

Public Notice

FILE NUMBER: MVM 2015-110 (RC)

NOTICE DATE: **April 8, 2015**

Attn: Postmaster, Please Post Until

EXPIRATION DATE:

May 8, 2015

Public NoticeU.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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:

Mr. Matthew L. Adkins CSX Transportation, Inc. 351 Thornton Road, Suite 125 Lithia Springs GA 30122 (770) 818-2849

PURPOSE: The applicant proposes to construct a permanent service road to replace two railroad bridges.

LOCATION: The project is located in Haywood County, Tennessee, along the existing railroad right-of-way between Cuthbert Switch and approximately 2 miles NE of Shepp Road crossing at coordinates N35.5236° / W-89.3118,° as shown on the Brownsville 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map (See attached maps).

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The proposed project involves the replacement of two timber bridges located at M.P. 00F 325.5 and M.P. 00F 326.0. Due to the location of these bridges, the applicant proposes to construct a 20-foot wide service road within the existing right-of-way for use during construction and to be used for future project inspections and maintenance. The proposed permanent service road is between Cuthbert Switch Road and Bridge 00F 326.0, for a distance of approximately 7,230 feet. During construction, a temporary stream crossings will be required, but will be removed at the completion of the project. Replacement of the bridges will involve driving 36-inch diameter steel pipe piles on the outside edge of the existing timber deck, one pile each side of the deck. Pipe piles will be driven at 24-foot spacing along the longitudinal axis of the bridge. Following the installation of the pipe piles, the timber deck spans will be removed and replaced with steel deck girder spans. Existing timber piles will be removed by cutting them flush with the existing ground surface.

This project will result in the loss of 2.9 acres of wetlands along the linear corridor on the south side of the existing railroad embankment. In addition, 0.4-acre of wetland/stream will be impacted by temporary fill at the stream crossing.

The wetland along the right-of-way is part of the forested wetland associated with the Hatchie River floodplain. Vegetative species observed within the right-of-way include box elder (Acer nugundo), red maple (Acer rubrum), black willow (Salix nigra), and cypress (Taxodium distichum).

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase wetland mitigation credits from the Hatchie River Mitigation Bank. The 2.9 acres of wetlands impacted will be mitigation at a 2:1 ratio and would require the purchase of 5.8 credits from the mitigation bank.

AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION: Currently, the only access to the existing bridges is through the CSXT right-of-way. An alternate route was investigated that would allow access from the north across private property; however, permission from the property owner was not granted. Both sides of the right-of-way were investigated for potential access routes; both sides of the right-of-way are wetlands. The service road alternative was chosen on the south side of the existing track to avoid the stream.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The Memphis District is requesting water quality certification from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control that the activity will be in accordance with Section 401 (a)(1)of the Clean Water Act and all state laws and regulations promulgated pursuant. This certification or evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the rights to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit. A determination concerning deposition of material will not be made, nor will deposition commence, until water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify is obtained. 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 plans, 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 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 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: To request additional information or provide comments on this notice, please contact Mr. Randy Clark using the information below:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineer - Memphis District ATTN: Randy Clark 167 N. Main Street, Room B-202 Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

E-mail: james.r.clark@usace.army.mil

Phone: (901) 544-0735 Fax: (901) 544-0211

Comments may be sent via mail or E-mail. 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: http://geo.usace.army.mil/egis/f?p=340:2:0::NO:RP. 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 Williams

Try William

Chief

Regulatory Branch

Attachments



