



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Lauren Thompson

Phone: 228-523-4053

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hancock County Board of Supervisors, Diamondhead Property Owners Association File for Permit to Dredge Devil's Elbow in Rotten Bayou

BILOXI, Miss. – The Hancock County Board of Supervisors and Diamondhead Property Owners Association have filed an application for a wetlands permit with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources requesting authorization to excavate and dredge accreted sediment in Devil's Elbow, an oxbow of Rotten Bayou, in Diamondhead. Accelerated sedimentation, due to a lack of upland Best Management Practices, has made the waterway no longer navigable at the project location.

The applicants propose to remove approximately 36,000 cubic yards of material from the project site. The proposed dredge area is 1,560 feet in length by 200 feet in width with existing depths ranging between 0 to -11 feet below Mean Low Water (MLW). The area would be dredged to a maximum depth of -8 feet below MLW in order to align with natural channel depths upstream and downstream of the accumulated sediment. A total of 0.87 acre of vegetated wetlands exist within the dredge area and would be impacted by the project. The applicants will be required to relocate the impacted vegetation.

The applicants intend to utilize a beneficial use site for dredged material disposal if one becomes available. The applicants do not propose compensatory mitigation because the project is intended to restore historic flows and improve water quality within Rotten Bayou. In addition to the proposed dredging and disposal, the applicants intend to implement a Sedimentation and Erosion Remediation and Maintenance Plan within the City of Diamondhead to control the source of sediment to Devil's Elbow.

In compliance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the applicant will request certification from the Office of Pollution Control that the above mentioned activity will be in compliance with applicable provisions of Section 301 (33 U.S.C. 1311), Section 302 (33 U.S.C. 1312), Section 303 (U.S.C. 1313), Section 306 (U.S.C. 1316), and Section 307 (U.S.C. 1317) of the Act and appropriate requirements of the State Law.

Anyone wishing to make comments or objections to the proposed regulated activity must submit those comments in writing to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources at 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530 and the Office of Pollution Control, P.O. Box 2261, Jackson, MS 39225-2261 before 1 p.m. on June 3, 2013.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

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