## JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

### CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107 and the S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N # SAC-2004-13767 December 20, 2013

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 <u>et.seq.</u>) an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

## THE BOEING COMPANY C/O MR. JACK JONES 5400 INTERNATION BOULEVARD NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29418

for a permit to excavate and place fill material in waters of the United States adjacent to the

# **ASHLEY RIVER**

at a location near the intersection of International Drive and Michaux Parway at the Charleston International Airport in Charleston County, South Carolina (Latitude 32.873642, Longitude -80.036022)

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

# NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2014

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed project consists of constructing improvements to an existing 232-acre aerospace manufacturing facility. The overall project is described as the Boeing South Carolina Expansion Program and is expected to meet both the existing and the future development needs of the Boeing Company's North Charleston campus for the next 30 years. The proposed activities in waters of the United States include the expansion of existing facilities and the construction of new manufacturing facilities to produce parts, to assemble parts, to paint individual parts and fully assembled airplanes, to expand the existing flight line, and to provide additional office space and employee parking for technical, engineering, management, and support staff.

According to the permit application, the Boeing Company has added approximately 468 acres of additional property to the existing North Charleston campus. Stage 1 of the proposed expansion is shown on sheet 7 of 46, and shows development activities that are expected to

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begin in 2014. Stage 1 primarily focuses on the expansion of existing facilities north of International Boulevard in order to support rate increases in the production of parts and fully assembled 787 airplanes. Proposed activities include expanding the existing flight line, constructing a 2-bay airplane paint facility, and constructing additional employee parking and stormwater detention ponds on the project site.

It is our understanding that Stage 2 of the proposed expansion is still in the early planning stages and is not expected to begin construction until 2016. Stage 2 is shown on sheets 12-16 of 46, and includes the construction of approximately 3.4 million square feet of manufacturing buildings and 400,000 square feet of administration and office buildings south and west of International Boulevard. At this time, there is some uncertainty about the exact size and location of the proposed buildings, parking areas, and stormwater detention ponds that are included in Stage 2. However, existing site constraints and assumptions about the typical size and configuration of similar aerospace manufacturing facilities on the project site will be used to evaluate the proposed project.

According to Boeing, the proposed expansion must be located immediately adjacent to the existing aircraft assembly facility in order to support existing operations and to provide direct access to the runways at Charleston International Airport. The proposed project would result in the excavation and/or placement of fill material in 16.37 acres of wetlands and 3.33 acres of upland buffers north of International Boulevard that were protected by a restrictive covenant when the existing aerospace manufacturing facility was constructed. In addition, the proposed project would result in the excavation and/or placement of fill material in 134.62 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, 3.07 acres of jurisdictional ditches, and 1.91 acres of non-jurisdictional wetlands south and west of International Boulevard on the 468 acres of property that were added to the North Charleston campus.

It is our understanding that 2.2 million cubic yards of fill material will be required to create the elevations necessary to expand the existing facility and develop the remainder of the project site. However, the proposed construction activities and the need for this fill material will be spread out over time as the project site is developed in stages. In order to offset the proposed impacts to waters of the United States (a total of 153.71 acres of waters of the United States, and 1.91 acres of non-jurisdictional wetlands), the Boeing Company has proposed a compensatory mitigation plan that includes the preservation of approximately 3,618 acres of land in the Cooper River watershed (USGS Hydrologic Unit Code 03050201).

The properties identified in the conceptual mitigation plan include the northern portion of the Keystone Tract (1,753 acres), a portion of the Fairlawn Tract (1,530 acres), and the Nebo Tract (355 acres). These properties include approximately 1,820 acres of waters of the United States. According to the mitigation plan, the Boeing Company is evaluating potential opportunities to restore and/or enhance aquatic resources on these properties. These properties will eventually be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, or a similar organization for long-term management and site protection. In addition, Boeing has identified approximately 150 acres within the Filbin Creek watershed in North Charleston, South Carolina that is currently adversely impacted by the presence of invasive species. It is our understanding they are negotiating an agreement with SCDNR to remove these invasive species and to restore natural flora and fauna within this area.

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As

such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 153.71 acres of freshwater wetlands and other waters of the United States that are located upstream of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has reviewed the permit application and consulted the most recently available information and notes that the Federally endangered wood stork (Mycteria americana) was previously identified foraging along the ditches in the vicinity of the proposed project. However, it has been determined that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect these species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Consultation of the National Register constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of

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important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project 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 and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

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.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Mr. Nat Ball at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



























































































