



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

CESAM-RD-A  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2014-1245-DEM

19 December 2014

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

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL 1.75 ACRES OF JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS  
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT ACCESS ROADS IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 115KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE IN CLARKE AND  
WILCOX COUNTIES, ALABAMA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT:** Alabama Power Company  
Attention: Mr. Mike Godfrey  
600 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Post Office Box 2641  
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

**LOCATION:** Location stretches between a substation adjacent to the Energex Plant in Thomasville (N31.9621, W-87.6929) and a substation located adjacent to the Golden Dragon Copper Plant in Sunny South (N31.9621, W-87.6255). Specifically, the project route spans the northern half of Sections 1-5, T11N, R4E before terminating in the very southern portion of Section 36, T12N, R4E. The project is located within the Middle Alabama (HUC 03150203) Watershed of the Alabama River Basin. See wetland location details in attachment.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The project purpose is provide permanent access roads in association with the overhead transmission line which will increase the reliability of the electrical grid in this region of Alabama. Alabama Power Company (APC) routinely strengthens the electrical grid as necessary to comply with the State of Alabama requirements to provide electricity to its residences and businesses.

**WORK:** The applicant proposes to construct a new 4.3 mile 115kV overhead transmission line in Clarke and Wilcox Counties, Alabama. The proposed transmission line stretches between a substation adjacent to the Energex Plant in Thomasville (N31.9621, W-87.6929) and a substation located adjacent to the Golden Dragon Copper

**Plant in Sunny South (N31.9621, W-87.6255). Specifically, the project route spans the northern half of Sections 1-5, T11 N, R4E before terminating in the very southern portion of Section 36, T12N, R4E. The project is located within the Middle Alabama (HUC 03150203) Watershed of the Alabama River Basin. The transmission line will be constructed using 75-110 foot concrete poles in the "single-pole" configuration. To span the project distance of 4.3 miles, 39 single-pole structures will be required.**

**In order to build and maintain the proposed line, it will be necessary to place fill within waters of the U.S. The project as proposed will impact approximately 1.75 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. The fill activity will include permanent placement of rock and gravel in wetlands for access roads. Stone access roads are to be constructed of limestone rip rap base material capped with a number four grade logger stone to provide a workable surface. The stone roads require sufficient size to allow for maneuvering of logging trucks, 200-ton capacity crane, derrick trucks, drill rigs, and other large equipment. Fill roads are 20 feet wide as measured from the toe of slope. In cases where fill roads are well above original grade, culverts will be installed at a frequency and size necessary to minimize water impoundment and restriction of flow.**

**No new stream or surface water crossings are planned. One existing culverted crossing located at approximately (31.9576, -87.6844) will be replaced as it is in need of repair. The crossing will be repaired using a corrugated steel culvert secured with limestone rip rap. To provide aquatic organisms passage during low flow conditions, the culvert will be installed below grade in a manner so that bed material can be easily reintroduced to simulate the channel bottom. The culvert will be sized to not permanently restrict or impede the passage of expected high flows or cause the relocation of the channel.**

**The permanent proposes to mitigate for the permanent filling impacts to 1.75 acres of wetlands through the purchase of 1.491 credits from Westervelt's Alabama River Mitigation Bank. The provision of mitigation would not be required for any wetland conversion associated with establishment and maintenance of the overhead transmission 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.**

**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 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, 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 access road fill impact areas. The applicant has already prepared and submitted a Phase I cultural resources survey report to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review (AHC 14-1283). 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 August 22, 2014, that "Upon review of the cultural resource assessment conducted for the above referenced project, we have determined that project activities will not affect any cultural resources eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places Therefore we concur with the proposed project activities." 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, Daphne ES Field Office for review (2014-TA-0782). Based on the findings of the referenced report the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service replied on August 27, 2014, 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.

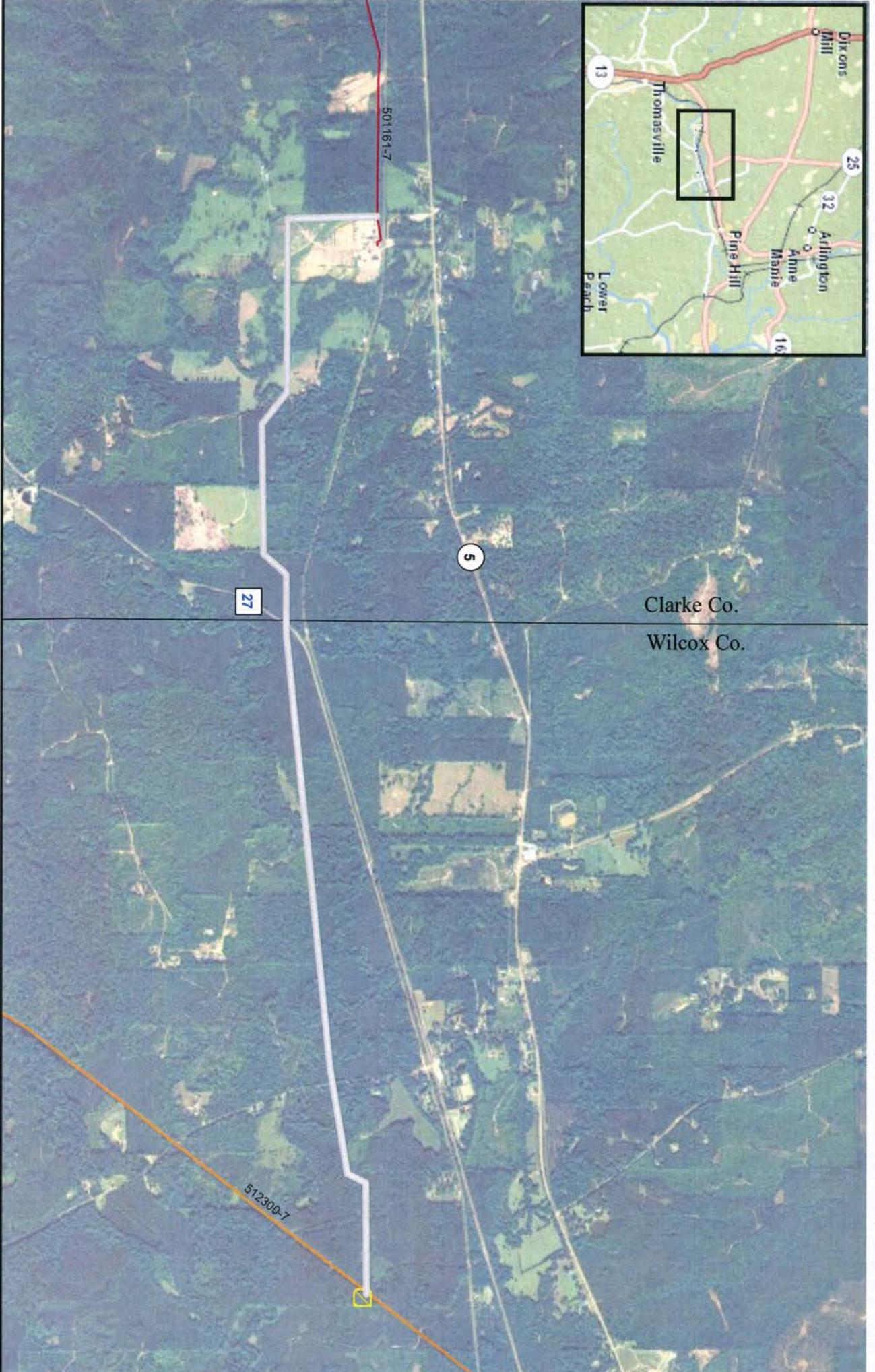
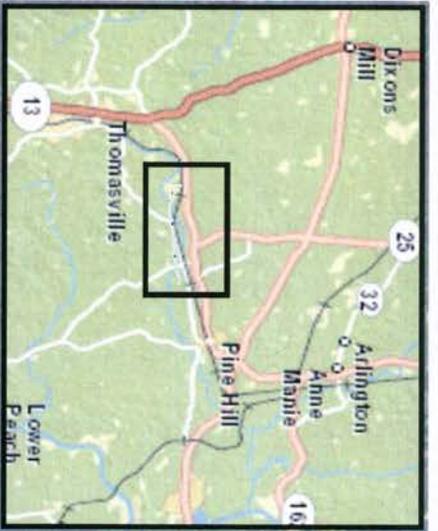
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to **SAM-2014-1245-DEM** and should be mailed to the District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District Mobile, Attention: Regulatory Division (Mroczko), Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch, Coastal Section, 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile Alabama 36608.

**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, Mr. Don Mroczko at (251) 690-3185 or by email at [donald.e.mroczko@usace.army.mil](mailto:donald.e.mroczko@usace.army.mil). Please refer to the Public Notice Number SAM-2014-1245-DEM.

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).

Encls

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



**Legend**

 Proposed Project

 Sunny South SS

 Existing 46 kV TL

 Existing 115kV TL

**N. THOMASVILLE - SUNNY SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE  
CLARKE & WILCOX COUNTIES, ALABAMA**



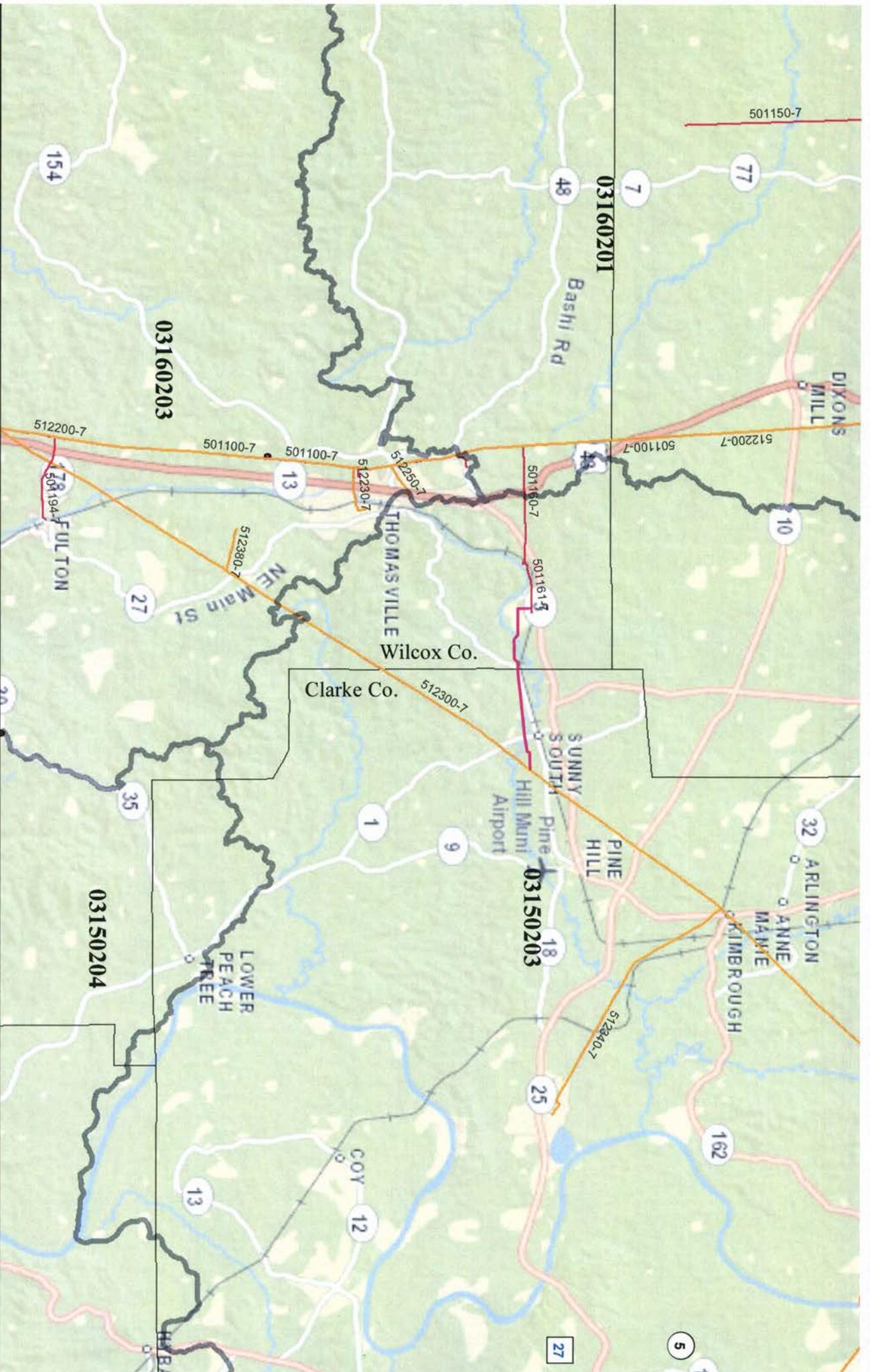
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**FIGURE 1- LOCATION MAP**

DATE: 9/26/2014  
USER NAME: ICDR11MM



**Legend**

- Proposed Project
- Sunny South SS
- Existing 46 kV TL
- Existing 115kV TL

**N. THOMASVILLE - SUNNY SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE  
CLARKE & WILCOX COUNTIES, ALABAMA**



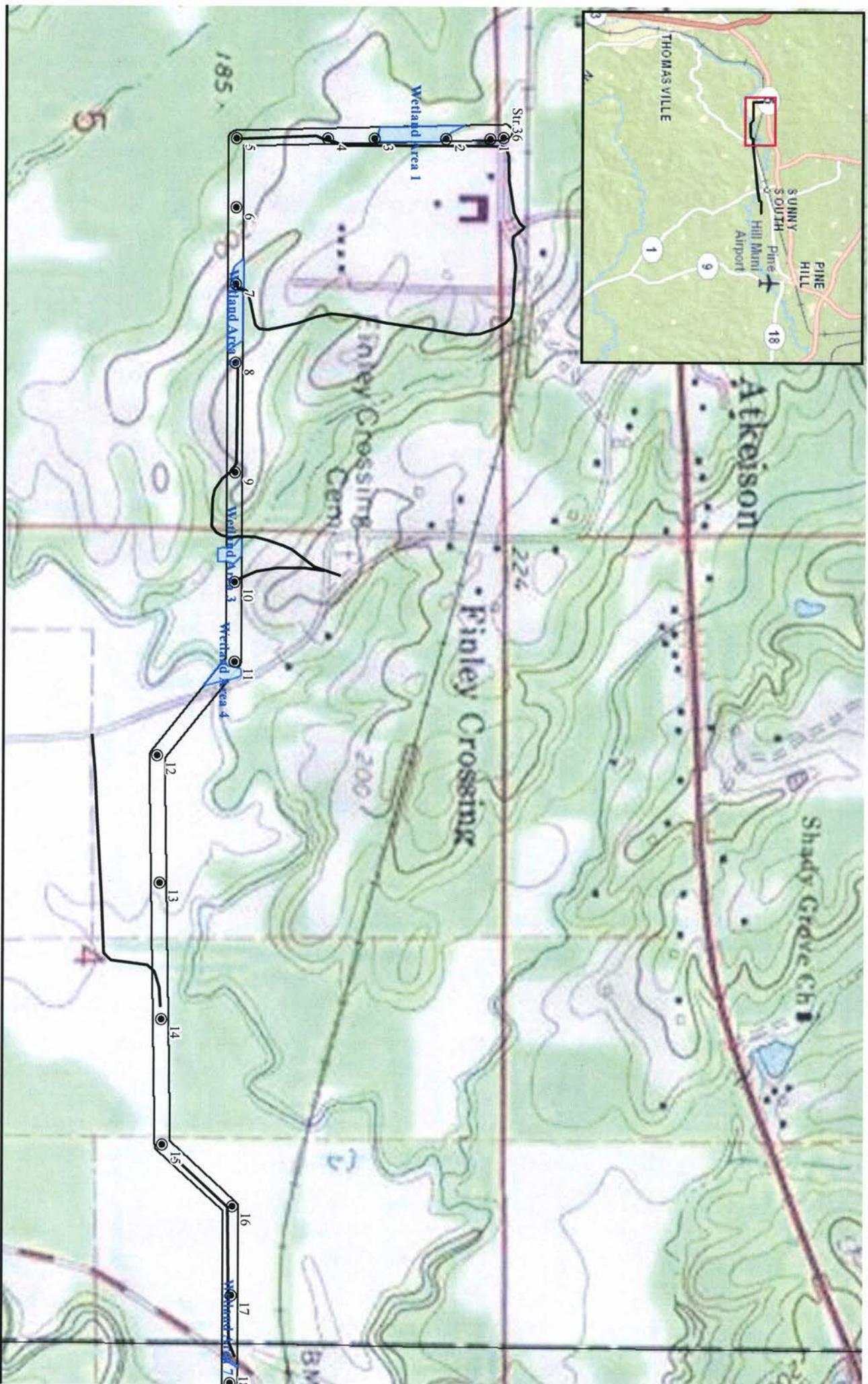
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**FIGURE 2- HUC MAP**

DATE: 9/29/2014  
USER NAME: ICDDRI1MM



- Legend
- Structures
  - Access Routes
  - Proposed Fill Roads
  - Revised Wetlands
  - Proposed Project

N, THOMASVILLE - SUNNY SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE  
 CLARKE & WILCOX COUNTIES, ALABAMA

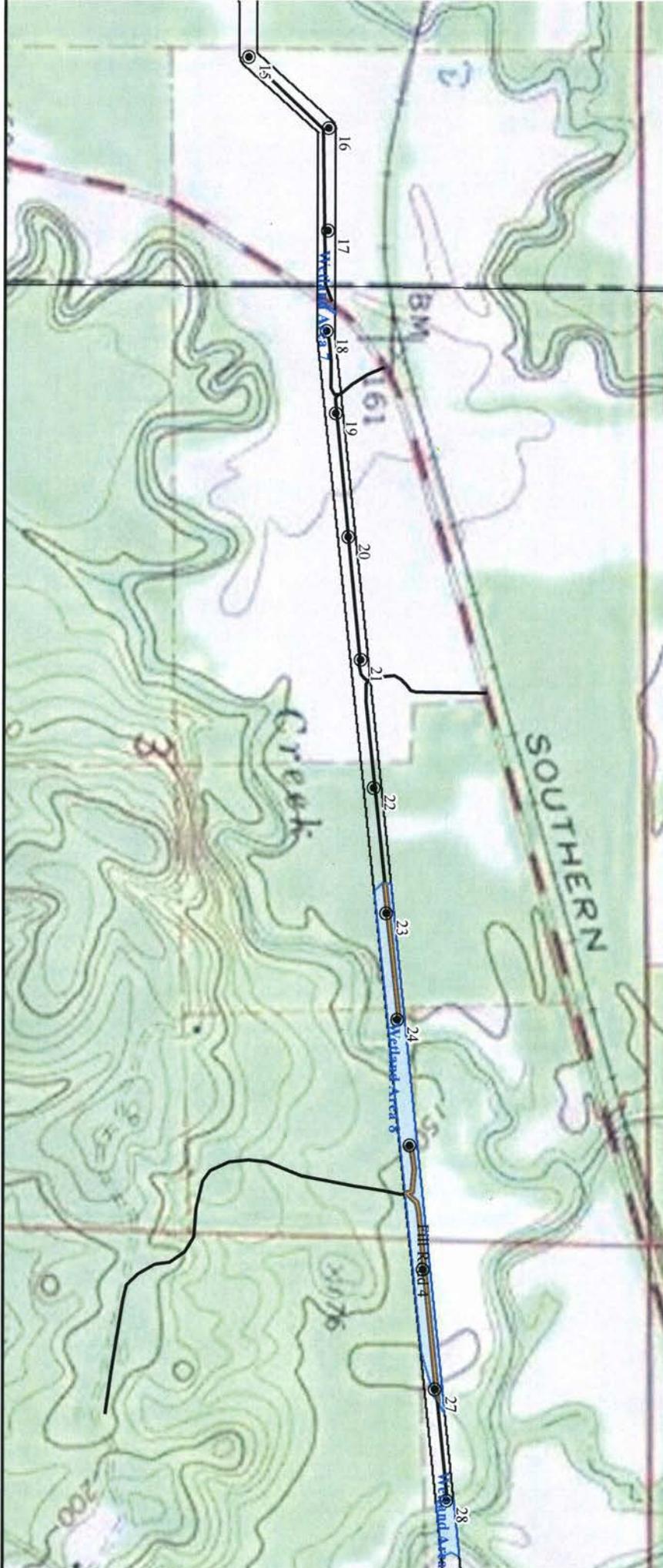


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FIGURE 4.2- QUAD IMPACT MAP

DATE: 10/27/2014  
 IISFR NAME: ICTDR1MM



**N. THOMASVILLE - SUNNY SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE  
CLARKE & WILCOX COUNTIES, ALABAMA**



- Legend**
- Structures
  - Access Routes
  - ▬ Proposed Fill Roads
  - ▬ Revised Wetlands
  - ▬ Proposed Project

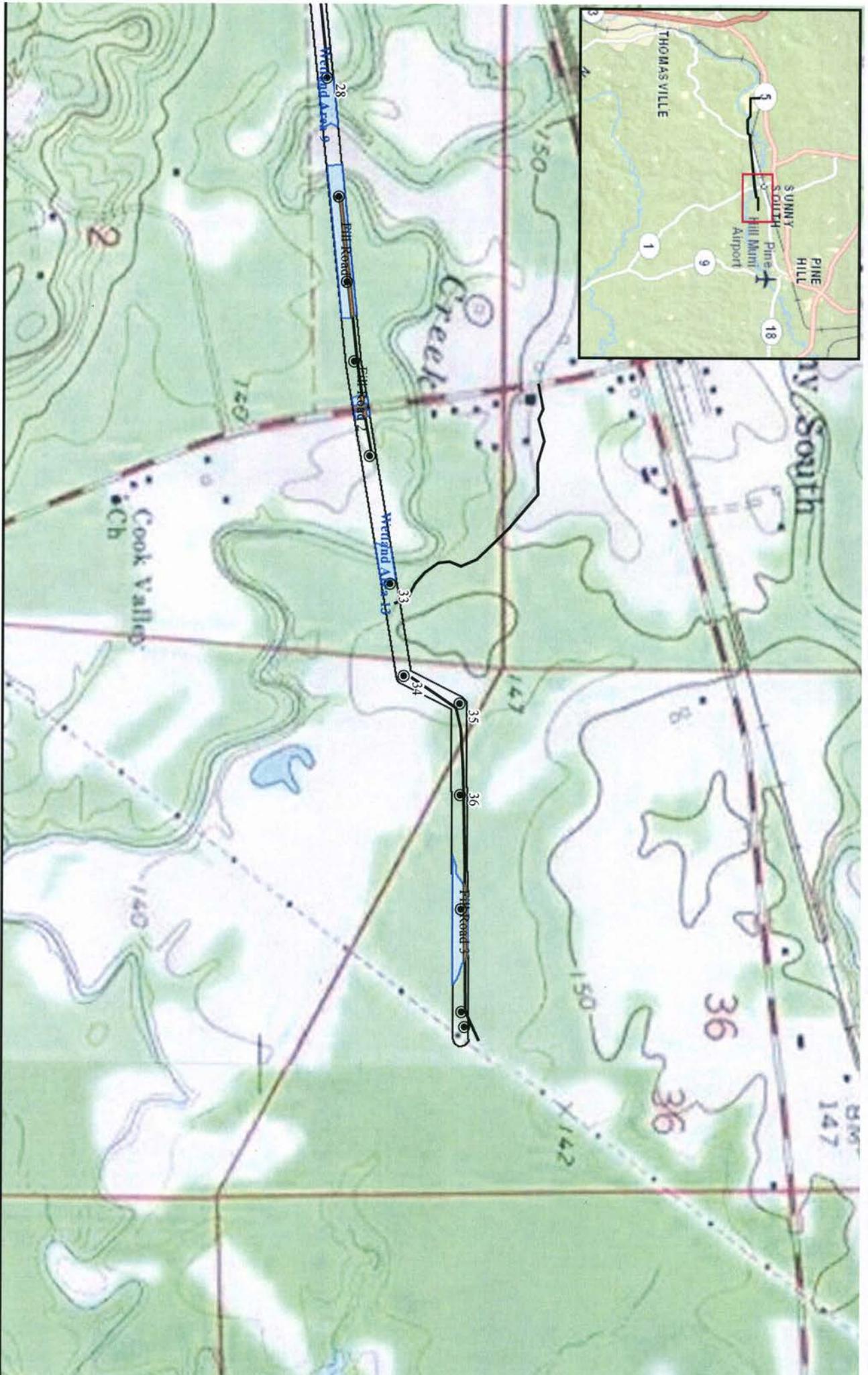


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DATE: 10/27/2014  
 USER NAME: TCDRIMM

**FIGURE 4.2- QUAD IMPACT MAP**



N. THOMASVILLE - SUNNY SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE  
 CLARKE & WILCOX COUNTIES, ALABAMA



- Legend**
- Access Routes
  - Structures
  - Proposed Fill Roads
  - Revised Wetlands
  - Proposed Project



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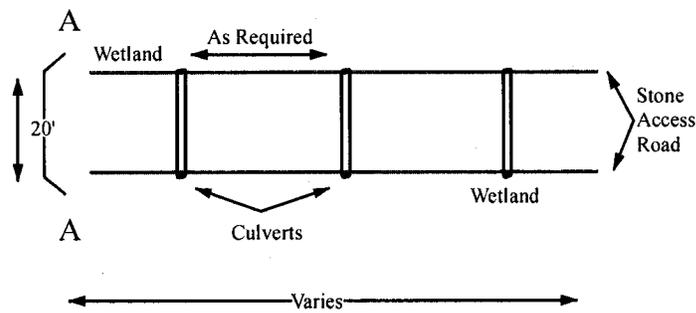
FIGURE 4.2- QUAD IMPACT MAP

DATE: 10/27/2014  
 USER NAME: JCDRLMM

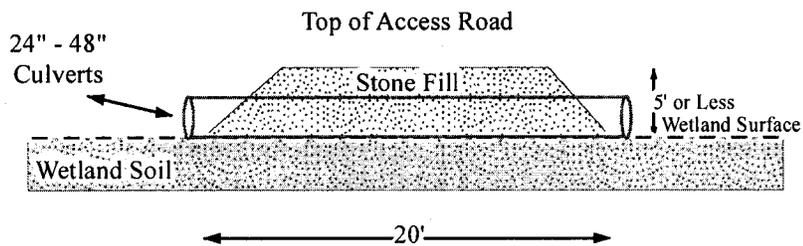
# Drawing 1.1

## Typical Culverted Stone Access Road

### Plan View



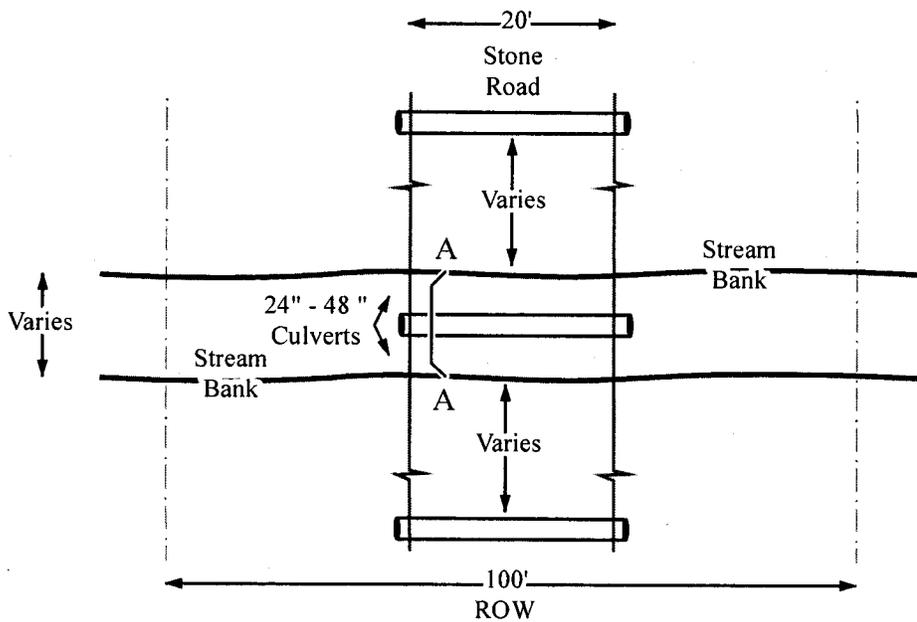
### Profile View - AA



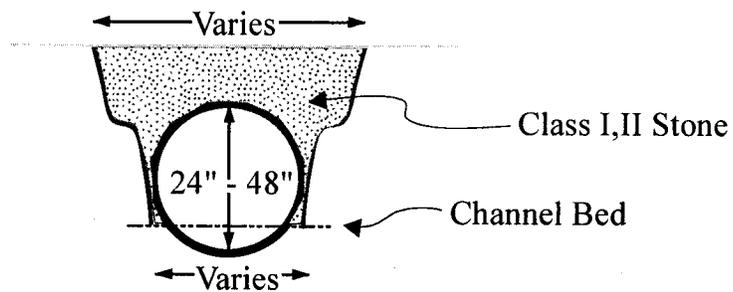
*Culverts will be installed at a frequency and size necessary to minimize water impoundment and restriction of flow*

# Drawing 1.2 Typical Stream Crossing

## Plan View

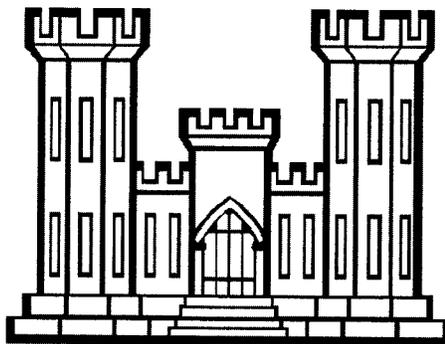


## Profile View - AA



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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P. O. BOX 2228  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001  
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**DEM**



**U.S. ARMY CORPS  
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MOBILE DISTRICT**