



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

Regional Planning and
Environmental Division South
Environmental Compliance Branch

January 31, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ALTER A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 U.S.C. SECTION 408

PUBLIC NOTICE/FILE NUMBER: 16-512, Hunt Telecommunications proposes to install a fiber optic cable beneath the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) just north of Bayou Terrebonne in Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana using horizontal directional drilling.

Interested parties are hereby notified that a request for permission to alter a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408) has been received and will be evaluated by the New Orleans District. Written comments, including any objections to the proposed alteration, stating reasons therefore, are being solicited from anyone having an interest in the requested alteration. Comments must be mailed or emailed by or before the last day of the comment period and must reference the file number of this public notice. Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the decision on the request. See below for contact information and address. The proposed action could alter the following federal project: Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

COMMENT PERIOD EXPIRES: February 15, 2017

REQUESTED ALTERATION: Hunt Telecommunications proposes to horizontally bore a fiber optic cable (cable) encased in a 1 ¼-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit beneath the GIWW in Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. The cable would be placed at a minimum depth of 10 feet below the water bottom of the GIWW.

The attached figures provide the location and details of the proposed project as it relates to the GIWW.

REQUESTER: Hunt Telecommunications, LLC, 106 Metairie Lawn Dr., Suite 200, Metairie, Louisiana 70094

PERMISSION AUTHORITY: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any USACE civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 USC

408 ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hunt Telecommunications proposes to horizontally bore a fiber optic cable encased in a 1 ¼-inch HDPE conduit beneath the GIWW in Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. The cable would begin in Thibodaux, Louisiana and terminate in Houma, Louisiana; however the Section 408 evaluation is only conducted on the portion of the project that is within USACE project boundaries at the GIWW. The cable's depth would be at a minimum of 42 inches below ground surface until it reaches the GIWW. Hunt Telecommunications has submitted an application for a Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permit to the USACE Regulatory Branch for the proposed action. That evaluation (MVN-2016-00512-CA) will be a separate process from the evaluation of the request for permission to alter a USACE project. This Public Notice solicits comments only on the proposed alteration of the USACE project.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The fiber optic cable would be located beneath the GIWW near Latitude 29°35'57.25"N and Longitude 90°42'36.97"W. The west cable tie-in pit is located near Latitude 29°35'57.36"N and Longitude 90°42'37.43"W and the east cable tie-in pit is located near Latitude 29°35'57.15"N and Longitude 90°42'35.17"W in Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Both tie-in pits are located outside of the GIWW project boundary.

WRITTEN COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED TO:

Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
CEMVN-PDC
ATTN: Joseph Musso
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

WRITTEN COMMENTS MAY BE EMAILED TO: joseph.r.musso@usace.army.mil

ALL comments must contain the full name and address of the individual commenting and must be received by the USACE by the expiration of the public notice period.

EVALUATION: This request will be reviewed pursuant to Section 408 and USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-216, which provides policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter USACE civil works projects.

The decision whether to grant permission for the requested alteration will be based on several factors. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of

the requests for modification will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

- 1) Potential to Impair the Usefulness of the Project. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine whether the alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. If USACE determines that the usefulness of the authorized project would be impaired, the request will be denied.
- 2) Potential to be Injurious to the Public Interest. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks. If the potential detriments are found to outweigh the potential benefits, then it may be determined that the proposed alteration is injurious to the public interest.
- 3) Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a Federal action and is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. USACE is preparing an Environmental Assessment to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed alteration on important resources. Comments received on this public notice will be used in the evaluation. The EA will not be published for public comment as this notice fulfills NEPA requirements for public participation. Any comments regarding the proposed alteration should be submitted during the current public comment period.

While ensuring environmental compliance is the responsibility of USACE, the requester is responsible for providing all information that USACE identifies as necessary. Environmental compliance factors that will be considered in this evaluation include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) directs all Federal agencies to insure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry-out does not jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species including adverse modification of their critical habitat. To facilitate efficient Section 7 ESA consultation for actions authorized under the Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, as well as Section 10 of the Rivers

and Harbors Act of 1899, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Ecological Field Services Office (USFWS) developed Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES) which became effective on October 22, 2014. This process (SLOPES) was expanded, with minor modifications, to include USACE review of Section 408 permission requests on June 13, 2016. Under the provisions of the SLOPES agreement, a determination of "no effect" to listed species and critical habitat is appropriate for the proposed Section 408 action. No further coordination under Section 7 of the ESA act is necessary.

- b. The requester will be required to provide proof of compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Department of Environmental Quality.
- c. Compliance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act will be evaluated through a separate USACE permit review process. EC 1165-2-216 specifies that the Section 408 request must be evaluated independent of the above referenced USACE permit evaluations.
- d. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the USACE is required to take into account the effects of any permitted action to historic properties, which includes both archaeological resources on the surface or below ground, as well as historic buildings and structures that are listed in or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If determined necessary, the USACE will also consult with Indian Tribes in accordance with Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the NHPA, the USACE Tribal Consultation Policy, and Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments."

All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project. The review will consider the potential impact to the usefulness of the Federal project and whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest. Policy and legal compliance will also be considered.

USACE is soliciting comments from interested parties to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed alteration. Comments will be considered to assess impacts on the public interest factors listed above, as well as endangered species, historic properties, water quality, and general environmental effects. Comments will be used for environmental compliance coordination as required by NEPA.

COORDINATION: This public notice will be coordinated with the relevant State, Federal and Tribal entities as appropriate.

Issuance of this notice does not imply Corps of Engineers endorsement of the project as described.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Musso by telephone at 504-862-2280 or via email at joseph.r.musso@usace.army.mil.

FOR THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:



Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch

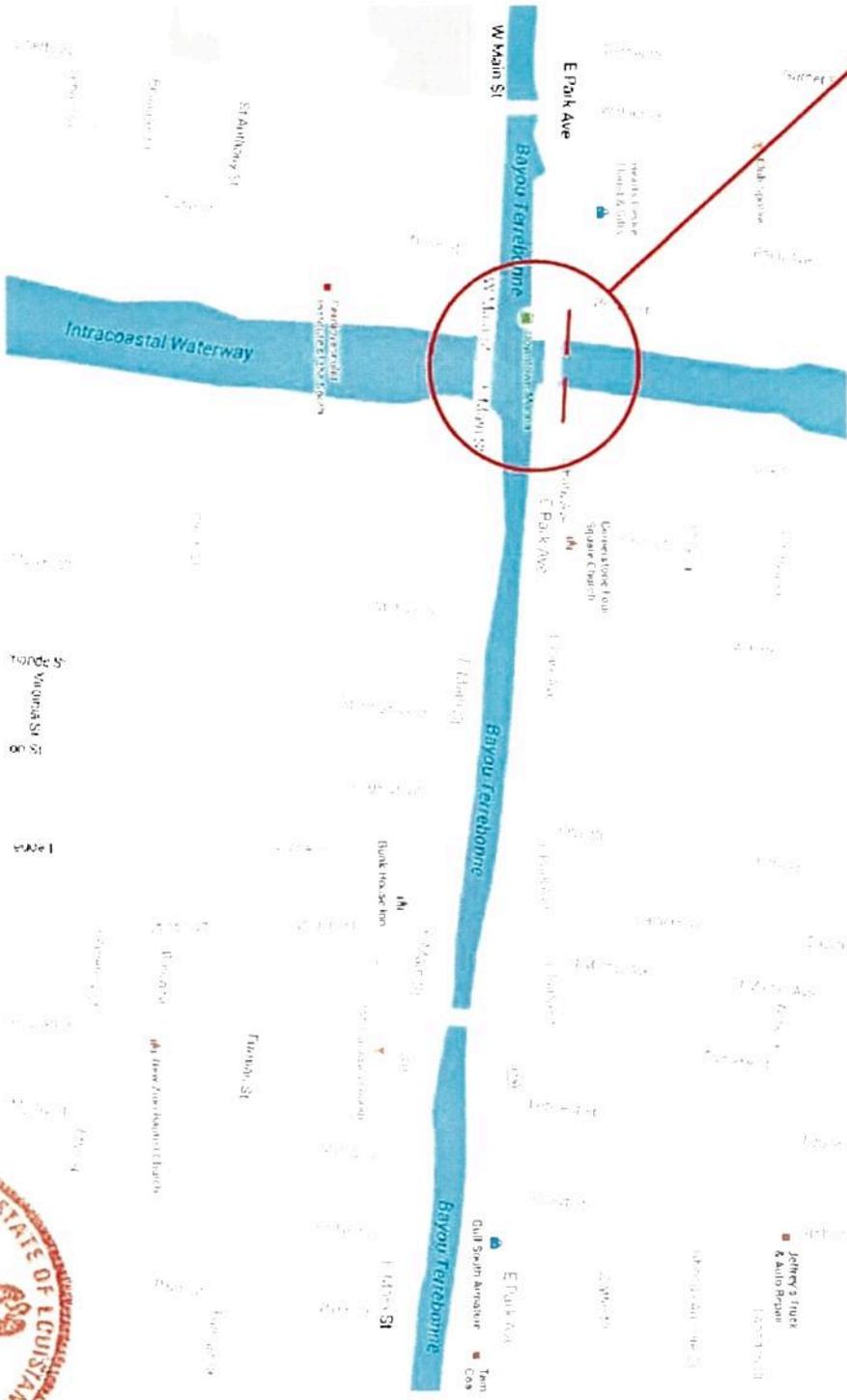
Enclosures



HUNT TELECOM

www.hunttelecom.com

JOB SITE



BURIED FIBER OPTIC CABLE



VICINITY MAP INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY CROSSING TERREBONNE PARISH

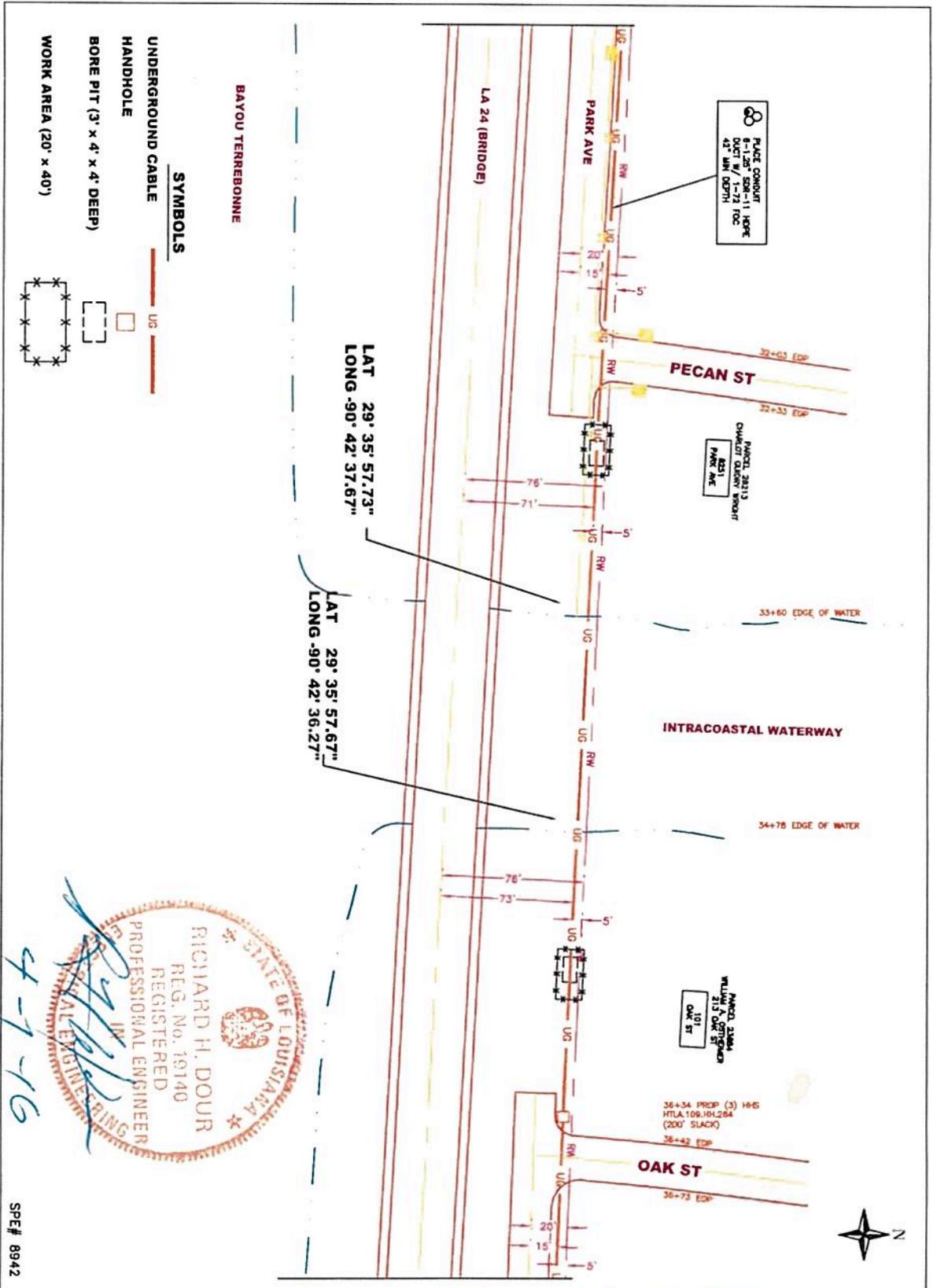
SCALE 1" = 600'

LAT 29° 35' 57.70"

LONG -90° 42' 36.97"



REV
SP# 8942



INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY PERMIT

HOUMA, LA
TERREBONNE PARISH

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE: ALL WORK SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERMIT CONDITIONS AND THE SPECIFICATIONS. ALL 8 1/2" SIGNS IN APPROVED AND SHOULD BE FIELD VERIFIED PRIOR TO START OF CONSTRUCTION.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
811
72 HOURS NOTICE REQUIRED

DATE: 2/29/18
DESIGNER: T. BOUQUÉ
DRAWN BY: MILDENHALL

REVISIONS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
2/29/18	GENERAL	BT

SCALE
HORIZONTAL: 1"=50'
VERTICAL: 1"=50'

SHEET 1 OF 2



www.hunttelecom.com

STATE OF LOUISIANA
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
RICHARD H. DOUR
REG. No. 19140

4-7-16

SPE# 8942

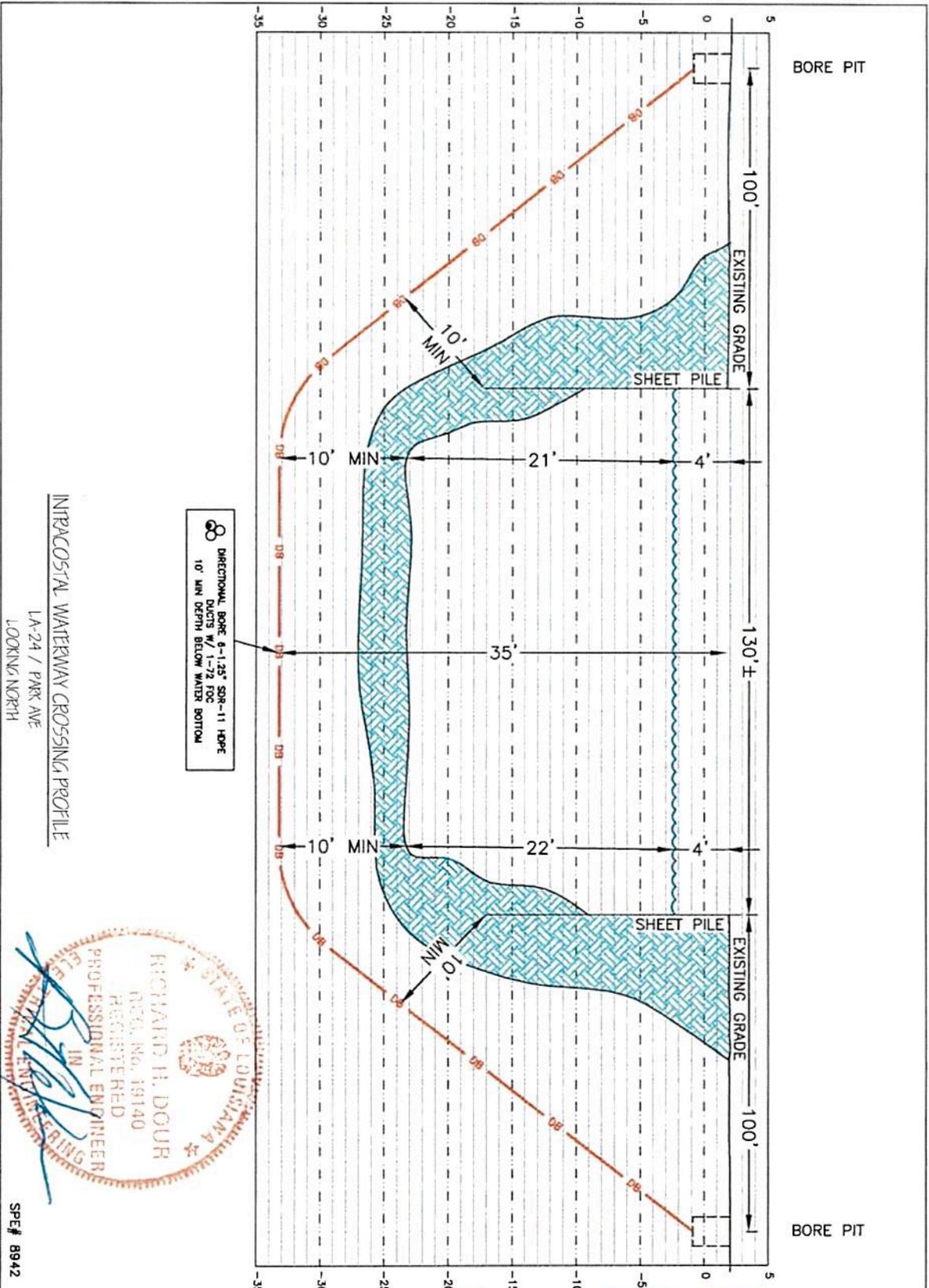
SYMBOLS

UNDERGROUND CABLE — UG —

HANDHOLE □

BORE PIT (3' x 4' x 4' DEEP) □

WORK AREA (20' x 40') □



HUNT TELECOM
www.hunttelecom.com

HOUMA, LA
TERREBOONNE PARISH

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY PERMIT

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
72 HOURS NOTICE REQUIRED

DATE: 2/5/18
DESIGNER: T. BOURQUE
DRAWN BY: WALTERKILIA

REVISIONS:

DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
2/7/18	GENERAL	BT

DESIGNER AS PER THE GENERAL PROVISIONS, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND AGENCIES. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND AGENCIES. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND AGENCIES.


 DIRECTORIAL BORE & 1.25" SD8-11 HDPE
 DUCTS W/ 1"-72 FOC
 10' MIN DEPTH BELOW WATER BOTTOM

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY CROSSING PROFILE
 LA-24 / PARK AVE
 LOOKING NORTH



SPE# 8942

SCALE
 HORIZONTAL: 1"=40'
 VERTICAL: 1"=10'
 SHEET 2 OF 2