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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Little Rock District) Permitting Public Notice Regarding Pulaski County, Arkansas Sand/Gravel Operation

Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

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The United States Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") (Little Rock District) has issued a June 16th public notice referencing a Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act/404 Clean Water Act permit application for:

...work in the waters of the United States associated with the mining of an earthen berm that currently separates an ongoing sand and gravel removal operation from the Arkansas River.

The permit application was submitted by B&B Materials, Inc. ("B&B") and would be located on the left descending bank of the Arkansas River in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

The project's basic purpose is described as removal of sand and gravel for processing and subsequent individual and commercial use. The overall purpose of the project is described as removal of material deposited by the river with a hydraulic dredge and transportation to the existing adjacent facility for processing and sale. The project is deemed water dependent.

The berm involved in the project is stated to measure approximately 2500 feet in length, approximately 20 feet in width at the top and approximately 170 feet in width at the base. Further, riprap is proposed to be placed at each end abatement of the excavated berm. The riprap is described as being placed on 3:1 slopes and extending around each abutment between 300 and 500 feet.

The public notice states that the Little Rock Regulatory Division of the Corps does not typically require mitigation for Standard Permits specific to Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act activities – such as dredging. As a result, the Corps states that because of the previously referenced standard operating procedure and the minor impact of the project, no mitigation will be required if the project is permitted.

A copy of the public notice can be downloaded here.