



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P. O. BOX 60267

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

April 7, 2014

REPLY TO

ATTENTION OF:

Operations Division
Western Evaluation Section
Project Manager
James W. Little, Jr.
(225) 342-3099 / fax: (225) 342-9439
james.little@usace.army.mil
Permit Application Number:
MVN-2006-02221-WII

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

HENDERSON LAKE DRAWDOWN IN ST. MARTIN PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: ST. MARTIN GOVERNMENT, c/o Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Atchafalaya Basin Program, Attn: Mr. Don Haydel, P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804.

LOCATION OF WORK: At 30.25164 N, -91.72463 W, on Henderson Lake, within the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway, east of Henderson, Louisiana, in St. Martin Parish, as shown on the attached drawings. The proposed project is in Hydrologic Unit Code 08080101 – Atchafalaya Basin Watershed.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Draw down surface water elevations within Henderson Lake. Water level reductions are to be accomplished through operating the lake's water control structure. The operational plan is designed for a gradual lowering of lake levels by 2 to 4 inches per day until reaching the target elevation of a minimum +6'/maximum +7'. The proposed drawdown would be for three (3) months each year between approximately August 1 through October 31 to facilitate an effective noxious aquatic weed treatment program. A reduction in vegetation coverage is critical to improving habitat for various fish and wildlife communities, as well as providing navigation for recreational and commercial interest. Sufficient draft for safe marine vessel travel within the lake's established channels should be maintained throughout the drawdown period. The proposed drawdown would occur on an annual basis from 2014 through 2019.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit will close **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and must be submitted so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing, faxing, or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

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, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, 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 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.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, pre-historical, historical sites, or data. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to

cultural resources.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction or alteration of **N/A** acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

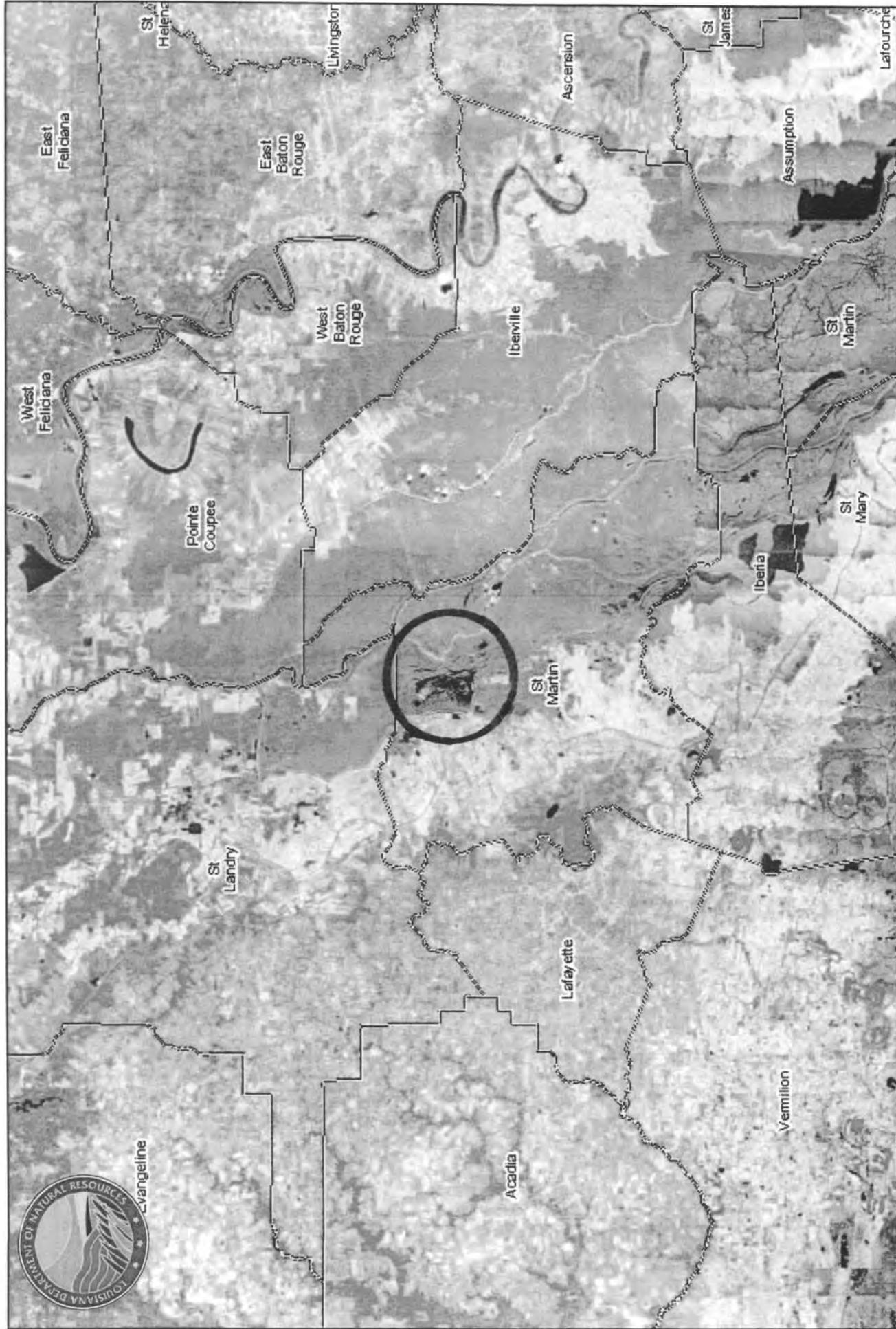
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, before a permit is issued.

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.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Darrell S. Barbara
Chief, Western Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



Henderson Lake Area Map

Absolute Scale: 1:612,745

Relative Scale: 1 inch = 51,062 feet



Disclaimer: This data is not to be used for legal purposes.

Date: 2/3/2014



Henderson Lake and Structure

0 0.9 1.8 Absolute Scale: 1:114,379

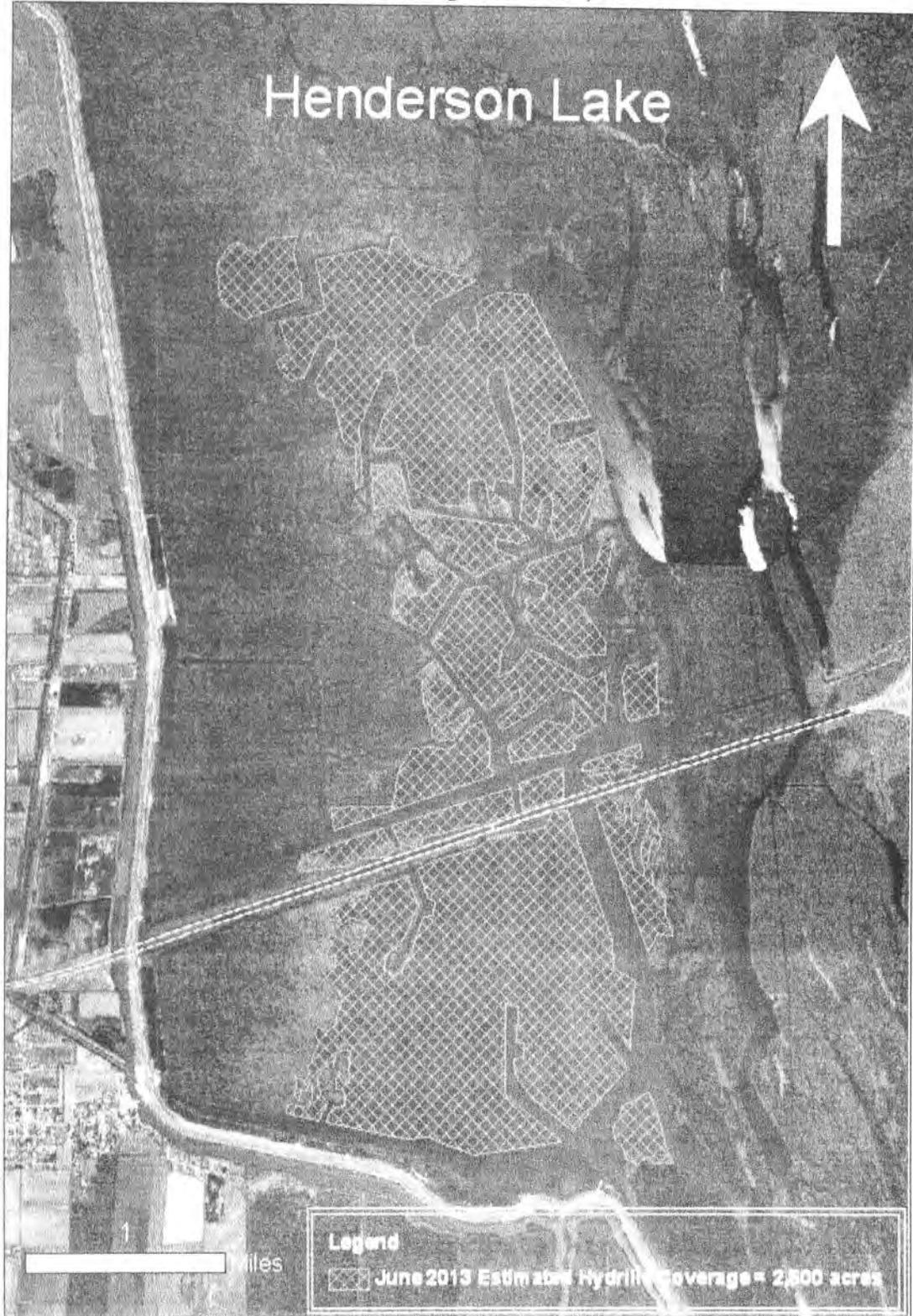
mi Relative Scale: 1 inch = 9,532 feet

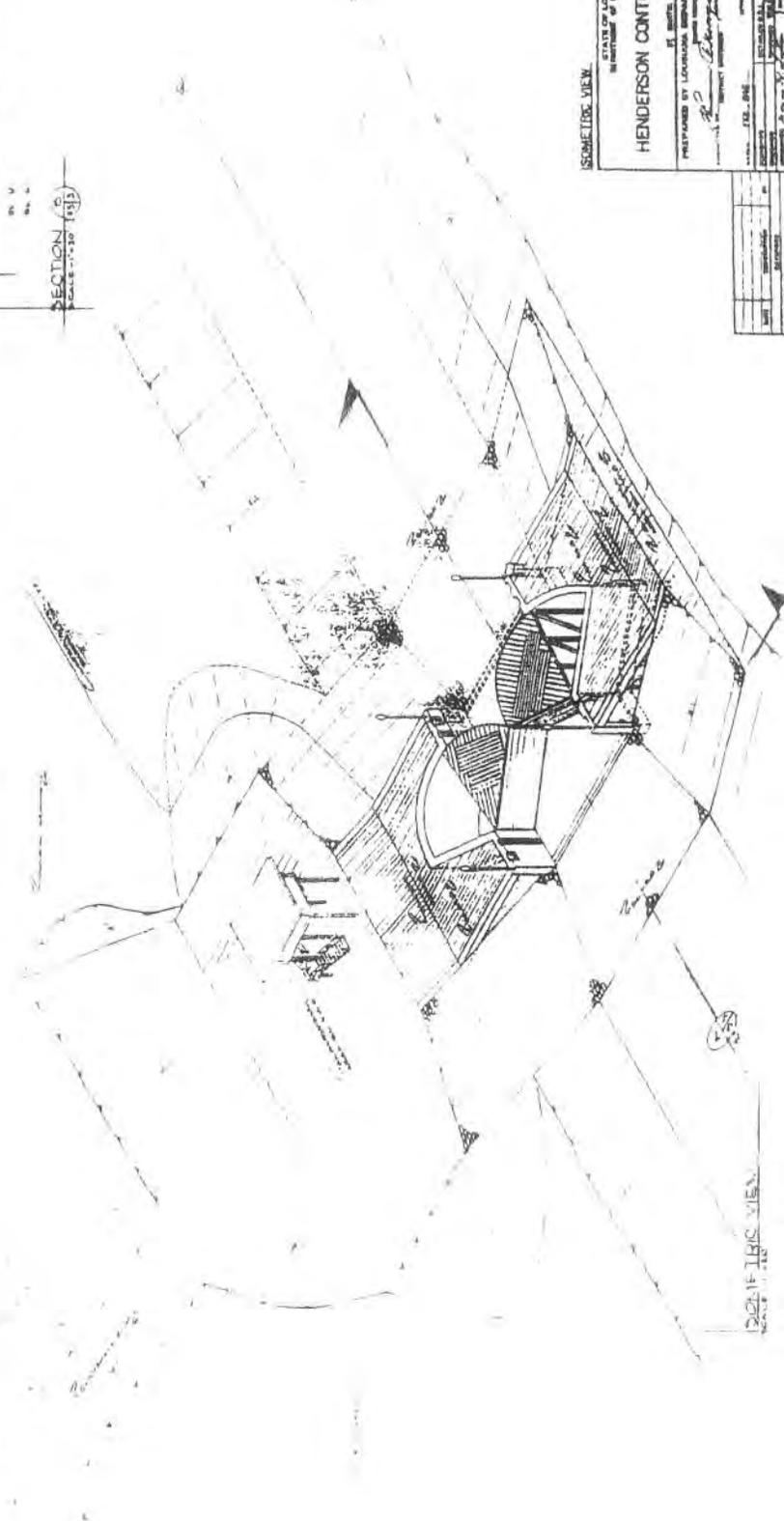
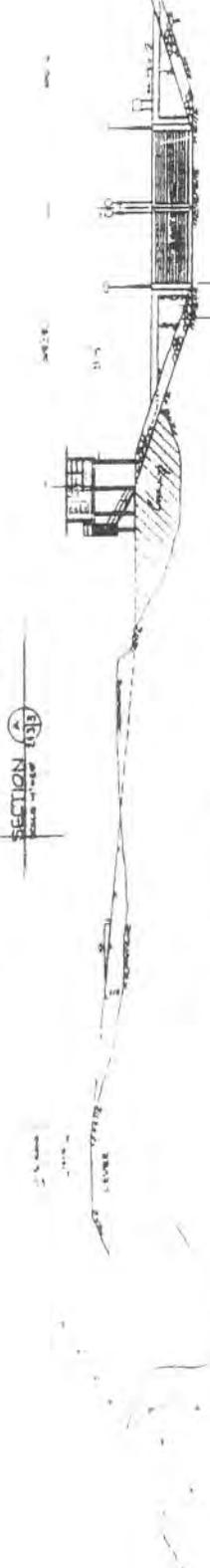
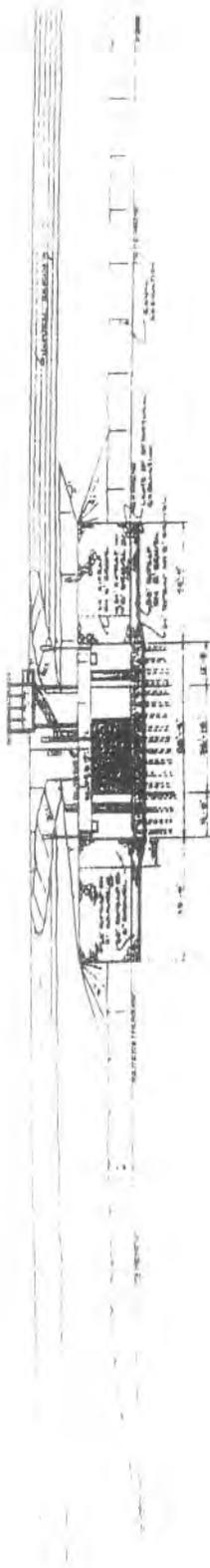
Disclaimer: This data is not to be used for legal purposes.

Date: 2/3/2014



Map 1. Henderson Lake hydrilla coverage as of June, 2013.





ISOMETRIC VIEW
STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
HENDERSON CONTROL STRUCTURE
BY E. BARTLE JAMES
PREPARED BY LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DESIGNED BY E. BARTLE JAMES
DRAWN BY E. BARTLE JAMES
CHECKED BY E. BARTLE JAMES
APPROVED BY E. BARTLE JAMES
DATE 10-1-30

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|-----|------|----------|
| NO. | DATE | REVISION |
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SECTION 1315
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"