

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT 600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203 THE SHELBY BUILDING VESTAVIA HILLS, ALABAMA 35216

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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2022-00482-JDC

May 16, 2022

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF DREDGED AND FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING CSXT ELMORE RAIL LINE SIDING IN ELMORE, ELMORE 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: CSX Transportation, Inc.

Attention: Matthew L. Adkins

1590 Marietta Boulevard Northwest

Atlanta, Georgia 30318 Matt Adkins@CSX.com

AGENT: Wood Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.

Attention: Stan Rudzinski 216 Centerview Drive

Brentwood, Tennessee 37027 stan.rudzinski@woodplc.com

LOCATION: The proposed project is located in wetlands in Elmore, Elmore County, Alabama. Specifically, the project is located within Sections 2, 12, and 13, Township 18 North, and Range 17 East. Center coordinates of the project are latitude 32.56177, longitude -86.32858. The project is located in the Upper Alabama 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC 03150201).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic project purpose is the expansion of the existing CSX Transportation (CSXT) Elmore Siding from Milepost 000 475.1 to Milepost 000 473.8.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is requesting authorization to discharge 2,100 cubic yards of permanent rock fill material into 0.74 acre of forested wetland "WTLD-2" in association with the construction of a new 6,600-foot-long segment

of railroad track to expand the existing CSXT Elmore Siding from Milepost 000 475.1 to Milepost 000 473.8. The project would also require the mechanical excavation of 3,600 cubic yards of structurally unsuitable material from the wetland prior to the permanent discharge of fill material. The excavated material would be disposed in a nearby upland Extra Material Placement Area (EMPA). The applicant is also requesting authorization for the temporary discharge of dredged and fill material into 1.27 acres of "WTLD-2", which would convert forested wetland habitat to scrub-shrub wetland via mechanized land clearing to facilitate equipment access and the placement of temporary construction mats and BMP materials. The 1.27-acre temporary impact area would be allowed to naturally revegetate following completion of project construction.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: According to the applicant, the original construction plan proposed to impact the intermittent stream along the southeast boundary of the project area. The project design was re-evaluated and modified to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S., which included avoiding the delineated intermittent stream. An alternate alignment of the project proposed expanding the existing CSXT Elmore Siding from Milepost 000 476.3 to Milepost 000 477.6. Anticipated impacts to waters of the U.S. for this alternative were estimated to be between 0.5 to 1.5 acres of permanent wetland fill and a minimum of two culverted stream crossings. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to purchase wetland credits from an approved mitigation bank.

The applicant will apply 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.

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 use 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 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.

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. The USACE has not made a determination of effects to historic properties at this time. Copies of this public notice are being distributed to the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized American Indian tribes, and the National Park Service, Division of Archaeological Services for review and comment.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Species indicates the following species have the potential to occur in the project watershed: wood stork, southern clubshell, and Alabama canebrake pitcher plant. An effects determination will be made during the evaluation process, at which time the USACE will initiate consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), if necessary. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the USFWS for review and comment.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2022-00482-JDC** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Birmingham Field Office, Attention: **Mr. Jevon Coleman**, 600 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 203, Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216, with a copy to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Office of Field Services, Attention: Mr. Richard Hulcher, Post Office Box

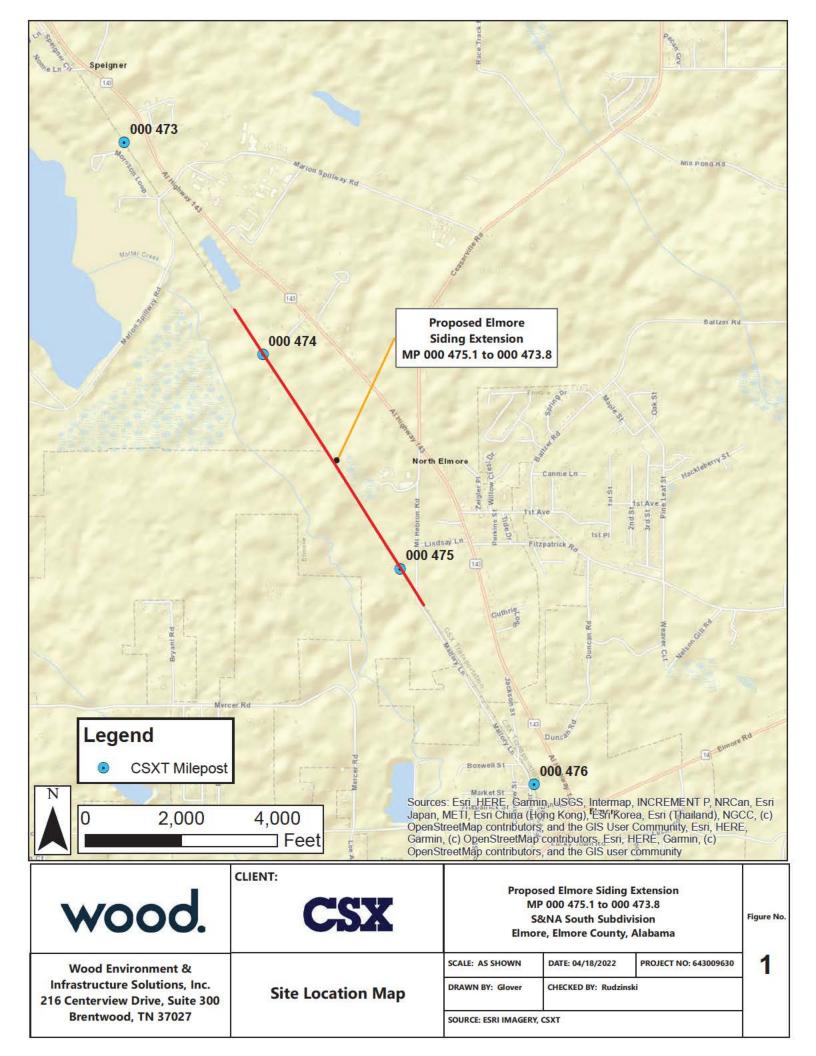
301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at **Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil** and to ADEM at **fieldmail@adem.alabama.gov**.

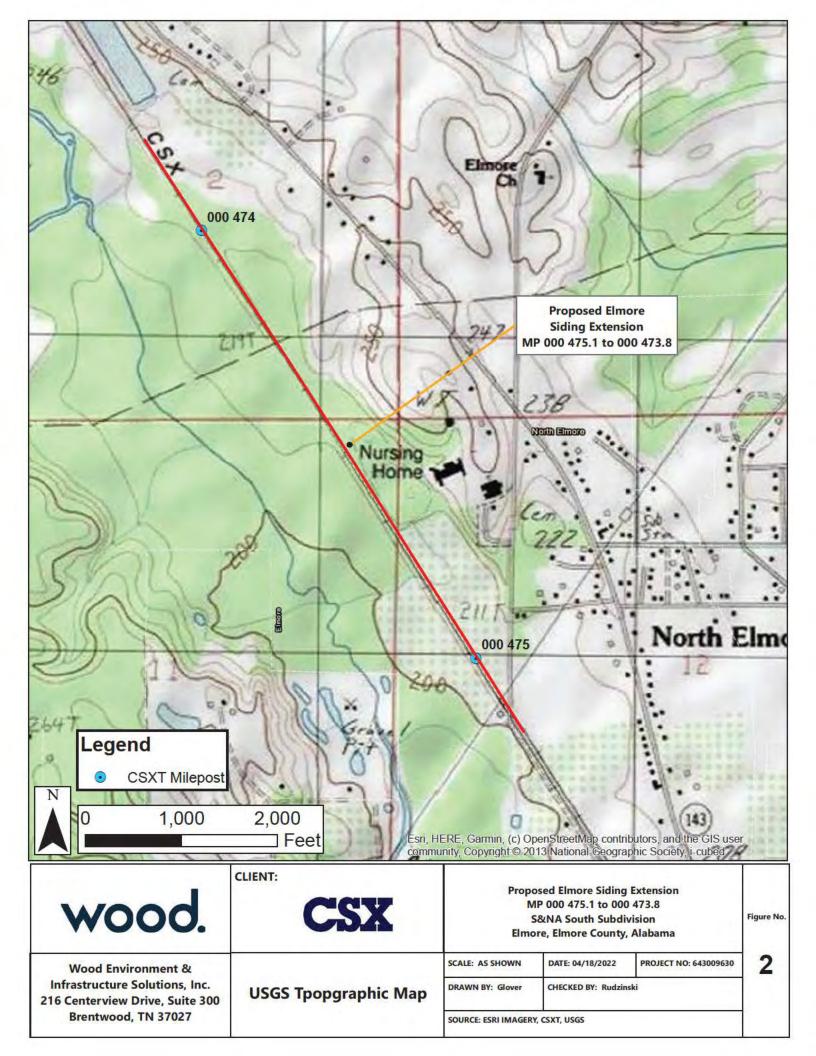
Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at **Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil** or telephone number **(205) 381-0741**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

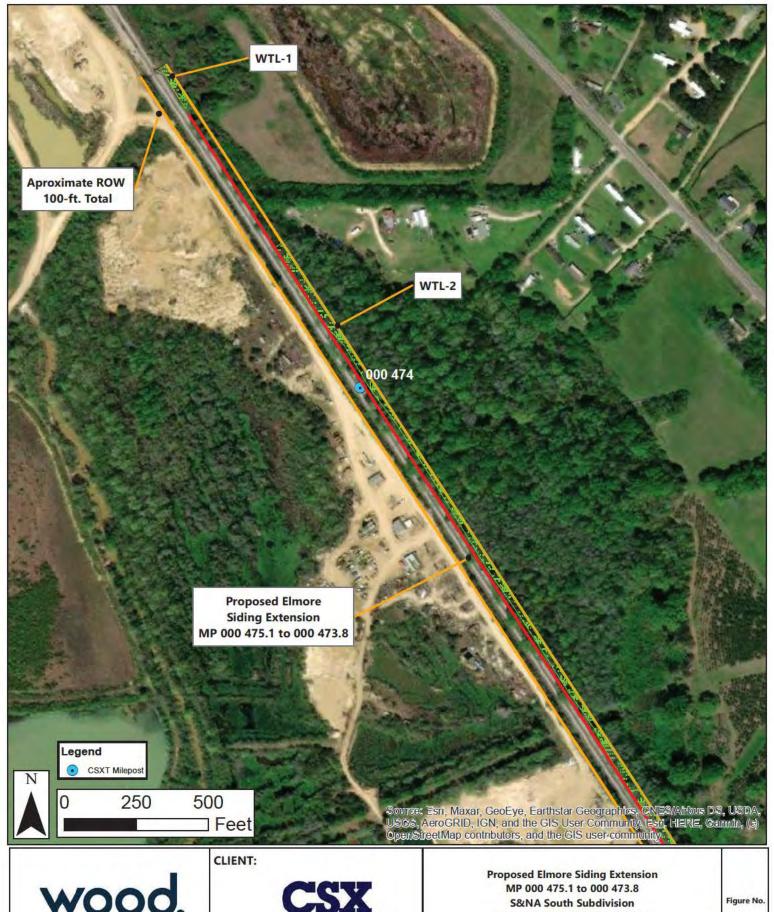
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments







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CSX

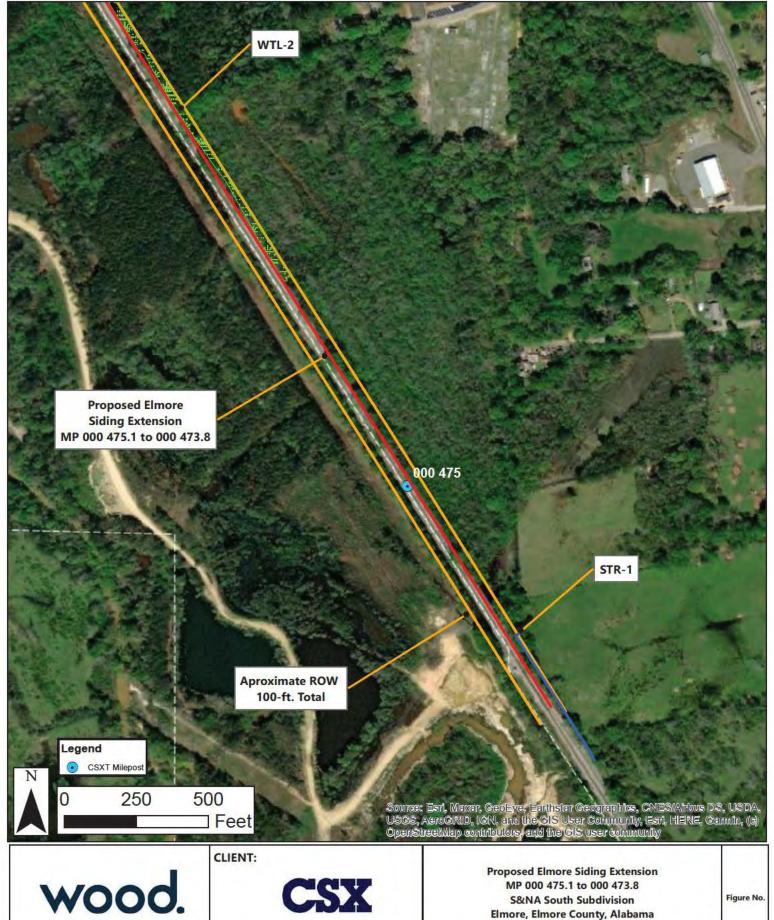
Elmore, Elmore County, Alabama

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. 216 Centerview Drive, Suite 300 Brentwood, TN 37027

FEMA Floodplain Map

SCALE: AS SHOWN PROJECT NO: 643009630 DATE: 04/18/2022 CHECKED BY: Rudzinski DRAWN BY: Glover SOURCE: ESRI IMAGERY, CSXT, FEMA

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