



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

June 10, 2024

Regulatory Division  
Eastern Evaluation Branch

Project Manager:  
Scott Kennedy  
(504) 862-2259  
[Scott.N.Kennedy@usace.army.mil](mailto:Scott.N.Kennedy@usace.army.mil)

Application #: MVN 2015-02424 EMM

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN) 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), and/or [X] Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408).

### **MAINTENANCE DREDGE AT THE VALERO MERAUX REFINERY IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN SAINT BERNARD PARISH**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Valero Refining – Meraux LLC, c/o GHD Services Inc., 2237 S. Acadian Thruway, Suite 701, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Mississippi River, left descending bank, Mile Marker 87. Section 12, Township 13 South, Range 12 East, in Chalmette Louisiana, in Saint Bernard Parish, as shown on the attached drawings.

Hydrologic Unit Code: 08090100: Lower Mississippi – New Orleans  
Latitude: 29.927385 Longitude: -89.943869

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The proposed project is to remove silt via maintenance dredging around the cooling water pump, dock, and monopiles downstream of the Mississippi River dock structure at Valero's Meraux Refinery annually over a 5 year period. Approximately 508,250 cubic yards are to be dredged and re-deposited into the Section 10 waters of the Mississippi River annually. It is not anticipated that there will be any permanent or temporary impacts to wetlands.

**MITIGATION:** The proposed work does not include impacts to jurisdictional wetlands; thus, no compensatory mitigation requirements are anticipated.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit will close **30 days** from the date of this 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 request, and must be submitted so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters and/or comments concerning the subject permit application must reference the Applicant's Name and the Permit Application Number, and can preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineers project manager listed above or forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGE, Mr. Scott Kennedy**. This public notice is also available for review online at <https://go.usa.gov/xennJ>.

### **USACE 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.

This request will also be reviewed pursuant to Section 408 and USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, which provides policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter USACE civil works projects.

The decision whether to grant permission for the requested alteration will be based on several factors. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of the requests for modification will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

1) Potential to Impair the Usefulness of the Project. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine whether the alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. If USACE determines that the usefulness of the authorized project would be impaired, the request will be denied.

2) Potential to be Injurious to the Public Interest. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public

interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks. If the potential detriments are found to outweigh the potential benefits, then it may be determined that the proposed alteration is injurious to the public interest.

CEMVN is soliciting comments from area residents, 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 CEMVN 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 communities with environmental justice concerns, 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. Further, all factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project. The Section 408 review will consider the potential impact to the usefulness of the Federal project and whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest. Policy and legal compliance will also be considered.

CEMVN is presently unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places at or near the proposed work but is pending further review in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. As deemed necessary, copies of this public notice will be sent to the State Archeologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, and federally listed tribes regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would have no effect on any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any such species.

Based on the Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana, as signed on January 27, 2020, between CEMVN and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office (USFWS), CEMVN has determined that the proposed project footprint is located in habitat known to be utilized by the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*).

CEMVN has determined that the proposed project is Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) the Pallid Sturgeon or West Indian Manatee.

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, alteration, and/or disturbance 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 LA Department of Environmental Quality before a Department of the Army permit is issued.

Any person may request, (preferably by email to the project manager, or 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.

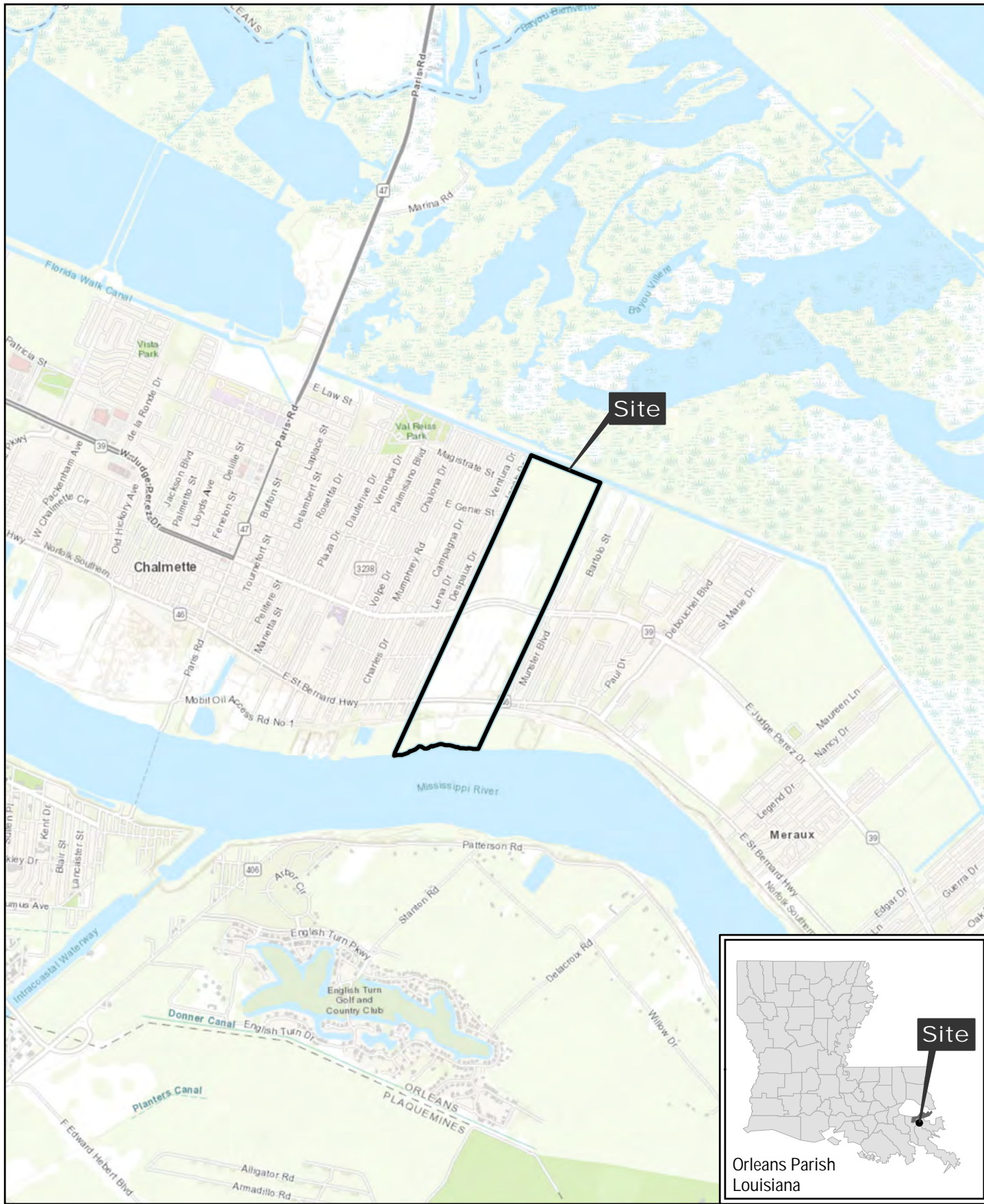
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (Louisiana Coastal Zone Application P20240314). The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

You are invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

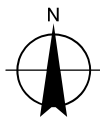
Brad P. LaBorde  
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Branch  
Regulatory Division

Enclosures





Paper Size ANSI A  
 0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000  
 Feet



Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
 Horizontal Datum: North American 1983  
 Grid: NAD 1983 StatePlane Louisiana South FIPS 1702 Feet

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

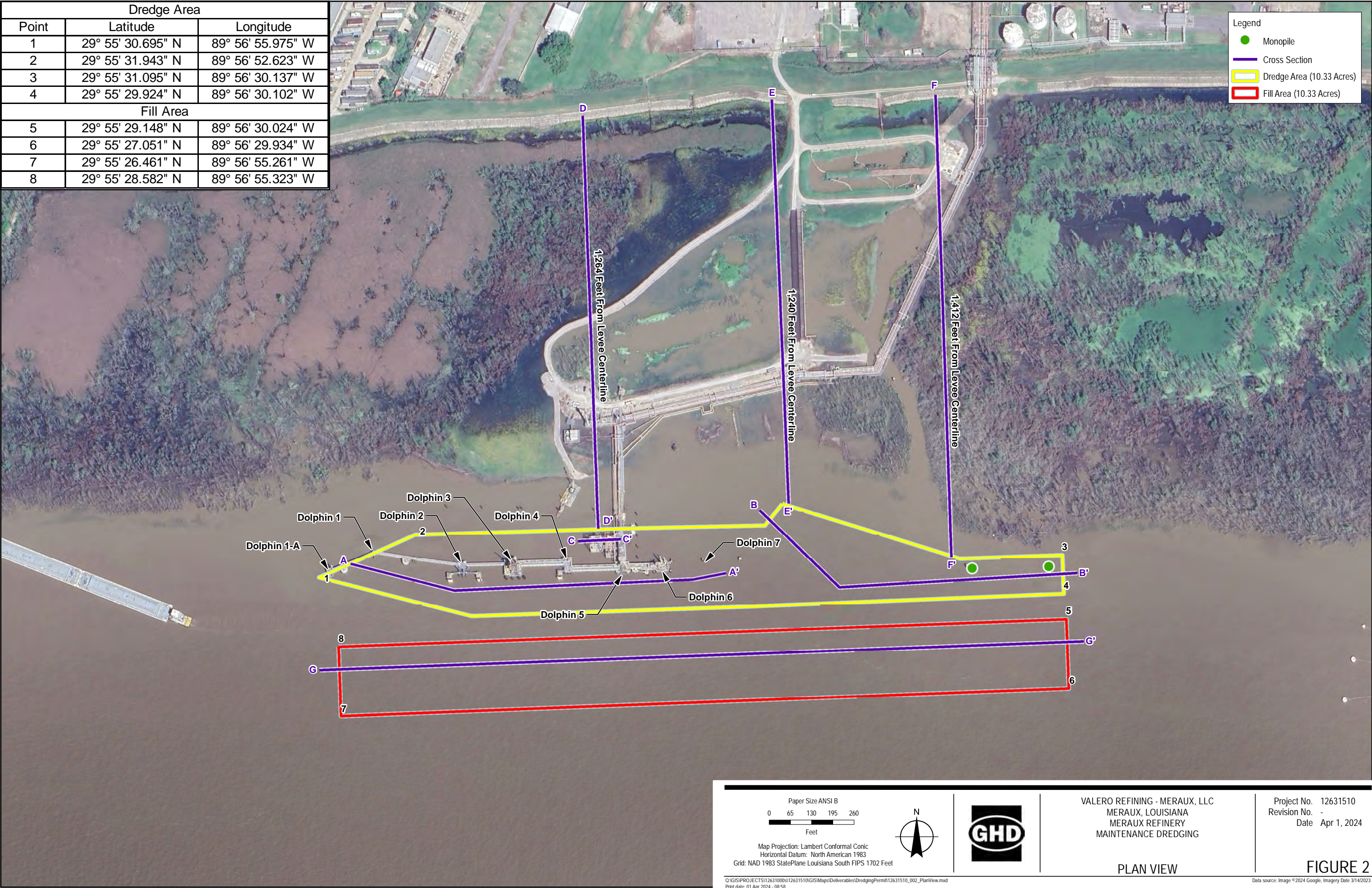
Project No. 12631510  
 Revision No. -  
 Date Apr 3, 2024

VICINITY MAP

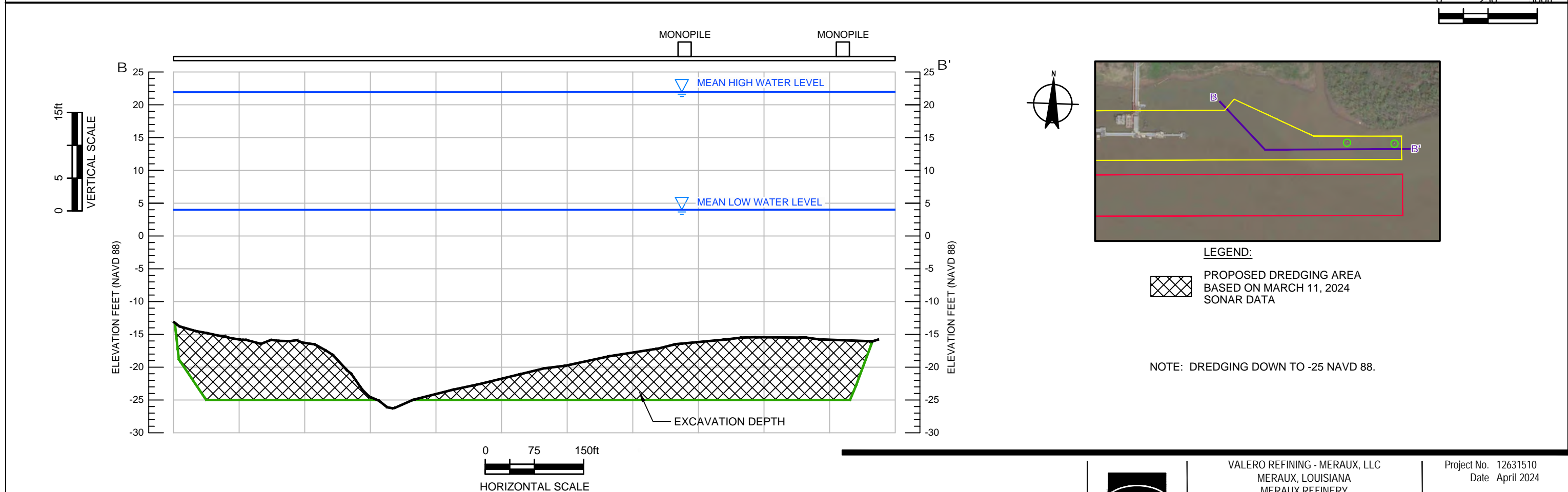
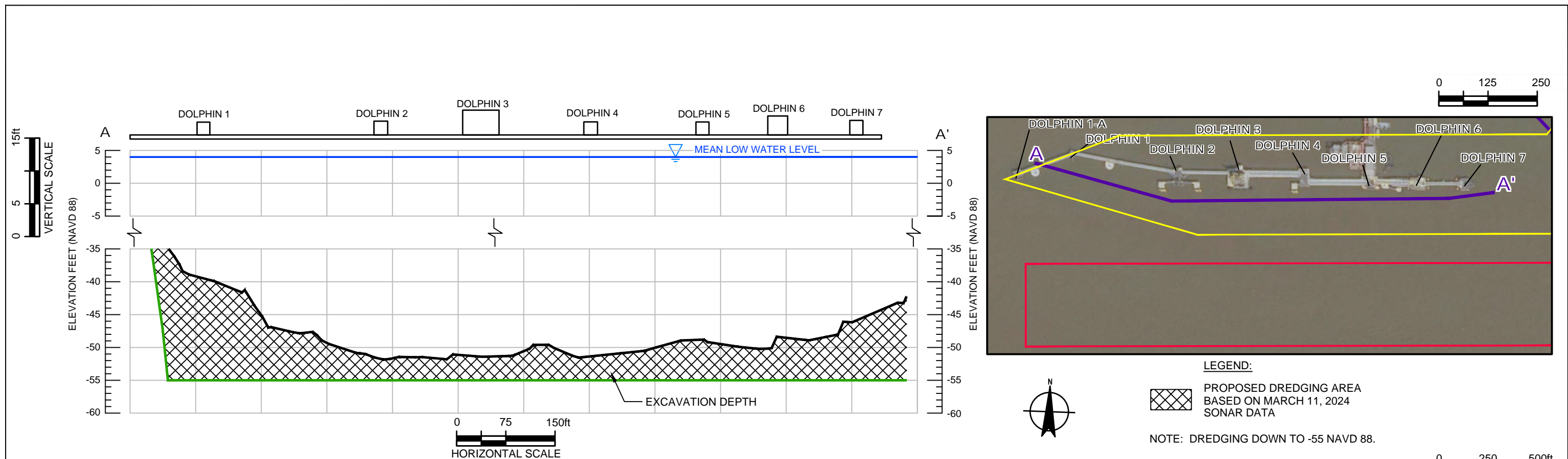
FIGURE 1



Dredge Area		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	29° 55' 30.695" N	89° 56' 55.975" W
2	29° 55' 31.943" N	89° 56' 52.623" W
3	29° 55' 31.095" N	89° 56' 30.137" W
4	29° 55' 29.924" N	89° 56' 30.102" W
Fill Area		
5	29° 55' 29.148" N	89° 56' 30.024" W
6	29° 55' 27.051" N	89° 56' 29.934" W
7	29° 55' 26.461" N	89° 56' 55.261" W
8	29° 55' 28.582" N	89° 56' 55.323" W





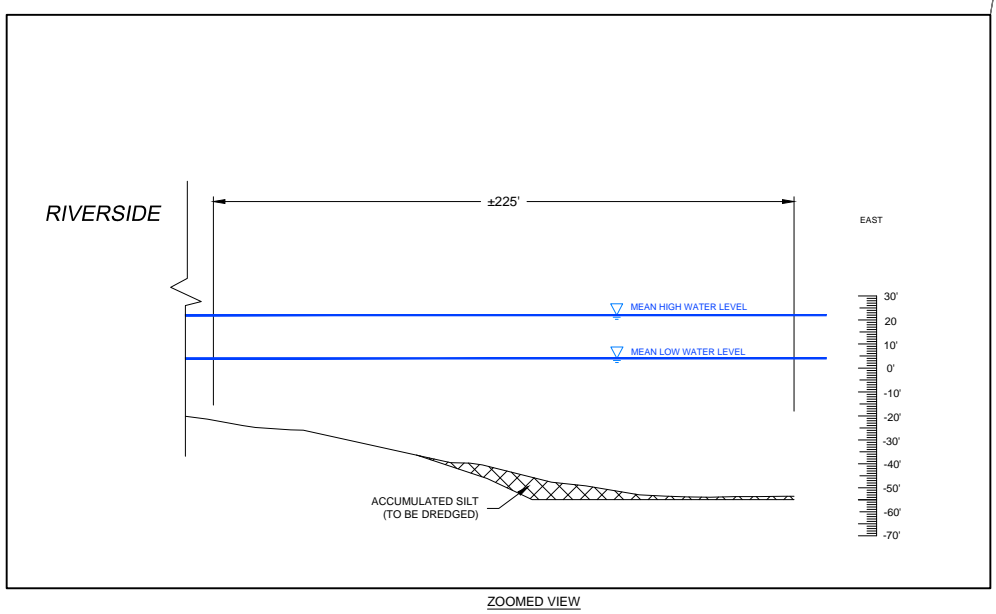
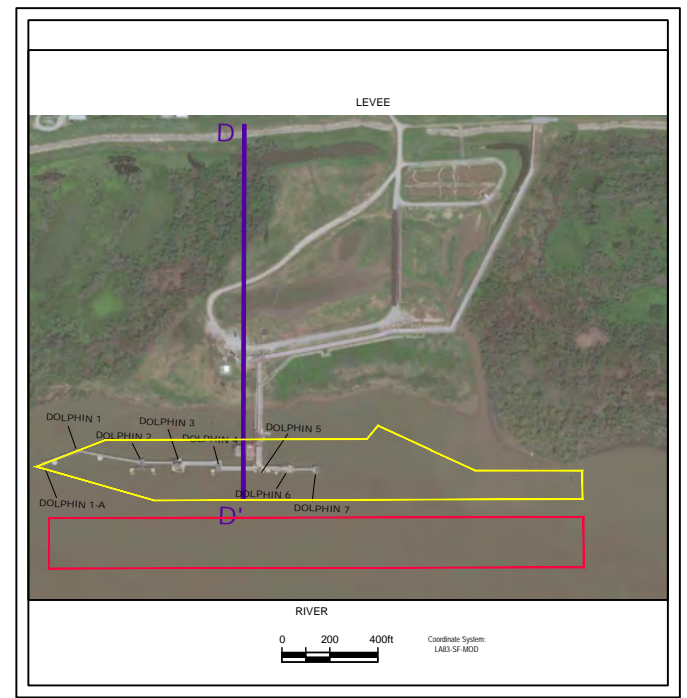
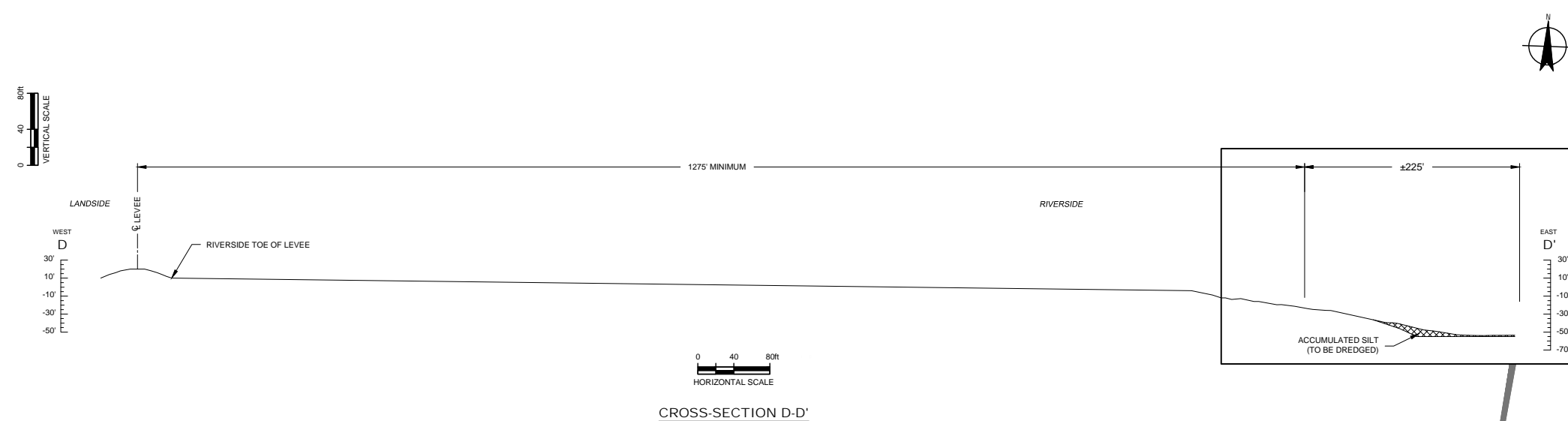


VALERO REFINING - MERAUX, LLC  
 MERAUX, LOUISIANA  
 MERAUX REFINERY  
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING

**PROPOSED DREDGING CROSS  
 SECTIONS A-A' & B-B'**

Project No. 12631510  
 Date April 2024

**FIGURE 3**



**LEGEND**

PROPOSED DREDGING AREA BASED ON MARCH 11, 2024 SONAR DATA

**NOTES:**

1) DREDGING DOWN TO -55 NAVD 88.

2) LEVEE HEIGHT TAKEN FROM 2002 LIDAR DATA.

3) AREA TO BE DREDGED ASSUMES THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF ACCUMULATION.



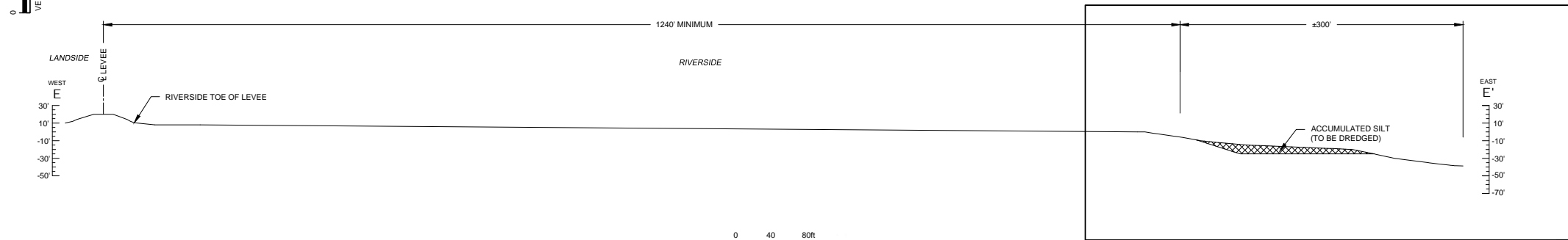
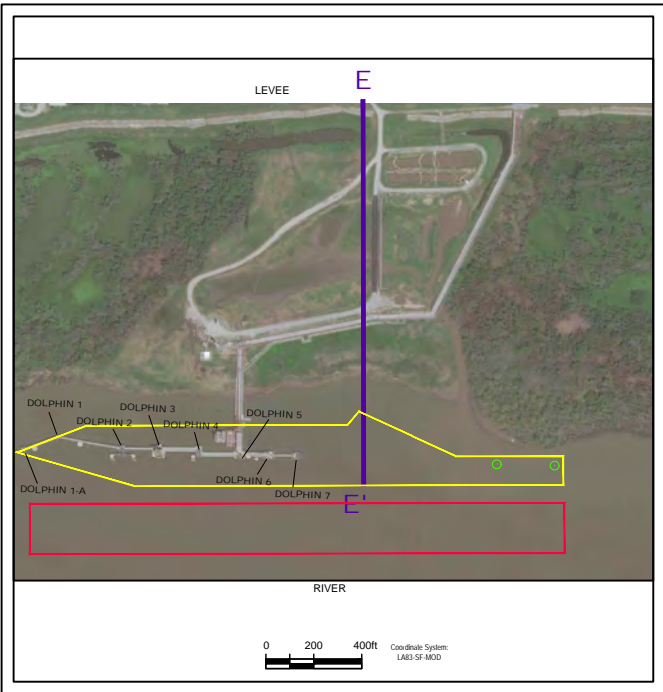
VALERO REFINING - MERAUX, LLC  
 MERAUX, LOUISIANA  
 MERAUX REFINERY  
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING

PROPOSED DREDGING  
 CROSS SECTION D-D'

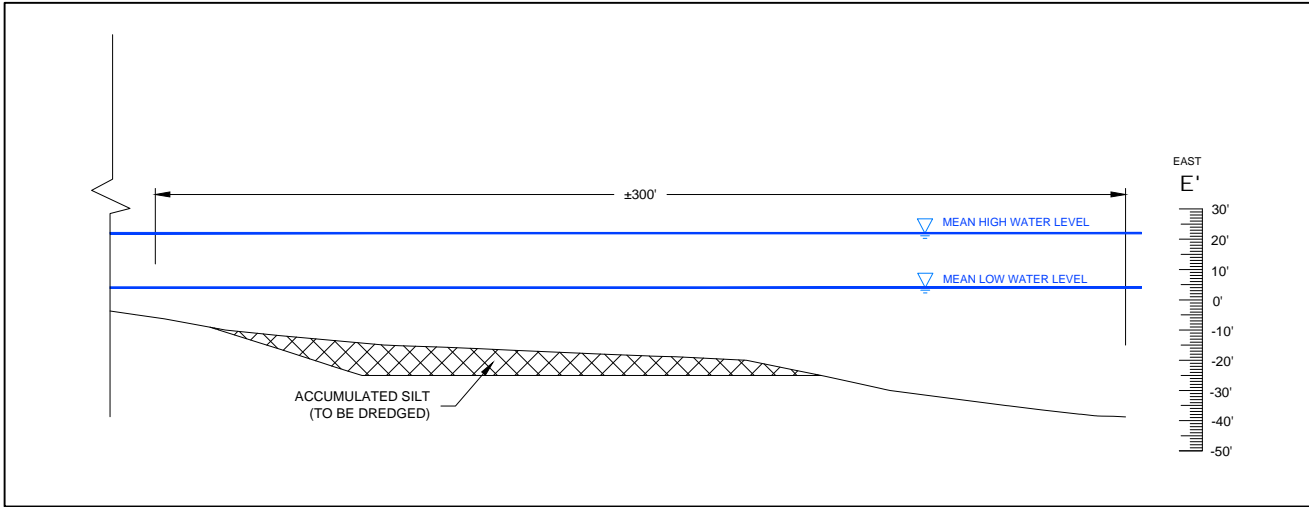
Project No. 12631510  
 Date April 2024

FIGURE 4A





CROSS-SECTION E-E'



ENLARGED VIEW

LEGEND

PROPOSED DREDGING AREA BASED ON MARCH 11, 2024 SONAR DATA

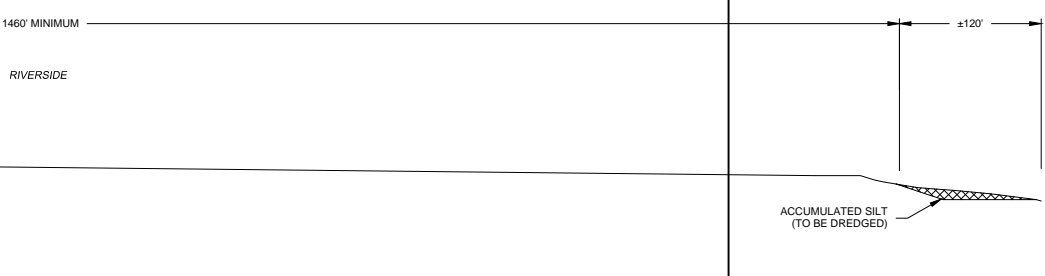
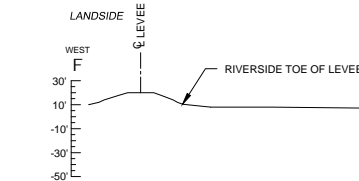
- NOTES:  
1) DREDGING DOWN TO -25 NAVD 88.  
2) AREA TO BE DREDGED ASSUMES THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF ACCUMULATION.



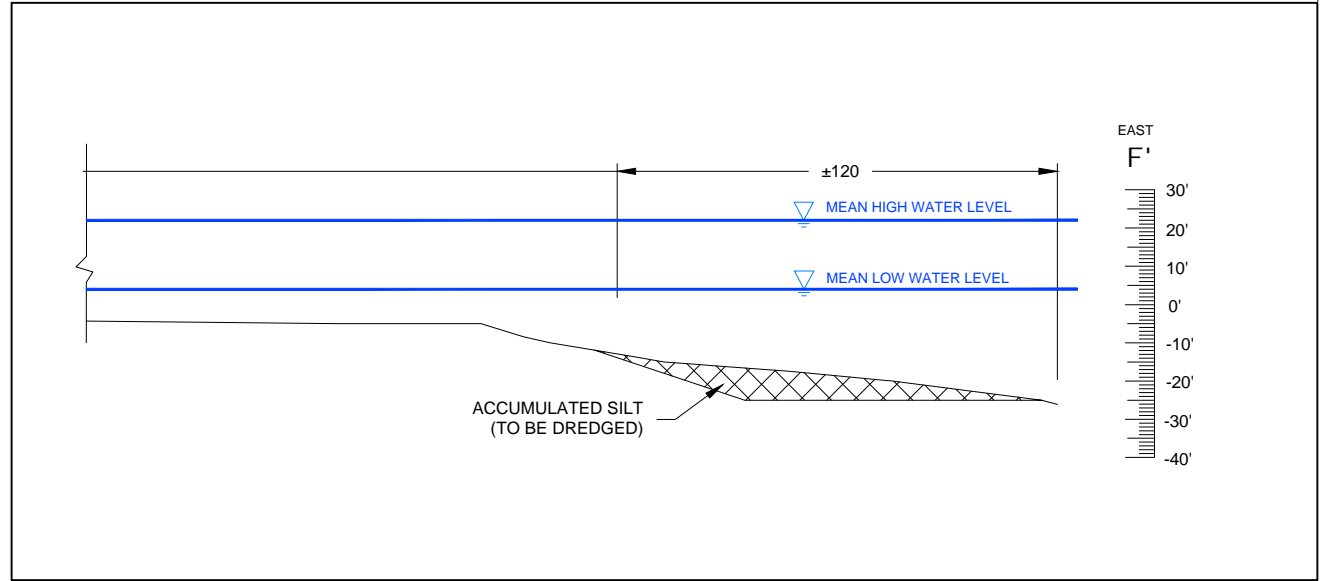
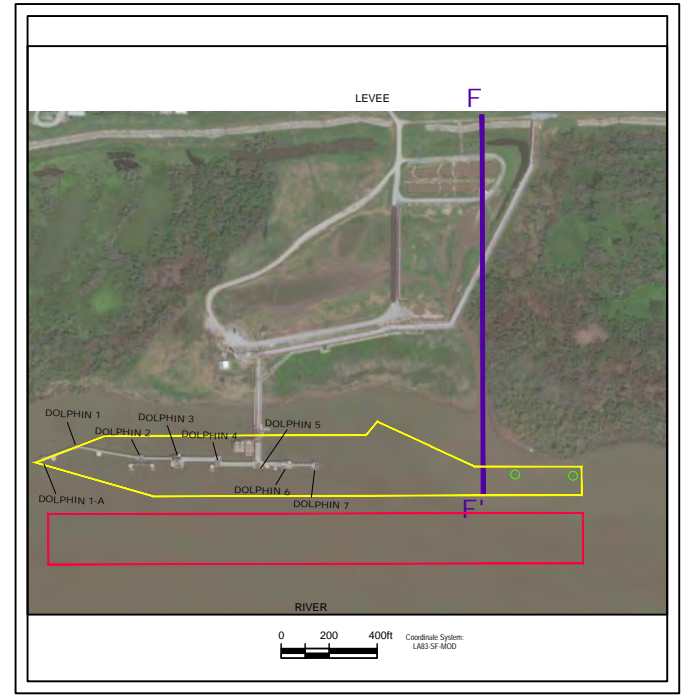
VALERO REFINING - MERAUX, LLC  
MERAUX, LOUISIANA  
MERAUX REFINERY  
MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
  
PROPOSED DREDGING  
CROSS SECTION E-E'

Project No. 12631510  
Date April 2024

FIGURE 4B



CROSS-SECTION F-F'



ENLARGED VIEW

**LEGEND**  
[Symbol] PROPOSED DREDGING AREA BASED ON MARCH 11, 2024 SONAR DATA

**NOTES:**  
1) DREDGING DOWN TO -25 NAVD 88.  
2) AREA TO BE DREDGED ASSUMES THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF ACCUMULATION.



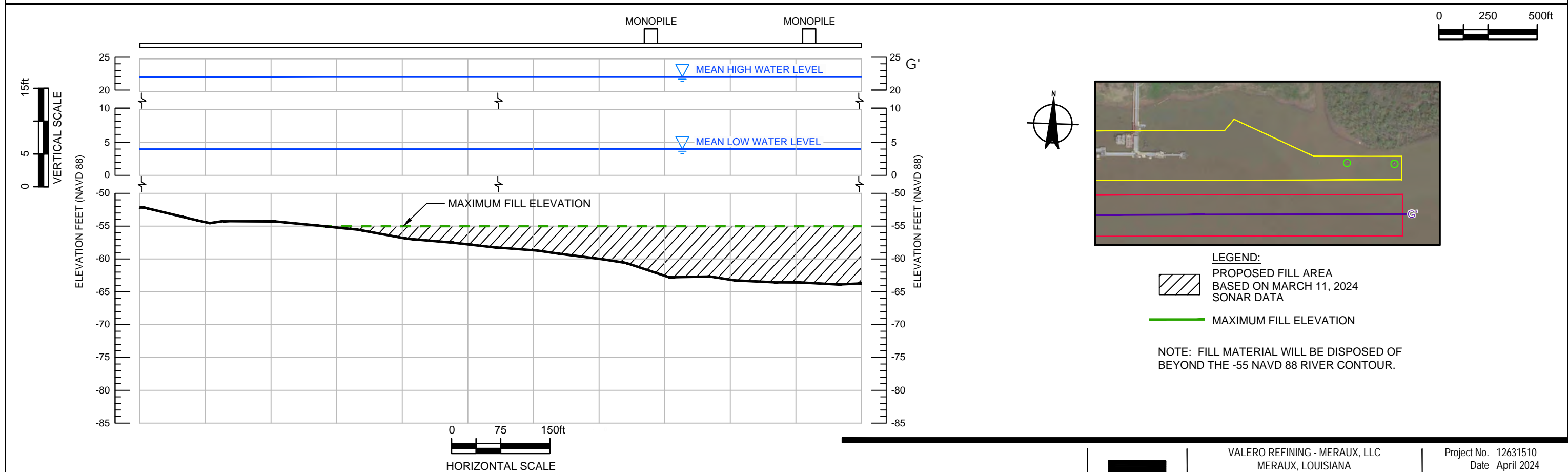
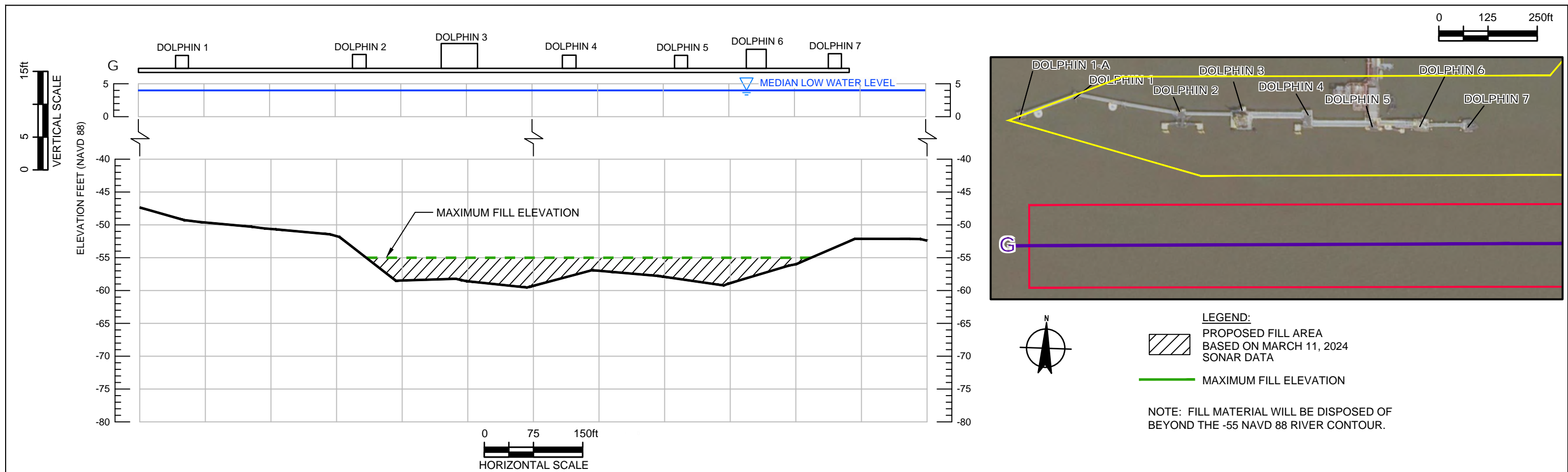
VALERO REFINING - MERAUX, LLC  
MERAUX, LOUISIANA  
MERAUX REFINERY  
MAINTENANCE DREDGING

PROPOSED DREDGING  
CROSS SECTION F-F'

Project No. 12631510  
Date April 2024

FIGURE 4C



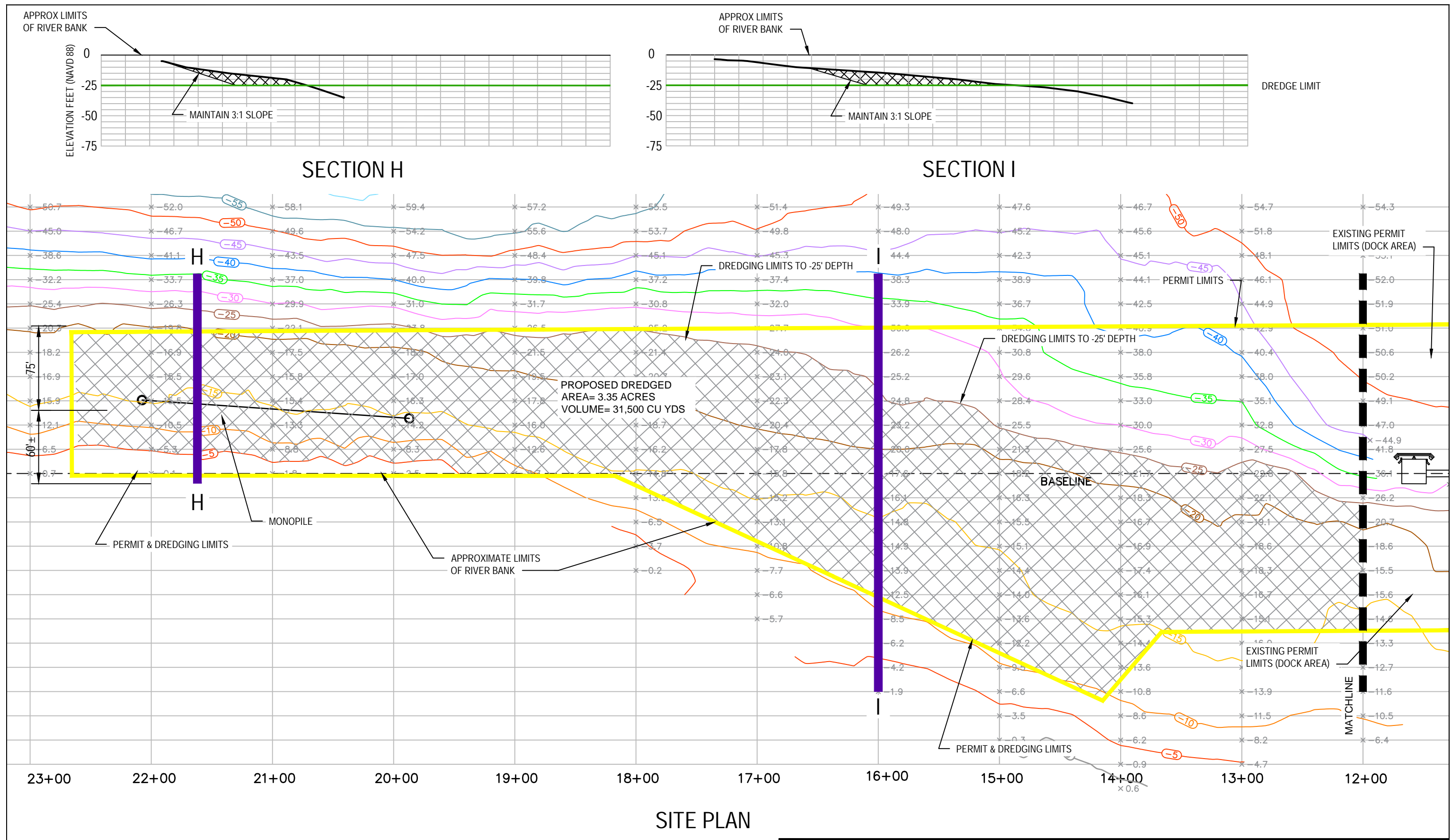


VALERO REFINING - MERAUX, LLC  
 MERAUX, LOUISIANA  
 MERAUX REFINERY  
 MAINTENANCE DREDGING

Project No. 12631510  
 Date April 2024

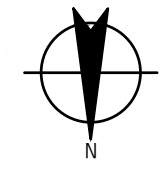
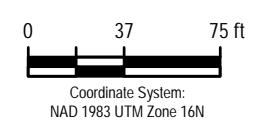
PROPOSED FILL CROSS SECTION G-G'

FIGURE 5



SITE PLAN

LEGEND:  
PROPOSED DREDGE AREA  
BASED ON MARCH 11, 2024  
SONAR DATA



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

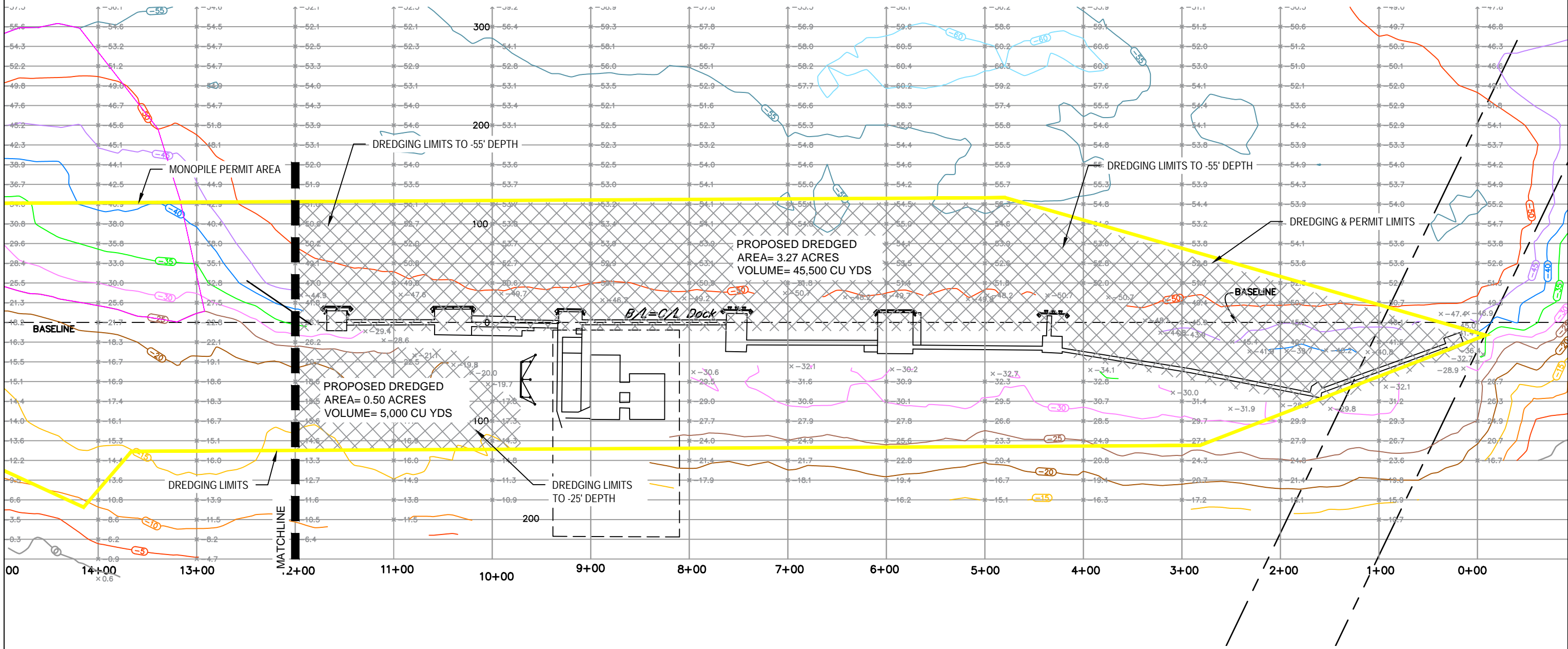
PROPOSED DREDGING VOLUMES

Project No. 12631510  
Date April 2024

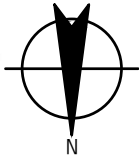
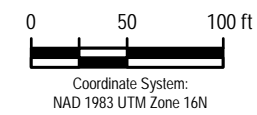
FIGURE 7A



SITE PLAN



**LEGEND:**  
PROPOSED DREDGE AREA  
BASED ON MARCH 11, 2024  
SONAR DATA



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

PROPOSED DREDGING VOLUMES

Project No. 12631510  
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FIGURE 7B