



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

Pittsburgh District

In Reply Refer to
Notice No. below

US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. LRP 2020-256

Date: February 1, 2021

Notice No. 20-31 A

Closing Date: February 16, 2021

UPDATE to Notice No. 20-31

1. **TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** The applicant has submitted additional information in regard to the following application being considered for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
2. **APPLICANT:** Michael Lazorcik
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
400 Market Street, 13th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106
3. **LOCATION:** Blacklick Creek, North Branch to Blacklick Creek, East Wheatfield and Buffington Townships, near Vintondale, Indiana County, and Blacklick Township, Cambria County, Pennsylvania (40°29'03.4"/ 78°55'57.2")
4. **PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The applicant proposes to collect and treat three large volume acid mine drainage discharges from abandoned underground coal mines from Vinton No. 3 and Jackson Hill mines. As a part of eliminating the three uncontrolled discharges of untreated mine water, the project will temporarily impact 0.25 acre of one wetland and 1,558 linear feet of six streams, as well as permanently impact 0.73 acre of three wetlands and 449 linear feet of six streams.
5. **UPDATE:** The applicant still proposes to mitigate for impacts to wetlands by purchasing mitigation bank credits. In January 2021, the applicant proposed to mitigate for impacts to streams by implementing a permittee responsible mitigation plan that involves approximately 900 linear feet of water quality improvements onsite and 1,250 linear feet of streambank stabilization in the same watershed. The applicant still proposes to purchase 0.73 mitigation bank credits in order to offset impacts to wetlands.
6. **IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES:** The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect endangered species or threatened species, or result in destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. This Public Notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or

proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended). If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurs with the may affect, not likely to adversely affect determination please respond with written concurrence.

7. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted, and it has been determined that there are no properties currently listed on the register which would be directly affected by the proposed work. If we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this notice, or by other means, of specific archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical sites or structures which might be affected by the proposed work, the District Engineer will immediately take the appropriate action necessary pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 - Public Law 89-665 as amended (including Public Law 96-515).

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in the paragraph below entitled "RESPONSES," that a public hearing be held to consider this application. The requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

9. EVALUATION: Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a 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 proposals 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, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain 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; 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 overall public interest of the proposed activity. The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

9. RESPONSES: A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest. Written statements concerning the proposed activity should be received in this office on or before the closing date of this Public Notice in order to become a part of the record and to be considered in the final determination. Any objections which are received during this period may be forwarded to the applicant for possible resolution before the determination is made whether to issue or deny the requested DA Permit. Public comments may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). All responses to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Division, attn. Matthew Gilbert at the above address, by telephoning (412) 395-7189, or by e-mail at matthew.c.gilbert@usace.army.mil Please refer to CELRP-RG 2020-256 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//SIGNED//

for Tyler J. Bintrim, Chief North Branch
Scott A. Hans
Chief, Regulatory Division