



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

CESAM RD-SP
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2014-00024-SPG

July 24, 2023

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED FILLING OF 3.5 ACRES OF WETLANDS FOR EXPANSION OF A
SANDBLASTING ABRASIVES MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN THEODORE, MOBILE
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 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Mobile Abrasives
Attention: Mr. Matt Serda
6927 Mac Drive
Theodore, Alabama 36582

AGENT: Barry Vittor and Associates
Attention: Dr. Barry A. Vittor
8060 Cottage Hill Road
Mobile, Alabama 36695

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within a 4.6-acre parcel along Mac Road; within Section 01, Township 6 South, Range 1 West; Latitude 30.5469351° North, Longitude -88.116237° West; in Theodore, Mobile County, Alabama.

APPLICANT STATED PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to meet increased demand for manufacture of sandblasting abrasives for the shipbuilding and other metal works businesses and represents a request for reestablishing the expired Section 404 permit that was issued to Mobile Asphalt in 2014 (SAM-2014-00024-SPG).

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to expand an existing sandblasting abrasive manufacturing facility. The project will result in impacts to 3.5 acres of medium-quality pine savannah wetlands.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has indicated the proposed project has been designed to minimize impacts in order to meet the needs of the property owner for expansion of the existing abrasives facility. 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.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: Mitigation credits for impacts to 3.94-acres of Pine savannah wetlands were previously purchased as part of the permitting requirements of the now expired 2014 permit.

WATER QUALITY / COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency concurrence in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification and CZM consistency 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 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect historic properties. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined the permit area consists of the entire 4.6-acre site where the work is proposed. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on cultural/historic 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 comments regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area from the State Historic Preservation Office, federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the proposed activity will have no effect on the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within the watershed of the permit area: West Indian manatee (T), Wood Stork (T), Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle (E), Eastern Indigo Snake (T), Eastern Black Rail (T), Black pine snake (T) and Gulf sturgeon (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project action area.

Details of the proposed activity are being provided to federal and state agencies via this Public Notice for receipt of any relevant comments regarding potential effects of the proposed project on the listed species.

COMMENTS: 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, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The USACE 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 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 notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2014-00024-SPG**, and should be directed to the project manager, Mr. Eric Buckelew by e-mail at james.e.buckelew@usace.army.mil, by phone at (251) 472-7278, or to the USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mr. Eric Buckelew, 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.**

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

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments

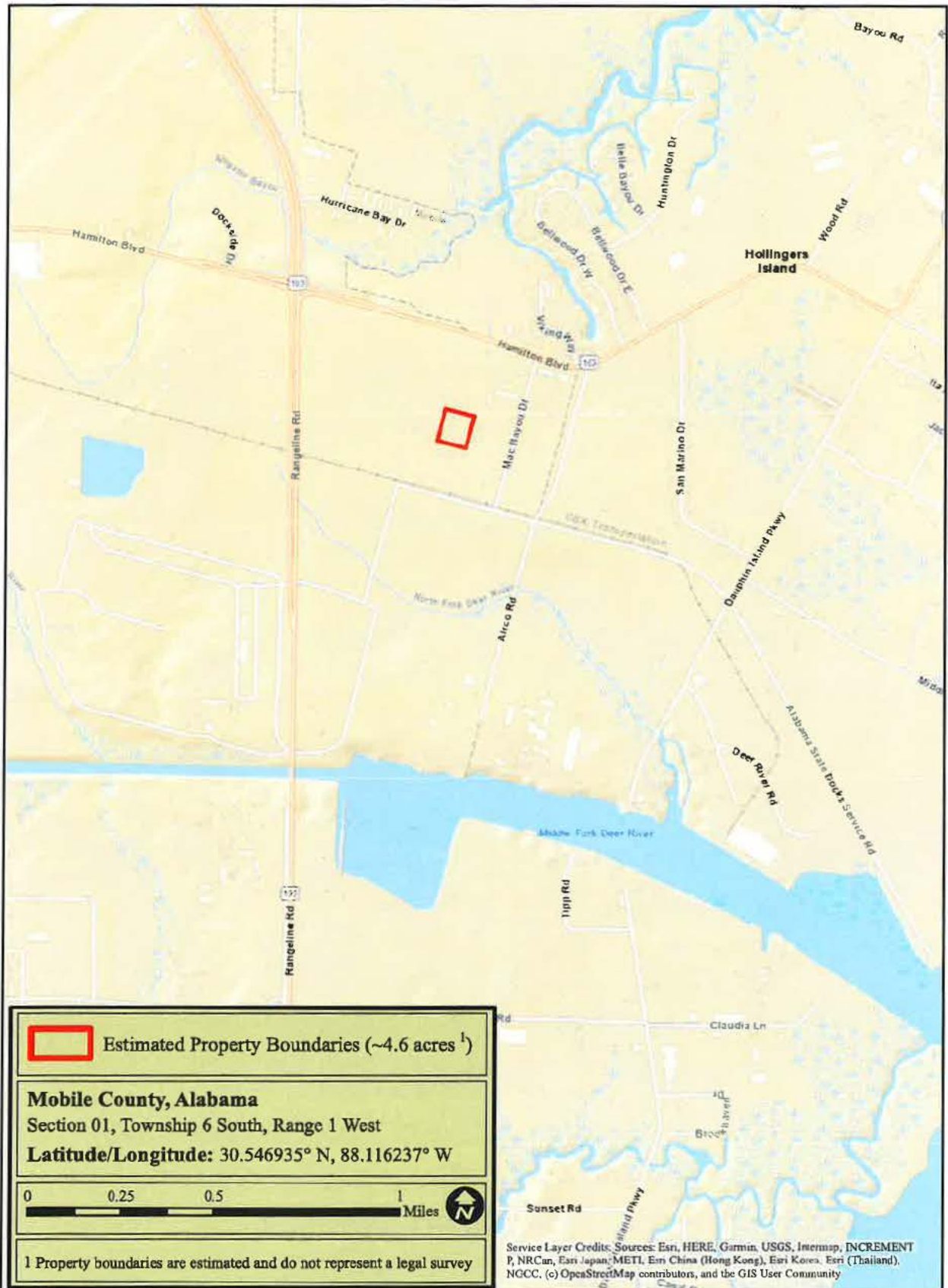


Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity Map (Street View)

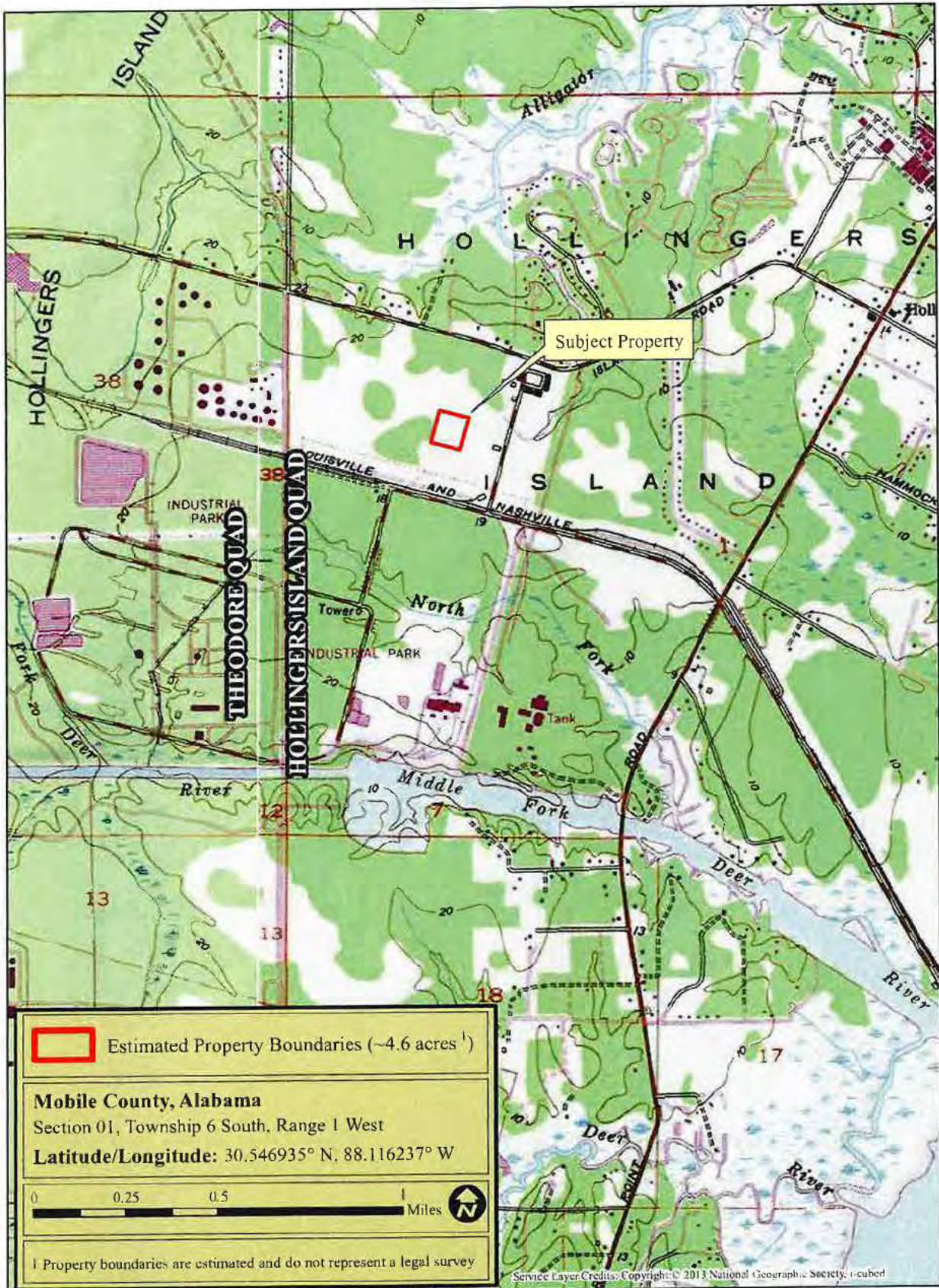


Figure 2. Project Location and Vicinity Map (Quad View)



Figure 3. Wetland Map (February 9, 2023)

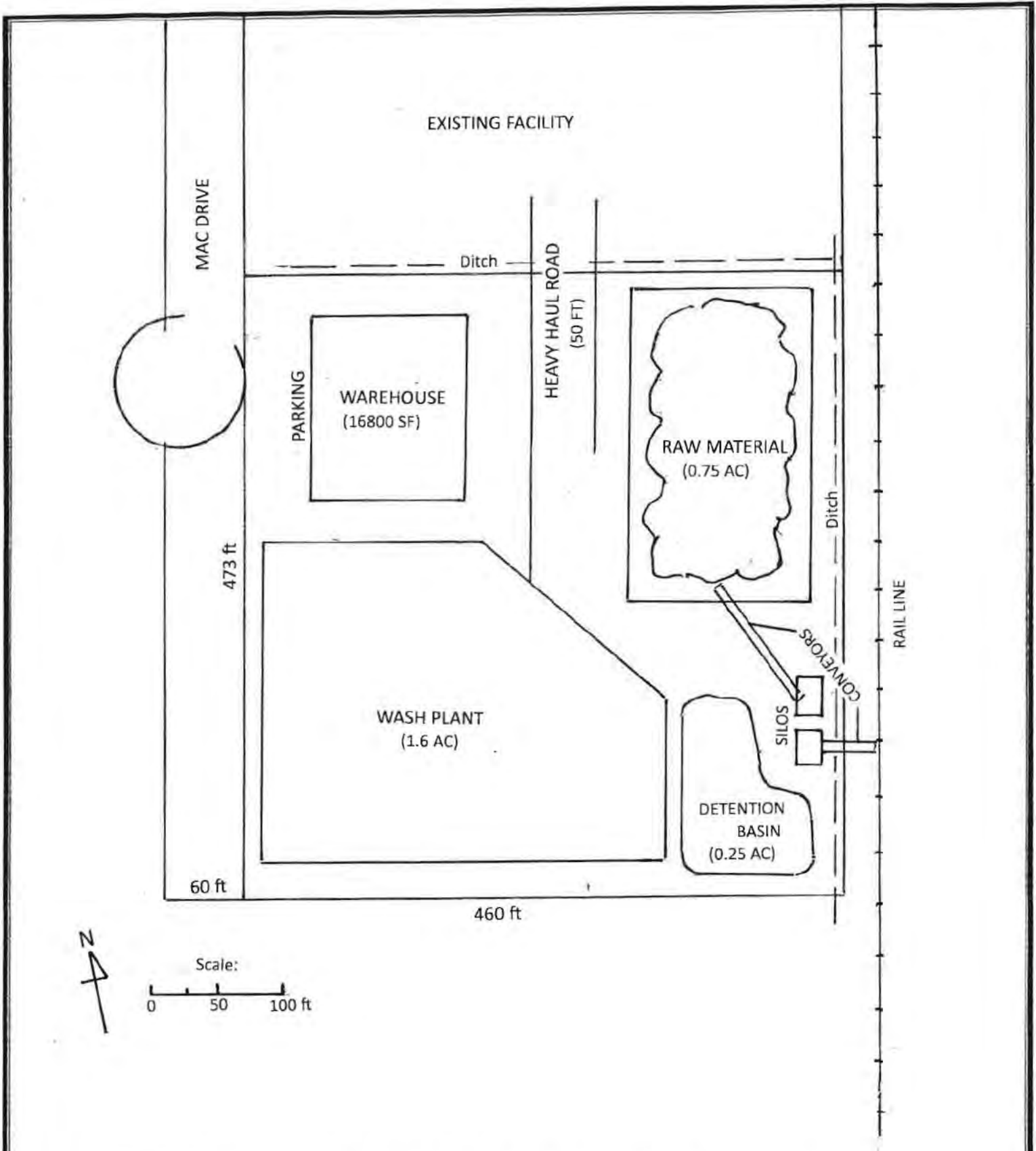


Figure 4. Proposed Site Plan for the Mobile Abrasives Plant Expansion

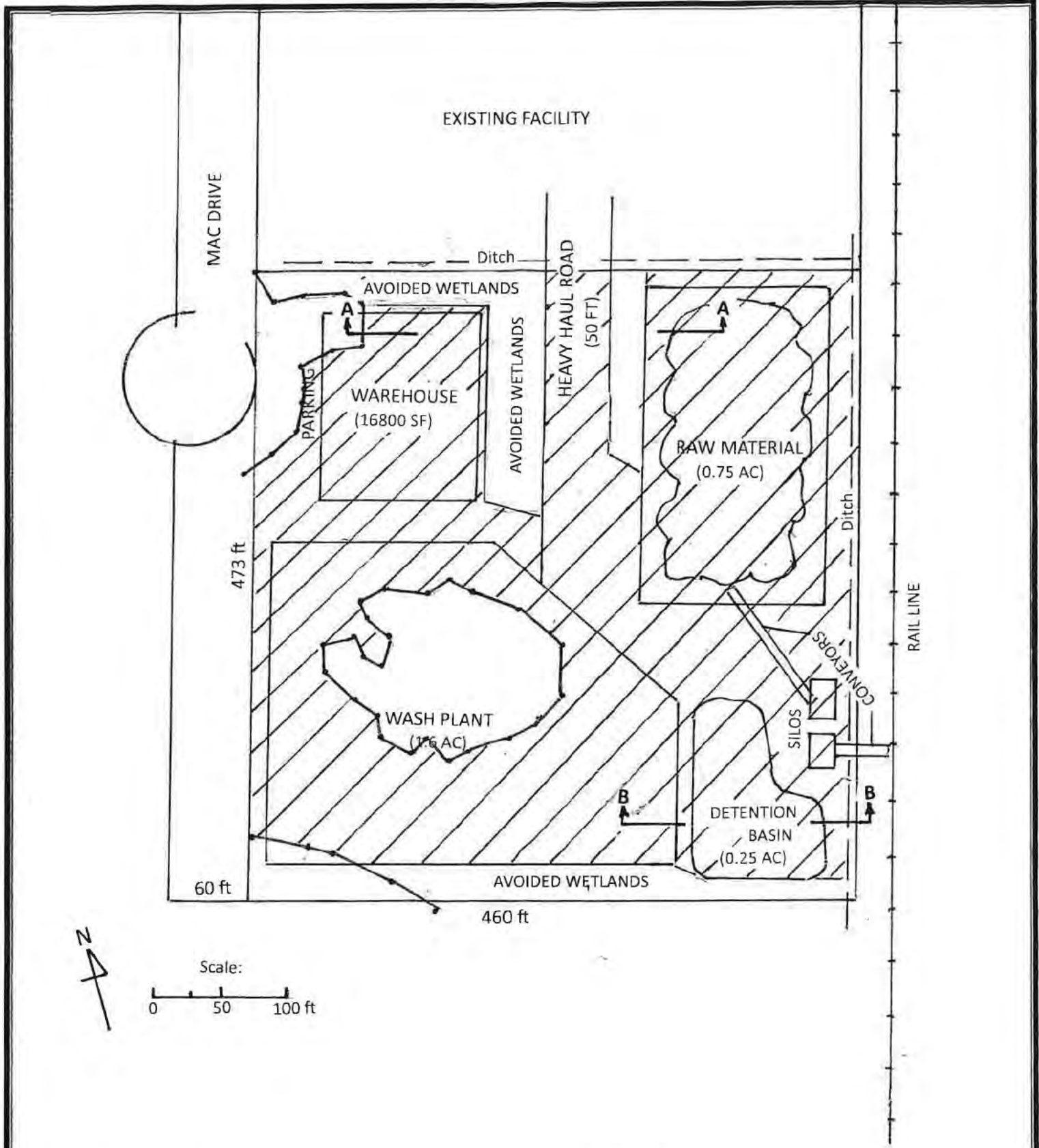
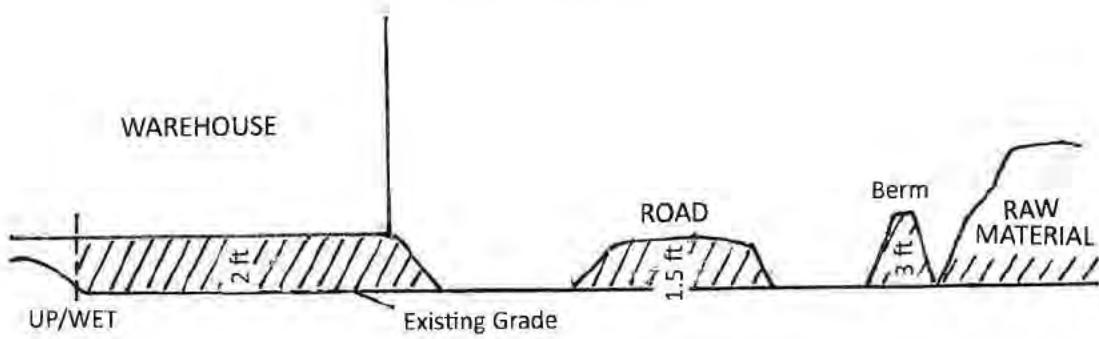


Figure 5. Proposed Wetland Fill Associated with the Mobile Abrasives Expansion

SECTION A – A (nts)



SECTION B – B (nts)

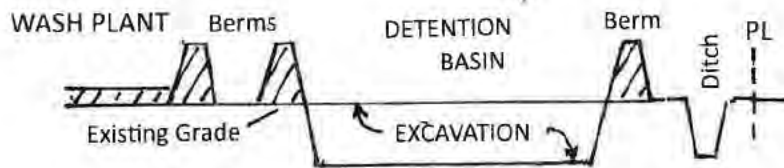


Figure 6. Profile Views of Typical Proposed Wetland Fill Areas

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