



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

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

CESAM-RD-I-S

February 12, 2010

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2010-0192-SBC  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
AND  
STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**PROPOSED FILLING OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONJUNCTION  
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITY NEAR THE  
CITY OF MCINTOSH, WASHINGTON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

TO ALL CONCERNED: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the Corps can be based. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT: Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD.**  
**Attention: Mr. J.D. Morris**  
**363 North Sam Houston Parkway East – Suite 1100**  
**Houston, Texas 77060**

**LOCATION OF WORK:** On north side of Allen Barnes Road, approximately 0.75 miles east of U.S. Highway 43, in Sections 36 and 37 of Township 4 North, Range 1 West, and Section 29 of Township 3 North, Range 1 East, McIntosh, Washington County, Alabama (Latitude 31.2613°N, Longitude -88.0261°W).

**NEAREST WATERBODY:** Unnamed Tributary to Bilbo Creek, which drains to the Tombigbee River.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The overall project purpose is to construct a new salt dome storage cavern along with associated pipelines in order to provide additional storage capacity for natural gas at an existing Bay Gas Storage Terminal.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant proposes to permanently impact 1.28 acres of pine flatwood wetlands and 2.3 acres of open-water beaver pond habitat in order to construct a 350 foot x 350 foot well pad site and a 50 foot wide access road. In addition, the applicant proposes to temporarily impact an additional 4.18 acres of scrub-shrub pine flatwood wetlands in order to construct a 24-inch natural gas pipeline and two 12-inch brine pipelines connecting the new

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storage cavern with the existing Bay Gas facility. Of the 4.18 acres of impacts due to pipeline construction, 1.58 acres would be temporary and 2.6 acres would be permanently converted from scrub-shrub wetlands to herbaceous wetland right of way. All temporary impact areas would be restored to pre-impact elevations. The proposed project area totals 13.7 acres and stretches 0.8 miles in length.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has stated the following concerning avoidance and minimization to Waters of the United States: “The salt dome storage caverns are located and constructed by necessity within existing geologic salt dome formations. This dictates the geographic location of the terminal, and more specifically the location of the caverns, which are drilled from the surface into the salt dome. Consequently, the location of a cavern is dictated by the location of a salt dome. The proposed project is an expansion of the existing storage terminal; therefore the placement of the new cavern is limited to the salt dome adjacent to the terminal.”

The applicant further stated: “To drill the well for the proposed storage cavern, a drilling rig and well pad to support the drilling rig is required. Bay Gas has minimized the size of the well pad to the minimum size that would allow ingress and egress of the drilling rig and its operation. Additionally, the right of way (ROW) for the brine and gas pipelines will be collocated along existing pipeline ROWs to maximize the use of previously disturbed areas and minimize wetland impacts. In addition, the ROW width has been reduced to the smallest width possible for construction of the pipelines.”

Four alternatives were presented in the application including three of the closest salt domes to the McIntosh salt dome and the preferred site. The Corps has not verified the adequacy of the applicant’s avoidance and minimization at this time.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant has stated the following concerning mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Waters of the United States: “Impacts to wetlands will be mitigated through the purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank within the respected watershed or service area.” The Corps has not verified the adequacy of this 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:** A Phase I cultural resources assessment of the site was in progress at the time of the submittal of the application. The applicant has stated, “Based on prior projects and the fact that the project will parallel the existing utility corridors, no cultural impacts are anticipated.” 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

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potential to affect 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 the 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 U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services, and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The applicant submitted a survey report indicating that no threatened or endangered species were located at the site. Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity will have no effect on any listed endangered or threatened species. This determination is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via this Public Notice.

**COMMENTS:** This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons and serves to solicit comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties, in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) can be based.

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.

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

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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.

Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2010-0192-SBC and should be directed to:

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile  
Attention: Regulatory Division, Inland Branch  
Post Office Box 2288  
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

With copies 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. S. Brad Crosson at telephone number (251) 694-3664, or via e-mail at **steven.b.crosson@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](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.

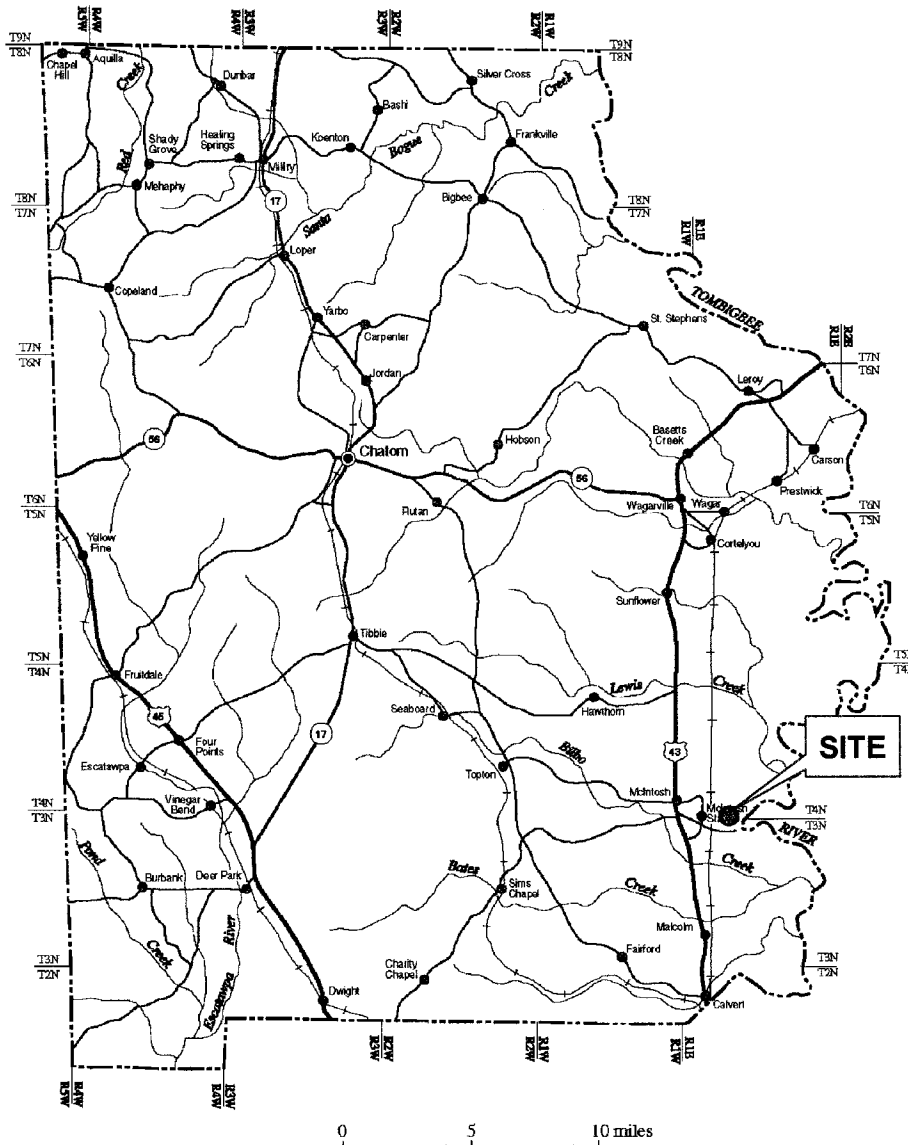
MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



# Cavern 5 Project - General Location Map **FIGURE 1**

## WASHINGTON COUNTY



**Legend**

- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- Route marker: Interstate, U.S., State

0 5 10 miles

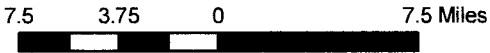


Produced by the Dept. of Geography  
College of Arts and Sciences  
The University of Alabama

**Population Key**

BIRMINGHAM	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville	5,000 to 25,000
Foley	1,000 to 5,000
Millant	500 to 1,000
Element	up to 500

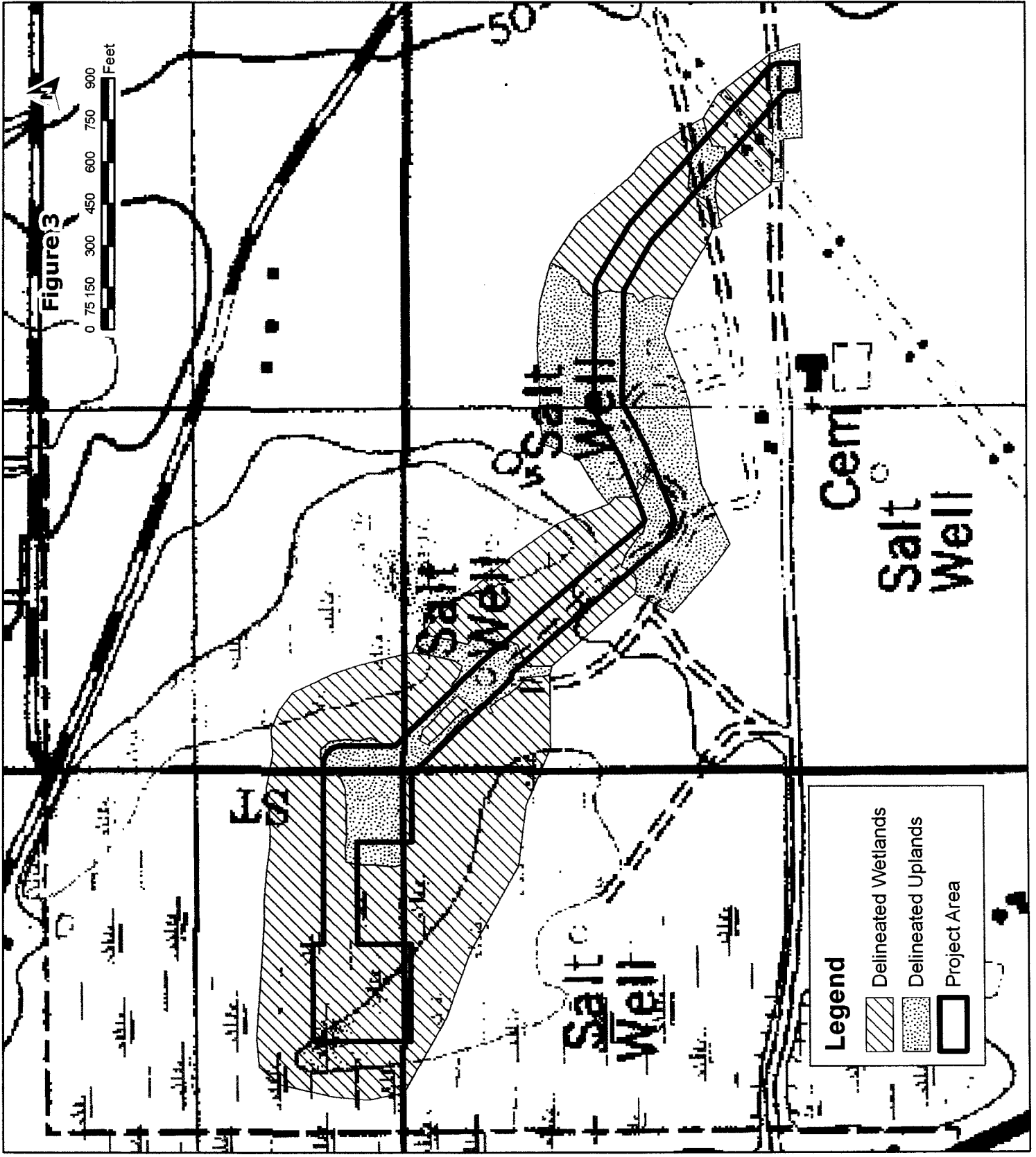
Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD.  
Sect 36 & 37, T4N, R1W; Sect 29, T3N, R1E  
Washington County, AL



 **Geographic Solutions, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1452 Bay Minette, AL 36567  
[www.GeographicSolutions.biz](http://www.GeographicSolutions.biz)

Note:  
 Cavern and pipeline data provided by Sempra.  
 GSI provided wetland delineation data.  
 GSI created all other spatial  
 data based on these findings.

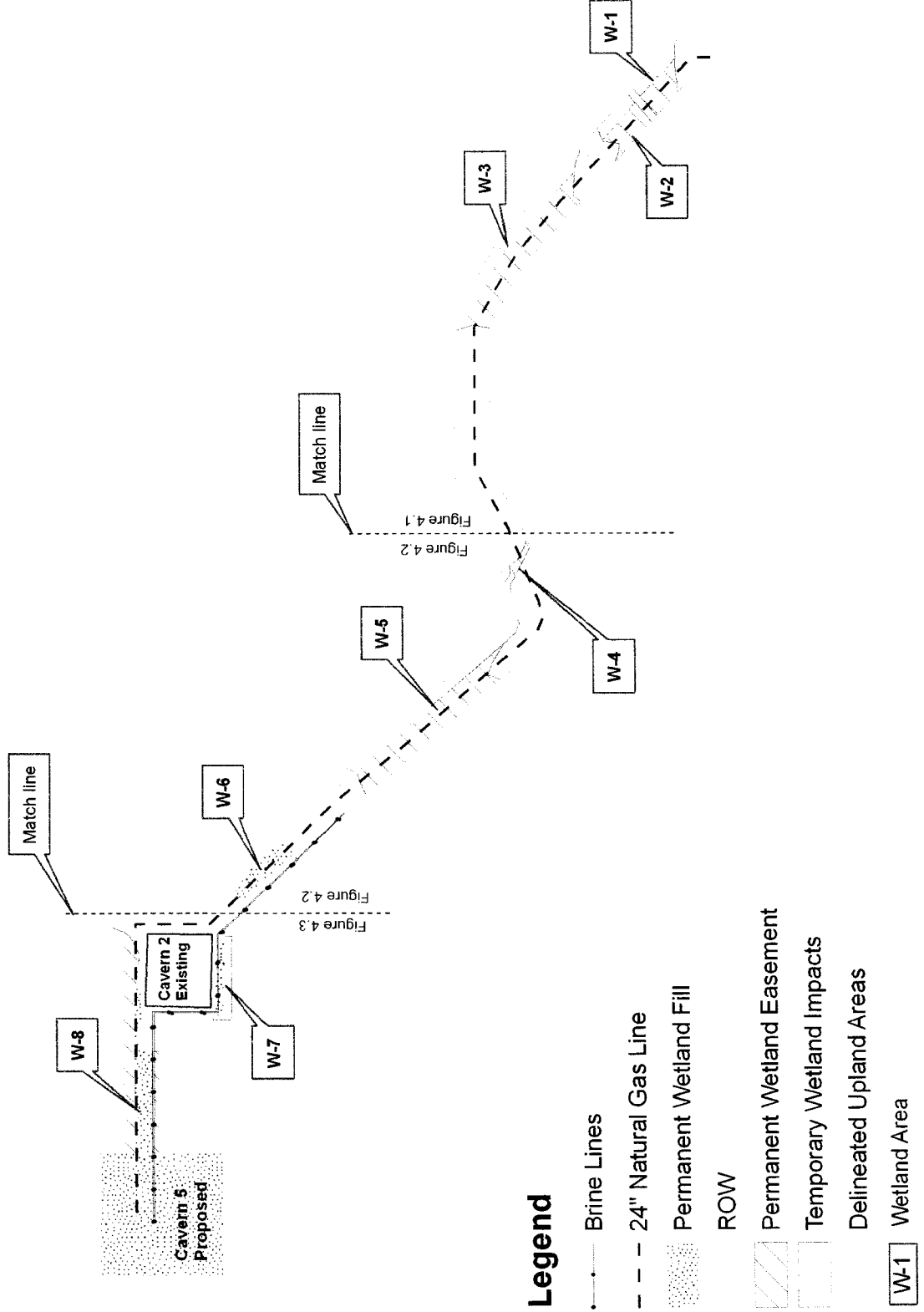
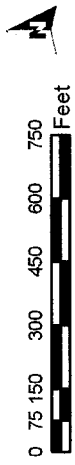
**Cavern 5 & Associated Pipelines  
 Wetland Delineation Map (Topo)**  
 Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD.  
 Sect 36 & 37, T4N, R1W; Sect 29, T3N, R1E  
 Washington County, AL  
 31 Jan 2010 - MT



**Figure 3**

Note:  
 Cavern and pipeline data provided by Sempra.  
 GSI provided wetland delineation data.  
 GSI created all other spatial  
 data based on these findings.

**Figure 4- Overview Map**



**Legend**

- Brine Lines
- - - 24" Natural Gas Line
- Permanent Wetland Fill
- ROW
- Permanent Wetland Easement
- Temporary Wetland Impacts
- Delineated Upland Areas
- W-1 Wetland Area

**Cavern 5 & Associated Pipelines  
Affected Wetlands Detail Map 1 of 3**

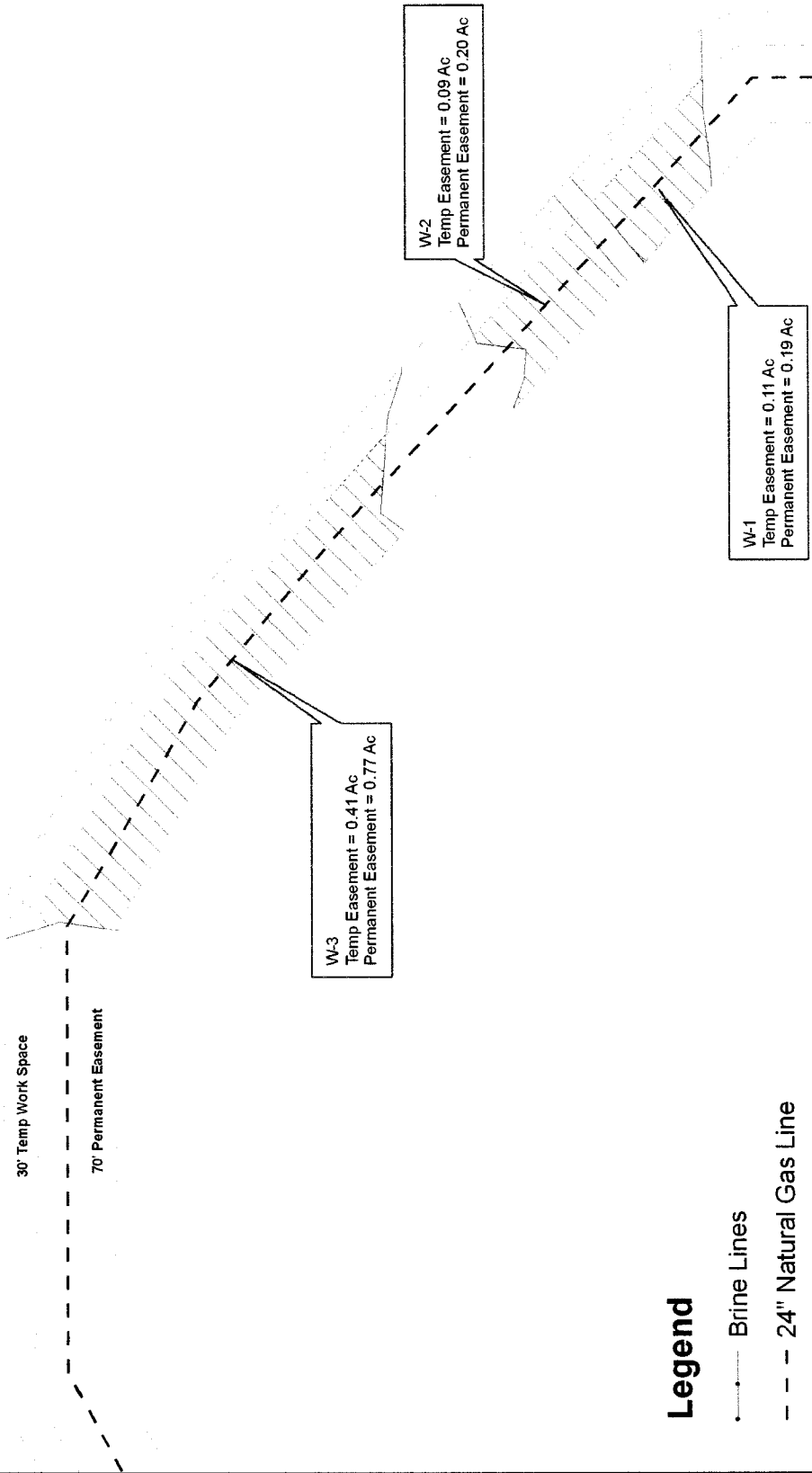
Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD.  
Sect 36 & 37, T4N, R1W; Sect 29, T3N, R1E  
Washington County, AL

31 Jan 2010 - MT

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**Geographic  
Solutions, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1452 Bay Minette, AL 36567  
www.GeographicSolutions.biz

**Figure 4.1**



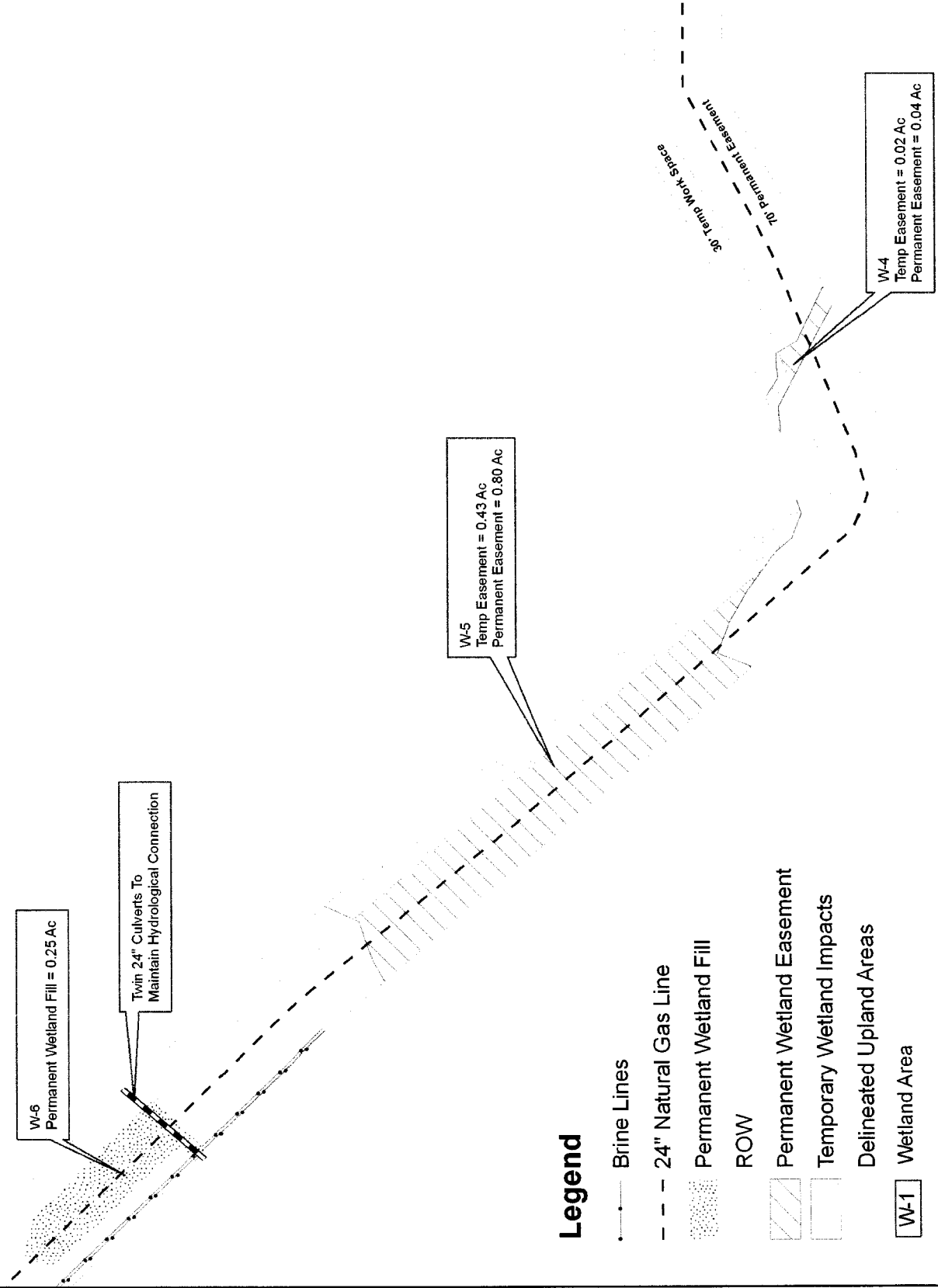
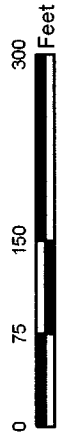
**Legend**

- Brine Lines
- - - 24" Natural Gas Line
- [Stippled Box] Permanent Wetland Fill
- [Hatched Box] ROW
- [Diagonal Line Box] Permanent Wetland Easement
- [Dotted Box] Temporary Wetland Impacts
- [Dashed Box] Delineated Upland Areas
- [Box with W-1] Wetland Area

Note:  
Cavern and pipeline data provided by Sempra.  
GSI provided wetland delineation data.  
GSI created all other spatial data based on these findings.

**Cavern 5 & Associated Pipelines Affected Wetlands Detail Map 2 of 3**  
Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD.  
Sect 36 & 37, T4N, R1W; Sect 29, T3N, R1E  
Washington County, AL  
31 Jan 2010 - MT

**Figure 4.2**



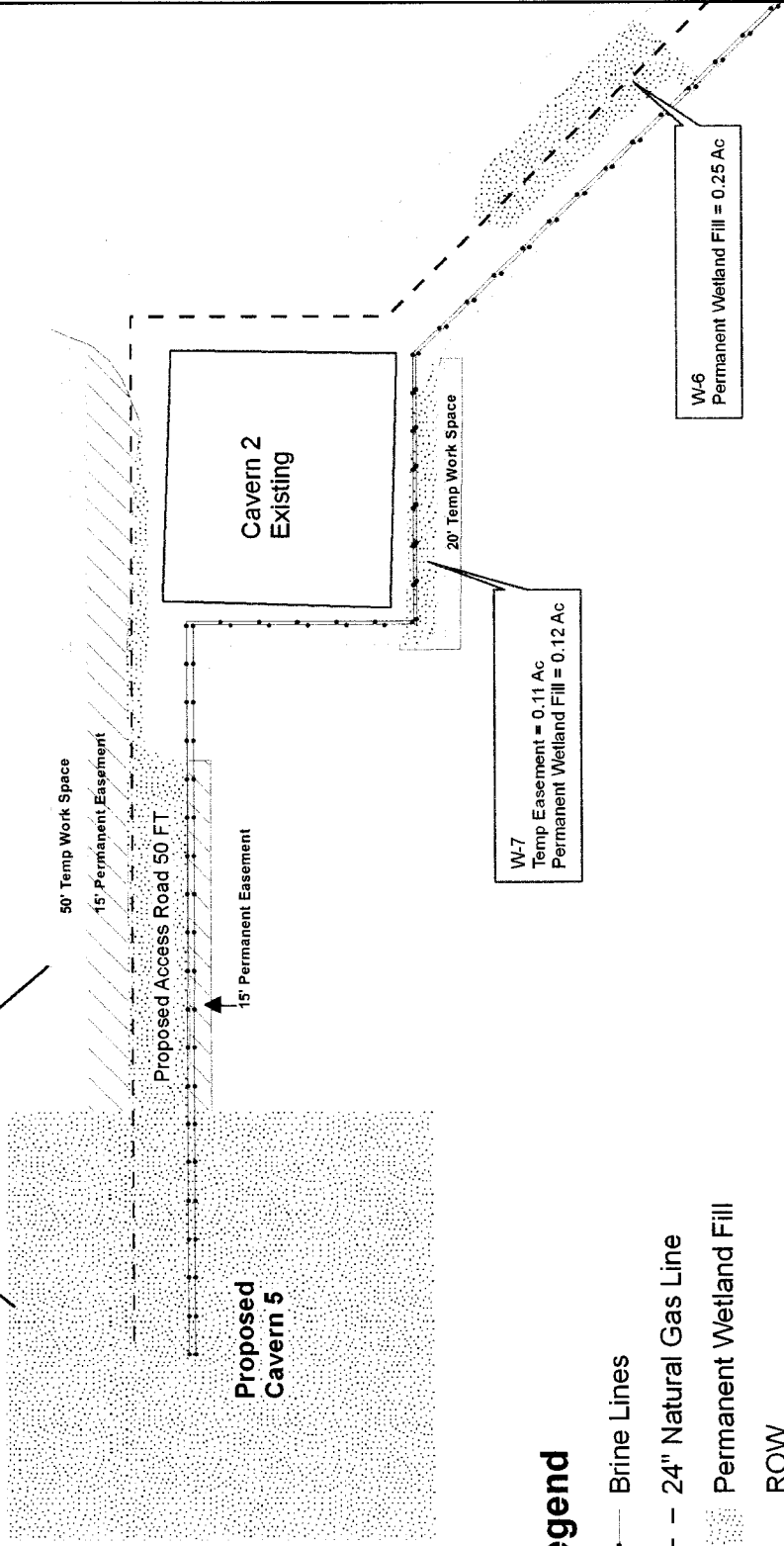
Note:  
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GSI created all other spatial data based on these findings.

**Cavern 5 & Associated Pipelines Affected Wetlands Detail Map 3 of 3**  
Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD.  
Sect 36 & 37, T4N, R1W; Sect 29, T3N, R1E  
Washington County, AL  
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**Figure 4.3**



W-8  
Temp Easement = 0.41 Ac  
Permanent Easement = 0.60 Ac  
Access Road Permanent Wetland Fill = 0.41 Ac  
Cavern 5 Pad Permanent Wetland Fill = 2.8 Ac

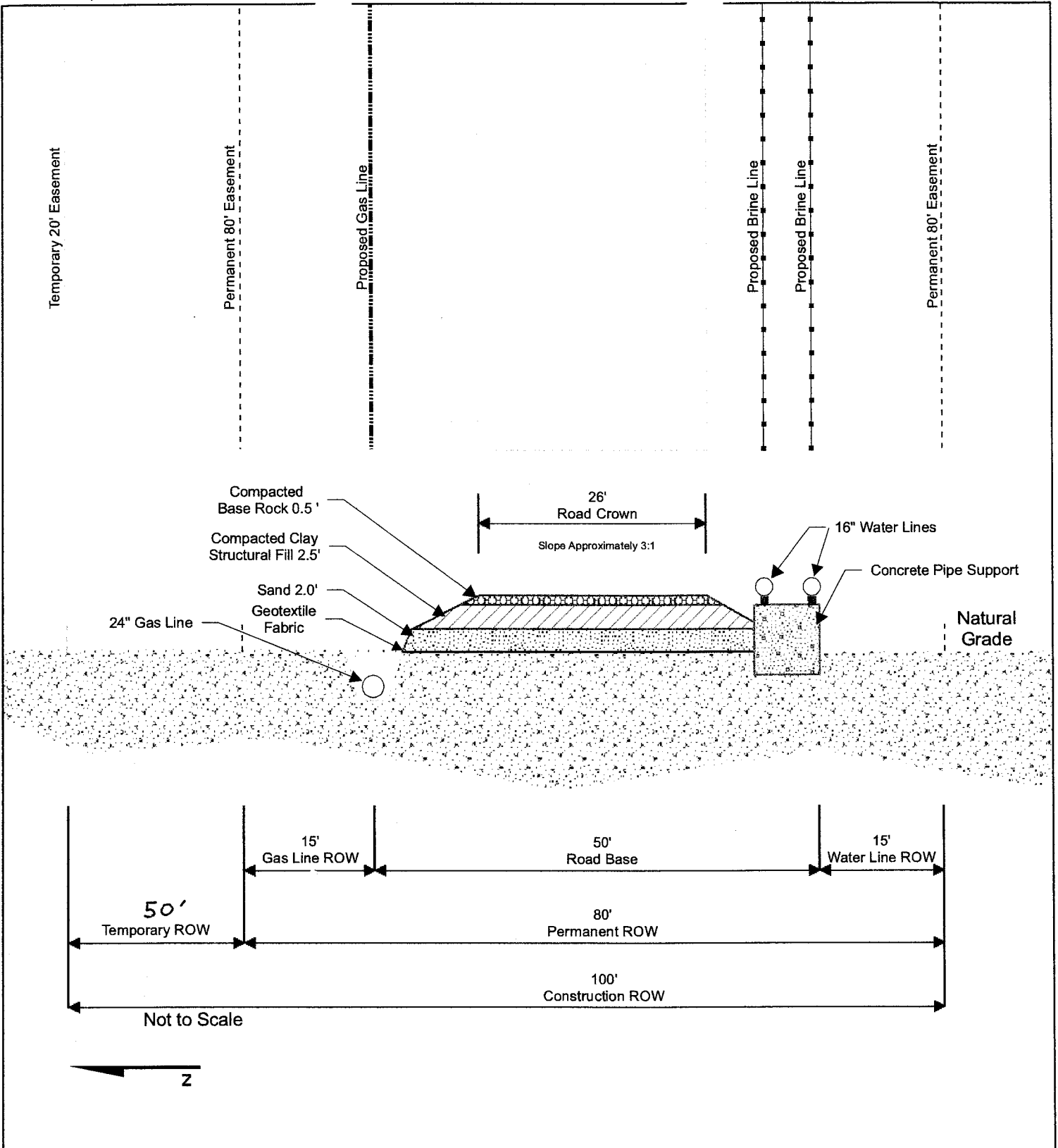


W-7  
Temp Easement = 0.11 Ac  
Permanent Wetland Fill = 0.12 Ac

W-6  
Permanent Wetland Fill = 0.25 Ac

**Legend**

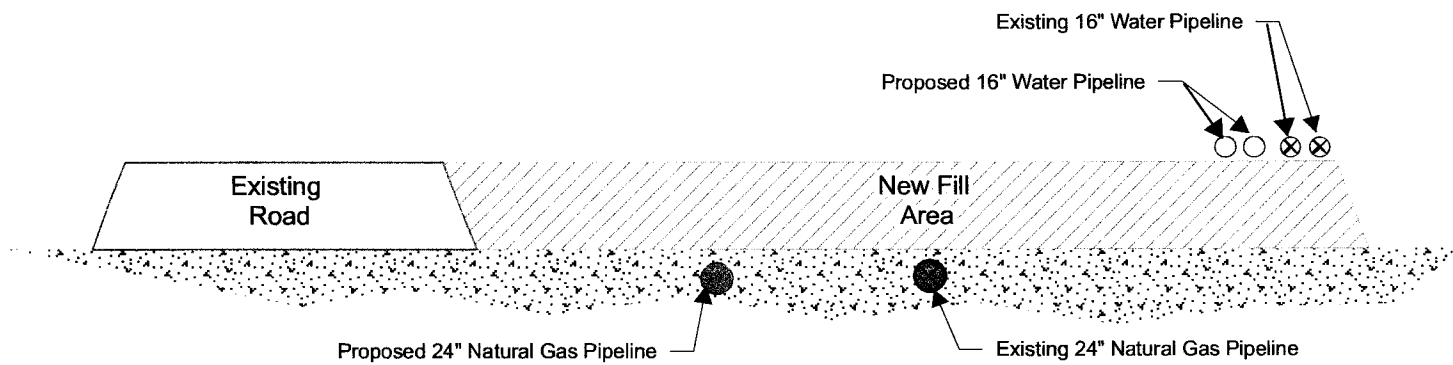
- Brine Lines
- - - 24" Natural Gas Line
- [Stippled Box] Permanent Wetland Fill
- [Hatched Box] ROW
- [Hatched Box] Permanent Wetland Easement
- [Dotted Box] Temporary Wetland Impacts
- [Dashed Box] Delineated Upland Areas
- [Box with W-1] Wetland Area



**Storage Cavern No. 5  
Access Road  
Typical Upland Construction Right - Of - Way**

**Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD**

Project: Bay Gas Storage Cavern 5	
Location: Washington County, Alabama	
Ref: BGS_RoadRow_20100128	Date: 01/28/2010



**Cavern Five Construction  
Additional Fill Area**

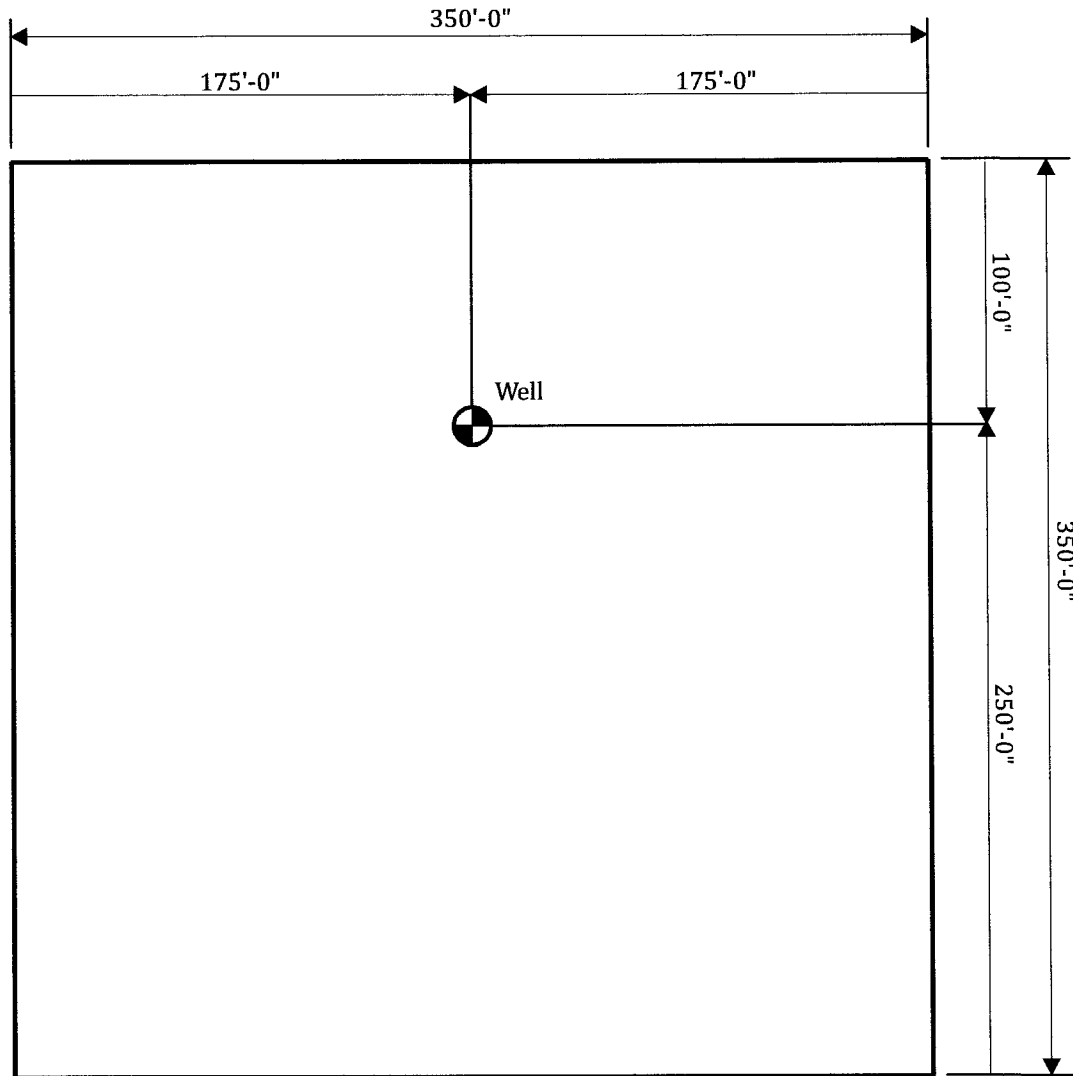
**Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD**

Project: Bay Gas Storage Cavern 5

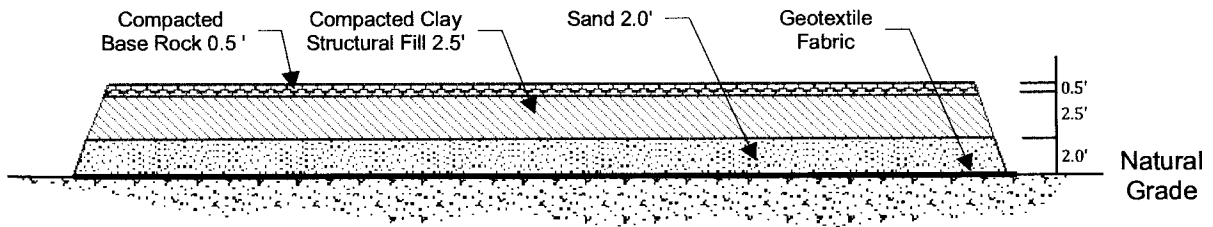
Location: Washington County, Alabama

Ref: BGS\_Fill Area\_20100128

Date: 01/28/2010



Approximate Slope 3:1  
 Rock, grass, or other suitable stabilization



Not to Scale



**Storage Cavern No. 5  
 Well Pad  
 Typical Cross Section**

**Bay Gas Storage Company, LTD**

Project: Bay Gas Storage Cavern 5

Location: Washington County, Alabama

Ref: BGS\_WellPad5Typical\_20100128

Date: 01/28/2010