

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

16 March 2020

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch (ODR-E)
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
ATTN: Water Quality Certifications
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2279
angelle.v.greer@usace.army.mil
Project Manager
Angelle Greer
Permit Application Number
MVN-2014-02122-EG

(225) 219-3225
Project Manager
Elizabeth Hill
WQC Application Number
WQC 200129-01

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, Water Quality Certifications, 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 ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN ST. BERNARD PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Valero Refining- Meraux, LLC, c/o GHD Services, Inc., Attention: Brandon Vulgamore, 5551 Corporate Blvd., Suite 20, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

LOCATION OF WORK: On the Mississippi River, left-descending bank, approximately 87 miles AHP, in Meraux, in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

Location: Latitude: 29.92497, Longitude: -89.94377

Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090100 (Lower Mississippi-New Orleans)

CHARACTER OF WORK: Perform maintenance dredging to -25-feet NAVD 88 around existing monopoles and downstream of the facility's dock, and to -55-feet NAVD 88 around the existing dock. No wetland impacts are expected as a result of the project, therefore no compensatory mitigation is proposed. This project was previously advertised on 3 February 2020, but included a smaller project footprint. The project scope has been revised and is included in the attached plan drawings.

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**. **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.**

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 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 New Orleans District has determined that the activity will have no effect on the West Indian Manatee and is not likely to adversely affect the Pallid Sturgeon based on the 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.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work is Not Likely to Adversely Affect any species listed as endangered, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of those species listed by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction or alteration of approximately 10.33 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, Water Quality Certifications, 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.

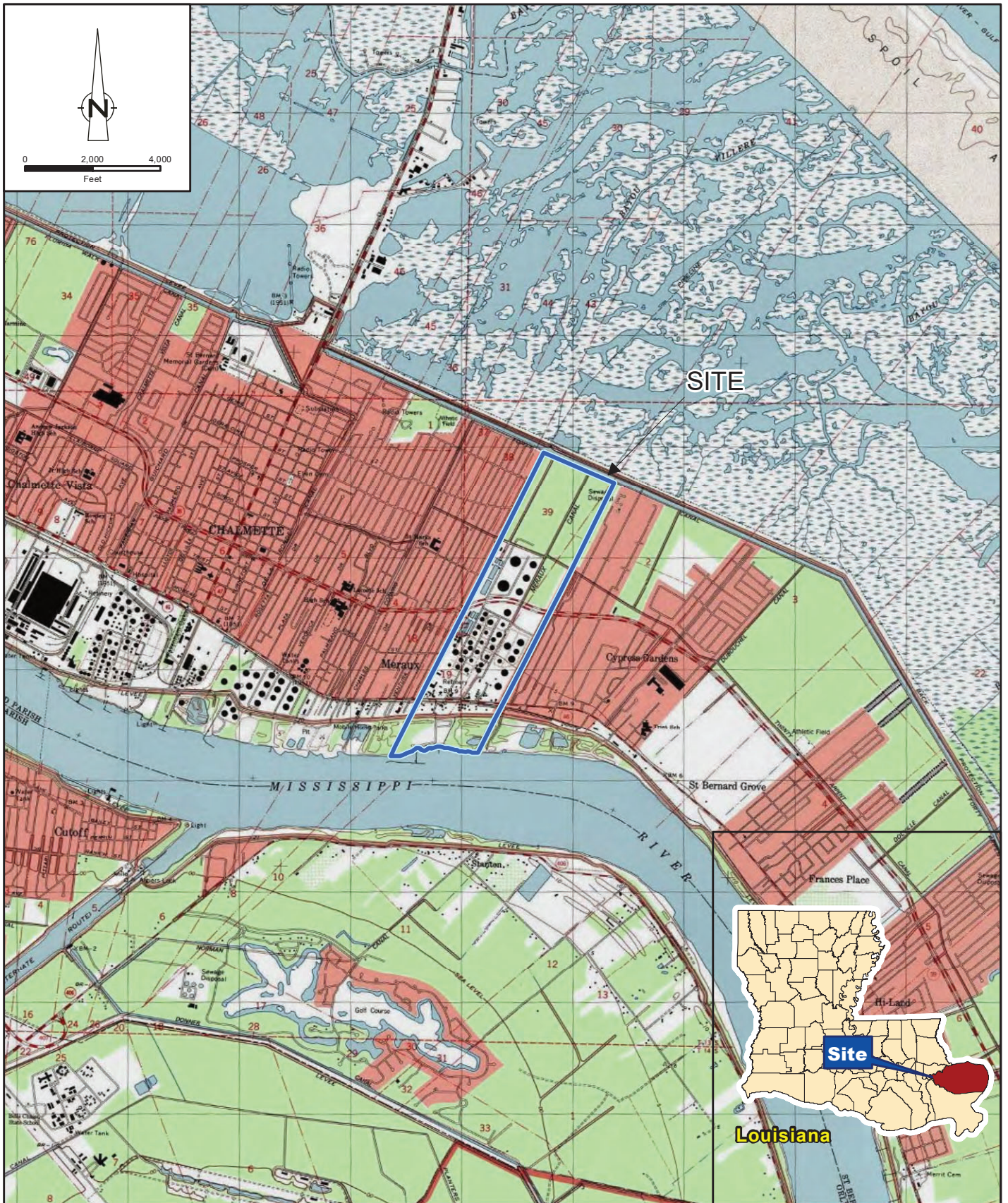
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program.

The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

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.

Michael V. Farabee
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosure



Source: ESRI Topographic Basemap, Accessed 2019
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N

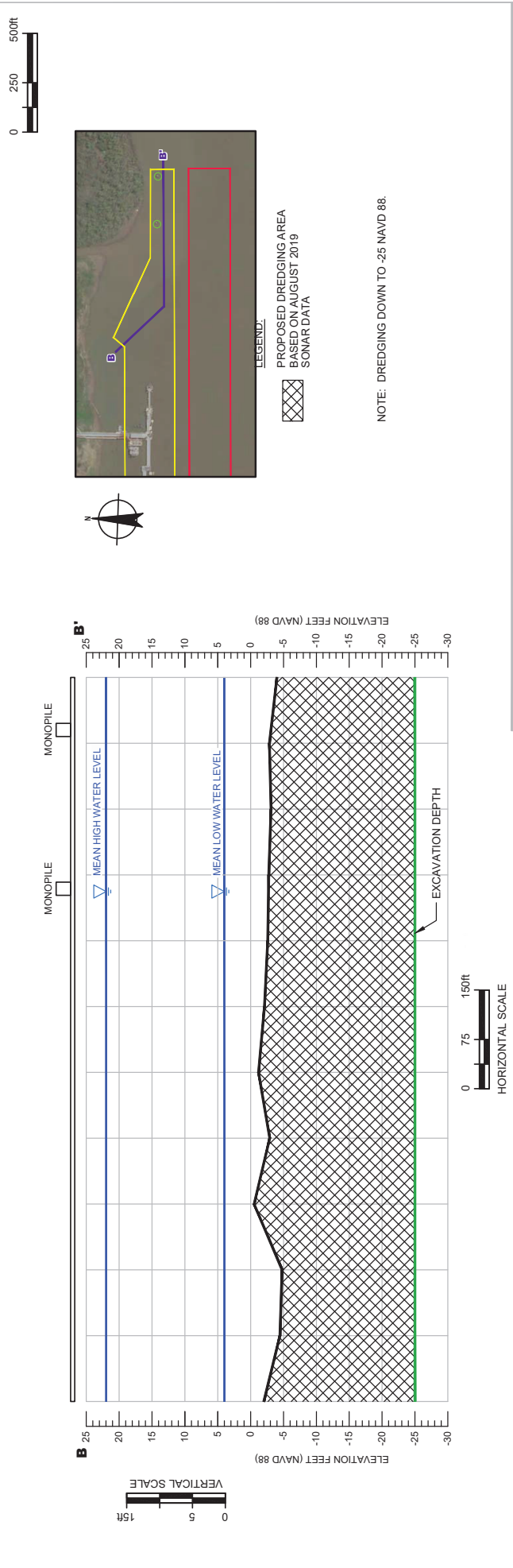
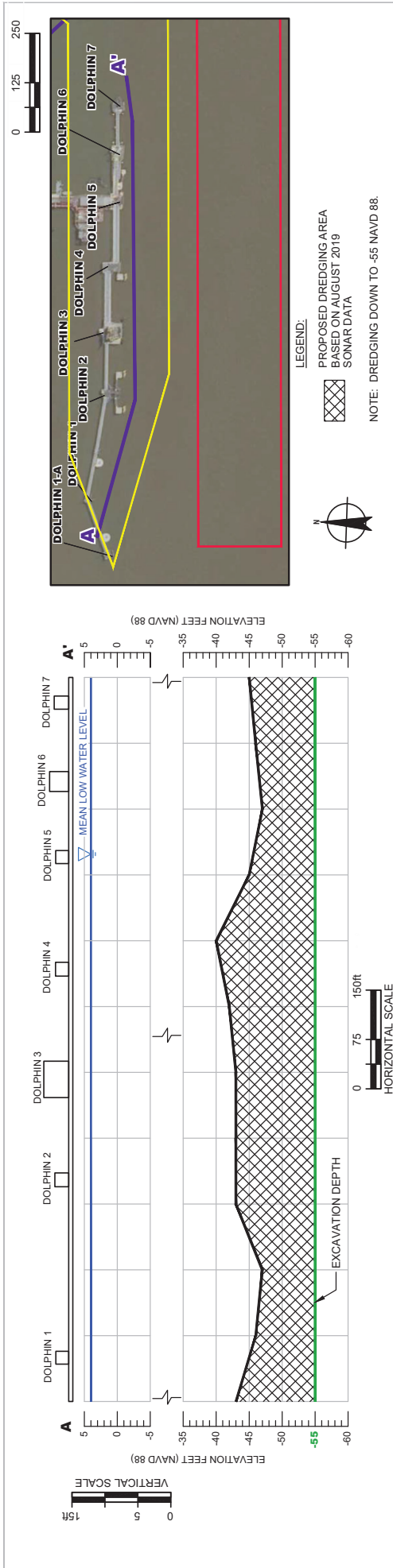


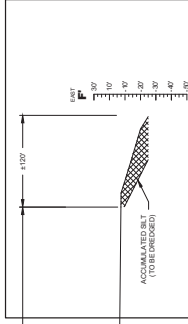
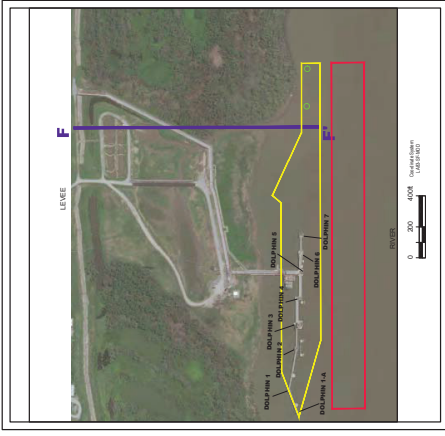
VALERO REFINING - MERAUX, LLC, MERAUX, LOUISIANA
 MERAUX REFINERY

089031
 11/12/2019

VICINITY MAP

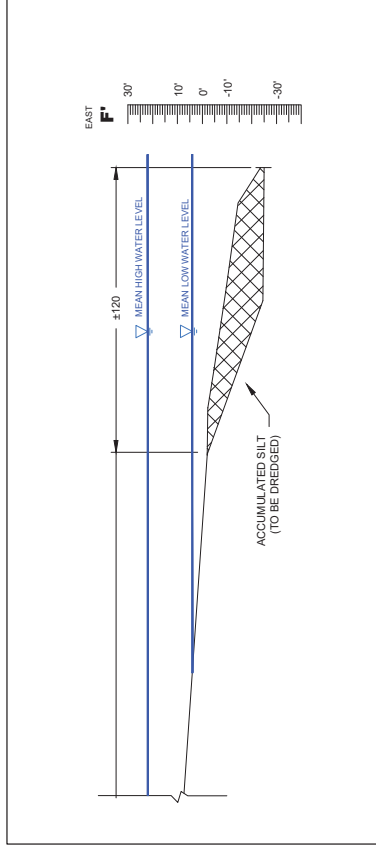
FIGURE 1





0 20 40
HORIZONTAL SCALE

CROSS-SECTION F-F



ENLARGED VIEW

LEGEND
 [Hatched Box] PROPOSED DREDGING AREA AS SHOWN ON AUGUST 2019 BORNE DATA
 [Red Box] AREA TO BE DREDGED TO THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF ACCUMULATION



VALERO REFINING - MERAUX, LLC
 MERAUX, LOUISIANA
 MERAUX REFINERY
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING
 PROPOSED DREDGING
 CROSS SECTION F-F

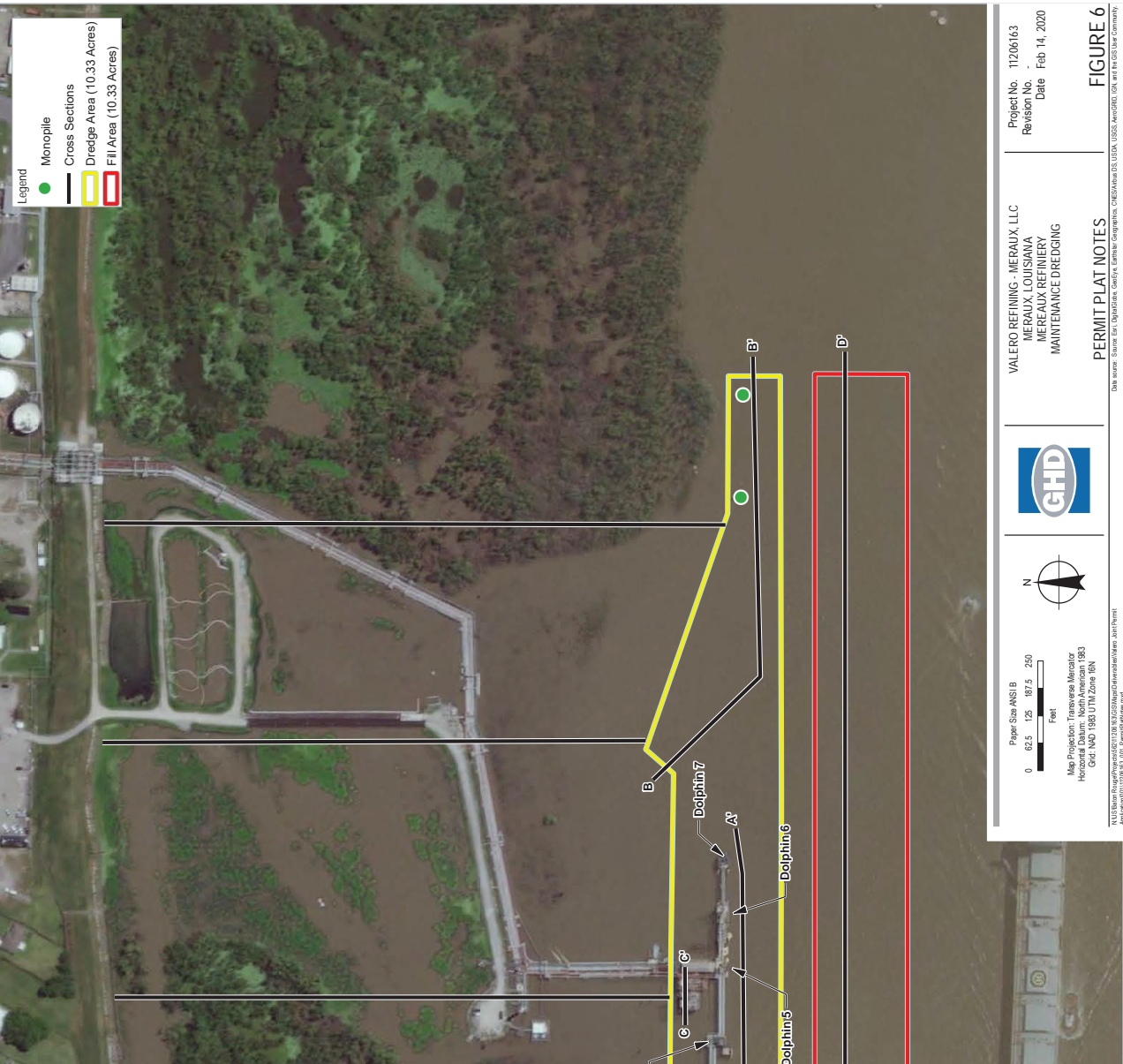
Project No. 11206163
 Date February 2020

FIGURE 4C

Data Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, IGN, and the GIS User Community

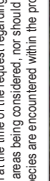
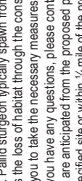
Notes:

- 1) As-built drawings and/or plats shall have written on them the date of completion of said activities and shall be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management, P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487, within 30 days following project completion.
- 2) All structures, facilities, well and pipeline/offlines occurring in open water areas or in oilfield canals or slips shall be removed within 120 days of abandonment or the facilities for the herein permitted use unless prior written approval to leave such structures in place is received from the Office of Coastal Management. This condition does not preclude the necessity for revising the current permit or obtaining a separate Coastal Use Permit, should one be required.
- 3) Structures must also be marked/lighted in accordance with U. S. Coast Guard regulations.
- 4) In order to ensure the safety of all parties, the permittee shall contact the Louisiana One Call System (1-800-272-3020) a minimum of 48 hours prior to the commencement of any excavation (digging, dredging, jacking, etc.) or demolition activity.
- 5) Louisiana Natural Heritage Program: The pallid sturgeon (*Scaphiirhynchus albus*) may occur in water bodies near your proposed project. The pallid sturgeon is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) and is confined to the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in southern Louisiana. This species requires large, turbid, free-flowing riverine habitat and is adapted to living close to the bottom of large rivers with sand and gravel bars. Pallid sturgeon typically spawn from May-August, but successful reproduction has been severely reduced due to habitat modification. This includes the loss of habitat through the construction of dams that have modified flows, reduced turbidity and lowered water temperatures. We advise you to take the necessary measures to avoid the breeding season and any degradation of water quality in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. If you have any questions, please contact Beau Gregory at 337-481-2576. No other impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated from the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas or scenic rivers are known at the specified site or within 1/2 mile of the proposed project. The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. LNHP reports should not be considered final statements on the biological significance of areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. If at any time LNHP tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact our biologist at 225-765-5943.



Project No. 11206163
 Revision No. 1
 Date Feb 14, 2020

VALERO REFINING - MERRAUX, LLC
 MERRAUX, LOUISIANA
 MERRAUX REFINERY
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING



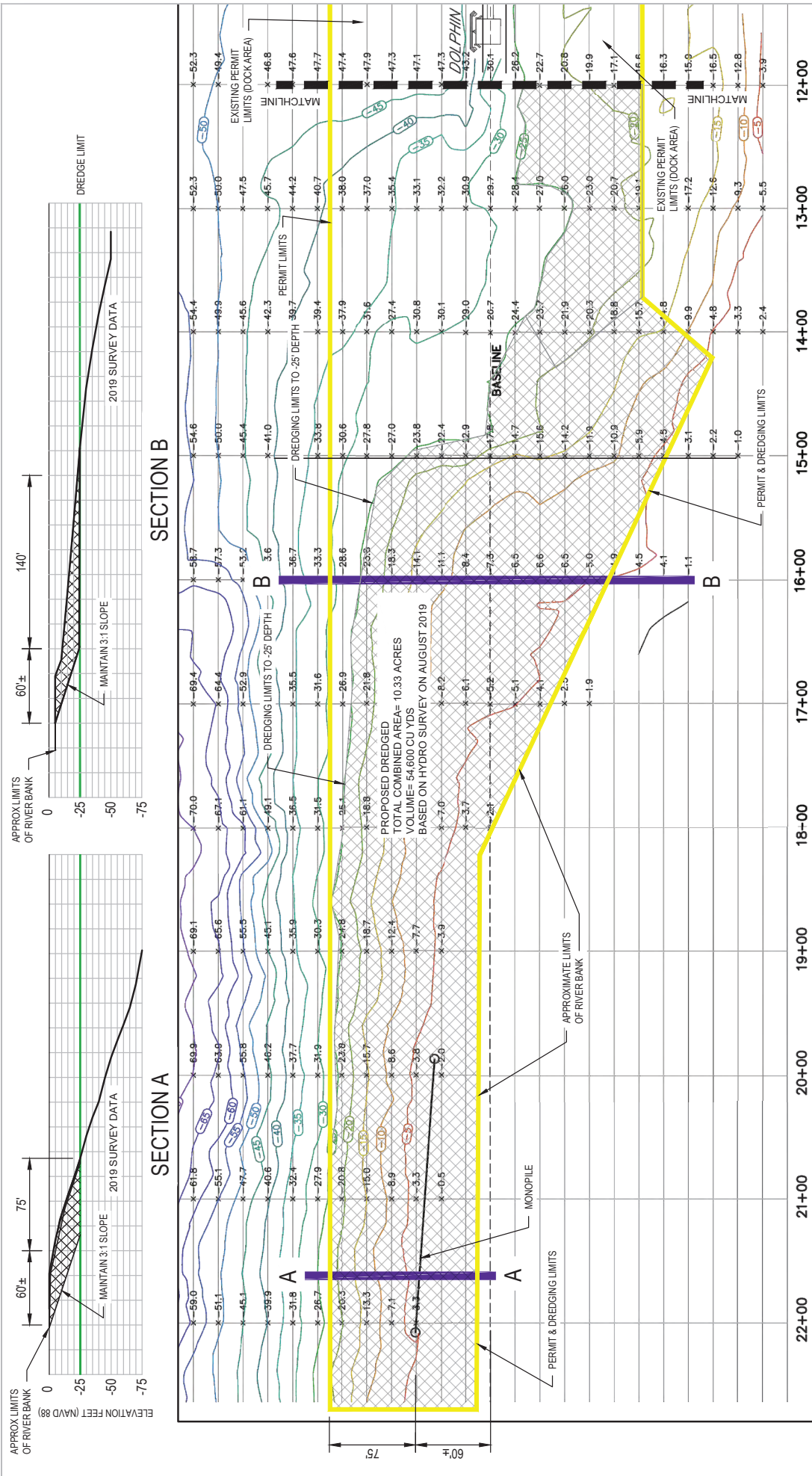
Paper Size ANSI B
 0 62.5 125 187.5 250
 Feet

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Horizontal Datum: North American 1983
 Grid: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

Permit No. 14-EP-2020-1102

FIGURE 6

Date Issued: Source Est., Upgrade/Gen. Exp., Earthwork, Geotechnical, CADD/As-Built, USGS, Aerial/020, USN, and E-0205 (Base Community)



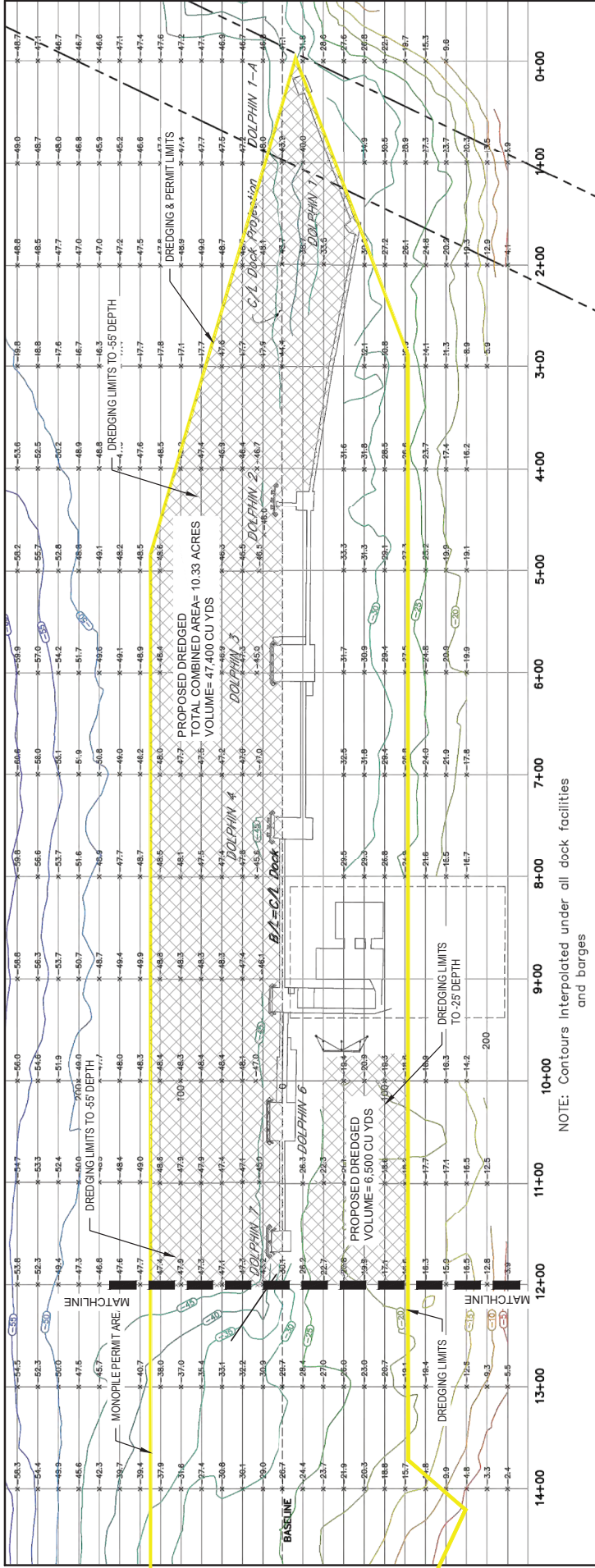
Project No. 11206163
 Date FEBRUARY 2020

VALERO REFINING-MERAUX, LLC.
 MERAUX, LOUISIANA
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING
 PROPOSED DREDGING VOLUMES



FIGURE 7A
 Date Issue

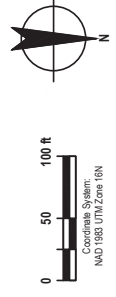
Reference: N:\US-Baton Rouge\Projects\16071617\Shreveport\Drawings\16-00000\160716-10000\FIGURE 7A.dwg
 PLOT Date: 01 February 2020 10:11 AM



NOTE: Contours Interpolated under all dock facilities and barges

LEGEND:
 PROPOSED DREDGE AREA
 BASED ON AUGUST 2019
 SONAR DATA

SITE PLAN



VALERO REFINING-MERAUX, LLC.
 MERAUX, LOUISIANA
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING
 PROPOSED DREDGING VOLUMES

Project No. 11206163
 Date FEBRUARY 2020

FIGURE 7B
 Date Source

Reference: N:\US\Baker_Rough\Projects\1817\Shreve\CAD\RAW\MSB-Aver108-1081796\062768-Report\081796\000001\081796-100000\GNGN-89015.dwg
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