



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

MAR 10 2008

CESAM-RD-C

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2008-0325-JBM
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL**

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

**Dredge NOAA Ship Dock,
Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi**

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 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center, MS Labs
P.O. Box 1207
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-1207

AGENT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Division
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 26628

LOCATION OF WORK: 202 Delmas St. on the Pascagoula River, Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi (Latitude 30°-22'-04.59"N; 88°-33'-44.49"W).

WORK DESCRIPTION: The proposed action will consist of deepening the NOAA ship dock located on the east bank of the Pascagoula River in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The 100-foot wide by 537-foot long area along side of the dock would be dredged from an existing depth of -22.5 feet to a depth of -25 feet with -2 feet of allowable overdepth at mean lower low water (MLLW). A total of 4,700 cubic yards of silty sandy material will be mechanically excavated by either a bucket or clamshell dredge, then loaded on to a barge and then transported to the former gain elevator site on the west bank of the Pascagoula River. The material will then be offloaded by a track hoe into sealed or lined dump trucks and hauled to the Apple White Landfill; an existing upland disposal area.

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The overall project purpose is to provide additional water depth for the safe navigation of the new research vessel *Pices*, which will be moored at the facility.

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.

Also, the applicant has applied for certification from the State that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. A determination relative to consistency will be made by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

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

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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. 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. The district engineer remains the final decision authority.

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. The site is located within Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted regarding potential effects on listed marine species and adverse modification of critical habitat.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would impact approximately 1.2 acre of estuarine substrate utilized by various life stages of red drum, Spanish mackerel, and

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shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2008-0325-JBM and should be directed to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile
Attention: Regulatory Division, Coastal Branch
Post Office Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

With a Copy to:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Pollution Control
Post Office Box 10385
Jackson, Mississippi 39289

And to:

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Comments should be received no later than **21 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 john.b.mcfadyen@sam.usace.army.mil or telephone number **(251) 690-3222**. 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/RD/reg, and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Encls

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer

USGS 4 km SW of Moss Point, Mississippi, United States 01 Jul 1982

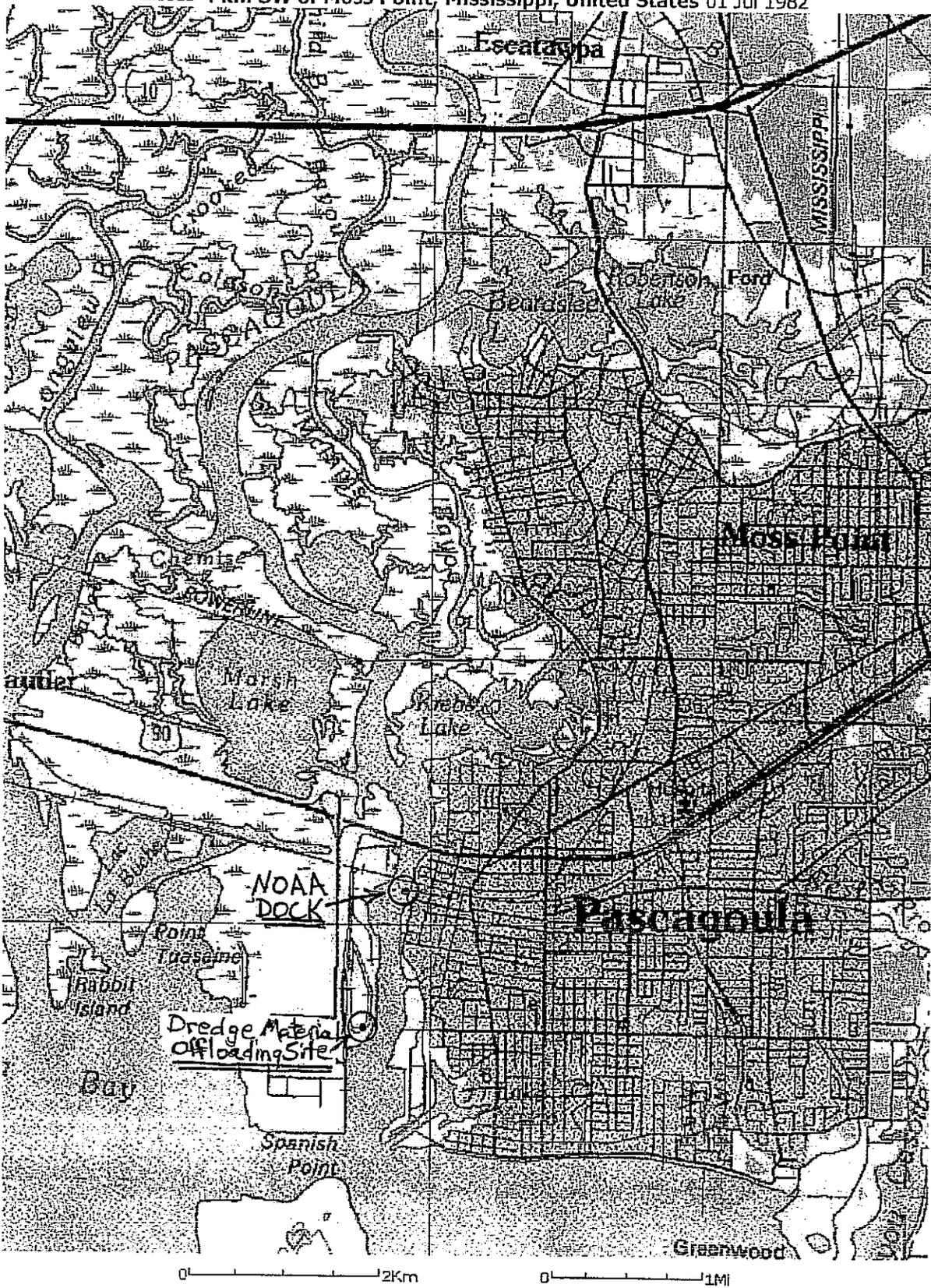


Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

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Dredge Site & Offloading Site

USGS 5 km NE of Gautier, Mississippi, United States 01 Jul 1982

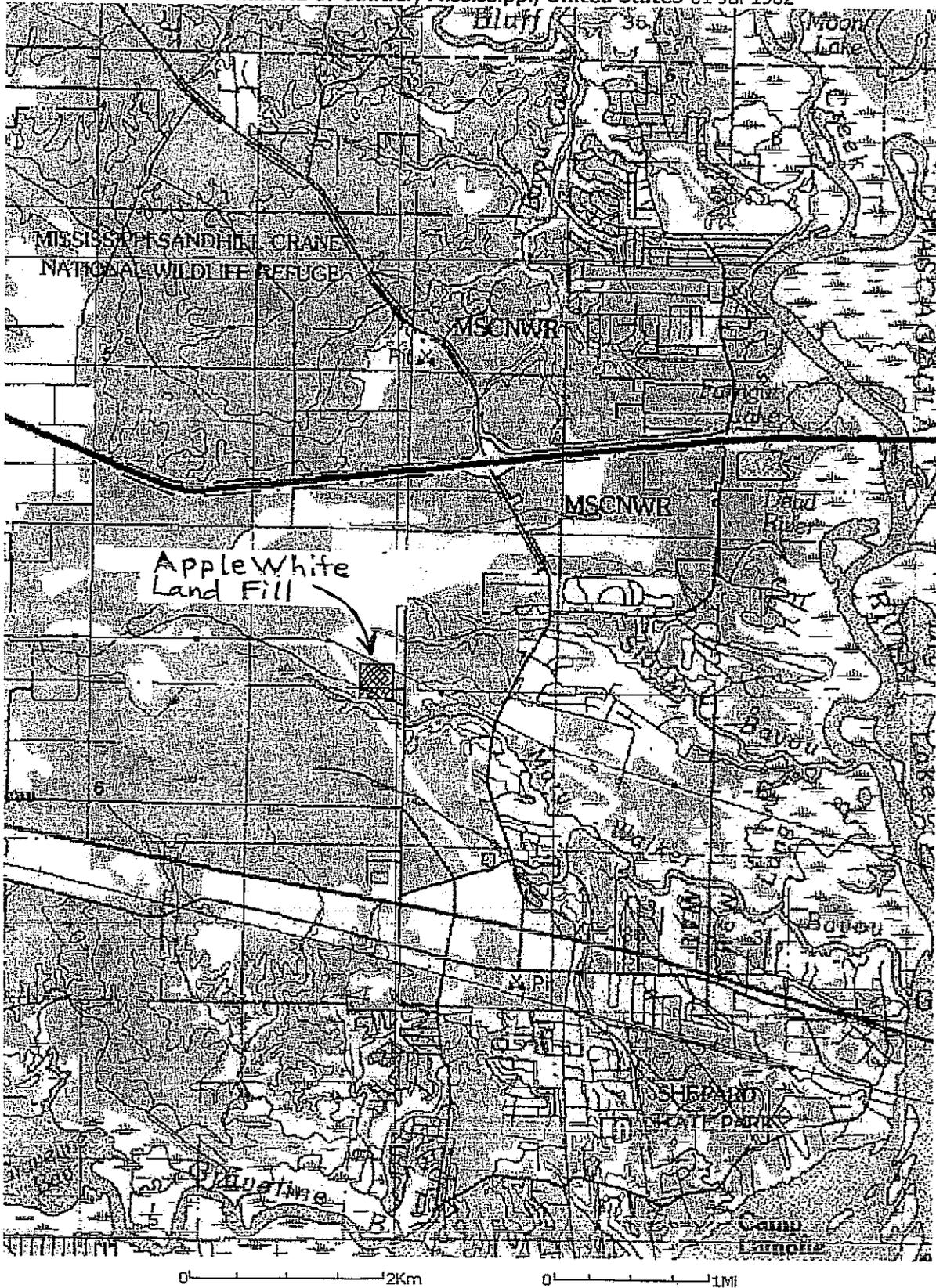


Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

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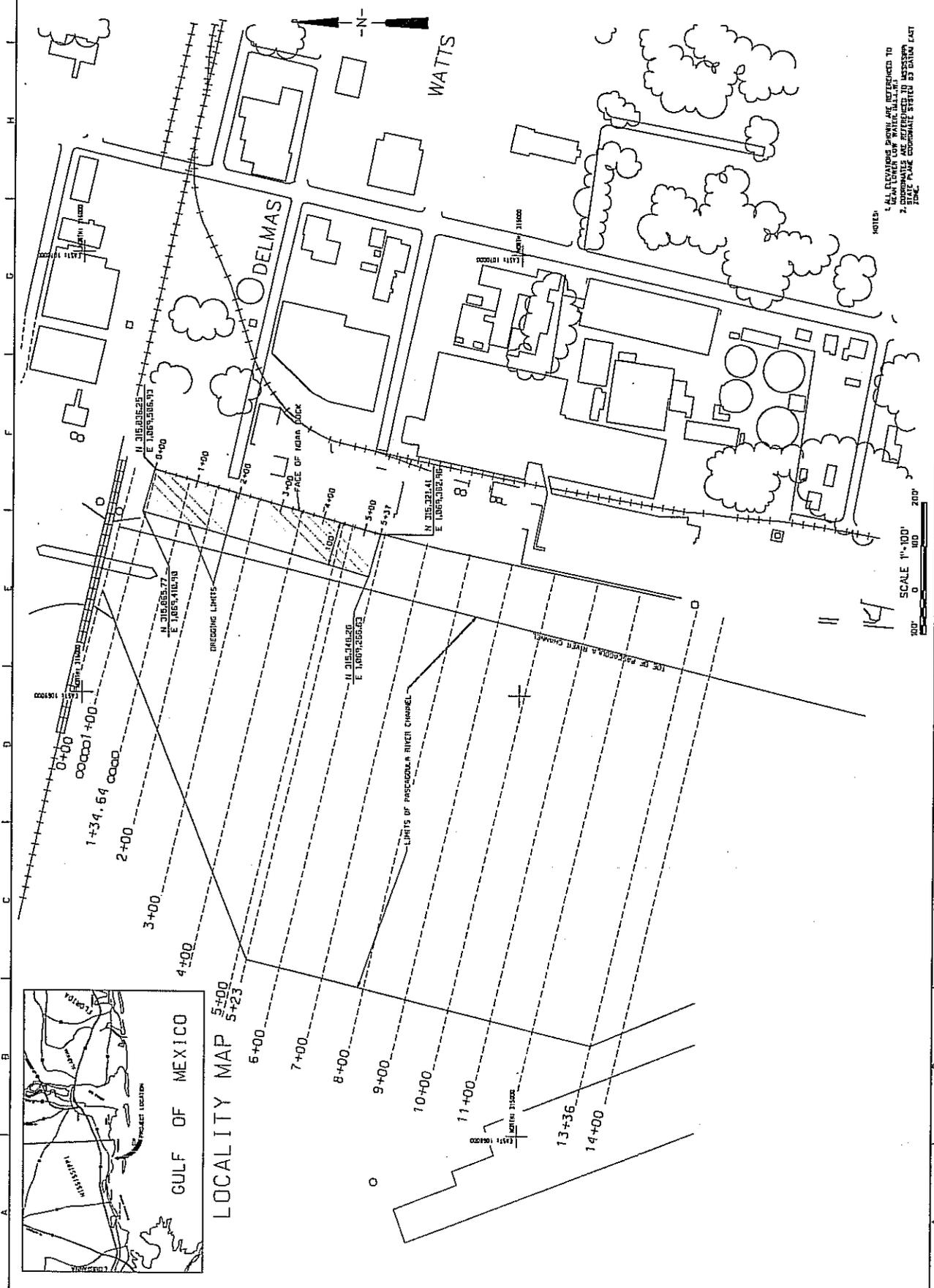
Dredge Material Disposal Site

 US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Engineers New Orleans	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Station</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Station	Date	Remarks												
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Approved By: J. CRISON Corps of Engineers U.S. Army District Dec. 11, 2007	Checked By: J. CRISON Corps of Engineers U.S. Army District Dec. 11, 2007
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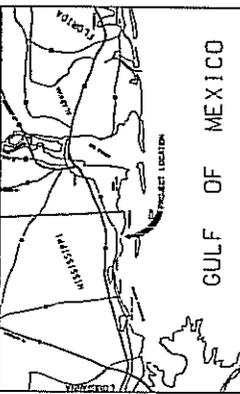
PASCAGOULA RIVER
 NOAA DOCK
 PERMIT DRAWING

Sheet Reference
 Number
 1 OF 1

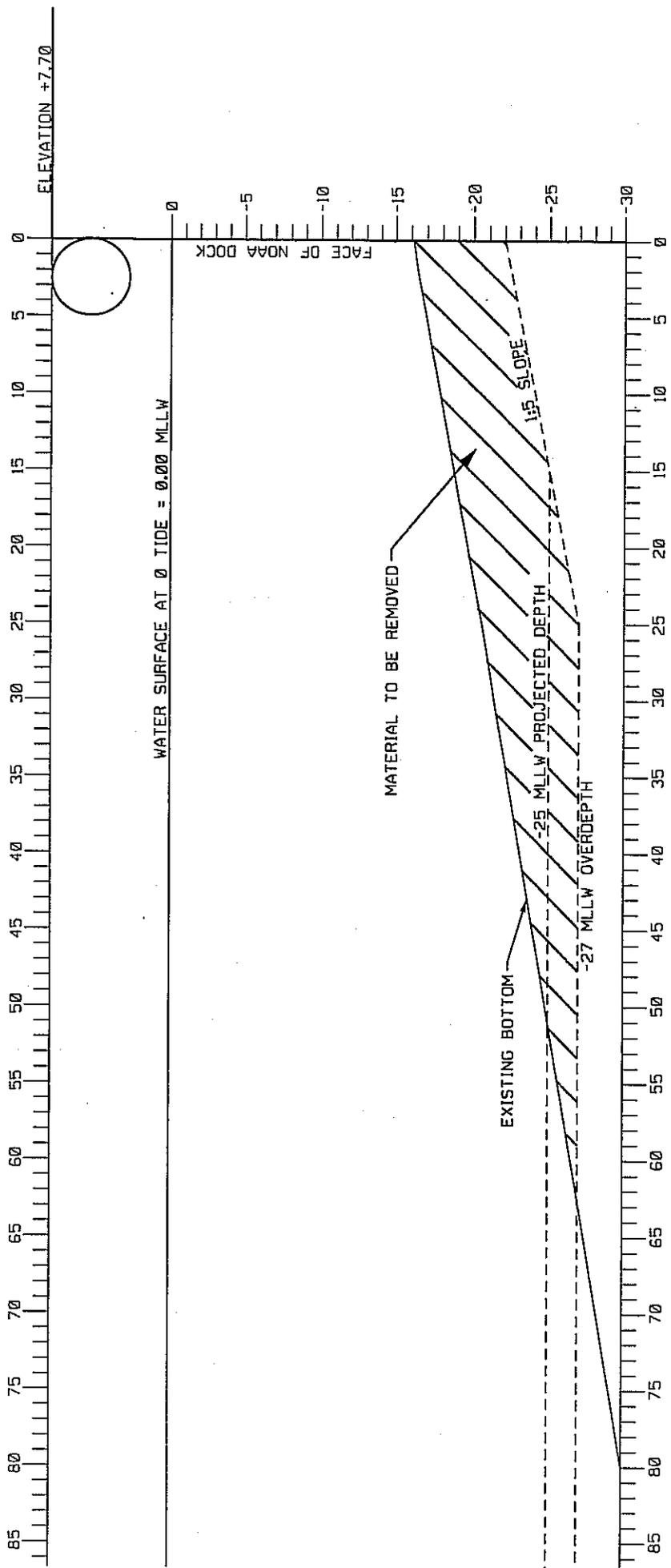


NOTES:
 1. ALL ELEVATIONS POINTS ARE REFERENCED TO MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (MLLW).
 2. DIMENSIONS ARE REFERENCED TO MASSISSIPPI STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM BY DATUM LAST USED.

SCALE 1" = 100'
 200' 0 100 200



Site Plan #



MATERIAL TO BE REMOVED

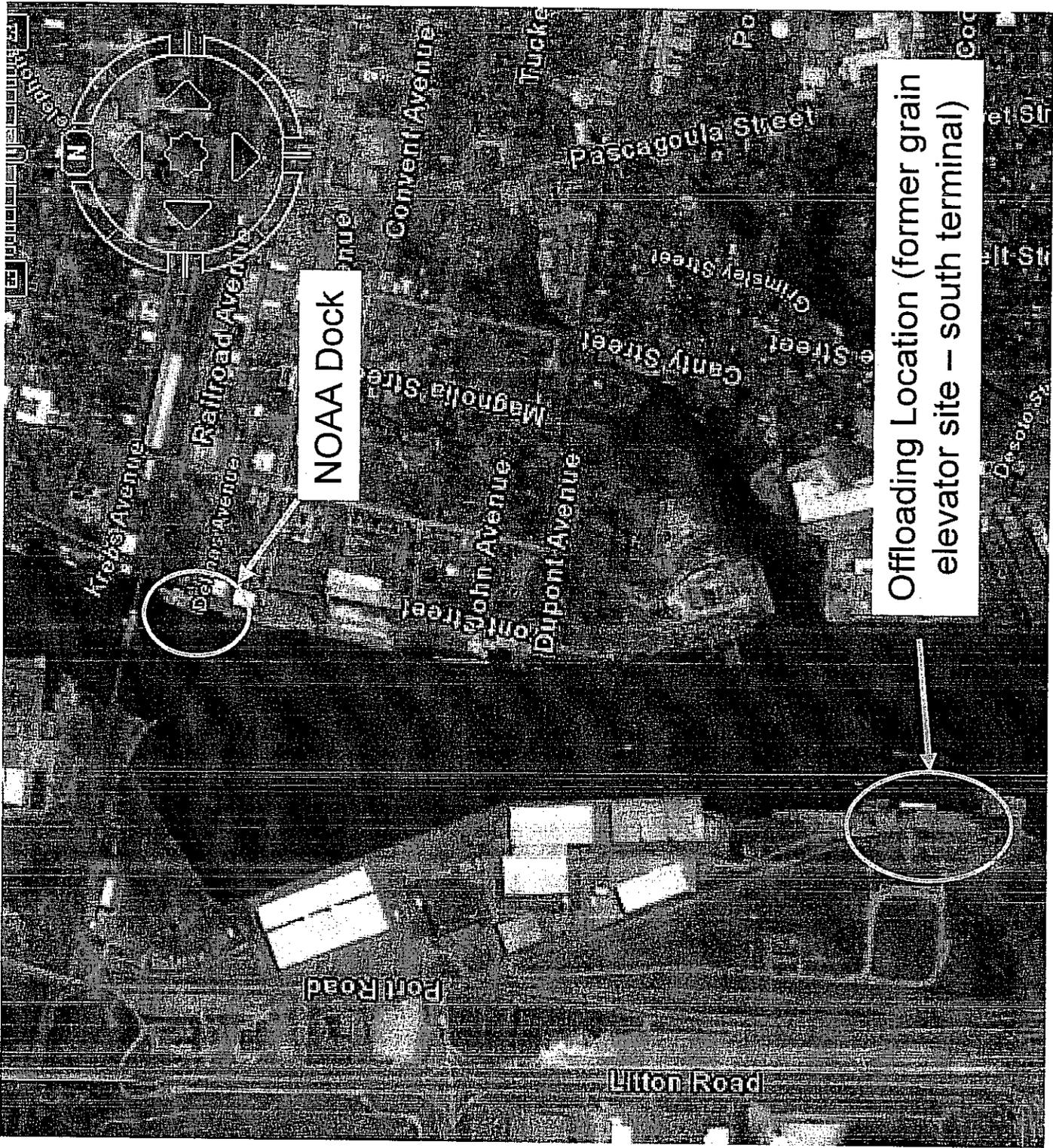
EXISTING BOTTOM

1:5 SLOPE

-25 MLLW PROJECTED DEPTH

-27 MLLW OVERDEPTH

TYPICAL DREDGE SECTION
NOT TO SCALE



NOAA Dock

Offloading Location (former grain elevator site - south terminal)



Apple White Landfill