

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 16, 2016

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 2015-02339 CO

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager  
Elizabeth Hill  
WQC Application Number  
WQC 160513-01

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).

## **CHEMICAL PRODUCTION FACILITY IN ASCENSION PARISH**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Shell Chemical, LP, c/o CK Associates, 17170 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, in the Lake Maurepas hydrologic unit (HUC 08070204), northwest of Louisiana Highway 3251 (Ashland Rd.), approximately 1.8 miles south of its intersection with Louisiana Highway 30, near Geismar, Louisiana, in Ascension Parish.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, and fill a 79-acre tract to construct a chemical production facility and associated infrastructure that will increase production of materials used in the development of surfactants. The facility will include reactors, utility boilers, storage tanks, cooling tower, warehouses, offices and other support buildings. Chemicals handled will include a combination of ethylene oxide, mixed alcohols and olefin's with ancillary materials such as fuel and natural gas. Associated infrastructure will include a new railroad beginning at the Shell Chemical LP facility and terminating within the

proposed facility. Two access roads will be constructed from LA Highway 3251 to the proposed facility. Culverts will be installed in other waters of the US across the proposed railroad to facilitate drainage. Approximately 35.6 acres of forested wetland and 0.8 acre of jurisdictional waters of the US will be impacted by the proposed activity. To compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank within the watershed of impact.

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. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Interior. Utilizing Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on any listed 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.

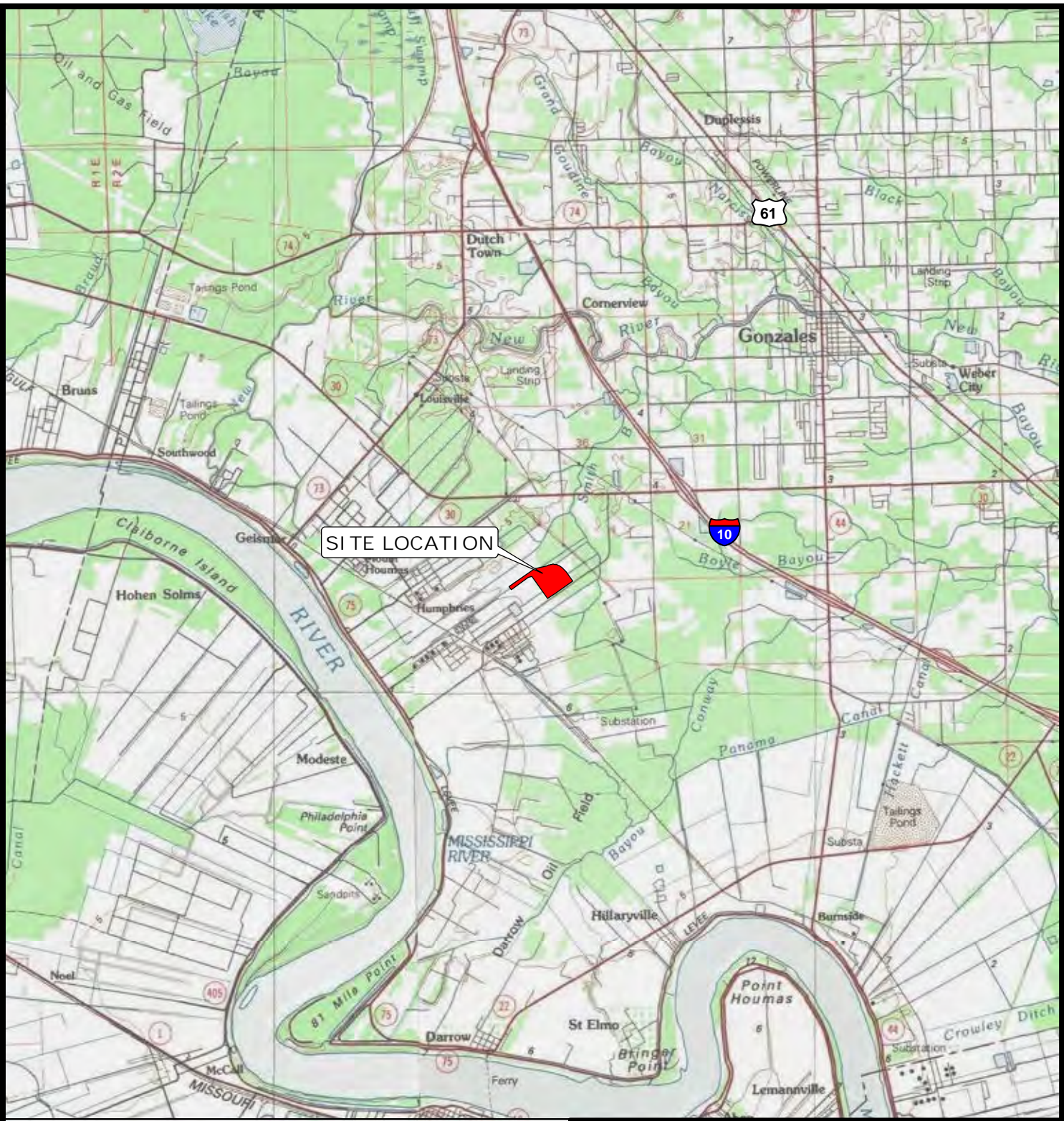
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this

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.

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

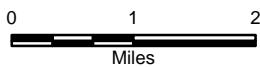
Enclosure



SITE LOCATION



ASCENSION PARISH



Reference

U.S.G.S. 100K SERIES QUAD MAP, GONZALES, LA.



**SHELL CHEMICAL LP**  
GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

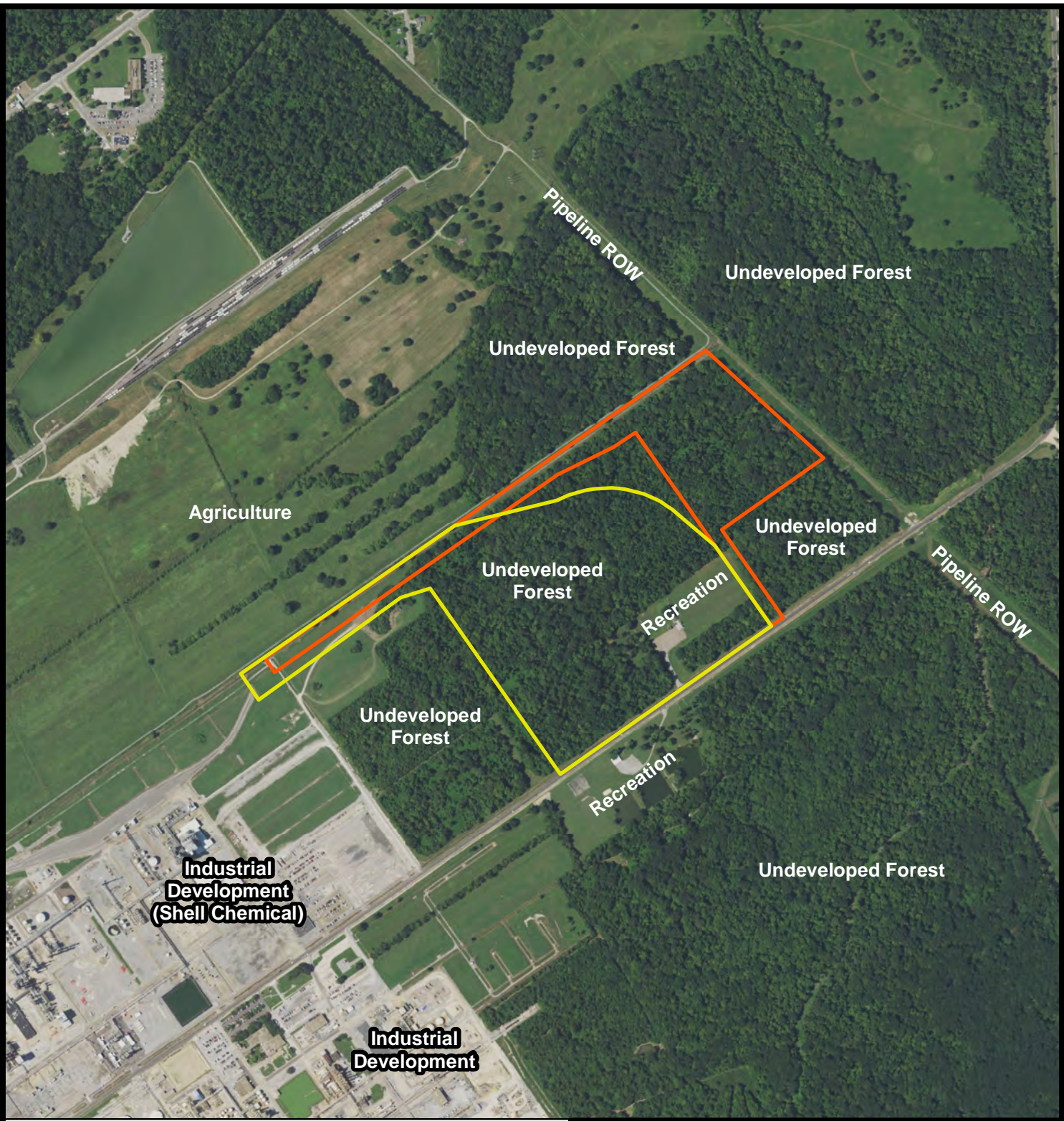
SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION



**VICINITY MAP**

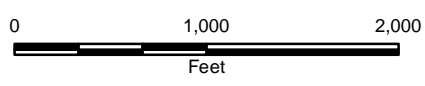
ASCENSION PARISH

Drawn:	CPL/AM10.3
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEW
Date:	03/15/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-09

**FIGURE 1**



-  Project Area (79 acres)
-  Industrial Development (MVN 2014-01775-CM, not yet constructed)



**Reference**

Imagery: NAIP 2015, Ascension Parish, Louisiana Mosaic.



**SHELL CHEMICAL LP**  
GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

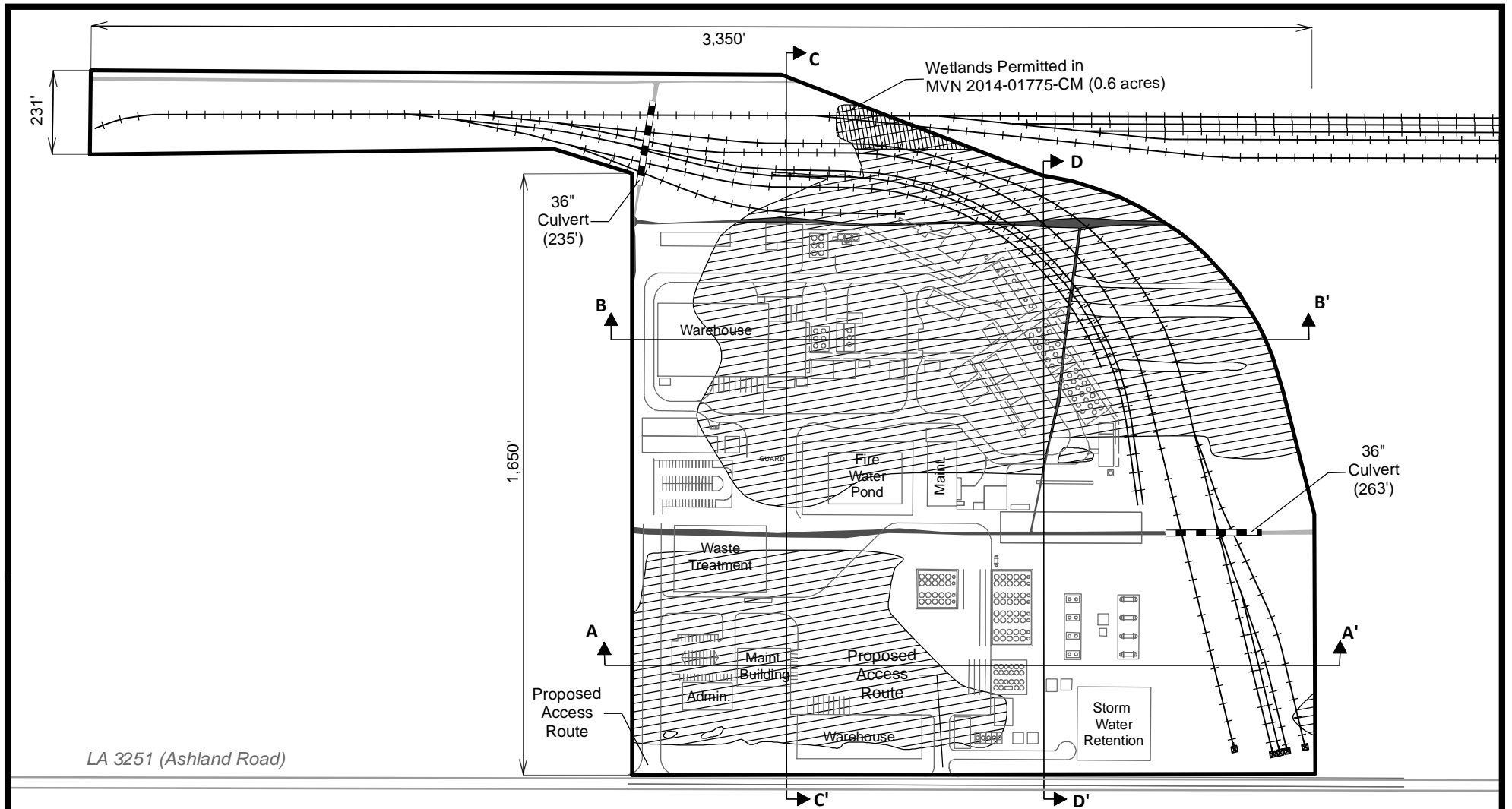
SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION

**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

ASCENSION PARISH

Drawn:	CPL/AM10.4
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEW
Date:	05/03/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-17

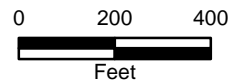
**FIGURE 2**



**Legend**

- Project Area (79 acres)
- Forested Wetlands to be Cleared and Filled (35.6 acres)
- Wetlands Permitted in MVN 2014-01775-CM (0.6 acres)
- Other Waters of the US Not Impacted (0.6 acres)
- Other Waters of the US to be Filled (0.8 acres)
- Culvert in Other Waters of the US

NOTES:  
 1) Facility layout provided by Shell.  
 2) See Figure 8 for culvert detail.



**SHELL CHEMICAL LP**  
 GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

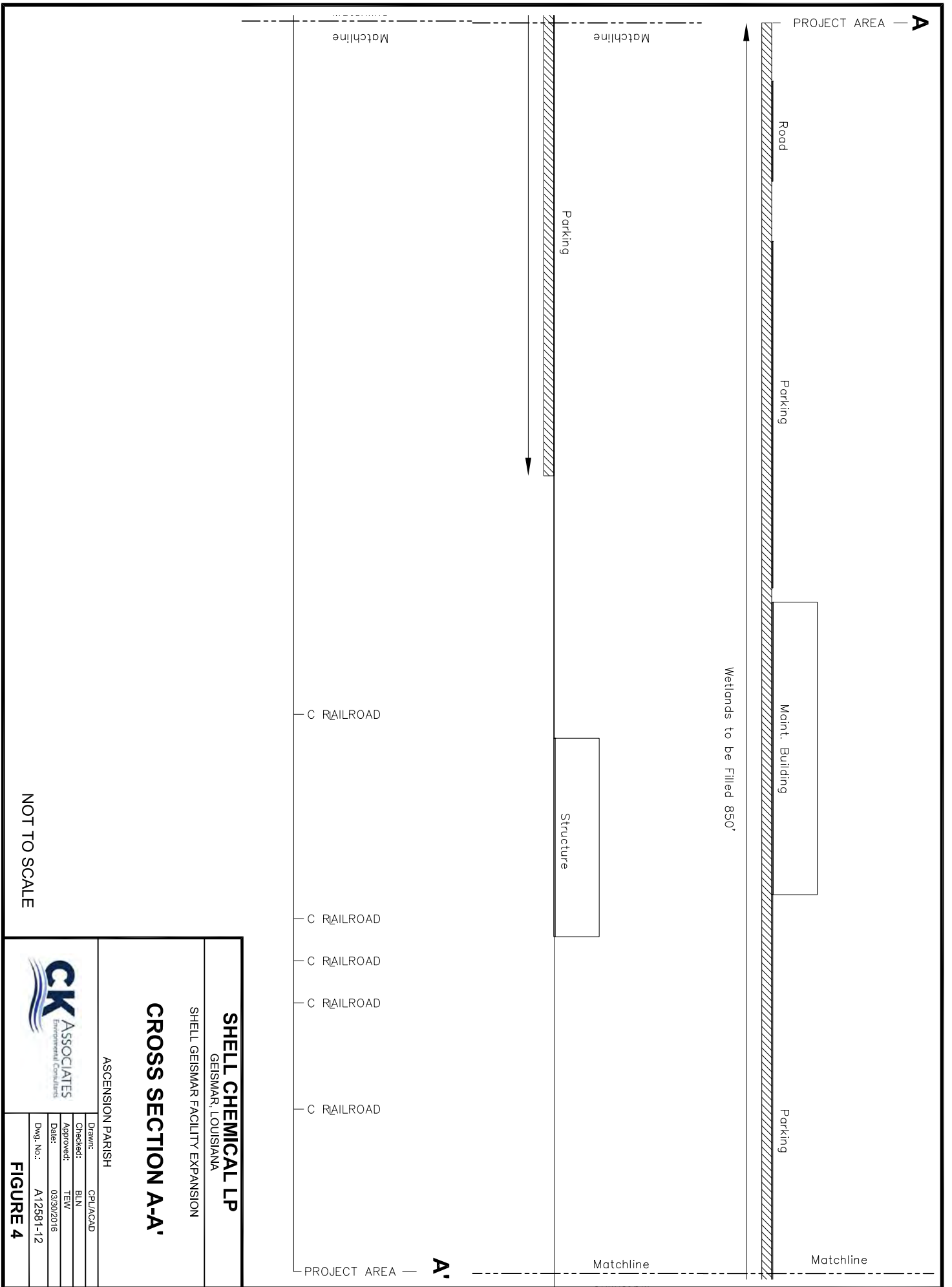
SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION

**PLAN VIEW**

ASCENSION PARISH

Drawn:	CPL/AM10.4
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEW
Date:	04/29/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-10

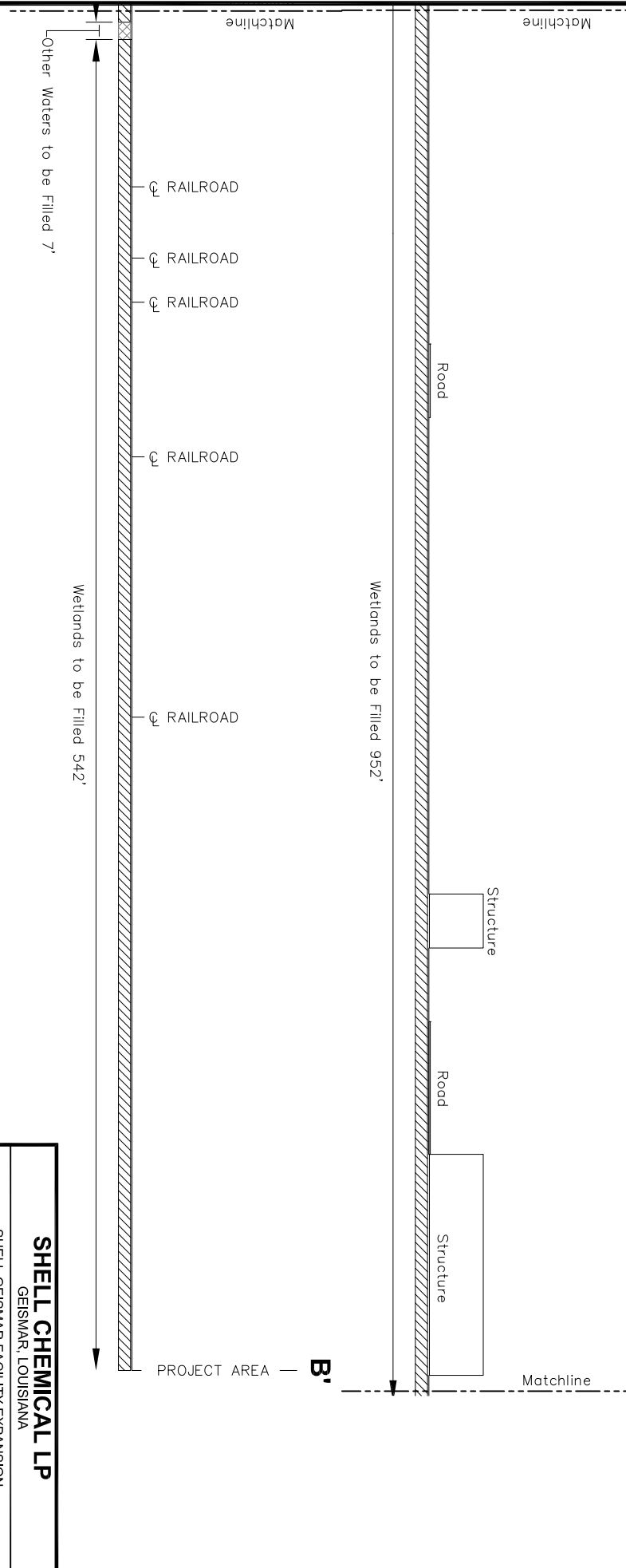
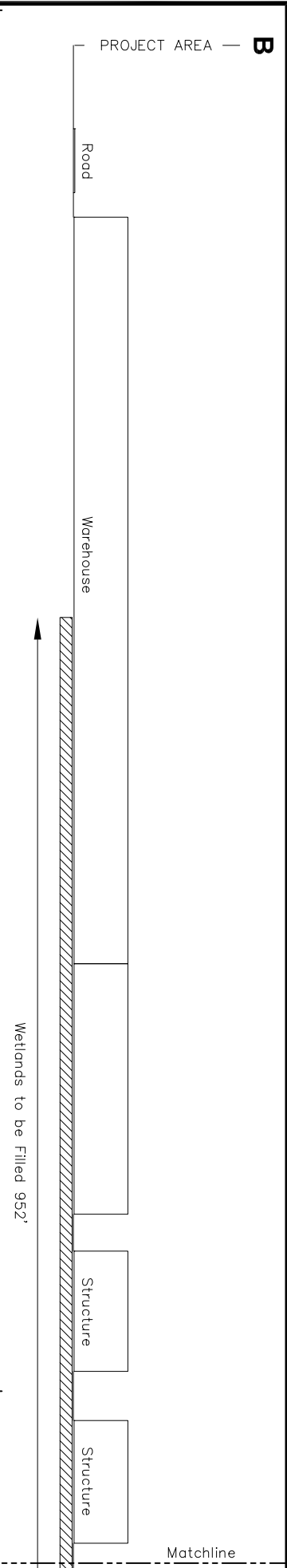
**FIGURE 3**



NOT TO SCALE

<b>SHELL CHEMICAL LP</b>	
GEISMAR, LOUISIANA	
SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION	
<b>CROSS SECTION A-A'</b>	
ASCENSION PARISH	
Drawn:	CPL/CAD
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEV
Date:	03/30/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-12
<b>FIGURE 4</b>	



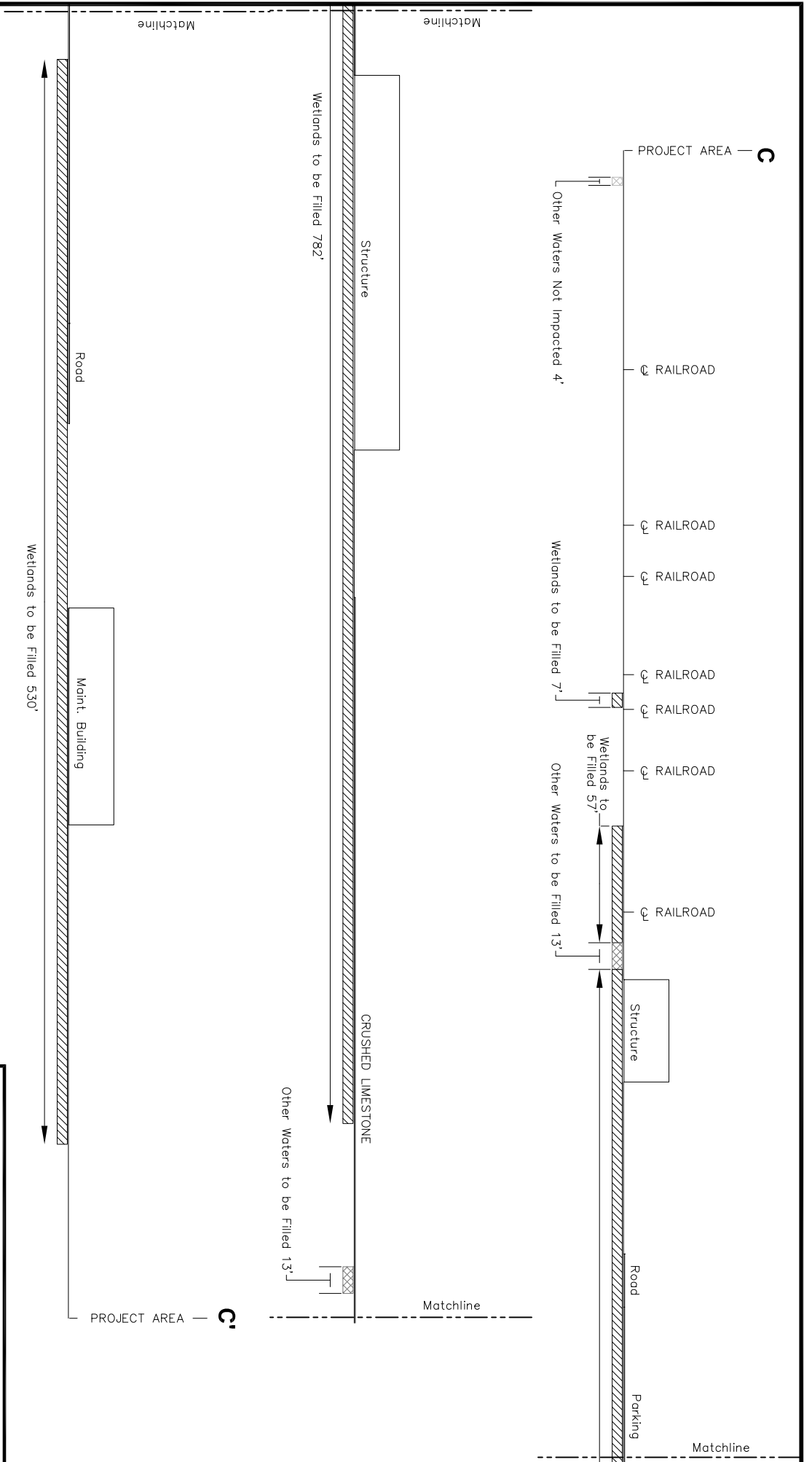


NOT TO SCALE

<p><b>SHELL CHEMICAL LP</b>          GEISMAR, LOUISIANA</p>	
<p>SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION</p>	
<p><b>CROSS SECTION B-B'</b></p>	
<p>ASCENSION PARISH</p>	
Drawn:	CPL/CAD
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEW
Date:	03/31/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-13



**FIGURE 5**



**SHELL CHEMICAL LP**  
 GEISMAR, LOUISIANA  
 SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION  
**CROSS SECTION C-C'**

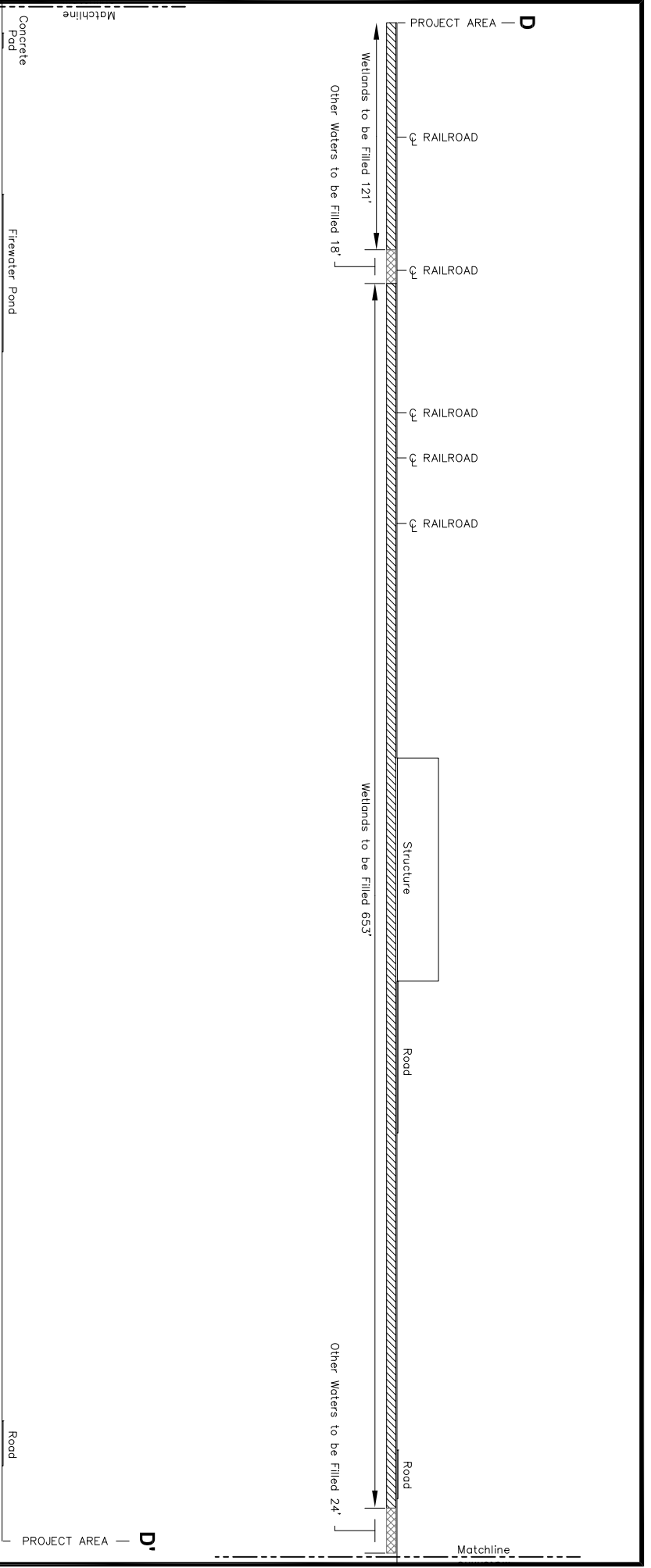
ASCENSION PARISH



Drawn:	OR/LACAD
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEW
Date:	02/31/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-14

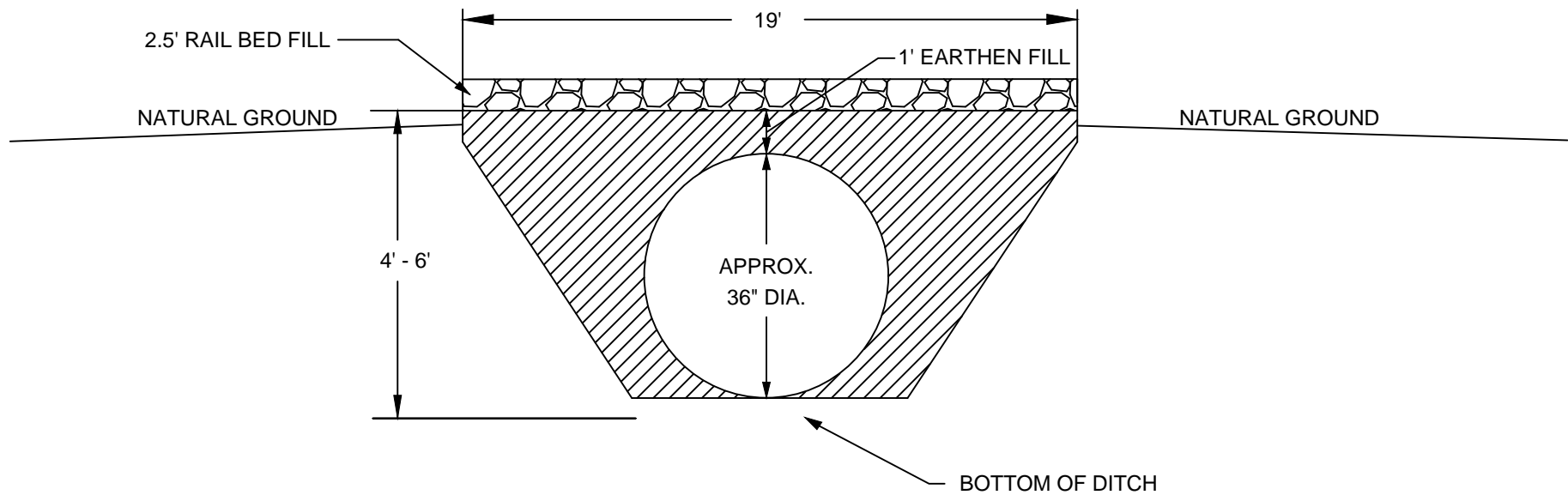
NOT TO SCALE

**FIGURE 6**




NOT TO SCALE

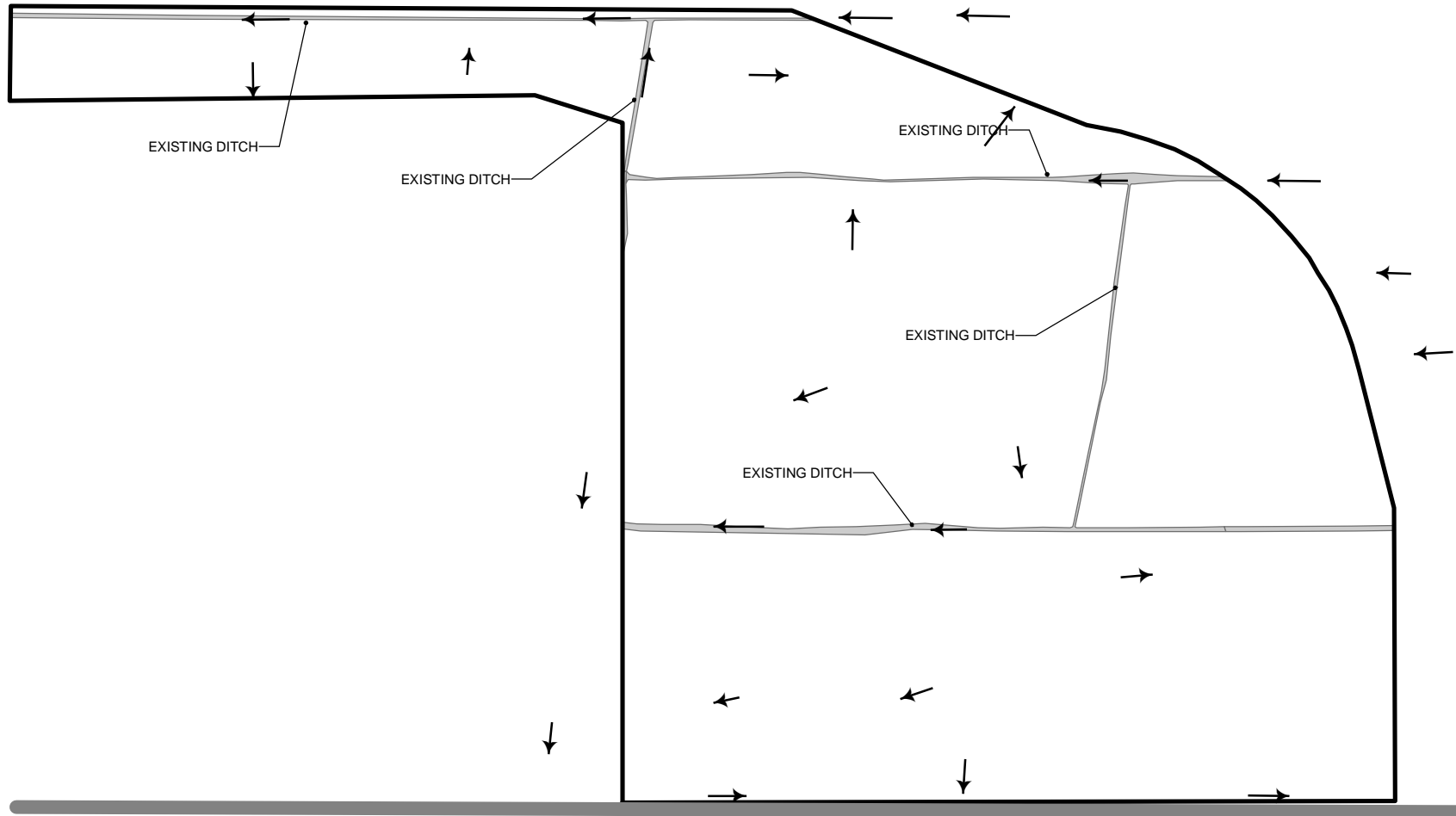
<p><b>SHELL CHEMICAL LP</b>          GEISMAR, LOUISIANA</p>	
<p>SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION</p>	
<p><b>CROSS SECTION D-D'</b></p>	
<p>ASCENSION PARISH</p>	
<p>Drawn: GP/L/CAD</p>	<p>Checked: BLN</p>
<p>Approved: TEW</p>	<p>Date: 03/31/2016</p>
<p>Dwg. No.: A12581-15</p>	<p><b>FIGURE 7</b></p>



**NOTES:**




1. SEE FIGURE 3 FOR LOCATION OF PROPOSED CULVERT CROSSINGS.

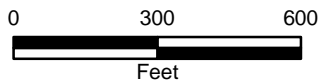
<b>SHELL CHEMICAL LP</b> GEISMAR, LOUISIANA	
SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION	
<b>TYPICAL CULVERT CROSSING</b>	
ASCENSION PARISH	
	Drawn: BLN/ACAD
	GT Checked:
	Checked: BLN
	Approved: TEW
	Date: 03/31/2016
Dwg. No.: A12581-18	
<b>FIGURE 8</b>	



LA 3251 (Ashland Road)

**Legend**

-  Project Area (79 acres)
-  Other Waters of the US (1.4 acres)
-  Surface Flow Direction



**SHELL CHEMICAL LP**  
GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

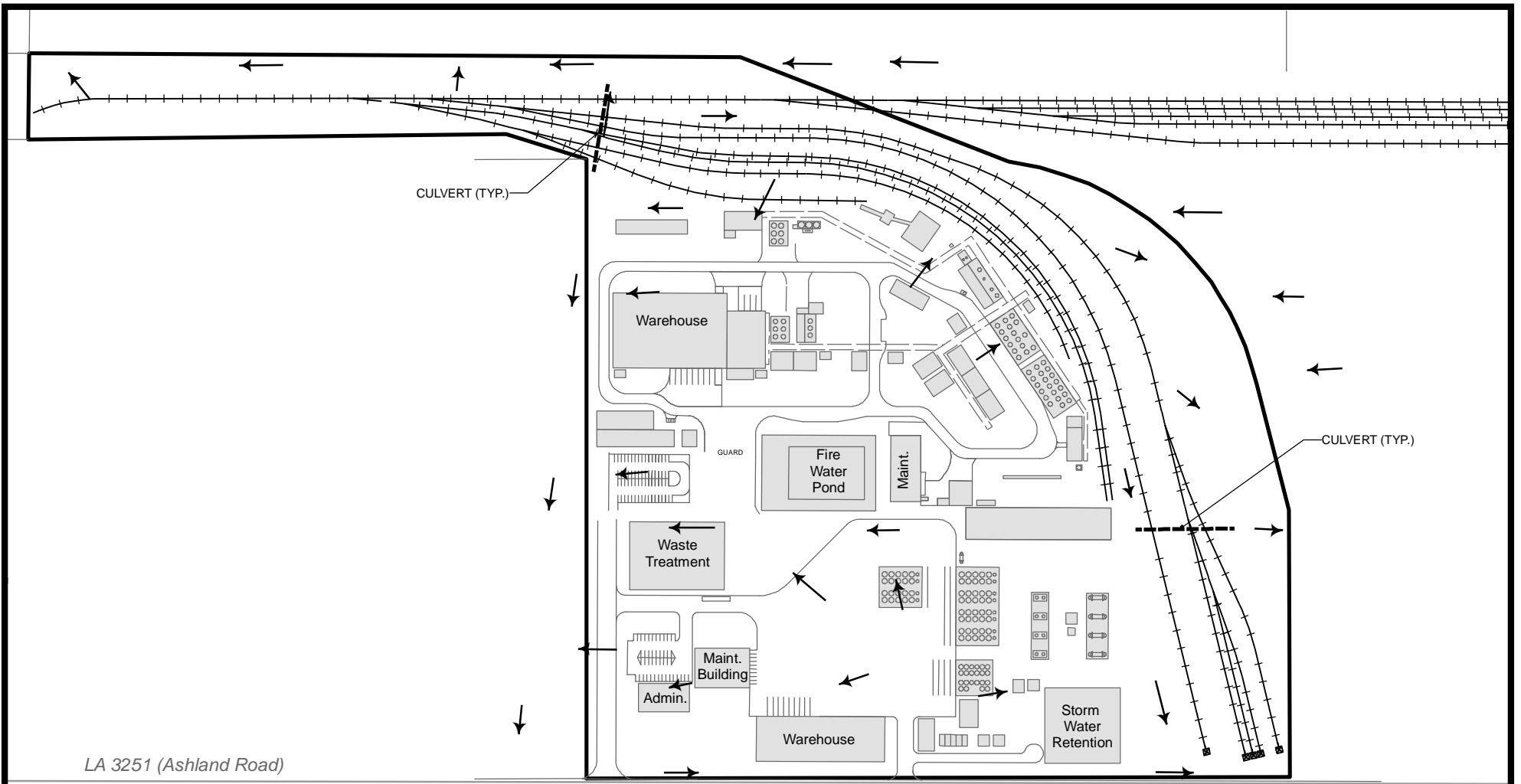
SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION  
**SITE DRAINAGE PATTERNS**  
**PRE-PROJECT**

ASCENSION PARISH, LA







Drawn:	BLN/AM10.3
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEW
Date:	03/31/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-15

**FIGURE 9**



**Legend**

-  Project Area (79 acres)
-  Building / Structure
-  Surface Flow Direction
-  Culverts

NOTES:  
 1) Facility layout provided by Shell.  
 2) All storm water within facility will be collected and treated prior to discharge. All discharge will be in accordance with LDEQ and EPA regulations.



**SHELL CHEMICAL LP**  
 GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

SHELL GEISMAR FACILITY EXPANSION  
**SITE DRAINAGE PATTERNS**  
**POST-PROJECT**

ASCENSION PARISH

Drawn:	BLN/AM10.3
Checked:	BLN
Approved:	TEW
Date:	03/31/2016
Dwg. No.:	A12581-16

**FIGURE 10**