

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. 1987-0003 Date: May 11, 2018

Notice No. 18-18 Closing Date: June 10, 2018

- TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted 1. for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- 2. APPLICANT: Dan Gahagan

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive

Bellfonte, PA 16823

- LOCATION: Mouth of Walnut Creek into Lake Erie and the Walnut Creek Marina in Fairview Township, Erie County, PA.
- PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to perform maintenance dredging in Walnut Creek (extending along the channel from the mouth of the Walnut Creek Marina into Lake Erie) and in the basin of the Walnut Creek Marina. The purpose of this project is to provide boating access and safe navigable passage to and from Walnut Creek Marina and Lake Erie. The Walnut Creek channel and the Walnut Creek Marina will be dredged to an elevation of 567.0 feet. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will utilize hydraulic dredging to remove the accumulated sediment form the Walnut Creek Marina area. The dredged material from the Marina will be discharged via pumping below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), on the East Beach of Lake Erie, down-drift from the Walnut Creek Marina where the material will enter back into the littoral drift system for the purposes of beach replenishment. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will utilize a long reach excavator to remove the accumulated native sediment from the channel of Walnut Creek approaching Lake Erie. This dredged material will be loaded into a dump truck and transported to the East Beach of Lake Erie, where it will be discharged by dumping, spreading, and pushing on the East Beach of Lake Erie, down-drift from the Walnut Creek Marina where the material will enter back into the littoral drift system. The channel will not be widened beyond existing conditions nor will it be dredged below the specified elevation As a result of this project. Drawings of the proposed projects and site plans are attached to this notice.

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5. <u>ENCROACHMENT PERMIT</u>: The applicant must obtain a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit which includes 401 Water Quality Certification from the:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Regional Office Waterways and Wetlands Program 230 Chestnut Street Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335-3481

Telephone: 814-332-6942

6. <u>COSTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY</u>: The Applicant is required to certify that the proposed activity complies with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Coastal Zone Management Program. Any comments on the Consistency of the proposed activity with the State's Coastal Management Program should be forwarded to:

Coastal Zone Management Office Office of Resource Management Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Post Office Box 8555 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

- 7. <u>IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES</u>: In letter written by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (SIR# 49115) and based on records maintained in the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory database, rare or protected fish species are known from the vicinity of the proposed project site; however, no adverse impacts are expected as a result of the proposed project. In a letter written by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DNCR), PNDI Number 648953, species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the vicinity of the project; however, no impact is likely as a result of the proposed project. 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).
- 8. <u>IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted (ER 2018-0925-049-A), 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).

- 9. <u>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</u>: 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.
- 10. 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).
- 11. <u>RESPONSES</u>: 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.

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All responses to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, attn.. Cassandra Forsyth at the above address, by telephoning (412) 395-7208 or by e-mail at Cassandra.P.Forsyth@usace.army.mil. Please refer to CELRP-OP-F 1987-0003 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//SIGNED//
Nancy Mullen, for:

Scott A. Hans Chief, Regulatory Branch





