



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Memphis District

# Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM-2020-42 (JFB)

NOTICE DATE:  
April 6, 2020

Attn: Postmaster,  
Please Post Until  EXPIRATION DATE:  
May 6, 2020

## Joint Public Notice

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State of Arkansas

**AUTHORITY:** Pursuant to 33 CFR 325, as published in the Federal Register dated November 13, 1986, this notice announces an application submitted for a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**APPLICANT:**

Tracy O. Griffin  
T & A Farms  
3820 Phillips 401  
Helena, Arkansas 72342  
(870) 995-1621

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the project is land improvements for more efficient crop irrigation on recently purchased farm acreage.

**LOCATION:** The project site is located southwest of Helena on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 44 and Highway 242 in Phillips County, Arkansas, at approximate Latitude  $34.500450^\circ$  and Longitude  $-90.666829^\circ$  on the West Helena 7.5 minute quadrangle map (See Vicinity Map).

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The applicant requests permit authorization to fill in a natural meandering stream and excavate a new ditch along the east and north side of the cropland along the property boundary. Subsequently, with the natural drain filled, the cropland would be precision leveled as one large field instead of two fields divided by the natural drain. The natural meandering stream is approximately 3,288 feet in length and has a narrow band of wetlands that is approximately 1.9 acres in size. The new ditch would be approximately 3,125 feet in length. (See Site Map).

**AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION:** According to the applicant, another alignment for the new ditch was considered. However, impacts could not be minimized if the project purpose is to be achieved.

**MITIGATION:** To offset proposed impacts, the applicant proposes to reforest an appropriate acreage for the wetland impacts that are proposed on property he also owns further south of the impact site. He proposes the new ditch channel would offset impact stream impacts that are proposed. The mitigation site is currently cropland that abuts a larger wetland complex associated with an old river meander.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality that the activity will comply with applicable requirements set forth in 33 U.S.C. and 1341 (a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and all state laws and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. This certification or evidence of the water quality certification or

waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit. The Corps of Engineers evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Our preliminary determination is that there would be no endangered species or critical habitat affected by this proposal. However, this notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Any comments USFWS may have regarding endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the Memphis District is soliciting comments from federal, state, and local agencies, federally-recognized Indian Tribes, the public, and other interested parties in order to identify and evaluate potential impacts of the proposed action on historic properties.

**FLOODPLAIN:** 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 public notice and notify this office of any floodplain development permit requirements.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the activities for which a permit is sought and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project 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, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; federally recognized 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 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 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.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** 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 a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision. If a public hearing is held, it will be for the purpose of obtaining additional information that we could not otherwise obtain through a public notice process; not to inform the public about the specific details of the project in greater detail than what is found in this notice.

This is not a Corps of Engineers project. We are not a proponent nor are we an opponent of the project. We are merely the permitting authority of Section 404 and Section 10 permits required by our office.

**COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Send comments to the Corps of Engineers, Memphis District and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Comments may be sent via mail or email to the following:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Memphis District  
ATTN: Joe Brougher  
167 North Main Street, Room B-202  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894  
E-mail: [joseph.f.brougher@usace.army.mil](mailto:joseph.f.brougher@usace.army.mil)  
phone: (901) 544-3472  
fax: (901) 544-0211

State Permits Branch, Water Division  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
ATTN: Melanie Treat  
5301 North Shore Drive  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317  
E-mail: [treat@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:treat@adeq.state.ar.us)

The Corps of Engineers may provide copies of all comments, (including name & address of those providing comments) to the applicant for consideration and response prior to a decision. Comments must be received by the expiration date listed on page one of this notice.

For Final Individual Permits actions in the Memphis District, go to the following link:

<https://permits.ops.usace.army.mil/orm-public>. Using the Filter by District drop down box, select MVM-Memphis District, then select the year and month (information will populate in the table below). All pending individual permits can be located by selecting the “**Pending IP**” tab above. All of the environmental documents and statements of findings supporting issuance or denial of the permit decisions are available upon written request and where applicable, upon the payment of administrative fees. They are also available at the Memphis District, Regulatory Branch office for examination.

Gregg W. Williams  
Chief  
Regulatory Branch

Attachments