



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

Regulatory Division
Coastal Branch

NOV 19 2007

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2007-1110-JWS
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

**Fill for Port Expansion
Port of Gulfport
Harrison 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 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (33 USC 1413) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT/AGENT: Mississippi State Port Authority BMI Environmental Services, LLC
P.O. Box 40 521 34th Street
Gulfport, Mississippi 39502 Gulfport, Mississippi 39507

LOCATIONS: Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. Marine Port: Section 9, Township 8 S, Range 11 W. Inland Port: Section 33, Township 8 S, Range 11 W.

WORK: The applicant proposes to fill unvegetated, shallow waterbottoms in Mississippi Sound and wetlands adjacent to an unnamed ditch flowing to Turkey Creek, in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The proposed action involves the improvements and expansion of port facilities to meet the anticipated needs identified in the Mississippi State Port Authority's (MSPA) 10-Year Vision Plan. The improvements and expansion activities will be accomplished in 5-Year and a 10-Year development intervals implemented as the need requires. The proposed action to be accomplished in the 5-Year interval include the completion of the 84-acre expansion project, reconfiguration of cargo operations for containerized cargo to minimize traffic conflicts and congestion, and to improve Port security and safety. The actions proposed in the 10-Year Plan

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include expansion of the West Pier to accommodate container terminal operations. The expansion will be conducted in phases under the existing permit (MS96-02828-U) held by the MSPA that authorizes the filling of approximately 84 acres of open water. In addition to 84 acres authorized to be filled, the MSPA will fill an additional 112 acres of open water and dredge a new navigation channel to service the west side of the expanded West Pier.

As part of the 10-Year, the MSPA proposes to develop an Inland Port facility that will allow for the establishment of an intermodal rail yard, 60 acres of wheeled storage area to service the intermodal rail yard, and an additional area of 78 acres of distribution warehouse/cross-dock operations. The Inland Port facility will also serve as a hurricane evacuation site for depositing and storing stacked containers from the Port in advance of a pending major storm event. See the attached "Project Description" and drawings for details.

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.

The applicant has certified 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.

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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. The selection and use of ocean disposal sites will be in accordance with guidelines developed by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army and published in 40 CFR Part 230.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed fill would permanently impact approximately 145 acres of estuarine substrate utilized by various life stages of red drum, Spanish mackerel, and shrimp. Dredging would result in a temporary impact to EFH. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries.

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

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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.

To determine whether suitable habitat for protected plant and animal species was present on the project site, lists of federal threatened and endangered species and state-listed endangered species were compiled from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website (USFWS, 2007) and Mississippi Museum of Natural Science online resources (MMNS, 2002). Additional information regarding habitat requirements and species ranges was acquired from the NatureServe on-line database (NatureServe, 2004). There are a number of endangered and threatened species which occur within the Gulfport area and Mississippi Sound is listed as critical habitat for the Gulf sturgeon. The project will not affect most listed species, but potential impacts to listed species and critical habitat will be coordinated with the FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2007-1110-JWS and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Coastal Branch, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 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 Jason W. Steele, telephone number (251) 690-3188; E-mail jason.w.steele@usace.army.mil. 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.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

PROJECT DESCRIPTION MSPA 10-YEAR VISION PLAN

1.0 Dredging for Navigation Channels, Expanded Berths, and Expanded Basins

The proposed action will require dredging for a new ship channel with turning basin, the relocation of an existing commercial small boat channel, the expansion of the existing RO/RO Berth at the south end of the West Pier, and the expansion of an existing commercial small craft harbor at the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport.

1.1 Ship Channel

The proposed navigation channel will be approximately 13,800 feet long by 550-700 feet wide with a turning basin. The initial dredging depth will be -36 feet at mean lower low water (mllw) with an allowance of 2 feet of overdredge and 2 feet of advanced maintenance, however, the channel will be deepened to a maximum depth of -42 mllw feet as the need arises. Approximately 13,850,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be excavated from the channel and used as fill or disposed in the designated Gulfport Ocean Dredged Material Disposal (ODMDS) site.

1.2 Commercial Small Craft Channel

The MSPA proposes to conduct dredging operations to relocate the Commercial Small Craft Channel. The relocated Commercial Small Craft Channel will be approximately 5,300 feet long by 100 feet wide and will be dredged to -8 feet at mllw. Approximately 160,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be excavated from the channel and used as fill for the expansion or disposed in the designated ODMDS site.

1.3 Expanded RO/RO Operations

In addition to the new ship channel, and the relocation of the Commercial Small Craft Channel, the existing RO/RO operations at the terminus of the West Pier will be expanded to provide additional docking space for the RO/RO operations. The expanded RO/RO berth will be approximately 1,700 long by 2,000 feet wide, and it will be dredged to -36 feet mllw.

1.4 Expanded Commercial Small Craft Harbor

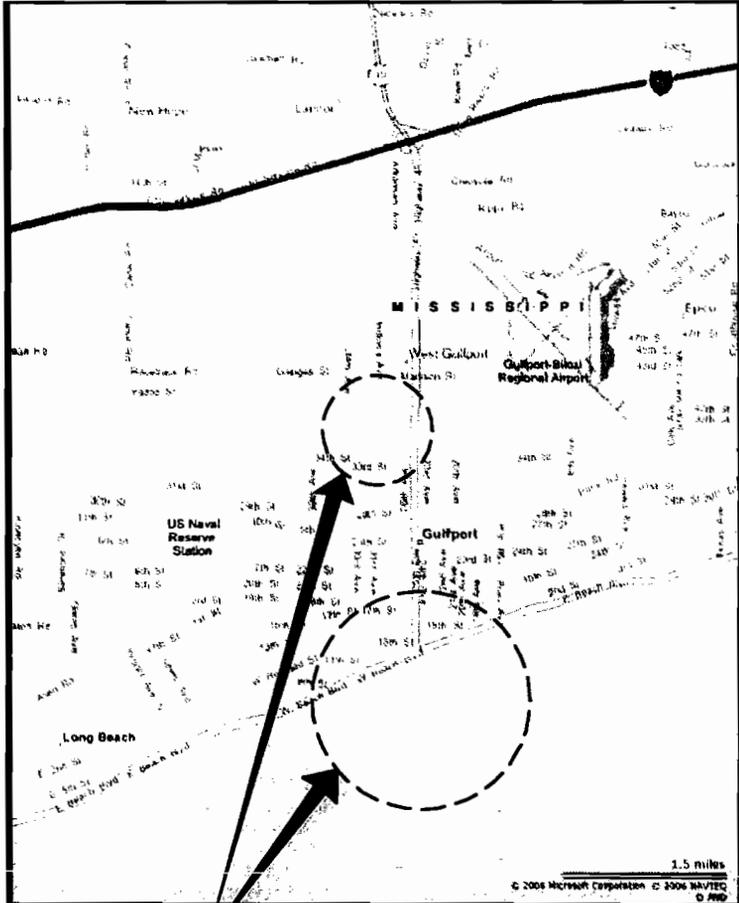
In addition to the expanded RO/RO Berth, the existing Commercial Small Craft Harbor will be expanded to provide additional docking space for commercial and recreational vessels. The expanded harbor will be approximately 2,560 long by 2,000 feet wide, and it will be dredged to -8 feet mllw.

2.0 Construction of Bulkheads, Piers, Revetments, and Jetty Structures

The proposed action will require the construction of bulkheads, piers, and a jetty structure to support the expansion of the West Pier. Approximately 4,600 linear feet of bulkhead will be constructed along the western edge of the fill area. The bulkhead will be constructed with steel sheetpiles and will be approximately 11 feet North American Vertical Datum (NAVD 1988). Approximately 4,400 linear feet of pier, 130 feet wide will be constructed along the newly formed limits of fill on the expanded West Pier. The elevation of the pier will be 11 feet NAVD88. Approximately 4,400 linear feet of revetment will be placed at the north and south ends of the newly filled West Pier expansion area for shoreline stabilization. Approximately 10,200 linear feet of rip-rap breakwater will be constructed along the western margin of the newly constructed ship channel. The rip-rap jetty will be approximately 140 feet wide at the base and the top elevation of the jetty will be approximately 10 feet NAVD88. The existing bulkhead at the existing RO/RO berth will be extended westward and southward for a distance of 1,425 feet.

3.0 Filling

The proposed action will require filling of approximately 112 acres of open water areas west of the existing West Pier over a 10 year period of time. The Inland Port will encompass approximately 138 acres of land that will include a 60 acre wheeled storage area and 78 acres for warehouse/cross dock operations. The development of the Inland Port will require filling approximately 53 acres of forested palustrine wetlands. The jetty will require the placement of approximately 620,000 cubic yards of rip-rap over approximately 33 acres of shallow water bottoms.

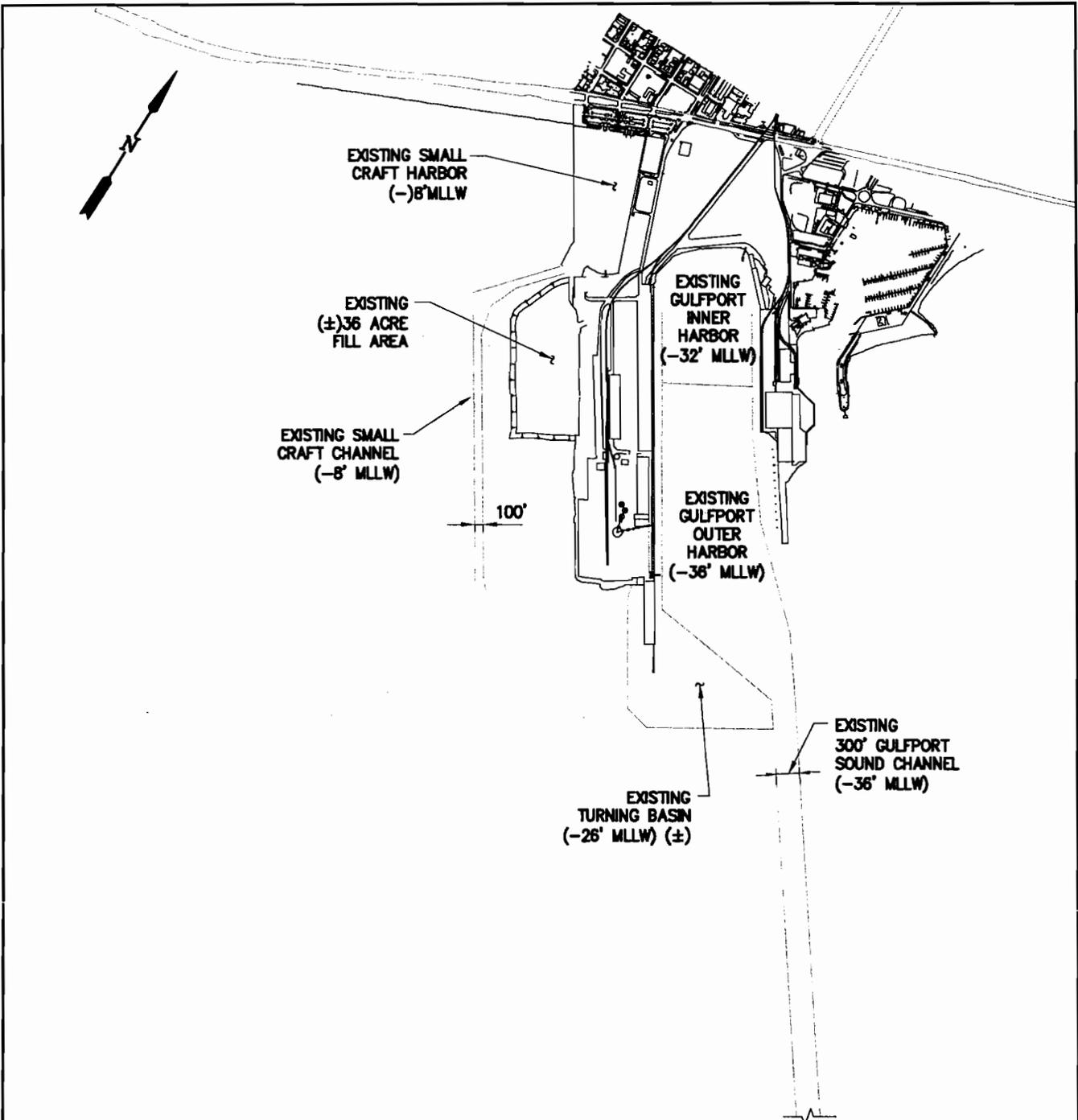


PROJECT SITE

7694-P1

<p>LANIER & ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS INCORPORATED</p>	<p>DMJM HARRIS AECOM NEW ORLEANS, LA</p>
	<p>B Brown & Mitchell, Inc. M BMI Environmental Services, LLC</p>

<p>MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY STATE PORT GULFPORT</p>	<p>PORT OF GULFPORT MASTER PLAN PERMIT VICINITY AND AREA MAPS</p>
	<p>GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI</p>
	<p>DATE AUG. '07 DESIGN BNF DRAWN WGL CHECK SCK CONTRACT 7694 SHEET No.</p>
	<p>1 OF 11</p>

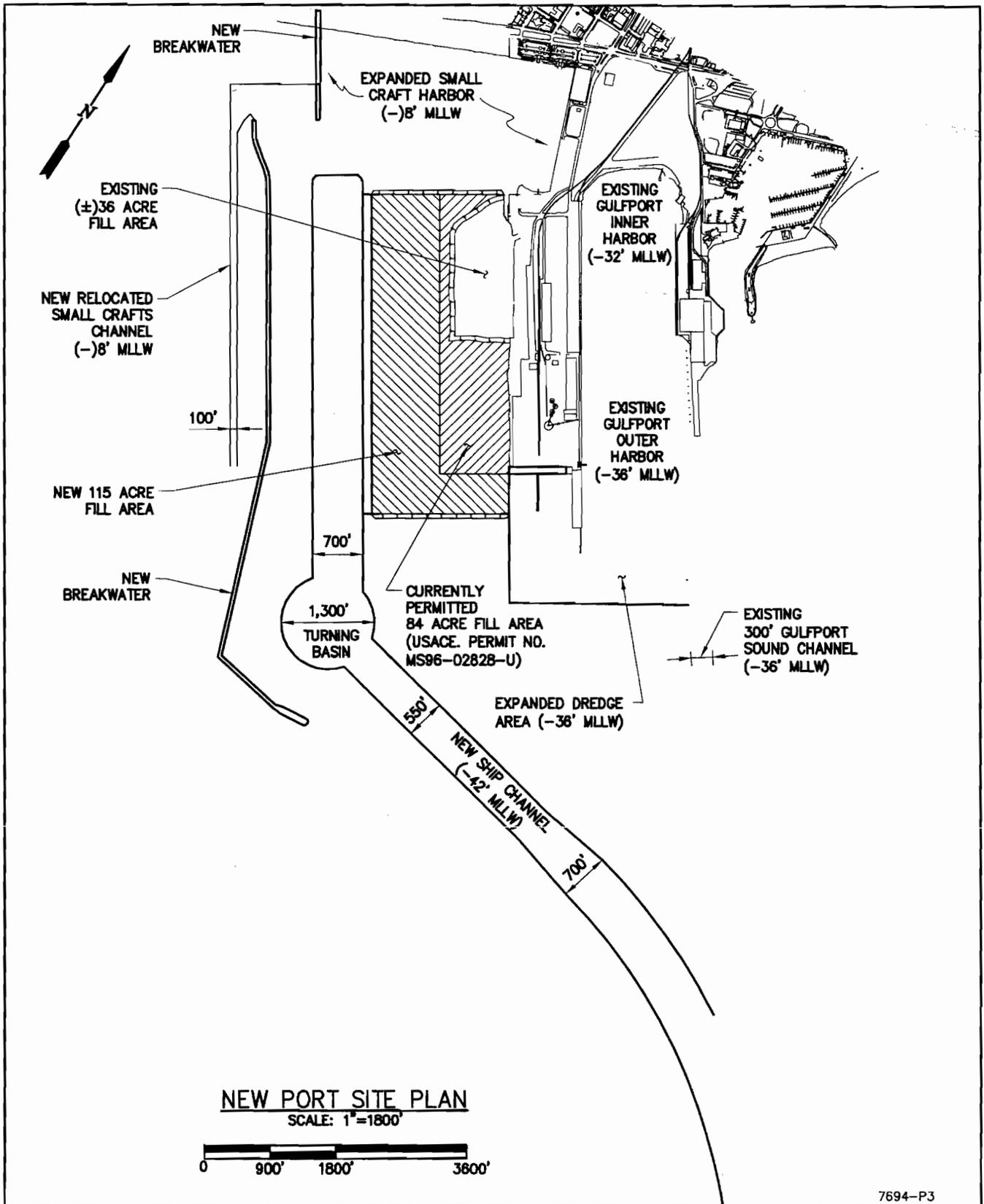


EXISTING PORT SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1"=1800'



7694-P2

<p>LANIER & ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS INCORPORATED</p>	<p>DMJM HARRIS AECOM NEW ORLEANS, LA</p>	<p>MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI</p> <p>PORT OF GULFPORT MASTER PLAN PERMIT EXISTING PORT SITE PLAN</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>DATE</td><td>AUG. '07</td></tr> <tr><td>DESIGN</td><td>BNF</td></tr> <tr><td>DRAWN</td><td>WGL</td></tr> <tr><td>CHECK</td><td>SCK</td></tr> <tr><td>CONTRACT</td><td>7694</td></tr> <tr><td>SHEET No.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>2 OF 11</td></tr> </table>	DATE	AUG. '07	DESIGN	BNF	DRAWN	WGL	CHECK	SCK	CONTRACT	7694	SHEET No.			2 OF 11
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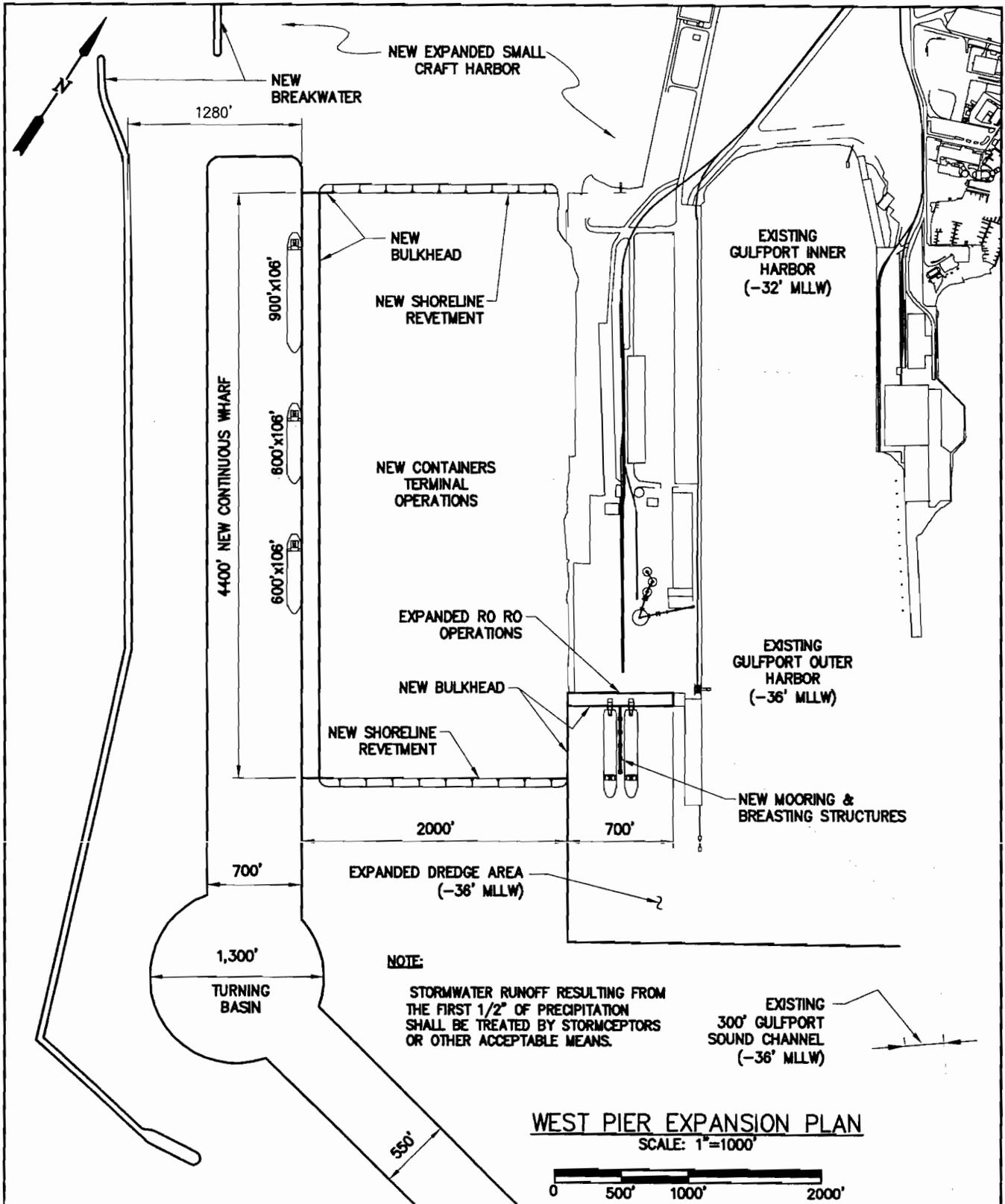


NEW PORT SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1"=1800'



7694-P3

<p>LANIER & ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS INCORPORATED</p>	<p>DMJM HARRIS AECOM NEW ORLEANS, LA</p>	<p>MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI</p> <p>PORT OF GULFPORT MASTER PLAN PERMIT NEW PORT SITE PLAN</p>	<p>DATE AUG '07 DESIGN RLE DRAWN WGL CHECK BNF CONTRACT 7694 SHEET No. 3 OF 11</p>
<p>B Brown & Mitchell, Inc. M BMI Environmental Services, LLC</p>			



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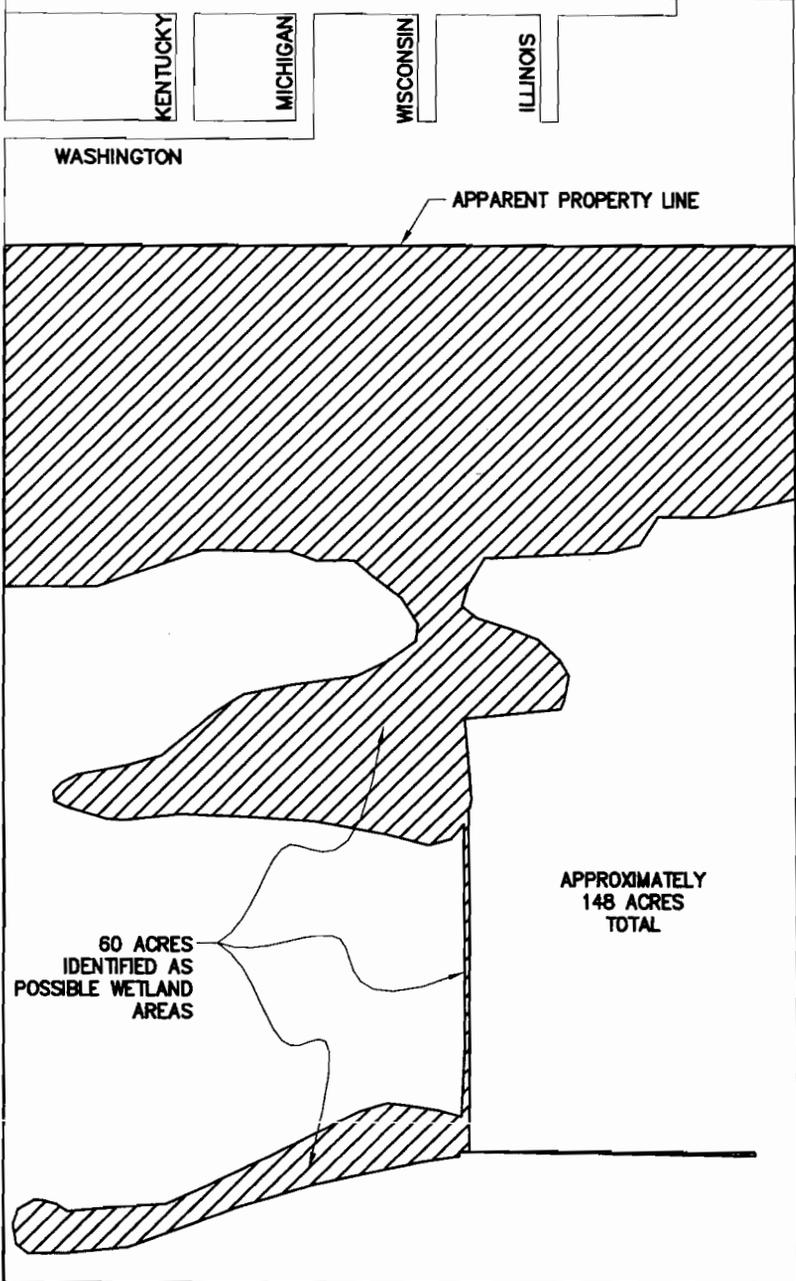
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INCORPORATED

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NEW ORLEANS, LA

B Brown & Mitchell, Inc.
M BMI Environmental Services, LLC

MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY
GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI
PORT OF GULFPORT
MASTER PLAN PERMIT
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39TH
38TH
37TH
34TH AVE.
35TH
34TH

60 ACRES
IDENTIFIED AS
POSSIBLE WETLAND
AREAS

APPROXIMATELY
148 ACRES
TOTAL

EXISTING RR R.O.W., MAINLINE TRACK, AND
STORAGE YARD

33rd AVE.
APPARENT PROPERTY LINE

FAULKNER AVE.
R.O.W.
UNDEVELOPED

EXISTING INLAND PORT SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1"=500'



7694-P5

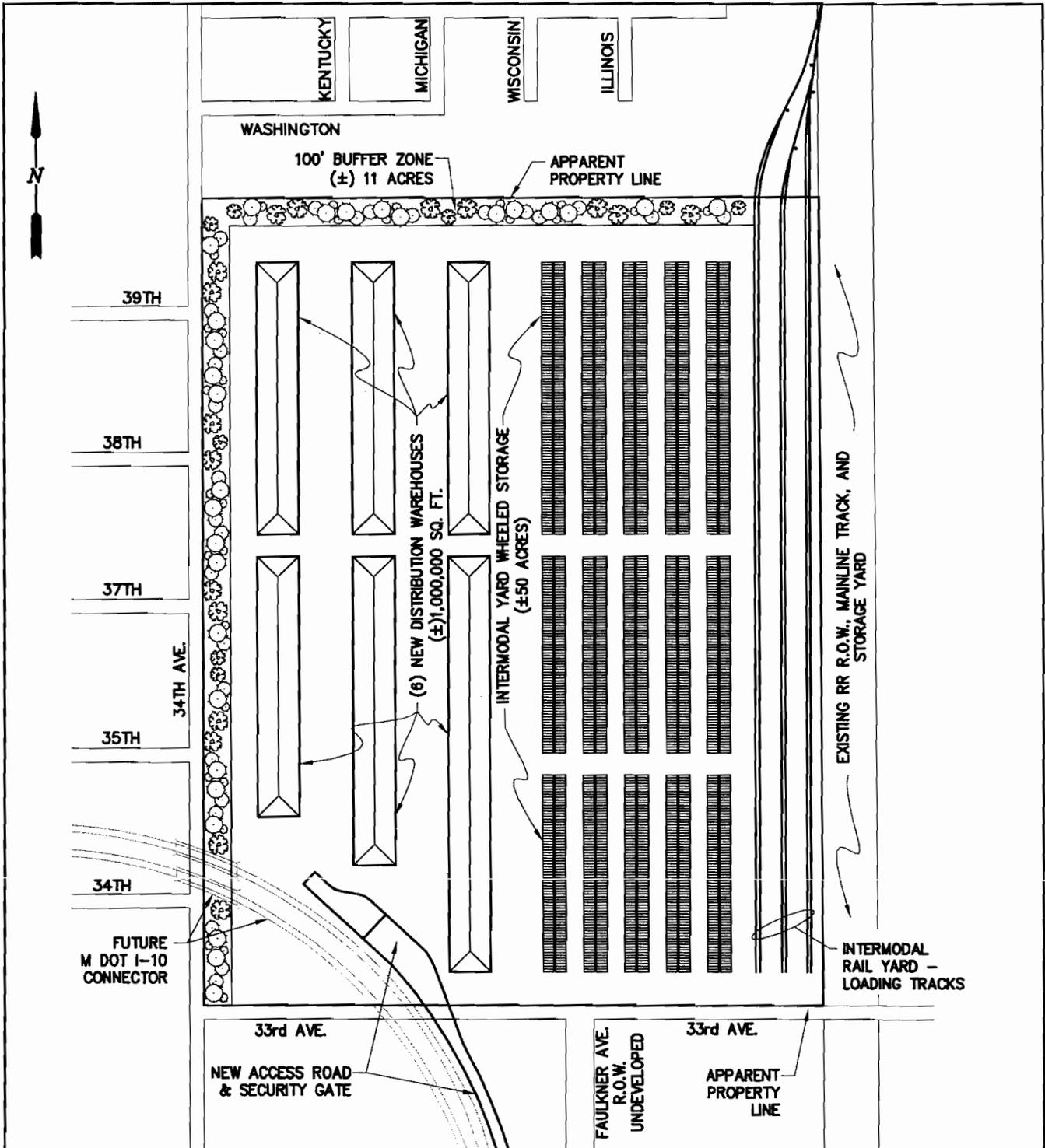
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CONSULTING ENGINEERS
INCORPORATED

DMJM HARRIS | AECOM
NEW ORLEANS, LA

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M BMI Environmental Services, LLC

MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY
GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI
PORT OF GULFPORT
MASTER PLAN PERMIT
EXISTING INLAND PORT SITE PLAN

DATE AUG. '07
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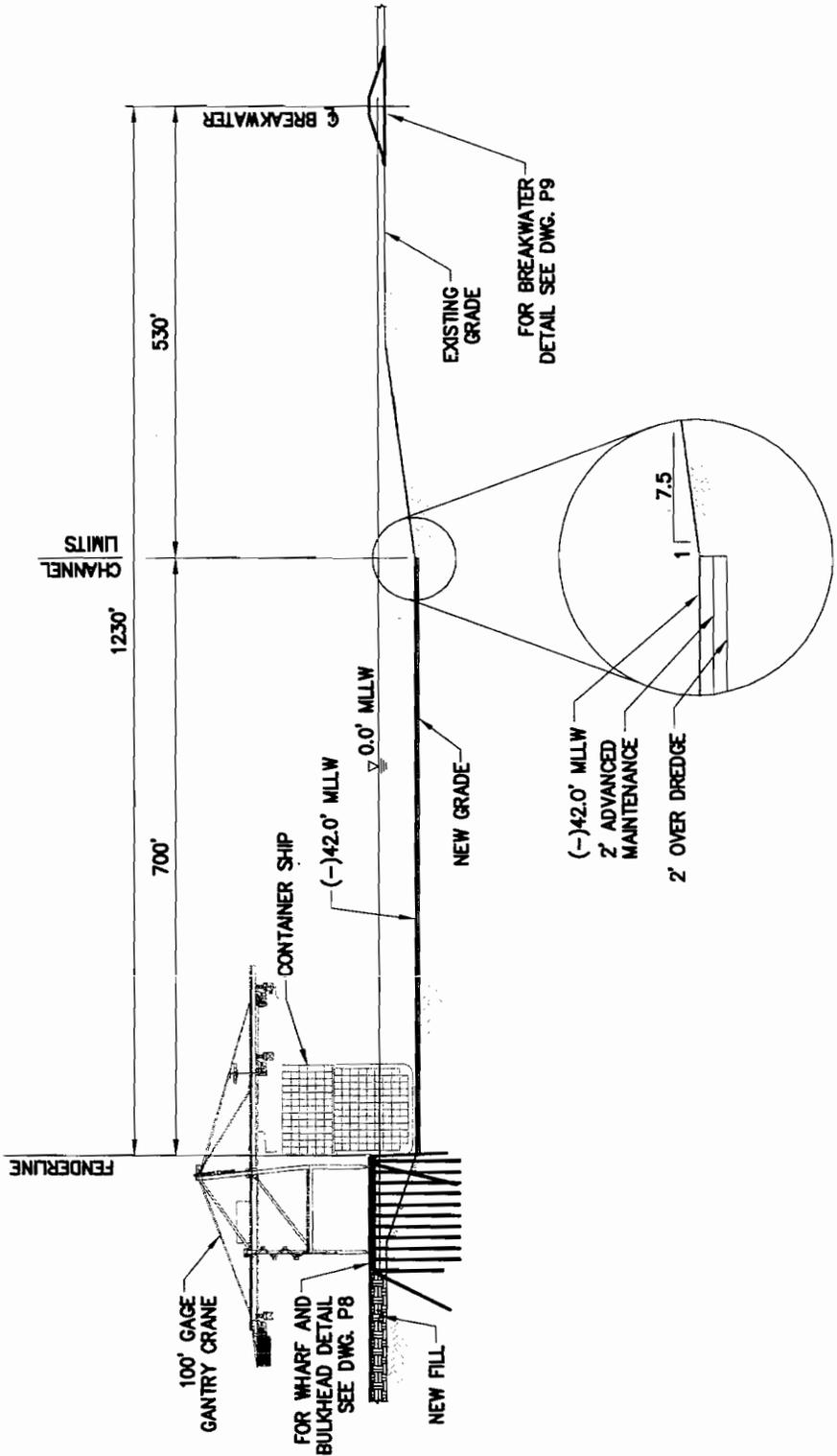


NEW INLAND PORT SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1"=500'



7694-P6

<p>LANIER & ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS INCORPORATED</p>	<p>DMJM HARRIS AECOM NEW ORLEANS, LA</p>	<p>MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI</p> <p>PORT OF GULFPORT MASTER PLAN PERMIT NEW INLAND PORT SITE PLAN</p>	<p>DATE AUG. '07 DESIGN RLE DRAWN WGL CHECK BNF CONTRACT 7694 SHEET No. 6 OF 11</p>
<p> Brown & Mitchell, Inc. BMI Environmental Services, LLC</p>			



WEST PIER EXPANSION CROSS SECTION
SCALE: 1"=200'



7694-P7

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MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY
GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI
**PORT OF GULFPORT
MASTER PLAN PERMIT
WEST PIER EXPANSION
CROSS SECTION**

DATE AUG. '07
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CONTRACT 7694
SHEET No.

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NOTE:
 APPROXIMATELY 10,200 LF OF NEW
 BREAKWATER REQUIRED.

140'

NEW BREAKWATER

(+)10.0' MLLW

NEW ROCK FILL

0.0 MLLW

MUDLINE ELEV. VARIES
 0.0' TO (-)15.0' MLLW

TYPICAL BREAKWATER SECTION
 SCALE: 1"=20'



7694-P9

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DMJM HARRIS | AECOM
 NEW ORLEANS, LA

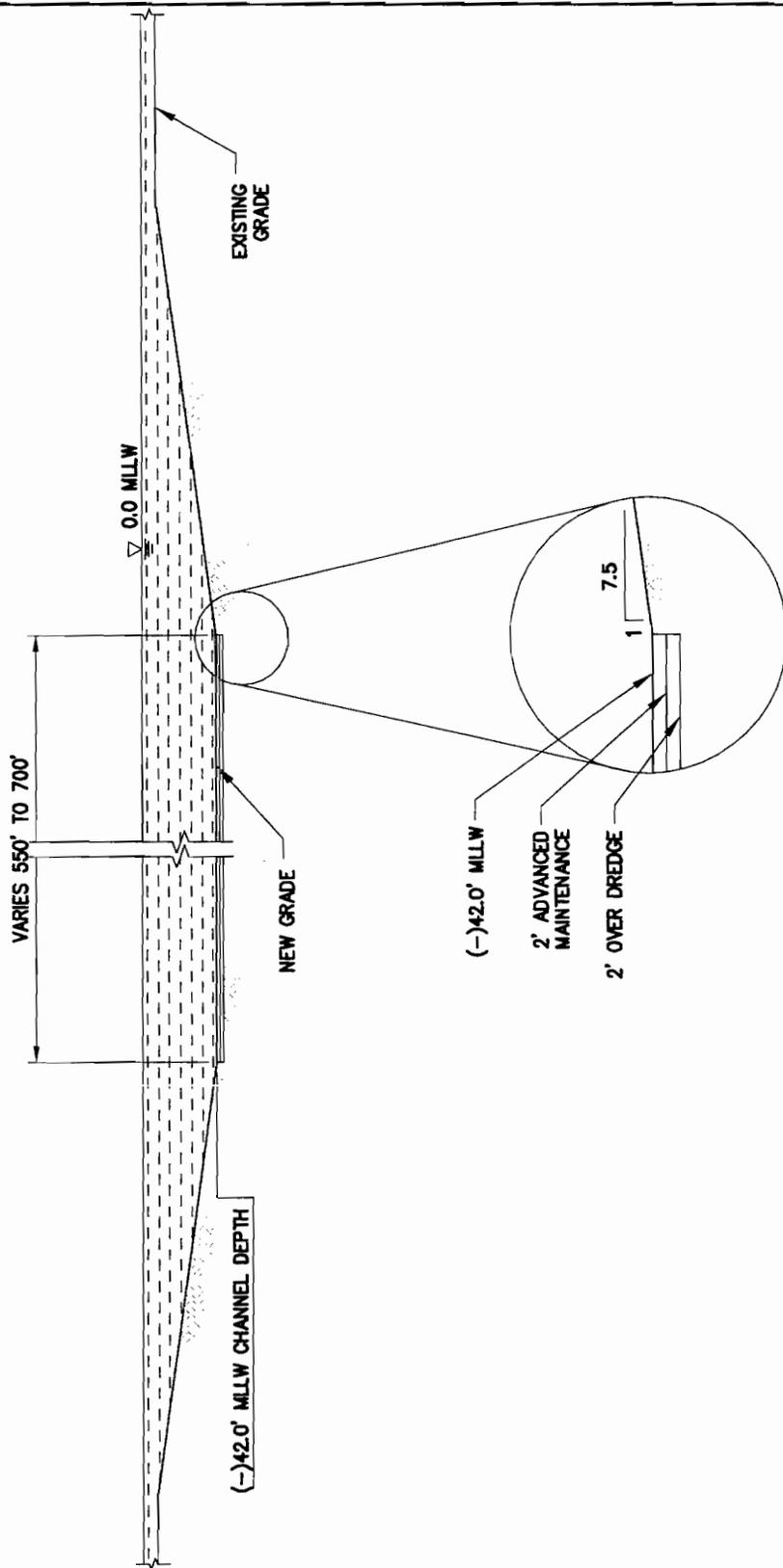
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M BMI Environmental Services, LLC

MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY
PORT OF GULFPORT
MASTER PLAN PERMIT
NEW BREAK WATER
CROSS SECTION

MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT GULFPORT

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TYPICAL CHANNEL CROSS SECTION

SCALE: 1"=100'



7694-P10

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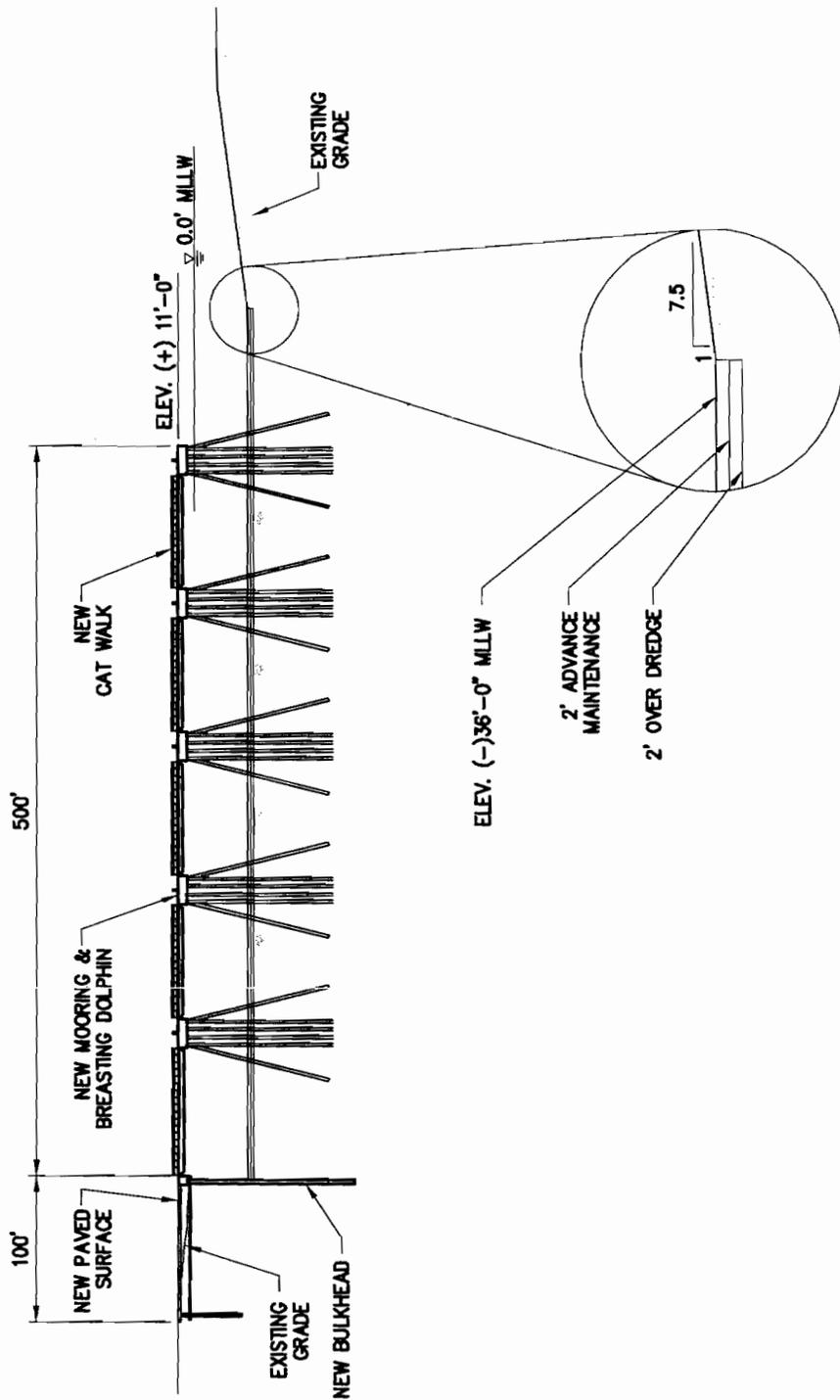
DMJM HARRIS | AECOM
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M BMI Environmental Services, LLC

MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY
GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI
PORT OF GULFPORT
MASTER PLAN PERMIT
NEW CHANNEL CROSS SECTION

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RO RO BERTH CROSS SECTION
SCALE: 1"=120'



7694-P11

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MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY

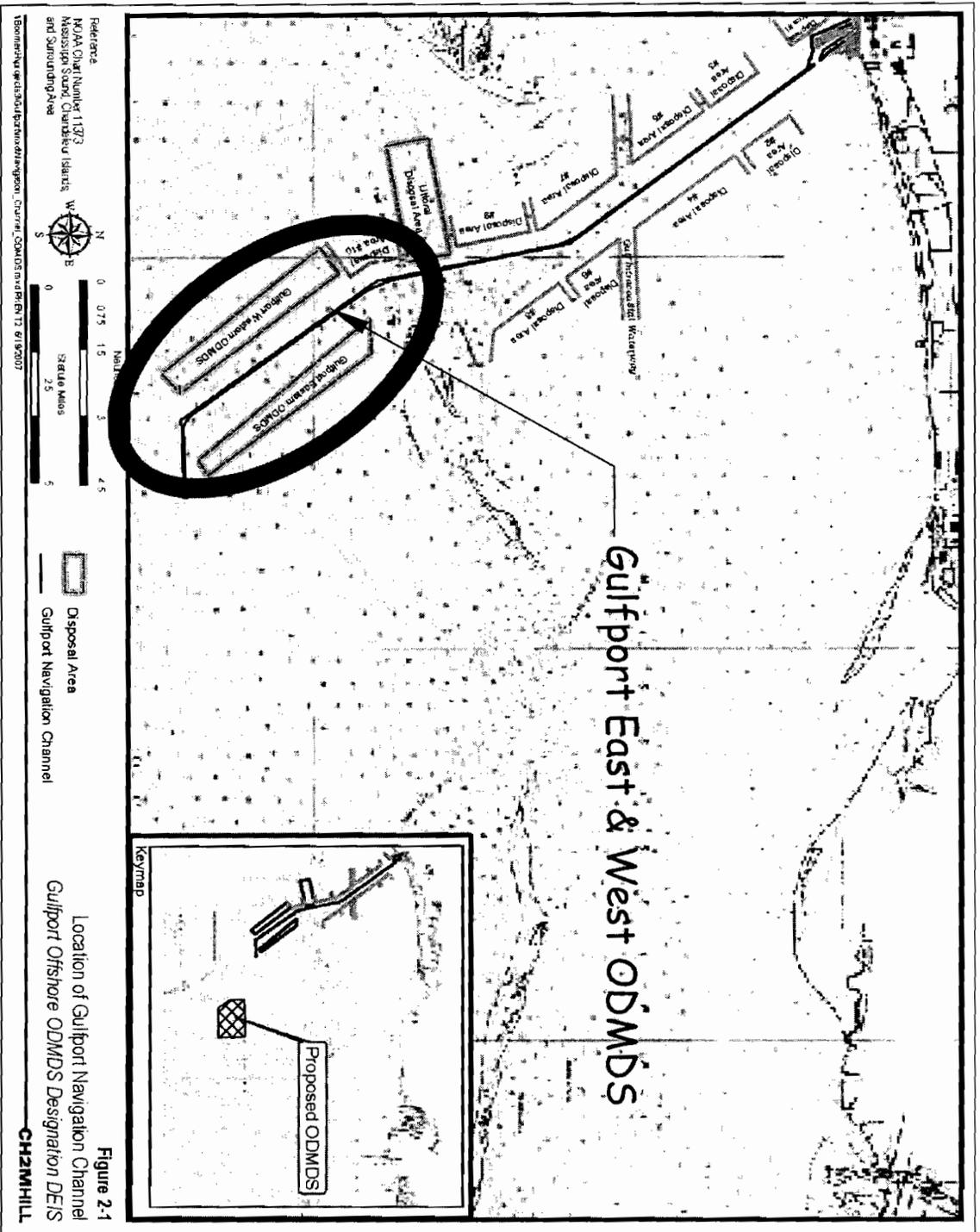


PORT OF GULFPORT
MASTER PLAN PERMIT
EXPANDED RORO BERTH

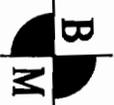
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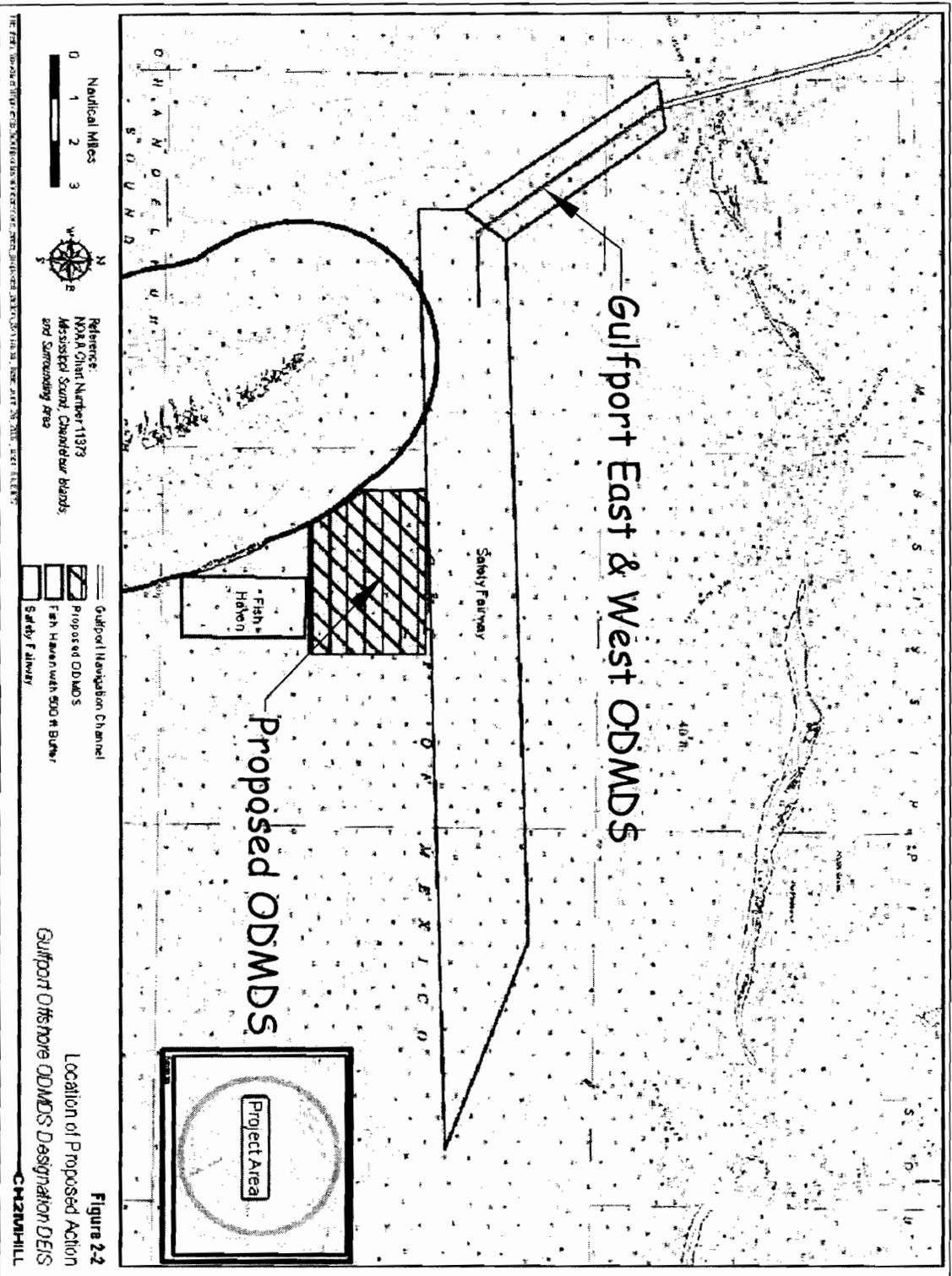
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Existing ODMDS Locations
Mississippi State Port at Gulfport
Gulfport, Mississippi





Proposed ODMDS Location
Mississippi State Port at Gulfport
Gulfport, Mississippi

