

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

Closing Date: November 23, 2021

Application No. 2018-734

Date: November 3, 2021

Notice No. 21-42

- 1. <u>TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</u>: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- 2. <u>APPLICANT</u>: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 10-0 Route 286 South
 P.O. Box 429
 Indiana, PA 15701
- 3. <u>LOCATION</u>: The proposed project is located at the intersection of State Route (SR) 0422, Section 18B and SR 2005, known as Margaret Road, north of SR 0422 and Cheery Run Road south of SR 0422 in Plumcreek Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. Lat/Long 40.725752 N, -79.383663 W
- PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to 4. discharge clean fill into waters of the United States in conjunction with the SR 0422 Intersection Realignment Project. The existing alignment will be realigned to the north of its current location to correct horizontal and vertical geometric deficiencies. This will result in the construction of a new SR 0422 bridge over SR 2005 and Cherry Run. In addition to the new bridge, a new culvert carrying an unnamed tributary to Cherry Run will be constructed to the west of the new SR 0422 bridge to carry the realigned roadway over the stream. The applicant's preferred alternative will result in approximately 2,985 linear feet (LF) of permanent and 3,355 LF of temporary stream channel impacts. Additionally, approximately 0.98 acre of permanent and 0.95 acre of temporary wetland impacts are proposed for the proposed project. On-site stream mitigation totaling approximately 4,038 LF will occur throughout the project in the form of channel relocations, approach channel realignments, stream daylighting, and new channels. The applicant has proposed to expand existing wetlands on-site by 1.31 acres to compensate for permanent wetland impacts. Drawings of the proposed project attached to this notice. Additional drawings are available upon request.

5. <u>ENCROACHMENT PERMIT</u>: The applicant may be required to 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 Section 230 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335

Telephone: 814-332-6945

- 6. <u>IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES</u>: The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project will have no effect on endangered species or threatened species, or result in destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. While concurrence with this determination is not required, 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).
- 7. <u>IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: 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. <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.
- 9. <u>EVALUATION</u>: 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,

CELRP-RGN Public Notice No. 21-42

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).

10. <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. 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. Allen R. Edris at the above address, by telephoning (412) 395-7158, or by e-mail at allen.r.edris@usace.army.mil. Please refer to CELRP-RGN 2018-734 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

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Cassandra P. Forsyth Acting Chief, North Branch Regulatory Division