

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Applicant: Havana Dock and Rail, LLC. Date: December 29, 2020

Expires: January 27, 2021

CEMVR-OD-P-2020-1587

Section 10

## **US Army Corps of Engineers**

1. Applicant: Havana Dock and Rail, LLC.,22501 N, IL-78, Canton, Illinois 61520.

#### 2. Project Location:

- IL-Havana USGS quad sheet.
- Section 36, Township 22 North, Range 9 West.
- 17810 Manito Road, Havana, Mason County, Illinois 62644
- Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 15, Northing: 4466503, Easting: 749383.
- Latitude: 40.313641. Longitude: -90.064355. Illinois River mile 120.

### 3. Project Description.

- a. <u>Previous Authorization</u>: Mechanical dredging permit authorization (CEMVR-OD-P-2009-992) issued to Havana Dock and Rail, LLC at this location. The permit expired on December 31, 2019. The current project is a reauthorization of this mechanical dredging permit.
- b. <u>Current Request</u>: The purpose of the project is barge dock maintenance dredging. The permittee will perform maintenance dredging activities on the Illinois River. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of material will be mechanically removed from a 23.3 acre dredging area, to a dredging depth elevation of 420.34 and a water depth of 9.46 feet. The material will be dewatered in an upland site, and then trucked to a previously used sediment pond disposal site located on the property. Maintenance dredging will occur on an as needed basis. The material will be disposed of as stated above.
- c. <u>Permit Area</u>: The permit area consists of the 23.3 acre dredging area approximately (2150 feet by 300 feet), and the onsite dredge disposal area of 4.6 acres (1000 feet by 200 feet).

#### 4. Agency Review:

a. <u>Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers</u>: The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

#### b. State of Illinois.

- (1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review.
- (2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5). Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the OWR at <a href="mailto:dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov">dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov</a> or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR Regulatory and other programs can be found at <a href="http://dnr.state.il.us/owr">http://dnr.state.il.us/owr</a>.
- 5. **Historical/Archaeological**: The District consulted with the Illinois geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online and determined there are multiple surveys in the area, but no previously identified historic properties in the vicinity of the permit area, which consists of the Illinois River near RM 120 and the adjacent previously used dredge disposal site. In addition, the Corps consulted "An Investigation of Submerged Historic Properties in the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway" (October 1997) prepared by American Resources Group, Ltd., for the Corps (Contract No. DACW25-93-D-0012, Delivery Order No. 37). There are no shipwrecks indicated in the vicinity of the current permit. Therefore, it is the opinion of the District there are low to no potential for intact historic properties to be affected by the proposed action and there will be **no historic properties affected** by the issuance of the permit.

## 6. Endangered Species.

a. District staff have performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as occurring in Mason County, Illinois:

(https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-current-range-county?fips=171251)

- Indiana bat. The endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. Indiana bats migrate seasonally between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitats. Winter hibernacula include caves and abandoned mines. Females form nursery colonies under the loose bark of trees (dead or alive) and/or cavities, where each female gives birth to a single young in June or early July. A single maternity colony may utilize a number of trees during the summer, typically a primary roost tree and several alternates. The species or size of tree does not appear to influence whether Indiana bats use a tree for roosting provided the appropriate bark structure is present.
  - O Since no trees will be removed associated with this dredging project, the Corps has determined there will be no effect on the Indiana bat.
- Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. The threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) may potentially be found in any Illinois county. It occupies wet prairie remnant habitat. There is no critical habitat designated for this species.
  - O Since there is no wet prairie remnant habitat to be affected by the project, the Corps has determined there should be no effect on the eastern prairie fringed orchid.
- Northern long-eared bat. The threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. It hibernates in caves and mines and swarms in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. It roosts and forages in upland forests and woods.

O Since no trees will be removed associated with this dredging project, the Corps has determined there will be no effect on the northern long-eared bats.

Decurrent False Aster. The decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) is listed as threatened and known to occur in Mason County, Illinois (Illinois River floodplain). This early successional plant species is found in floodplain habitats of the mainstem Illinois River. It is considered to potentially occur in any county bordering the Illinois River. It occupies disturbed alluvial soils in the floodplains of these rivers. Under the previous permit, the following survey and report entitled *DECURRENT FALSE ASTER SURVEY – HAVANA POWER STATION – HAVANA, ILLINOIS*, dated August 2015 was completed by SCI Engineering, Inc. SCI conducted a site reconnaissance to determine the presence/absence of the state and federally endangered Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) within an upland site near the Havana Power Station. The site assessment was provided as part of the special conditions as described in the Section 10 – Maintenance Dredging Permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on March 5, 2010 (Permit No. CEMVR-OD-P-2009-992). The August 21, 2015 site assessment did not identify any individuals or colonies of Decurrent False Aster within the site boundaries. The current level of dense herbaceous and woody vegetation has likely made the site unsuitable for the germination and survival of Decurrent False Aster. No additional clearing or mowing has occurred since the report.

- o For this reason, the District has determined that the proposed action will have no effect on the decurrent false aster.
- b. Based upon the information provided and available at this time, our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity would have **no effect** on federally listed:
  - Indiana bat
  - Northern long-eared bat
  - Eastern prairie fringed orchid
  - Decurrent false aster
- c. While informal consultation has been initiated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at this time, we are further coordinating this application with the FWS and the respective resource agencies through this public notice. Any comments they may have concerning Federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be considered in the final assessment of the proposed project. Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.
- 7. **Public Interest Review**. The decision whether to issue the Corps 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 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; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.
- 8. **Who Should Reply**. The Corps of Engineers 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 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. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

- 9. **Public Hearing Requests**. 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. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.
- 10. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers**. For additional information and comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to Mr. James Kelley by telephone 309-794-5373 or by e-mail: james.c.kelley@usace.army.mil.

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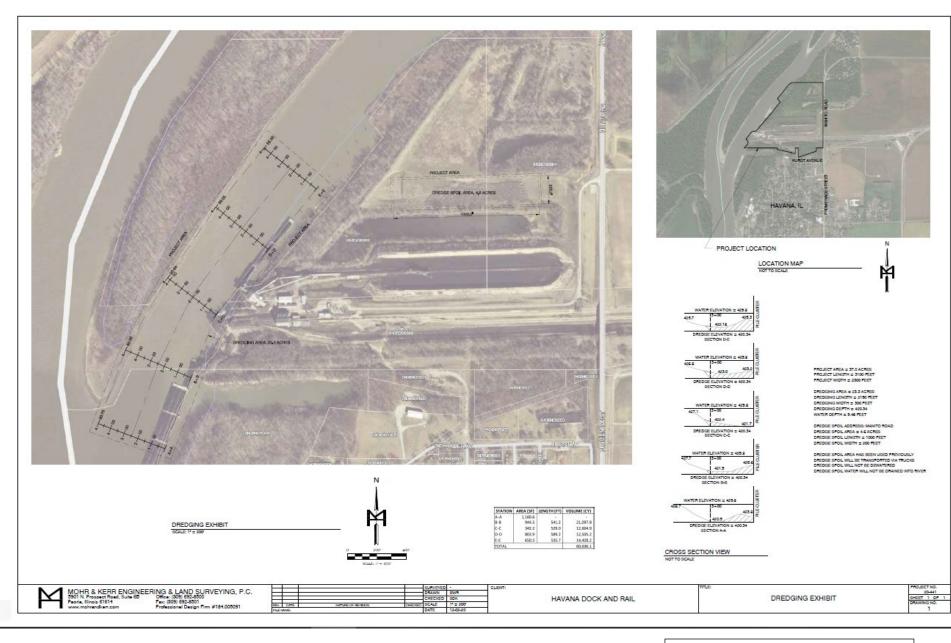
Attach Plan

Mr. James C. Kelley Project Manager Eastern Branch Regulatory Division

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CEMVR-OD-P-2020-1587 Sheet 1 of 1 Location Map and Dredging Exhibit