

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

January 5, 2015

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

(504) 862-1301  
Project Manager  
Neil T. Gauthier  
Neil.T.Gauthier@USACE.army.mil  
MVN 2014-02630-CM

State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of Environmental Services  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager  
Elizabeth Johnson  
WQC Application Number  
141230-01

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US 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 LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

## **Proposed Plant Expansion for the Construction of an Emergency Response Facility in Ascension Parish**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** BASF Corporation, c/o CK Associates, Attn: Andrew Knight, 17170 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Near the Mississippi River, Section 13, T10S-R2W, approximately 1.6 miles southeast from Geismar, Louisiana, in Ascension Parish, within the Lake Maurepas Basin, in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070204), as shown on the attached drawings.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, excavate, and deposit clean earthen fill material, crushed limestone, and asphalt to construct and maintain an emergency response facility which will serve the existing plant facility at that location. The facility will include a medical office, fire station, emergency response storage facility, utility yard, access roads, and parking. Additionally two 10' by 6' concrete box culverts will be placed for access and an 8-foot by 462-foot area will be cleared for the installation of utilities. Approximately 7,000 cubic yards of clean earthen fill material, 1,750 cubic yards of asphalt, and 2,000 cubic yards crushed limestone will be deposited to complete the project. It is anticipated that the proposed action would have minimal impact on adjacent wetlands.

A Preliminary analysis has determined that the proposed project would permanently impact 4.17 acres of jurisdictional forested wetlands by clearing and filling and an additional 0.10 acre of jurisdictional forested wetland by clearing. Approximately 0.01 acre of jurisdictional "other waters of the US" will also be permanently impacted.

The applicant has designed the project to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to mitigate in-kind wetland credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank located in the watershed.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **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**. Similar 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. 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.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

### **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 US 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 US 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.

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.

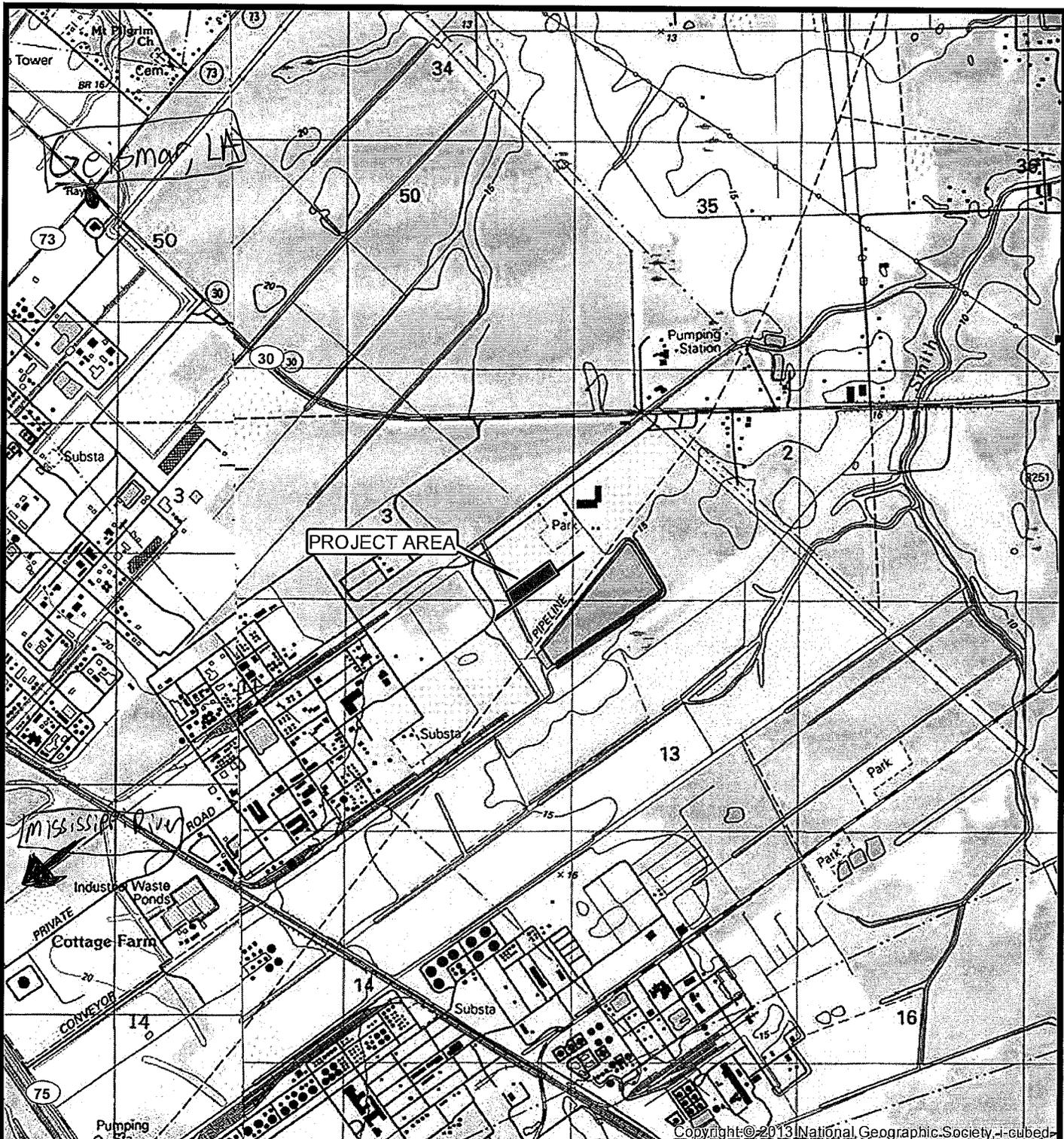
This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of up to n/a acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. 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 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.

JOHN M. HERMAN  
Chief, Central Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

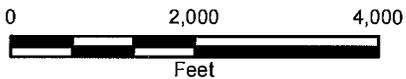
Enclosures



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ASCENSION PARISH



Reference

U.S.G.S. 24K SERIES QUAD MAP, GONZALES, LA.



**BASF CORPORATION**  
 GEISMAR, LOUISIANA  
 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

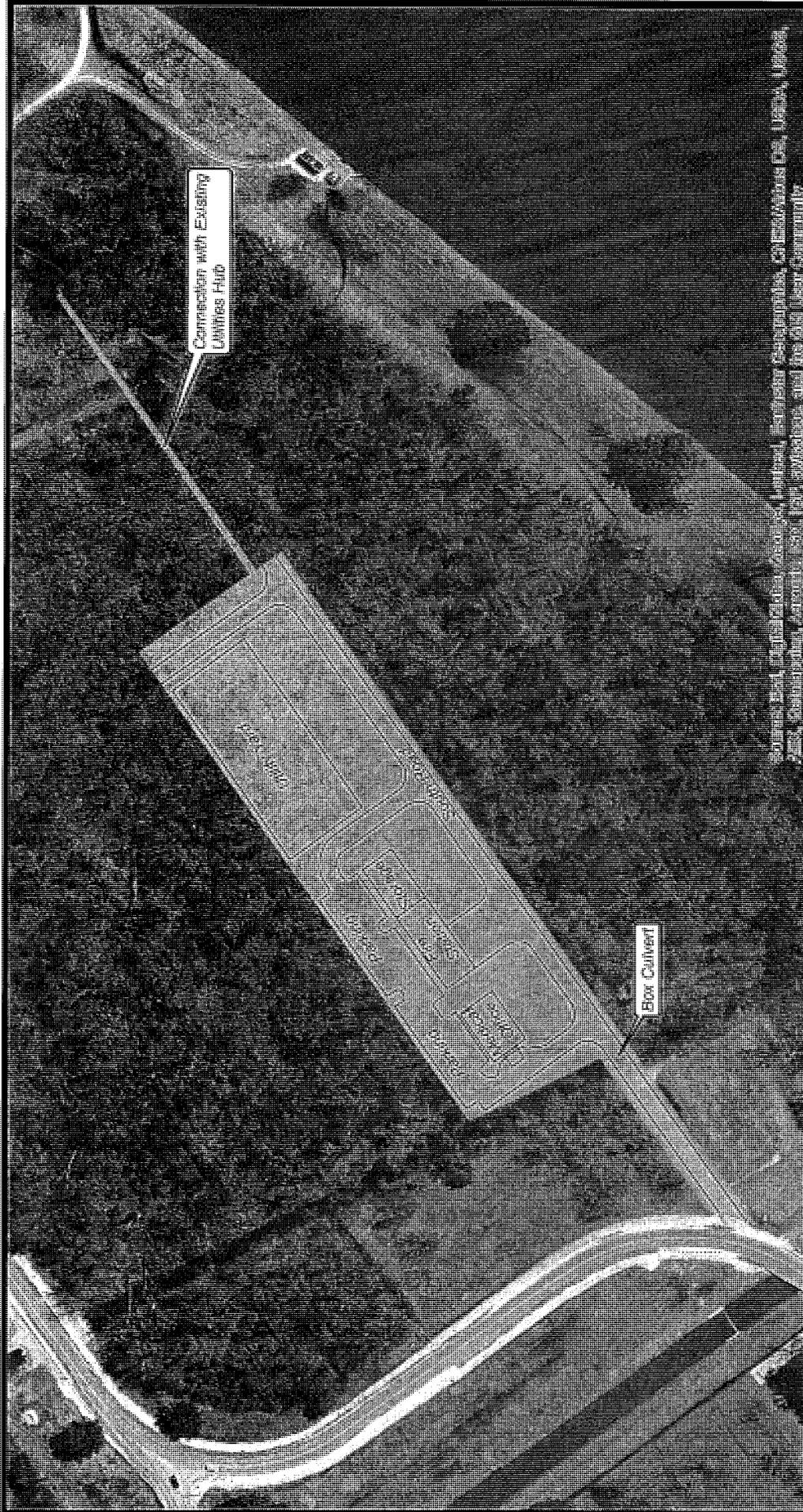
**VICINITY MAP**

ASCENSION PARISH



|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Drawn:    | BLN/AM10.2.2 |
| Checked:  | CAL          |
| Approved: | APK          |
| Date:     | 10/22/2014   |
| Dwg. No.: | A11501-04    |

**FIGURE 1**



**Legend**

 Project Area (4.79 acres)



**BASF CORPORATION**  
GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

**SITE PLAN**

ASCENSION PARISH

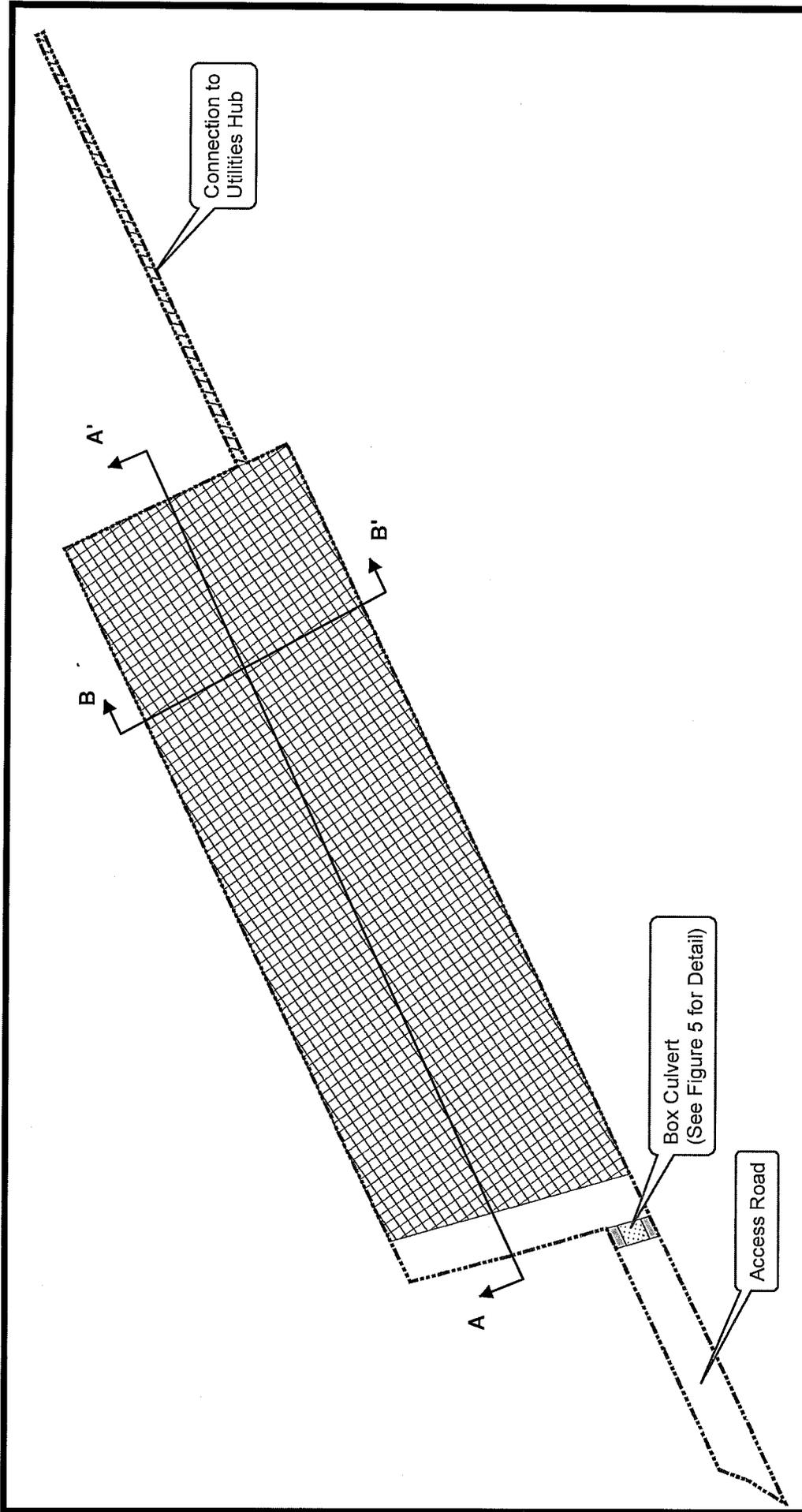


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| Drawn:     | BLANCA10.2.2 |
| Checked:   | CAJ          |
| Approved:  | APK          |
| DATE:      | 10/22/2014   |
| Draw. No.: | A11501-05    |

**REFERENCE**

Site layout provided by Group Wilson Architects.

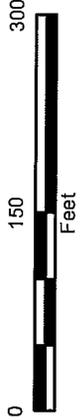
**FIGURE 2**



NOTE: See Figure 4 for Cross-Sections A-A' and B-B'.

**Legend**

-  Project Area (4.8 acres)
-  Wetlands to be Cleared (0.10 acres)
-  Wetlands to be Cleared and Filled (4.17 acres)
-  Other Waters of the U.S. Not Impacted by this Project (0.01 acres)
-  Culvert in Other Waters of the U.S. (0.01 acres)



**BASF CORPORATION**  
GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

**PLAN VIEW**

ASCENSION PARISH

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Drawn:    | BLN/AM10.2.2 |
| Checked:  | CAL          |
| Approved: | APK          |
| Date:     | 10/22/2014   |
| Dwg. No.: | A11501-08    |



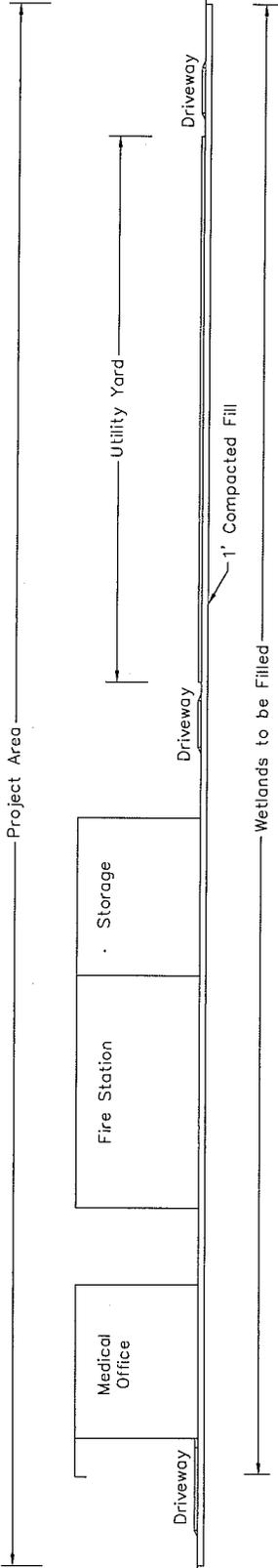
**REFERENCE**

Site layout provided by Crump Wilson Architects.

**FIGURE 3**

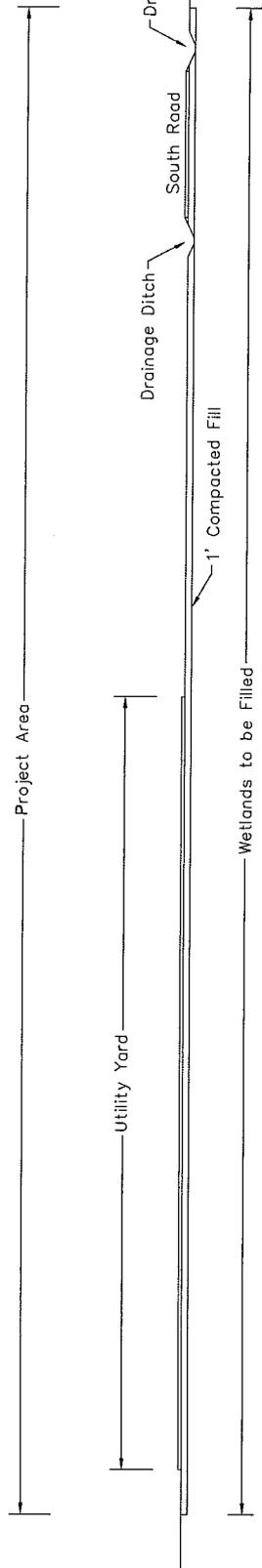
**A**

**A'**



**B**

**B'**



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

**CROSS-SECTIONS  
 A-A' AND B-B'**

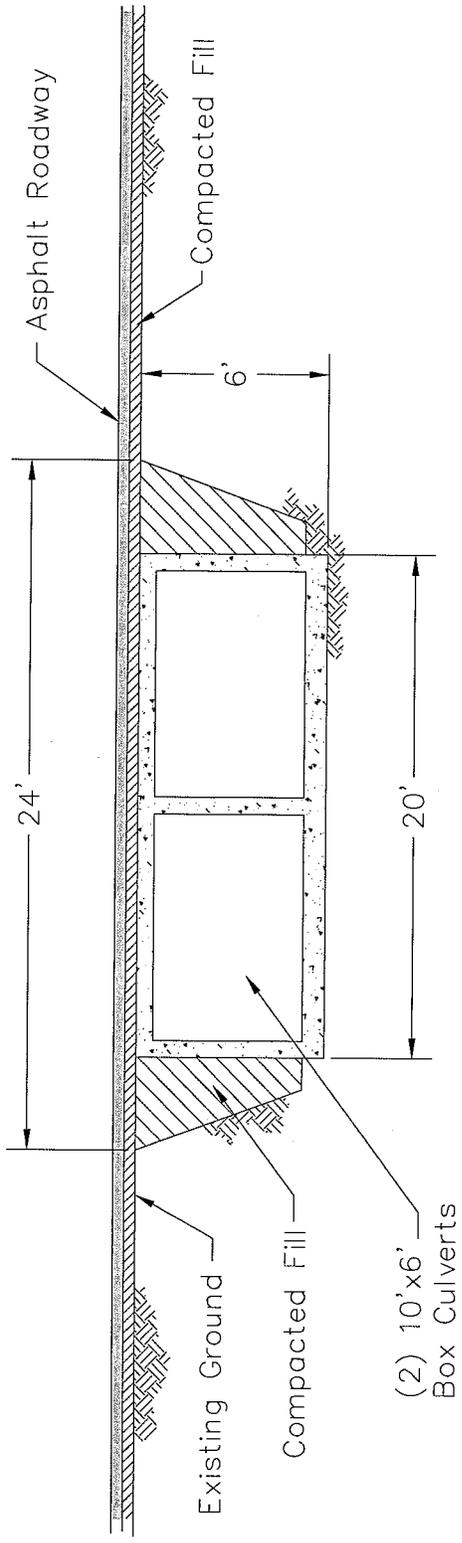
ASCENSION PARISH

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| Approved: | TERY       |
| Date:     | 10/23/2014 |
| Dwg. No.: | A11501-06  |



Drawing Not To Scale

**FIGURE 4**



**BASF CORPORATION**  
 GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

**BOX CULVERT DETAIL**

ASCENSION PARISH

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Drawn:    | CALAGAD    |
| Checked:  | BLN        |
| Approved: | TEW        |
| Date:     | 10/23/2014 |
| Dwg. No.: | A11501-07  |



**FIGURE 5**

Drawing Not To Scale