

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Seventh Coast Guard District

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16591/SC 274
July 27, 2018

PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE (04-18)

The United States Coast Guard is soliciting public comments on a proposal by Palmetto Railways to construct a fixed railroad bridge. The purpose of this project is to provide a safe, functional and efficient crossing serving rail and vessel traffic. The need for this proposal is to construct a railroad bridge, which will connect the Camp Hall Commerce Park to a point where it will connect to pre-existing CSX railway tracks by an approximately 23 mile long new rail line. A Coast Guard Bridge Permit application has not yet been submitted but will be required for this project.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Santee Cooper Diversion Canal, mile 71.3, 33° 22' 10" N latitude and 80° 07' 32" W longitude. It is 1.25 miles downstream of the SC 45/US 17 bridge, approximately 1.8 miles northwest of the mouth of Lake Moultrie and approximately 2.95 miles southeast from Lake Marion near Cross, Berkeley County, South Carolina. The canal depth is not tidally influenced.

PROPOSED MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Horizontal: 100 feet

Vertical: 40 feet

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The Surface Transportation Board (STB) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will act jointly as lead federal agencies for satisfying requirements of The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The co-lead federal agencies are producing an Environmental Assessment (EA) outlining the environmental impacts of the overall proposed project.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: Mariners are requested to express their views on navigational access and safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges and extended nighttime navigation through the proposed bridge.

Boat owners in the project vicinity are requested to provide information about their vessels including vessel type, length overall, draft, beam, and height from the waterline to the highest fixed point and to appurtenant structures (e.g. tuna towers, flying bridges, fixed antennas and radar units) and whether these appurtenant structures can be disassembled, dismantled or lowered. Also provide where the vessel is primarily moored and the frequency of passage under the proposed bridge (i.e. number of times per month). Provide comments giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed project.

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Written comments will be received and made part of the case record at the office of the Commander (dpb), Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 SE 1st Ave., Ste. 432, Miami, FL 33131-3028, for a 30-day period from the date of this Public Notice. The Project manager for this application is Mr. Gwin Tate, who can be reached at (305) 415-6747, or by mail at the above address. We request this information be brought to the attention of any person having an interest in this project who may not be aware of this public notice.

Additional information on the project may be found on the project website address at:
<http://www.camphallrailnepa.com/>

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