



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

Regional Planning and
Environment Division, South
Environmental Compliance Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mississippi River and Tributaries Project Atchafalaya Basin Construction of Charenton Floodgate

Introduction. This Public Notice is issued in accordance with provisions of Title 33 CFR Parts 336.1(b)(1) and 337.1, which establish policy, practices, and procedures to be followed on federal actions involving the disposal of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Project Authority. The east and west Atchafalaya Basin protection levees are part of the Atchafalaya Basin project, a prominent feature of the flood control, Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project. The MR&T project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928, 70th Congress (P.L. 70-391) as amended and supplemented.

PROJECT TITLE: Mississippi River and Tributaries Project Atchafalaya Basin Construction of Charenton Floodgate, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana

PROJECT LOCATION: The Charenton Floodgate is located one mile north of Charenton, Louisiana in St. Mary Parish (Figure 1). The structure is located adjacent to the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee at its intersection with the Charenton Drainage Canal. The project is located approximately at 29°54'6.52" N and 91°31'10.59"W, in St. Mary Parish.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The CEMVN proposes to construct a new floodgate structure on the Atchafalaya Basin side of the existing Charenton Floodgate structure (Figure 2). The proposed project footprint is shown in Figure 3. The floodwalls would extend out a couple hundred feet from each side of the new floodgate structure in order to tie-back into the existing levee. The existing walls on the monolith would be removed and the side slopes would be graded back in order to tie back into the existing levee alignment that is already constructed to the project design height. A temporary coffer dam would be placed on the Atchafalaya side of the system during construction. The existing floodgate structure will remain in place to serve as the line of defense during construction until the new floodgates and floodwall are installed. Once the new system is in place, the existing steel floodgates will be removed but the concrete structure will remain. The bridge across the existing structure will not be impacted and will remain open to traffic both during construction and after construction is complete.

ACCESS ROADS: Access to the project will be by Charenton Beach Road.

FLOODWALL: The floodwall will be constructed as shown on Figure 2. Earthen material from the proposed borrow area will be placed adjacent to the floodwall on a slope to transition to natural ground elevation. Upon completion of the floodwall, all embankments and areas disturbed by the construction activities will be seeded with Bermuda grass, fertilized, and mulched.

BORROW AREA: Earthen material would be obtained from a portion of a 68.4-acre borrow area previously cleared in Environmental Assessment #467A (C20080701). Approximately 50,000 cubic yards of earthen material would be excavated. The borrow area is located approximately 2.5 miles east of the project adjacent to levee on the protected side. Excavators would remove the earthen material deemed suitable for the project, loaded onto haul trucks and transported to the project site.

The Charenton Floodgate project will impact 2.2 acres of swamp. A silt fence will be placed along the levee toe on both the protected and flood sides of the levee to contain runoff material during construction activities. Upon completion of the project, all embankments and areas disturbed by the construction activities will be seeded with Bermuda grass, fertilized, and mulched.

Status of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Other Environmental Documents. Environmental compliance for the proposed action would be achieved upon: coordination of this EA #511 and draft FONSI with appropriate agencies, organizations, and individuals for their review and comments; public review of the Section 404(b)(1) Public Notice; signing of the Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation; receipt and acceptance or resolution of all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act recommendations; Louisiana Department of Natural Resources concurrence with the determination that the proposed action is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Zone program, and that there are no direct or indirect impacts to resources within the coastal zone; and receipt and acceptance or resolution of all Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality comments on the air and water quality impact analysis documented in the EA. The draft FONSI will not be signed until the proposed action achieves environmental compliance with applicable laws and regulations, as described above.

Coordination. The following is a partial list of agencies to which a copy of this notice is being sent:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, Eighth District
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer

This notice is being distributed to these and other appropriate Congressional, Federal, Tribal, state, and local interests, environmental organizations, and other interested parties.

Evaluation Factors. Evaluation includes application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the USEPA, through 40 CFR 230.

Public Involvement. Interested parties may express their views on the disposal of material associated with the proposed action or suggest modifications. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period for this notice will be considered.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by deposition of excavated or dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by the proposed action.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any parties who may have an interest in the proposed action. For further information regarding the proposed action, please contact Samantha Martin at (504) 862-2207 or by email at Samantha.C.Martin@usace.army.mil.

Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch

COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PUBLIC NOTICE EXPIRES: _____

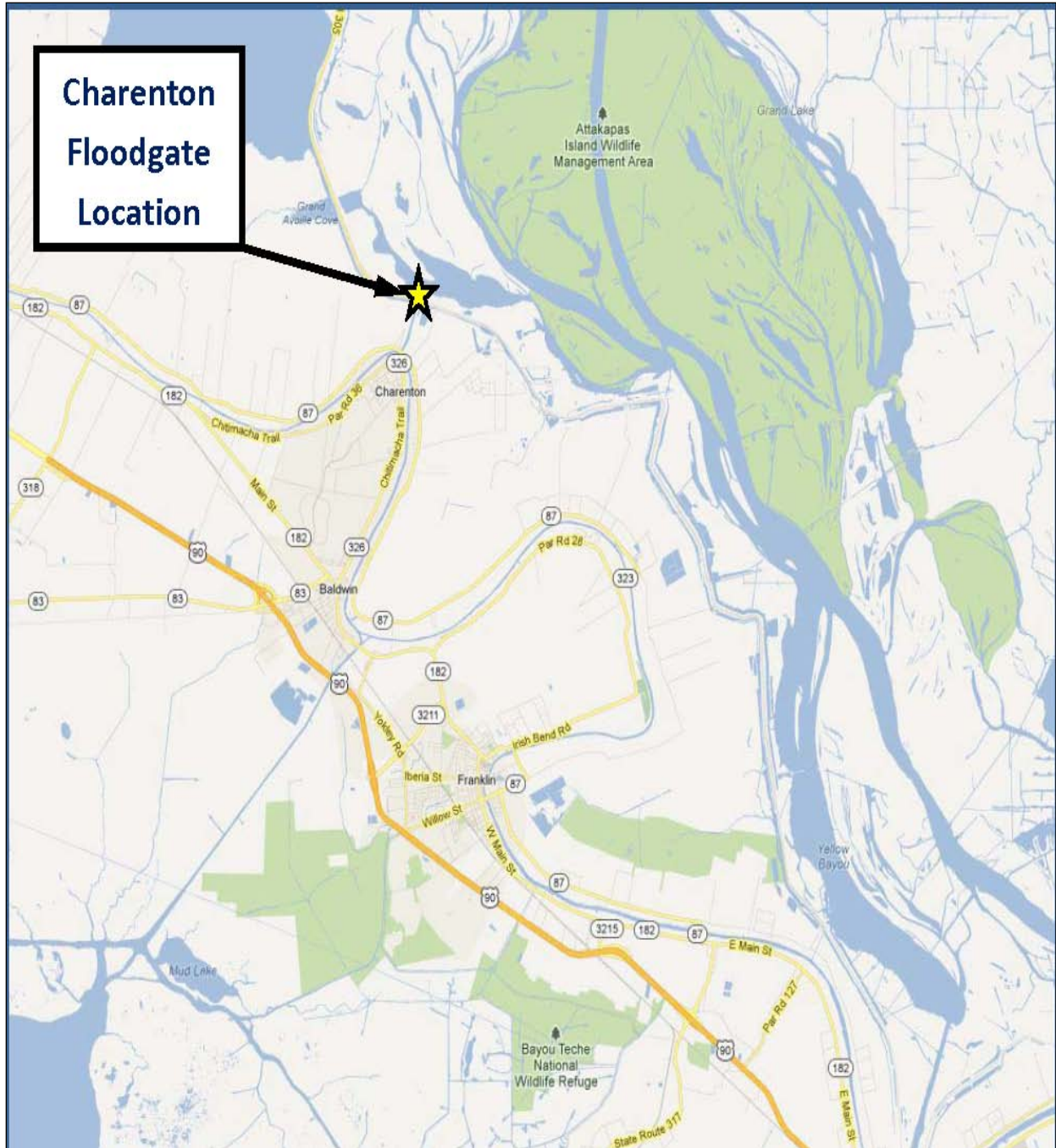


Figure 1. Charenton Floodgate Location Map, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana.

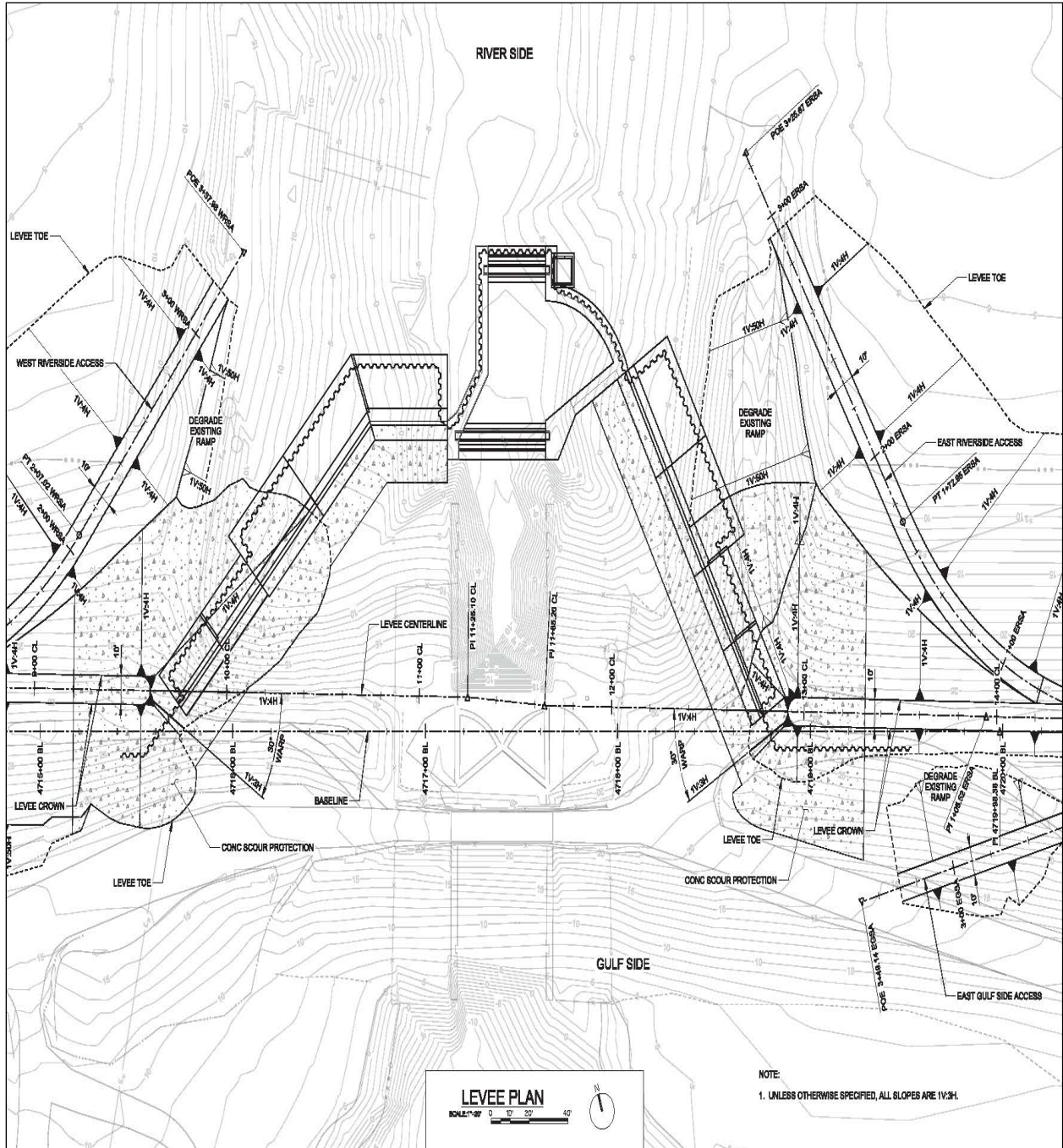


Figure 2. New Floodgate Plan

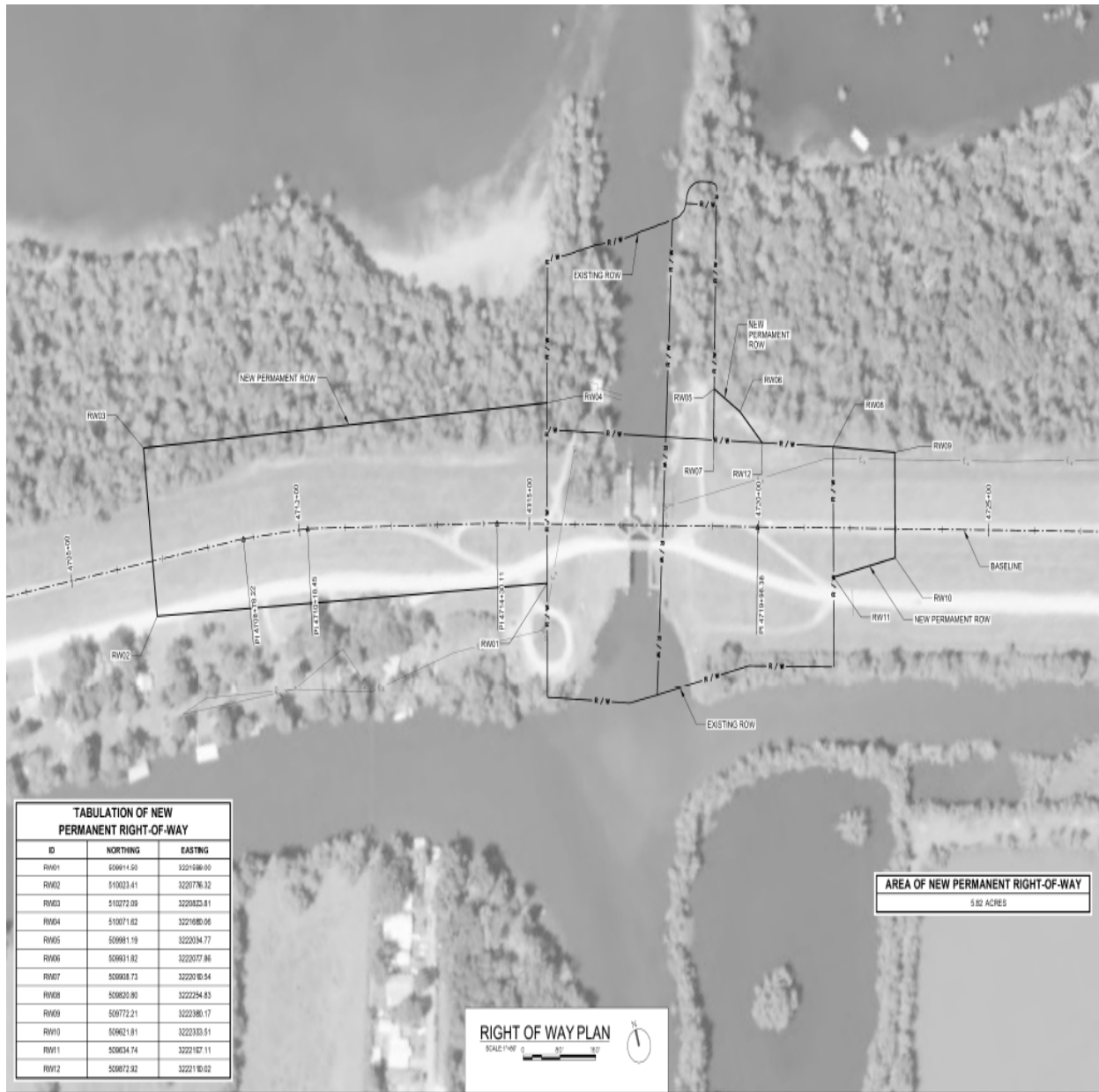


Figure 3. Charenton Floodgate Right-of-Way Footprint