



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-I
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2008-1233-LET

DATE: 8 September 2008

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED FILLING OF WETLANDS TO IMPLEMENT RUNWAY SAFETY AREA (RSA)
IMPROVEMENTS AT THE TALLADEGA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IN TALLADEGA,
TALLADEGA 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: Talladega Municipal Airport
c/o Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Ken Gilbert, P.E.
One Chase corporate Drive
Suite 200
Birmingham, Alabama 35244
Hanceville, AL 35077

AGENT: Gallet and Associates, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Stephen Howard
110 12th Street North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

WATERWAY: Wetlands and unnamed drainage to Eastaboga Creek located within Sections 6 and 7 of Township 17 South, Range 6 East at 336 Speedway Boulevard near Latitude 33° 34' 11.22" North and Longitude 86° 03' 01.98" West in Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama.

WORK: The Talladega Municipal Airport proposes to fill 1.42 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, which includes an approximately 2 foot wide by 1,658 foot long segment of drainage ditch wetland feature to expand the runway safety area (RSA) and re-slope ground surface down and away from the runway pavement according to current FAA design and safety criteria. The drainage ditch wetland would be relocated 275-feet east of and parallel to the runway centerline, which would be 25-feet outside the proposed expanded runway safety area. Within the proposed RSA expansion, which would extend 250-feet east of the existing runway centerline, all small trees and shrubs, ditches, utility markers, signs and other objects or features that could cause damage to a "runaway" plane utilizing the area in an emergency situation would be removed. Outside the 250-foot RSA, tall trees and other obstructions of a certain height, as specified by FAA regulation, would be topped and/or cleared on a tree-by-tree basis.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed project is to implement FAA required design and safety improvements in order to upgrade the Talladega Municipal Airport from a B-2 status facility to a C-2 status in conjunction with other on-going FAA-sponsored improvements being implemented at the airport. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a municipal airport facility capable of providing additional and improved air transportation services and benefits to the public, including businesses and industry located in and near Talladega.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has indicated that given the nature of the project, which would be to improve and upgrade existing runway infrastructure to meet current FAA design and safety requirements, it would not be possible to completely avoid or further minimize proposed impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States. However, impacts have been limited to only those necessary to meet FAA requirements.

MITIGATION: As compensatory mitigation for the proposed 1.42 acres of wetland impacts, the applicant would purchase an appropriate number of mitigation credits from the Yellowleaf Mitigation Bank. A Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP) has been conducted on the wetlands that would be impacted.

The applicant has applied for Water Quality certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality certification will be made by the Alabama Department of 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 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.

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. The applicant has indicated a qualified consultant has been released to conduct historic architecture and archaeological investigations that 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 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-2008-1233-LET and should be directed to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile
218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222
Homewood, AL 35209

with a copy to the:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Field Operations Division
Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

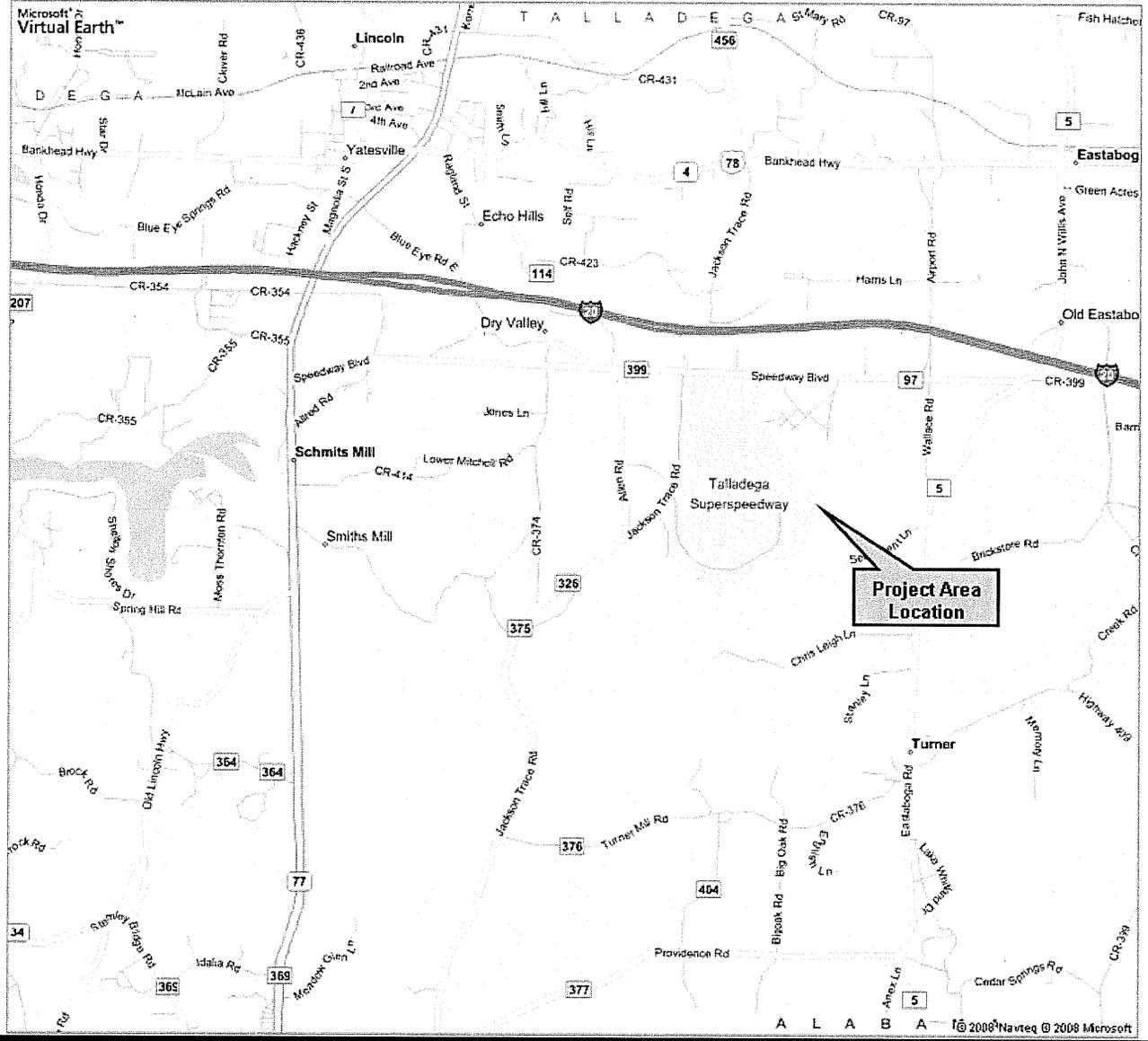
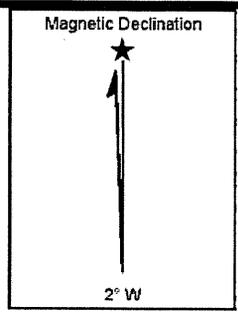
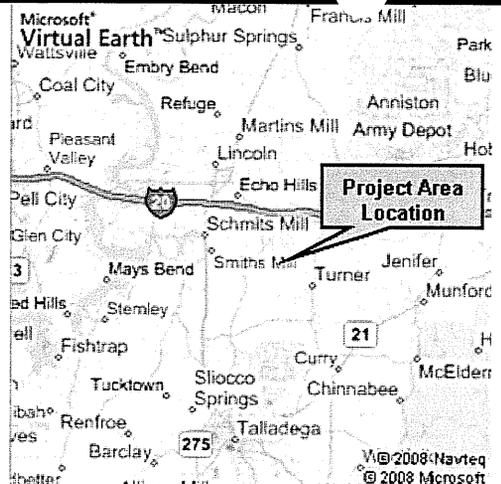
Comments should be received **no later than 30 days** from the date of this Public Notice.

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil or telephone number **(205) 290-9096**. 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.

Enclosures

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer



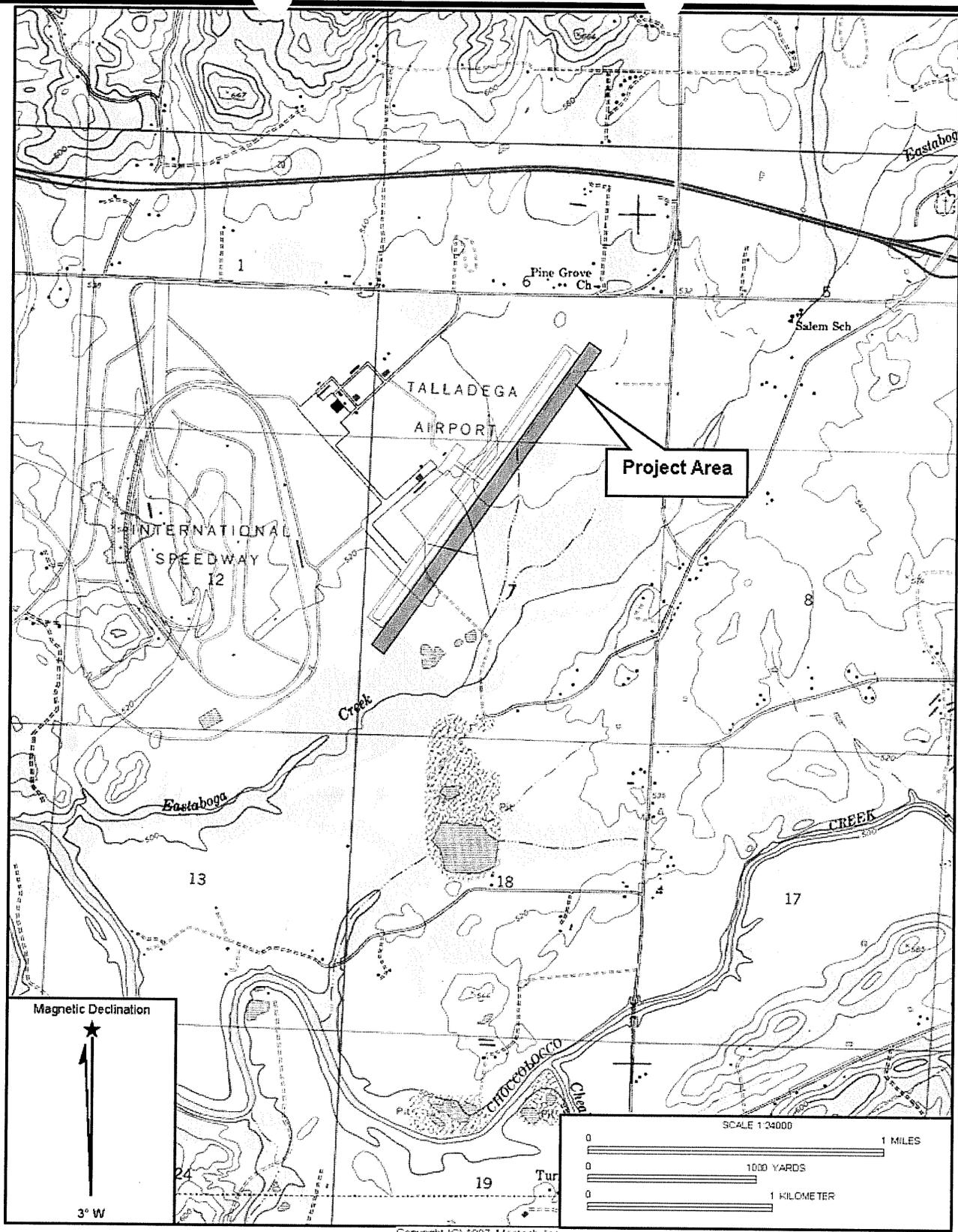
PROJECT

SECTION 404 PERMIT REQUEST
 TALLADEGA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
 RUNWAY SAFETY AREA IMPROVEMENTS
 TALLADEGA, TALLADEGA COUNTY, ALABAMA
 PROJECT NO. 08BHNEE0101E

FIGURE 1

SITE VICINITY MAP





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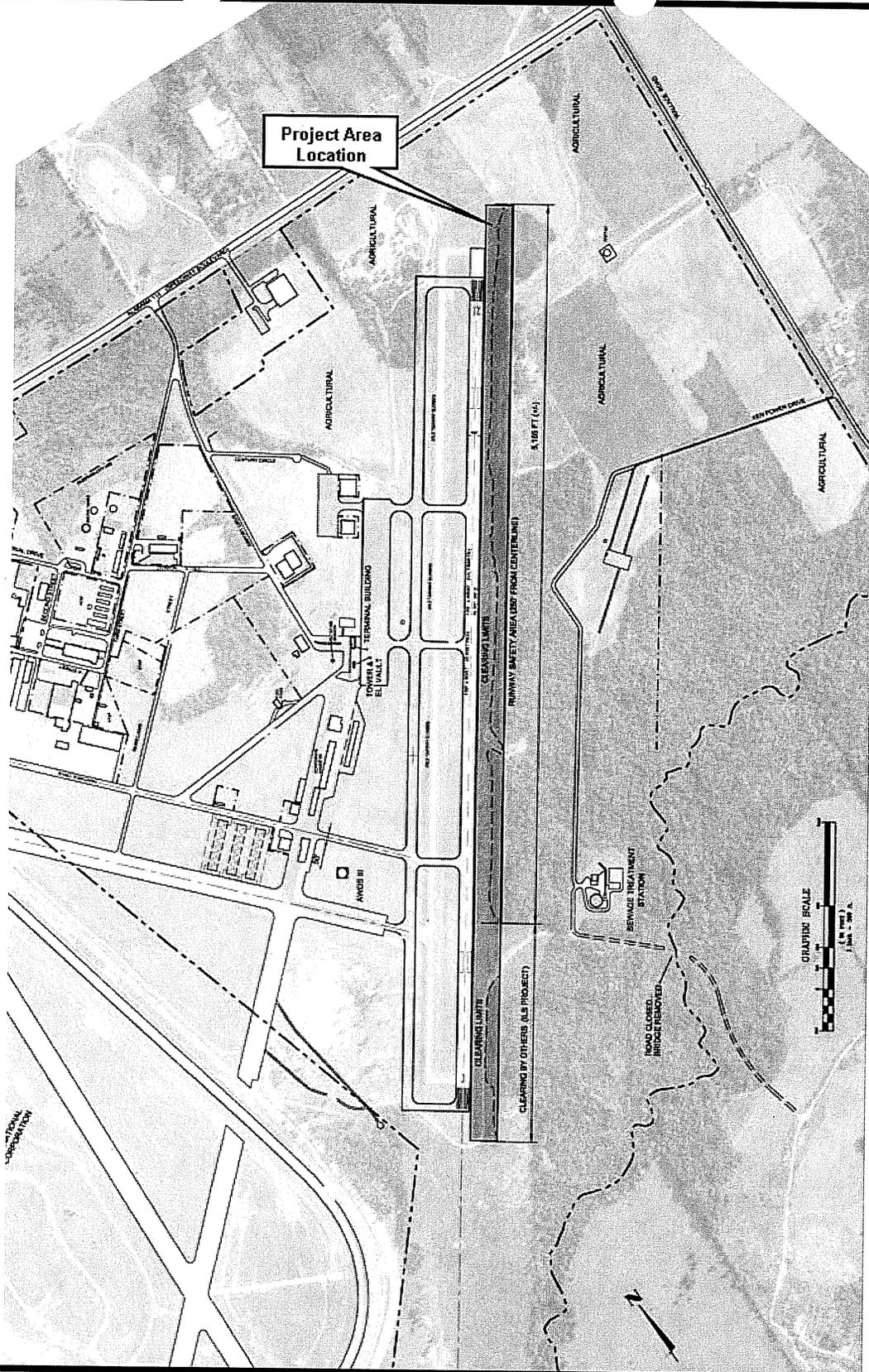
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FIGURE 2

SITE LOCATION MAP
 USGS 7.5-MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE
 EASTABOGA, ALABAMA
 DATED 1947, PHOTOREVISED 1972
 SEC. 6&7, TOWNSHIP 17 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST





Project Area Location

PROJECT

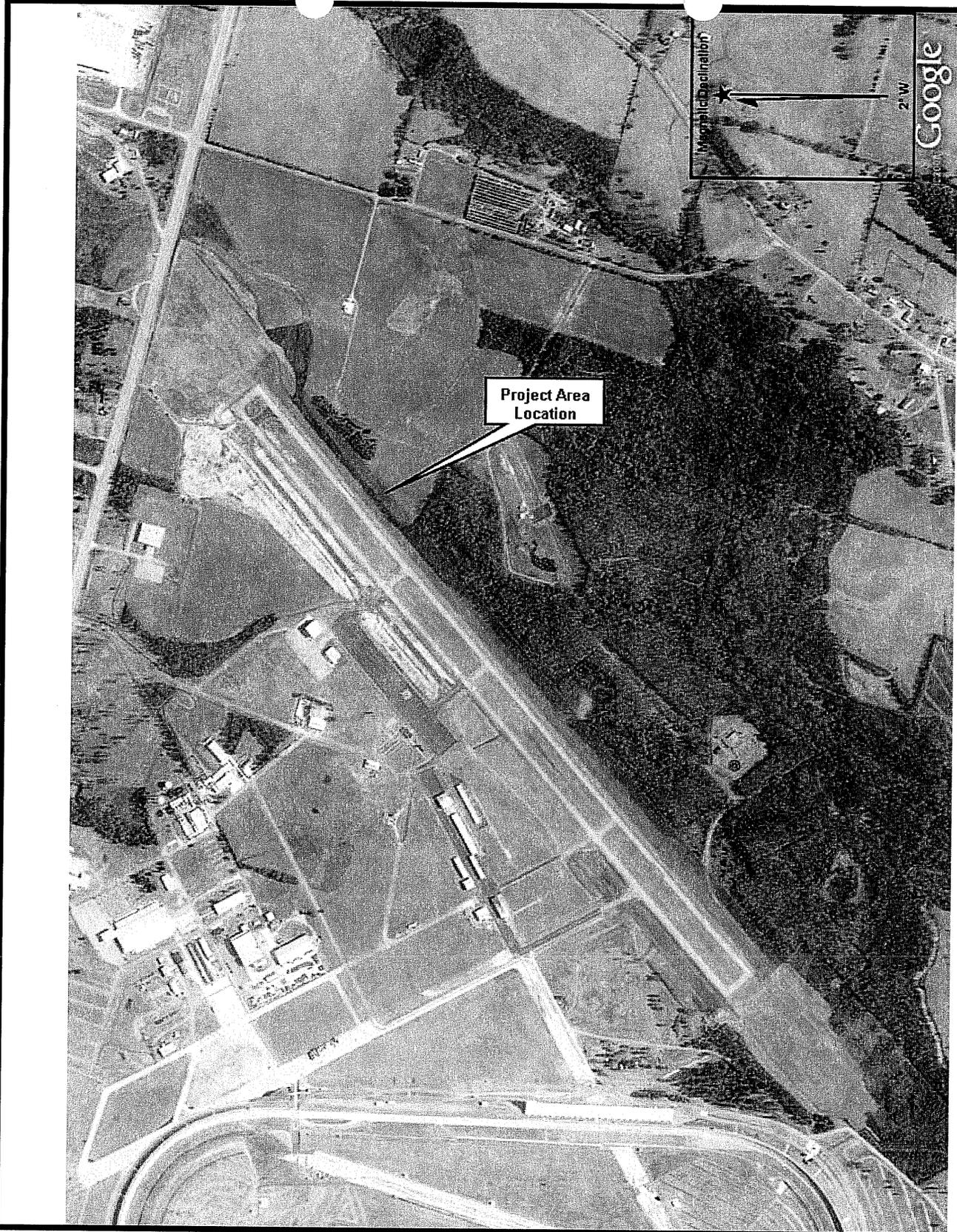
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FIGURE 3

SITE PLAN



Provided by Neel-Schaffer, Inc.



PROJECT

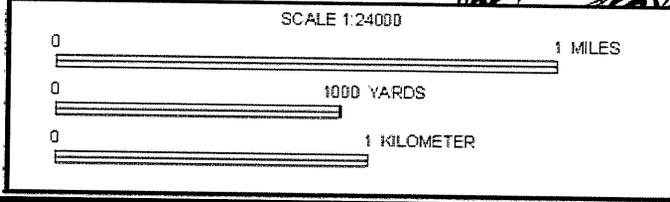
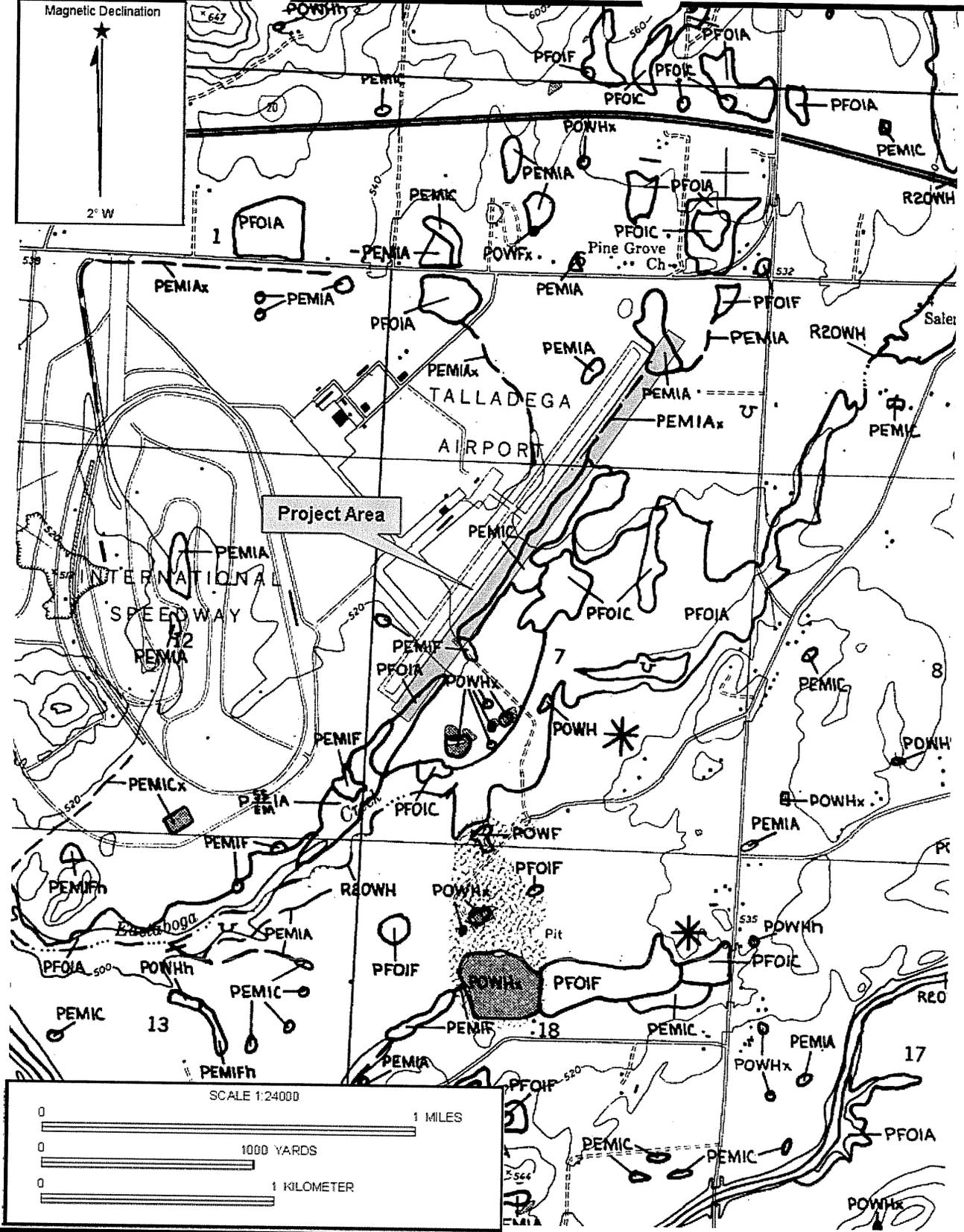
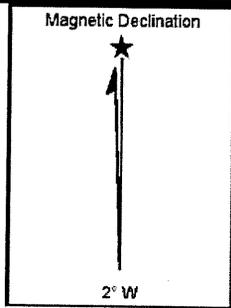
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FIGURE 4

2005 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



Obtained from Google Earth

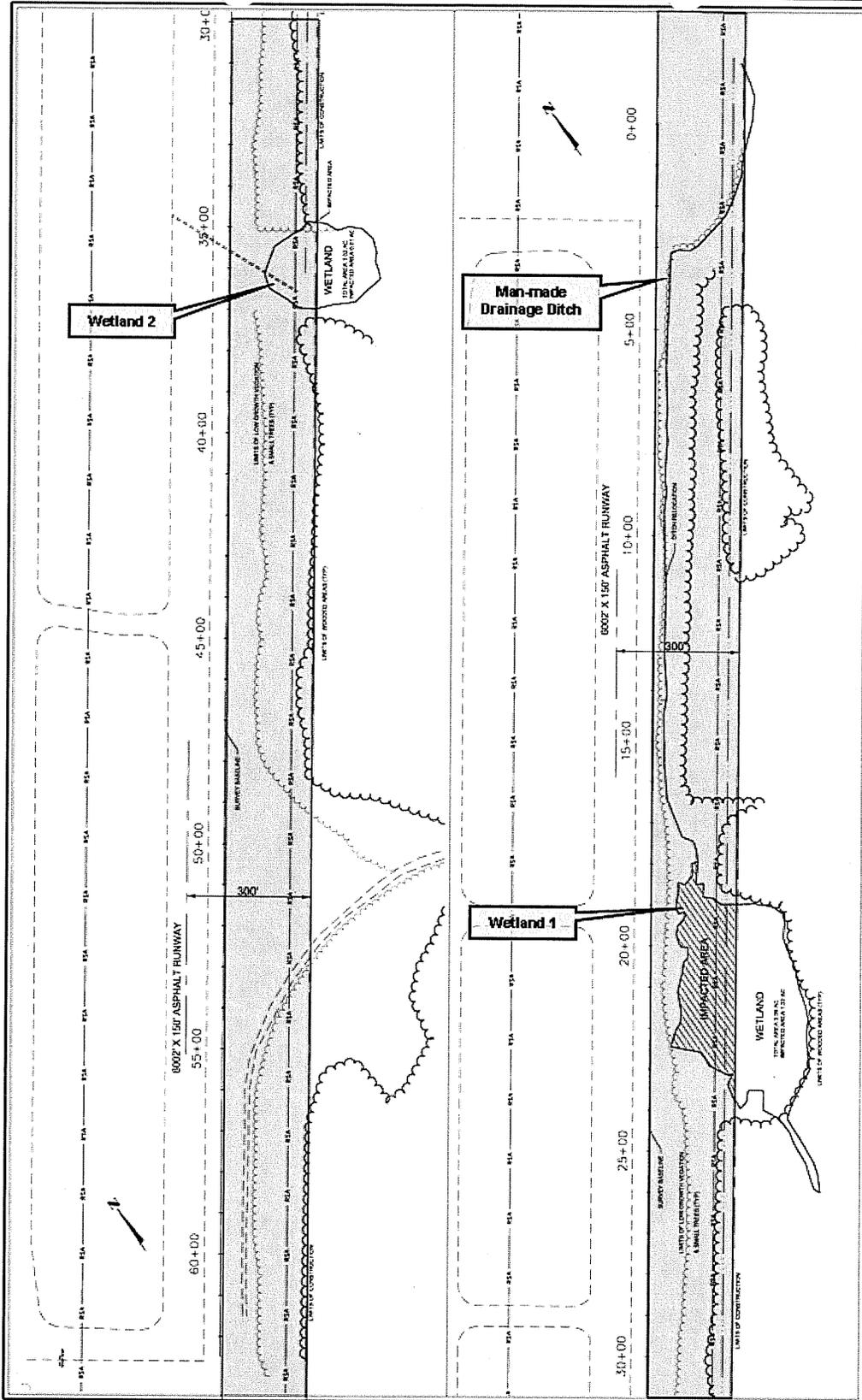


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FIGURE 5

NWI MAP
DATED MARCH 1981



WETLANDS LOCATION PLAN	
TALLADEGA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT TALLADEGA, ALABAMA AIP PROJECT NO. 3-01-0069-015-008	
DATE OF SURVEY: 07/20/08 DATE OF REVISION: 08/13/08 DRAWN BY: J. SCHAFER CHECKED BY: J. SCHAFER SCALE: AS SHOWN	SHEET NO. 1 TOTAL SHEETS: 1
NEEL-SCHAFFER Solutions you can build upon 10000 Highway 100 Birmingham, Alabama 35244 (205) 311-2900	

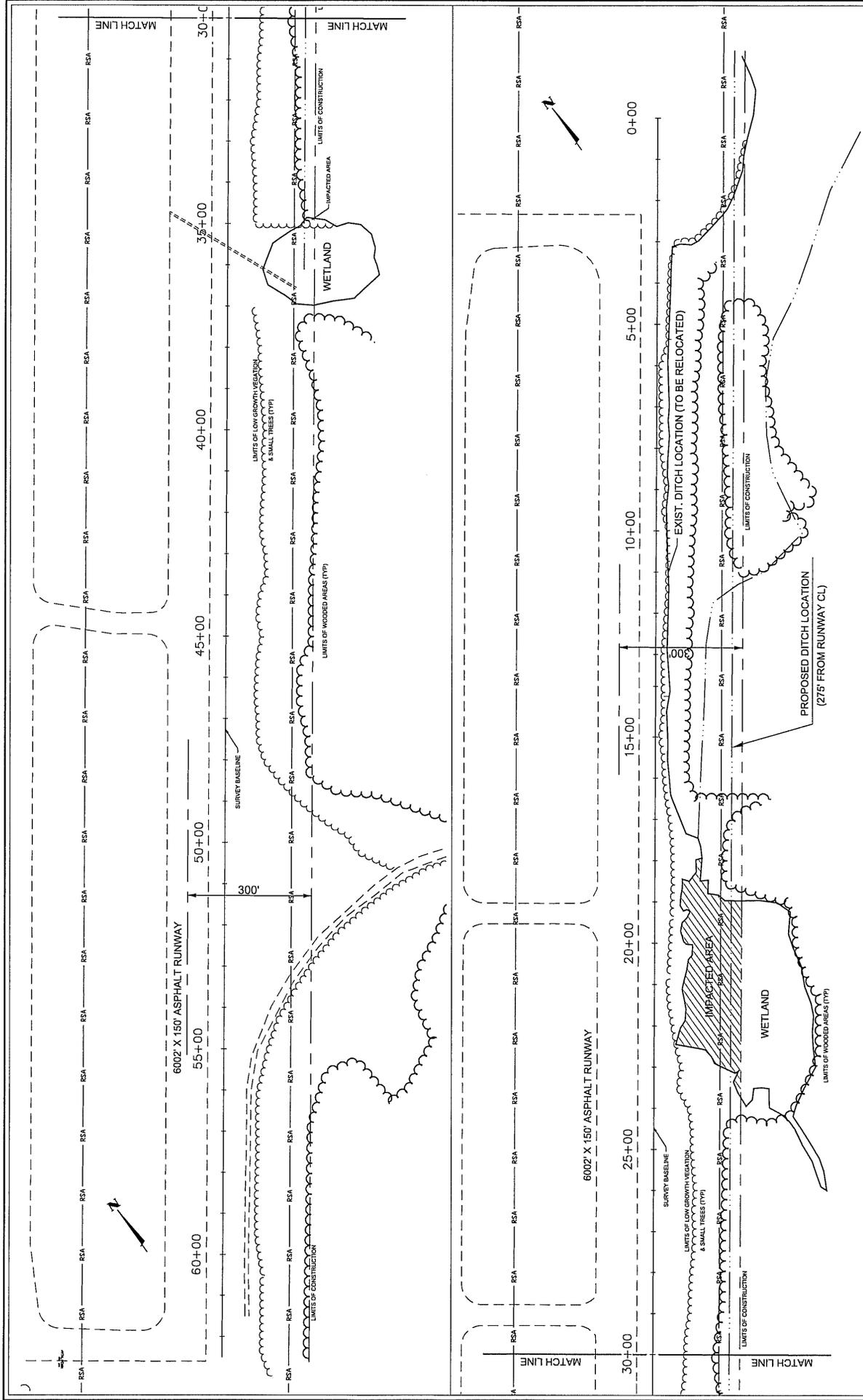
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FIGURE 6

SITE SURVEY





<p>DATE: SEP 7 2008 CHECKED BY: N/A SURVEYED BY: N/A</p>	<p>WETLANDS LOCATION PLAN</p>															
<p>TALLADEGA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT TALLADEGA, ALABAMA</p> <p>AIP PROJECT NO. 3-01-0069-015-2008</p>																
<p>REVISIONS</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">DATE</th> <th style="width: 10%;">BY</th> <th style="width: 80%;">DESCRIPTION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION												
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