



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-M
Public Notice No. SAM-2015-01276-MGS

February 25, 2016

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
DMR-160106

**TO CONSTRUCT A TRANSMISSION ACCESS ROAD, NEW SWITCH, AND PAD IN
JACKSON COUNTY, PASCAGOULA, MS**

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 Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: **Mississippi Power Company (MPC)**
Attention: Mr. Patrick Chubb
Post Office Box 4079
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39502-4079

WATERWAY: **Pine Savanna wetlands adjacent to an unnamed tributary of the Escatawpa River, Sections 33 and 34, Township 7 South, Range 5 West, Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi (Latitude 30.39381 North, Longitude -88.4796 West).**

PROJECT PURPOSE: **As stated by the applicant, the purpose of the project is to "provide permanent access for maintenance and operation to a new switch".**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has initially determined the basic project purpose is for improvements MPC infrastructure. Therefore, the proposed work would not be considered a water dependent activity. Additional review will be performed by the USACE and cooperating agencies.

WORK: The MPC proposes to construct an access road and a new switch structure within one of its existing transmission right-of-way easements. The project will allow more reliable access to the proposed switch. The proposed access road encompasses 2.5 acres (5550' x 20'). The proposed switch pad would encompass 0.3 acres (100' x 150'). The project will fill approximately 2.8 acres of pine savanna wetlands. The road

will start at Latitude 30.398897 North, Longitude -88.478282 West, and proceed south ending at the new pad at Latitude 30.383712 North, Longitude -88.479674 West.

ALTERNATIVES/ AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The Applicant has stated "The switch is required at this location to allow for a future line coming from the Moss Point East Transmission Substation to tie in and provide us another feed into the area while limiting risk to the BP gas plant tap. The location is the closet point on the transmission line that is south of the tap to BP. If we were to build an access road from the South starting at Bayou Casotte Sub it would be approximately 14,000 linear feet. The current proposed access from the North off of Bayou Cumbest Road is approximately 5700 linear feet." In addition, the preferred alternative will not require a culverted crossing at the work pad for maintenance of hydrologic flow. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

MITIGATION: The wetlands to be impacted by this project are described as 2.8 acres of medium quality pine savanna wetlands. The applicant proposes to purchase mitigation credits in an approved wetlands mitigation bank. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, and upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to certification will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The applicant has applied for certification (DMR-160106) from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act. On February 3, 2016, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources issued a consistency certification which determined that the activity is consistent to the Mississippi Coastal Program with adherence to conditions.

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. Because the site is located in an existing transmission line right-of-way easement, the project should not affect sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area is the full area of development for the overall project footprint. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will consult with in-house expertise and the State Historical Preservation Office to make a final determination based upon this review 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 permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists endangered, threatened or candidate species as occurring or potentially occurring in Harrison County, Mississippi. These include the gopher tortoise (T)(*Gopherus polyphemus*), the Louisiana quillwort(E) (*Isoetes louisianensis*), the Piping Plover (TCH)(*Charadrius melodus*), the West Indian manatee (E) (*Trichechus manatus*), the Louisiana black bear (T)(*Ursus americanus luteolus*), the Alabama red-belly turtle (E) (*Pseudemys alabamensis*), the Black pine snake (C) (*Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi*), the Yellow-blotched map turtle (T) (*Graptemys flavimaculata*), the Mississippi Sandhill Crane (E) (*Grus Canadensis pulla*), Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants reveals that the proposed activity is within the Mississippi Sandhill Crane Consultation Zone and will require consultation with the USFWS. It is the USACE opinion that the proposed activity will have no effect to all other listed endangered or threatened species.

On February 18, 2016, the USFWS concurred with the opinion that the proposed project is within the Mississippi Sandhill Crane Consultation Zone and, although the core range of the cranes is within or near the Mississippi Sandhill Crane Refuge, and they have been tracked or observed on the Grand Bay Refuge as well as near the Trent Lott Airport, there is no evidence that they have used the area near or south of Bayou Cumbest Road for nesting, foraging, or roosting. Based on this information, along with the limited scope of the proposed project, the USFWS has concurred that the proposed project “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” the MS Sandhill Crane, and that the proposed project will have “no effect” on all other federally listed species found in Jackson County, Mississippi.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The USACE initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The applicant has applied for and received coastal zone consistency from the State of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with Section 57-15-6 of the Mississippi Code Annotated.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE 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 benefits, 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, protected species, 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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 USACE 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 for consideration of 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-2015-01276-MGS** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, 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, in time to be received within **30 days** of the date of this public notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager for this application, **Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal** (rudolph.c.villarreal@usace.army.mil), phone **(251) 690-3246**. 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**.

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MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

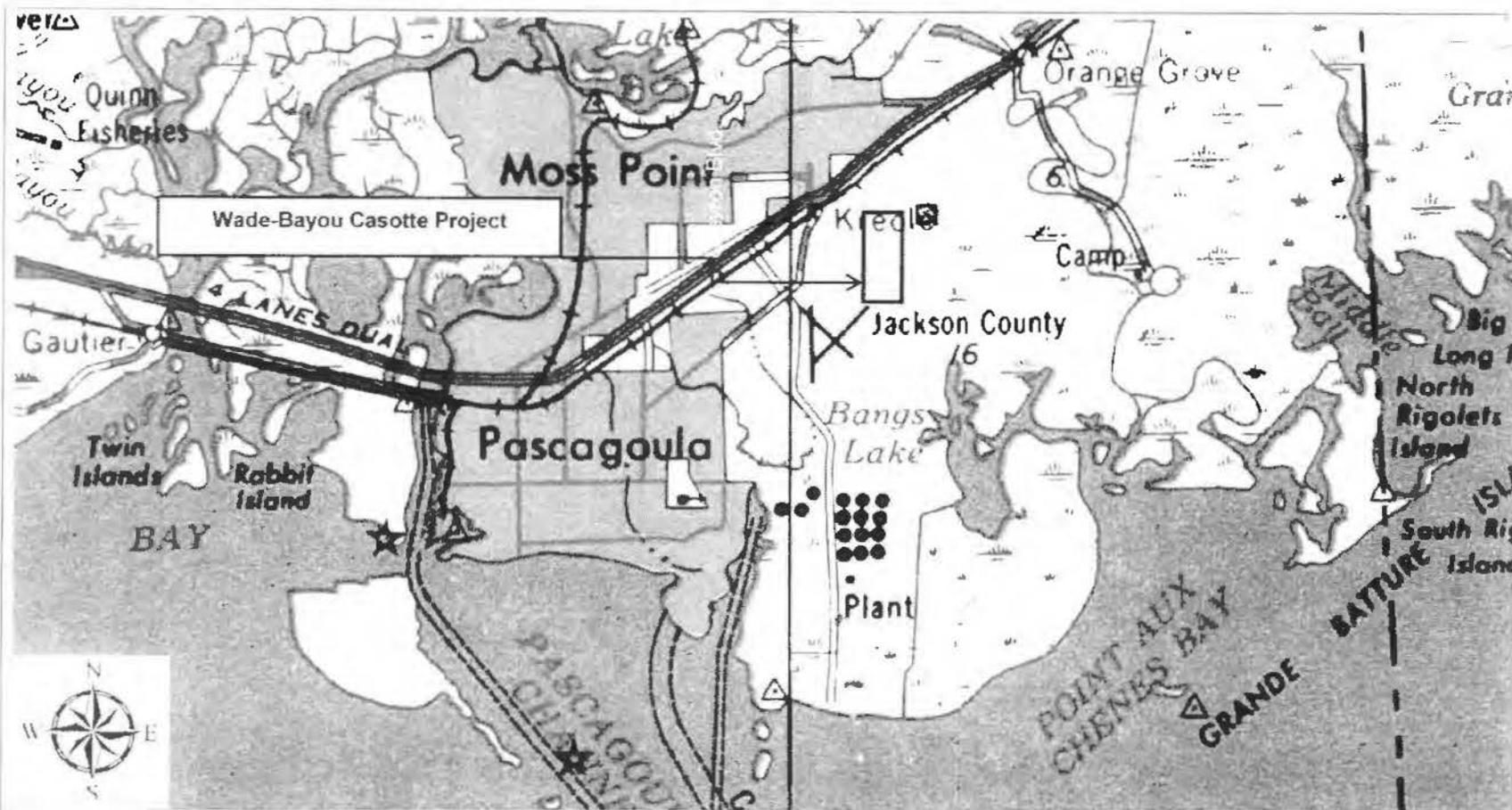


Figure 2: Quadrangle Map
 Wade-Bayou Casotte
 Switch Pad & Access Road

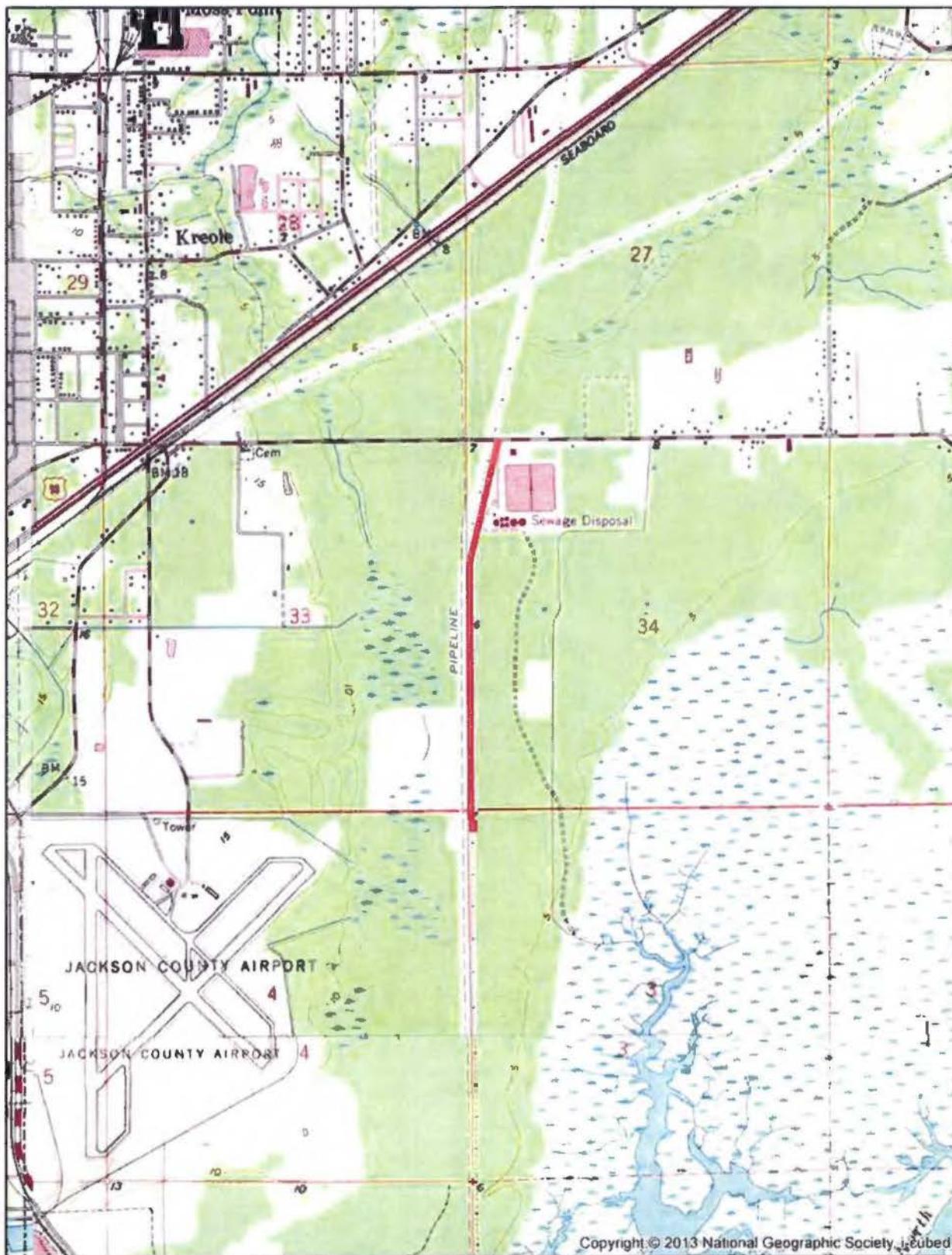
Mississippi Power Company
 Chevron Boulevard
 Jackson County
 Pascagoula, Mississippi 39581



Mississippi Power Company
Proposed Switch Pad and Access Road
Jackson County, Mississippi
USGS Quad: KREOLE(1:24K)

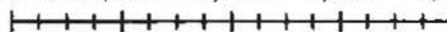


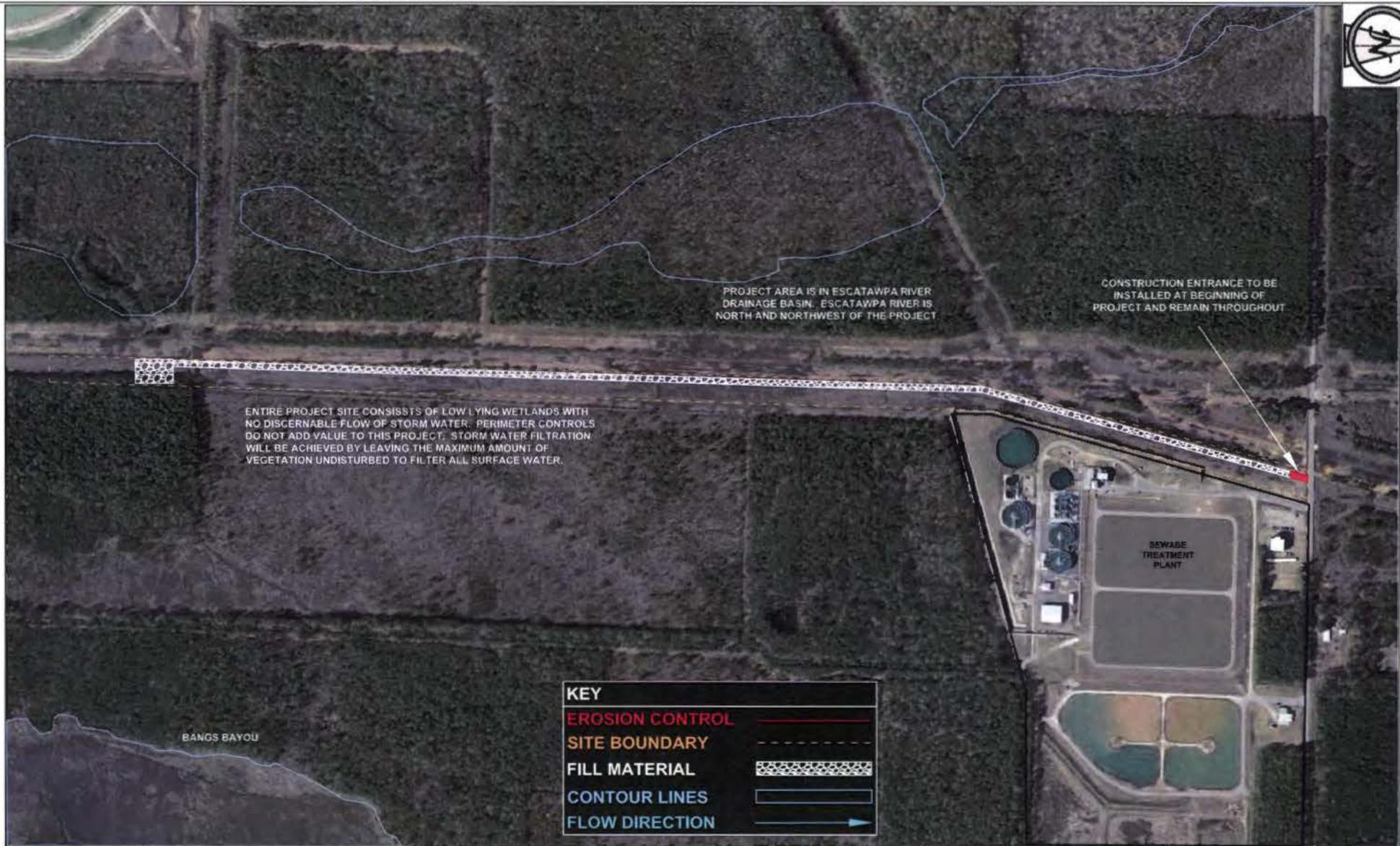
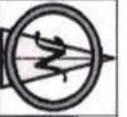
JAN-2015-01276-MGS



Prepared by MPC Environmental Affairs

0 625 1,250 2,500 3,750 5,000 Feet





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DWG Number:	Figure 3
Drawing Name:	Erosion Control Drawings

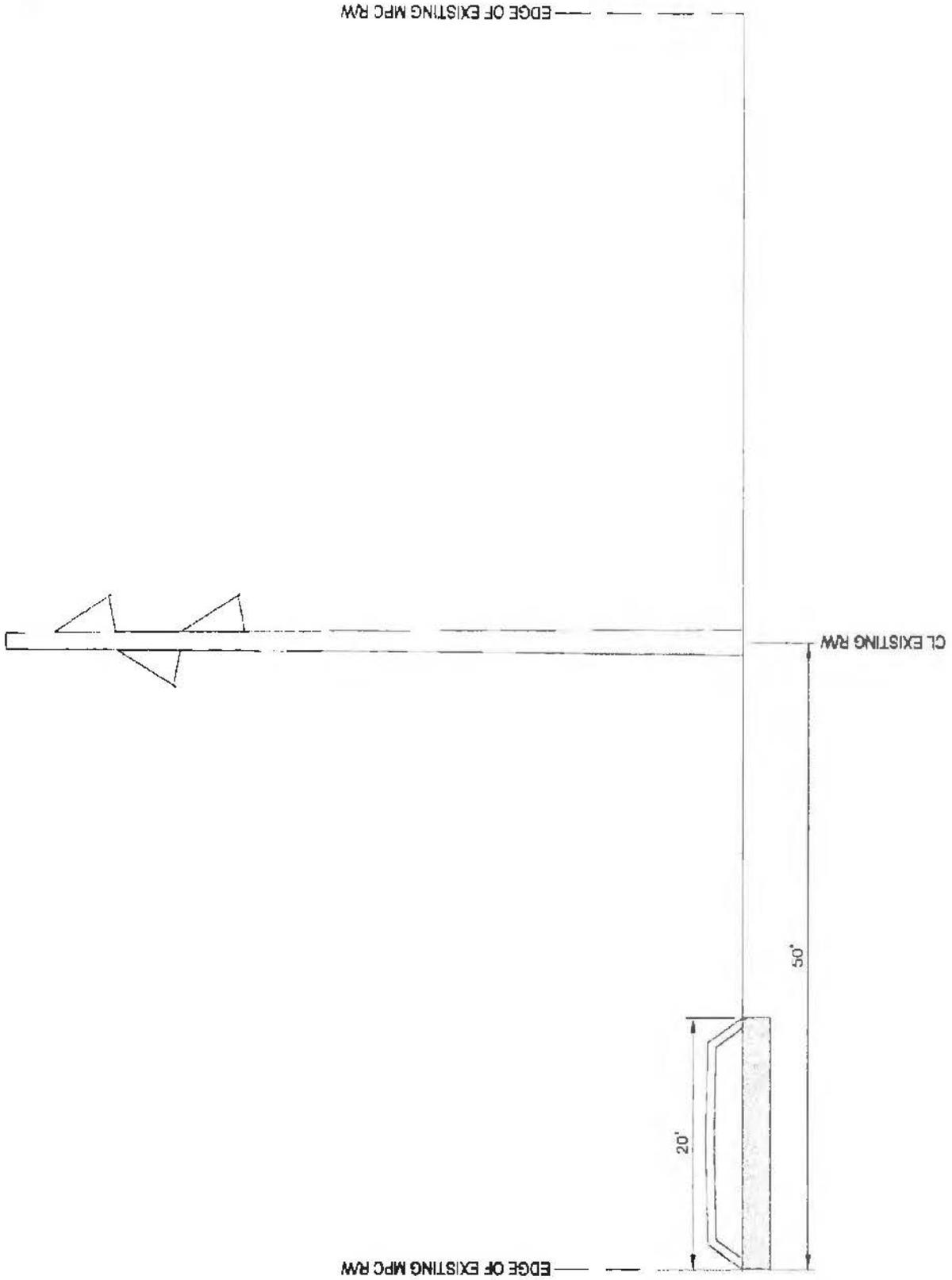
Mississippi Power
 Wade-Bayou Casotte
 Switch Pad & Access Road

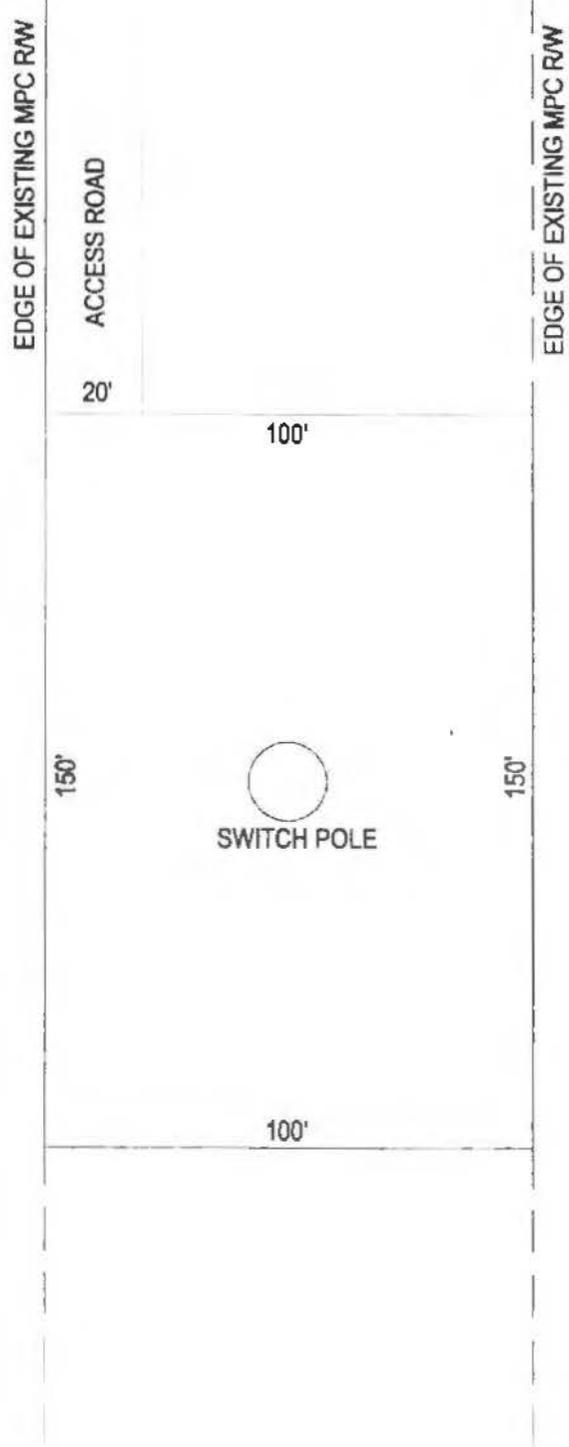
Drawing Details:		Scale:	NTS
Author:	JJW	Division:	Environmental
Issue Date:	12/16/2015	Revision:	0.0

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TYPICAL CROSS SECTION "A"

SAM-2015-01/E16-MGS

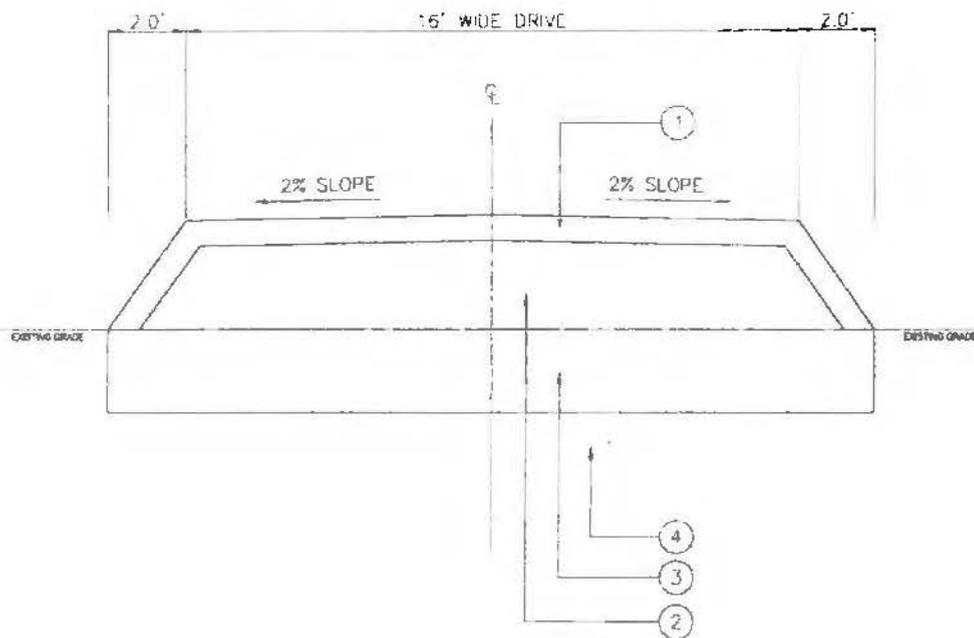




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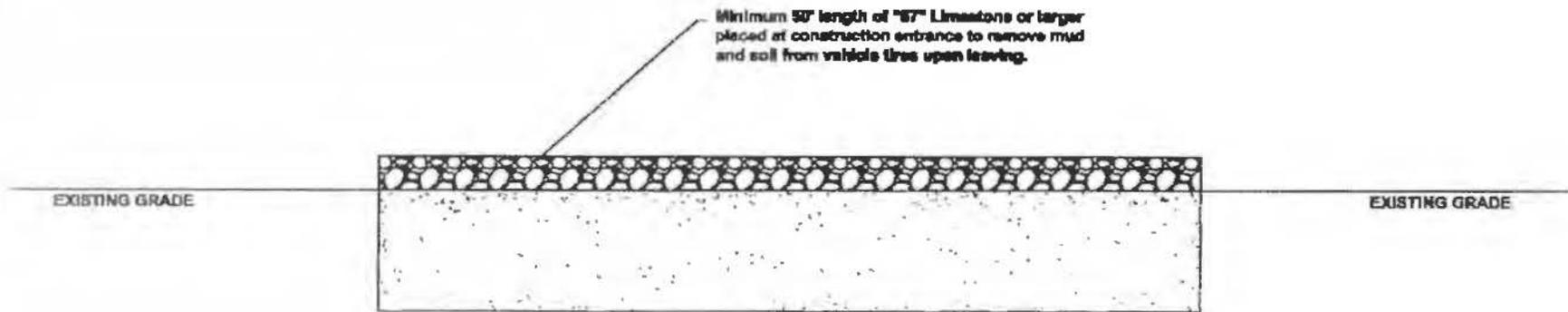
SWITCH PAD SKETCH



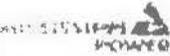
- ① 8" THICK "610" LIMESTONE OR CRUSHED CONCRETE COMPACTED TO 95% AS PER ASTM D698.
- ② FILL ~~8~~ DIRT AND SAND TO A MIN DEPTH OF 1'-6" COMPACT FILL TO 95% AS PER ASTM D698.
- ③ REMOVE AND REPLACE WITH SAND TO A MIN DEPTH OF 1'-6" COMPACT FILL TO 95% AS PER ASTM D698.
- ④ PREPARED SUB-GRADE

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION "B"

SAM-2015-01276-MEF



CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE DETAIL

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		Drawing Name:	DRAWING DETAILS		Author:	JJW	Division:	EA
					Issue Date:	12/16/2015		

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7

SAM-2015-01276-M65

16' Access Road (2' Shoulders) 1.05 Miles

Sections 33 & 34, Township 7 South,
Range 5 West and Sections 3 & 4, Township 8 South,
Range 5 West, Jackson County, Mississippi



7S 5W

Jackson

8S 5W

Legend

-  Switch_Pad
-  16' Access Road
-  46 kV
-  115 kV
-  230 kV
-  500 kV



SOUTHERN COMPANY

Proprietary & Confidential

This map is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. Mississippi Power and Southern Company are not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The information on this map is subject to change without notice. For more information, please contact your local utility office.

Map courtesy of USGS National Geographic 30° 00' 00" N 90° 00' 00" W
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