

Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's 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.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Ms. Holly Ross, 1104 North Westover Boulevard, Suite 9, Albany, Georgia, 31707, or by email to holly.a.ross@usace.army.mil, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Holly Ross, Project Manager, Albany Field Office at 648-422-2727 or via email at holly.a.ross@usace.army.mil.

Enclosures:

1. Topographic map of project areas – current proposal and Loncala tract
2. Aerial Image map of project area – current proposal
3. Project Location in reference to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
4. Hydrologic unit code (HUC) map
5. Impacts and work plan for preferred alternative
6. Estimated Mining Timeline
7. Proposed Site Layout
8. Impact Excavation Design Cross Section
9. Excavation Depth cross-sections (2 pages)
10. Purpose and Need Statement provided in the application
11. Alternative Site Selection Factors as provided in the application
12. Alternative 1 Summary (4 pages) provided in the application