# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

**August 12, 2019** 

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

(504) 862-2675
Project Manager
Jamie Crowe
Jamie.M.Crowe@usace.army.mil
Permit Application Number
MVN 2012-01674 CO

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

(225) 219-3225 Project Manager Elizabeth Hill

WQC Application Number WQC 190807-02

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:
[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).

# DOCK, HEAVY HAUL RAMP, AND MONOETHYLENE GLYCOL MANUFACTURING UNIT IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ASCENSION PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT**: Shell Chemicals LP, c/o CK Associates, 8591 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 300, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

**LOCATION OF WORK**: In the Mississippi River, left descending bank, mile 183, and at 7594 Highway 75, Geismar, Louisiana 70734; within the Mississippi River Basin, in the Lower Mississippi River – Baton Rouge hydrologic unit (HUC 08070100), and within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, in the Lake Maurepas Hydrologic Unit (HUC 08070204).

**CHARACTER OF WORK**: The applicant has requested authorization to clear, grade, excavate, and fill an area to allow for construction of a new Monoethylene Glycol (MEG) manufacturing unit, buildings, parking, storage tanks, and other appurtenant structures at the Shell Geismar Plant. A temporary heavy haul road will be installed to transport process unit equipment from the Mississippi River to the project site. Additionally, a new 50'x50' dock and 360-foot walkway to allow more ships to dock at the facility. Approximately 50,253 cubic yards of earthen fill and 4,000 cubic yards of limestone will be placed on site. Approximately 6.7 acres of forested jurisdictional wetlands, 2.3 acres

of herbaceous wetlands, and 3.6 acres of jurisdictional waters will be impacted by project implementation.

The applicant has chosen the site because it is adjacent to Shell Geismar process units and associated infrastructure. Off-site alternatives were not feasible because operation of this expansion requires adjacency to the existing plant. The heavy haul road route was chosen such that wetland impacts were minimized by utilizing non-wetland areas between Belle Helene Plantation and the adjacent pasture. In lieu of an earthen ramp, the applicant has chosen to utilize a span bridge structure to reduce the footprint and impacts of the heavy haul ramp. The facility layout was designed to utilize uplands and avoid wetlands as much as practicable. To compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant will purchase credits from a Corps 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 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. 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.

This project was determined not likely to adversely affect the west Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), or the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). The project was determined to have no effect on any other known endangered species. These determinations are based on Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES) dated October 22, 2014, between the US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

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 <u>n/a acres</u> 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.

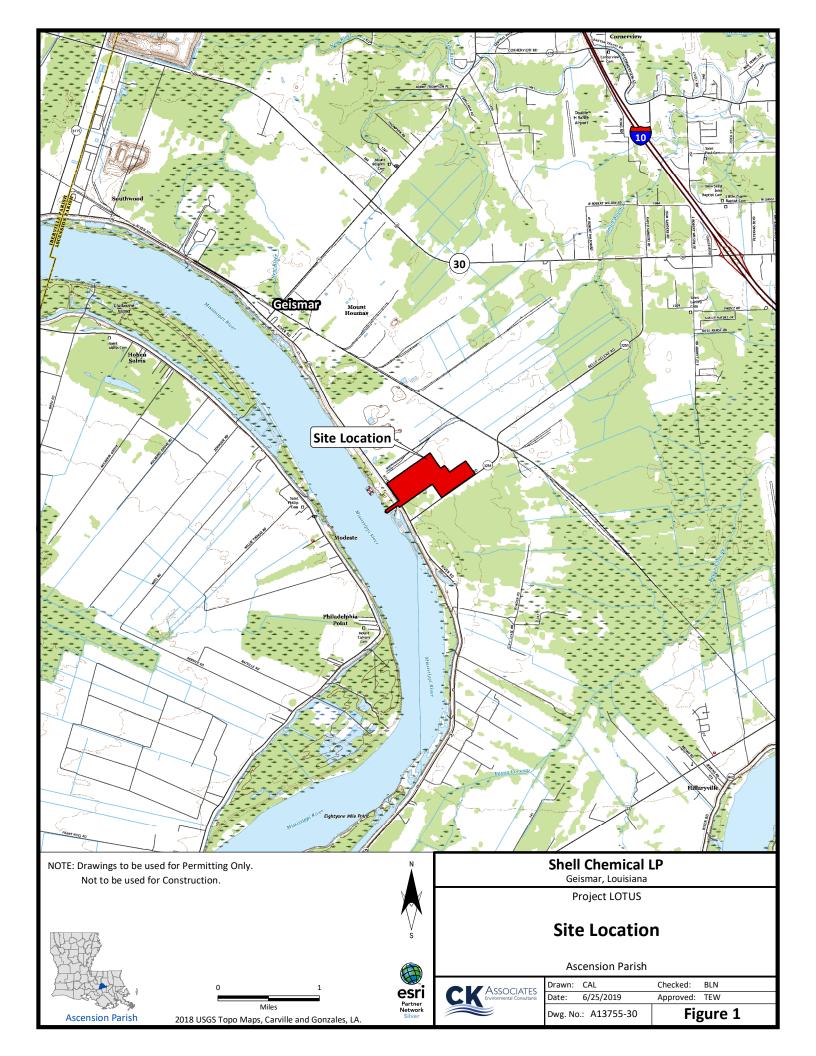
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, before a permit is issued.

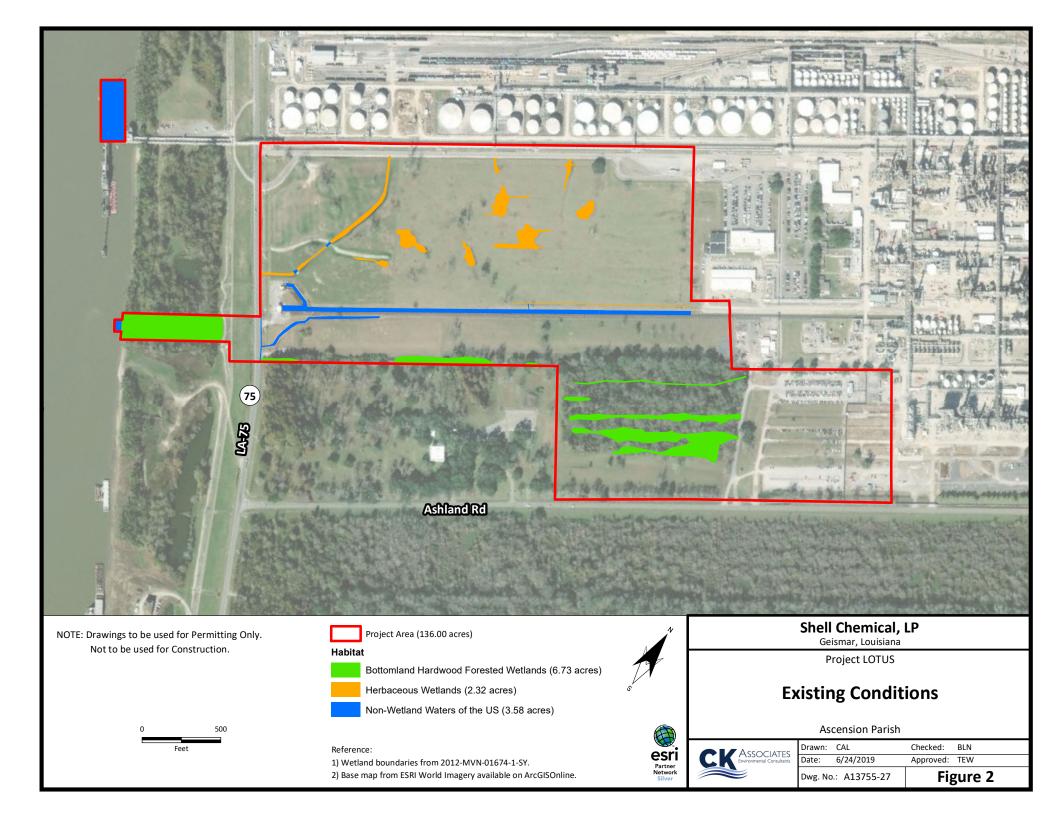
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

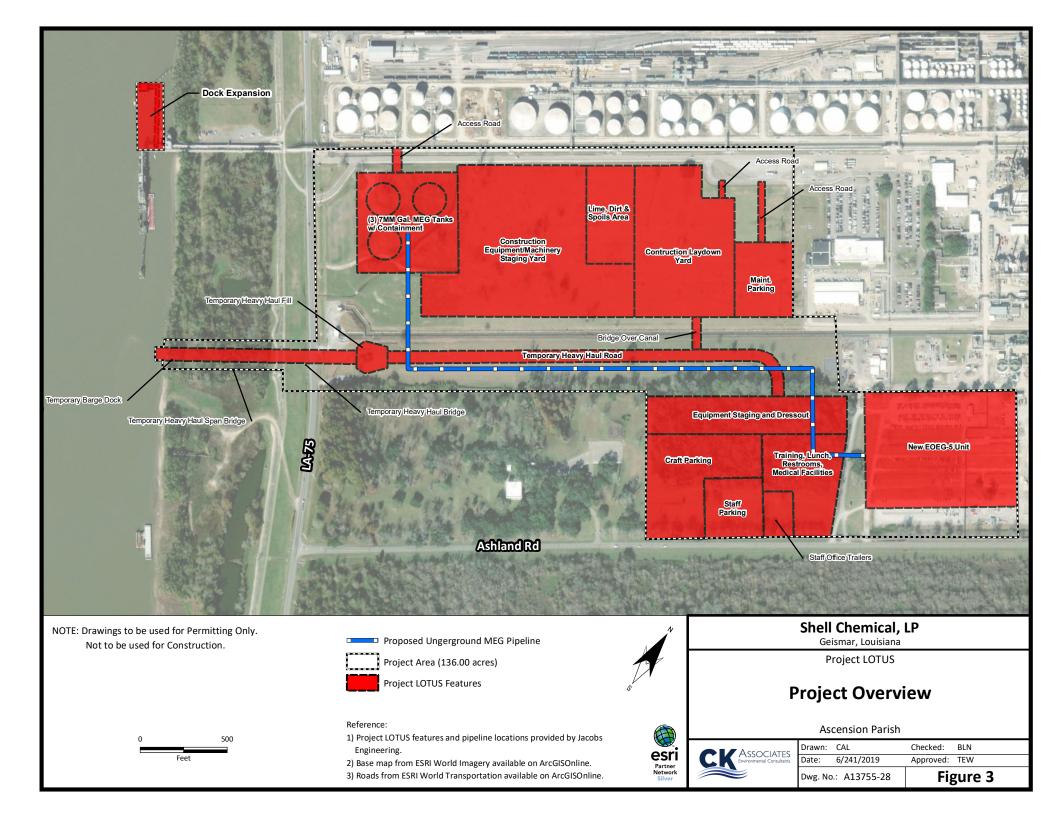
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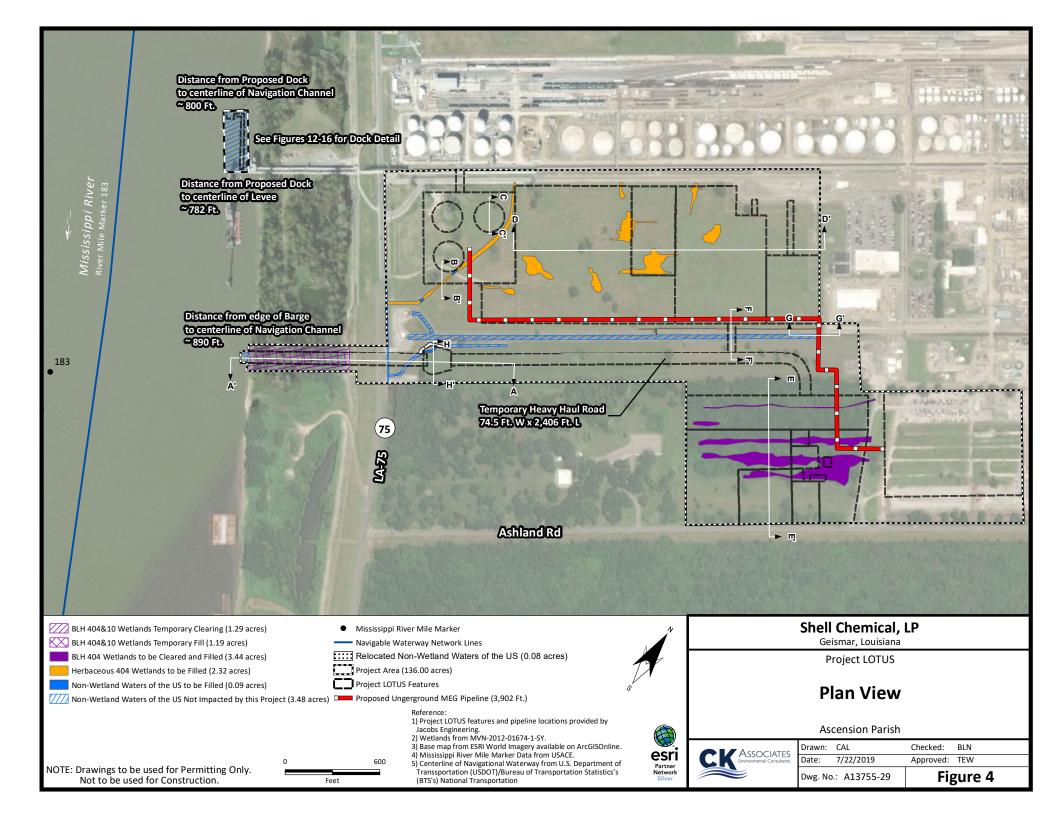
John M. Herman Chief, Central Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

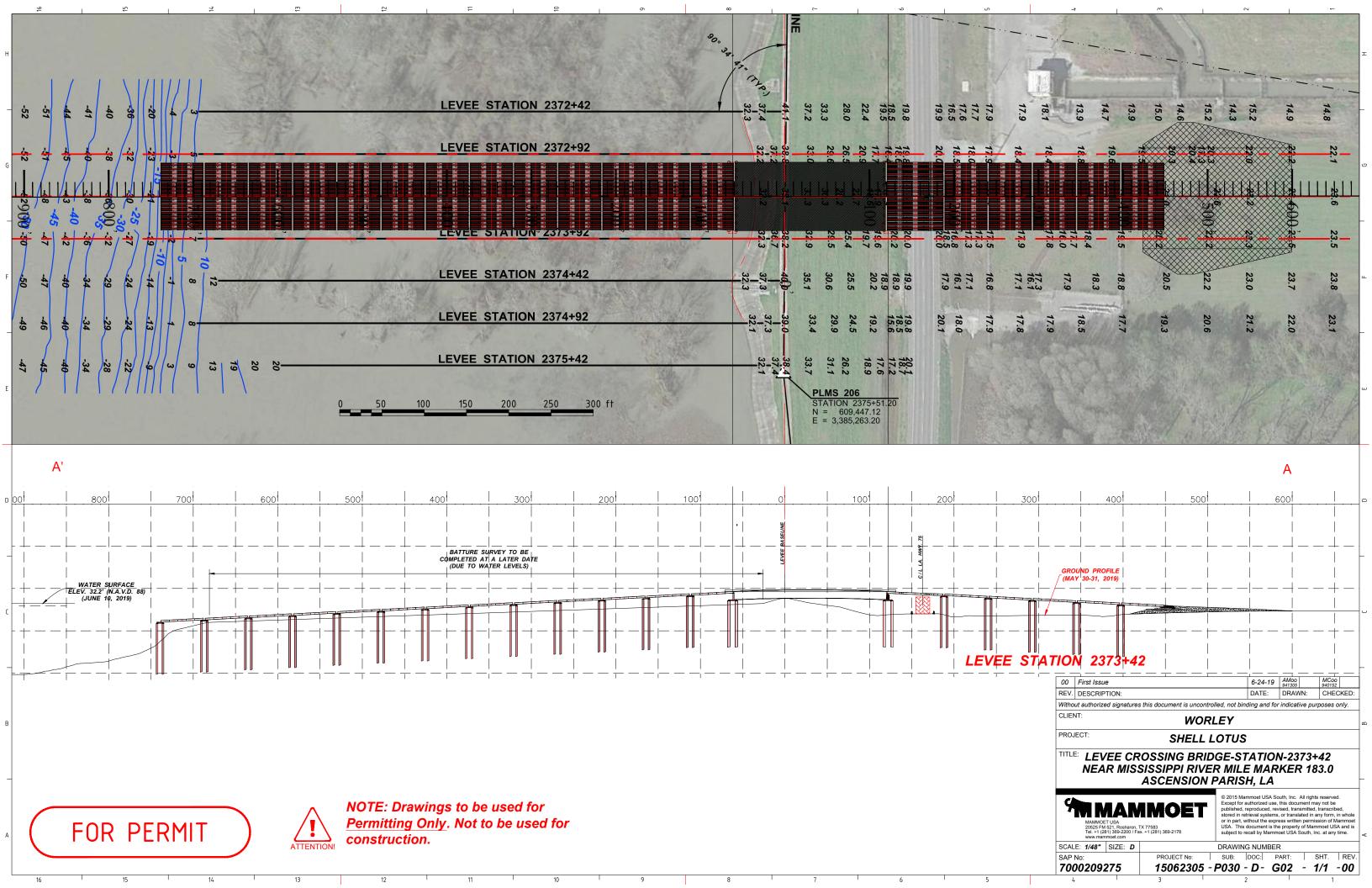
**Enclosure** 

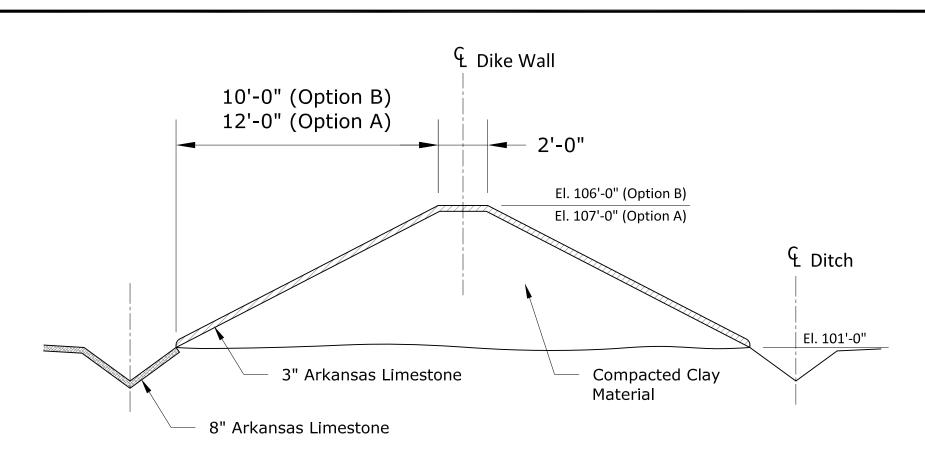












# Cross-Section B-B'

Not to Scale

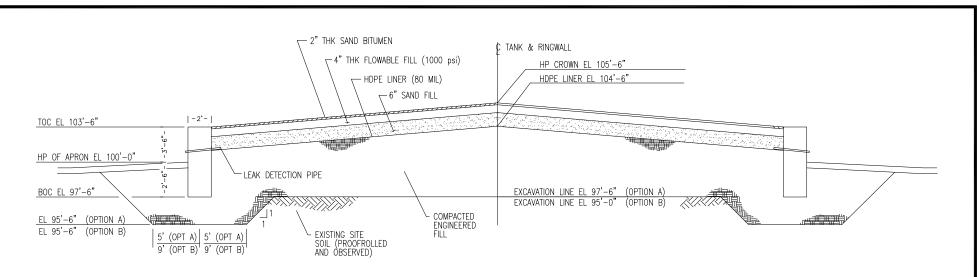
# Shell Chemical, LP Geismar, Louisiana Project LOTUS Cross-Section B-B'

Ascension Parish

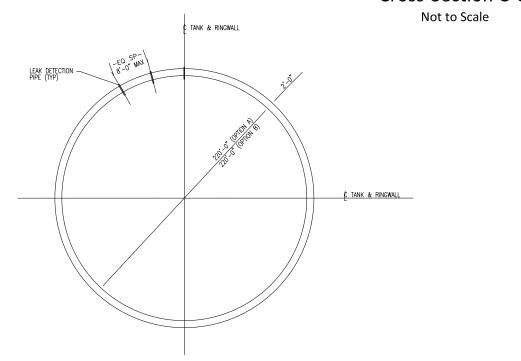


Dwg. No.:	A13755-17	Fig	ure 6
Date:	2/28/2019	Approved:	TEW
Drawn:	CAL	Checked:	BLN

NOTE: Drawings to be used for Permitting Only. Not to be used for Construction. Reference: Derived from drawing by Jacobs, SK-3B1-NK23-02, Dated 6/11/18.



#### Cross-Section C-C'



## Ringwall Plan View

NOTE: Drawings to be used for Permitting Only. Not to be used for Construction. Reference: Derived from drawing by Jacobs, SK-3B1-NK23-01, Dated 6/11/18.

#### Shell Chemical, LP

Geismar, Louisiana

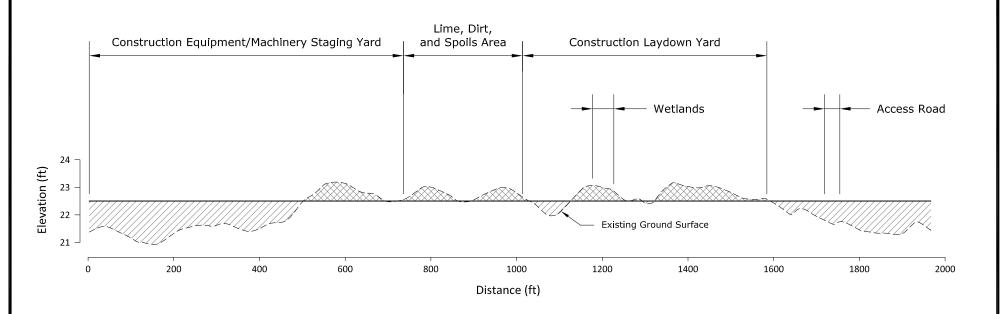
**Project LOTUS** 

#### **Cross-Section C-C'**

#### **Ascension Parish**



Drawn:	CAL	Checked:	BLN
Date:	2/28/2019	Approved:	TEW
Dwg. No.:	A13755-18	Fig	ure 7



# Cross-Section D-D'

Horizontal and Vertical Scale as Shown



Shell Chemical, LP Geismar, Louisiana

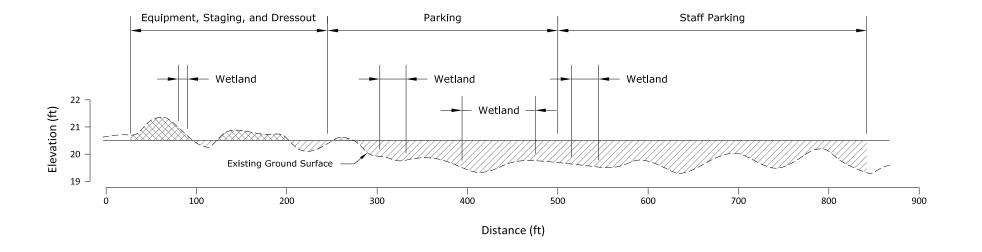
Project LOTUS

**Cross-Section D-D'** 

**Ascension Parish** 



Drawn:	CAL	Checked:	BLN
Date:	3/22/2019	Approved:	TEW
Dwg. No.:	A13755-19	Fig	ure 8



# Cross-Section E-E'

Horizontal and Vertical Scale as Shown



# Shell Chemical, LP

Geismar, Louisiana

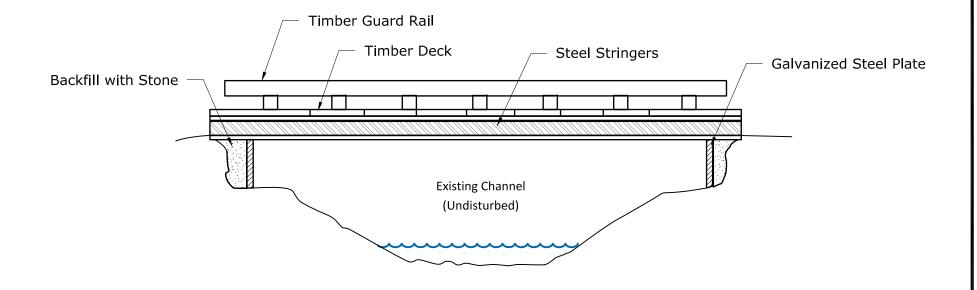
**Project LOTUS** 

## **Cross-Section E-E'**

**Ascension Parish** 



Dwg. No.:	A13755-20	Fig	ure 9
Date:	2/28/2019	Approved:	TEW
Drawn:	CAL	Checked:	BLN



Cross-Section F-F'

## Shell Chemical, LP

Geismar, Louisiana

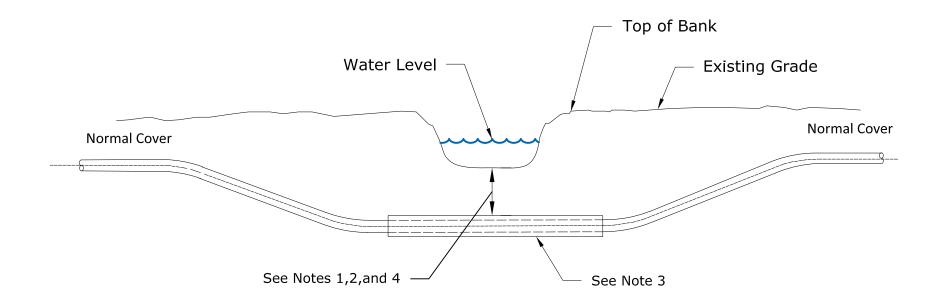
Project LOTUS

# Cross-Section F-F' Typical Bridge Stream Crossing

#### **Ascension Parish**



Drawn:	CAL	Checked:	BLN
Date:	2/28/2019	Approved:	TEW
Dwg. No.:	A13755-21	Fig	ure 10



#### NOTES:

- DEPTH OF COVER TO BE A MINIMUM OF 5'-0" AS SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS OR AS DIRECTED BY COMPANY.
- 2. PIPE SHALL BE LEVEL UNDER STREAM/DRAINAGE DITCH CHANNEL AT DEPTH SHOWN EXCEPT WHERE NOTED OTHERWISE.
- 3. CONCRETE COATING WILL BE INSTALLED AS SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS OR AS DIRECTED BY COMPANY.
- 4. THIS METHOD OF CROSSING IS TO BE USED ON WATERBODIES WHERE THERE IS NO DISCERNIBLE FLOW.

### Shell Chemical, LP

Geismar, Louisiana

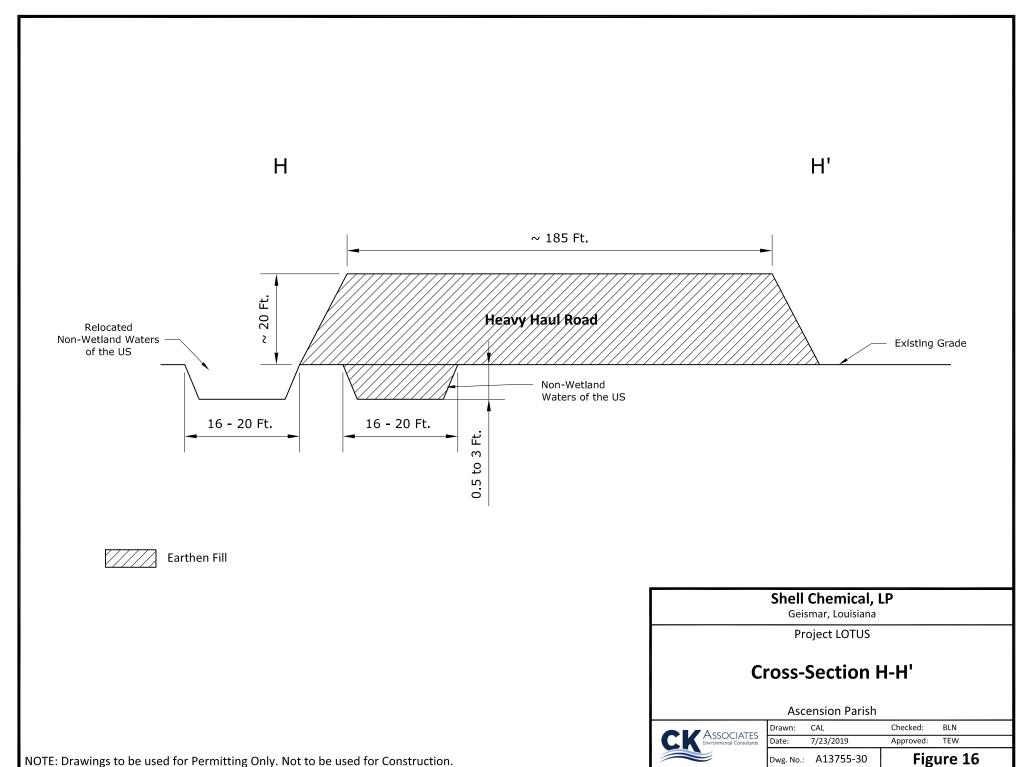
Project LOTUS

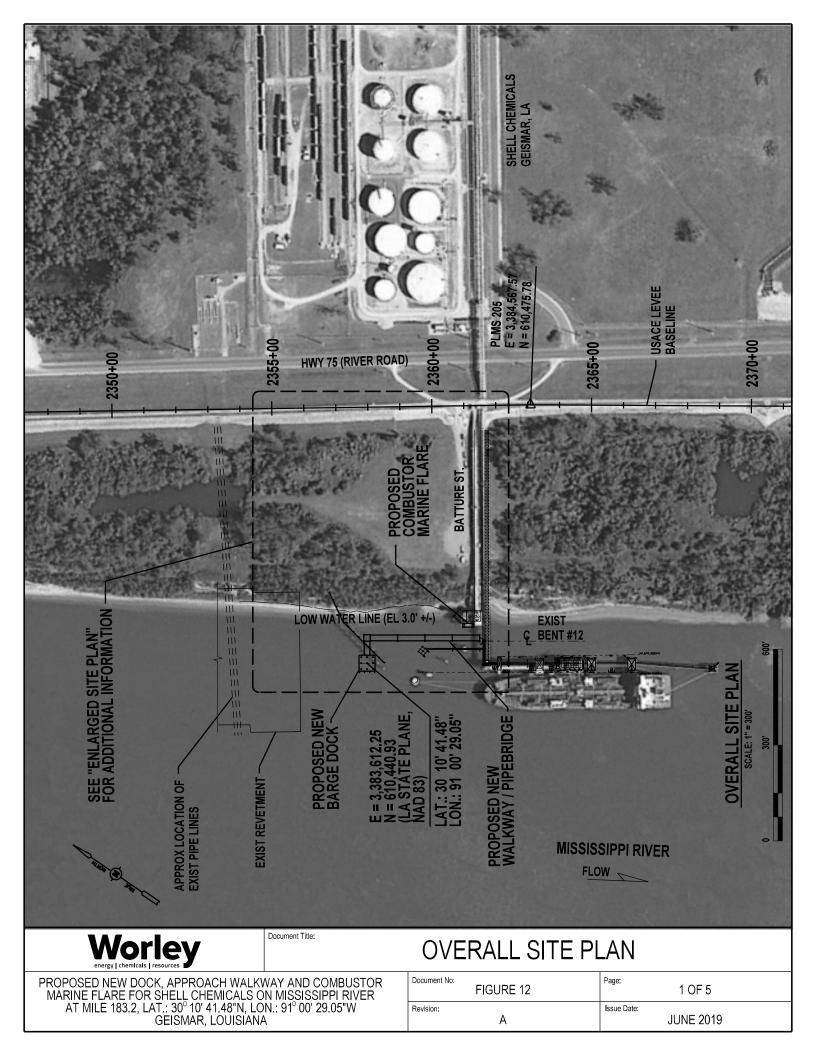
# **Cross-Section G-G' Typical Open Cut Stream Crossing**

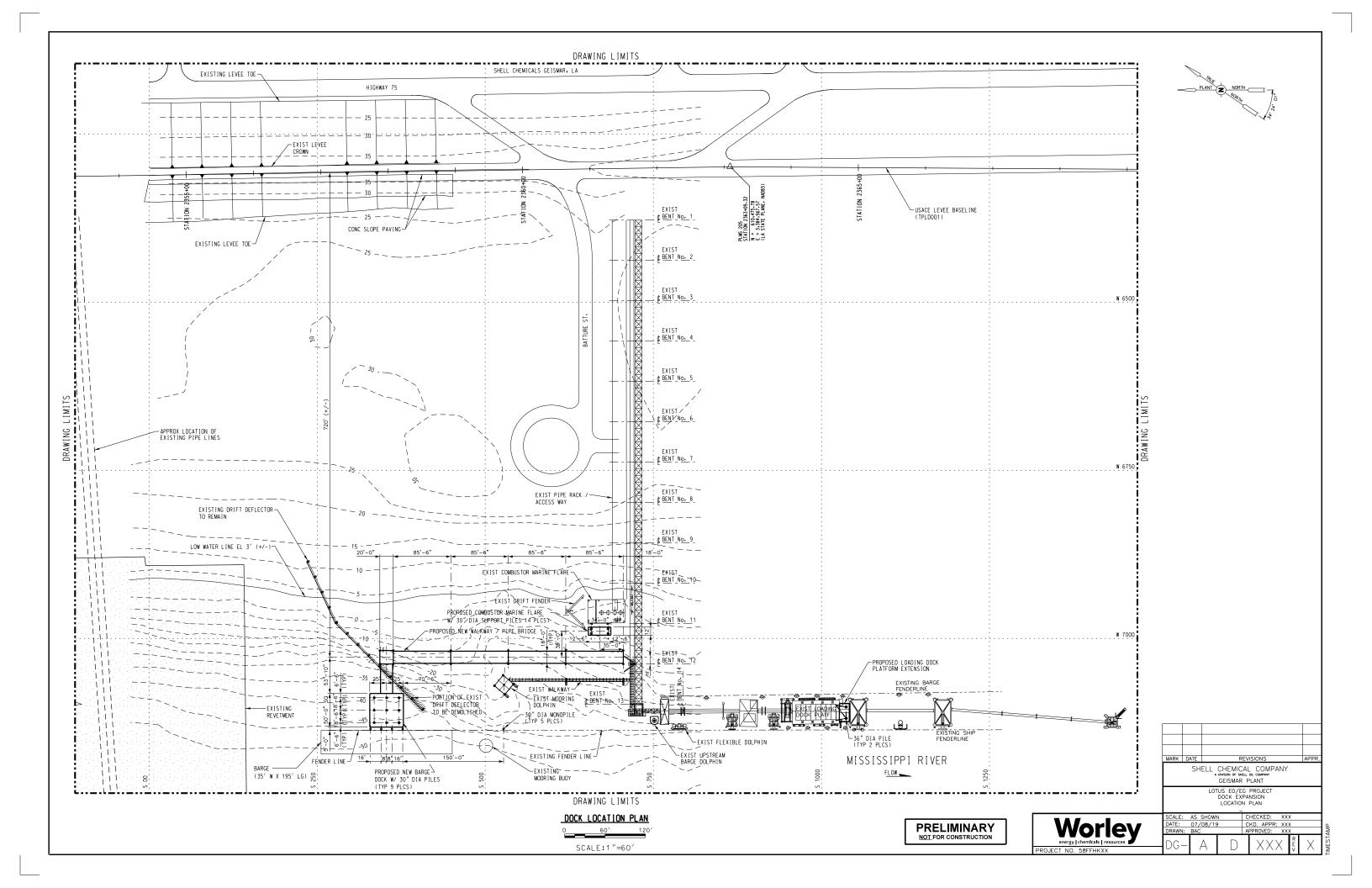
**Ascension Parish** 

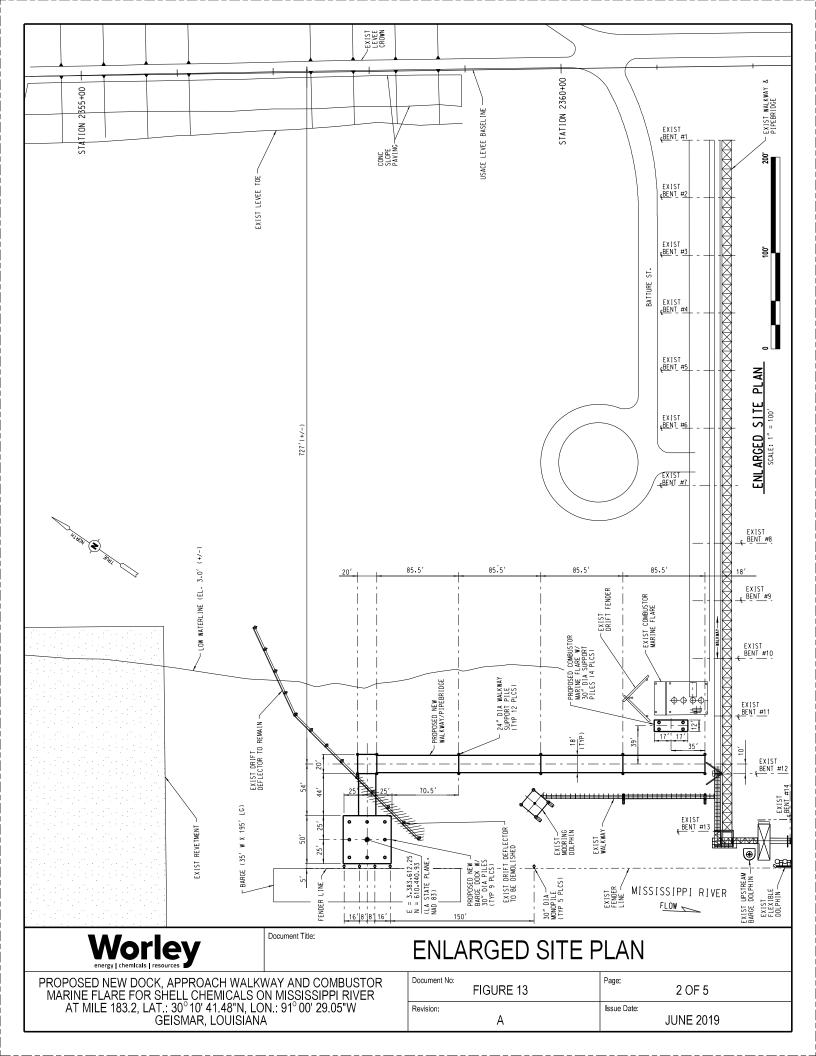


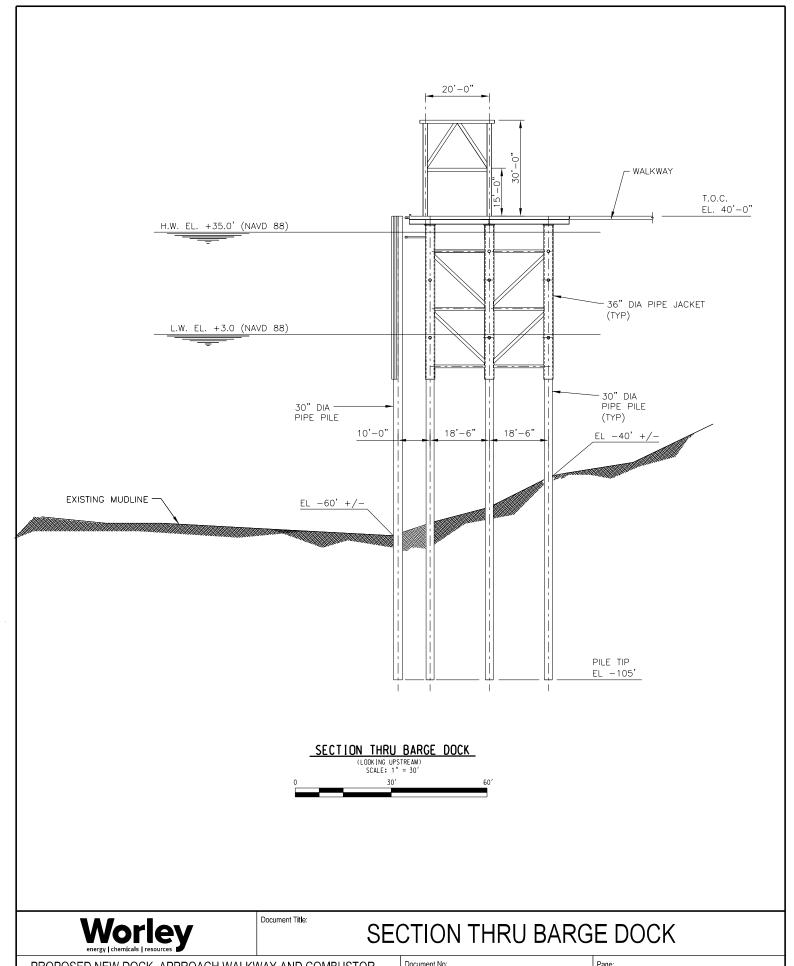
Dwg. No.:	A13755-22	Figu	ure 11
Date:	2/28/2019	Approved:	TEW
Drawn:	CAL	Checked:	BLN





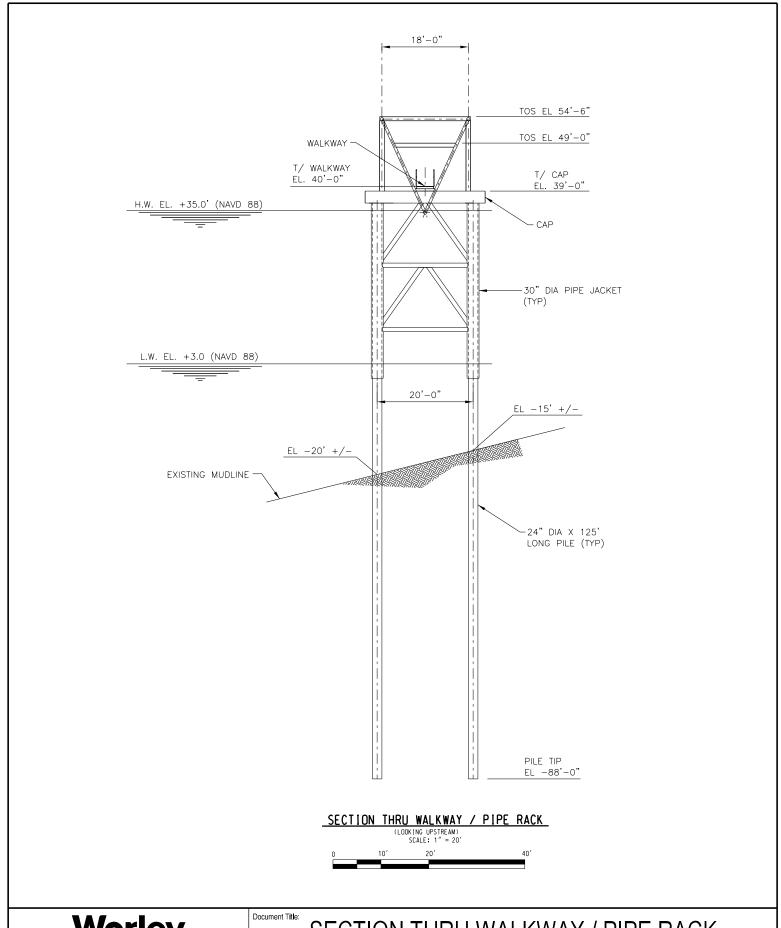






PROPOSED NEW DOCK, APPROACH WALKWAY AND COMBUSTOR MARINE FLARE FOR SHELL CHEMICALS ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT MILE 183.2, LAT.: 30° 10' 41.48"N, LON.: 91° 00' 29.05"W GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

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Revision:	Issue Date: JUNE 2019



# SECTION THRU WALKWAY / PIPE RACK

PROPOSED NEW DOCK, APPROACH WALKWAY AND COMBUSTOR MARINE FLARE FOR SHELL CHEMICALS ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT MILE 183.2, LAT.: 30° 10′ 41.48″N, LON.: 91° 00′ 29.05″W GEISMAR, LOUISIANA

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Revision:	Issue Date: JUNE 2019