



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. 2019-58

Date: July 2, 2020

Notice No. 20-20

Closing Date: July 31, 2020

1. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: 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. APPLICANT: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 12-0
825 North Gallatin Avenue
P.O. Box 459
Uniontown, PA 15401
3. LOCATION: The proposed project is located along State Route (SR) 0981 Section Q20 in Mount Pleasant Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.
4. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge fill into waters of the United States in conjunction with the realignment and widening of portions of SR 0981 in Mount Pleasant Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The scope-of-work includes widening and realigning sections of SR 0981 for approximately 4.5 miles beginning near the intersection with SR 0819 and ending north of the intersection with Windy Hill Court in Norvelt, Pennsylvania. The project will include reconfiguring three stop-controlled intersections into three roundabouts at the intersections: SR 0819 / SR 0981, SR 2007 / SR 0981, and SR 2021 / SR 0981. Further, the roadway will be widened to provide two 12' travel lanes and 8' shoulders through the corridor. The project results in approximately 13,426 linear feet (LF) of stream channel impacts (7,505 LF of permanent; and 5,921 LF of temporary due to access, drainage facilities, stream relocations, culvert replacements, and erosion and sediment pollution control measures;) and approximately 1.45 acres of wetland impacts (1.06 acres of permanent, and 0.39 acre of temporary.) In total, this project results in approximately 2,982.5 LF of channel loss that will require compensatory mitigation. Stream mitigation totaling 3,036 LF is being proposed along a section of Boyer Run (within the project area,) as well as along the project Right-Of-Way in the form of relocations, stream day-lighting, and various stream enhancements (i.e. toe logs, mud sills, log vanes, bank grading, and live plantings.) For permanent wetland impacts, approximately 1.49 acres of palustrine emergent habitat will be created along Boyer Run to replace the impacted wetland vegetative acreage and functions. A drawing showing the limits of the project is attached to this notice. Additional drawings of the proposed project and mitigation can be found at <https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/> and clicking on PN

20-20. If you don't have access to the above URL you may request a hard copy be sent to you directly by calling the number at the bottom of this notice.

5. ENCROACHMENT PERMIT: 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
Southwest Regional Office
Waterways and Wetlands Section
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Telephone: 412-442-4000*

6. IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: 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. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: Several properties listed and/or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be adversely affected by the proposed project. As part of the application the applicant has submitted a fully executed Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the Federal Highway Administration and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, through its State Historic Preservation Office, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14(b)(1) regarding the State Route 0981 Section Q20 Project. 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 which has not been identified in the PA, 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).

10. 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. 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-RGS 2019-58 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:



Jon T. Coleman
Chief, Southern Branch
Regulatory Division