

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Marquis Land Holdings, LLC

Date: March 11, 2021 Expires: April 09, 2021

CEMVR-RD-2020-1521

Section 10/404

US Army Corps of Engineers

- 1. **Applicant:** Marquis Land Holdings, LLC 11953 Prairie Industrial Parkway, Hennepin, Illinois 61326.
- 2. **Project Location**: The proposed project lies near river mile 209.2 on the Illinois River, approximately one mile north of Hennepin, Illinois. The project lies in Section 34, Township 33 North, Range 2 West in Putnam County, Illinois. Datum NAD83. UTM Zone 15. Latitude: 41.27730, Longitude: -89.33680.
- 3. **Project Description and Purpose**. Maquis Land Holdings, LLC seeks authorization to construct a new barge dock along the east bank of the Illinois River near Mile Marker 209.2, roughly 1-mile north of Hennepin, Illinois. The proposed dock will facilitate barge loading and unloading of dry commodities and will contain approximately 220-feet of face wall with wings on the north and south ends tying back into the bank. Two dolphins will also be installed north of the sheet pile wall. To provide accessibility to barge traffic, approximately 43,216 cubic yards of dredged material will be removed from the project area using mechanical clam shell dredging and will then be transported to an upland disposal site, east of the project area on property owned by the applicant. Of the 43,216 cubic yards to be removed from the site, 25,856 cubic yards will come from the Illinois River. In addition to dredging activities, access roads will be constructed from existing road infrastructure down to the proposed dock location. Overall, the project will result in impacts to 1.39-acres of forested wetland, 0.20-acre of emergent wetland, and 0.06-acre of open water.
- 4. **Avoidance and Minimization Statement**. The applicant will provide an alternatives analysis for this project. Multiple alternatives will be considered including a "no action" alternative. The alternatives analysis will be limited to a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the proposed project. To minimize the project's impact all dredged/excavated material will be removed from the site and deposited in an upland area. Following avoidance and minimization efforts, the applicant plans to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements through the purchase of wetland mitigation credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank.

5. 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 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and 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. The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective September 11, 2020, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a discharge from a Federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to IEPA (the certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Rule part 121.6, once the applicant submits a certification request the Corps will determine the reasonable period of time for the certifying agency to act upon the certification and provide written notification. In accordance with Certification Rule part 121.12, the Corps will notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator when it has received a Department of the Army (DA) permit application and the related certification. The Administrator is responsible for determining if the discharge may affect water quality in a neighboring jurisdiction. The DA permit may not be issued pending the conclusion of the Administrator's determination of effects on neighboring jurisdictions.
- (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 Office of Water Resources at dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at http://dnr.state.il.us/owr.
- 6. **Historical/Archaeological**. The Rock Island District will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR 800. The National Register of Historic Places and the Federal Register have been reviewed and no property listed in the Register or proposed for listing is located within the permit area. A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey was performed for the project study area on behalf of the applicant. The Corps will review survey results and will determine the potential effects of the Corps permit action on any identified properties. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with the project. The Corps will evaluate input by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (or Tribe designated representative) and the public in response to this public notice.
- 7. **Endangered Species**. District staff have performed review and coordination 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 (FWS) on the IPaC website as occurring in Putnam County, Illinois:
 - o Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*);
 - o Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis),
 - Decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*)
 - o Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*).

Informal consultation with FWS was initiated via email prior to issuance of this public notice. Any comments concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be considered in the final assessment of the proposed project. The Corps has made the initial determination of **May Affect**, **Not Likely to Adversely Affect** for the two bat species and a **No Effect** for the plant species. Seasonal tree clearing restrictions are anticipated.

- 8. **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.
- 9. 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.
- 10. **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.
- 11. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers**. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: RD-E (Samantha Chavez), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact Ms. Samantha J. Chavez, at 314-331-8574 or email: Samantha.J.Chavez@usace.army.mil.

Attach Plan Mr. Trevor E. Popkin Chief, Eastern Branch Regulatory Division



