



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Omaha District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application No: NE 2009-00283-KEA

Applicant: North Platte Regional Airport

Waterway: North Platte River wetland

Issue Date: March 16, 2009

Expiration Date: April 6, 2009

21 DAY NOTICE

Reply To:

NEBRASKA REGULATORY OFFICE – KEARNEY

2214 2ND AVENUE, KEARNEY, NEBRASKA 68847

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). NDEQ P. O. Box 98922, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922 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 NDEQ, this public notice will expire 30 days from the above issue date.

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

APPLICANT: North Platte Regional Airport, Attn: Mike Sharkey, 5400 East Lee Bird Drive, Suite 10, P.O. Box 1517, North Platte, Nebraska 69103-1517. Agent: Olsson Associates, Attn: Deanna Pulse, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 111, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

PROJECT LOCATION: Southwest ¼ of Section 6, Township 13 North, Range 29 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to construct a new taxiway with associated improvements. Taxiway D will parallel Runway 17/35 and will include drainage improvements, lighting additions, and wildlife fence relocation. A portion of a perennial side channel of the North Platte River will be tubed by extending an existing 36-inch culvert by another 200 feet to build the taxiway safety area. The wetland loss will be 0.09 acre of palustrine, emergent, temporarily flooded wetland. The dominant hydric plant species is common reed. The applicant proposes to mitigate the impact to 200 feet of channel by creating an additional length of 210 feet. Two alternative stream mitigation sites have been proposed approximately 5,000 feet on the same channel on airport property. Mitigation plan drawings and an alternatives analysis are attached.

PROJECT PURPOSE: 1. Increase safety by reducing the opportunity for runway accidents. 2. Improve traffic flow of taxiing and landing aircraft. 3. Improve site drainage to protect integrity of runways and taxiway. 4. Install wildlife fencing to prevent deer and other large wildlife incursions. 5. Install additional lighting to allow night time and poor weather condition use.

Currently aircraft using Runway 17/35 must back-taxi on the runway to reach the terminal or hangar area. Therefore, aircraft are taxiing on the runway while other aircraft are on final approach to the runway. This creates the potential for a runway incursion, which is a high priority safety hazard for the Federal Aviation Administration. A parallel taxiway will provide separation between taxiing aircraft on the ground and approaching aircraft in the air, thus greatly reducing the potential for runway incursions and increasing safety. There is no air traffic control tower, thus parallel taxiways are crucial.

SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES: A 1.82-acre palustrine, emergent, temporarily flooded wetland adjacent to a side channel occurs in the project area. The dominant species is *Phragmites australis* (common reed).

CULTURAL RESOURCES: No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: In compliance with 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. Department of Interior, 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, 2214 2nd Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska 68847** or send an e-mail to dwight.k.tillotson@usace.army.mil. 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: For additional information, please call **Keith Tillotson at (308) 234-1403**.

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.