

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers New York District Jacob K. Javits Federal Building New York, N.Y. 10278-0090 ATTN: Regulatory Branch

In replying refer to:

Public Notice Number: NAN-2017-01220-WPI

Issue Date: October 13, 2017

Expiration Date: November 13, 2017

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 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

APPLICANT:

Groundwork Hudson Valley, Inc.

c/o Brigitte Griswold

22 Main Street, Second Floor Yonkers, New York 10701

ACTIVITY:

The relocation of two 26-inch-diameter spud piles, the permanent mooring of a

128-foot-long by 38-foot-wide science barge, and the installation of a 60-foot-long

by 4-foot-wide gangway.

WATERWAY:

Hudson River (Hudson River Watershed)

LOCATION:

City of Yonkers, Westchester 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 REACH THIS OFFICE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

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Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. Comments provided will become part of the public record for this permit application. All written comments, including contact information, will be made a part of the administrative record, available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof, may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

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 is not likely to affect any Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. However, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), the District Engineer is consulting with the appropriate Federal agency to determine the presence of and potential impacts to listed species in the project area or their critical habitat.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA/FS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed work, fully described in the attached work description, could cause the disruption of habitat for various lifestages of some EFH-designated species as a result of a temporary increase in turbidity during construction. However, the New York District has made the preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effects are not likely to be substantial because it is expected that fish populations would avoid the small area of disturbance. Further consultation with NOAA/FS regarding EFH impacts and conservation recommendations being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

Based upon a review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, there are no known sites eligible for, or included in, the Register within the permit area. Presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost by work accomplished under the required permit.

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.

Pursuant to Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456 (c)], for activities under consideration that are located within the coastal zone of a state which has a federally approved coastal zone management program, the applicant has certified in the permit application that the activity complies with, and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with, the approved state coastal zone management program. By this public notice, we are requesting the state's concurrence with, objection to, or waiver of the applicant's certification. No permit decision will be made until one of these actions occur. For activities within the coastal zone of New York State, the applicant's certification and accompanying information is available from the Consistency Coordinator, New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources and

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Waterfront Revitalization, Coastal Zone Management Program, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231, Telephone (518) 474-6000. Comments regarding the applicant's certification, and copies of any letters to this office commenting upon this proposal, should be so addressed.

In addition to any required coastal zone management program concurrence, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Office of General Services

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 this office at (917) 790-8520 and ask for Katherine Pijanowski.

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.

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

Stephan A. Ryba

Chief, Regulatory Branch

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Enclosures

WORK DESCRIPTION

The applicant, Groundwork Hudson Valley, Inc., has requested Department of the Army authorization for the relocation of two 26-inch-diameter spud piles, the permanent mooring of a 128-foot-long by 38-foot-wide science barge, and the installation of a 60-foot-long by 4-foot-wide gangway in the Hudson River, City of Yonkers, Westchester County, New York.

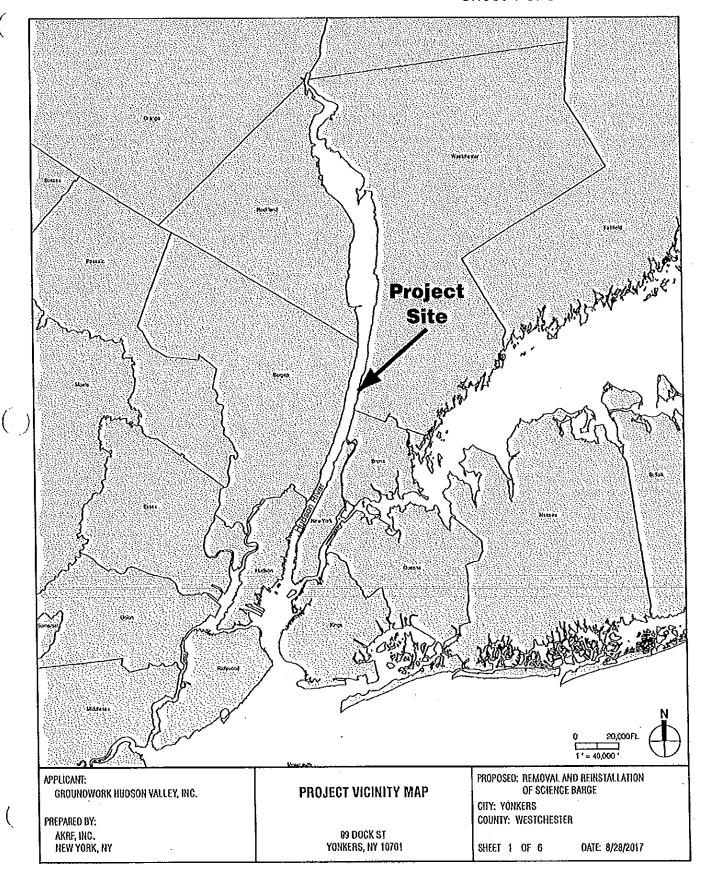
The work would involve: The removal and reinstallation of a 42-foot-long by 4-foot-wide gangway and a 128-foot-long by 38-foot-wide science barge for dry docking repairs. The 42-foot-long by 4-foot-wide gangway would be replaced by a 60-foot-long by 4-foot-wide gangway and the barge would be placed approximately 20 feet west of its current location. As it currently sits, the barge does not provide a minimum depth of 2 feet at Mean Lower Low Water. The relocation of the science barge 20 feet west into the Hudson River would allow the barge to retain a 2-foot clearance at low tides. This office has determined that authorization is required pursuant to Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 322.2(b).

The applicant proposes to use a crane mounted barge measuring approximately 150-feet-long by 40-feet-wide to remove the two 26-inch-diameter spud piles and the 42-foot-long by 4-foot-wide gangway. The science barge would then be tied to the construction barge and transported up the Hudson River to Kingston, New York to facilitate dry docking repairs. The dry docking repairs are expected to take approximately one month. Upon completion of repairs, the construction barge would transport the science barge, spud piles, and the new gangway back to its previous location at the foot of Dock Street in Yonkers, New York.

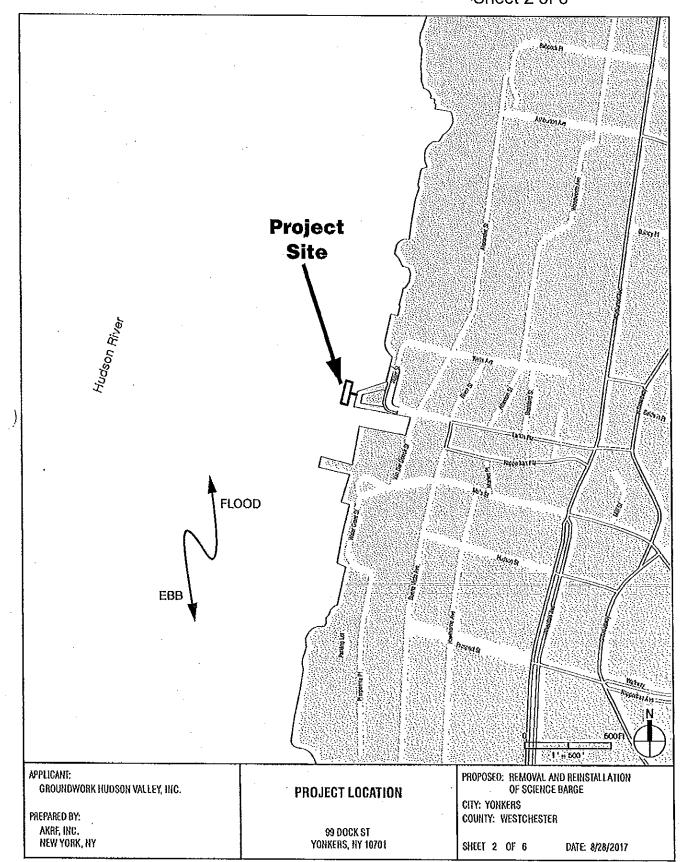
The barge would install the original 26-inch-dimater spud piles by placing them at the appropriate location and allowing them to sink to depth. The applicant has stated that vibratory or impact methods would not need to be utilized for the removal or re-installation of the spud piles. The science barge would then be placed in its new location and the 60-foot-long by 4-foot-wide gangway would be placed by the crane mounted barge.

The stated purpose of this project is to facilitate the continuation of the educational and research programs conducted on the Science Barge through the removal of the barge for dry docking and repairs and re-installation about 20 feet west of its current location at the foot of Dock Street in the City of Yonkers, New York.

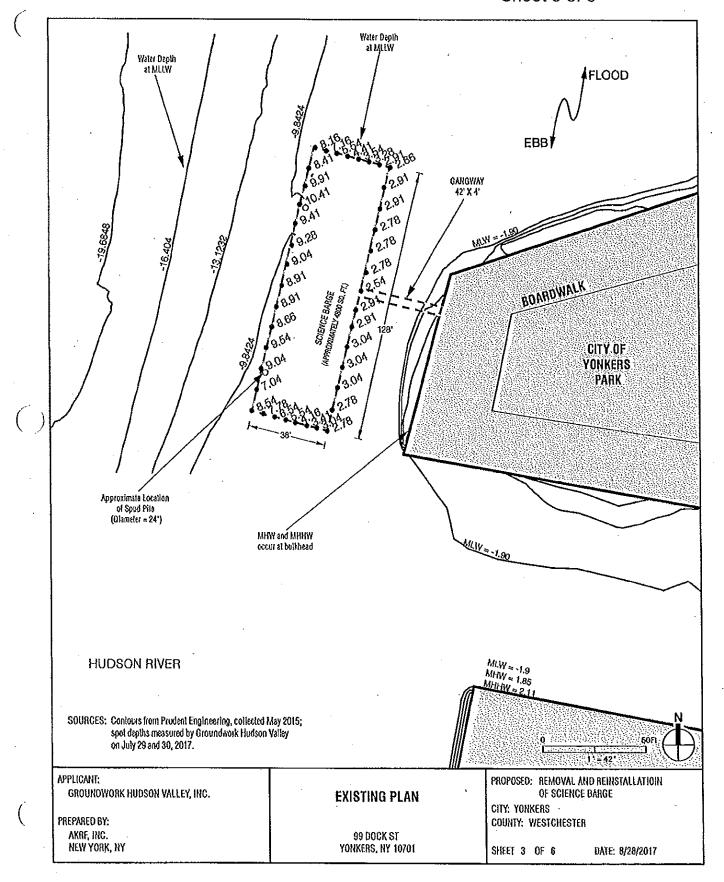
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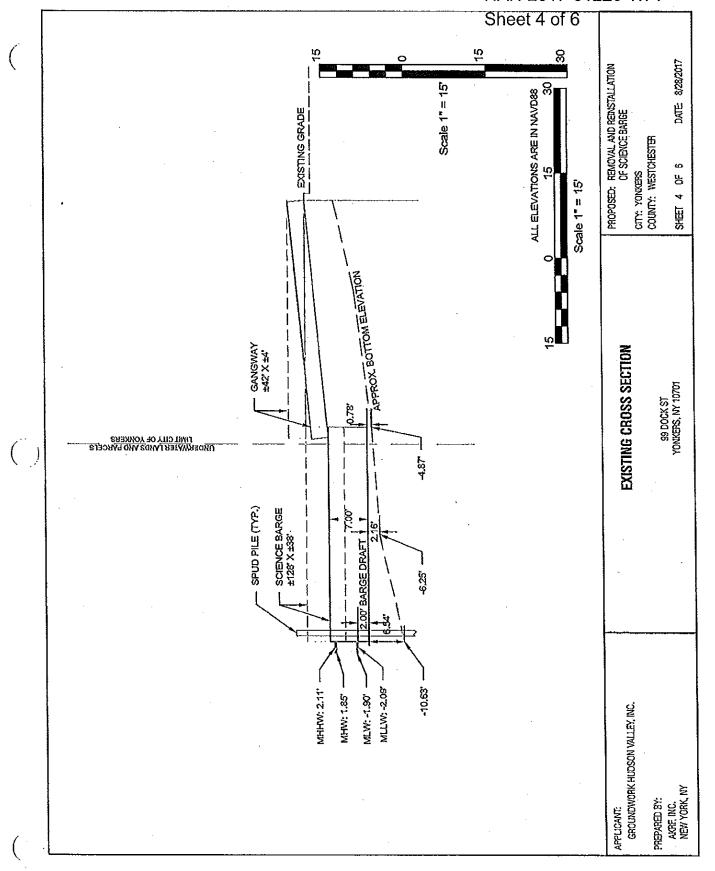
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