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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 2, 2008

Coastal Branch
Regulatory Division

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2008-1221-MFM

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Wetland Fill for Singing River Electric Power Association
SMEPA Substation (Tucker Road),
Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi

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: Singing River Electric Power Association
P.O. Box 97
500 Highway 90
Gautier, Mississippi 39553-0097

LOCATION OF WORK: 9305 Tucker Road, 30.46316° N, Longitude: 88.84635° W, in Section 1, Township 7 South, Range 9 West, Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi

WATERWAY: Cypress Creek

WORK: The applicant proposes to fill 3.2 acres of medium-quality palustrine-forested

wetlands for the expansion and construction of a new 60 MVA electrical substation. The project purpose is to expand the Tucker Road substation to increase the capacity in an area that has experienced rapid growth. The current substation is at or near peak capacity. The site consists of a 4.0 acre area adjacent to an existing substation surrounded by regulary mowed and maintained grounds. The parcel has a shallow inundated wetland/pond area on the site apparently used for livestock. Drainage ditches have been cut in past years to aide in directing water into the pond during the dry season.

The applicant has stated the following concerning avoidance, minimization to Waters of the United States. "To avoid and minimize wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable, the project is being designed and constructed with an avoidance area. The avoidance area consists of the 0.80 acres of wetlands that pond during high water periods. This area currently serves as a receiving area for drainage on the site and is immediately adjacent to the receiving tributary that drains the uplands in the surrounding area. The remaining wetlands will act as a filter for pre and post construction runoff and will remain as freshwater emergent wetlands. Due to the nature of the proposed project, avoiding all wetland impacts is not possible. The site is already being utilized for the same purpose as the proposed project. The electric company can utilize the entire site at this location to reduce and eliminate future infrastructure requirements."

The applicant has stated the following concerning mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Waters of the United States. " The Singing River electric Company will purchase mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank to mitigate for any impacts to wetlands on this project."

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 Mississippi 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 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 no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known to exist which would be affected by the proposed work. 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 State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services.

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicates that the proposed activity will not affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2008-1221-MFM and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Permit Evaluation 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 not later than 21 days from the date of this notice.

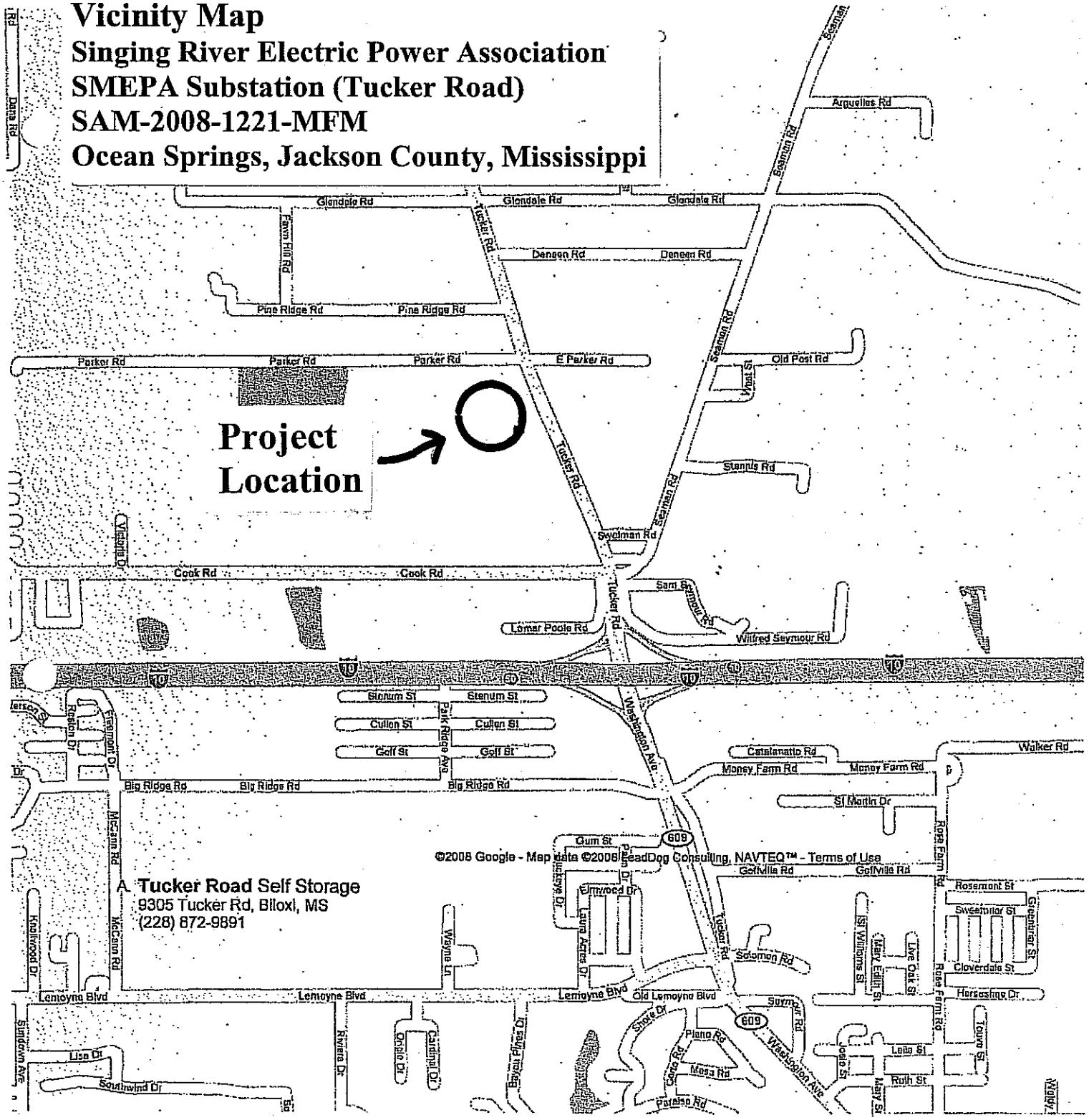
If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact this office at telephone number 251-690-2658 or by email at michael.f.malsom@sam.usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit

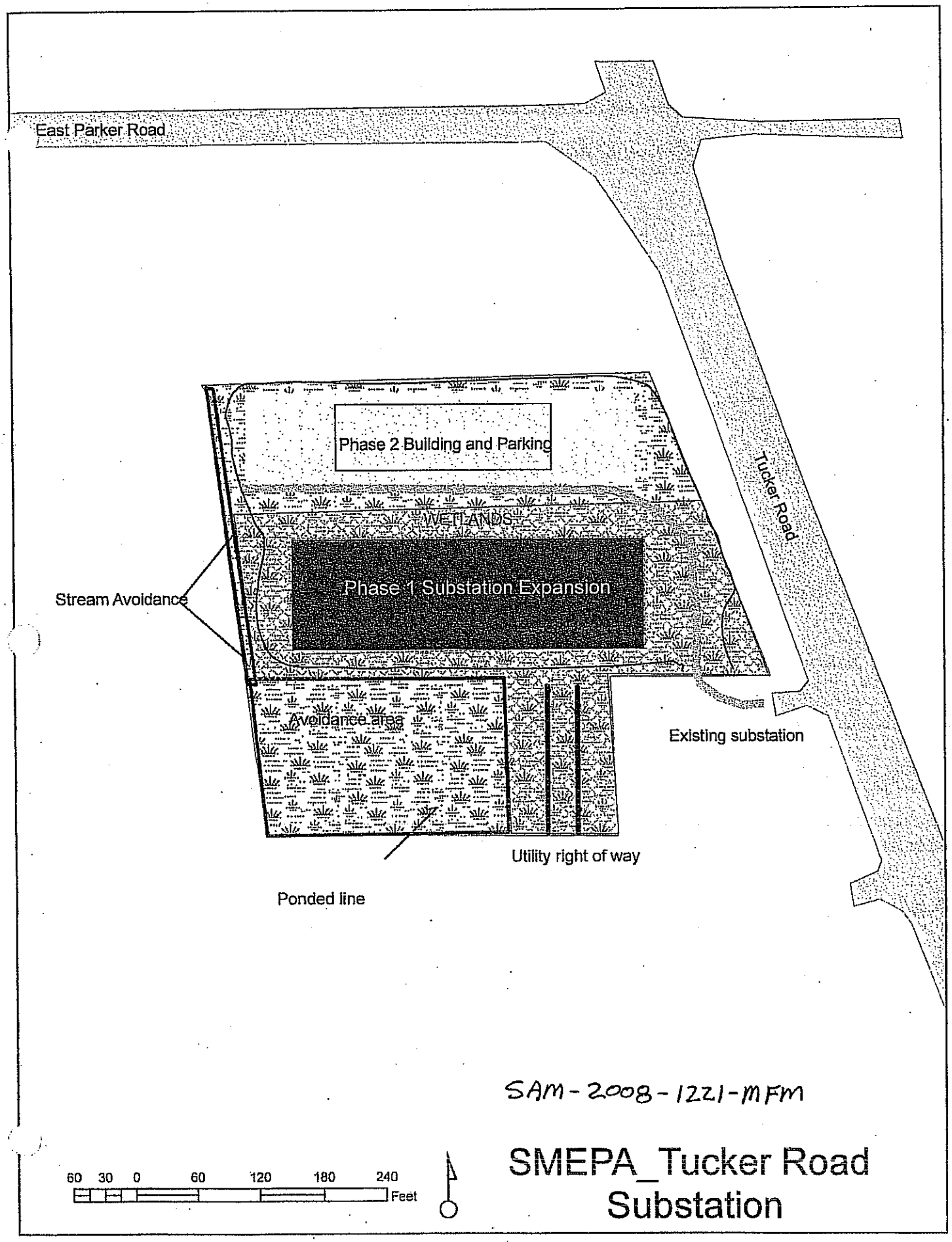
our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg, and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

Vicinity Map
Singing River Electric Power Association
SMEPA Substation (Tucker Road)
SAM-2008-1221-MFM
Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi





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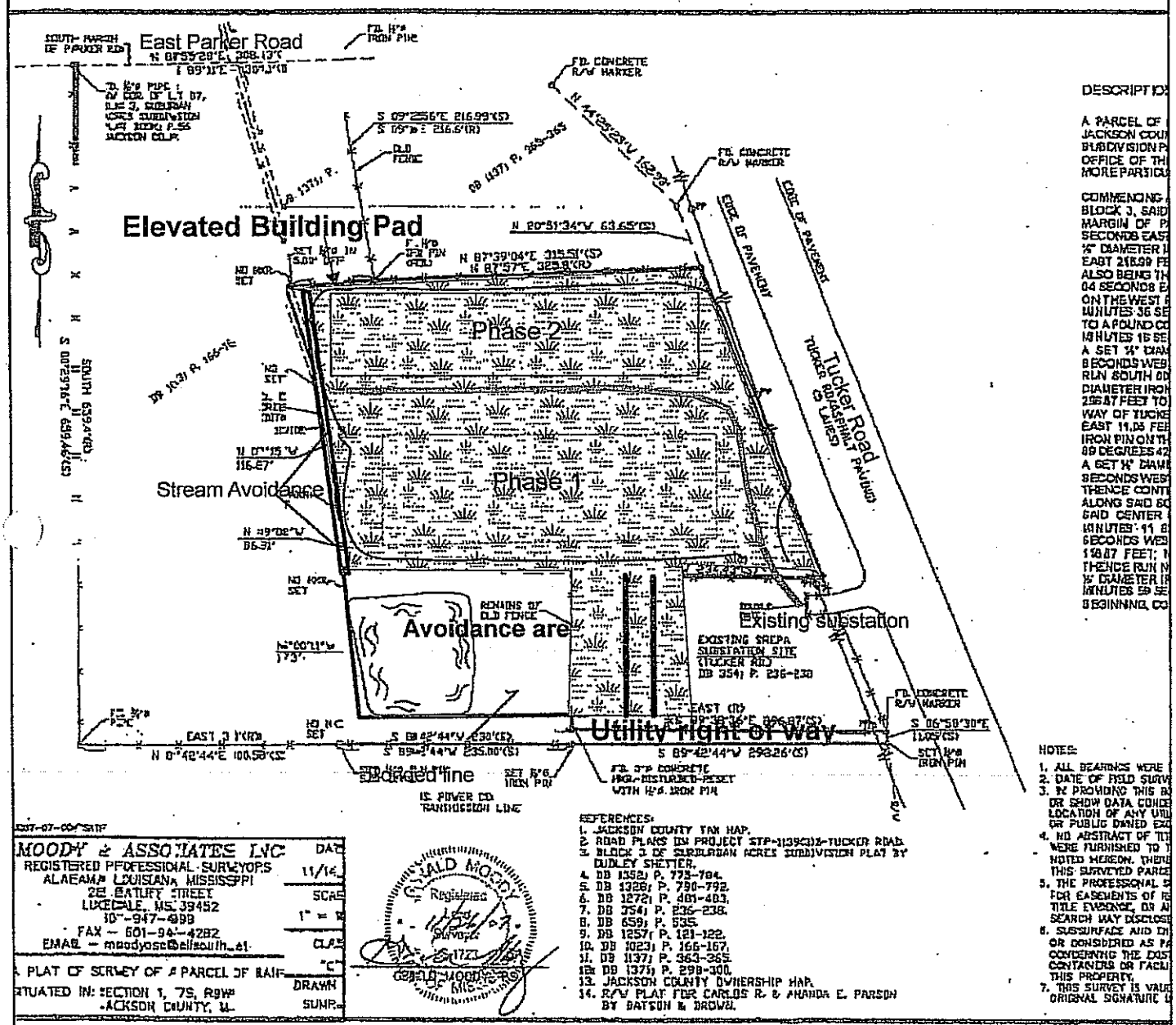
SMEPA_Tucker Road Substation



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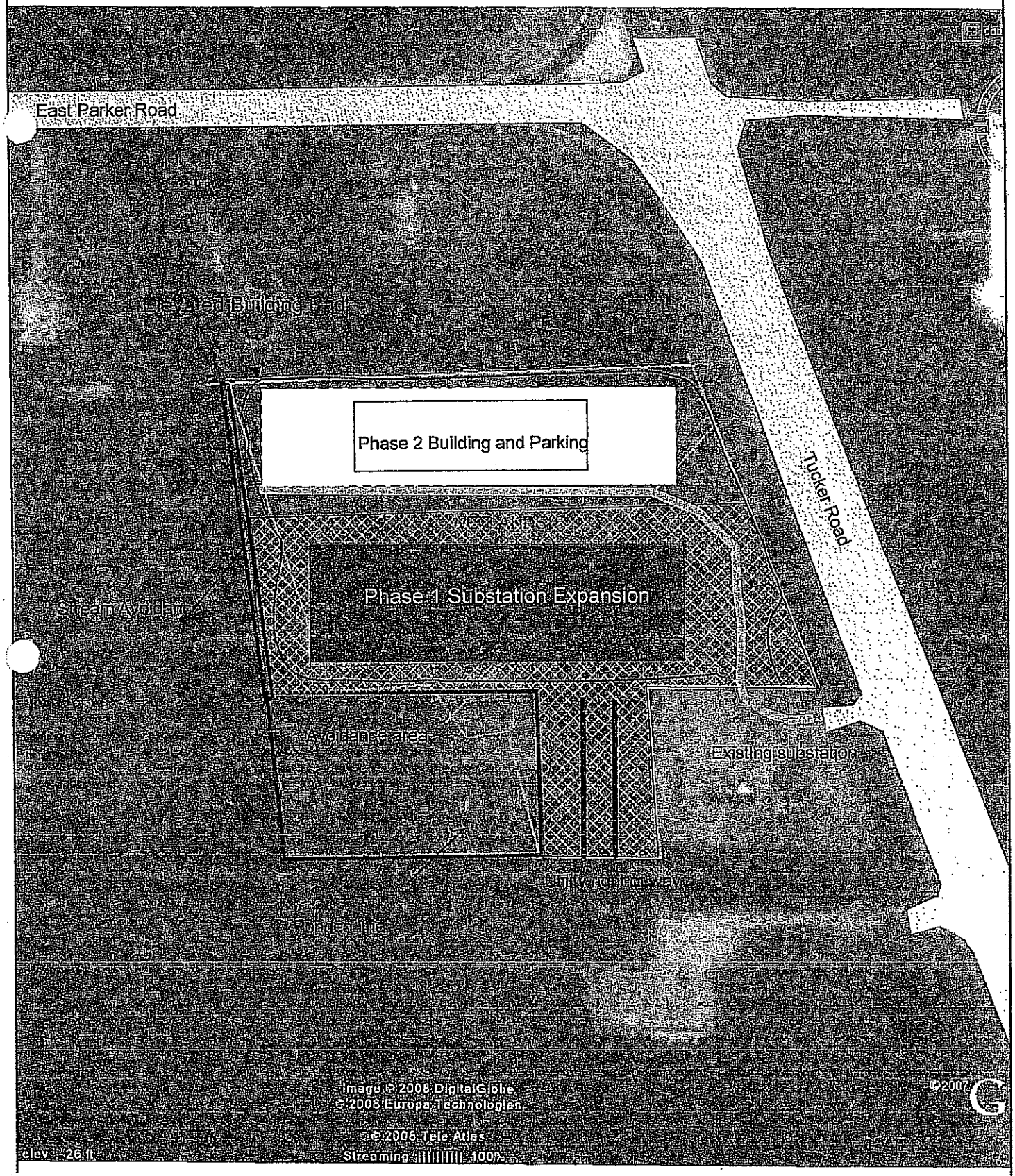

60 30 0 60 120 180 240 Feet

SMEPA_Tucker Road Substation

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