

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

March 31, 2014

United States Army  
Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Regulatory Branch  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Certification Section  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2675  
Project Manager  
Jamie Crowe  
Jamie.M.Crowe@usace.army.mil  
Permit Application Number  
MVN 2013-2774 CO

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager  
Elizabeth Johnson  
  
WQC Application Number  
WQC 140327-02

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 [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## **HYDROCHLORIC ACID CHEMICAL TERMINAL IN ASCENSION PARISH**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Reagent Chemical and Research, Inc., c/o Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, 5554 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, in the Lake Maurepas hydrologic unit (HUC 08070204), Section 50, Township 9S, Range 2E; on Louisiana Highway 30, approximately 3.1 miles west of its intersection with Interstate 10, near Geismar, Louisiana, in Ascension Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant has requested authorization to clear, grade, and fill a 35-acre tract to construct an access road, rail yard and appurtenant structures to construct a 4 million-gallon hydrochloric acid chemical terminal. A proposed 6-inch pipeline will be installed to deliver hydrochloric acid to the proposed terminal, where it will be stored in one of the 8 proposed storage sites for loading and blending. The proposed facility will tie into existing rail infrastructure and include 26 railcar loading

spots and storage for over 200 rail cars. Truck loading will also be available from 2 truck loading stations with 8 de-pressure stations. Approximately 5,000 cubic yards of native material will be redistributed on-site. An additional 50,500 cubic yards of hauled-in fill material will be deposited on-site. Approximately 6.25 acres of forested wetland will be directly impacted by the proposed activity. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts the applicant proposes to purchase wetland credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank located in the watershed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC 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/or this WQC request and must be mailed, 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 mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing 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. Letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

### **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, prehistorical, 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 would 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, Office of Environmental Services, 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.

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John M. Herman  
Chief, Central Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

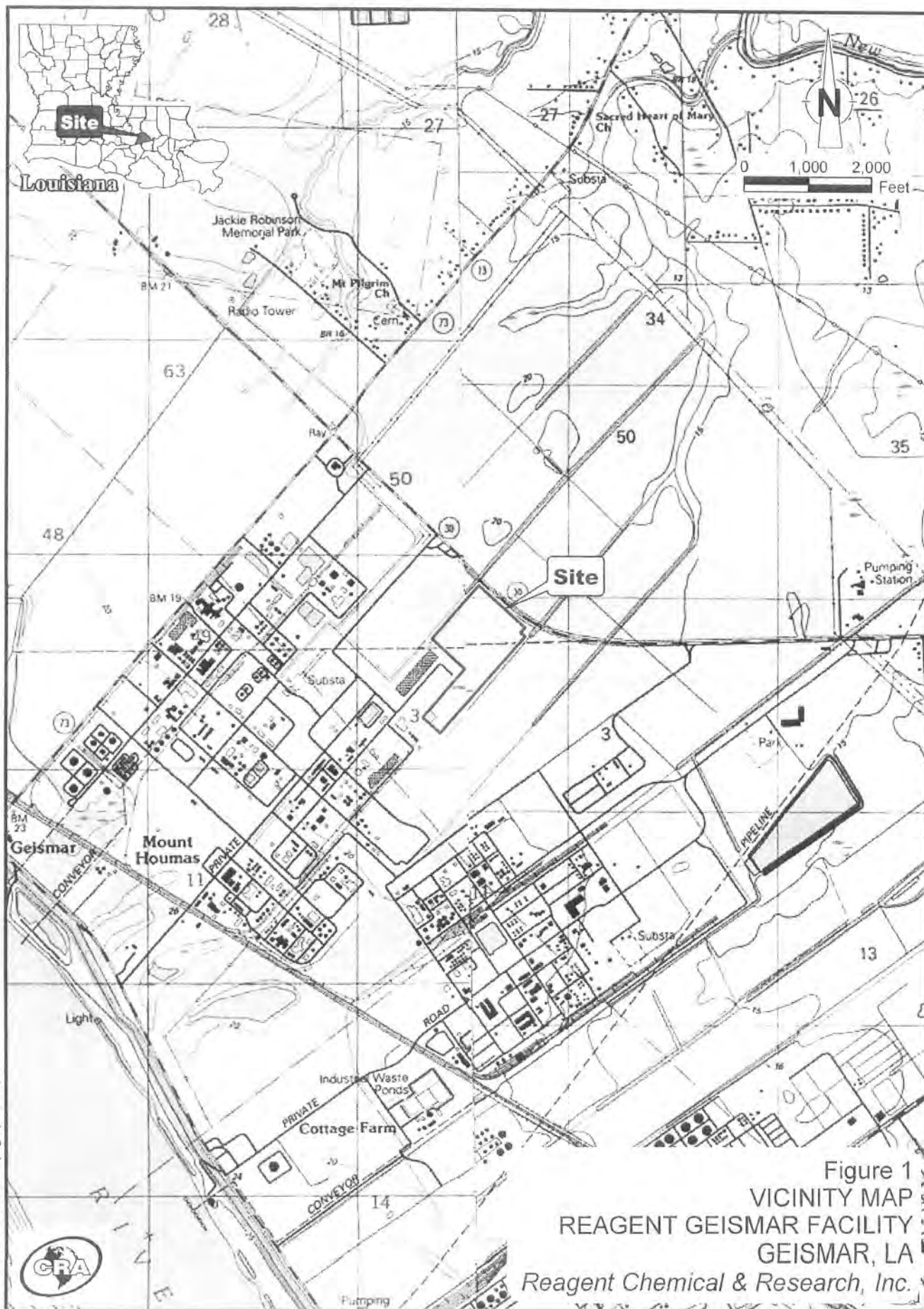


Figure 1  
VICINITY MAP  
REAGENT GEISMAR FACILITY  
GEISMAR, LA  
*Reagent Chemical & Research, Inc.*

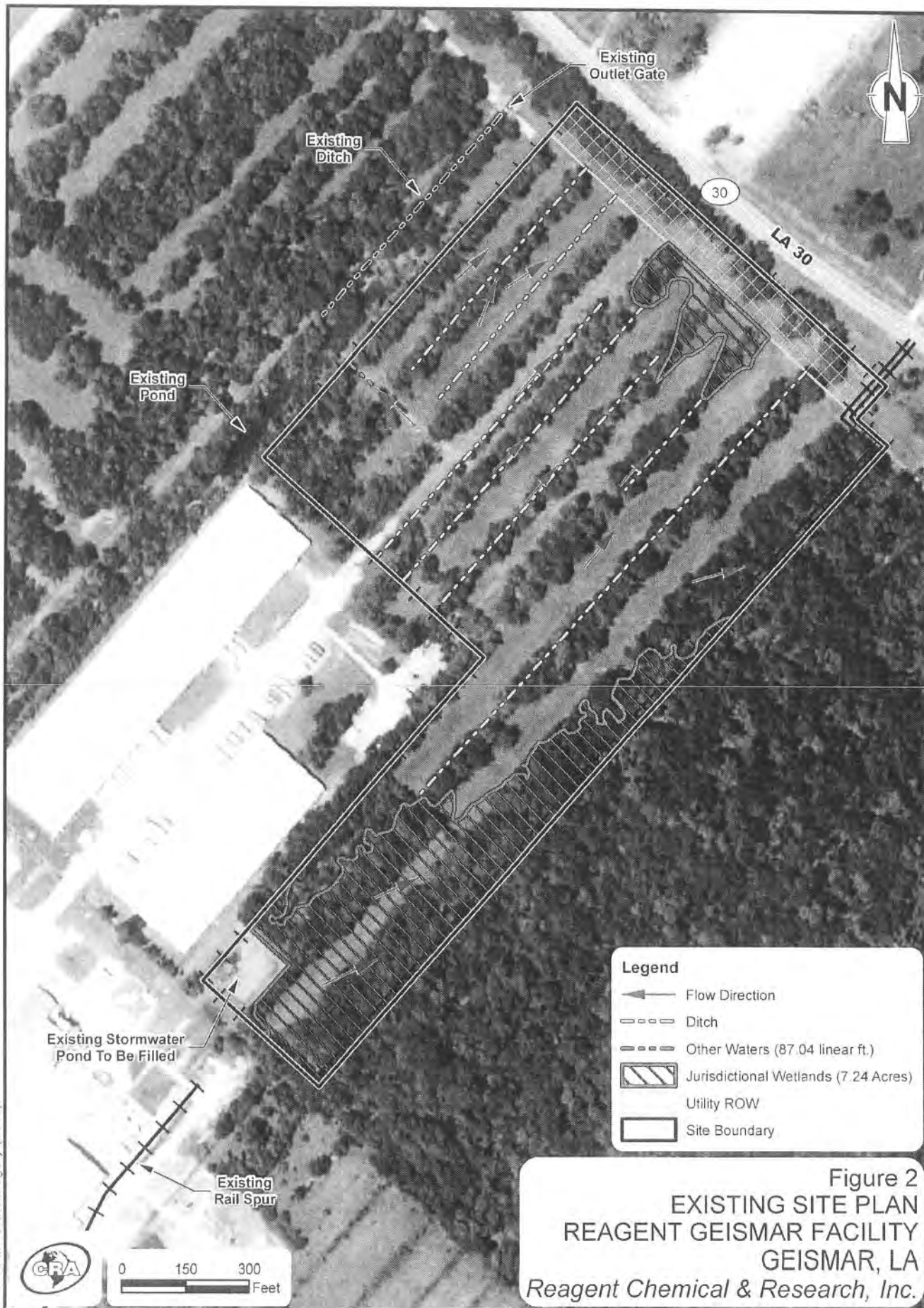
RE: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Maps



7/10/2013

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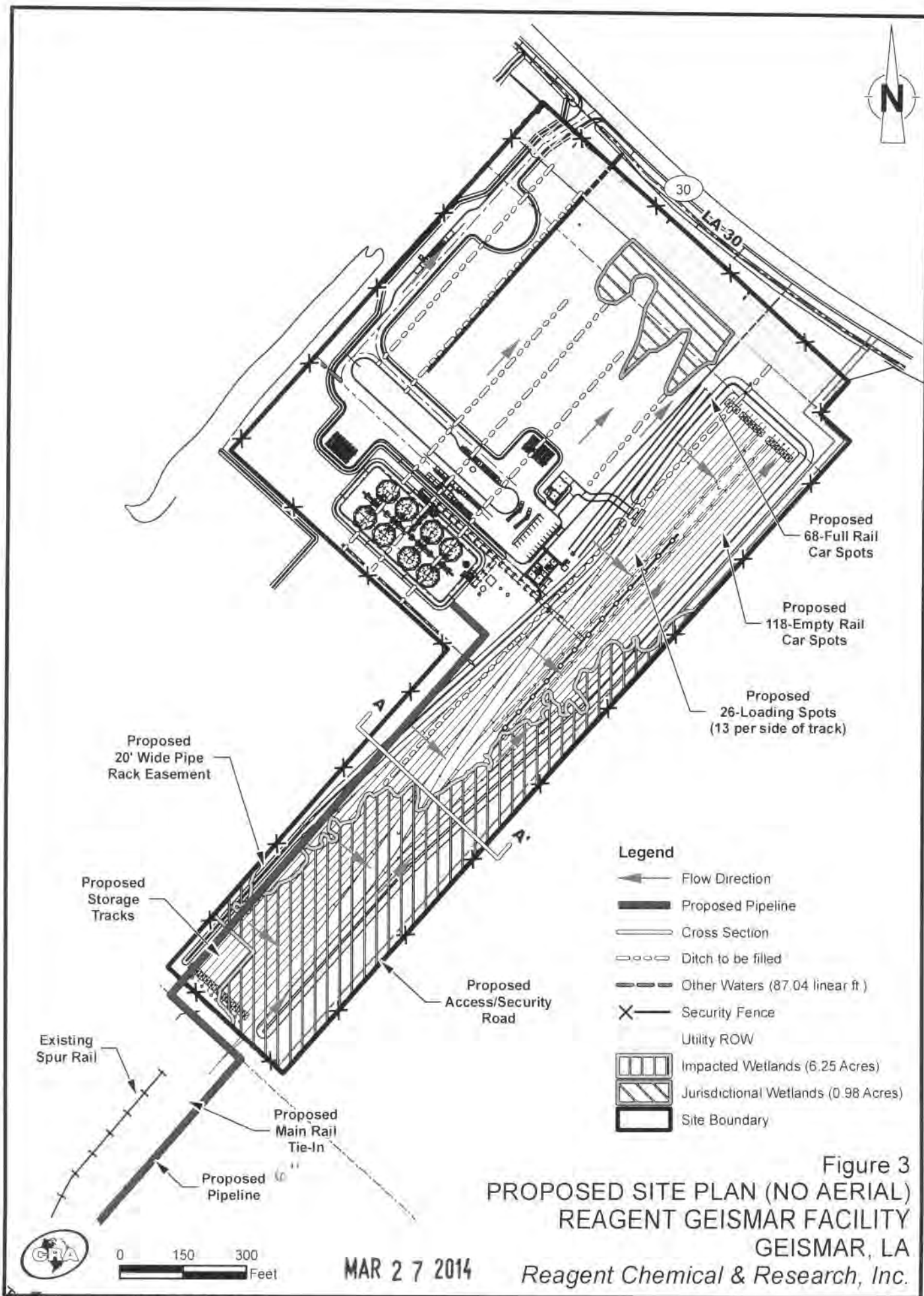
RE: NAIP Orthoimagery (2010).

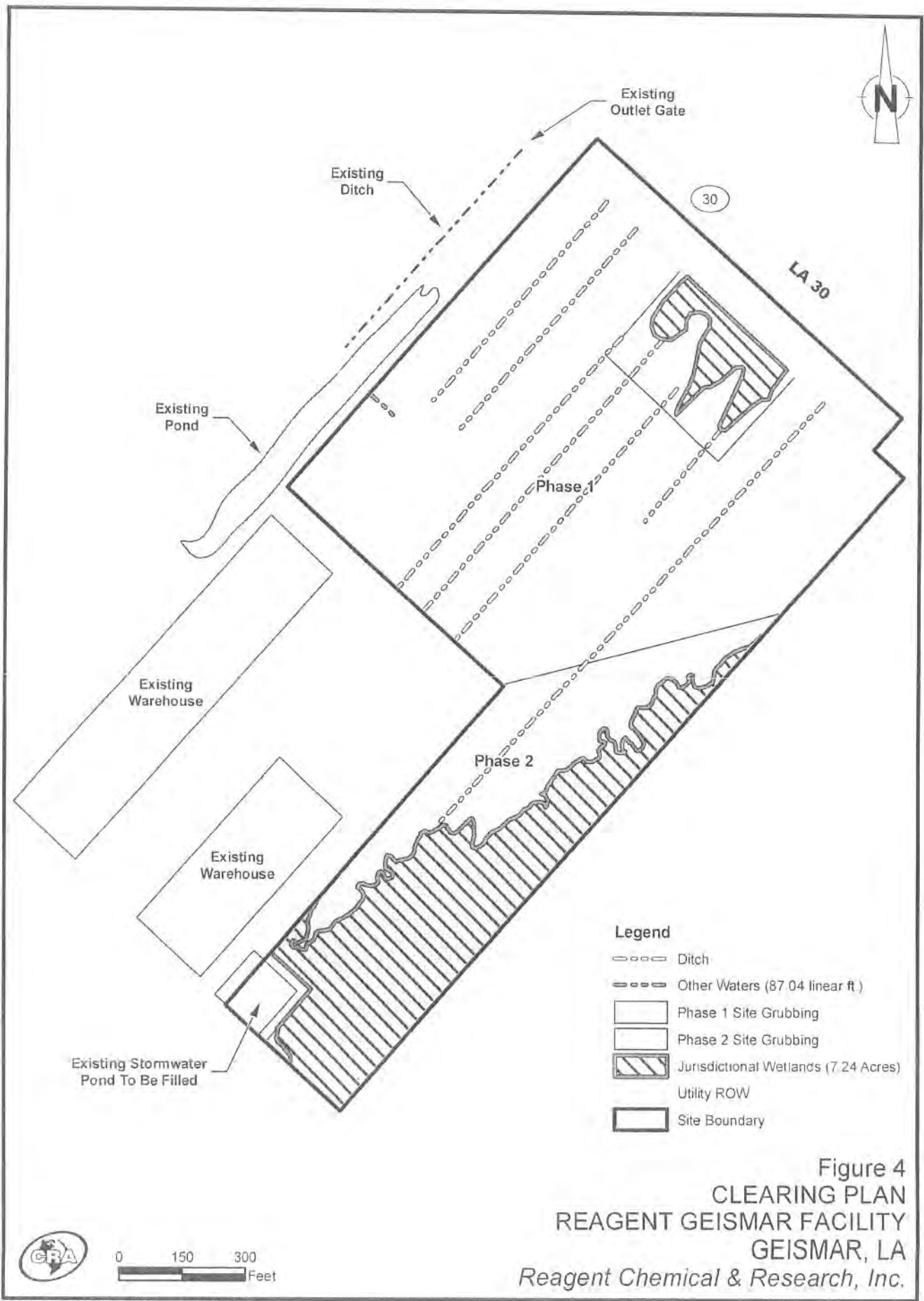
80264-00(003)PR-BR001 2/21/2014

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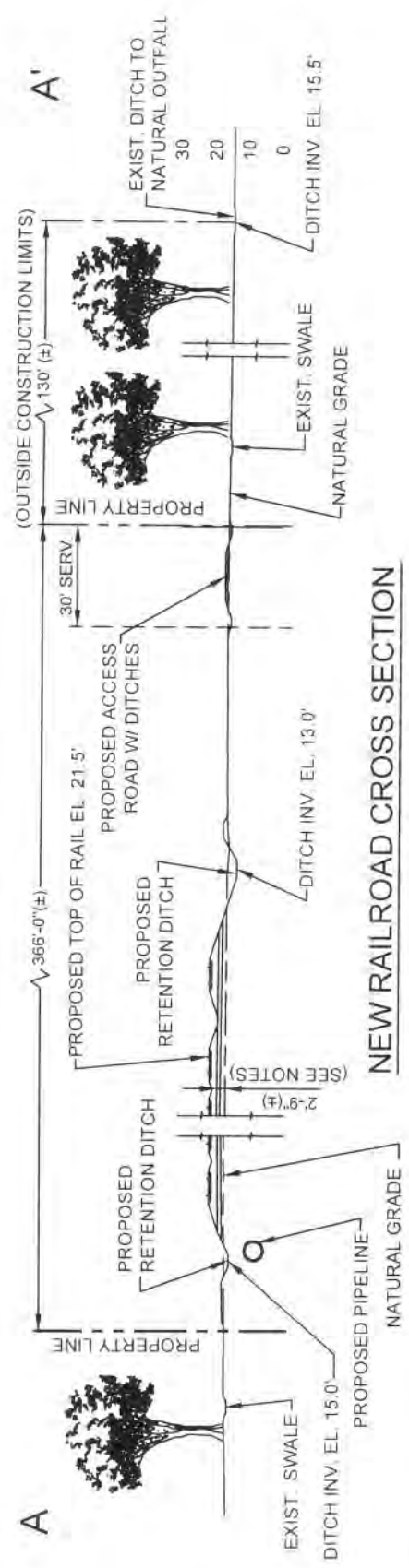








EXISTING CROSS SECTION



NEW RAILROAD CROSS SECTION

- NOTES:
1. AVERAGE FILL HEIGHT SHOWN IS FROM NATURAL GRADE TO TOP OF COMPACTED SUB-BALLAST. SUB-BALLAST MATERIAL SHALL BE 610 LIMESTONE.
  2. STRUCTURAL FILL MATERIAL SHALL BE A CLAY WITH MAXIMUM LIQUID LIMIT OF 40 AND A MAXIMUM PLASTICITY INDEX OF 22. THE MATERIAL SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS LEAN CLAY (CL) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM. ALTERNATIVELY, CLAYEY SAND (SC) MATERIAL HAVING LESS THAN 30% FINES PASSING THE NO. 200 SIEVE IS PERMITTED.

EARTHWORK		
ITEM	PHASE 1	PHASE 2
EXCAVATION	500 cy	4,500 cy
EMBANKMENT	20,000 cy	17,000 cy
RAIL SUB-BALLAST	0 cy	13,500 cy



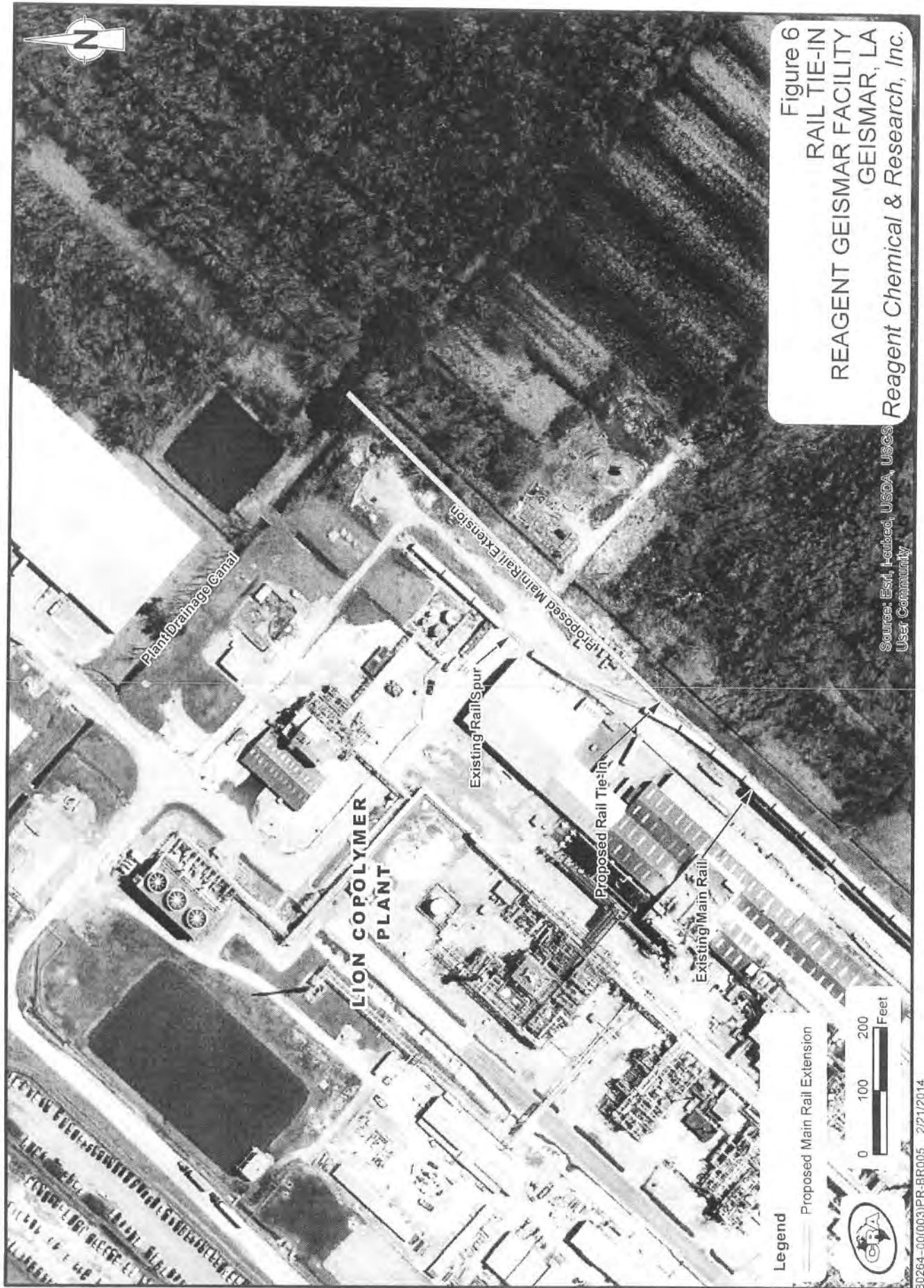
RE: Adapted from Sigma, Inc. Drawing, "Wetland Permit Cross Sections," Dated February 2014.

080264-00(003)GN-BR003 MAR 26/2014

Figure 5  
WETLANDS PERMIT CROSS SECTIONS  
REAGENT GEISMAR FACILITY  
GEISMAR, LA  
*Reagent Chemical & Research, Inc.*

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