

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

January 26, 2015

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 2010-2982 CO

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Johnson

WQC Application Number
WQC 150116-01

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:
[X] 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).

MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT EXISTING DOCK IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ASCENSION PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Shell Chemical, LP, c/o Lanier & Associates Engineers, 4101 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70115.

LOCATION OF WORK: Within the Mississippi River Basin, in the Lower Mississippi River – Baton Rouge hydrologic unit (HUC 08070100), in the Mississippi River, left descending bank, approximately 183 miles above the Head of Passes, near Geismar, Louisiana, in Ascension Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant proposes to use a hydraulic dredge to remove 54,000 cubic yards of silty sand within a 7.7-acre area to allow access to an existing dock and remove the scour hole at the site. The dredged material will be deposited below the -55' contour. Dredging operations will last approximately 3-4 weeks and will occur every 2 years. No vegetated wetlands will be impacted.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **30 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** 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. 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.

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.

The proposed activity is located in waters known to be utilized by the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). Approximately 7.7 acres of foraging habitat will be directly impacted by the proposed activity. The applicant has agreed to the following conditions: (1) the cutterhead shall remain completely buried in bottom material during dredging operations; (2) If pumping water through the cutterhead is necessary to dislodge material or to clean the pumps or cutterheads, etc, the pumping rate shall be reduced to the lowest rate possible until the cutterhead is at mid-depth, where the pumping rate can be increased; (3) During dredging, the pumping rates shall be reduced to the slowest speed feasible while the cutterhead descends to the bottom. Based on 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 dredging is not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon, provided the conditions outlined above are included in the authorization.

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.

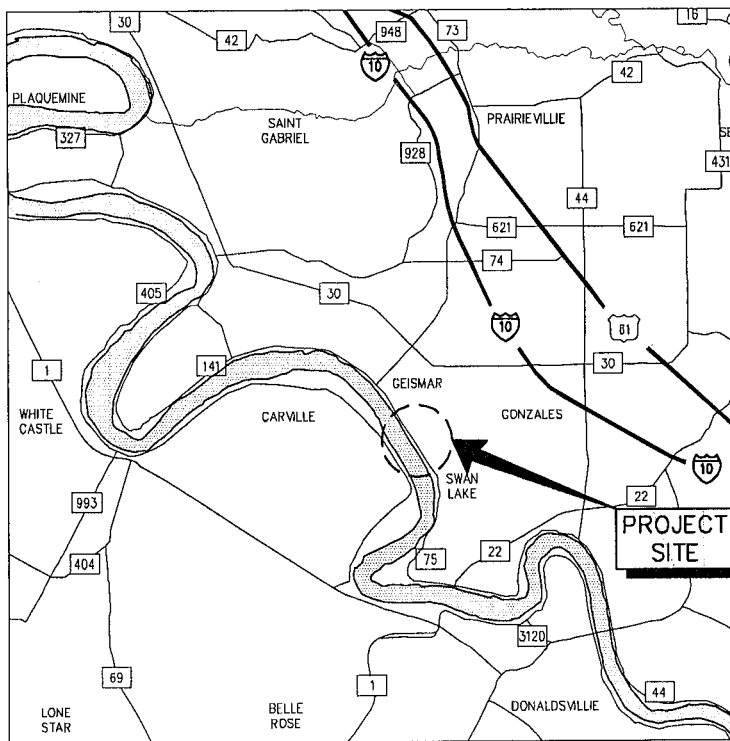
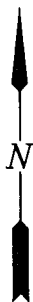
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information 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

**SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
SHIP DOCK
EMERGENCY DREDGE PLAN
GEISMAR, LOUISIANA**

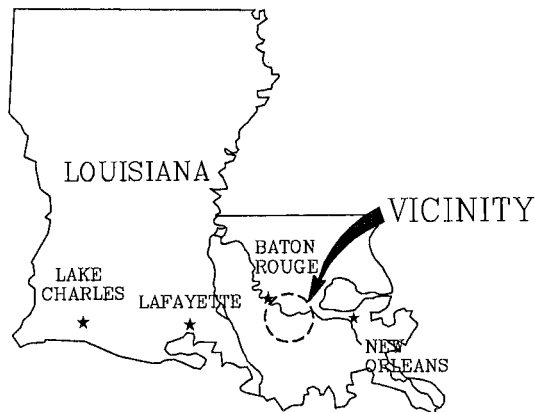


VICINITY MAP

GRAPHIC SCALE IN MILES



LAT: 30° 10' 36" N
LONG: 91° 0' 25" W



AREA MAP

9361-P01

LANIER & ASSOCIATES
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
INCORPORATED

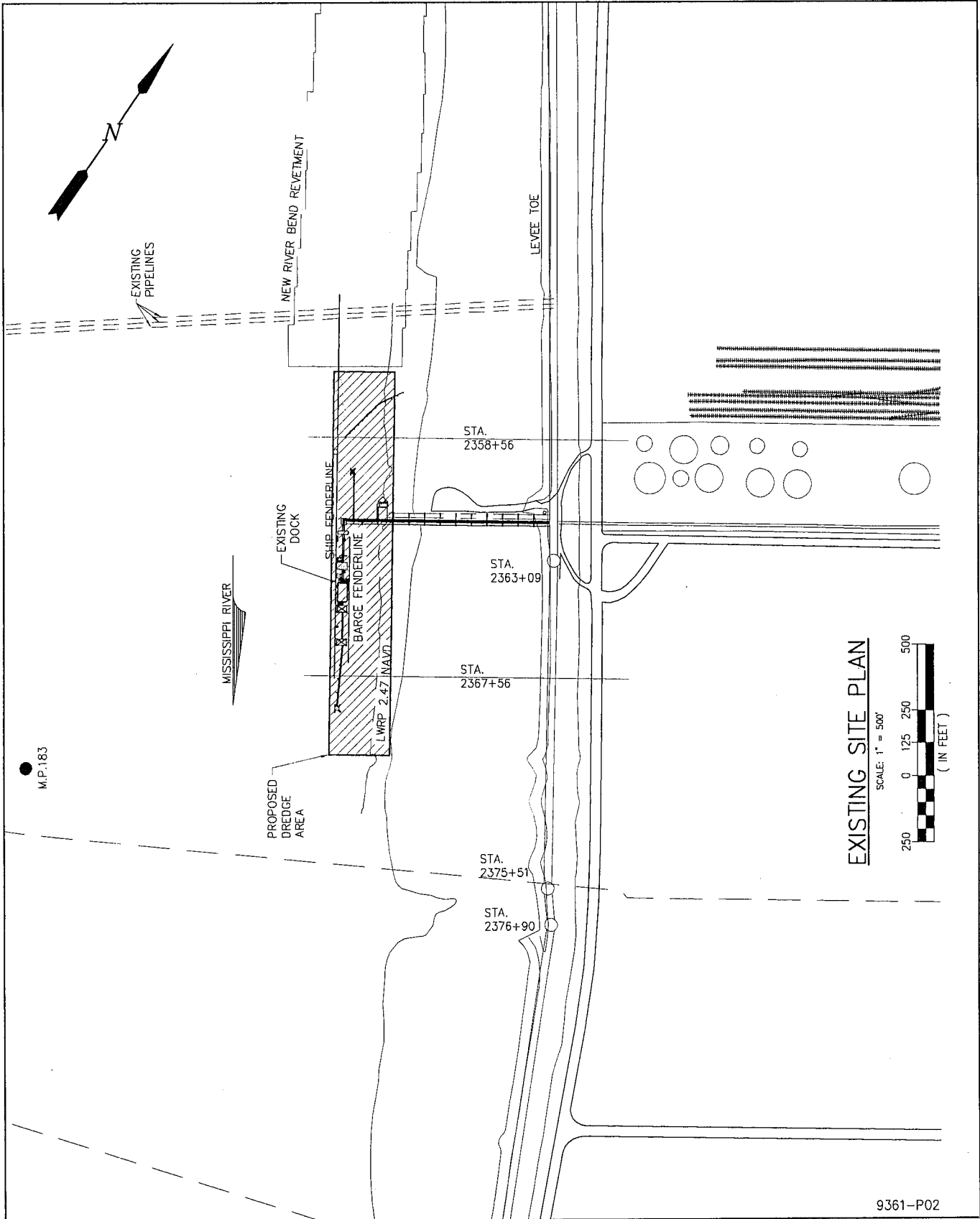
NEW ORLEANS, LA HOUSTON, TX

SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
GEISMAR LOUISIANA

**GEISMAR SHIP DOCK
DREDGE PLAN
VICINITY PLAN**

DATE JULY '14
DESIGN JEL
DRAWN PJC
CHECK JTM
CONTRACT 9361
SHEET No. 1 OF 5

JAN 14 2015



EXISTING SITE PLAN
 SCALE: 1" = 500'
 250 0 125 250 500
 (IN FEET)

9361-P02

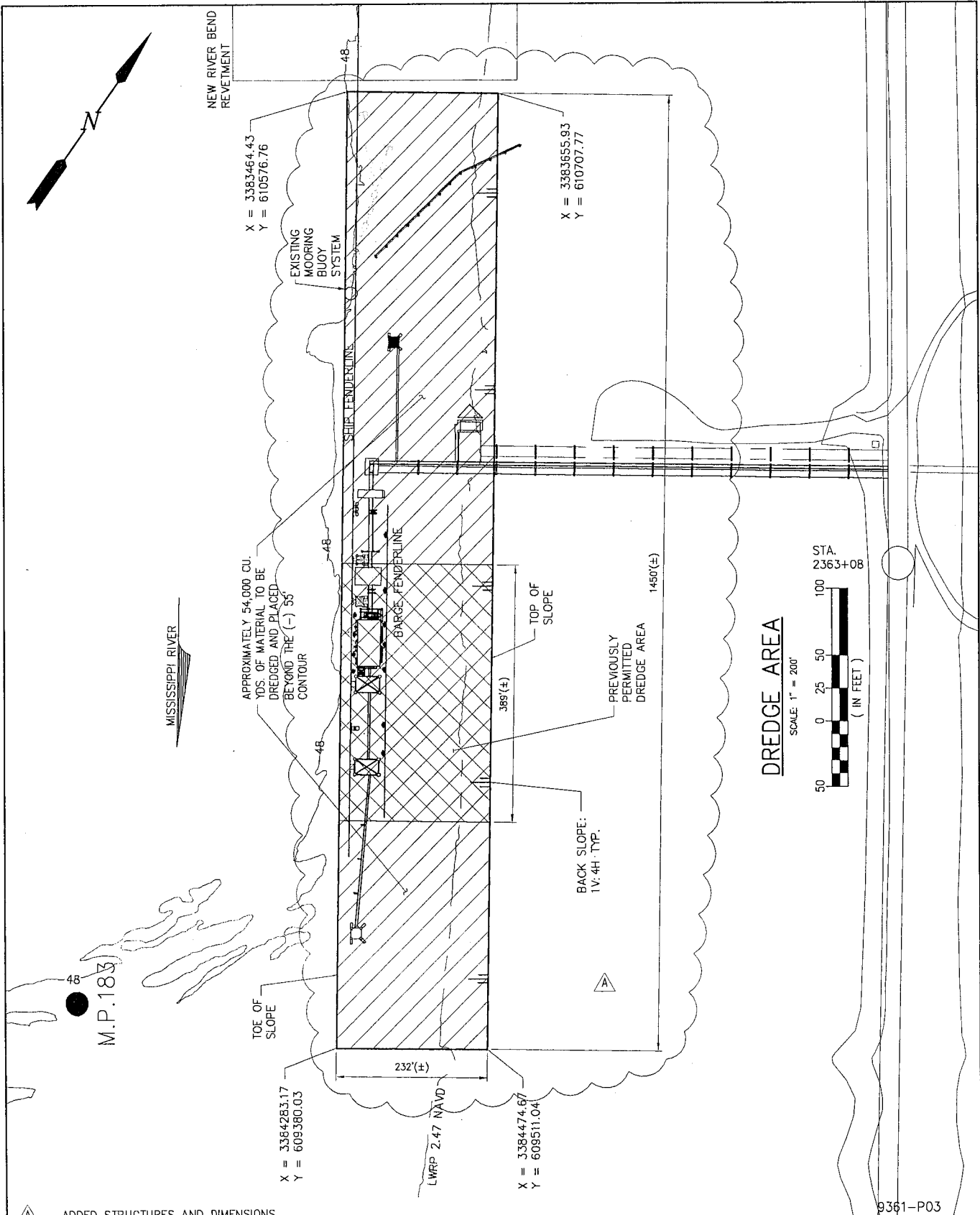
DATE JULY '14
 DESIGN JEL
 DRAWN PJC
 CHECK JTM
 CONTRACT 9361
 SHEET No.
 2 OF 5

LANIER & ASSOCIATES
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 INCORPORATED
 NEW ORLEANS, LA HOUSTON, TX

SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
 GEISMAR LOUISIANA

**GEISMAR SHIP DOCK
 DREDGE PLAN
 EXISTING SITE PLAN**

JAN 14 2015



▲ - ADDED STRUCTURES AND DIMENSIONS.

9361-P03

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INCORPORATED
NEW ORLEANS, LA HOUSTON, TX

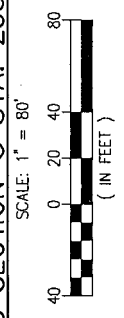
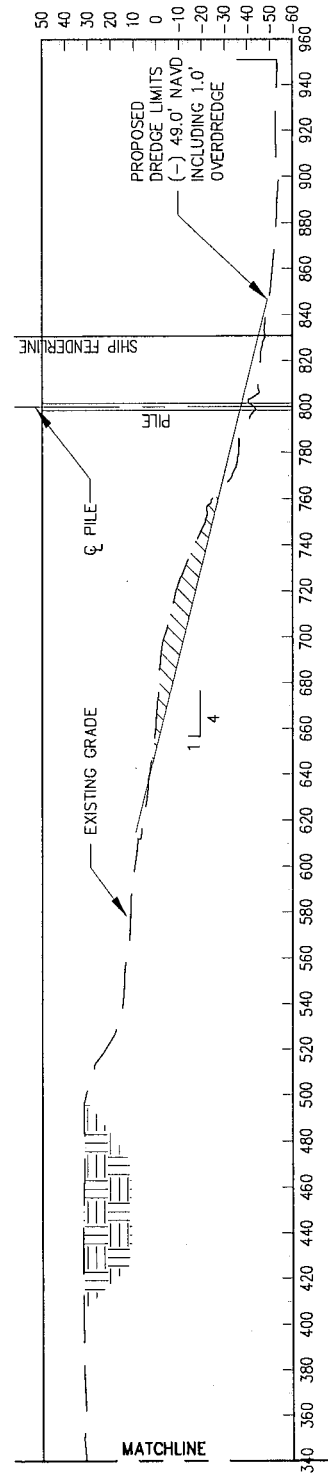
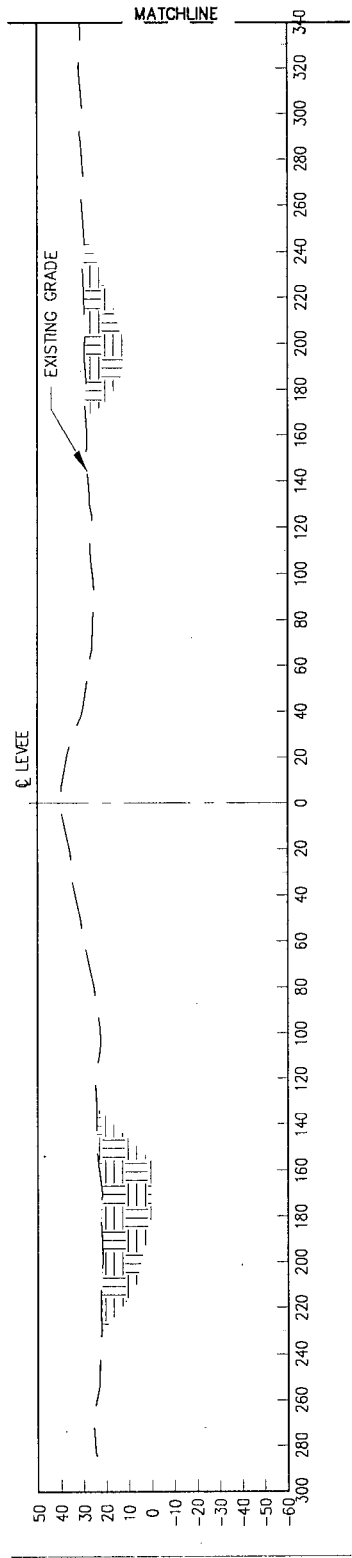
SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
LOUISIANA

GEISMAR

**GEISMAR SHIP DOCK
DREDGE PLAN
DREDGE AREA**

DATE JULY '14
DESIGN JEL
DRAWN PJC
CHECK JIM
CONTRACT 9361
SHEET No.
3 OF 5

JAN 14 2015



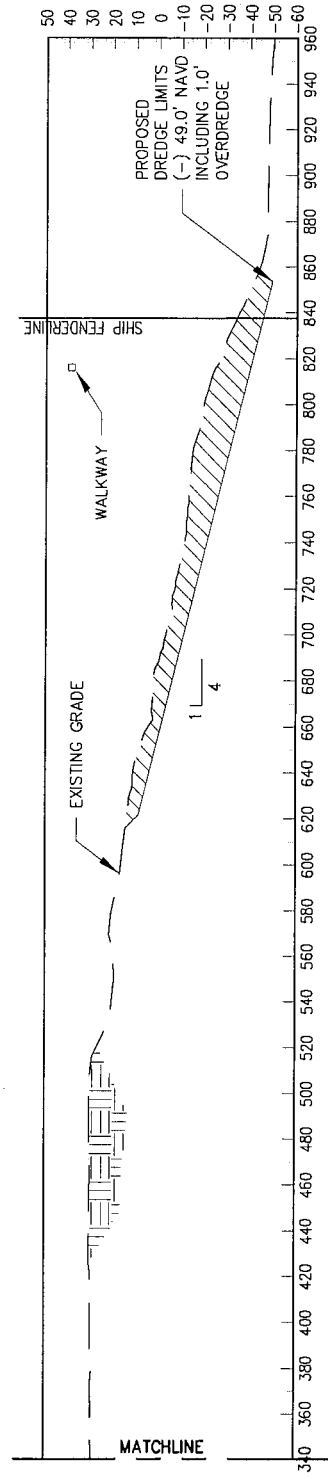
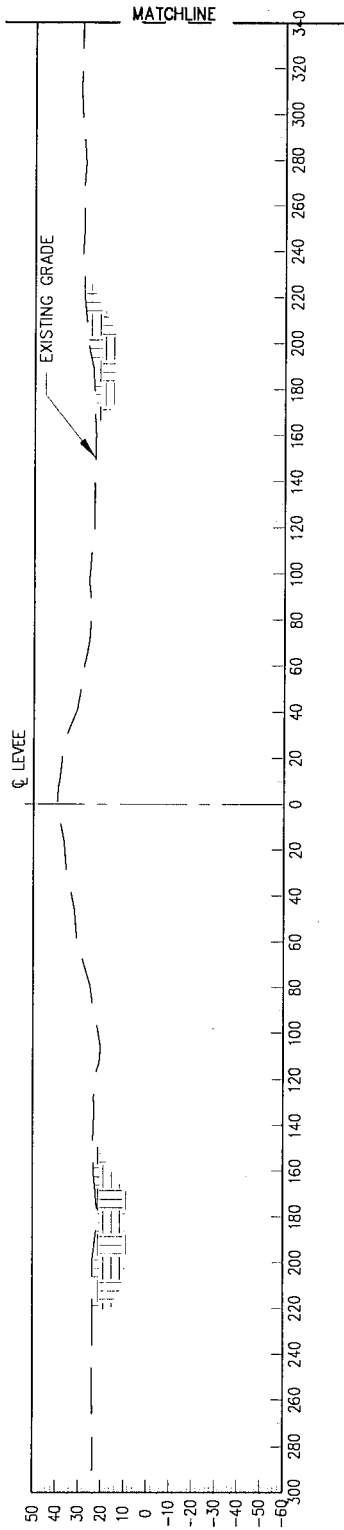
CROSS SECTION @ STA. 2358+56

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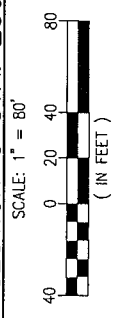
SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
 GEISMAR LOUISIANA

**GEISMAR SHIP DOCK
 DREDGE PLAN
 CROSS SECTIONS**

DATE	JULY '14
DESIGN	JEL
DRAWN	PJC
CHECK	JTM
CONTRACT	9361
SHEET No.	4 OF 5



CROSS SECTION @ STA. 2367+56



9361-P05

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 NEW ORLEANS, LA HOUSTON, TX

SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
 GEISMAR LOUISIANA

**GEISMAR SHIP DOCK
 DREDGE PLAN
 CROSS SECTIONS**

DATE	JULY '14
DESIGN	JEL
DRAWN	PJC
CHECK	JTM
CONTRACT	9361
SHEET No.	5 OF 5