



LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

PERMIT APPLICATION

Permit # 973 (Assigned by Department)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Scenic Rivers program is authorized by LRS title 56, Chapter 9 Part II. This law requires permits authorizing activities in or affecting rivers that have been designated by the Louisiana Legislature as Natural and Scenic. Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Information in this application is made a matter of public record through issuance of a public notice. Disclosure of the information requested is voluntary, however, the data requested is necessary in order to communicate with the applicant and to evaluate the permit application. If necessary information is not provided, the permit application cannot be processed nor can a permit be issued.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant	Sklar Exploration Company, LLC	Name of Agent (if any)	Kevin D. Roberts, REM
Address	5395 Pearl Parkway, Suite 200	Address	18615 Tuscany Stone, Suite 380
City, State, Zip	Boulder, CO 80301	City, State, Zip	San Antonio, TX 78258
Phone	720-836-1108	Phone	903-253-6225
Email Address	mshed@sklarexploration.com	Email Address	kevin.roberts@flatrockenergy.net

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Brief summary of the description and purpose of the proposed activity (details to be attached as a separate document)

Sklar will install a 4- inch natural gas pipeline under Black Lake Bayou via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to meet the requirements of the Scenic River Program. The HDD will be approximately 3,280 feet long and best management practices will be followed, as needed.

Is any portion of the activity complete? YES or **NO** (If yes, indicate month and year of completion)

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Stream Name	Black Lake Bayou
Address	4.84 miles west-southwest of Ashland, LA
City, State, Zip	4.84 miles west-southwest of Ashland, LA
Parish	Red River and Natchitoches
Sec/Township/Range	Section 11/Township North 13/Range West 08
Latitude/Longitude	32.123548 lat; -93.167486 long

ADJACENT LANDOWNERS

Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers of Adjacent Landowners
Martin Timber Co. LLC
c/o Stephen Upton
890 Highway 153
Castor, LA 71016-4309
318-483-3894

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Must be a separate document. See the attached instruction sheet for completing the assessment.

CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION ACCURACY

Application is hereby made for a Scenic River Permit to authorize the activities described herein. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in this application and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities, or I am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.



 Signature

7/20/2016

 Date



Flatrock Engineering and Environmental, LTD
18615 Tuscany Stone, Suite 380
San Antonio, Texas 78258
210-568-1861
<http://www.flatrockenergy.net>

July 14, 2016

Mr. Kyle Balkum, Biologist Director
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Scenic Rivers Program
2000 Quail Dr.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

RE: Proposed Crossing of Black Lake Bayou

Dear Mr. Balkum:

Flatrock Engineering and Environmental, LTD (Flatrock) is submitting for approval a Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Scenic River Permit Application on behalf of Sklar Exploration Company, LLC. Sklar is proposing to install a natural gas pipeline under Black Lake Bayou, a Scenic River, via horizontal directional drilling in Red River and Natchitoches Parishes, Louisiana.

Publications within The Advocate, the Coushatta Citizen, and Natchitoches Times have been requested. Copies of the public notices will be provided upon completion. Please review the accompanying permit application while the public notices are being conducted.

Please contact me at (903) 253-6225 or kevin.roberts@flatrockenergy.net if you have questions or require additional information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin D. Roberts', is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin D. Roberts, REM
Program Director - Ecology

Enclosures



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

ROBERT BARHAM
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Dear Scenic River Permit Applicant:

Please review and concur on the following statement regarding the issuance of permits by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This agreement must be signed and returned before a Scenic River Permit can be issued.

"I have been advised and do understand that by applying for and accepting a Scenic Rivers permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I am being allowed to engage in an activity which would otherwise be prohibited by law or for which a permit is required. I understand that the permit is not a license and confers no property right upon me. I specifically agree to abide by all State and Federal fish and wildlife laws and regulations, and all State and Federal laws and regulations which relate to this permit or the permitted activity, and by all other terms and conditions of this permit. I understand that the permit for which I am applying may be suspended, annulled, withdrawn or revoked and that I may be assessed civil penalties, all in accordance with the provision of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, and that I may be denied future permits as a consequence of my failure to fully and completely comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, as well as other laws and regulations pertinent thereto. If served with or notified of a cease and desist order signed by the Scenic Rivers Administrator, I agree to immediately and without delay cease all activities and operations which relate to the permitted activity or which are impacting the Scenic River, until such time as the matter can be resolved in an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. I understand and agree that any permit issued to me by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the nature of a privilege which is being voluntarily extended to me by the Department and the failure on my part to cooperate with the Department can result in the loss of the privilege conferred and the denial of future requests for permits. By accepting this permit, I evidence my agreement to be bound by all conditions and stipulations set forth herein."

Authorized Signature

Date

Monty Shed
Vice President - Operations Manager
Sklar Exploration Company LLC

P.O. BOX 98000 • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70898-9000 • PHONE (225) 765-2800
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Flatrock Engineering and Environmental, LTD
18615 Tuscany Stone, Suite 380
San Antonio, Texas 78258
210-568-1861
<http://www.flatrockenergy.net>

ATTACHMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Description

The proposed Project associated with this application consists of approximately 3.93 miles of new natural gas pipeline in Red River and Natchitoches Parishes, Louisiana. The proposed project begins approximately 2.43 miles west of Ashland, Louisiana (Natchitoches Parish) at an existing gas well location. The proposed route extends west-southwest and terminates at an existing facility located approximately 3.18 miles northeast of Martin, Louisiana (Red River Parish). The pipeline will cross Black Lake Bayou, which is designated as a scenic river system by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Sklar Exploration Company, LLC (Sklar) is proposing to install the pipeline under Black Lake Bayou via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to minimize environmental impacts to the surface property above the bore.

List of Permits Required

Scenic River – Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Hydrostatic Test Water Permit – Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Steps Taken to Minimize Impacts

Several alternative routes to the proposed route were considered to minimize potential impacts to Black Lake Bayou. The preferred route along with construction methods selected will minimize impacts to Black Lake Bayou and the surrounding environment.

Alternative Analysis

Due to Black Lake Bayou extending perpendicular to the pipeline alignment, avoiding this scenic river was impracticable. A traditional open-cut trench method was considered; however, it would have directly impacted Black Lake Bayou and require extensive clearing of vegetation up to the river banks. Boring was another option considered; however, this option would still have extensive clearing of vegetation near the river. The preferred alternative considered was an HDD. A HDD would allow for entry and exit areas to be set back from the banks of Black Lake Bayou to avoid impacting this area. To meet requirements of the Scenic River Program as well as protect the surrounding environmental resources, a decision was made to use an HDD. The exit and entry locations are located approximately 880 feet and 2,400 feet from the banks of Black Lake Bayou.

Applicant's Compliance History

To the best of my knowledge and belief, Sklar has never been cited for a violation of the Scenic Rivers Act.

Environmental Assessment Results

1. Existing Land Use

Existing land use in the area of the proposed Black Lake Bayou crossing consists of undeveloped woodlands adjacent to all sides. This portion of Black Lake Bayou is used for recreational activities,

including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The use of a HDD will prevent disruption of travel upstream and downstream activities along the river. No impact to existing land use is expected due to the use of a HDD.

2. Wilderness Qualities

Sklar is proposing to construct the pipeline under Black Laky Bayou using a HDD below the stream with only minor impacts to the surrounding area. The HDD will be approximately 3,280 feet long. No impact to the existing Wilderness Qualities is expected due to the use on a HDD.

3. Scenic Values

The area surrounding Black Lake Bayou is a forested wetland, primarily composed of a mature bald-cypress swamp. This area will be preserved by utilizing a HDD that will be approximately 3,280 feet long. Outside of the HDD, the area is not currently of high scenic value and is composed of pasture land, scrub-shrub land, or pine plantation areas in an active timber harvest rotation. No impact to scenic values of Black Lake Bayou or to the present condition of the surrounding areas is expected from the use of a HDD.

4. Ecological Regimes

The proposed crossing of Black Lake Bayou is adjacent to forested wetlands. The crossing is primarily undisturbed and has typical wildlife and vegetation expected for this area of Black Lake Bayou. Black Lake Bayou is a significant portion of the ecological system for this area. Therefore, to minimize impacts to Black Lake Bayou and the existing condition of the ecological regime, Sklar will set the exit and entry locations approximately 880 feet and 2,400 feet from the banks of Black Lake Bayou. No impact to the existing Ecological Regimes is expected due to the use on a HDD.

5. Recreational Use/Opportunities

This area of Black Lake Bayou is used for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The use on a HDD will prevent disruption of recreational activities upstream or downstream of Black Lake Bayou. No impact to recreational uses or opportunities is expected due to the use of a HDD.

6. Aesthetic Values

The area surrounding Black Lake Bayou is a forested wetland, primarily composed of a mature bald-cypress swamp. This area will be preserved by utilizing a HDD that will be approximately 3,280 feet long. Outside of the HDD, the area is not currently of high scenic value and is composed of pasture land, scrub-shrub land, or pine plantation areas in an active timber harvest rotation. No impact to aesthetic values is expected from the use on a HDD and the present condition of the surrounding areas.

7. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Numerous species of fish and other aquatic life utilize Black Lake Bayou at this proposed crossing. The use of a HDD will avoid impacts to the species that reside within Black Lake Bayou and the aquatic species on both sides of the crossing. Fish and other aquatic life in the area will not be impacted since the bore will be underneath the stream, and the surface area of Black Lake Bayou

above the bore will remain undisturbed.

8. Wildlife

Numerous wildlife species utilize Black Lake Bayou at this proposed crossing. The use of a HDD will minimize impacts to the species that reside around Black Lake Bayou. Wildlife in the area will not be adversely impacted since the bore will be underneath the stream, and the surface area of Black Lake Bayou above the bore will remain undisturbed.

9. Historical or Archeological Resources

Research of available records and literature was conducted using the online Louisiana Site Files with the purpose of determining the location of previously recorded historical or archeological sites within the project area. The review was conducted on June 28, 2016. The results of the records review indicate that there have been no historical or archaeological sites documented within this stretch of Black Lake Bayou. Due to the project area being located within FEMA's 100-year designated floodplain, this area of Black Lake Bayou is not considered a high probability area of finding historical or archeological resources. No impact to cultural resources is anticipated for this project.

10. Geological Resources

According to the Geologic Map of Louisiana, the proposed crossing lies within the Terraces (Pleistocene) formation. The surface soils in the area surrounding Black Lake Bayou are composed of Guyton-Luka Complex, which are composed of the loamy alluvium of the Holocene age. To prevent soil erosion, applicable best management practices (BMPs) will be installed, as necessary. No impact to Geological Resources is expected for this Project.

11. Botanical Resources (Vegetation)

The area surrounding the proposed crossing is characterized by an undisturbed forested wetland primarily comprised of bald cypress, water tupelo, and water hickory. Through the use of a HDD, no disturbances to vegetation immediately adjacent or surrounding the proposed crossing will be required. Therefore, no impact to botanical elements is expected due to the use of a HDD.

12. Water Quality and Quantity

Black Lake Bayou is not designated as a section 303(d) impaired water by the EPA. To prevent degradation to the water quality of the area, a HDD and applicable BMPs will be utilized. No impact to water quality or quantity is expected due to the use on a HDD.

13. Hydrological Features

Black Lake Bayou is fed by precipitation and runoff from numerous tributaries and lakes throughout its 105 mile long stretch across northwestern Louisiana. The area surrounding the proposed crossing is frequently flooded and located within Federal Emergency Management Agency's designated 100-year floodplain. To prevent alteration to the hydrology of the area, a HDD and applicable BMPs will be utilized. No impact to hydrological features is expected due to the use on a HDD.

14. Cultural Resources

Research of available records and literature was conducted using the online Louisiana Site Files with the purpose of determining the location of previously recorded cultural resources within the project area. The review was conducted on June 28, 2016. The results of the records review indicate that there have been no cultural resource sites documented within this stretch of Black Lake Bayou. Due to the project area being located within FEMA's 100-year designated floodplain, this area of Black Lake Bayou is not considered a high probability area of finding cultural resources. No impact to cultural resources is anticipated for this project.

15. Economic Impact of the Project

The economic impact of the project will provide natural gas from existing producers to various gas markets. On a local level, the project will provide immediate construction jobs. Once the project is complete, it will allow for increased production at the facility serviced by the pipeline, which will continue economic investments in the region. A positive impact is expected within the area caused by capital investments on a regional level.

Conclusion

Sklar proposes to install the pipeline under Black Lake Bayou via a HDD for approximately 3,280 feet to avoid environmental impacts to the surface property above the drill and minimize impacts to the adjacent surroundings. An evaluation of the fifteen criterion mentioned above did not identify environmental concerns which would impact Black Lake Bayou, a Louisiana Scenic River.

Color Photographs

Due to heavy rains and recent flooding of the proposed crossing, Flatrock Ecologists were only able to get within a few hundred feet of Black Lake Bayou.



View looking west from the eastern end of the proposed HDD.



View looking east from the western end of the proposed HDD.

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree

HDD Entry Point
Lat: 32.127858
Long: -93.161764

HDD Exit Point
Lat: -93.169597
Long: -93.169597



-  Fin Deep/Enable CTS Gathering Pipeline
-  Survey Corridor
-  Horizontal Directional Drill
-  USA Named Streams and Rivers
-  Palustrine Forested Wetlands
-  Palustrine Scrub Shrub Wetlands



Figure 1
Vicinity Map
Fin Deep/Enable CTS Gathering Pipeline
Red River & Natchitoches Parishes, Louisiana

Prepared for Sklar Exploration Company, LLC	
Job No.:	
Prepared By: DWernicke	Date: 7/6/2016
Document Path: D:\flatrock\SKLAR\Louisiana SRPGIS\geo\fig\Figure2.mxd	

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