



ST. CHARLES PARISH

WENDY BENEDETTO
COUNCILWOMAN, DISTRICT III

August 19, 2008

Mr. Billy Weidner
Magnolia Fleet, LLC
c/o River Construction
P.O. Box 9455
Metairie, LA 70055

Dear Mr. Weidner:

On Wednesday, August 13, 2008, Members of the St. Charles Parish Council and myself, held a Town Hall Meeting to address the concerns of the Residents in the area of the Magnolia Fleet operation.

To clarify and understand your permit request, I spoke with the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Pilot Association, and the Pontchartrain Levee District, all Governing Authorities. As the District Councilwoman, I felt that a concise understanding of this permit would allow me to accurately inform the public and address their concerns. The Town Hall Meeting produced numerous questions that could only be answered by Magnolia Fleet, LLC. I have listed these questions below and would greatly appreciate your answers in writing:

1. With the addition of the floating dock, will this move the outermost barges 35 feet into the channel?
2. Will these enhancements to the present fleeting operation increase the amount of barges presently moored at the site?
3. Will this become a 24-hour operation?
4. With the installation of the proposed ramp, what is the intended use of the batture?
5. In the future, are there plans to access the barges from the batture?
6. Will employees be housed at this location, and if so, how many?
7. Will operation lights, such as stadium type lights, be installed?

Office

St. Charles Parish
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(985) 783-5000
Fax: (985) 783-2067
<http://www.st-charles.la.us>

Residence

13 Ashland Drive
Destrehan, LA 70047
Cell: (504) 915-4123
Email: wbenedetto@st-charles.la.us


August 19, 2008
Page 2

8. How many parking spaces will be constructed on the bature?
9. What type of safety precautions will be enforced to protect the bikers, runners, joggers, and children using the bike path on the levee?
10. What type of material will be stored in these barges, and if it is hazardous material, will notifications be posted?
11. Since Hurricane Katrina, the concerns regarding the levees in Louisiana are always in the limelight; what precautions will Magnolia Fleet, LLC adopt that will guarantee the integrity of this levee system?
12. Operations along the river have, from time to time, used loud PA speakers as a method of communication, which disrupts the surrounding area. In following the good neighbor policy, would you consider using 2-way radios and the PA system only in an emergency?

Mr. Weidner, I am quite sure that you will understand the concerns of these residents and will do all within your power to minimize the disruptions of the quality of everyday life for these citizens. If a facility of this type was permitted in close proximity to your residence, I am quite sure that you would have concerns and ask these same questions. We only ask that you continue to run this operation under the good neighbor policy, following all rules of all Governing Authorities and do not go outside the footprint of the permit.

I await your response and would certainly welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss this matter. I can be reached through the Council Secretary's Office at (985) 783-5000, my cell number at (504) 915-4123, or e-mail me at wbenedetto@st-charles.la.us.

Sincerely,



WENDY BENEDETTO
COUNCILWOMAN, DISTRICT III

WB/BJT:ag

cc: Parish Council
Mr. V.J. St. Pierre, Jr., Parish President
Mr. Mark Tienvieri, Ormond Civic Association President
Mr. Richard Wright, Richard Wright & Associates