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Norfolk District Regulatory Office

Public Notices

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FEDERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The District Commander has received a joint application for Federal and State permits as described below:

APPLICANT

City of Alexandria
301 King Street, Suite 3200
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The project site is located east of the existing Metrorail tracks, approximately midway between the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Braddock Road Stations. The area proposed for the station is bordered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) to the east and active CSX tracks and Potomac Avenue to the west. The site is located north of the Potomac Greens neighborhood and east of the Potomac Yard Shopping Center in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE: The applicant proposes the construction of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, a new metrorail station along the Blue and Yellow lines in the vicinity of the Potomac Yard. The proposed improvements and construction area are comprised of ±17 acres. The project consists of grading and filling for the construction of the station and associated infrastructure (new and re-aligned tracks, pedestrian/bicycle facilities, entrance pavilions, access/emergency road, and stormwater management).

The purpose of this project is to improve and maximize local and regional transit accessibility to and from the Potomac Yard area along the U.S. Route 1 corridor for current and future residents, employees, and businesses in support of currently proposed and anticipated development in the area over the next several decades, consistent with the adopted North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan.

The proposed project would temporarily and permanently impact 3.57 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. Permanent impacts are to 0.92 acres of palustrine forested wetland (PFO) and 0.64 acre of palustrine emergent wetlands (PEM). Temporary impacts are to 1.10 acres of PFO wetland and 0.91 acres of PEM wetland.

Compensatory mitigation will be provided for permanent wetland impacts through the purchase of wetland credits from a Corps approved wetland mitigation bank. Temporary wetland impacts will be restored through an approved wetland restoration plan.

The project was previously public noticed on February 9, 2018. This is a modified version of the public notice. The overall permanent and temporary impacts to wetlands have been reduced.

Additional information about the project, including the revised Joint Permit Application (JPA) can be found at the following links:

<https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/PotomacYardMetro/>

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyard/default.aspx?id=101657>

<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/additionaldocs.php?id=20190170>

In addition to the required Department of the Army permit, the applicant must obtain a Virginia Water Protection Permit/401 certification from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality assuring that applicable laws and regulations pertaining to water quality are not violated and a permit from the local wetlands board. Project drawings are attached.

AUTHORITY: Permits are required pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217) and Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia.

FEDERAL EVALUATION OF APPLICATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All of the proposal's relevant factors will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use classification, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Environmental Protection Agency's "Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material" will also be applied (Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act).

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 direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of this proposed 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 proposal. 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 proposed activity. Anyone may request a public hearing to consider this permit application by writing to the District Commander within 30 days of the date of this notice, stating specific reasons for holding the public hearing. The District Commander will then decide if a hearing should be held.

Preliminary review indicates that: (1) no environmental impact statement will be required; (2) after conducting the NAO ESA Project Review Process, no listed/proposed/candidate species and/or

designated/proposed critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended) will be affected. Based on this “no effect” determination, no further coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Service is required; and (3) based on review of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources’ Data Sharing System, there are known properties eligible for inclusion or included in the National Register of Historic Places in or near the permit area that would be adversely affected by the proposal. Additional information might change any of these findings.

For compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended for projects located in Tidewater, the applicant must certify that federally licensed or permitted activities affecting Virginia's coastal uses or resources will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) and obtain concurrence from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Environmental Impact Review (OEIR). We have not received a certification from the applicant prior to publication of this public notice. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit a consistency certification to the Office of Environmental Impact Review for concurrence or objection and proof of concurrence must be submitted to the Corps prior to final permit issuance. A template federal consistency certification can be found here:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/EnvironmentalImpactReview/FederalConsistencyReviews.aspx#cert>.

For more information or to obtain a list of the enforceable policies of the VCP, contact the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Impact Review at (804) 698-4330 or e-mail: bettina.sullivan@deq.virginia.gov or john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov.

COMMENT PERIOD: Comments on this project should be made by email to theresita.m.crockett-augustine@usace.army.mil or in writing, addressed to the Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers (ATTN: CENAO-WR-R), 18139 Triangle Shopping Center, Suite 213, Dumfries, Virginia 22026, and should be received by the close of business on May 6, 2019.

PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY: Comments and information, including the identity of the submitter, submitted in response to this Public Notice may be disclosed, reproduced, and distributed at the discretion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Information that is submitted in connection with this Public Notice cannot be maintained as confidential by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Submissions should not include any information that the submitter seeks to preserve as confidential.

If you have any questions about this project or the permit process, contact Ms. Theresita Crockett-Augustine at 757-201-7194 or email at theresita.m.crockett-augustine@usace.army.mil.

Attachment: Drawings

Related Story: [Maps and Graphics](#)

<https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utills/getfile/collection/p16021coll7/id/10369>

[Metro](#) [Potomac Yard Metrorail Station](#) [Washington D.C.](#)