



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

Public Notice

In Reply Refer to
Notice No. below

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

Application No. 1974-4

Date: August 3, 2020

Notice No. 20-24

Closing Date: August 18, 2020

1. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Hanson Aggregates BMC, Inc. has previously operated a Large Non-coal site along the Allegheny River in South Buffalo Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. As per the issued Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) permit, Hanson is required to conduct reclamation on the site. The PADEP permit conditions were incorporated into the original 1974-4 Army Corps Clean Water Act Permit. As a part of this reclamation, Hanson proposes to close the mouth of a historic barge inlet. The original opening in the 1970s was 50 feet wide and opened to the Allegheny River. Through sedimentation over the years, the opening is now only about 10 feet to 15 feet wide. Hanson proposes to close it off by staging rip rap on the shoreline adjacent to the sand bar that has formed at the opening, using an excavator to place the rip rap across the sand bar, and building a rock dam across the inlet. The dam will then be backfilled with on-site fill materials. The remainder of the reclamation work would not disturb any of the river.

2. APPLICANT: Hanson Aggregates BMC, Inc.
2200 Springfield Pike
Connellsville, PA 15424

3. LOCATION: Allegheny River, Right Descending Bank, River Mile 32.5, Murphy's Bottom, near Murphy Road, South Buffalo Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania (40.693492, -79.629483)

4. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to reclaim a historic barge inlet on the Allegheny River by filling in the mouth. The reclamation will result in filling in approximately 130' of waters along the river. All but 15' of waters has been naturally silted in. A berm will be created with a top elevation 20' above normal pool level.

5. 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.

6. 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).

7. 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.

8. 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. 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 1974-4 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//SIGNED//

By Tyler J. Bintrim for

Scott A. Hans

Chief, Regulatory Division