE 0.76 ACRE CONTINUED FROM 2A
LEGEND PROPOSED RAIL SPUR EXTENSION PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD PROPOSED GRADING LIMITS (2.75 ACRES)	
RIVER BLUFF CONSERVATION EASEMENT REFERENCE WORLD IMAGERY: ESRI, MAXAR, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY HTTPS://SERVICES.ARCGISONLINE.COM/ARCGIS/SERVICES Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. 3000 Little Hills Expressway, Suite 102 - St. Charles, MO 63301	HOLCIM (US) INC. STE. GENEVIEVE PLANT - RAIL EXTENSION BLOOMSDALE, MISSOURI
314-656-4566 • 866-250-3679 www.cecinc.com DRAWN BY: BJB CHECKED BY: KLA	PROPOSED EXTENSION OF EXISTING RAIL SPURS APPROVED BY: KLA* FIGURE NO: 2B PROJECT NO: 304-719 Image and signature of the signater of the s



DATE:

SCALE:

2C



Photo Number: 1

Description: Close up of bald eagle nest in American sycamore tree. Direction of view is east. Date Taken: 8/27/2020



Photo Number: 2

Description: Bald eagle nest in American sycamore tree on right side of the photo. Direction of view is east.

Date Taken: 8/27/2020



Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Ste. Genevieve Plant Rail Extension

Bald Eagle Nest

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