

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT 600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203 THE SHELBY BUILDING VESTAVIA HILLS, ALABAMA 35216

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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2022-01183-JDC

March 3, 2023

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS AND UNNAMED TRIBUTARIES TO SHUQUALAK CREEK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN SHUQUALAK, NOXUBEE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Huber Engineered Woods, LLC

Attention: Michael Lloyd 1446 Highway 334

Commerce, Georgia 30530 michael.lloyd@huber.com

AGENT: Headwaters, Inc.

Attention: Joel Little

P.O. Box 2836

Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158 joel@headwaters-inc.com

LOCATION: The proposed project is located in wetlands and unnamed tributaries to Shuqualak Creek in Shuqualak, Noxubee County, Mississippi. Specifically, the project is located within Sections 32 and 33, Township 14 North, Range 17 East and Sections 4 and 5, Township 13 North, Range 17 East. Center coordinates of the project are latitude 33.0157546, longitude -88.5711816. The project is located in the Noxubee 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC 03160108).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic project purpose is manufacturing.

WORK: The applicant is requesting authorization to discharge fill material into 1,491.07 linear feet of stream and 14.62 acres of wetlands and other waters of the United States (U.S.) in association with the construction of an oriented strand board (OSB) manufacturing facility. Specifically, the applicant is proposing to discharge fill material

into 239.2 linear feet of intermittent stream for the construction of a culverted rail crossing and into 1,251.87 linear feet of ephemeral stream, 4.58 acres of emergent wetlands, and 3.85 acres of open water pond for the construction of building foundation. The applicant also proposes to discharge fill material into 6.19 acres of open water pond for grading required to repurpose the waterbody as a detention pond.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: According to the applicant, the initial design involved constructing the OSB manufacturing facility in the southern half of the project area with proposed impacts to 6,330.68 linear feet of stream, 3.94 acres of wetlands, and 7.23 acres of open water pond. The project design was re-evaluated and modified to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. These modifications included relocating the proposed OSB manufacturing facility to the northern half of the project area, resulting in the proposed plan of unavoidable impacts to 1,491.07 linear feet of stream, 4.58 acres of wetlands, and 10.04 acres of open water pond. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase stream and wetland credits from an approved mitigation bank.

The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and use of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The USACE 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 this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE 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 the 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. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The USACE has not made a determination of effects to historic properties at this time. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or federally-recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Species indicates the following species have the potential to occur in the project watershed: Northern Long-eared Bat, Wood Stork, Southern Clubshell, Southern Combshell, and Price's Potato Bean. An effects determination will be made during the evaluation process, at which time the USACE will initiate consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as appropriate. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the USFWS and other federal and state agencies for review and receipt of any relevant comments regarding potential effects of the proposed project on the listed species.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2022-01183-JDC** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Birmingham Field Office, Attention: **Mr. Jevon Coleman**, 600 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 203, Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permits Division, 401 Stormwater Branch, Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225. Comments may

also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at **Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil** and to ADEM at **FBass@mdeq.ms.gov**.

Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at **Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil** or telephone number **(205) 381-0741**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments











