



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

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

CESAM-RD-I  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2008-1172-DMY

September 5, 2008

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
COASTAL FACILITIES**

**PROPOSED IMPACTS TO WATERS OF THE U.S. IN CONJUNCTION  
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
A NEW STEEL HEAT-TREAT FACILITY  
MOBILE 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:**

SSAB-Alabama  
Attention: Mr. Paul Wilson  
12400 Highway 43 North  
Axis, Alabama 36505

**AGENT:**

Gulf States Engineering  
Attention: Mr. George D. Davis, Jr., P.E.  
4110 Moffett Road  
Mobile, Alabama 36618

**LOCATION:** Project located within the vicinity of the Mobile River, just off U.S. Highway 43 north of Interstate 65 at 12740 Highway 43 North; Axis, Alabama 36505. Section 18, Township 1 South, Range 1 East. Coordinates as follows: Latitude North 30 57' 40" and Longitude West 88 1' 10".

**WORK:** SSAB Alabama proposes to impact "waters of the United States" in conjunction with the construction of an approximated 220-acre heat-treat steel facility. The proposed facility will

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consist of a temper operation, steel processing buildings, railroad marshalling yard and sidetracks, electrical substation, re-routed power lines, utilities, roadways, paved loading and storage areas, truck and employee parking, support buildings, a heavy haul road, and stormwater detention systems. The heavy haul road would connect the plant site to the existing road leading to the IPSCO barge handling facility on the Mobile River. The proposed plant site occurs outside the Alabama coastal area and will require no construction within the continuous 10-foot elevation contour. The proposed plan would involve the filling of approximately 1.7 acres of wetland habitat; an additional 3.0 acres of wetlands are proposed to be isolated by the railroad marshalling yard and would be considered to represent the effect of filling activities.

Several locations around the existing SSAB (formerly IPSCO) steel mill were evaluated for suitability for the proposed heat treatment plant. The applicant considered eight parcels that range in size from roughly 11 acres to 45 acres and were found to be too small for the projected master plan. Combining parcels was not practicable according to the applicant because of borders fixed by existing roads, railroad yards, or major power transmission lines. The Applicant has stated that the proposed project must be close to the existing facility and barge dock. Additionally, the applicant stated that the old Acordis plant site is located on the east side of Highway 43 and is close enough to existing SSAB operations to benefit from those facilities. Consideration by the applicant was given for the opportunity to re-develop an old industrial site and was selected as a benefit to the region.

Proposed wetland compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts as a result of the proposed project will be through preservation of on-site wetlands and the purchase of credits at a local approved mitigation bank.

The applicant will apply for state certification in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and seek approval for the proposed activity to be in compliance with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment of review, a determination relative to consistency will be made by the Alabama Department 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 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

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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.

The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and cultural resources within the vicinity of the project are being assessed by the applicant. Additional coordination with the Alabama Historical Commission will be conducted with this public notice and upon completion of the assessment on behalf of the applicant. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations 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. Copies of this notice are being sent to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services.

This notice and application will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assess if the proposed activity will affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. The applicant conducted an initial survey for any species existing onsite and found no evidence.

The Mobile District has determined that the proposed action would not adversely impact

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Essential Fish Habitat or associated fisheries managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

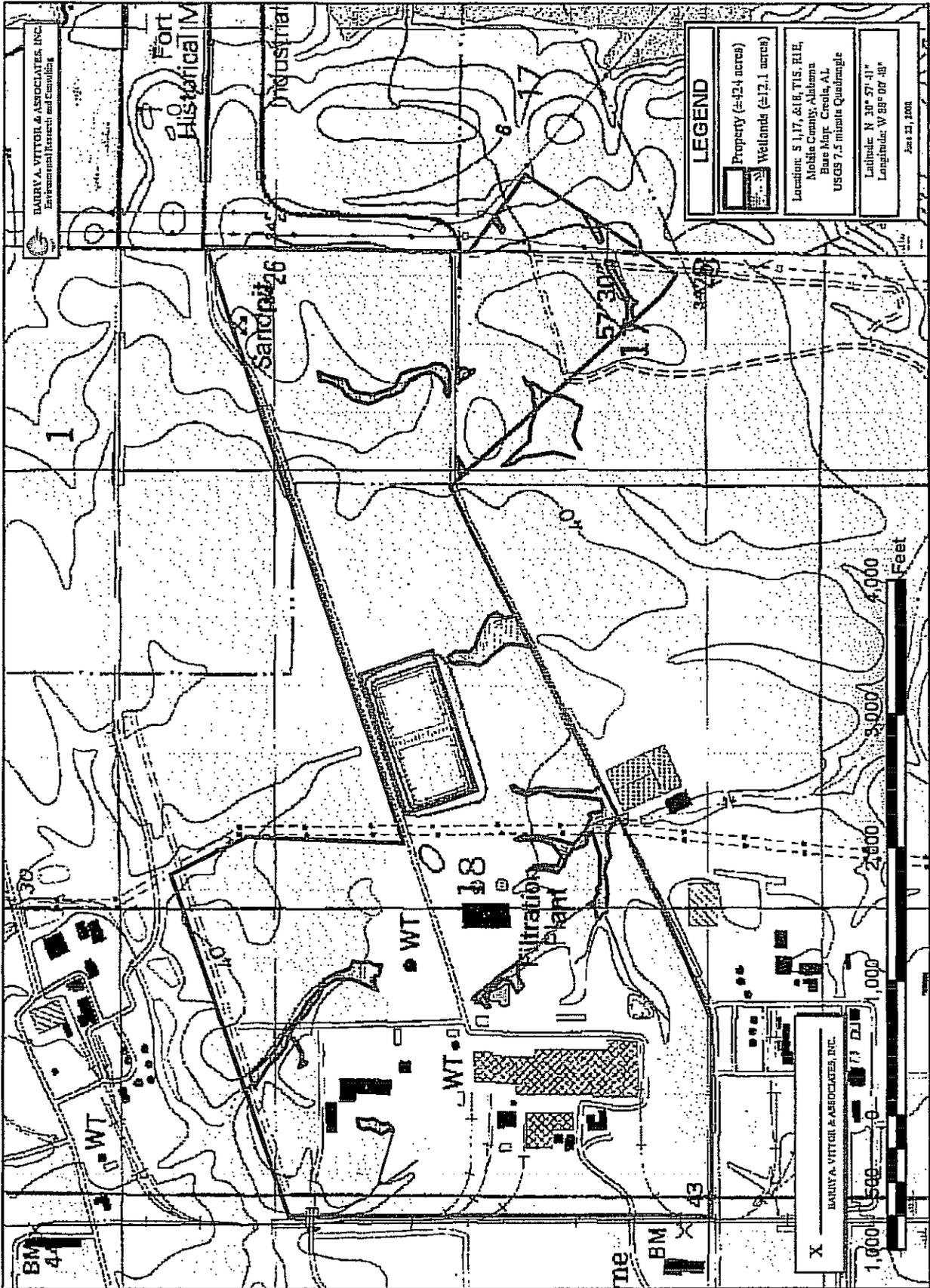
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to **Public Notice Number SAM 2008-1172-DMY** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Inland Branch. With a copy furnished to Alabama Department of Environmental Management, 4171 Commanders Drive, Mobile Alabama 36615. 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. Damon M. Young, P.G. via email at [Damon.M.Young@usace.army.mil](mailto:Damon.M.Young@usace.army.mil) or telephone number (251) 690-2658. Please refer to the Public Notice SAM-2008-1172-DMY.

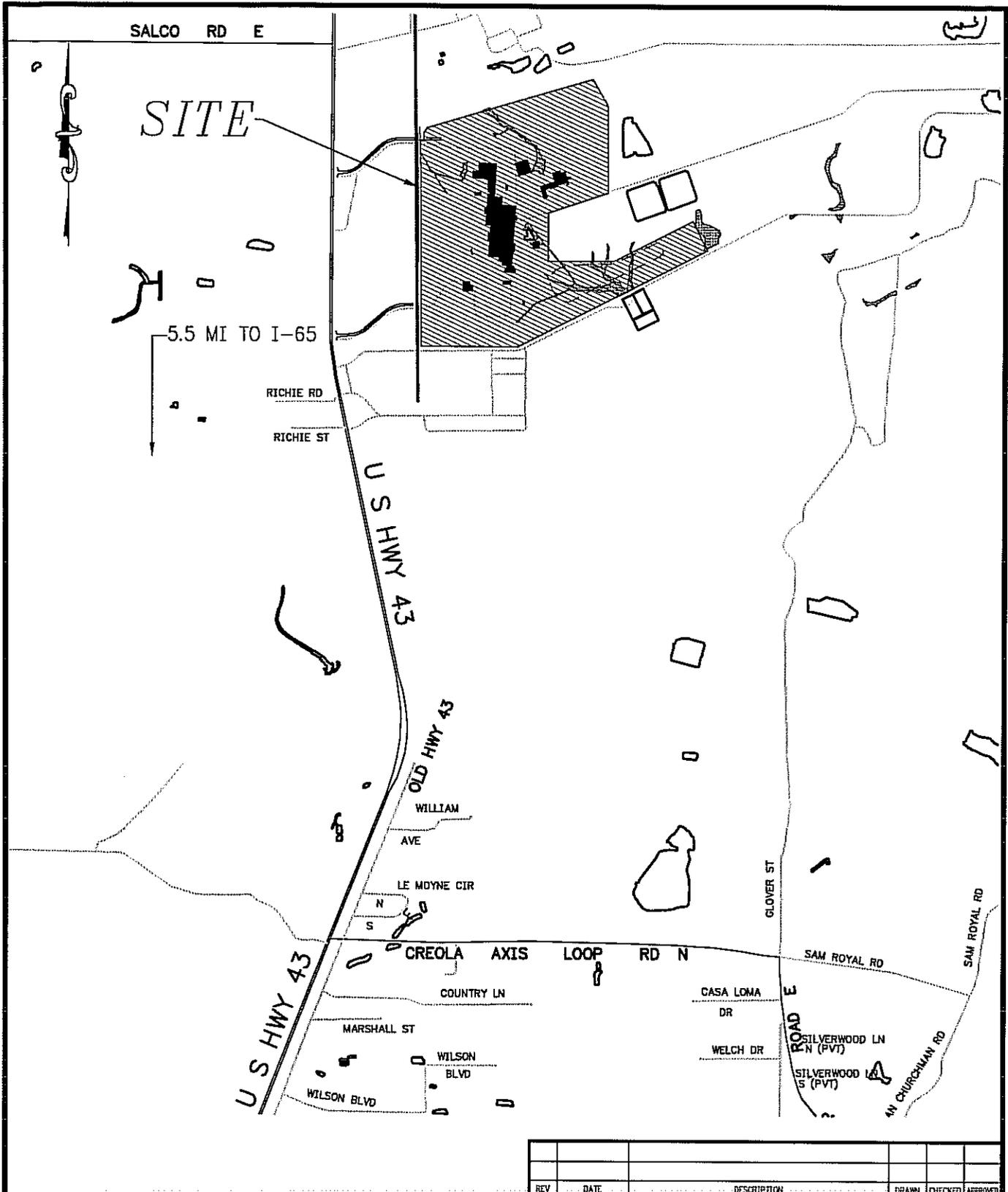
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg), and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



Positions of wetland flags were fixed using GPS accurate to +/- 3 meters. Wetland boundaries have not been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Property boundaries are approximate.



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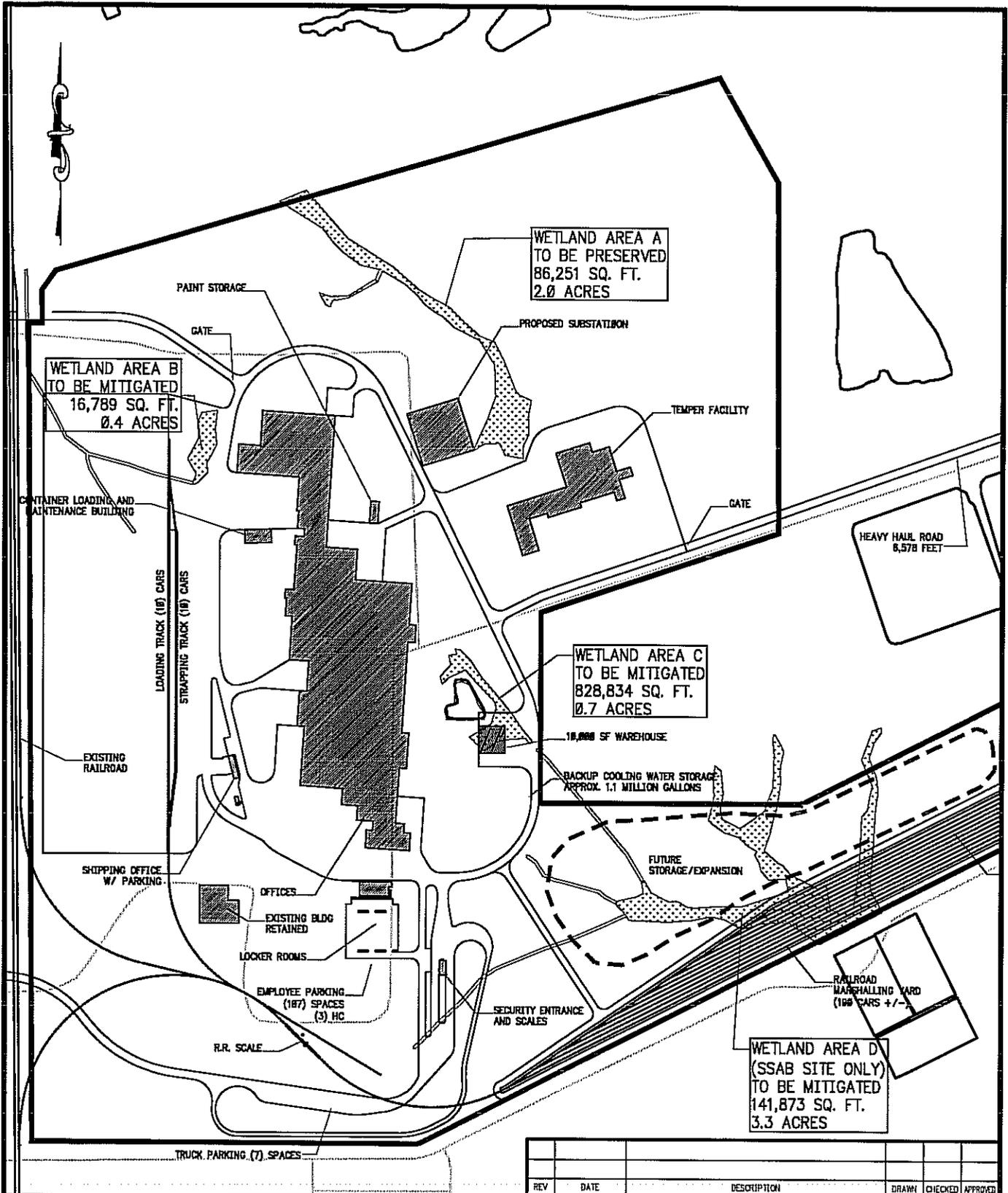
TITLE:  
**SSAB ALABAMA  
 QL6 HEAT TREAT FACILITY  
 VICINITY MAP**

DRAWN: RBB	DESIGN: RBB	DATE: 07/30/08	SCALE: 1:24,000	DRAWING NUMBER: A08029 WL1	REVISION: A
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CUSTOMER:  
**SSAB ALABAMA  
 US HIGHWAY 43  
 AXIS, AL**







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**US HIGHWAY 43**  
**AXIS, AL**



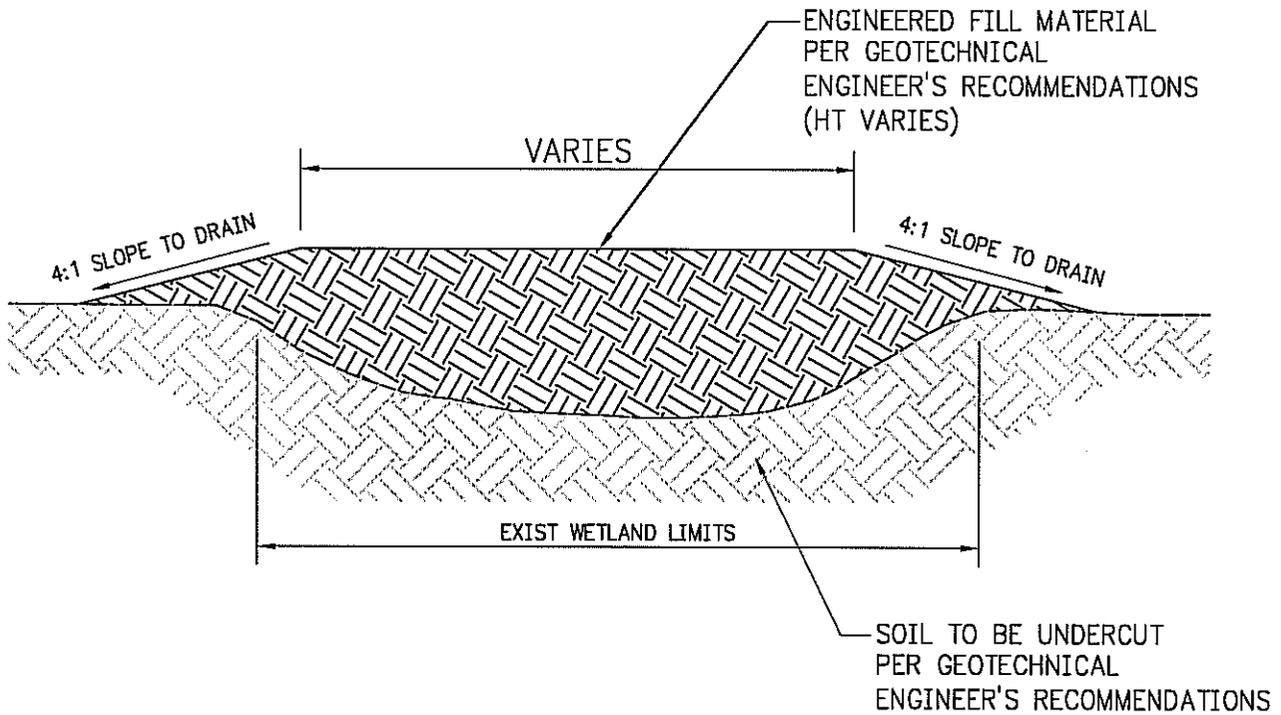
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TITLE:

**SSAB ALABAMA**  
**QL6 HEAT TREAT FACILITY**  
**PLAN VIEW**

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RBB	RBB	07/30/08	1"=500'	A08029 WL2	A



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

NOTES:

1. EXCAVATED MATERIAL IS TO BE UTILIZED ONSITE FOR NONSTRUCTURAL FILL. UNACCEPTABLE MATERIAL IS TO BE DISPOSED OF OFFSITE AT AN APPROVED SITE.
2. ALL PROPOSED GRADES WILL PROVIDE POSITIVE DRAINAGE.
3. WETLAND DELINEATION, DATED JUNE 23.2008, BY BARRY A. VITTO & ASSOC., INC.

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TITLE:  
**SSAB ALABAMA  
 QL6 HEAT TREAT FACILITY  
 SECTION VIEW**

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CUSTOMER:  
 SSAB ALABAMA  
 US HIGHWAY 43  
 AXIS, AL

