

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers New York District, CENAN-OP-R Upstate Regulatory Field Office 1 Buffington Street, Bldg. 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Watervliet, New York 12189-4000

In replying refer to: Public Notice Number: NAN-2013-00266 Issue Date: June 13, 2014 Expiration Date: July 12, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The New York District, Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. C. 1344).

- APPLICANT: Peckham Industries, Inc. 845 Schoharie Turnpike Athens, New York 12015
- ACTIVITY: The discharge of fill material into waters of the United States to facilitate the expansion of a rail siding at an existing storage and transfer facility.
- WATERWAY: Wetlands associated with an unnamed tributary to Murderer's Creek, in the Hudson River Basin

LOCATION: Town of Athens, Greene County, New York

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

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 proposal 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, floodplain 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 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 need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO THE ATTENTION OF ANDREW DANGELR AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, OR SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO <u>Andrew.C.Dangler@usace.army.mil</u>, TO REACH THIS OFFICE BY THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity. Comments provided will become a part of the public record for this action.

Any person may request, in writing, before this public notice expires, that a public hearing be held to collect information necessary to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons why a public hearing should be held. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the permit decision process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

Our preliminary determination is that the activity for which authorization is sought herein will not affect Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. However, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), if new information warrants, the District Engineers will consult with the appropriate Federal agency to determine the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or their critical habitat in the project area.

Based upon a review of the GIS resources map on the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO) website, the project site is located within areas identified by the SHPO as "Archeo Sensitive Areas". Further consultation with SHPO, the Stockbridge – Munsee Community, Band of Mohicans and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe regarding these ""Archeo Sensitive Areas" is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the applicant will obtain a water quality certificate or waiver from the appropriate state agency in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to a permit decision.

In addition to any required water quality certificate, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Permit

In order for us to better serve you, please complete our Customer Service Survey located at:

## http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/CustomerSurvey.aspx

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice. If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact Andrew Dangler of this office at (518) 266-6356.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil

Jodi<sup>-</sup>M. McDonald Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

## WORK DESCRIPTION

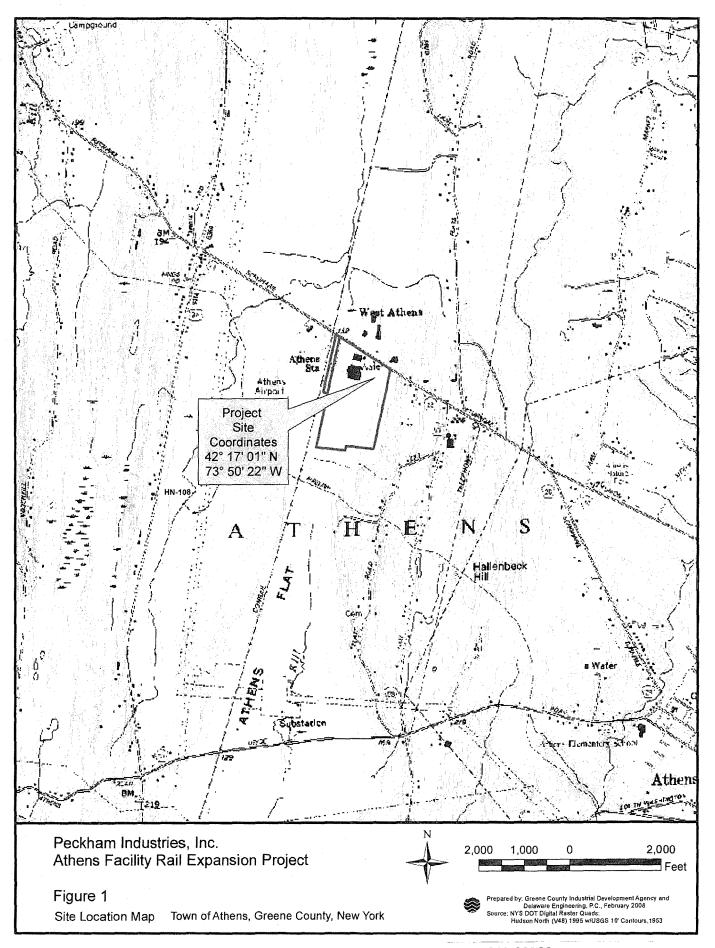
The applicant, Peckham Industries, Inc., has requested a Department of the Army permit for the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States to facilitate the expansion of a rail siding located within an existing storage and transfer facility. The site is located in along the east side of U.S. Route 9W, in the Town of Athens, Greene County, New York.

The work would involve the discharge of fill material into 0.43 acres of wetland and 139 linear feet of intermittent stream to facilitate the construction of 350 feet of additional track at the southern rail siding at the Athens facility. To mitigate for the proposed impacts to aquatic resources, the applicant proposes to enhance approximately 1.65 acres of wet meadow wetland through the planting of native woody tree and shrub species and by establishing a seasonally inundated emergent marsh area. The applicant also proposes to secure a restrictive covenant over a total of 13.38 acres of non-impacted, existing wetland and 0.97 acre of adjacent upland at the project site. In addition to the proposed permanent wetland impacts, a total of 0.61 acre of wetland would be temporarily impacted during the construction of the proposed track and the wetland enhancement area. The temporarily impacted areas would be restored to preconstruction contours, properly stabilized and re-vegetated.

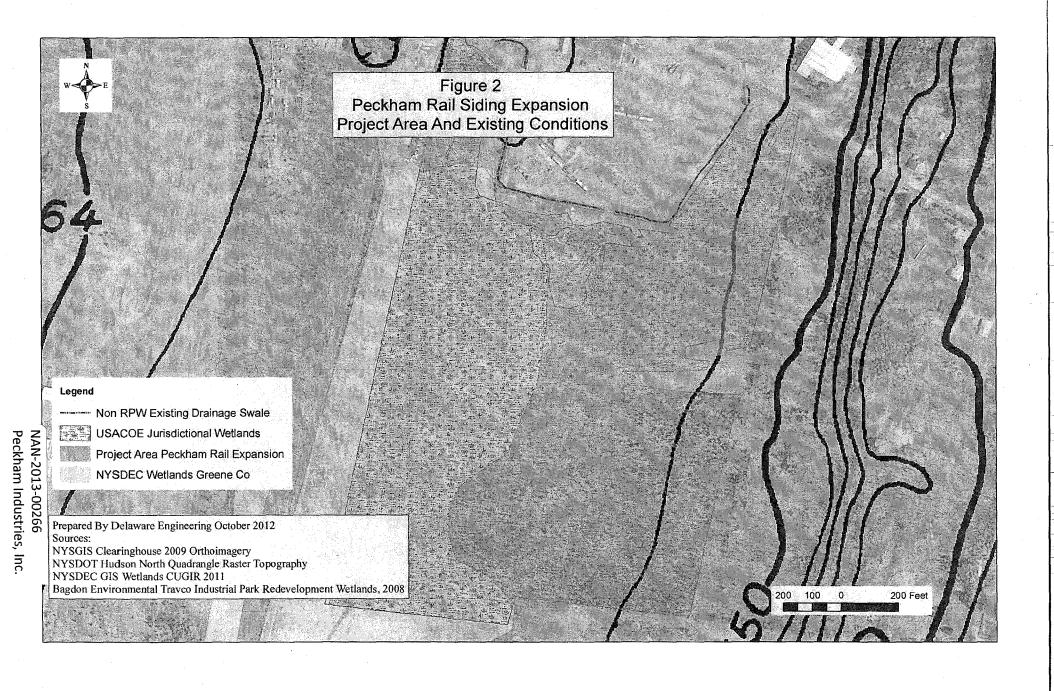
A previous permit (NAN-2008-00374) was issued at the site by the New York District on August 11, 2008. This permit authorized the discharge of fill material into 0.26 acres of wetland and 237 linear feet of intermittent stream channel, with mitigation, to facilitate the construction of the rail siding that would be expanded as a part of this project. The past and current impacts to waters of the United States area being reviewed cumulatively and have a total acreage of 0.69 acres.

The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized proposed impacts to the maximum extent practicable by limiting the proposed track expansion to the minimal length utilizing existing utilities, and is proposing mitigation for the functions to be impacted by the project, including the restoration of 1.65 acres of wet meadow wetland and preserving a total of existing 13.38 acres and 0.97 acre of existing wetland and upland buffer, respectively.

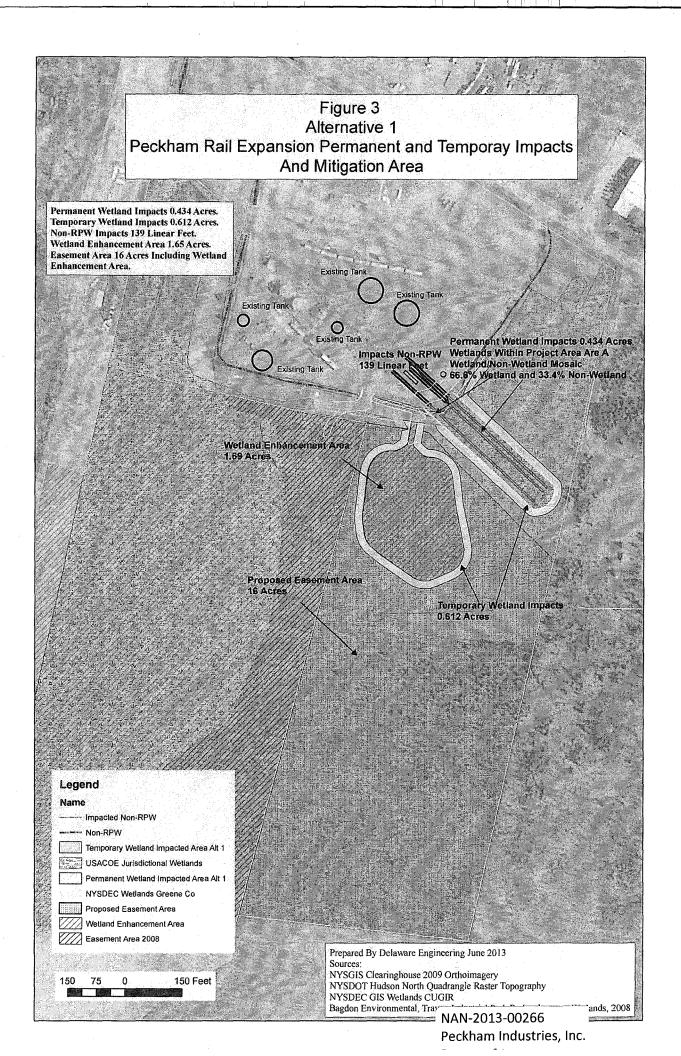
The stated purpose of this project is to increase the length of the current rail siding to provide increased capacity for the rail cars at the Athens facility.

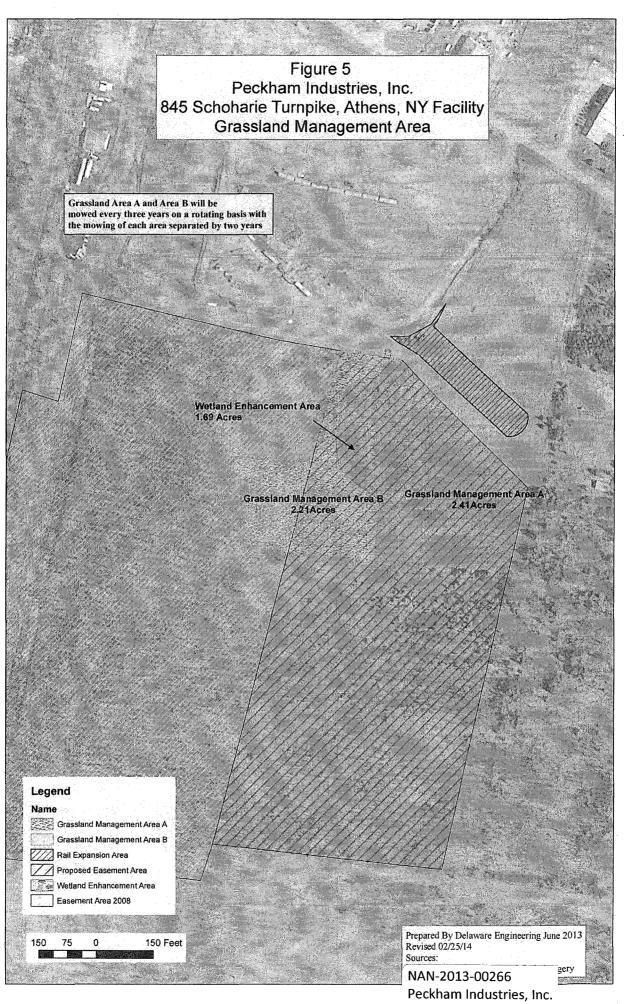


NAN-2013-00266 Peckham Industries, Inc.









Page 5 of 9

