



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**CESAM-RD-M**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2015-00349-RCV**

**August 6, 2015**

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2015-00349-RCV**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

**PROPOSED FILL ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBSTATION**  
**ADJACENT TO THE HELENA INDUSTRIAL PARK,**  
**JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Singing River Electric Power Association  
PO Box 97, 500 Highway 90  
Gautier, MS 39553-0097

**AGENT:** Wetland Consulting Services, Inc  
21 Autumn Run  
Hattiesburg MS 39402

**WATERWAY:** Wetlands adjacent to Black Creek, Helena, Jackson County, Mississippi (Mississippi (Latitude 30.504° North, Longitude -88.498° West)).

**WORK:** The applicant proposes the construction of a new 115 kV substation. The site consists of a 2.34 acre forested area adjacent to an existing industrial park. The parcel is consistent with a pine plantation with characteristics of pine savannah wetlands. The construction activities will include clearing of 2.34 acres, mucking out of existing materials, and the backfilling of 1.7 acres of the wetlands on the site. Permanent wetland impacts will total 1.7 acres.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** As stated by the applicant, the purpose of the project is to "provide additional electric power capacity to the Helena Industrial Site." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has initially determined the basic project purpose is for expansion of the

infrastructure for energy transmission. Therefore, the proposed work would not be considered a water dependent activity. Additional review will be performed by the USACE and cooperating agencies.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** To avoid and minimize wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable, the project is being designed and constructed with an avoidance area. The applicant has stated that “by limiting the elevation changes in this area of the property the permittee has reduced and minimized impacts and post construction elevations.” The avoided wetlands will remain as freshwater savannah wetlands. The avoidance area consists of the 0.64 acres of wetlands located adjacent to Saracennia Road at the west side of the property. This area will be cleared of pine plantation to reflect pine savannah habitat. **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant’s avoidance and minimization at this time.**

**MITIGATION:** The applicant’s agent submitted a mitigation proposal. The impacts will be mitigated using Gulf Coast Wetland Mitigation Answers, LLC, Black Creek Swamp Mitigation Bank; a Corps of Engineers approved wetland mitigation bank. **The USACE has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time.**

**WATER QUALITY:** The applicant has applied for State Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to WQC and CZM consistency will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to effect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area consists of the proposed areas of fill and adjacent areas. The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known to exist which would be affected by the proposed work. This action constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the project area. The USACE is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. **On April 3, 2015, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History responded with a determination that that no cultural resources are likely to be affected. (MDAH #03-192-15).**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** A preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the following listed species may occur in the project area: Mississippi sandhill crane, Gopher tortoise, Yellow-blotched map turtle, Eastern indigo snake, and the Louisiana quillwort. This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area, which would be affected by the proposed activity. Agent has conducted a survey of the area and additional details will be coordinated with Federal and State cooperating agencies. A concurrence letter was received by the Agent on September 16, 2014. **Based on the information provided in the survey report, the Service has determined that the proposed project will have "no effect" on federally listed species. (USFWS 2014-1-609).**

**COMMENTS:** This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

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. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are

conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, 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 Corps 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 impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps 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.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

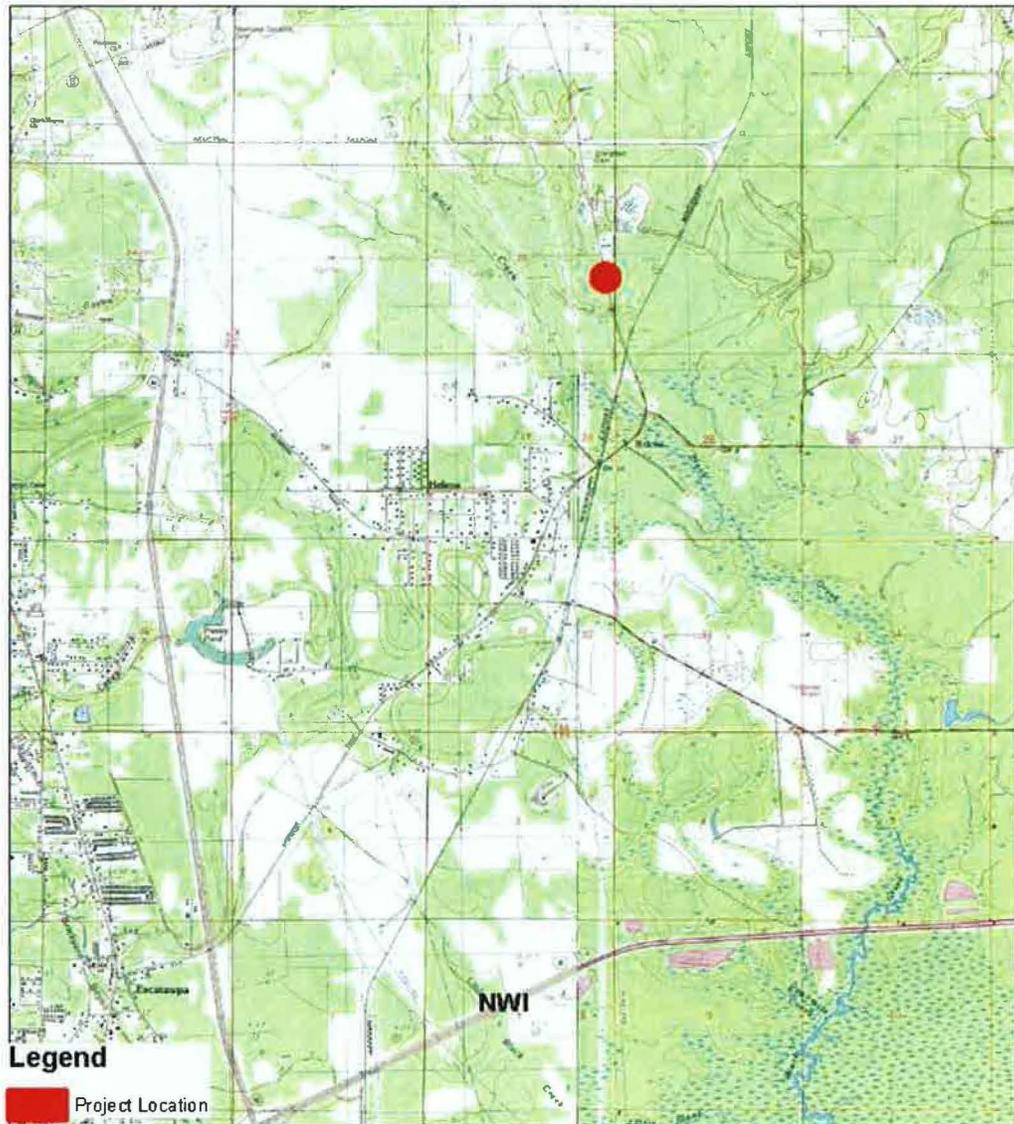
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2015-00349-RCV** and should be directed to USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: **Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal**, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Attention: **Ms. Florance Watson, P.E.**, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Attention: **Ms. Jennifer Wittmann**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

**All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.** If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (251) 690-3246 or email at [rudolph.c.villarreal@usace.army.mil](mailto:rudolph.c.villarreal@usace.army.mil)). Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx).

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



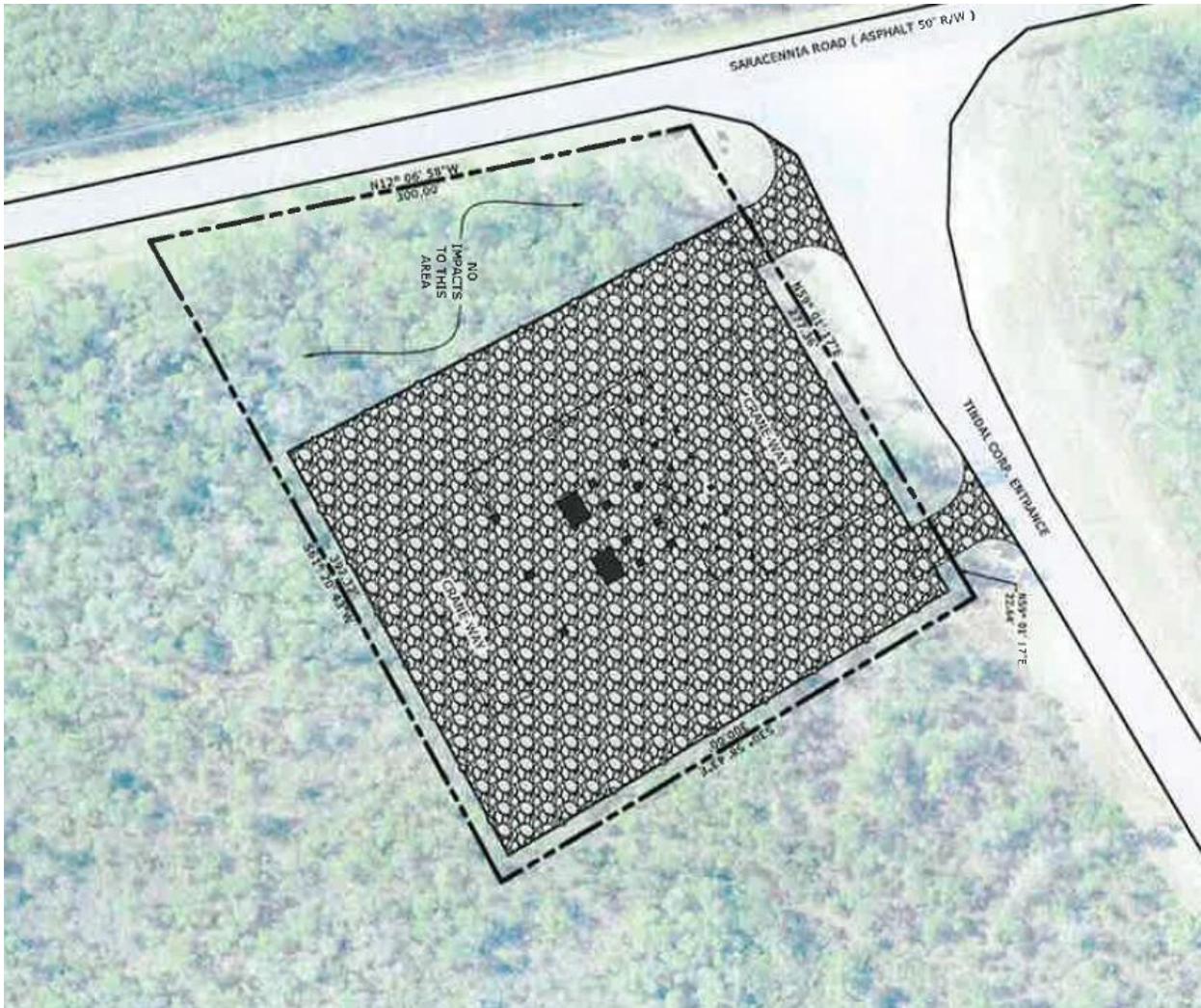
0 0.5 1 2 Miles  
 South Mississippi Electric Power Association  
 Proposed Helena Substation and Line  
 Wetland Determination and Delineation  
 Threatened and Endangered Species Survey  
 July 2014

Wetland Consulting Services, Inc., 21 Autumn Run, Hattiesburg, MS, 39402  
 601-550-2346, wetlandcs@comcast.net, wetlandconsultingservice.com

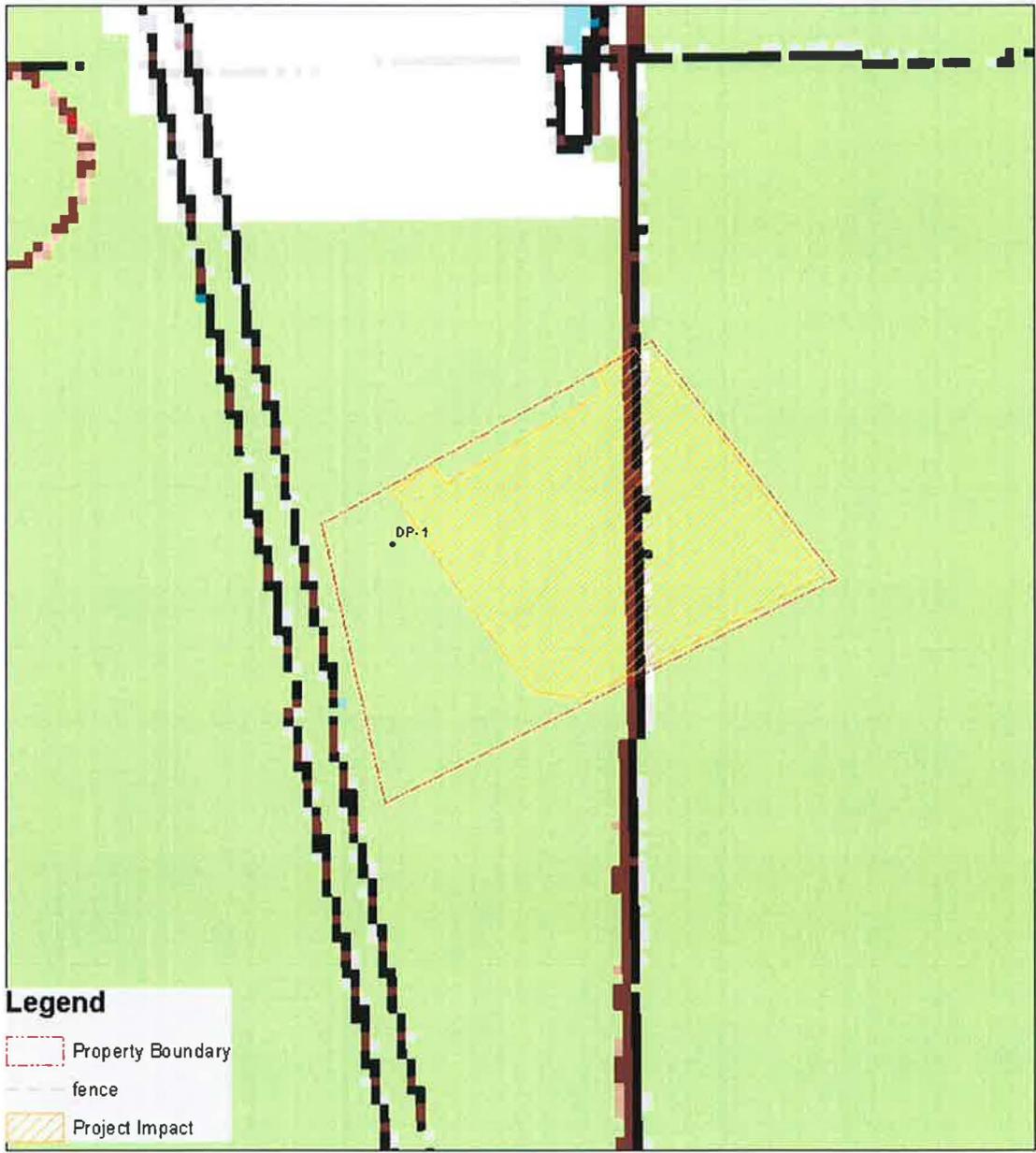
**Figure 3** USGS Topographic Map for project area.

Project Name – South Mississippi Electric Power Association  
 Wetland and Other Waters Assessment Report  
 Helena Industrial Park Substation and 115 KV Line





Detail of site plan



Singing River Electric Power Association  
Proposed Helena Substation

Wetland Determination and Delineation  
September, 2014

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Singing River Electric Power Association  
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