



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Ronald Howard
Stone County Board of
Supervisors

Published: August 7, 2025
Expires: September 8, 2025

Mobile District
Permit Application No. SAM-2024-00108-KMN
Joint Public Notice: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE),
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Office of
Pollution Control (MDEQ), and Mississippi Department of
Marine Resources (MDMR)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 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). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Ronald Howard
Stone County Board of Supervisors
Post Office Drawer 7
Wiggins, Mississippi 39577

AGENT: Billy Culpepper
Culpepper and Associates
Post Office Box 1407
Long Beach, Mississippi 39560

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect 9.32 acres of wetlands associated with Red Branch. The project/review area is located east of Highway 49, south of Inda Road, north of Price Road, with Old Highway 49 located within the site running north to south in Section 7, Township 3 South, Range 11 West; at Latitude 30.8 North and Longitude 89.12 West; Stone County, Mississippi.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The site is commonly referred to as Inda Industrial Park and is located on approximately 189.1 acres which contain approximately 119.6 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and approximately 400 linear feet of an un-named tributary (relatively permanent water) located in the northwest corner of the site. Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Railroad is located adjacent to the western boundary of the site and Red Branch is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. The property is currently wooded pine plantation and actively farmed land. The un-named tributary and Red Branch both flow in a southwestward direction into Red Creek. Property surrounding the site includes commercial, light industrial, low-density residential, and agricultural properties.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: The Corps has determined that the basic purpose of the project is to provide rail access to a proposed industrial park in Stone County, Mississippi.

Overall: The Corps has determined that the overall purpose of the project is to provide rail access to a proposed industrial park along an existing Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Railroad in Stone County, Mississippi.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to construct two rail spurs off an established Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Railroad line within a proposed industrial park. The two rail spurs would impact four (4) portions of a connected wetland system. The proposed rail spurs would access the site from the main railroad line at the northwestern boundary of the site which would be located south of the un-named tributary. One railroad spur would run southwest along the western side of the site and the second railroad spur would run east across Old Highway 49 and then south accessing the property on the eastern portion of the site.

The proposed project would support industrial development adjacent to the proposed rail spurs. Upon completion of the rail spur, industrial sites would be developed by currently unidentified clients. At this time future clients have not been identified; however, interested parties have contacted the county over the past seventeen years (17) and expressed interest in the project. Further development of the proposed industrial sites would require additional wetland impacts. The timing and scope of these potential wetland impacts are currently undetermined. While future impacts from development of the individual industrial sites have not been included in the current permit application, cumulative impacts were considered in the alternatives included with the application.

Several plan and cross-section drawings for the proposed project are included with this notice. (Complete project plans are available upon request.)

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: The applicant designed the project as proposed to avoid an un-named tributary located at the northwest corner of the project site. The applicant stated that alternative site designs were considered to determine the best use and least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment: The applicant has proposed the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank servicing the area to offset unavoidable impacts to 9.32 acres of wetlands.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties.

The applicant previously conducted a Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey and provided a copy to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). MDAH responded to the applicant on **June 12, 2024, under MDAH Project Log #05-124-24, Report #24-0156.**

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) FY25 **Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES)**, to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project will not affect the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Threatened), Wood Stork (Threatened), Dusky Gopher Frog (Endangered), Alligator Snapping turtle (Proposed Threatened), and Louisiana Quillwort (Endangered). The project may affect the Black Pine Snake (Threatened), and the Gopher Tortoise (Threatened). No critical habitat is listed within the action area.

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic

resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

EVALUATION: 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 benefits, 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 cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical 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, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps 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 Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

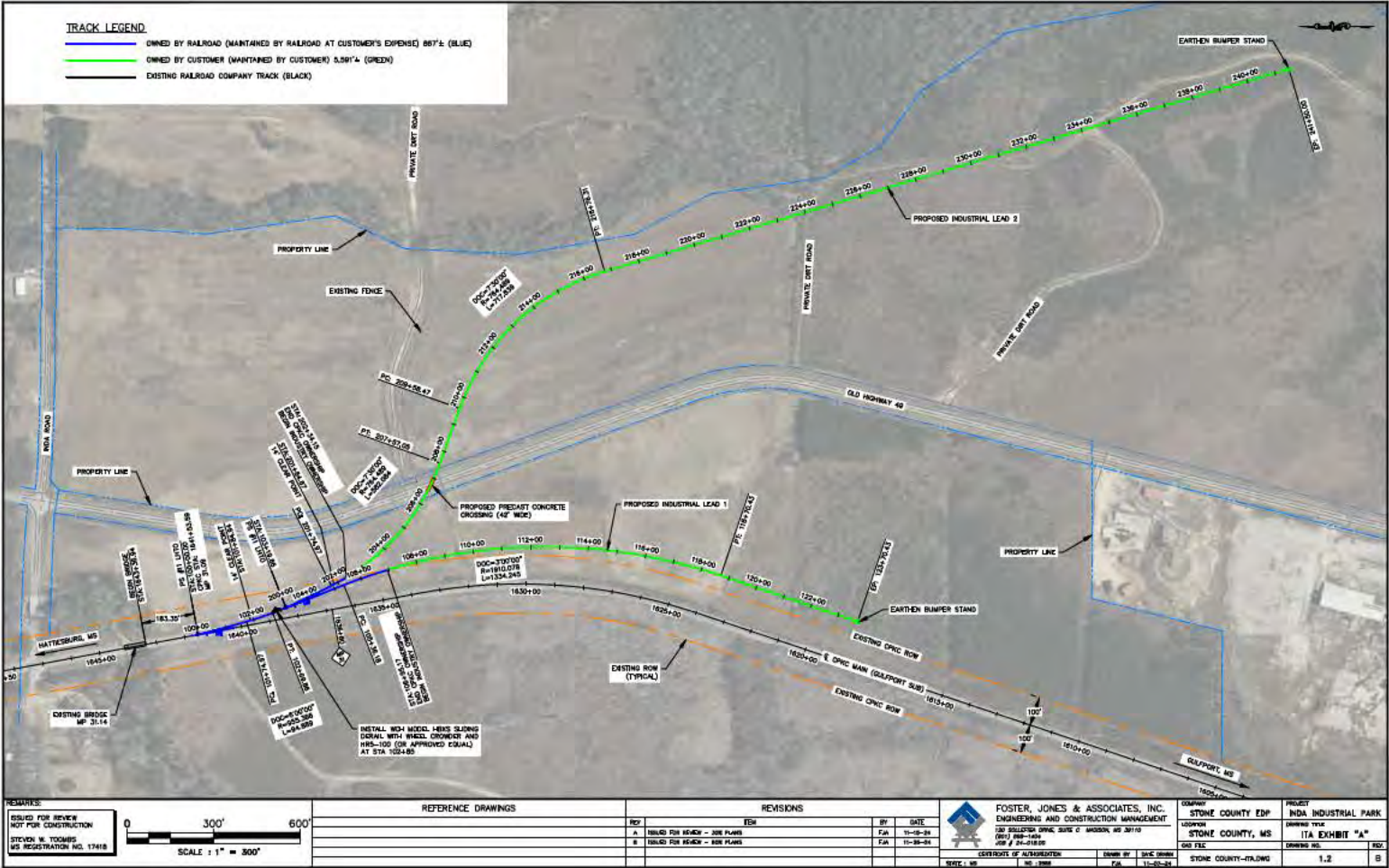
The Mobile District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until September 8, 2025. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to Kaaren Neumann at Kaaren.M.Neumann@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Attention: Kaaren Neumann, 100 Canal Street Mobile, Alabama 36602-1901. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings

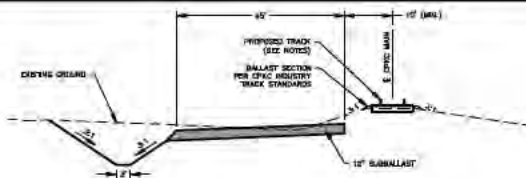
shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.



VICINITY MAP

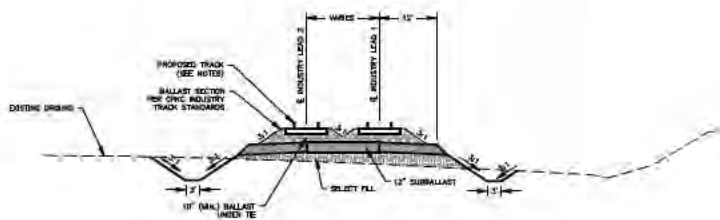


NOTES:
1. NEW TRACK SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED PER CNIC INDUSTRY TRACK SPECIFICATIONS HAVING 7'6"-8'6" ROAD TIES AND 110# OR LARGER RAIL.



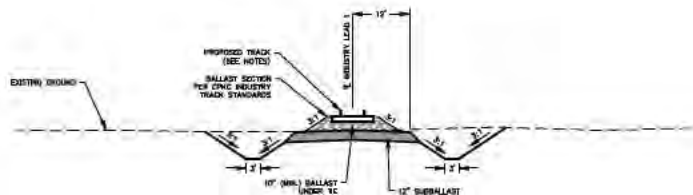
TYPICAL SECTION - SWITCH PAD

STA 100+00.00 - 102+44.38
SCALE: NONE



TYPICAL SECTION - INDUSTRY LEAD 1 AND 2

STA 102+44.38 - 103+88.87
SCALE: NONE

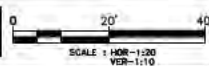


TYPICAL SECTION - INDUSTRY LEAD 1

STA 103+88.87 - 103+94.43
SCALE: NONE

REVISIONS

ISSUED FOR REVIEW
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
FOSTER & JONES
USE REGISTRATION NO. 17418



REFERENCE DRAWINGS

REV. DATE
A. 11-05-01
B. 11-05-01

REVISIONS

REV. DATE
A. 11-05-01
B. 11-05-01

FOSTER, JONES & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
100 BELLEVUE DRIVE, SUITE 200, WASHINGTON, DC 20007
(202) 898-1000
FAX (202) 898-1000

OWNER: STONE COUNTY EDI
PROJECT: INDIA INDUSTRIAL PARK
LOCATION: STONE COUNTY, MS
SHEET: 4.1
DRAWING NO.: 17418

