



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

March 21, 2014

CESAM-RD-A
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2014-00061-LET

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**PLACEMENT OF FILL MATERIAL IN WETLANDS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW ELECTRICAL
POWER SUBSTATION AND ACCESS ROADS, MOBILE, MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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) and Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT: Alabama Power Company
Attention: Mr. Mike Godfrey
Post Office Box 2641
Birmingham, Alabama 35291**

LOCATION: In wetlands adjacent to a channelized tributary to Threemile Creek at 2075 West I-65 Service Road North, Section 6, Township 4 South, Range 1 West, Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama; Latitude 30.7338 North and Longitude -88.1222 West; Mobile-Tensaw, AL 8-digit HUC 03160204.

WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge approximately 4,600 cubic yards of limestone rip rap and number four logger stone fill material into 1.94 acres of jurisdictional bottomland hardwood and scrub-shrub wetlands to construct a new electrical power substation and associated access roads required to maintain the substation and gain access to existing nearby transmission lines from the new substation. The main access road to the substation would be 30 feet wide measured from toe of slope to toe of slope while the road servicing the adjacent transmission line would be 20 feet wide. Culverts would be installed in these roads to minimize water impoundment and restriction of flow. A significant reason for selection of this site for the proposed new substation is its proximity to two existing transmission line corridors. Additionally, poles would be installed and the rights-of-ways (ROWs) for the new overhead transmission lines feeding the proposed substation would be cleared of vegetation using matting as necessary and wide track, wide tire, low pressure equipment that will cut the vegetation so as to not cause uprooting of tree stumps or root systems. Following the initial ROW clearing and installation of the new poles and feeder lines, these ROWs would be maintained in a scrub-shrub condition through

herbicide application and hand cutting of any larger stems on an estimated 3 to 5 year maintenance rotation.

Mitigation for the permanent filling impacts to 1.94 acres of wetlands would be accomplished through the withdrawal of 6.05 credits from Alabama Power Company's approved Theodore Wetland Mitigation Area which is a private, single-user mitigation bank set up by Alabama Power for use on its projects. The provision of mitigation would not be required for any wetland conversion associated with establishment and maintenance of the overhead feeder line ROWs as these activities would be conducted using techniques that would not require the discharge of fill material into wetlands or waters of the United States.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The project purpose is to construct and maintain a new substation to increase the reliability of the electrical grid in this region of Alabama as Alabama Power Company routinely strengthens the electrical grid as needed to comply with State of Alabama requirements to provide electricity to its residences and businesses.

The applicant has applied for State water quality certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to WQC will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the 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, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production 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.

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 Part 325, the Corps has determined that the permit area consists of the project site. The applicant has already prepared and submitted a Phase I cultural resources survey report to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review (AHC 14-0363). Based on the findings of the referenced report conducted by the University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Research, the State Historic Preservation Officer replied on January 13, 2014, that "we have determined that project activities will have no adverse effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places." 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 a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area, the Corps will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer to make a final determination.

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity would have "no effect" on federally listed species, or their critical habitat. Furthermore the applicant has already prepared and submitted a threatened and endangered species survey report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama Ecological Services Field Office for review (2013-TA-0431). Based on the findings of the referenced report the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service replied on May 28, 2013, that "No federally listed species/critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. As described, the project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources." This notice and application will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to verify that the proposed activity will not affect listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2014-00061-LET** and should be directed to the District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Attention: Regulatory Division, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy furnished to Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch, Coastal Section, 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile, Alabama 36608. Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice.

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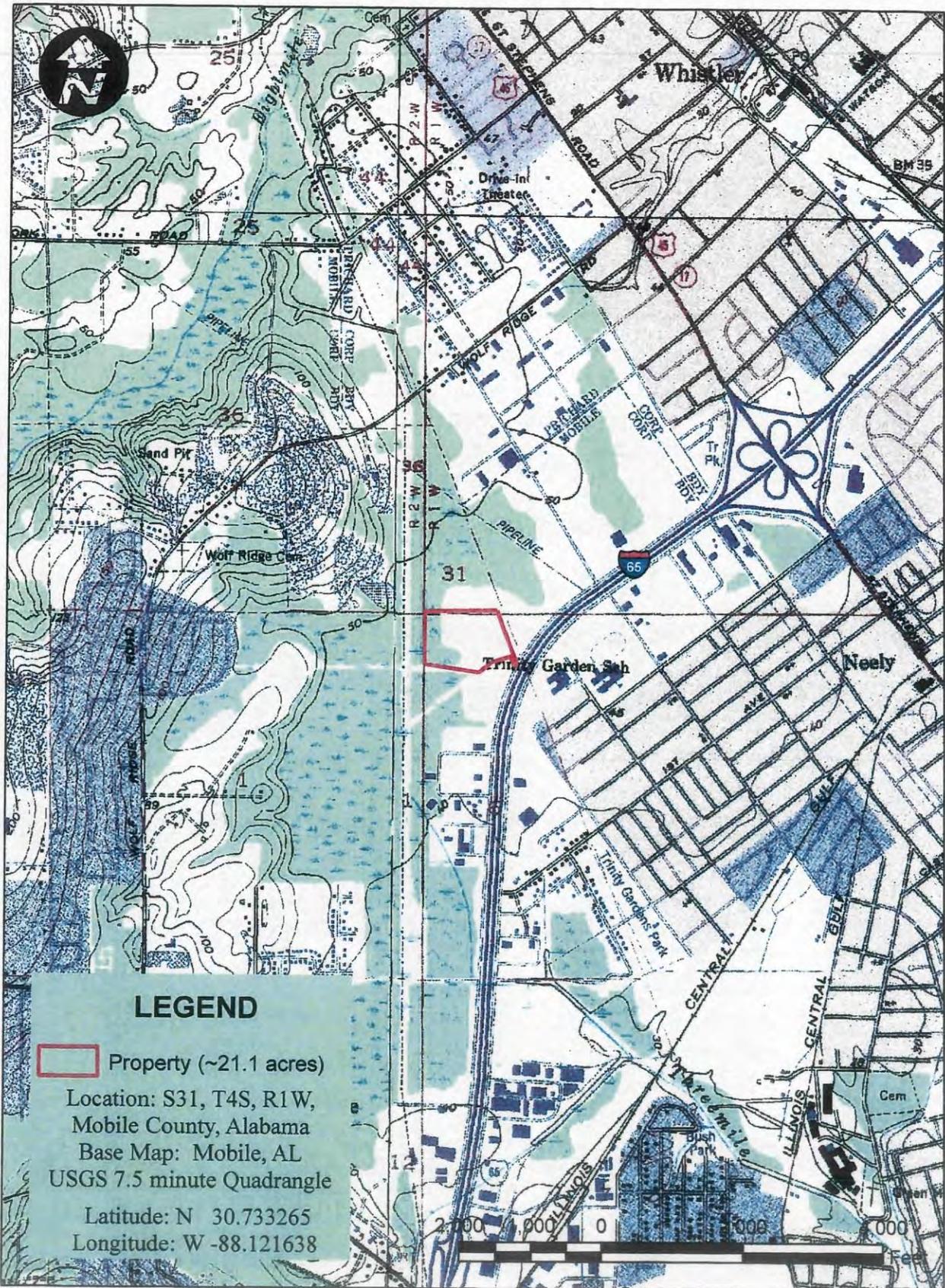
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If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil or phone **(251) 694-3873**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

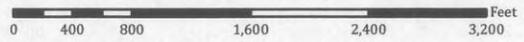
Enclosures



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DEPT. OF THE ARMY PERMIT



North Crichton S.S.



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Name: Vicinity Map

Date: 2/17/2014

Attachment 1

Drawn By: JCDRUMM

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Legend

- Wolf Ridge Tap- Switch Location
- New Pole Location
- Wetland Delineation
- Stream
- Substation Work Footprint
- Substation Property Line
- Existing APC Transmission Lines
- New Lines

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Name: Project Outline

Date: 2/24/2014

Attachment 3

Drawn By: JCDRUMM

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- Legend**
- Wolf Ridge Tap - Switch Location
 - New Pole Location
 - Wetland Delineation
 - Stream
 - Substation Work Footprint
 - Substation Property Line
 - Existing APC Transmission Lines
 - New Lines

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0 80 160 320 480 640 Feet

N



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Name: Wetland Impacts

Date: 3/5/2014

Attachment 4

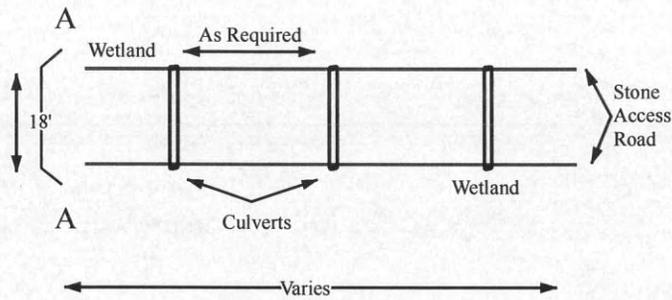
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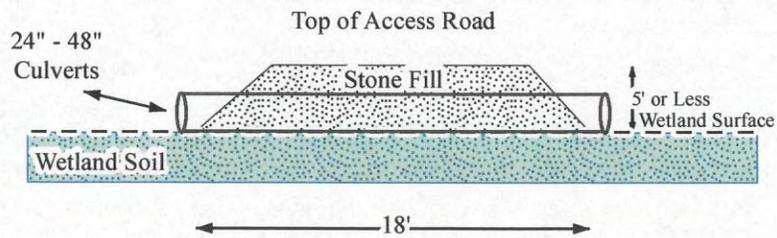
Drawing 1

Typical Culverted Stone Access Road

Plan View



Profile View - AA



culverts will be installed at a frequency and size necessary to minimize water impoundment and restriction of flow