



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

CESAM-RD-A
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2016-00654-LET

July 15, 2016

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

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS
AND STREAMS TO WIDEN A 4.51- MILE SEGMENT OF U.S. HIGHWAY 84,
TRIBUTARIES TO BUCKS MILL CREEK AND PEA RIVER, ELBA, COFFEE 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 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: **Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)**
1409 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110

WATERWAY/LOCATION: **Wetlands and unnamed tributaries to Bucks Mill Creek and Pea River along U.S. Highway 84 between State Road 87 and Coffee County Road 507, Sections 13, 14, and 15, Township 5 North, Range 20 East, east of the City of Elba, Coffee County, Alabama; center coordinates Latitude 31.404070 North and Longitude -86.019059 West.**

PROJECT PURPOSE: **The project purpose is to widen an approximately 4.51-mile-long segment of U.S. Highway 84 from two lanes to four lanes. This work would be a westward extension of the planned long-term widening of U.S. Highway 84, which is already a four and five lane roadway extending west from the Alabama-Georgia State Line through the City of Enterprise, Alabama.**

PROPOSED WORK: **The applicant proposes the discharge of approximately 145,000 cubic yards of fill material consisting of clean sandy clay, riprap, and concrete, impacting 5.76 acres of predominantly hardwood forested wetlands, 1,250 linear feet of stream bed, and approximately 0.72-acre of man-made open water recreational ponds historically constructed in jurisdictional wetland areas in order to widen an approximately 4.51-mile-long segment of U.S. Highway 84 east of Elba from a 2-lane roadway to a 4-lane roadway. The 0.72-acre of open water ponds consists of one 0.37-acre pond and one 0.35-acre pond. The impacts to wetlands, streams and open water ponds will include the discharge of fill material to widen the road base, construct stable road shoulders and slopes, lengthen existing culvert crossings, and install stormwater detention basins to provide treatment and dissipation of the energy of run-off and stormwater flow from roadside ditches. The widening of this**

4.51-mile long segment of highway is part of an overall plan for phased widening of U.S. Highway 84 across the state of Alabama, which is part of a larger, multi-state, regional widening project extending from Savannah, Georgia to Lubbock, Texas.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: Alternative locations were not considered as there are no feasible alternate locations that would achieve the stated project purpose of widening the existing segment of U.S. Highway 84 to four lanes. Alternative alignments that might have resulted in slightly less wetland and stream impacts were considered but eliminated due to the combined considerations of roadway safety, practical roadway geometry, financial feasibility, minimization of residential and business relocations, minimization of impacts to potential hazardous material sites such as sites having petroleum storage facilities (e.g. gas stations), and minimization of impacts to culturally and socially important sites such as cemeteries.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to deduct the mitigation credits required to compensate for impacts to 5.76 acres of wetlands from an existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved ALDOT wetland mitigation bank in good standing. The 1,250 linear feet of stream impacts would be mitigated through the purchase of stream mitigation credits from a USACE approved commercial stream mitigation bank in good standing located in the state of Alabama. The applicant has not proposed the provision of mitigation for the man-made open water pond impacts.

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. 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 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 325, the USACE has determined that the permit area consists of three separate assessment areas along the 4.51-mile length of the road widening project. These consist of the area surrounding Jurisdictional Crossing 1 (Site 1), Jurisdictional Crossing 2 (Site 2) and the segment of road encompassing Jurisdictional Crossings 3, 4, and 5 (Sites 3, 4, and 5). **Previous coordination of this project with the State Historic Preservation Officer (AHC: 96-0896) was conducted by the applicant for the purposes of Federal Highways Administration evaluation. At that time SHPO concurrence with a “No Adverse Effect” determination was provided.** The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. We are seeking comment from the SHPO regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. This review

constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the SHPO and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service and Division of Archeological Services.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the following listed endangered or threatened species have potential to exist within the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC 031402020507 and 031402020602) in which the permit area is located: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), Choctaw Bean (*Villosa choctawensis*), Southern kidneyshell (*Ptychobranhus jonesi*), Fuzzy Pigtoe (*Pleurobema strodeanum*), Tapered Pigtoe (*Fusconaia burkei*), Southern sandshell (*Hamiota australis*), and Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi*). There is no designated critical habitat within the permit area although Tapered Pigtoe critical habitat has been identified in the Pea River downstream of the permit area. Based on review of the application, the USACE has made a preliminary determination that the proposed activity will have "No Effect" on the identified species having potential to exist in the permit area. This determination is being coordinated with the USFWS via this Public Notice for review and comment. Further coordination with the USFWS will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

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 (USACE) can be based. 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 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.

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. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will also 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-2016-00654-LET** and should be directed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Leslie E. Turney, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Mining and Nonpoint Source Section, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2059

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 at **(251) 694-3873** or e-mail at **leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil**.

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

Encls

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

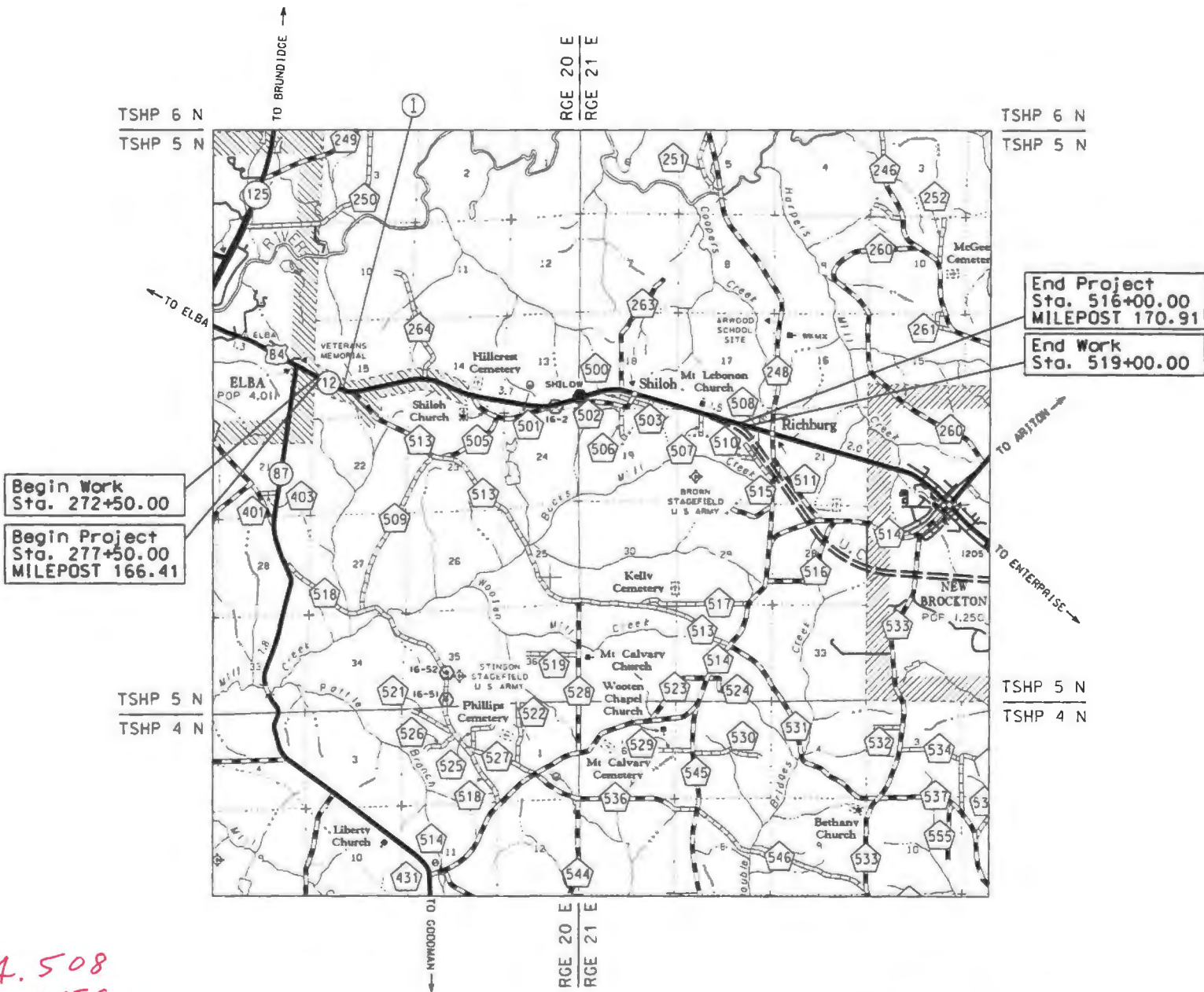
ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PLANS OF PROPOSED PROJECT NUMBER

NHF-0012(507)

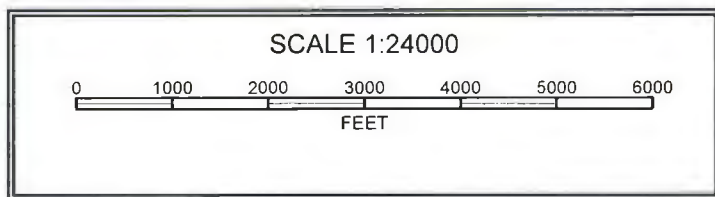
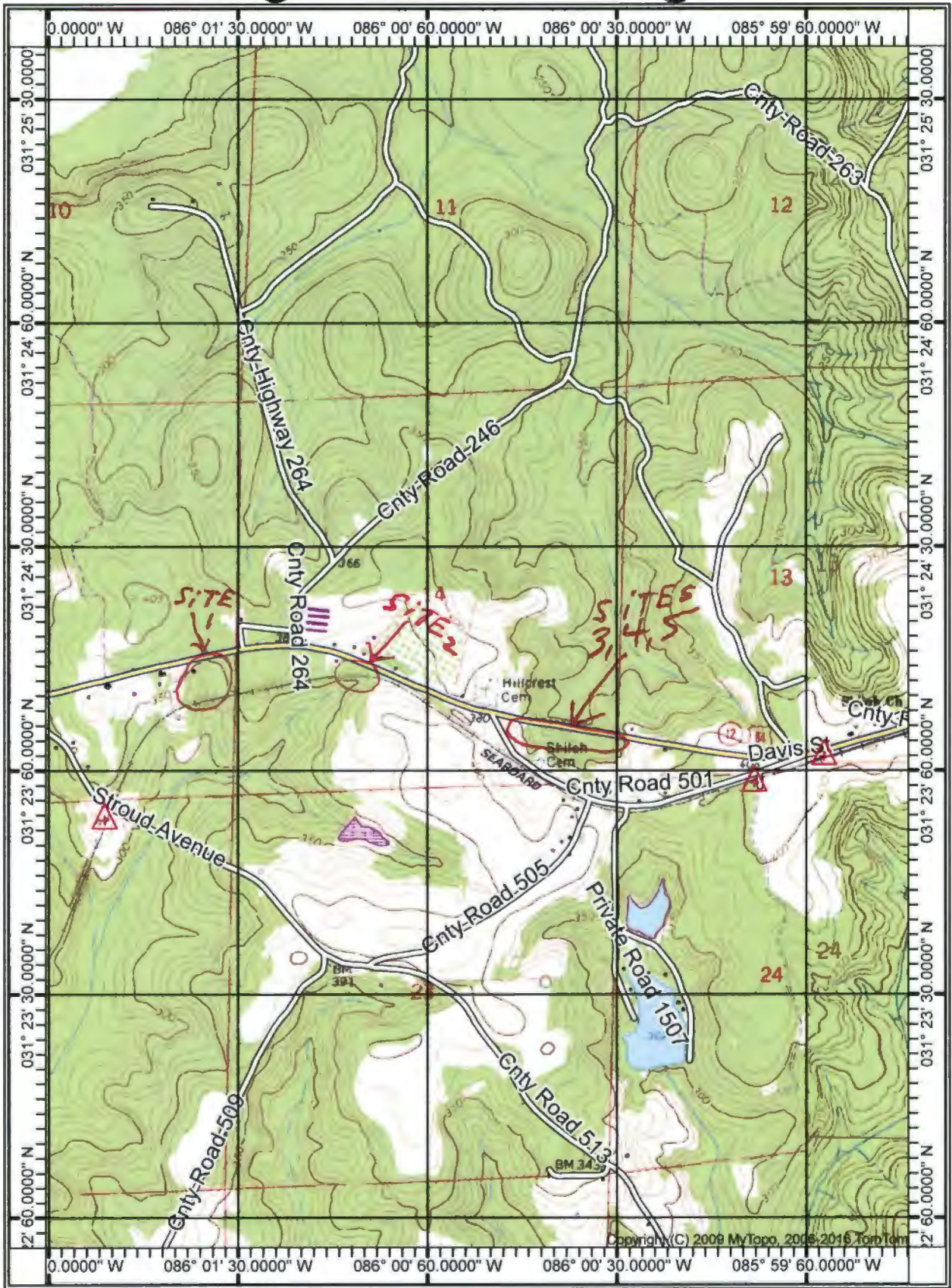
US-84 ADDITIONAL LANES
 FROM EAST OF SR-87 TO EAST OF CR-507
 GRADE, DRAIN, BASE & PAVE
 COFFEE COUNTY



*4.508
 MILES*

SAM-2016-00654-LET
 DEPT. OF THE ARMY

RELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



E16A
 U.S. 84
 Coffee
 Co.

SAM-2016-00654-LET
 DEPT. OF THE ARMY

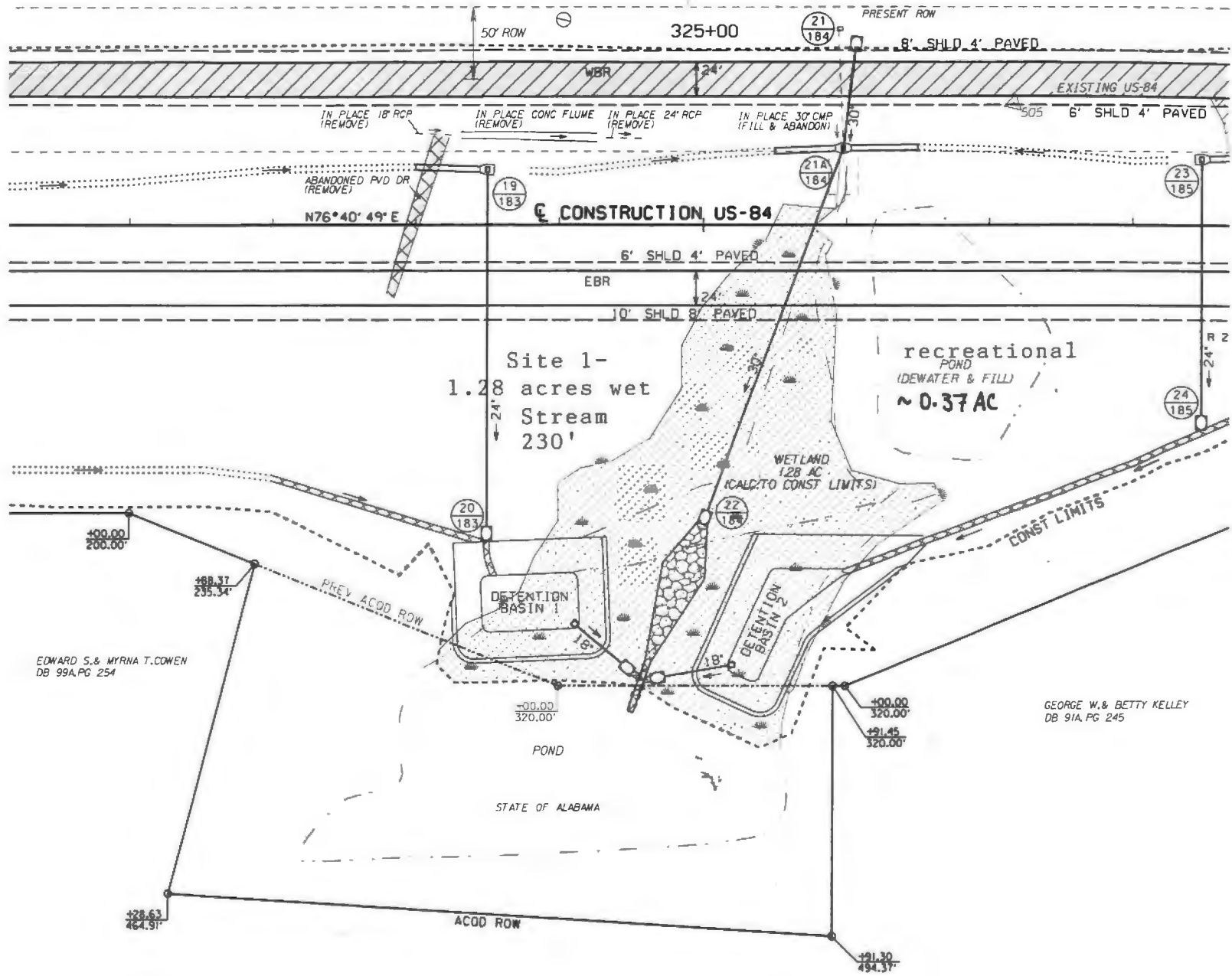
REBAR
EL. 356.511'

PLAN



DONALD KEITH & GWENDOLYN M. LEWIS
DB 107A, PG 178

ROBERT S. & DELORIS MARSH
DB 107A, PG 178



**PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**



PLAN SUBMITTAL
FBC



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

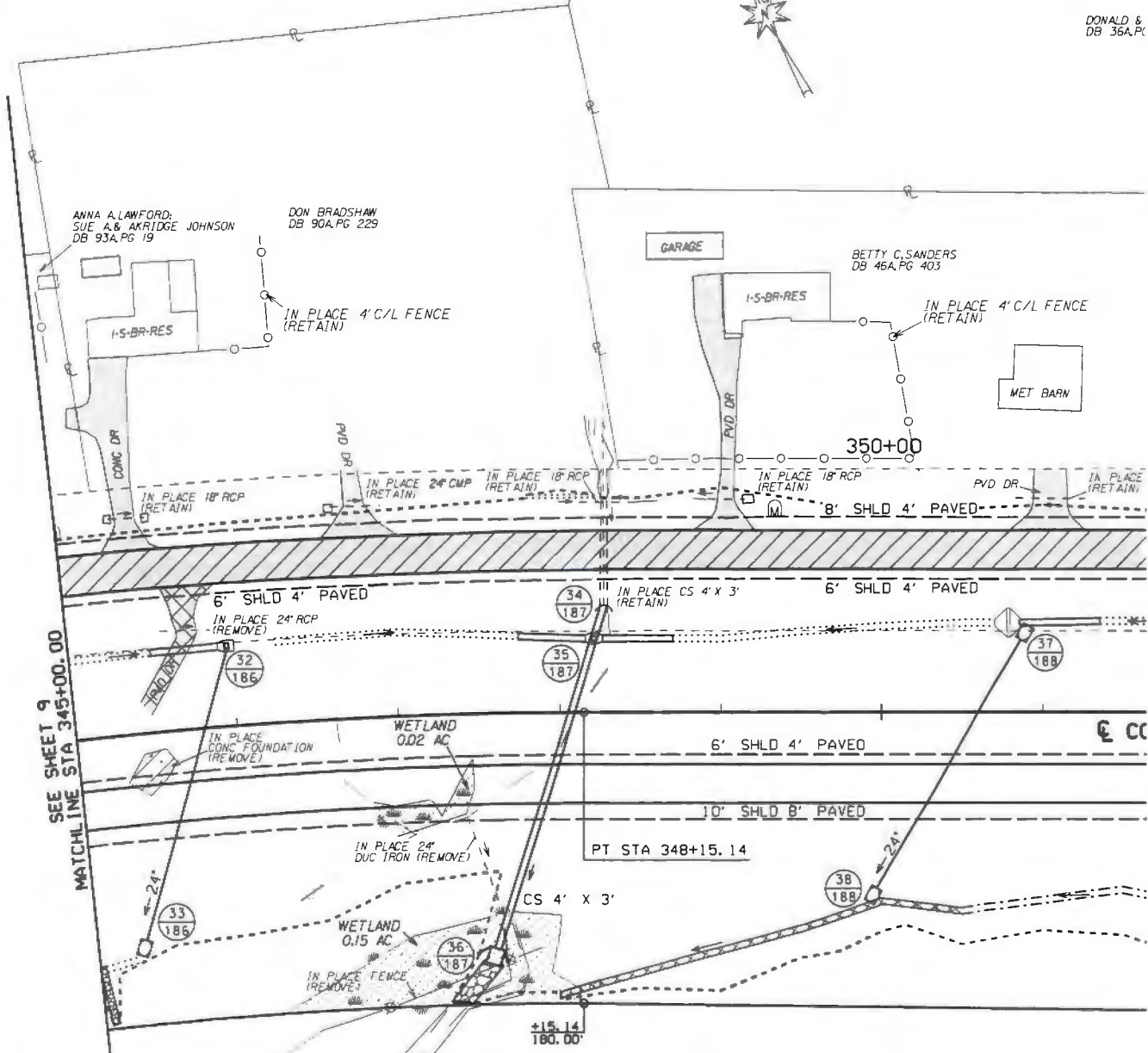
SAM-2016-00654-LET
DEPT. OF THE ARMY

TBM 16-R 5/8" CAPPED REBAR
STA 355+40.61 149.64' LT EL. 383.957'

2

DON BRADSHAW
DB 110A.PG 113

DONALD &
DB 36A.PG



Site 2-
0.17 acres total wet
Stream 250'

L.H. & VIVIAN BRADSHAW

SAM-2016-00654-LET
DEPT. OF THE ARMY

HMB HMB ALABAMA, LLC

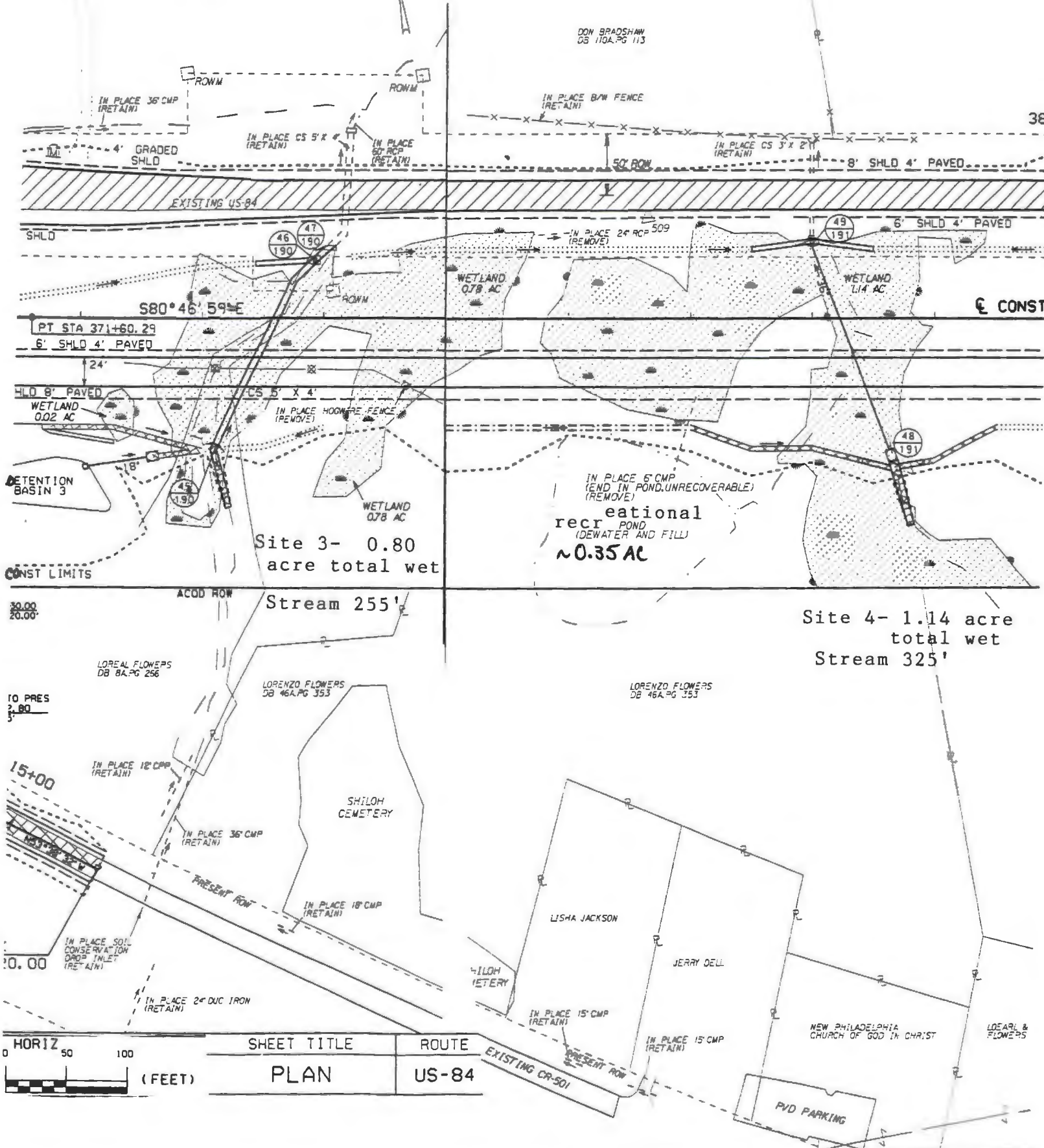
PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



3

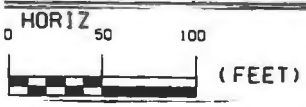
DON BRADSHAW
DB 110A.PG 113

DON BRADSHAW
DB 110A.PG 113



30.00
20.00
10 PRES
2.80
5.00

15+00
10.00
IN PLACE SOI
CONSERVATION
DROP INLET
(RETAIN)



| | |
|-------------|-------|
| SHEET TITLE | ROUTE |
| PLAN | US-84 |

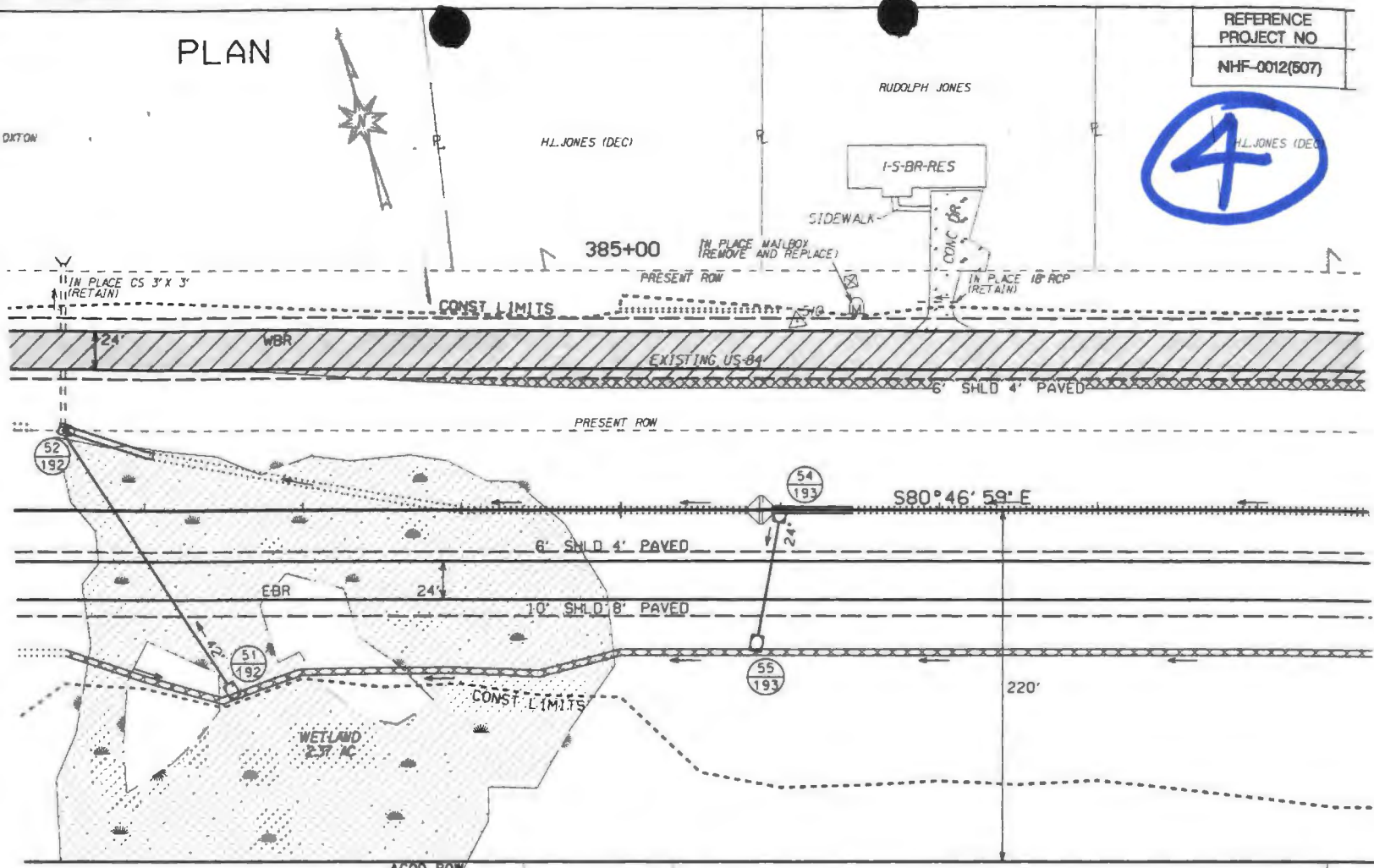
Site 4- 1.14 acre
total wet
Stream 325'

Site 3- 0.80
acre total wet

SAM-2016-00654-LET
DEPT. OF THE ARMY

PLAN

REFERENCE
PROJECT NO
NHF-0012(507)

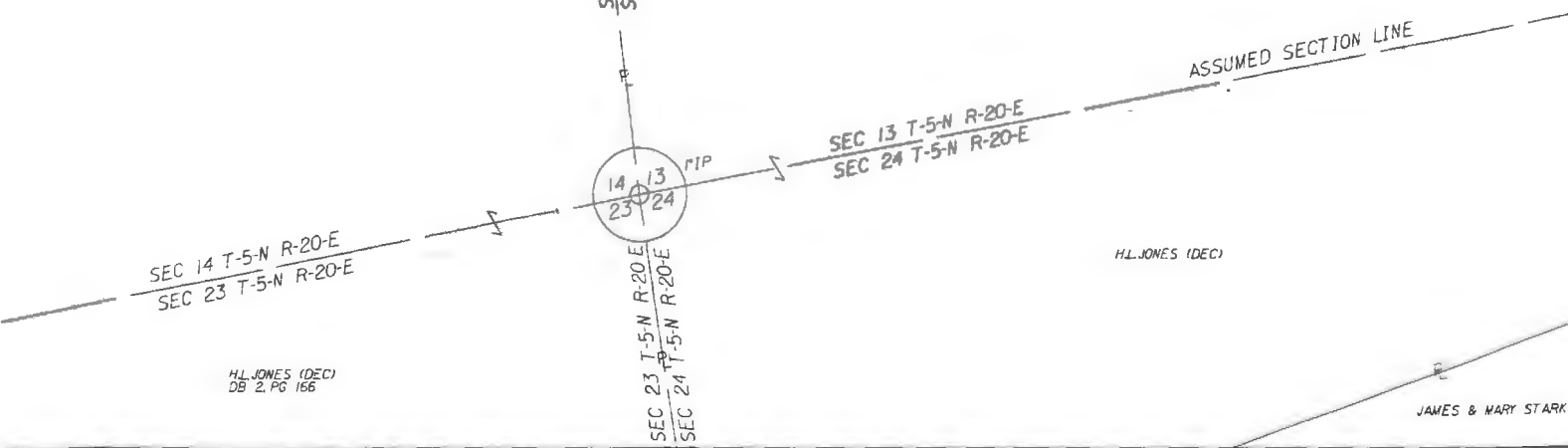


Site 5- 2.37 acres
total wet
Stream 190'

H.L. JONES (DEC) & W.M. BROXTON

H.L. JONES (DEC)

ASSUMED SECTION LINE



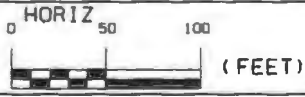
H.L. JONES (DEC)
DB 2, PG 156

JAMES & MARY STARKS

PLAN SUBMITTAL
FBC



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION



SHEET TITLE
PLAN

SAM-2016-00654-LET
DEPT. OF THE ARMY