



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

CESAM-RD-N  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2014-00613-JMT

DATE 15 Dec 2014

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

**REQUEST FOR THE FILLING OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE AND GATED  
ACCESS DRIVE, TUSCALOOSA 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). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. (MBUSI)  
Attention: Mr. Phillip Johnson  
1 Mercedes Drive  
Vance, Alabama 35490

**AGENT:** TTL, Inc.  
Attention: Ms. Sheryle Reeves, P.E.  
3516 Greensboro Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

**LOCATION:** The project is located in Section 28, Township 21 South, Range 7 West, in Vance, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama (33.180N, -87.269W). Impacts to waters of the U.S. are associated with an unnamed tributary to Shanty Branch. The project is located in the Upper Black Warrior watershed (HUC 3160112).

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The basic project purpose is the expansion of facility infrastructure.

**WORK:** MBUSI proposes to fill 1.3 acres of wetlands and 1585 linear feet of streams facilitate constructing a West Logistics Access project which will create a main gate and access road that will serve the western area of the plant. This entrance will serve trucks only. Currently, trucks are required to enter the site from the east gate and traverse the plant internally. The additional access point for trucks will decrease the traffic on surrounding roads and within the plant therefore increasing safety and efficiency. The location of the proposed intersection was selected based on current ALDOT regulations and safety requirements.

The project also includes an expansion of the current production facilities. The project is needed to support the increased market demand for the Mercedes product and will be a critical asset to the MBUSI plant. The proposed facility will extend existing production lines and will adjoin with the existing facility to accommodate necessary equipment and additional space for production. The production facility expansion requires an approximate 1.2 million square foot building to accommodate the extension of existing production lines and to meet safety requirements.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** The applicant stated that due to the current configuration of existing facilities, and the limited space available in this portion of the MBUSI campus, impacts to wetlands and streams are unavoidable to reach the project objective. In order to meet the project objective of constructing the 1.2 million square feet facility, all wetlands and streams will be impacted with either permanent fill or piping.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The project is not water dependent; therefore, the applicant is required to show that other less damaging practicable alternatives, which do not require placing fill into waters of the U.S., are not available. No permit will be issued unless the alternatives analysis demonstrates that practicable upland alternatives are not available to achieve the overall project purpose.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to purchase mitigation credits at an approved mitigation bank to offset unavoidable permanent impacts to waters of the U.S.

**WATER QUALITY:** The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

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 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 use 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.

**HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES:** 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. Although the extent of federal control and responsibility for these considerations are confined to the limits of the permit area for this particular project, the potential indirect effects that may occur to historic properties as a result of this undertaking are also being considered. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. Historic architectural or archaeological investigations may be necessary to ascertain the existence of such resources. Efforts will be made through the consultation process to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to significant cultural and historic properties that may occur as a result of this undertaking.

**ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES:** 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 will not affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. According to information maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Alabama Ecological Services Field Station website, 19 federally-listed species can be found

in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Ten of the species listed are aquatic. Five species listed are located in wetlands and/or along rivers. One species is found in mature, large, pine woodlands. One species requires large trees in close proximity to open water. The remaining species are found in caves. In a letter date stamped July 3, 2014, the USFWS provided concurrence (2011-TA-0002) that no federally listed species/critical habitat are known to occur in the project area.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** The National Marine Fisheries Service requires the evaluation of impacts to Essential Fish Habitat of estuarine species. **The Mobile District has determined that the proposed action would not adversely impact Essential Fish Habitat or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service.**

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2014-00613-JMT and should be directed to:

U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile  
Birmingham Field Office  
Attention: Mr. Joseph Tanko  
218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222  
Homewood, Alabama 35209

with a copy to the:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
Field Operations Division  
Post Office Box 301463  
Montgomery, Alabama 36120

Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice.

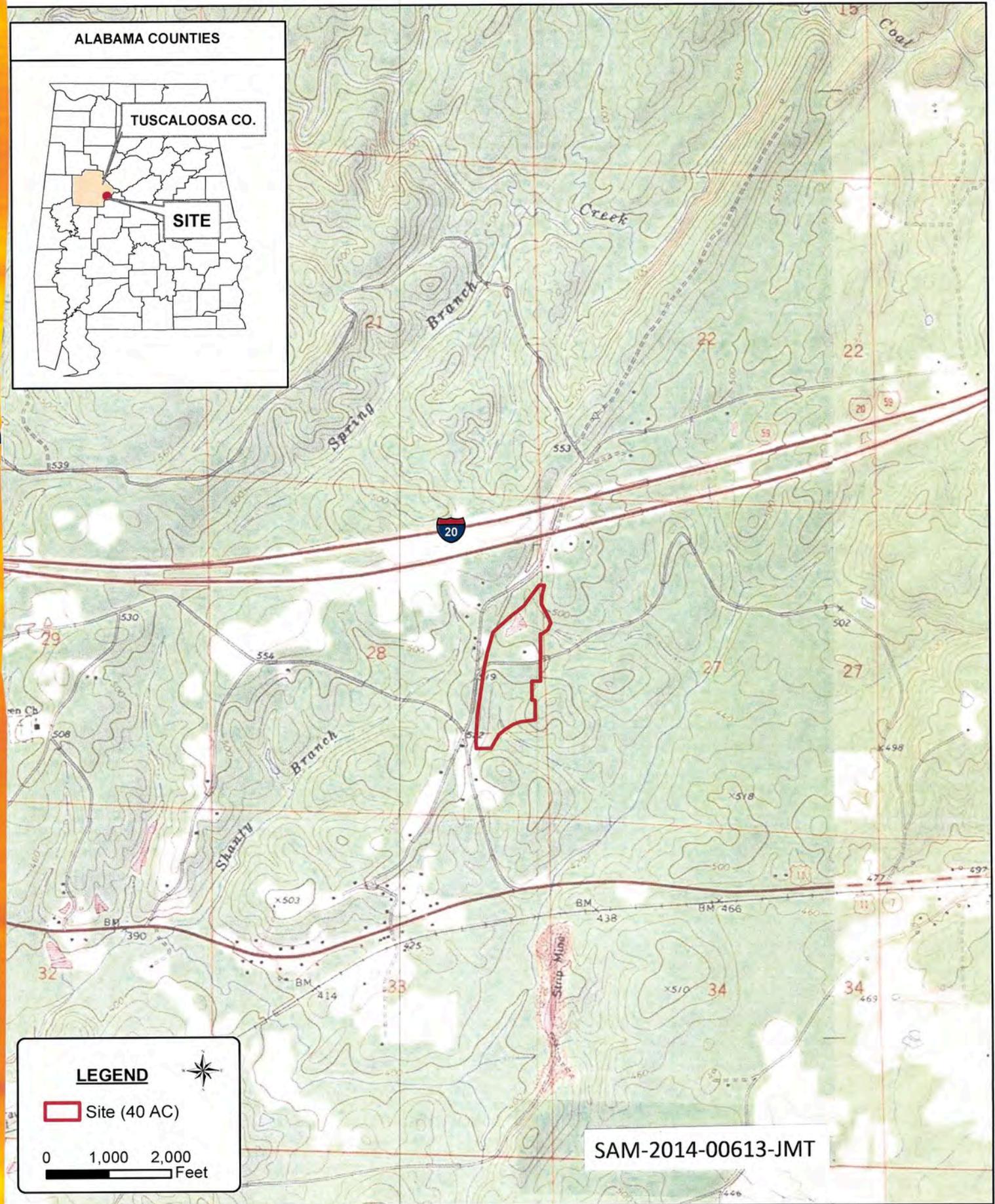
If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at [joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil](mailto:joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil) or telephone number **(205) 290-9096**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

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) and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you are there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer

Enclosures

ALABAMA COUNTIES



LEGEND

Site (40 AC)

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

SAM-2014-00613-JMT

**TTL**

3516 Greensboro Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401  
205.345.0816 // www.TTLUSA.com

TTL PROJECT NO:  
100114047

DRAWING DATE:  
August 22, 2014

**Figure 1: Site Location and Topographic Map**

BASEMAP: USGS 7.5' Topographic Map of Coaling (1981) and Woodstock (1980), Alabama

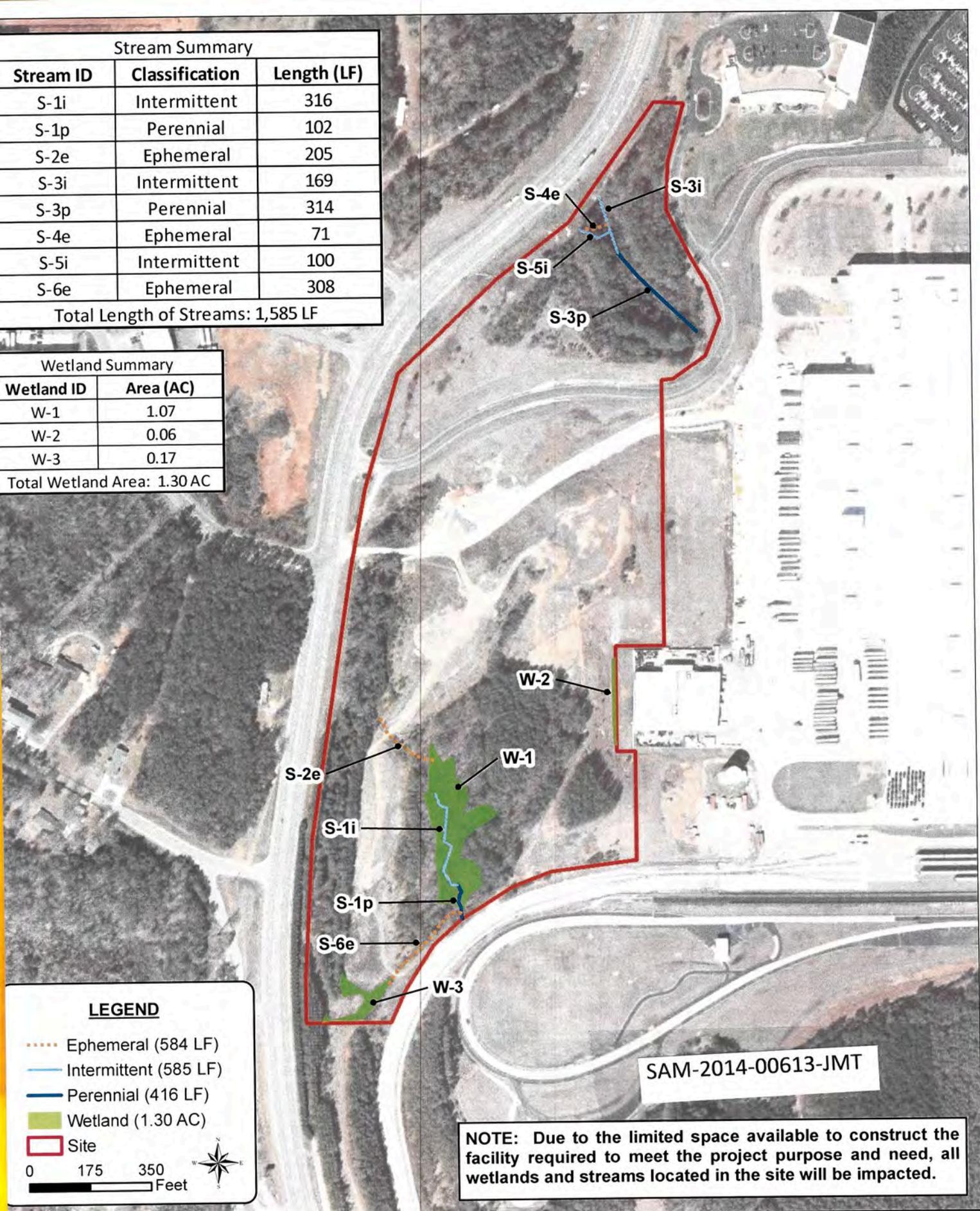
Proposed West Logistics Access  
Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Facility  
Vance, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Stream Summary

Stream ID	Classification	Length (LF)
S-1i	Intermittent	316
S-1p	Perennial	102
S-2e	Ephemeral	205
S-3i	Intermittent	169
S-3p	Perennial	314
S-4e	Ephemeral	71
S-5i	Intermittent	100
S-6e	Ephemeral	308
Total Length of Streams: 1,585 LF		

Wetland Summary

Wetland ID	Area (AC)
W-1	1.07
W-2	0.06
W-3	0.17
Total Wetland Area: 1.30 AC	



**LEGEND**

- Ephemeral (584 LF)
- Intermittent (585 LF)
- Perennial (416 LF)
- Wetland (1.30 AC)
- Site

0 175 350 Feet

**NOTE:** Due to the limited space available to construct the facility required to meet the project purpose and need, all wetlands and streams located in the site will be impacted.

SAM-2014-00613-JMT



3516 Greensboro Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401  
205.345.0816 // www.TTLUSA.com

TTL PROJECT NO:  
100113071

DRAWING DATE:  
August 4, 2014

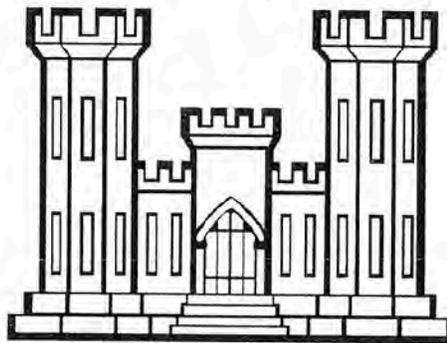
**Figure 2: Estimate Wetland and Stream Impact Site Plan**

BASEMAP: 2011 World Imagery (via ESRI.com)

Proposed West Logistics Access  
Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Facility  
Vance, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE  
BIRMINGHAM FIELD OFFICE  
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY  
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
CESAM-RD-C



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OF ENGINEERS  
MOBILE DISTRICT**