



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

CESAM-RD-A
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2019-00914

July 27, 2020

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
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 NEW NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION LINES IN CHOCTAW
COUNTY AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, ALABAMA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can be based. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: NextEra Energy Pipeline Holdings (Lowman), Inc.
Attention: Ms. Kathy Salvador
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno, Florida 33408

AGENT: Edge Engineering and Science, LLC (EDGE).
Attention: Mr. Andrew Grammer
16285 Park Ten Place, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77084

LOCATION/WATERS: The transmission line would start at Compressor Station 85, near Latitude 32.057044° North, Longitude 88.370139° West, located on the east side of County Road 9, near Butler, AL and would extend generally southeast to the Powersouth Plant Lowman near Latitude 31.491754° North, Longitude 87.909896° West, off County Road 34 in Jackson, AL. The 53.75 mile long linear project would be located in the Middle Tombigbee-Chickasaw (HUC 03160201) and Lower Tombigbee (HUC 03160203) Watersheds in the Mobile-Tombigbee Basin.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic purpose of the Lowman Pipeline Project will be to provide transmission of natural gas from the interconnects of the Mid-continent Express and GulfSouth pipelines to the PowerSouth Lowman Power Plant. The overall project purpose is to provide resources to the Lowman Power Plant for the conversion of utility

infrastructure from coal-fired to natural gas energy and provide a reliable and resilient electrical grid for the region.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to construct, operate, and maintain a new 16-inch-diameter, 53.75-mile-long natural gas pipeline in Choctaw and Washington Counties, Alabama. In addition to the pipeline, the project will include the construction of one new compressor station, three meter stations, and a launcher/receiver facility. The purpose of the Lowman Pipeline Project will be to receive natural gas at interconnects with Mid-continent Express and GulfSouth pipelines and will deliver gas to the PowerSouth Lowman Power Plant. The Project will support the natural gas conversion of the existing coal-fired PowerSouth Lowman Power Plant. The applicant proposes to utilize an 85-foot-wide temporary construction right-of-way (ROW) with some additional temporary workspace (ATWS) at road crossings, stream crossings, and other areas where needed. Within wetland areas the construction ROW will be reduced to 75 feet. Following construction, a 30-foot-wide permanent easement will be maintained except in areas between workspaces associated with horizontal directional drill (HDD) entry and exit points. The proposed project will temporarily impact 44.77 acre of forested, emergent, and scrub shrub wetlands, with an estimated 19.43 acres of wetlands to be permanently modified by maintenance of the utility Right of Way (ROW). Estimated stream impacts will include 23,326 linear feet of intermittent and perennial streams. Following construction, the applicant plans to restore land surface contours as closely as is practicable to pre-construction elevations, restoring site hydrology.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The applicant proposes the use of the HDD crossing method to avoid seven large perennial streams and approximately 5.07 acres of wetland impacts along the proposed route. The construction corridor will be reduced from 85 feet to 75 feet wide through all wetlands to reduce impacts. Following construction, Lowman will restore stream and land surface contours as closely as is practicable to pre-construction conditions, restoring site hydrology. The applicant has indicated that no other natural gas pipeline infrastructure exists near the project area that could be modified to supply the natural gas volumes necessary to meet future PowerSouth Lowman Power Plant. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase credits from the Alabama River Mitigation Bank (ARMB) for unavoidable impacts to wetlands. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's proposed mitigation plan at this time.

WATER QUALITY: It is the understanding of the USACE that the applicant has applied for 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 (ADEM).

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the permit area consists of the proposed fill areas in waters of the United States and portions of the adjacent uplands that would be utilized for construction access and equipment and materials staging. At the time of this notice, the USACE is reviewing the proposed activities for potential effects to cultural resources. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The Mobile District is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The following species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as being threatened or endangered are found within Choctaw and Washington Counties and may be located within the watersheds in which the project would be located: wood stork, black pine snake, gopher tortoise, Alabama heelsplitter, southern clubshell and the Gulf sturgeon. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) action area for this project does not intersect with any federally-designated critical habitat. 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 may affect listed species. This notice and application will be coordinated with the USFWS to assess if the proposed activity will adversely affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not adversely affect EFH or federally managed fisheries. Our final determination is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or the U.S. Department of Interior, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE 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.

Correspondence concerning this public notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2019-00914-ES** and should be directed via email to the project manager, Ms. Elizabeth A. Hamilton, at elizabeth.a.seavoy@usace.army.mil, or to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Elizabeth A. Hamilton, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at coastal@adem.alabama.gov, or sent to: Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch / Coastal Section 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile, Alabama 36608.

All 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, Ms. Elizabeth Hamilton by email at elizabeth.a.seavoy@usace.army.mil, or at (251) 694-3781. Please refer to the Public Notice Number SAM-2020-00353-ES, in any communication concerning this project.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

Attachments



EDGE
ENGINEERING & SCIENCE

NextEra ENERGY

NextEra Energy Pipeline Holdings (Lowman), Inc.
Lowman Pipeline Project
Attachment 2
Project Vicinity Map

Choctaw and Washington Counties, Alabama

Legend

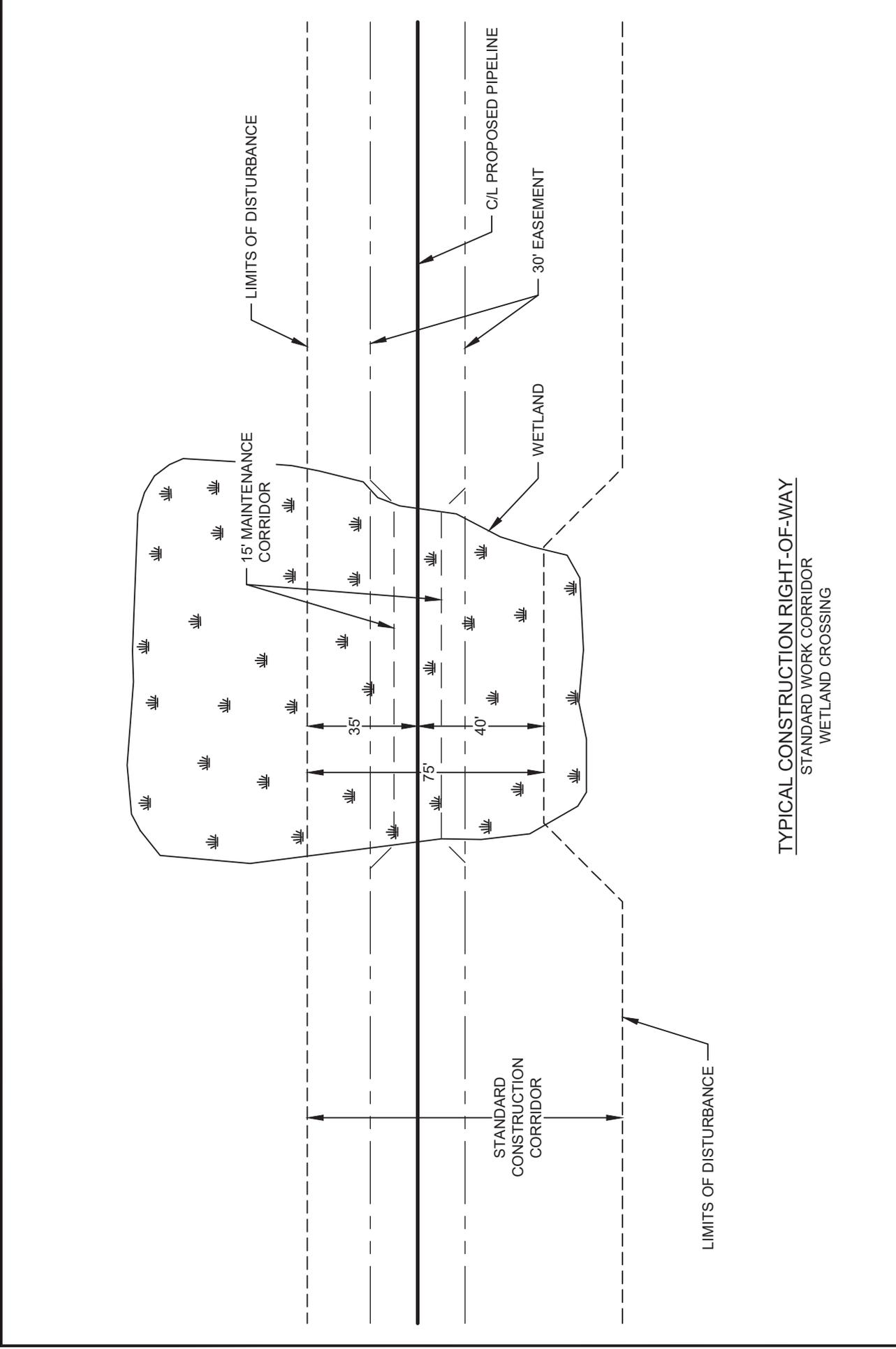
- Milepost
- Proposed Pipeline
- County Boundary

Scale: 1:500,000

0 5 10
Miles

North Arrow





TYPICAL CONSTRUCTION RIGHT-OF-WAY
 STANDARD WORK CORRIDOR
 WETLAND CROSSING



ISSUED 30%
 DATE: 04/22/2020
 - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION -

REV	DESCRIPTION	CHK	DATE	APP	DATE
A	ISSUED FOR 30% REVIEW	RJB	04/22/20	MAL	04/22/20

DRAWN BY	HGA	04/22/20
DESIGNED BY	HGA	04/22/20
CHECKED BY	HGA	04/22/20
APPROVED BY	HGA	04/22/20
HGA JOB NO.	8.A19015	
PLOT SCALE	1:1	
MODEL ID		

HGA
 www.hga-llc.com
 One Metroplex Drive, Suite 100
 Birmingham, AL 35209
 T: 205-970-4877
 FIRM #: AL CA-4334-E

NEXTERA ENERGY
 TYPICAL ROW CONFIGURATION
 LOWMAN PIPELINE PROJECT
 WASHINGTON AND
 CHOCTAW COUNTIES, ALABAMA

SCALE	NTS	DRAWING NUMBER	4779-G-TYP WC-5	REV	A
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