JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District 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), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2019-00025

Applicant: Mr. Robert Walk
BASF Corporation
Post Office Box 18
Gordon, Georgia 31031

Agent: Mr. Barney Crooks
Corblu Ecology Group, LLC
1305 Lakes Parkway, Suite 110
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located between Thomas Road and Highway 112 just north of the Town of Toomsboro in Wilkinson County, Georgia (Latitude 32.8456, Longitude -83.0710).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The Applicant proposes to construct a mining operation at the 425-acre project site for the purposes of extracting kaolin clay resources. The mining activities would include the removal and storage of overburden material and then the extraction of desired mineral resources. Once the resource is extracted, the Applicant proposes to restore the site to near pre-mining conditions using the stored overburden material and undesirable resource material as backfill. The mined areas would be permanently stabilized with a cover of annual and perennial vegetation upon completion. The mining activities would occur in a progressive pattern throughout the project site to minimize the size of the actively mined areas during the life of the project. The proposed project would result in the discharge of fill material into 1.49 acres of freshwater wetlands, 1,849 linear feet of ephemeral stream, 870 linear feet of intermittent stream and 120 linear feet of perennial stream for the construction of a mining operation and associated infrastructure. Please see the attached drawings provided by the Applicant for more detailed information.
The Applicant’s proposed compensatory mitigation plan proposes to offset the permanent impacts to 1.49 acres of freshwater wetlands, 1,849 linear feet of ephemeral stream, 870 linear feet of intermittent stream and 120 linear feet of perennial stream through the purchase of 11.04 grandfathered wetland credits and 16,110 grandfathered stream credits from the Corps approved Wilkinson-Oconee mitigation bank within the project’s primary service area.

BACKGROUND

The Applicant previously submitted a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN), on December 20, 2018, requesting authorization to complete the proposed project under the Nationwide Permit (NWP) 44 for Mining Activities. The Corps requested additional information on January 18, 2019. Additionally, the Corps conducted a site review on November 6, 2019 to review the stream and wetland delineation. During the delineation review, the Corps identified two intermittent streams (I3 and I4), four ephemeral streams (E1, E2, E3, and E4), and three wetlands (A3, G2, and H) that were not previously identified within the project site. As a result of the additional aquatic resources, the impacts proposed by the project would no longer meet the terms and conditions of the NWP 44. Therefore, the Applicant withdrew the PCN requesting authorization for the proposed project under NWP 44 and submitted the Standard Permit application requesting a Department of the Army Permit to complete the proposed project, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant’s proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division will review the proposed project for water quality certification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Prior to issuance of a Department of the Army permit for a project location in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia, review for Water Quality Certification is required. A reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year, is established under the Clean Water Act for the State to act on a request for Water Quality Certification, after which, issuance of such a Department of the Army permit may proceed.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant’s proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and Georgia’s Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS (GNAHRGIS) indicate that there are no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, pre-historical or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: A preliminary review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service’s Protected Resource Divisions (NMFSPRD)’s list of Endangered and Threatened Species (IPaC) indicates relict trillium (Trillium reliquum) may occur in the project area. The Applicant’s agent conducted field surveys within the project site between December 11-13, 2017 for the presence of relict trillium and/or suitable habitat for this species. According to the Applicant’s agent, some areas within the project site exhibited marginal habitat for this species, but no individuals were observed during the field survey. Based on the information provided by the Applicant, the Corps has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on relict trillium.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

Public Interest 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, 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.

Consideration of Public Comments: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native
American 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 U.S. Army 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 need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's 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.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mr. Roscoe L. Sullivan, III, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Roscoe L. Sullivan, III, Project Manager, Coastal Branch via email at roscocel.sullivan@usace.army.mil or via phone at (912) 652-5618.

Enclosures:
1. Figures (8 pages)
2. Road Crossing Details (1 page)
3. Progressive Mining Plan (1 page)
4. Mine Reclamation Map (1 page)
5. Jurisdictional Areas Plan and Jurisdictional Areas Impact Plan (2 pages)
Figures
Figure 1
Location Map

Duncan Boone Mine Site
Wilkinson County, Georgia

Legend
- Project Boundary

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Figure 2
Aerial Map

Duncan Boone Mine Site
Wilkinson County, Georgia

Legend
- Project Boundary

1 inch = 1,000 feet

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

CEG Job No.: 04-082517-04
Duncan Boone Mine Site
Wilkinson County, Georgia

Figure 3
Service Area Map

Legend
- Site Location
- Service Area
  - Primary - Altamaha
  - Secondary

CEG Project No.: 04-082517-04

1 in = 30 miles
Soil Descriptions
Bk - Kinston and Bibb soils, 0-2% slopes, frequently flooded (Hydric)
CnB - Cowarts-Nankin complex, 2-5% slopes
CnC2 - Cowarts-Nankin complex, 5-12% slopes, moderately eroded
EuB - Eustis loamy sand, 2-6% slopes
FsB - Fuquay loamy sand, 0-5% slopes
GsC2 - Greenville sandy loam, 5-10% slopes, eroded
LaB - Lakeland sand, 0-8% slopes
LaD - Lakeland sand, 8-17% slopes
LmB - Lucy loamy sand, 0-5% slopes
LmC - Lucy loamy sand, 5-8% slopes
OrB - Orangeburg loamy sand, 2-5% slopes
OrE - Orangeburg loamy sand, 12-17% slopes
OsC2 - Orangeburg sandy loam, 5-8% slopes, moderately eroded
ReB - Red Bay loamy sand, 2-5% slopes
VaC - Vaucluse and Ailey loamy sands, 2-8% slopes
VaD - Vaucluse and Ailey loamy sands, 8 to 17 percent slopes

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Legend
- Project Boundary
- NWI Wetlands
- FEMA 100-year Floodplain
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone AE

Figure 6
FEMA Floodplain & National Wetlands Inventory Map

Duncan Boone Mine Site
Wilkinson County, Georgia

1 inch = 1,000 feet
Delineated Waters Dimensions
P1 - 38 LF
P2 - 2,821 LF
I1 - 140 LF
I2 - 41 LF
I3 - 161 LF
I4 - 829 LF
E1 - 1,185 LF
E2 - 286 LF
E3 - 194 LF
E4 - 185 LF
Wet A - 7.87 ac
Wet A2 - 0.32 ac
Wet A3 - 0.06 ac
Wet B - 0.32 ac
Wet C - 0.09 ac
Wet D - 0.11 ac
Wet E - 0.01 ac
Wet F - 0.59 ac
Wet G - 0.67 ac
Wet G2 - 0.37 ac
Wet H - 0.07 ac

Legend
- Project Boundary
- Delineated Streams
  - Perennial
  - Intermittent
  - Ephemeral
  - Delineated wetlands

Note: These jurisdictional areas were field verified through a field review by Steven Fox of the USACE on 11/06/2019.
Datapoint Locations Map

Duncan Boone Mine Site
Wilkinson County, Georgia

1 inch = 600 feet

Legend
- Project Boundary
- Perennial
- Intermittent
- Ephemeral
- Delineated wetlands

Datapoint Locations
- Wetland
- Upland

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Figure 8
Appendix B
Road Crossing Detail
Cross Section A - AA

Cross Section B - BB

Creek Crossing - Plan View

Creek Crossing Location Map

Wetlands and other waters of the US are under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Disturbance of these waters without authorization may be subject to penalty by law.

Table of Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Feature Type</th>
<th>Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Stream P2</td>
<td>2821 LF</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>120 LF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per. Stream P2    2821 LF           Perennial              120 LF
Appendix C
Progressive Mining Plan
Appendix D

Mine Reclamation Map
Reclamation Notes:
1. All slopes will be reclaimed to 3:1 or flatter. All areas will be permanently vegetated with grasses and some areas planted pines. As reclaimed areas are complete.
2. All mining equipment and refuse will be removed from the mine site in accordance with state rules and regulations.
3. All mine pit will be filled or left as a lake, all areas will be permanently vegetated with grasses and some areas planted pines. As reclaimed areas are complete.
Appendix E
Jurisdictional Areas Plan
and
Jurisdictional Areas Impact Plan
Wetlands and other waters of the US are under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Disturbance of these waters without authorization may be subject to penalty by law.