



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-M

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2019-00098-APS

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

September 23, 2019

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PLACE FILL IN JURISDICTIONAL
WETLANDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GOVERNMENTAL
DEVELOPMENT, CAMP SHELBY, PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers 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: Mississippi Army National Guard, Camp Shelby
Attention: Mr. Chris Potin
Email: christopher.r.potin2@nfg@mail.mil
Camp Shelby Environmental Office
Avenue C – Building 6530
Camp Shelby, Mississippi 39407

AGENT: Neel-Schaffer
Attention: Mr. Doug M. Wimberly
Email: doug.wimberly@neel-schaffer.com
704 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402

LOCATION: The proposed activities are located within the Camp Shelby installation near south of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The project area is in Section 24, Township 2 North, Range 12 West in Forrest County, Mississippi. The approximate coordinates are latitude 31.1230° North and longitude 89.1526° West.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The project purpose would be to construct a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range for Army National Guard training exercises. The project is identified as the MSARNG Camp Shelby multi-purpose machine gun range.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to place approximately 8,830 cubic yards of fill material in 3.74 acres of wetland habitat for the construction a 240 acre multi-purpose machine gun range. The new machine gun range would be sited in the same location as an existing Camp Shelby target range. The proposed range would

involve the placement of approximately 8,830 cubic yards of fill material in 3.74 acres of wetland habitat for the construction of new, raised targets. The fill would provide the proper elevations required for the various targets as needed for this type of training range.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has sited the new range in the same location as that of an existing range. The target locations have been selected to minimize impacts to wetlands while still providing the aim locations and distances required for this type of range. The applicant would provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts to further minimize the impacts to the watershed that may be induced through the functional loss of the wetlands. Appropriate and effective Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be required to control erosion and off-site sedimentation thus avoiding the inadvertent fill of wetlands or waters of the U.S. outside of area of fill. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, has not yet verified or denied the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts.

MITIGATION: To compensate for the anticipated impacts to wetlands, the applicant proposes to purchase wetland mitigation credits from a USACE mitigation bank. The USACE, Mobile District, has not yet verified or denied the adequacy of the applicant's mitigation proposal.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The applicant will apply for State Water Quality Certification (WQC) 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 WQC will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Office of Pollution Control. The project area is outside of the coastal zone; therefore, coastal zone consistency is not required.

COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY: The location of the proposed project lies outside of Mississippi's coastal zone; therefore, a determination of Coastal Zone Consistency in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act is not required.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES/CULTURAL RESOURCES: 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 the permit area would be the entire 240 acre proposed machine gun range area. The proposed permit area lies within Camp Shelby's Surface Use Only Area, an area within the installation's 14,000 acre Dedicated Impact Area. The impact area is known to contain varying concentrations of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) from past military activities. An inspection of the National Park Service (NPS) maintained National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Google Earth layer and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) map reflects no known historic resources within the proposed permit area. Additionally, because the proposed permit area is within an area historically used as a military target range, it is unlikely that any surface or shallow subsurface artifacts would still exist. Lastly, in a letter from MDAH (Project Log #01-

027-07), the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the applicant's request to forego the duty to perform subsurface investigations within the 14,000 acre Dedicated Impact Area due to UXO safety concerns. Based upon the negative results of the NPS NRHP map and the MDAH HRI map, the location of the project area within an existing target range, and the MDAH letter, the USACE, Mobile District, has made a preliminary determination that the proposed activities will have no effect on cultural and historic resources within the permit area. However, we are seeking comment from the MDAH; federally-recognized American Indian tribes; local historical societies; museums; universities; the NPS, Archeological Services Division and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. This action 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 that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is evaluating the proposed activities for potential effects to federally-listed or proposed-to-be-listed threatened or endangered species and federally-designated critical habitat. According to the 2019 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and USACE South Mississippi Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES), species with the potential to exist in the ESA action area are: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), black pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus lodingi*), dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevososa*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), and Louisiana quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*). No federally-designated critical habitat exists within the ESA action area. This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for information as to whether any federally-listed or proposed-to-be-listed threatened or endangered species or federally-designated critical habitat may be adversely affected by the proposed activity. The USACE, Mobile District, has not yet made a determination of effects that the proposed work would have on federally-listed or proposed-to-be-listed threatened or endangered species or federally-designated critical habitat.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: In accordance with the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the USACE is evaluating the proposed activities for potential effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) which also includes Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) and EFH Areas Protected from Fishing. There is not any EFH within the proposed project area; therefore, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the proposed activities will have no effect on resources protected under the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

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 impacts, 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 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.

The Department of Interior (DOI) is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Department of Interior (DOI) is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center is the lead Federal agency for this project responsible for ensuring compliance with the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

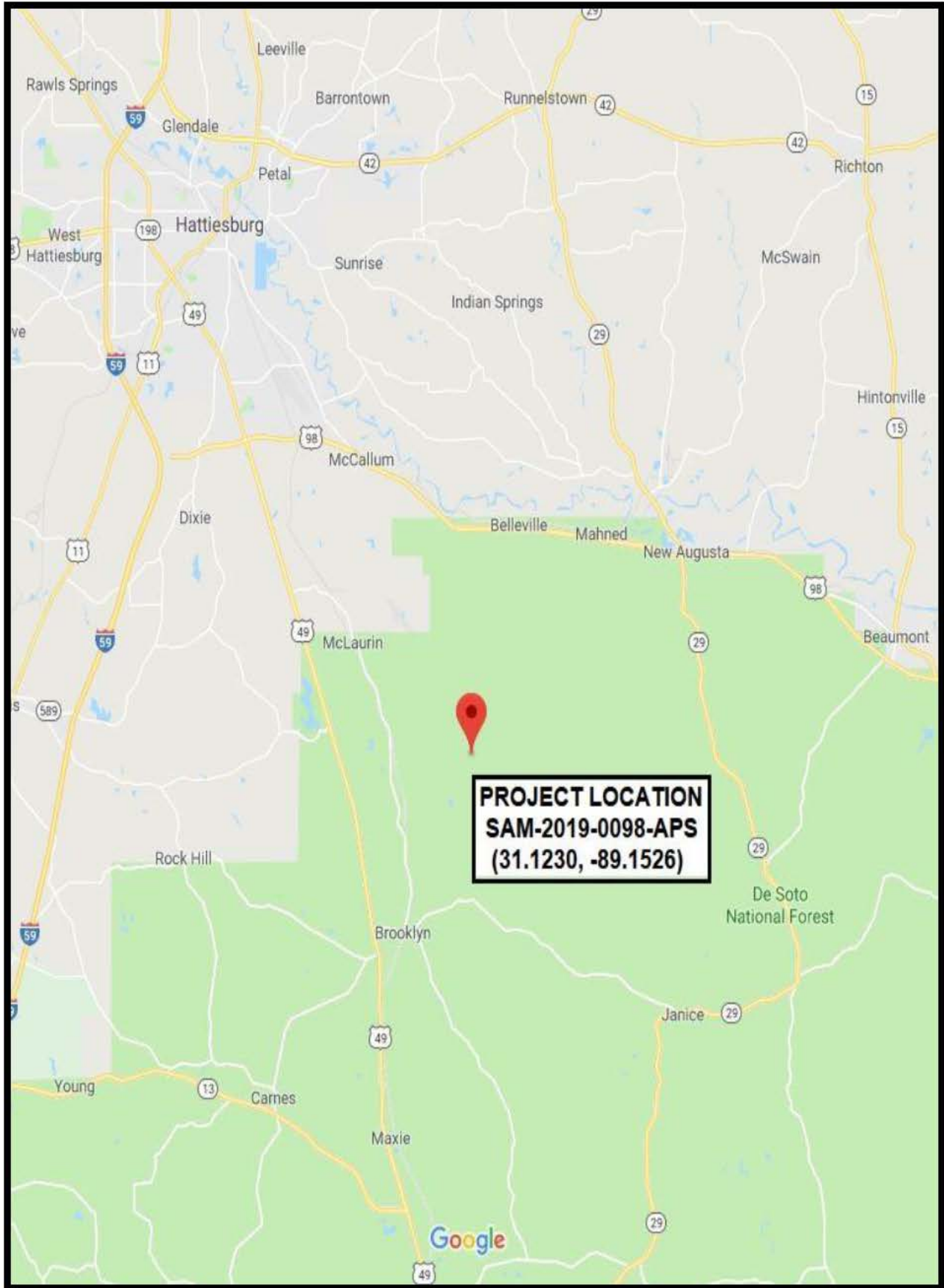
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2019-00098-APS**, and should be directed to USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Mrs. Amiee P. Smith, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001; with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permitting Division, Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225; and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), Wetland Permitting Division, Attention: Ms. Willa Brantley, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

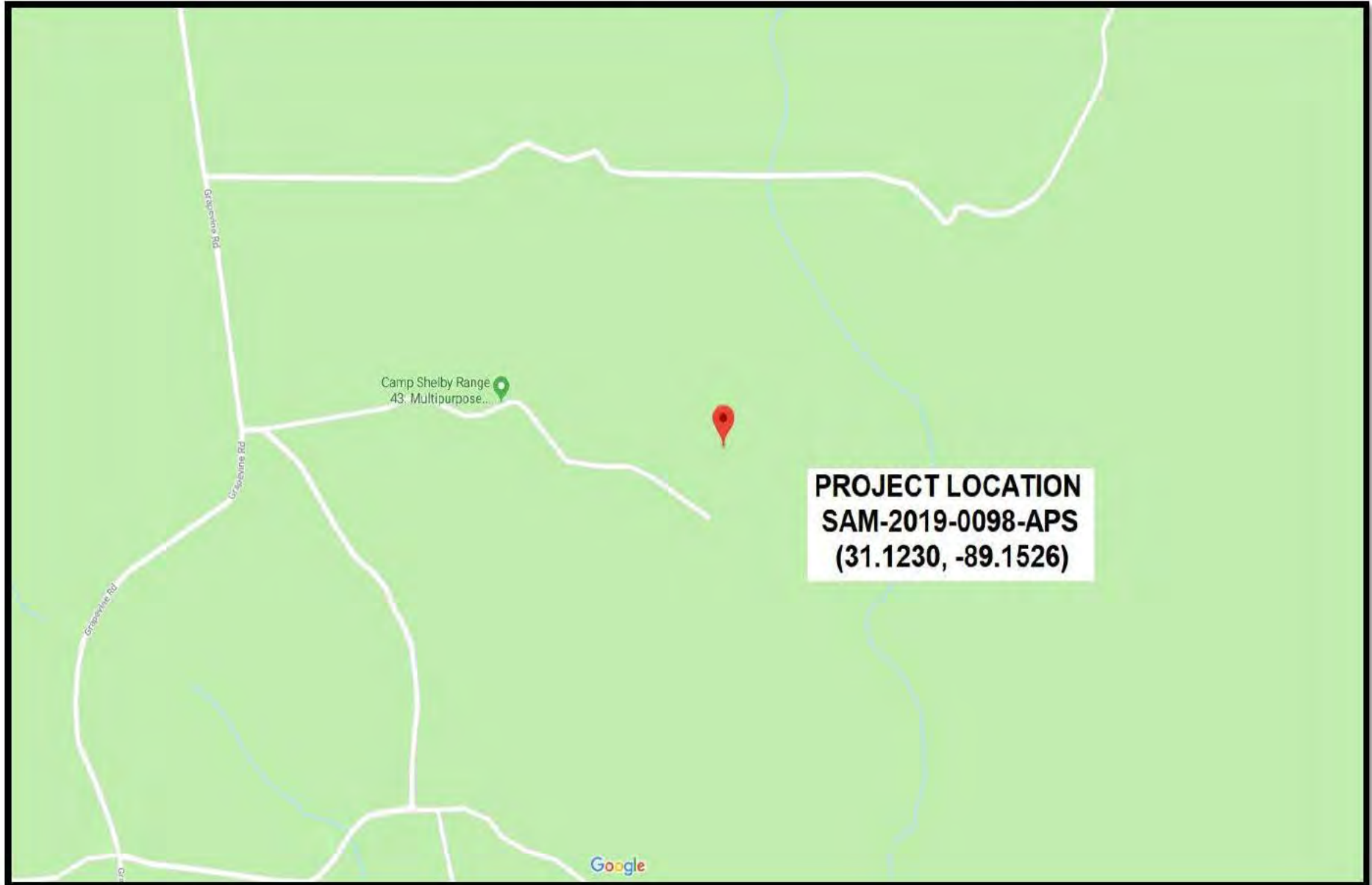
All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager, at (228) 523-4024 or email at Amiee.P.Smith@usace.army.mil. Please refer to Public Notice number SAM-2019-00098-APS when submitting comments.

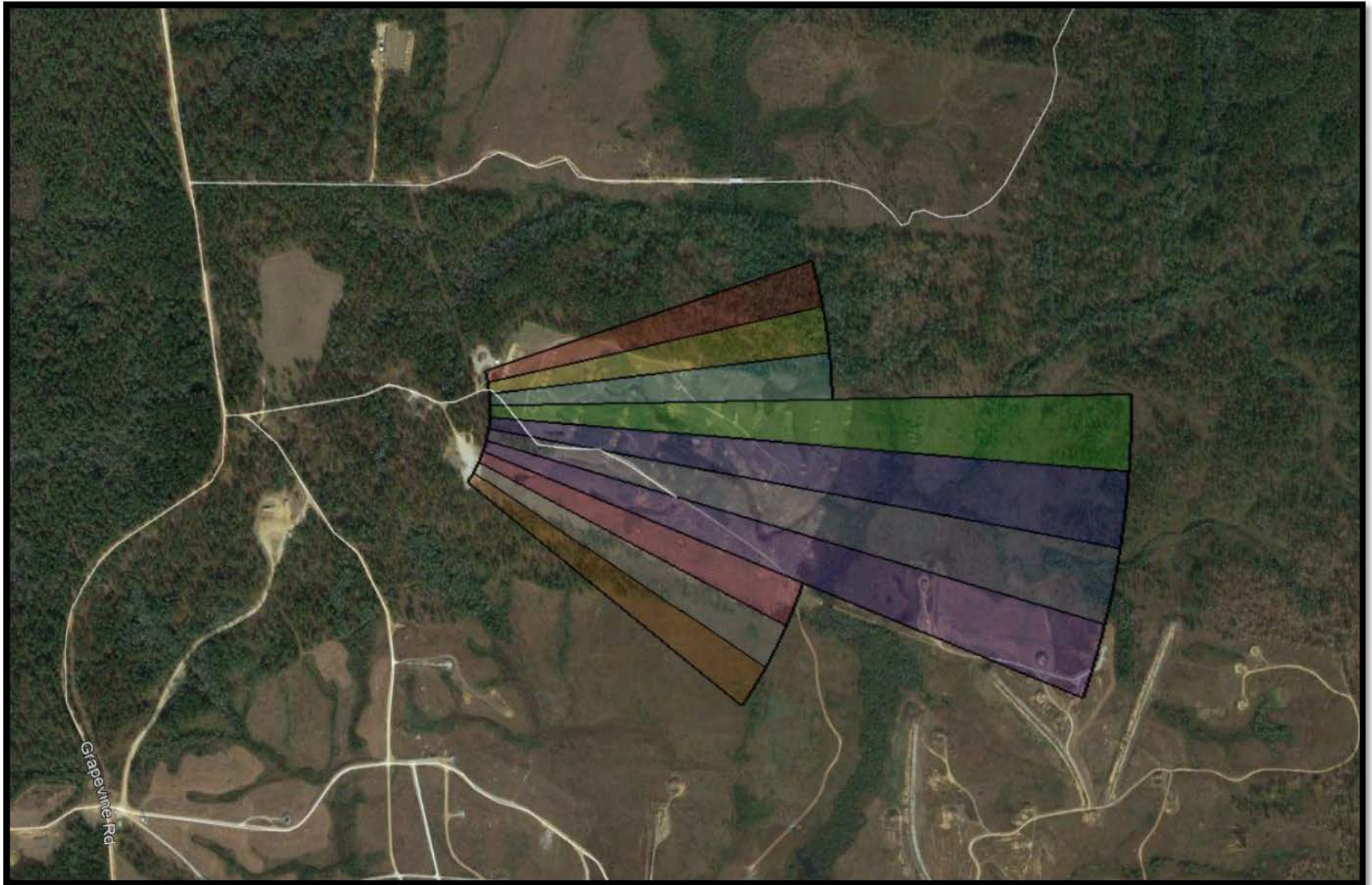
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

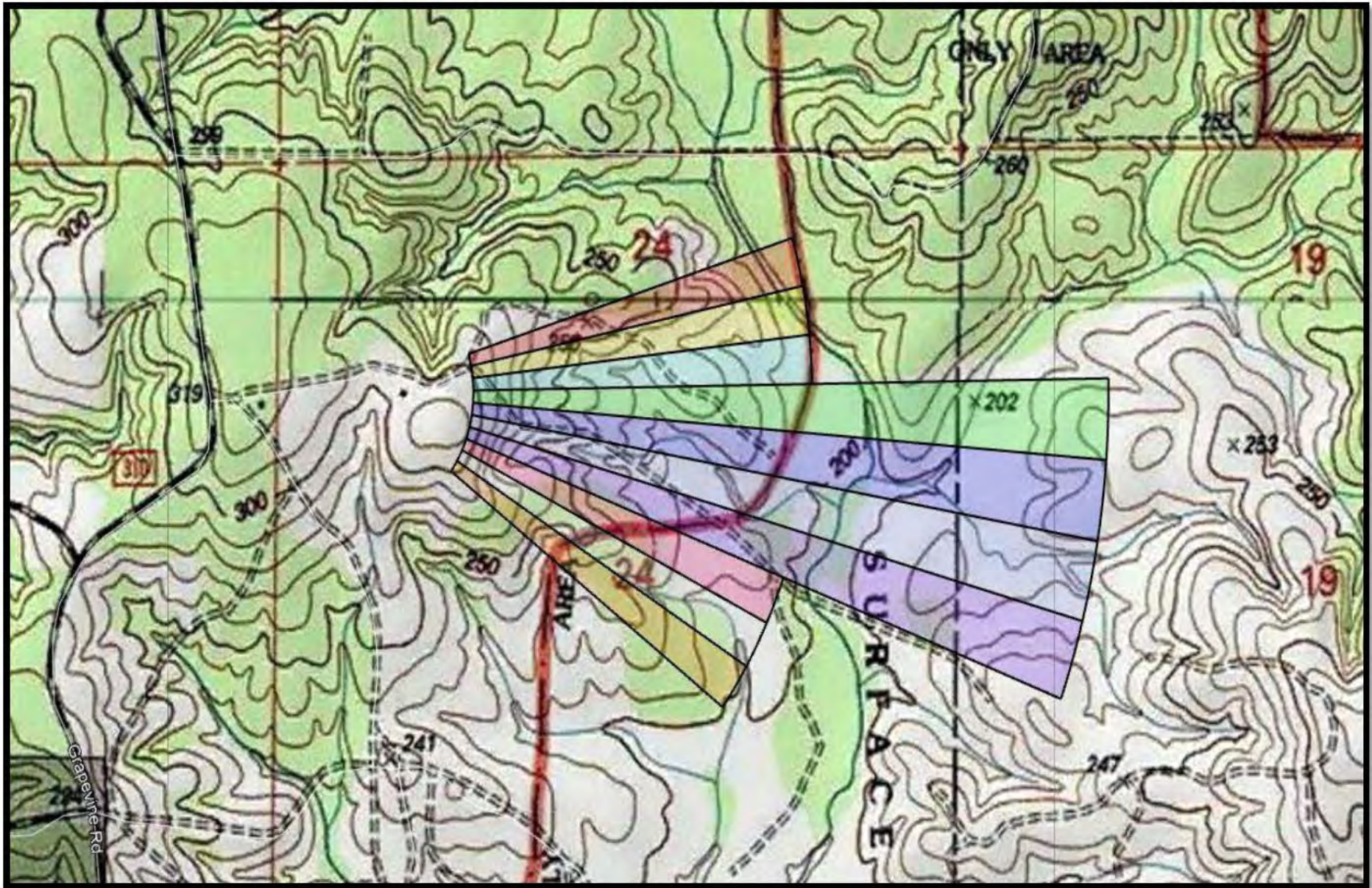
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

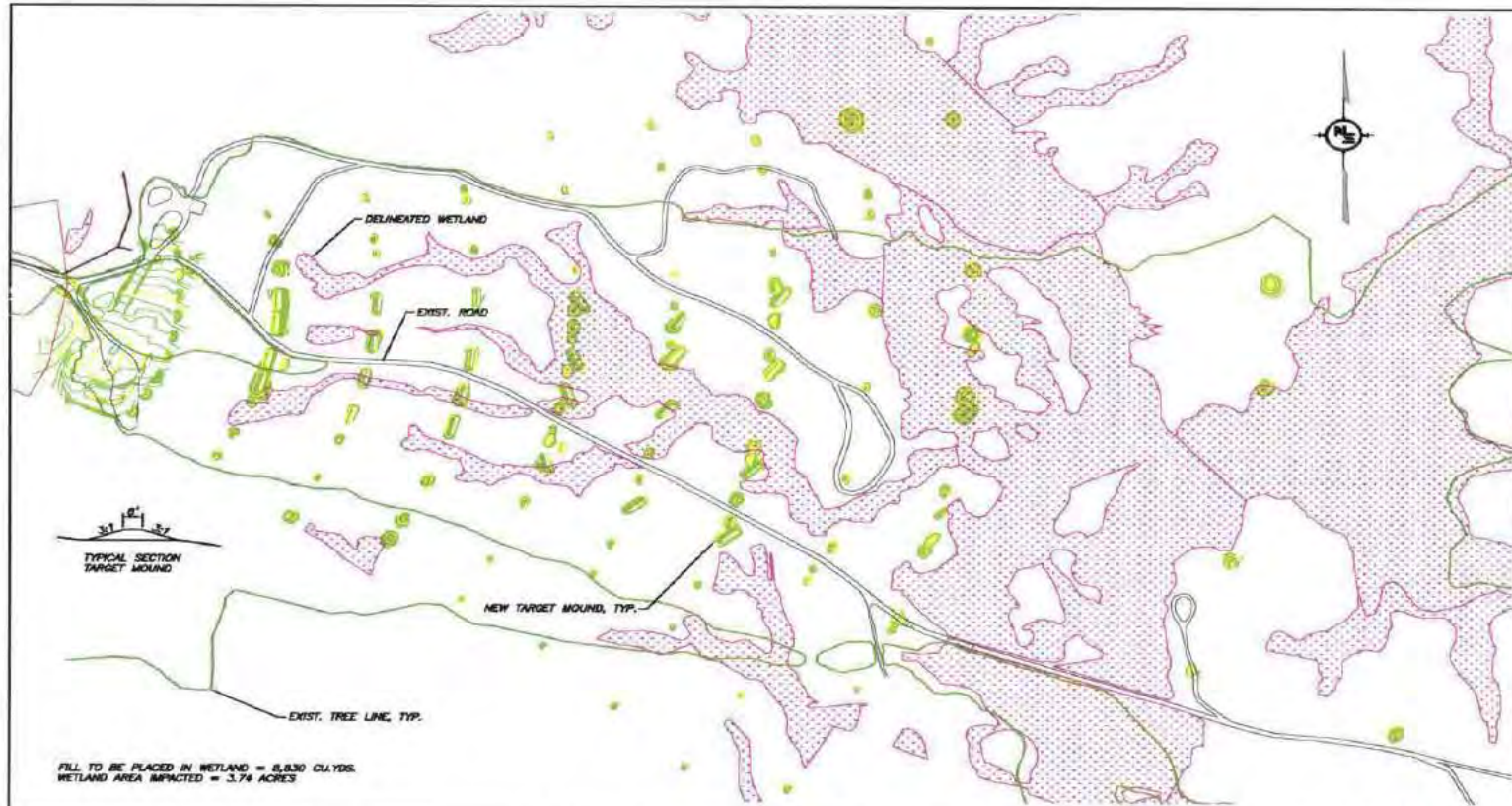
Enclosures











FILL TO BE PLACED IN WETLAND = 6,830 CUYDS.
 WETLAND AREA IMPACTED = 3.74 ACRES

NOTICE TO DRAWING HOLDER
 NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC., HERINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE ENGINEER HAS PREPARED AND FURNISHED THIS DRAWING TO THE OWNER FOR USE ON THIS PROJECT ONLY. THIS DRAWING SHOULD NOT BE USED ON EXTENSIONS OF THIS PROJECT OR ON ANY OTHER PROJECT. ANY REUSE OF THIS DRAWING, WITHOUT WRITTEN VERIFICATION OR ADAPTATION BY THE ENGINEER, SHALL BE AT THE USER'S SOLE RISK AND THE USER SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE ENGINEER FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY'S FEES ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING THEREFROM.



MSARNG - CAMP SHELBY
 MULTI-PURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE
 WETLAND IMPACTS

DRAWING INFORMATION	
N-S PROJECT NO.:	14754
FILENAME:	404 SHEET
SCALE:	1" = 500'
SURVEYED BY:	N/A
DSN:	GARVER DATE: 3/2018
DRN:	DAW DATE: 4/2018
CRD:	DATE:
QA/QC:	DATE: