

US Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District



FILE NUMBER: MVM-2013-326 (RDM)

NOTICE DATE: May 8, 2014

Attn: Postmaster Please Post Until

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EXPIRATION DATE: June 9, 2014

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:

Darren Walker Arkansas Irrigation Company, Inc. P.O. Box 5308 North Little Rock, Arkansas 72119

AGENT:

Andrew Rike, P.E. Harbor 8114 Cantrell Road, Suite 350 Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

PURPOSE: According to the applicant the purpose of the project is to restore the water holding capacity of Peckerwood Lake as it was designed.

LOCATION: The project is located in Section 33, Township 1N, and Range 5W in Prairie County, Arkansas, at approximate latitude 35.65661°N and longitude -91.546986°W on the Slovak 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Figures 1 & 2, Attached).

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to construct a weir across California Creek. Construction access will be off Baseline Road from the south. If construction is carried out during a period of low to moderate flow, the applicant proposes to install levees up and down-gradient of the project location and the area will be pumped dry. The base of the weir will be constructed using compacted clay placed in lifts. Rip-rap will be placed directly with a backhoe and compaction equipment to construct the exterior of the structure. Construction would begin when approval is received and may last approximately six to eight weeks. The weir will be built at an elevation of 205.67 feet, which is 0.3 feet lower than the maximum elevation of Peckerwood Lake. A channel will be constructed at the center of the weir at an elevation of 205.5 feet for fish passage. The area of water impacted by the project will be less than 0.08-acre (Drawings Labeled C1 & C2, Attached)

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, & COMPENSATION: The applicant states that avoidance of impacts has been accomplished by the design and elements included within the proposed project. Stream width at the project location is narrower than surrounding areas and was selected in order to minimize impacts to the stream. Best Management Practices will be implemented to minimize the potential for adverse effects. The project will impact less than 0.1-acre. In the event this project requires mitigation, Arkansas Irrigation Company, Inc. will develop a site specific plan as necessary.

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: No endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, are known to exist in the project area. This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments they 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: The Memphis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally-recognized Tribes and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct or require a survey of the project area.

FLOOD PLAIN: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed public notice and notify this office of any flood plain 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 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 E-mail to the following:

U.S. Army Engineer District-Memphis ATTN: Damon McDermott 167 North Main Street, Room B-202 Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894 E-mail: <u>robert.d.mcdermott@usace.army.mil</u> phone: (901) 544-0732 fax: (901) 544-0211 Mark Hathcote State Permits Branch, Water Division Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality 5301 North Shore Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317 E-mail: <u>hathcote@adeq.state.ar.us</u>

The Corps 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 should be received by the expiration date listed on page one of this notice.

FOR FINAL INDIVIDUAL PERMIT ACTIONS IN THE MEMPHIS DISTRICT, GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK: <u>http://geo.usace.army.mil/egis/f?p=340:2:0::NO:RP</u>. 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.

> Tim Flinn, P.E. Acting Chief Regulatory Branch

Attachments

Area Map





















