

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers **Rock Island District**

Applicant: Riverstone Group, Inc.

Date: November 13, 2018 Expires: December 12, 2018

CEMVR-OD-P-2018-1202

Section 10

Joint Public Notice US Army Corps of Engineers Iowa Department of Natural Resources

1. Applicant. Riverstone Group, Inc.; Attn: John Brimeyer, 1701 5th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265.

2. Project Location. Section 26, Township 79 North, Range 5 East; LeClaire, Iowa, Scott County, Iowa; approximate Mississippi River mile 498.16. Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 15, Northing 4610297.146523 Easting 721334.20183. Latitude: 41.61371, Longitude: -90.34357.

3. **Project Description**. Dredging. The applicant proposes to perform maintenance dredging via mechanical means at the existing sand and gravel facility. An area measuring approximately 600 feet long by 100 feet wide will be dredged to a depth of 9 feet at flat pool. Approximately 6500 cubic yards of material will be dredged during each occurrence. Dredging frequency is estimated to be once each 2 to 4 years. The dredged material will be loaded onto trucks and transported across US Highway 67 to the LeClaire Quarry.

> Drawing 1 of 3...Vicinity Map Drawing 2 of 3...Plan Details Drawing 3 of 3...Detail Cross Section

4. Agency Review and Where to Reply.

a. The Department of the Army application is being processed under provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

b. State of Iowa. The project plans have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Department's opinion that the proposed activity will comply with Iowa's water quality standards (Chapter 61 IAC). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Iowa should be addressed to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. A copy of the comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers office (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for address).

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5. Historical/Archaeological. The District consulted with the Iowa I-sites geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online. In addition, the District 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 within the vicinity of the dredge location. In addition, the proposed dredge area has been subjected to previous maintenance dredging efforts in the past so any sediments currently being removed are recently accreted. The LeClaire Quarry disposal area has been previously disturbed through the use of the area as a quarry operation. Therefore, it is the opinion of the District there is 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 because "the nature, scope, and magnitude of the work, and/or structures to be permitted are such that there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected" (33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.3.b).

6. Endangered Species. District staff has 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 (FWS) as occurring in Scott County, Iowa: (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/Lists/iowa_cty.html)

- <u>Indiana Bat & Northern Long-eared Bat</u>. The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Iowa, south of Interstate 80. Since no trees will be removed during the dredging, there will be no impacts to bats.
- <u>Prairie Bush Clover</u>. The prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) occupies dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soil. Since the project is strictly in Mississippi River, there is no effect on the prairie bush clover.
- <u>Western Prairie Fringed Orchid</u>. The threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) occupies wet to mesic grassland habitats. Since the project is strictly in Mississippi River, there is no effect on the western prairie fringed orchid.
- <u>Higgins' Eye Pearly Mussel</u>. The endangered Higgins eye pearlymussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) is listed for the Mississippi River north of Lock 20 which includes Scott County. This species prefers sand/gravel substrates with a swift current and is most often found in the main channel border or an open, flowing side channel. Since the project area has been dredged 4 years ago, and does not contain proper habitat, there is no effect on the Higgins' eye pearlymussel.
- <u>Spectaclecase Mussel</u>. The endangered spectaclecase mussel *(Cumberlandia monodonta)* is primarily a large river species occurring most often in riverine microhabitats sheltered from main currents. Substrates include mud to boulders in shallow riffles and shoals with slow to swift currents. Occurrences tend to be aggregated especially under slabs and bedrock shelves protected from the current. The spectaclecase mussel seldom moves and when found in streams, occurs mainly in flow refuges with little sediment turbidity. Since the project area has been dredged 4 years ago, and does not contain proper habitat, there is no effect on the spectacle case mussel.
- <u>Sheepnose Mussel</u>. The endangered sheepnose mussel (Plethobasus cyphyus) is primarily found in shallow areas of large rivers and streams. Since the project area has been dredged 4 years ago, and does not contain proper habitat, there is no effect on the sheepnose mussel.

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Our preliminary determination is that this project will have "no effect on federally threatened and endangered species, or Critical Habitat." This project is being coordinated with the USFWS through this public notice, and the Corps will take any comments they provide under consideration.

7. **Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines**. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

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**. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Attn: OD-P (D. Hardy), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. **Mrs. Donna Hardy** may be contacted for additional information at (309) 794-5378 or email at <u>donna.r.hardy@usace.army.mil</u>.

Attach Plan

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Mrs. Donna Hardy/ Project Manager, Iowa Section Regulatory Branch

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