

Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tulsa District

Reply To:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: Regulatory Office 2488 East 81St Street Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74137-4290 SWT-2017-339 Public Notice No.

November 18, 2019 Public Notice Date

<u>December 17, 2019</u> Expiration Date

PURPOSE

The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested and to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest.

SECTION 10

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress through Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition, or capacity of navigable waters of the United States. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

SECTION 404

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) to regulate the discharges of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States. These waters include lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, sloughs, wet meadows, natural ponds, and wetlands adjacent to other waters. The intent of the law is to protect these waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical, and biological integrity.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT 2488 EAST 81ST STREET TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74137-4290

Application No. SWT-2017-339

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ODEQ) (30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the District Engineer (DE) has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit and water quality certification pursuant to Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The ODEQ hereby incorporates this public notice and procedure as its own public notice and procedure by reference thereto.

Applicant:

Mr. Todd Green

American Environmental Landfill (AEL)

207 North 117th West Avenue Sands Springs, OK 74063

Agent:

Mr. Wade Miller

SCS Engineers

1817 Commons Circle, Suite 1

Yukon, OK 73099

<u>Location</u>: The proposed project is in the North ½ of Section 35 and West ½ of Section 36, Township 20 North, Range 10 East, in Sand Springs, Osage County, Oklahoma. The project site can be found on the Wekiwa Oklahoma 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle map at North Latitude 36.165971 and West Longitude 96.199087.

<u>Project Description:</u> The application is for an after-the-fact (ATF) permit for placement of fill material into an unnamed tributary of Arkansas River and also includes the placement of fill material for the proposed lateral AEL expansion of the existing, active solid waste landfill.

<u>Purpose:</u> The overall purpose of this work is for an expansion of the primary destination of solid waste for the Tulsa Region. The proposed landfill expansion would allow AEL to continue to receive and manage solid waste for approximately next 120 years. The proposal would construct interlocking impervious cell liners, which will expand the storage capacity of the landfill. The project is not a water dependent activity and there are no special aquatic sites located within the project site.

Summary Table of Impacts:

Original Proposal				
Impact Activity	Type of Water	Type of Fill Material	Quantity of Material (CY) below OHWM	Footprint (AC and/or LF)
Placement of Fill Material	Stream	Earthen Material/Grey shale	79	1,283 LF 0.095 AC
Placement of Fill Material	Stream	Earthen Material/Grey Shale	145	1,300 LF 0.135 AC
Placement of Fill Material	Stream	Earthen Material/Grey Shale	172	1,934 LF 0.272 AC
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<u>Description of Work</u>: The applicant's proposal would eliminate this reach of the stream channel by the placement of fill material using 396 CY of compacted clay and HDPE Geomembrane for approximately 4,517 LF (0.502 AC) of the unnamed tributary of the Arkansas River. Also, the applicant proposes to construct a composite liner for a solid waste landfill. The fill material may consist of grey shale and earthen material. The work would be performed using conventional earth moving equipment.

<u>Avoidance and Minimization Information</u>: The applicant provided the following statement with regard to how avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources was incorporated into the project plan:

This applicant did not provide a statement to avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources.

<u>Mitigation</u>: Furthermore, the applicant proposes the following as compensatory mitigation for the existing impact and additional unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources expected from the proposed project:

The mitigation stream (unnamed tributary of Shell Creek) would be shorter than the impacted stream channel (2,920 LF [0.67 AC]). The proposed mitigation channel would begin at a spillway located at the southeast corner of a farm pond and traverse east to a second pond. The constructed channel would be sinuous in nature, including rocks and boulders in and along the channel to re-establish desired condition that simulate the reference stream channel and establish the riparian area. An additional 1.85 AC of existing wetlands/ponds/streams channel will be included as preservation.

This mitigation plan is the applicant's proposal. The Corps has made no determination at this time with regard to the adequacy of the proposed mitigation relative to the federal mitigation rules and guidance, including Tulsa District's Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines Compensatory Mitigation for unavoidable impacts may be required to ensure that this activity requiring a Section 404 permit, if issued complies with the Section 404 (b)(1) Guidelines. The Corps bears the final decision on the need for and extent of mitigation required if the project proposed herein is authorized.

<u>Government Authorizations obtained or received</u>: The Corps has not reviewed any copies of other required permits.

<u>Project Setting</u>: This project is located within the Oklahoma Ecoregion of Cross Timber Transition, which is part of the Northern Cross Timbers geomorphic province. The Transition is characterized by a series of woodland and prairies. The project is in the floodplain of the Arkansas River.

<u>Existing Condition</u>: The parcel of land is comprised woodlands, savanna, and tallgrass prairies in the uplands. The intermittent stream channel is jurisdictional waters of the United States. The primary use for the land historically was for woodlands.

<u>Cultural Resources:</u> The DE is responsible to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (Public Law 89-665), as amended, and other cultural resources laws and Executive Orders. A preliminary review of the state's records has been completed for the presence of sites included in, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory Database. There are no known historic properties, as defined by the NHPA, in or within the vicinity of the proposed permit area.

<u>Threatened and Endangered Species</u>: The following federally listed species are known to occur in the vicinity or are listed for the county in which the proposed action is located: least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), whooping crane (*Grus americana*) and American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*). A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies.

We are currently assessing the potential effects of the proposed action on these species and will comply with the Endangered Species Act with regard to any effect of our decision on this permit application.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization 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: 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 ownerships, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be denied if the discharge does not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Subject to the 404(b)(1) Guidelines and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the DE determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

<u>Plans and Data:</u> Plans showing the location of the proposed activity and other data are enclosed with this notice (Enclosure 1 of 8). If additional information is desired, it may be obtained from Mr. Marcus Ware, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regulatory Office, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137; or telephone 918-669-7400.

Comments: In order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity the Corps is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, floodplain administrators, state historic preservation officers, Indian tribes, and other interested parties. Comments concerning the issuance of this permit should be received by the DE no later than the expiration date of this public notice. You may submit comments to mailing address Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regulatory Office, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137; or email CESWT-RO@usace.army.mil, please include the public notice number SWT-2017-339 in the subject line of the message.

Comments concerning water quality impacts will be forwarded to ODEQ for consideration in issuing a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed project. Work may **not** commence until decisions have been made on both Sections 401 and 404.

Andrew R. Commer Chief, Regulatory Office

Enclosures















