

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. 2011-74

Date: May 23, 2011

Notice No. 11-22

Closing Date: June 12, 2011

1. <u>TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</u>: 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:

McKean County Commissioners

500 West Main Street

Smethport, Pennsylvania 16749

AGENT:

Northwest Engineering, Inc 16424 Route 62 – P.O. Box Q

Tidioute, PA 16351

- 3. <u>LOCATION</u>: Keating Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania. Coordinates for the project area are 41.78111N -78.41528W. Coordinates for the wetland mitigation area are 41.79786N -78.46666W.
- 4. <u>PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK</u>: The applicant proposes to remove and replace the existing bridge on Galico Crossing Road (T-378) over Potato Creek in Keating Township, McKean County, PA. The bridge is being replaced because it has deteriorated to the point that it is posted for a weight limit of 3 tons. Further deterioration will lead to closure of the bridge. The project is being built to PENNDOT standards, and will involve widening and raising of the roadway over the project length of 775 feet. The new bridge will be constructed with concrete beams on new concrete abutments. As a result of the proposed improvements, 0.15 acre of wetlands, 0.12 acre scrub/shrub and 0.03 acre forested, will be directly impacted at the bridge replacement site. Furthermore, the existing deteriorated bridge to be replaced has been determined by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Wetland impacts will be mitigated by constructing 0.24 acres of new wetlands at an off-site location. This location and site has been approved by the McKean County Conservation District and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Wetland Mitigation Plan. In order to provide construction access to the wetland replacement area, an existing ford crossing of Marvin Creek will be upgraded and utilized. This crossing has been approved by the McKean County Conservation District under a General Permit-6 (GP-6). To gain access to the wetland replacement site, a temporary wetland crossing will be necessary.

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Lastly, coffer dams will be utilized within Potato Creek during the replacement of the bridge abutments. These activities have also been approved by the McKean County Conservation District as part of the E&S Plan for the GP-6.

Because the existing bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, mitigation will be accomplished through the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to include offering the bridge to a third party, recording the resource as per State regulations, and erecting a plaque. Drawings of the proposed activities are attached to this notice.

5. <u>ENCROACHMENT PERMIT</u>: The applicant must obtain a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit which includes 401 Water Quality Certification from the:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Regional Office Soils and Waterways Section 230 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335

Telephone: 814-332-6984

- 6. <u>IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES</u>: The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to affect the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. 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). As a special condition of the previously issued GP-6, the McKean County Conservation District has required that no work shall be done within Marvin Creek, a stocked trout stream, between March 1 and June 15 without prior written approval of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.
- 7. <u>IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has determined that the existing bridge to be impacted is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Mitigation for impacts to this historical resource will be accomplished through the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to include offering the bridge to a third party, recording the resource as per State regulations, and erecting a plaque.

Additionally, in consultation with the PHMC, the applicant received notification that there is a high probability that archaeological resources are located in the wetland mitigation area and a Phase I survey was required. The applicant performed a Phase I survey in which no resources were found and in consultation with the PHMC, no further archaeological work is necessary for this 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, 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. <u>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</u>: 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).

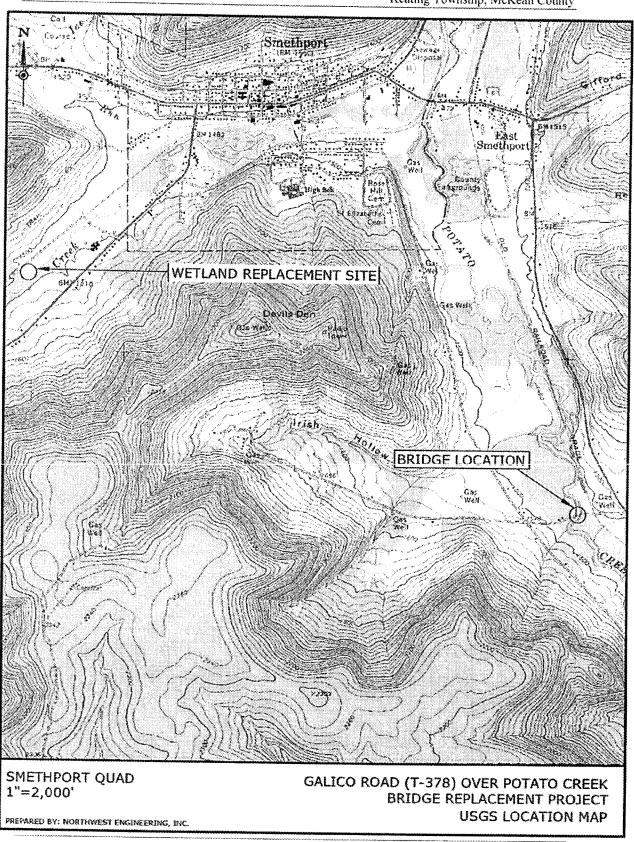
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10. <u>RESPONSES</u>: A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest. Written statements concerning the proposed activity should be received in this office on or before the closing date of this Public Notice 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 Branch, attn Alex Kostra at the above address, by telephoning (412) 395-7141, or by e-mail at alexander.a.kostra@usace.army.mil. Please refer to CELRP-OP-F 2011-74 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//SIGNED//

Scott A. Hans Chief, Regulatory Branch

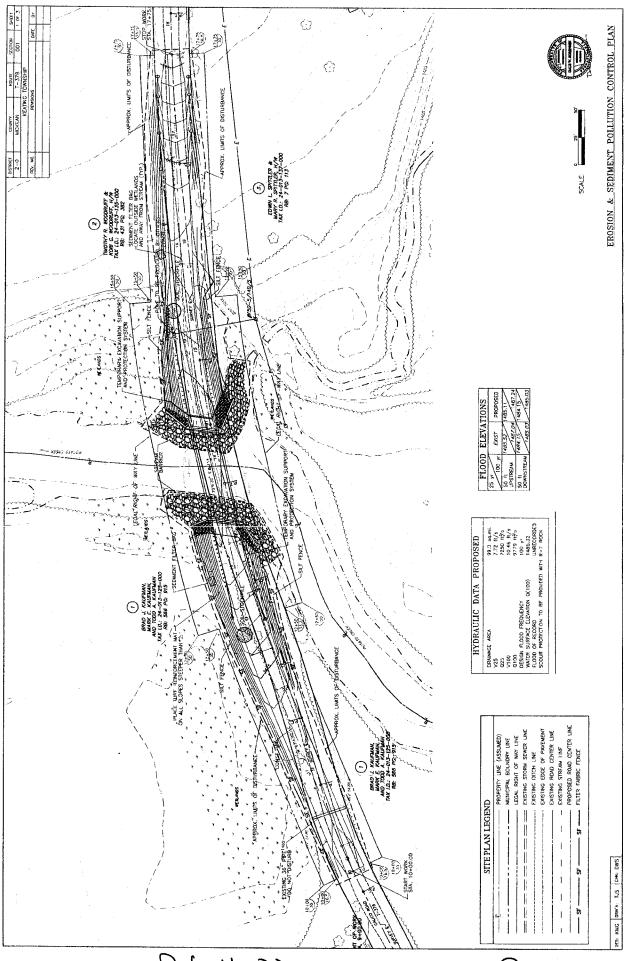


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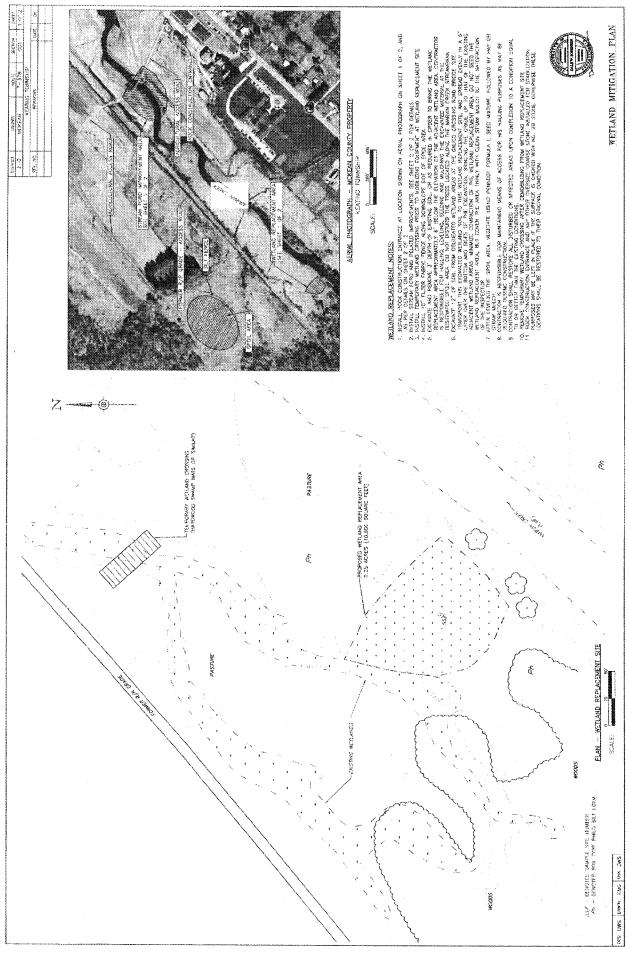
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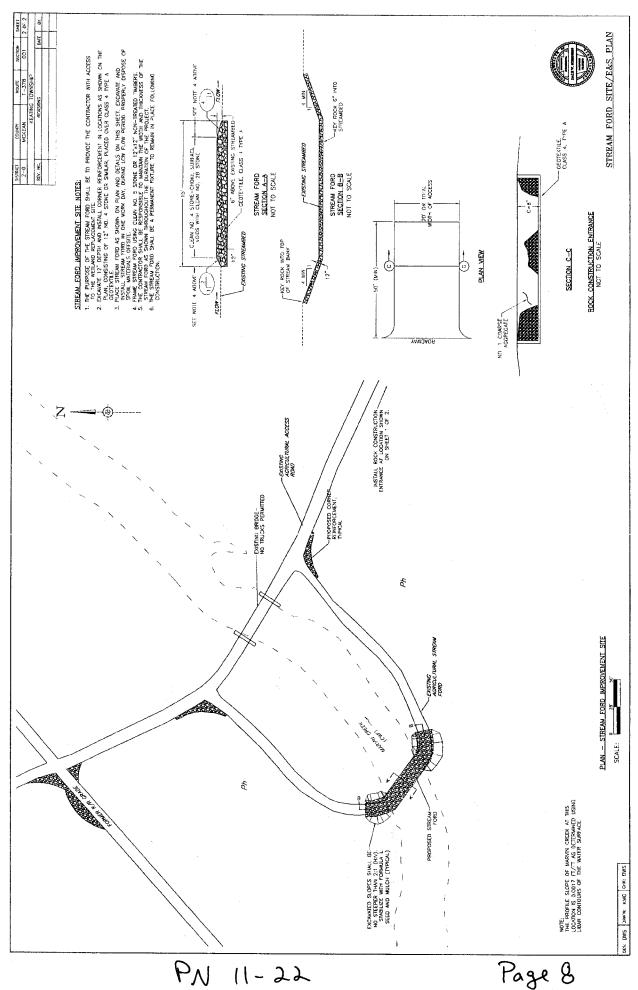
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