

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

October 30, 2017

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: Regulatory Branch
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-3651

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

Project Manager:
Amy Oestringer
(504) 862-2272
Amy.l.oestringer@usace.army.mil
Application #: MVN-2017-00659 WQQ

Project Manager:
Elizabeth Hill
(225) 219-3225
WQC Application Number:
WQC # 170928-01

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: [] 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).

The application has also been mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in Louisiana Revised Statute 30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-17).

CLEAR, EXCAVATE AND FILL FOR DRAINAGE LATERAL W-4 IMPROVEMENTS IN CALCASIEU PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Gravity Drainage District No. 4, c/o Arabie Environmental Solutions LLC., Attn: Cleveland Hoffpauir, Post Office Box 928, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70630.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located in Calcasieu Parish, Section 10, Township 11S and Range 9W, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, (lat. 30.120033, Long -93.278314), as shown within the attached drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 08080206, Lower Mississippi Region)

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant proposes to clear, excavate and fill for drainage improvement and future maintenance along 2,764 linear feet of a jurisdictional Water of the US. The applicant will excavate approximately 4,600 cubic yards of sediment from the drainage lateral to improve capacity and flow. Excavated spoil material will be placed along the north top bank to create a 20-foot wide spoil bank for future lateral maintenance. A proposed 150-foot wide maintenance ROW will be cleared and maintained. Work will take place from the north side of the channel from top bank as shown on the attached drawings. Approximately 4.7 acres of forested wetlands will be permanently cleared and maintained and 0.6 acre of forested wetlands will be permanently filled for spoil berm construction. The applicant has indicated that compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts will be completed through the purchase of credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 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 submitted 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 forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH.** **Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing, faxing, or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.** 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.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are 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 the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species. Based on the South Louisiana **Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES)**, as signed on October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it has been determined that the project would have no effect to any listed species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have 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, before a Department of the Army permit is issued.

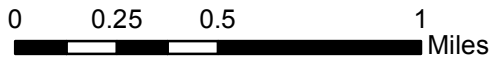
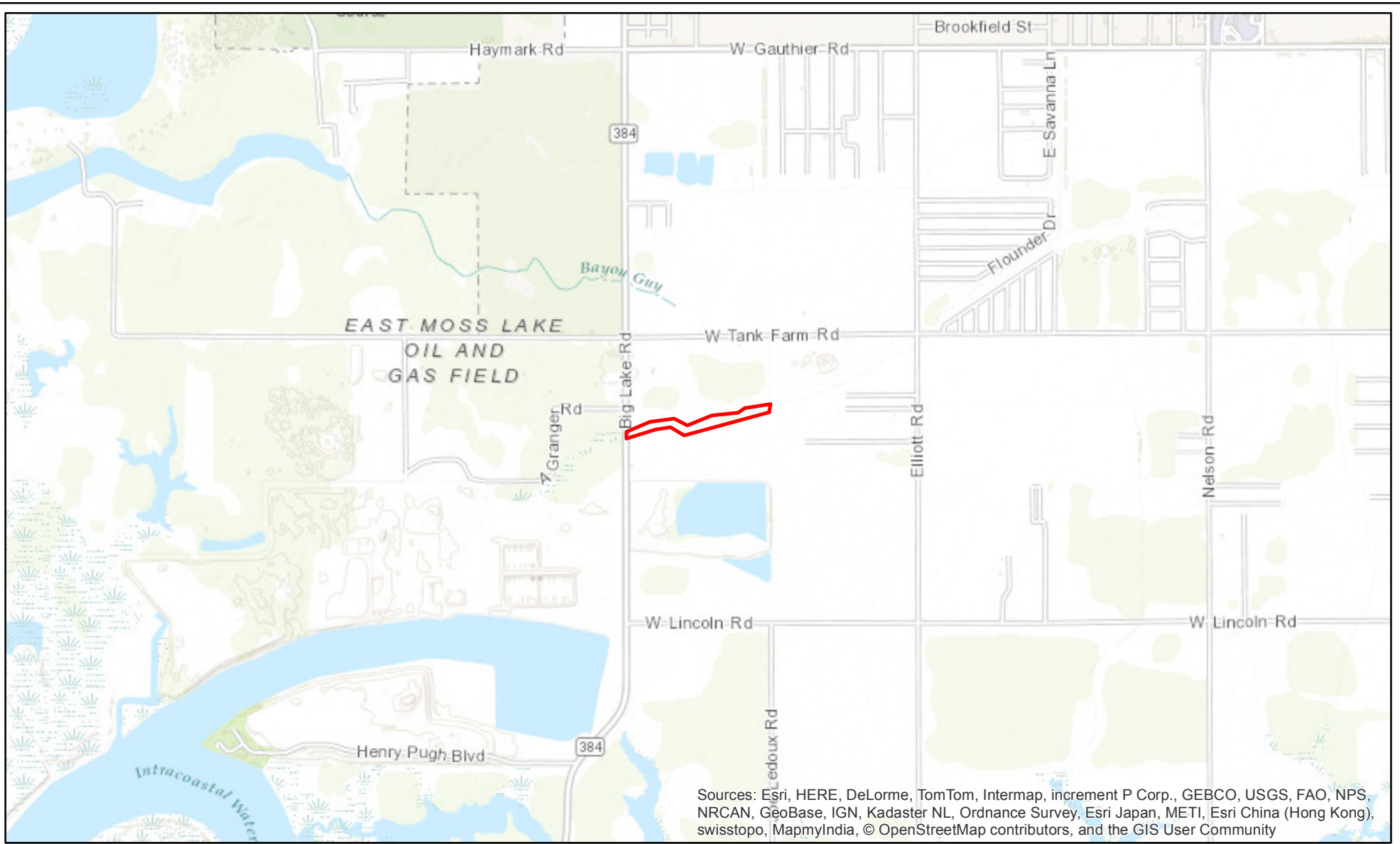
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

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

Darrell S. Barbara
Chief, Western Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

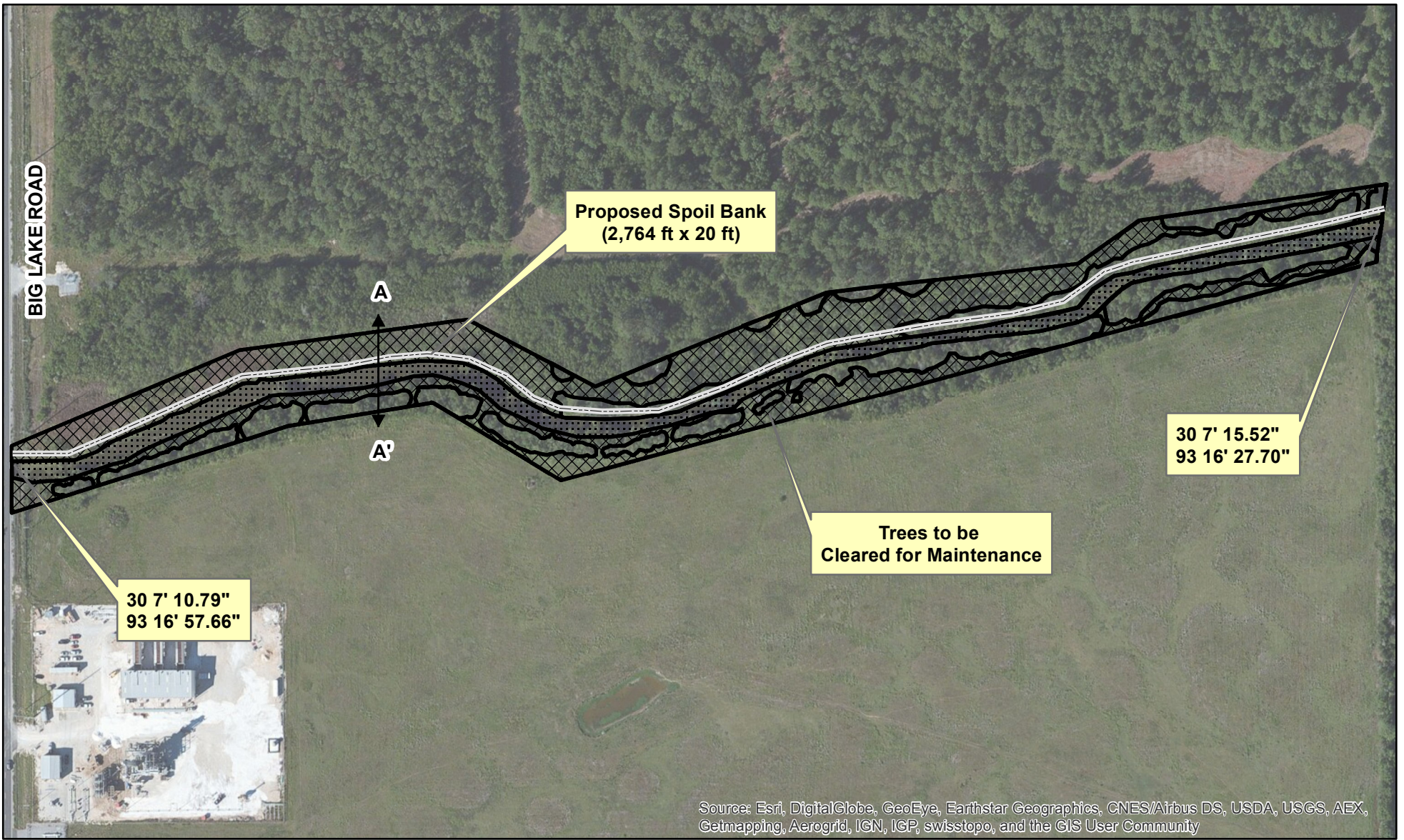
Enclosure



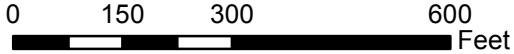
**FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP**


PERMIT APPLICATION
GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT 4
LATERAL W-4
CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA

Drawn By: CRH	Date: 6/9/17	AES Project # 11569
Checked By: CBJ	Date: 6/9/17	Revised:



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



	NON-WETLAND (3.4 AC)
	100% WETLAND FORESTED (5.3 AC) WETLAND IMPACT FILL = 0.6 AC WETLAND TO BE CLEARED = 4.7 AC
	LATERAL W-4 (1.9 AC)



Approximately 4,600 cy of fill will be placed impacting 0.6 acre forested wetlands. The remaining 4.7 wetland acres will be cleared for maintenance.



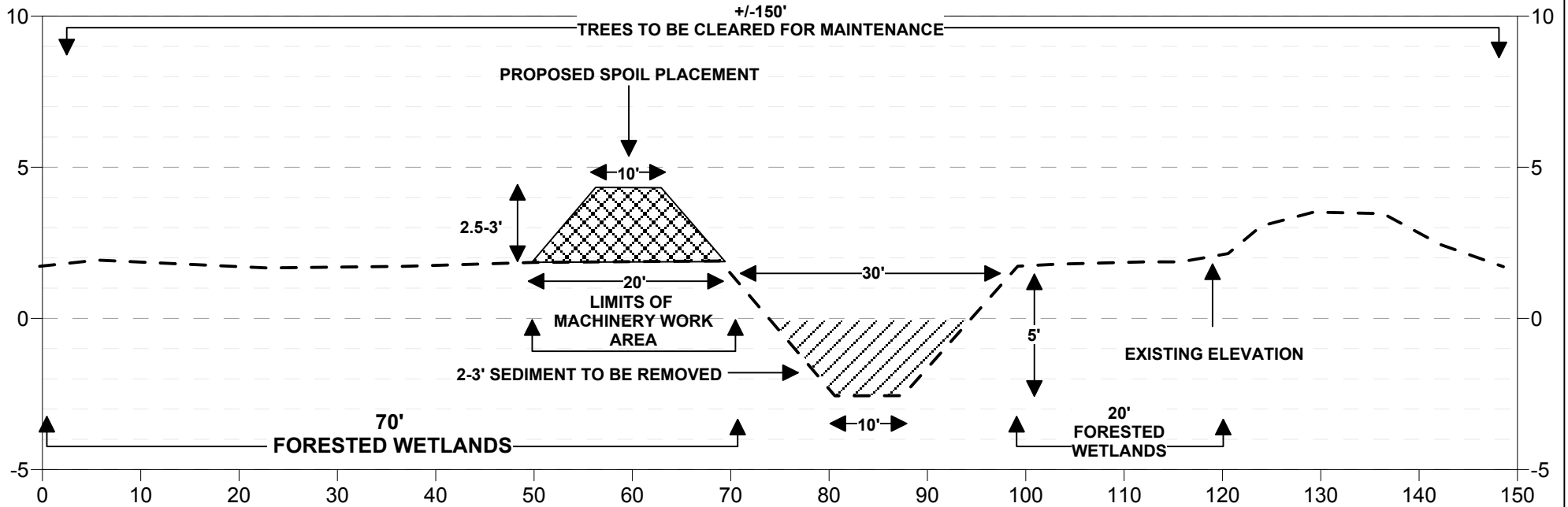
**FIGURE 2
SITE DIAGRAM**

PERMIT APPLICATION
GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT 4
LATERAL W-4
CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA

Drawn By: CRH	Date: 6/7/17	AES Project # 11569
Checked By: CBJ	Date: 6/7/17	Revised: 10/3/17

A
NORTH

A'
SOUTH



NOTE: APPROXIMATELY 0.6 ACRE OF FORESTED WETLAND WILL BE IMPACTED BY SPOIL PLACEMENT. APPROXIMATELY 4.7 ACRES OF FORESTED WETLANDS WILL BE CLEARED FOR MAINTENANCE. DRAWING NOT TO SCALE.



CUT= 4,600 CUBIC YARDS



FILL= 4,600 CUBIC YARDS

	FIGURE 3 TYPICAL CROSS SECTION		GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 4 LATERAL W-4 IMPROVEMENTS CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA
	Drawn By: CRH	Date: 6/19/17	AES Prj #11569
	Checked By: CBJ	Date: 6/19/17	Rev: 10/3/17