
PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Omaha District

Application No: 2006-138-WEH
Applicant: Kathryn K. Uhl, Cedar County Hwy Supt.
Agent: Jeff Wagner, Mainelli Wagner & Assoc., Inc.
Waterway: Pearl Creek
Issue Date November 30, 2006
Expiration Date: December 21, 2006

21 DAY NOTICE

Reply To:
NEBRASKA REGULATORY OFFICE – WEHRSPANN
8901 SOUTH 154TH STREET, SUITE 1, OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68138-3621

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE: This public notice is issued jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), P.O. Box 98922, State House Station, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509. They will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. NDEQ hereby incorporates this public notice as its own public notice and procedures by reference thereto. For the purposes of the NDEQ, their public notice will expire 30 days from the issue date shown above.

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

APPLICANT: Kathryn K. Uhl, Cedar County Hwy Supt., 101 East Centre St. P.O. Box 816, Hartington, Nebraska, 68739-0816.

AGENT: Jeff Wagner, Mainelli Wagner & Assoc., Inc., 6920 Van Dorn Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

PROJECT LOCATION: Pearl Creek between Sections 34 and 35, Township 30 North, Range 1 East, Cedar County, Nebraska.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant, under project BRO-7014(33), Hartington Southwest, proposes to replace a structurally deficient steel Thru Truss Bridge over Pearl Creek, (a perennial stream), with a 3-span, 140-foot Continuous Concrete Slab Bridge. A channel relocation is proposed to better align the creek with the new bridge. An estimated 224 feet of channel will be relocated as a result of the project. The existing channel is 5 to 10 feet wide, 12 to 14 feet deep, with 2:1 side slopes. The proposed channel is 15 feet wide, 12 to 14 feet deep, with 2:1 side slopes.

There will be approximately 1 foot of channel length lost. A fifty foot buffer strip of native vegetation will be established and maintained from the top of the high bank on each side of the relocated channel, extending away from the relocated channel.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to replace a structurally deficient county bridge and realign the creek.

SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES: Approximately 224 feet of streambed would be filled and relocated on-site as a result of this project.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps of Engineers, Omaha District will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR 800. We have checked the National Register of Historic Places and its current supplements and no property listed or proposed for listing in the Register is located in the project area. This is the extent of our knowledge about historic properties in the permit area at this time. However, we will evaluate input by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice, and may require a reconnaissance survey of the project area to check for unknown historic or prehistoric properties, if warranted.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

FLOODPLAIN: This activity is being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. By this notice, comments are requested from individuals and agencies that believe the described work will adversely impact the floodplain.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This public notice serves as an application to the state in which the discharge site is located for certification of the discharge. The discharge must be certified before a Department of the Army permit can be issued. Certification, if issued, expresses the state's opinion that the discharge will not violate applicable water quality standards.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The decision whether to issue the Corps' permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed/completed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against their 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. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

COMMENTS: 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 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 project. 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 activity.

Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed/completed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to the Nebraska Regulatory Office – Wehrspann, 8901 South 154th Street, Suite 1, Omaha, NE 68138-3621. The District Engineer is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic system's functional values, cumulative and secondary effects and endangered species. All comments received will be considered public information; copies of all comments, including names and addresses of commentors, may be provided to the applicant unless confidentiality is requested. Comments must be submitted on or before the expiration date (located at the top of the first page) of this notice to be considered in the subsequent actions on this application.

PUBLIC HEARING: Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information about this application may be obtained by writing to Laura Banker at the address shown on page one or by calling her at (402) 896-0896. You can also e-mail her at Laura.Banker@usace.army.mil.

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page one.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display advertising.