



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-I-S
Public Notice Number SAM-2010-01448-LET

November 4, 2010

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

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING BARGE MOORING AREA AND
10-YEAR MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF MOORING AREA AND ACCESS
CHANNEL, TOMBIGBEE RIVER, LEROY, WASHINGTON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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 Harbors 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: PowerSouth Energy Cooperative
Charles R. Lowman Power Plant
Attention: Mr. David Powell
Post Office Box 10
Leroy, Alabama 36548

LOCATION OF WORK AND WATERWAY: The project is located at the Charles R. Lowman Power Plant, on the west bank of the Tombigbee River at River Mile 89 within Section 21 of Township 6 North, Range 2 East, at latitude 31.489344° North and longitude -87.907887° West at 4392 Carson Road in Leroy, Washington County, Alabama. The project is located in the Lower Tombigbee, Alabama watershed (HUC 03160203).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The project purpose is to expand an existing barge mooring area from 800 linear feet to 1,200 linear feet along the Tombigbee River shoreline and to continue annual maintenance dredging of the barge mooring area and an access channel as previously authorized by Department of the Army Permit Numbers AL95-03146-S, AL00-02470-L, and AL05-03583-L. This project would provide for the maintenance of adequate water depth within an existing mooring area to allow the continued delivery of coal for use in the production of electricity.

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ALTERNATIVES: Because the proposed dredging project is located within an existing barge mooring area that is utilized on a regular basis and has been covered under a Department of the Army permit for routine dredge maintenance for at least 15 years, the applicant has proposed no alternatives to the requested action.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to hydraulically and/or mechanically dredge approximately 60,000 cubic yards of sandy silt per year, over a period of 10 years, from an access channel and existing but expanded barge mooring area along a barge unloading facility at PowerSouth's Lowman Power Plant. The mooring area dredging would be performed to a depth of 10 feet below low water level from a 1,200-foot long by 75-foot wide area roughly parallel to the Tombigbee River shoreline at an existing barge unloading facility. The currently maintained mooring area is 800-foot long by 75-foot wide. The proposed dredging would expand the size of the mooring area toward the south by a length of 400 linear feet. The access channel dredging would be performed to a depth of 10 feet below low water level in a 100-foot long by 75-foot wide channel that connects the mooring area to the navigable channel of the Tombigbee River. The dredged material would be placed in an existing on-site diked upland spoil storage area with a weir outfall structure. Return water from the diked spoil storage area is discharged into an existing discharge canal within the power plant facility prior to the canal discharging to the Tombigbee River.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The applicant has not proposed avoidance and minimization measures because the project is considered expansion and continued maintenance of an existing barge mooring area necessary to continue operation of an established power plant facility. The Corps has not verified the accuracy or adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

MITIGATION: The applicant has not proposed compensatory mitigation for the proposed project impacts because the project is considered a continuation of previously authorized barge mooring area maintenance activities at an established power plant facility. The Corps has not verified the adequacy of the mitigation proposal at this time.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama 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 by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: During the review of previous maintenance dredge permit application number AL05-03583-L for this site, the Alabama Historical Commission provided a letter dated September 6, 2005 (AHC 05-1416) which indicated the project activities would have no effect on any known cultural resources listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lists six endangered, threatened, or candidate species as occurring or potentially occurring in

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Washington County. The Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhincus desotoi*), Inflated heelsplitter mussel (*Potamilus inflatus*), and Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) are listed as threatened. The Wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*), and Louisiana quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*) are listed as endangered, and the Black pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi*) is listed as a candidate species. Based upon preliminary review of this application and review of previous maintenance dredging permits authorized for this facility and the U.S. Department of the Interior's list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, a preliminary determination has been made that the dredging activities proposed for the project site may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the listed species. This determination is being coordinated with the FWS via this Public Notice.

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 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.

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Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2010-01448-LET and should be directed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District
Regulatory Division (RD-I-S)
Attn: Leslie Turney
Post Office Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

With copies to:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Mobile Field Office
Coastal Section
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 at telephone number (251) 694-3873, or by e-mail at leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil . Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

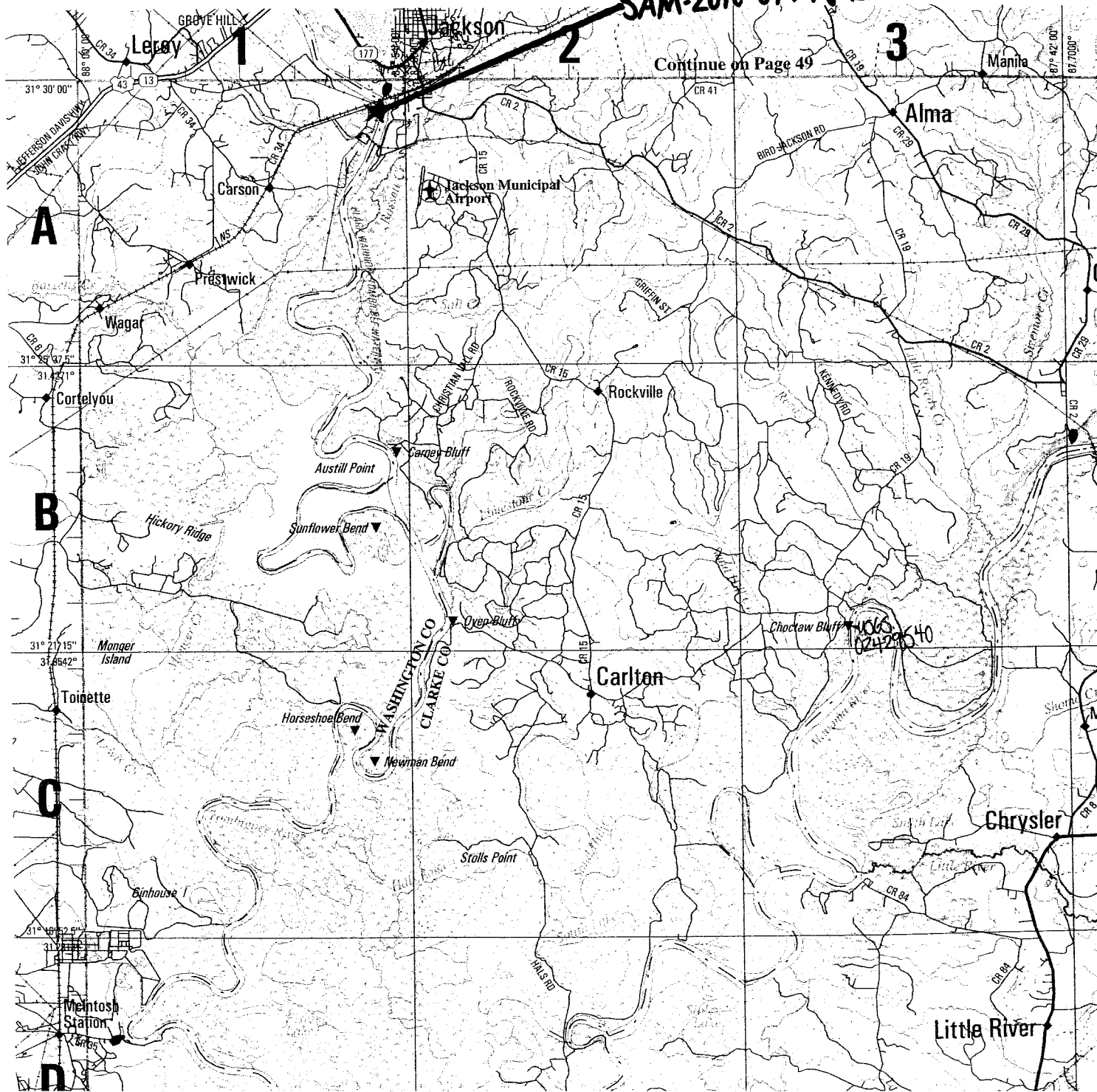
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at: www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg , and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you're there. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

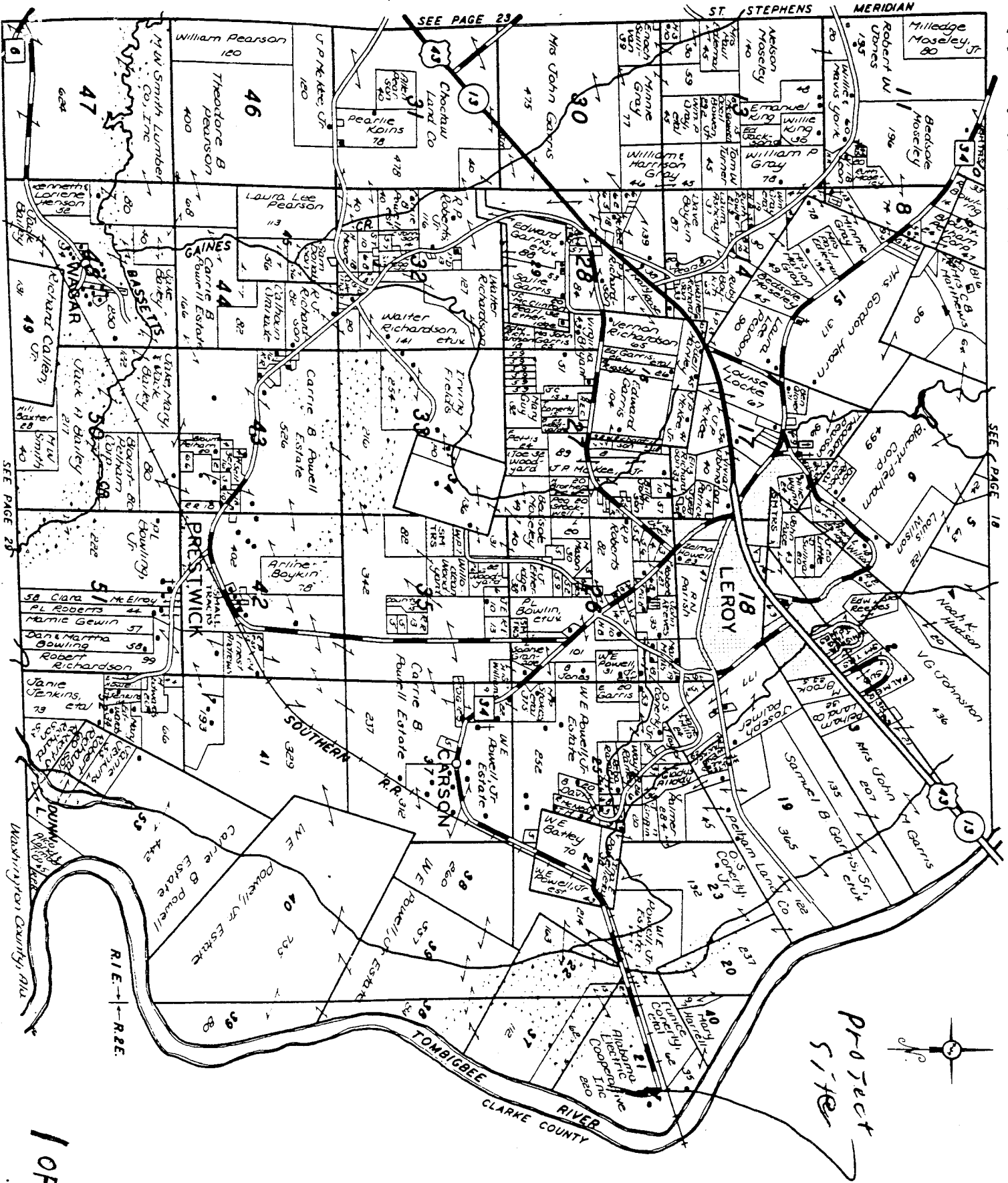
Enclosures

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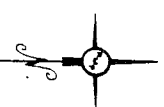
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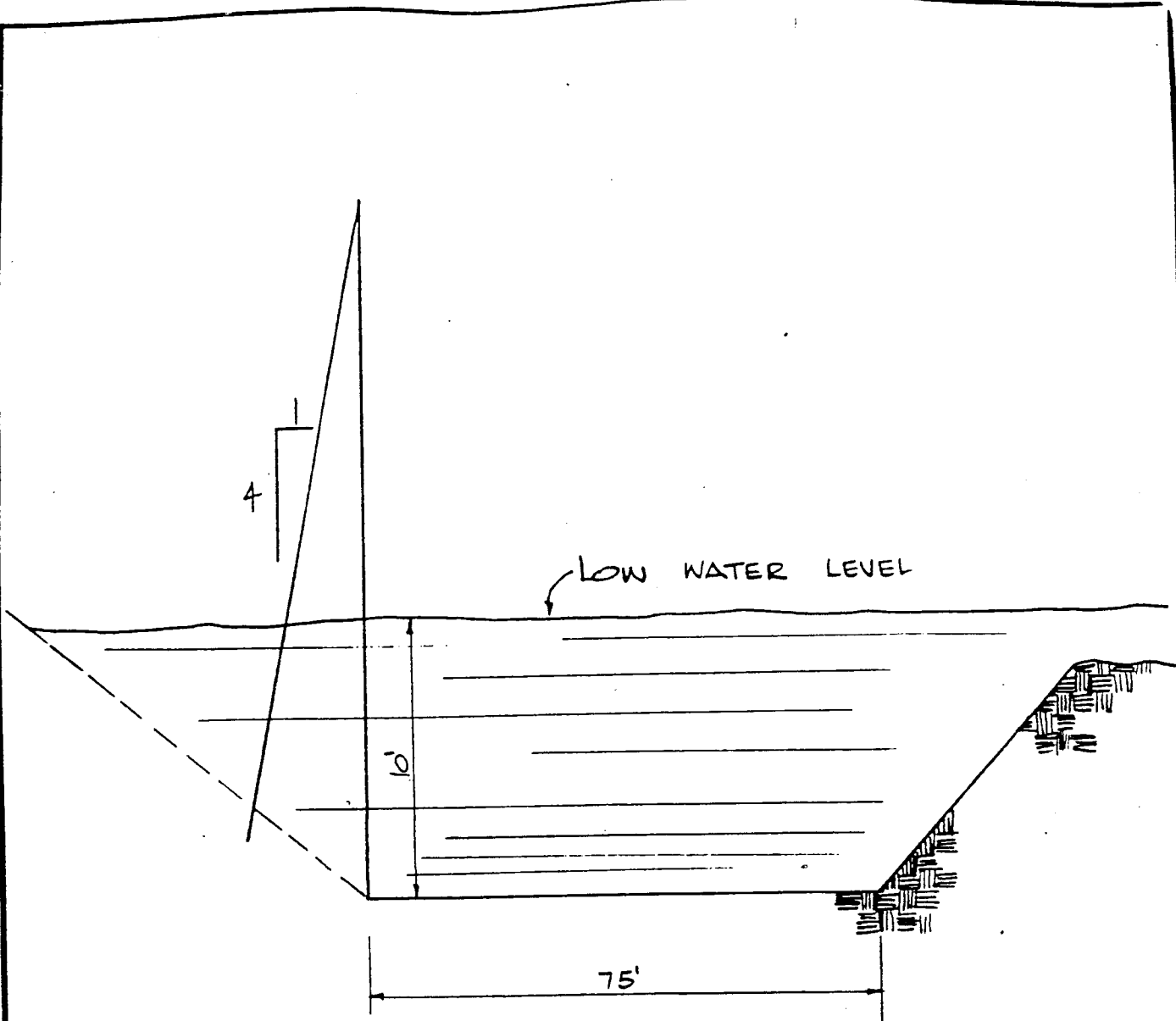
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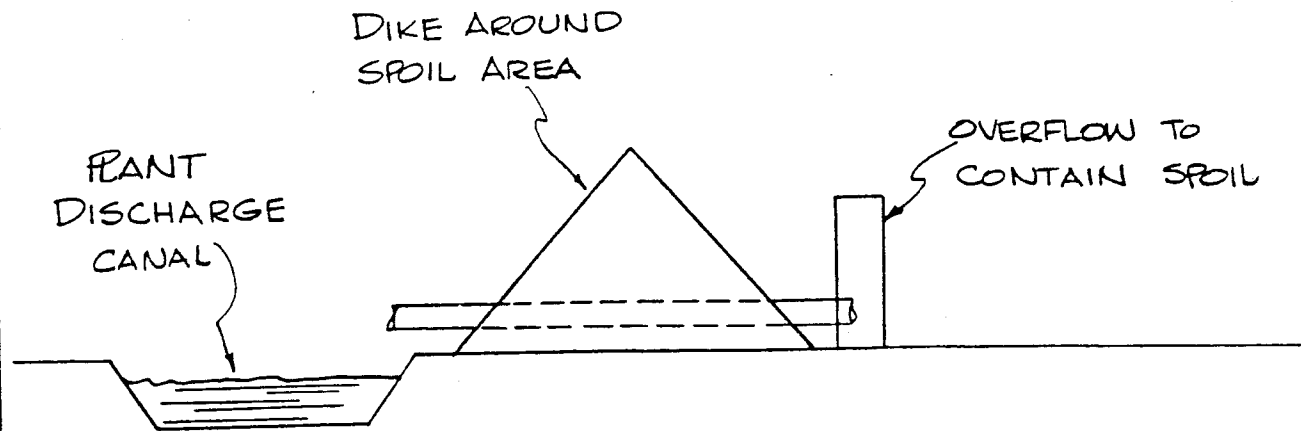


PROJECT SITE



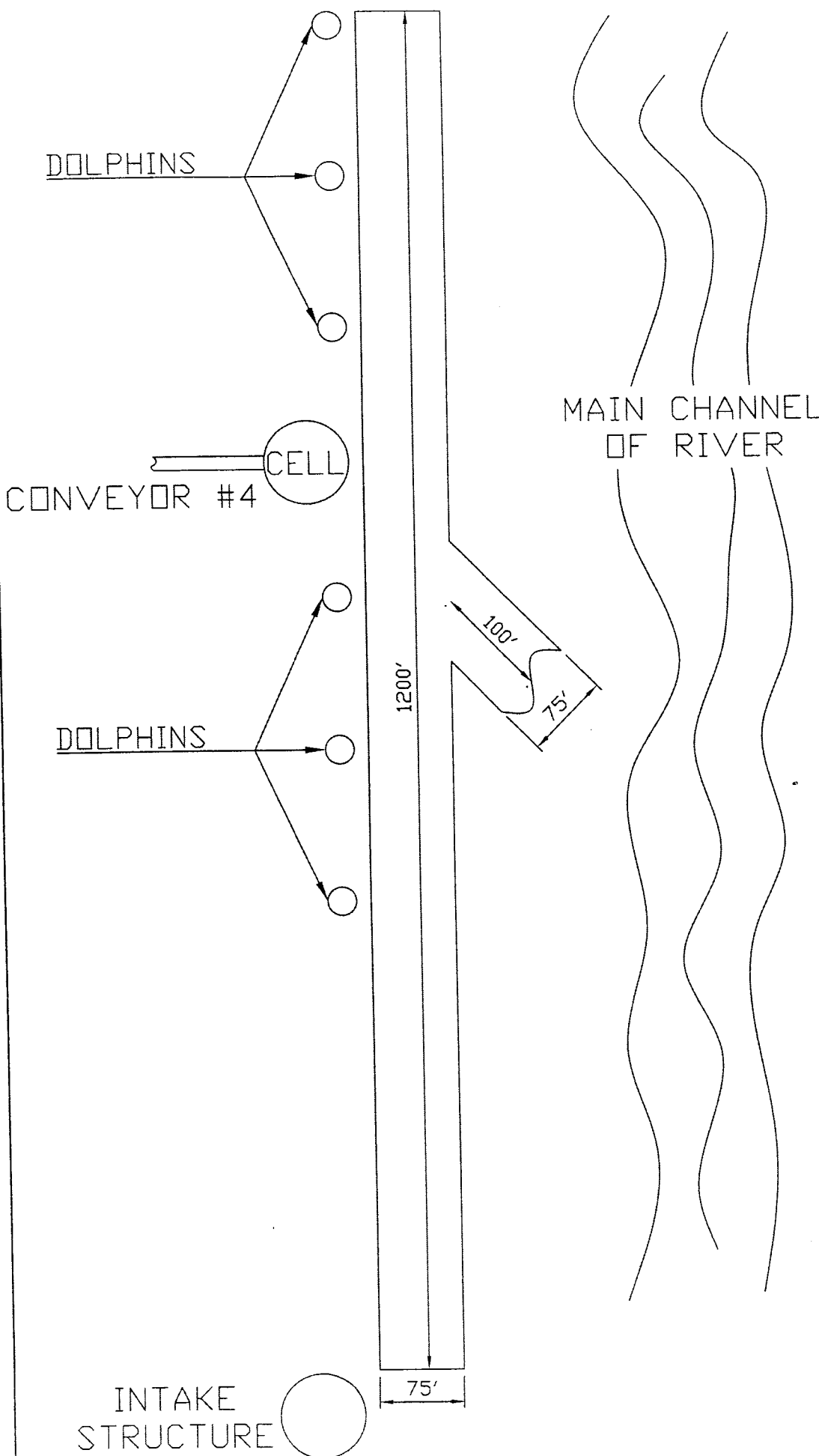
APPROVED DRAWING

					ALABAMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE			
					AEC			
					ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA 36428			
					AREA TO BE DREDGED CROSS SECTION			
		Revision	By	DATE	BY	Scale	NTS	
			DRAWN	9-17-79	DC			
			CHK'D				Sheet	4 of 5
			APP'D				REV	A



APPROVED DRAWING

				ALABAMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	
				AEC	
				ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA 36420	
				DIKE & DISCHARGE CANAL CROSS SECTION	
				By	DATE
				DRAWN	9-17-79
				CHK'D	
				APPD	
				BY	Scale: NTS
					DC
					Sheet 5 of 5
					Sheets
					REV
					A



AREA TO BE DREDGED
PLAN VIEW

REFERENCES

DRAWN:	J. STEARNS
DATE:	10-6-10
CHECKED:	
DATE:	
REVISION:	
SCALE:	NTS
DWG NO.	