

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

June 24, 2019

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:  
Bobby Quebedeaux  
(504) 862-2224  
bobby.d.quebedeaux@usace.army.mil  
Application #: MVN-2019-0619-WJJ

Project Manager:  
Elizabeth Hill  
(225) 219-3225  
WQC Application Number:  
WQC-190617-01

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).

## OIL & GAS EXPLORATION IN IBERIA PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Mertz Energy, LLC, c/o: Tim Morton & Associates, Inc., Attn: Donna Hollier, 730 E. Kaliste Saloom Road, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Located approximately 20 miles south of Catahoula, Louisiana, in Iberia Parish (29.98606, -91.57858), as shown within the attached drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 08080102, Bayou Teche Watershed)

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** Refurbish an existing access road and construct a 350-foot by 350-foot ring leveed area (approximately 78,420 cubic yards of dirt/clay will be hauled in) for the purpose of placing a drilling rig on location to drill the Jeanerette Minerals, LLC Well No. 1. Approximately 10.08 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted (7.05 acres of cypress-tupelo, 0.4 of an acre of bottomland hardwoods, 2.63 acres of herbaceous wetlands and 0.78 of an acre of scrub-shrub). If a Department of the Army permit is warranted, the applicant has proposed to mitigate any unavoidable wetlands impacts at an approved and acceptable mitigation bank within the N.O. District.

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.

The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

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. The applicant's proposal may 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, 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.

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

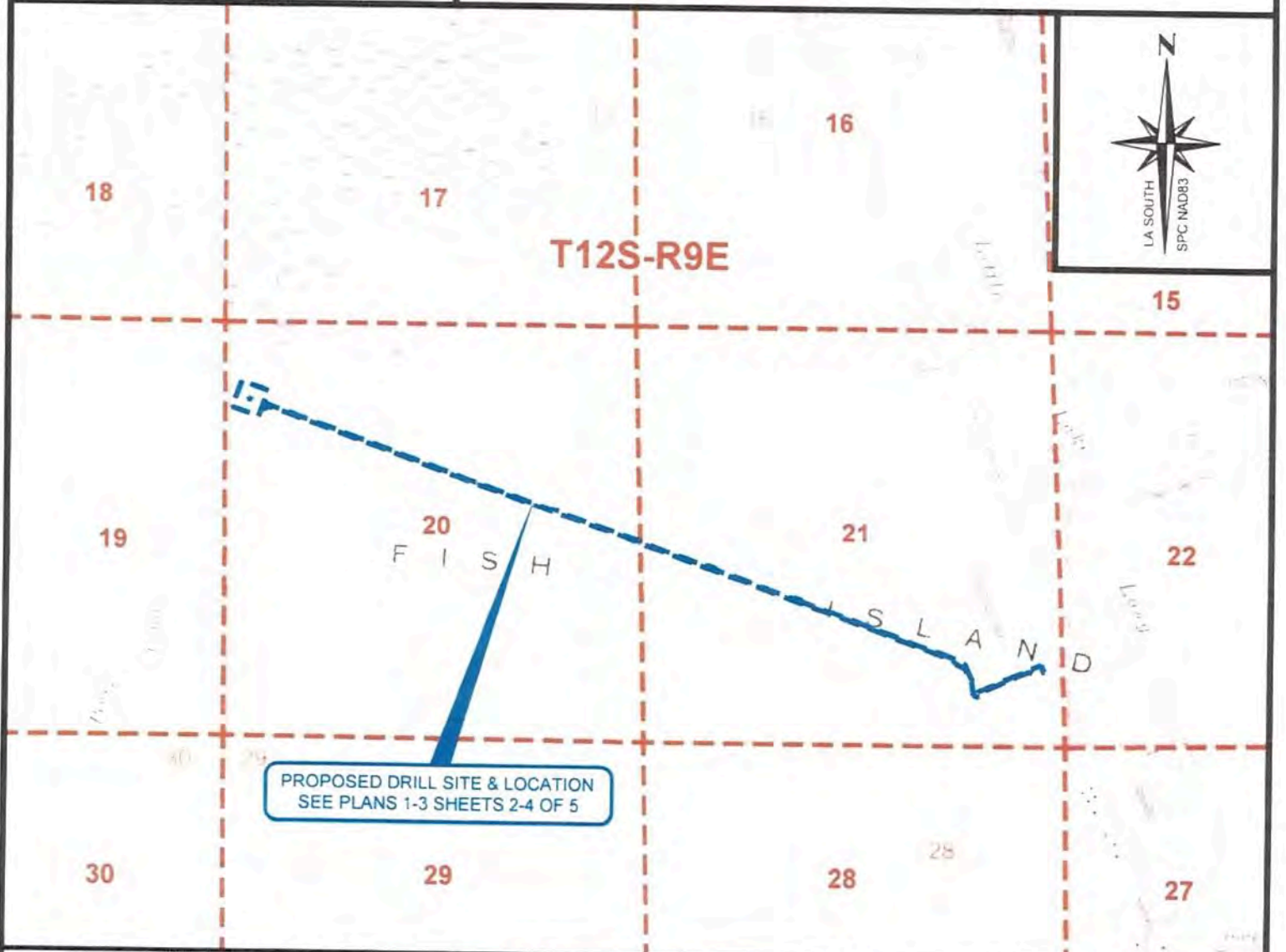
Enclosure



PROJECT AREA  
N24°48'W ±7.7 MILES  
FROM CHARENTON, LA

*Louisiana*811  
call before you dig

VICINITY MAP  
(NOT TO SCALE)



- THIS PLAT IS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REGULATORY PERMITS
- ALL ELEVATIONS AND WATER LEVELS SHOWN ARE BASED ON NAVD 88.
- ALL UNITS OF MEASUREMENT SHOWN ARE BASED ON GRID U.S. FEET

LOCAL  
AREA VIEW

DATA IS BASED ON FIELD SURVEY  
DATES 04/11/2019



PROPOSED DRILL SITE & LOCATION  
TOPAZ PROSPECT  
Fish Island Field  
Iberia Parish, Louisiana

PREPARED BY  
**SOUTHERN**  
SURVEY SERVICES  
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY



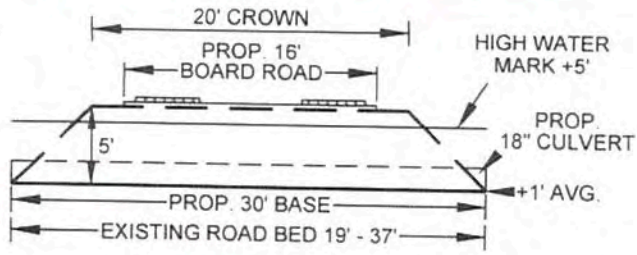
111 ARABIAN DRIVE  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70507  
OFFICE (337) 565-6083  
LA REG No 738

JOB NO.	190094	SIZE:	8.5x11	FILE:	C190094 PG1 4-18-19.DWG
CHK:	DTC	DWG:	REP	DATE:	4/29/2019
				SHEET:	1 OF 5
				REV:	0

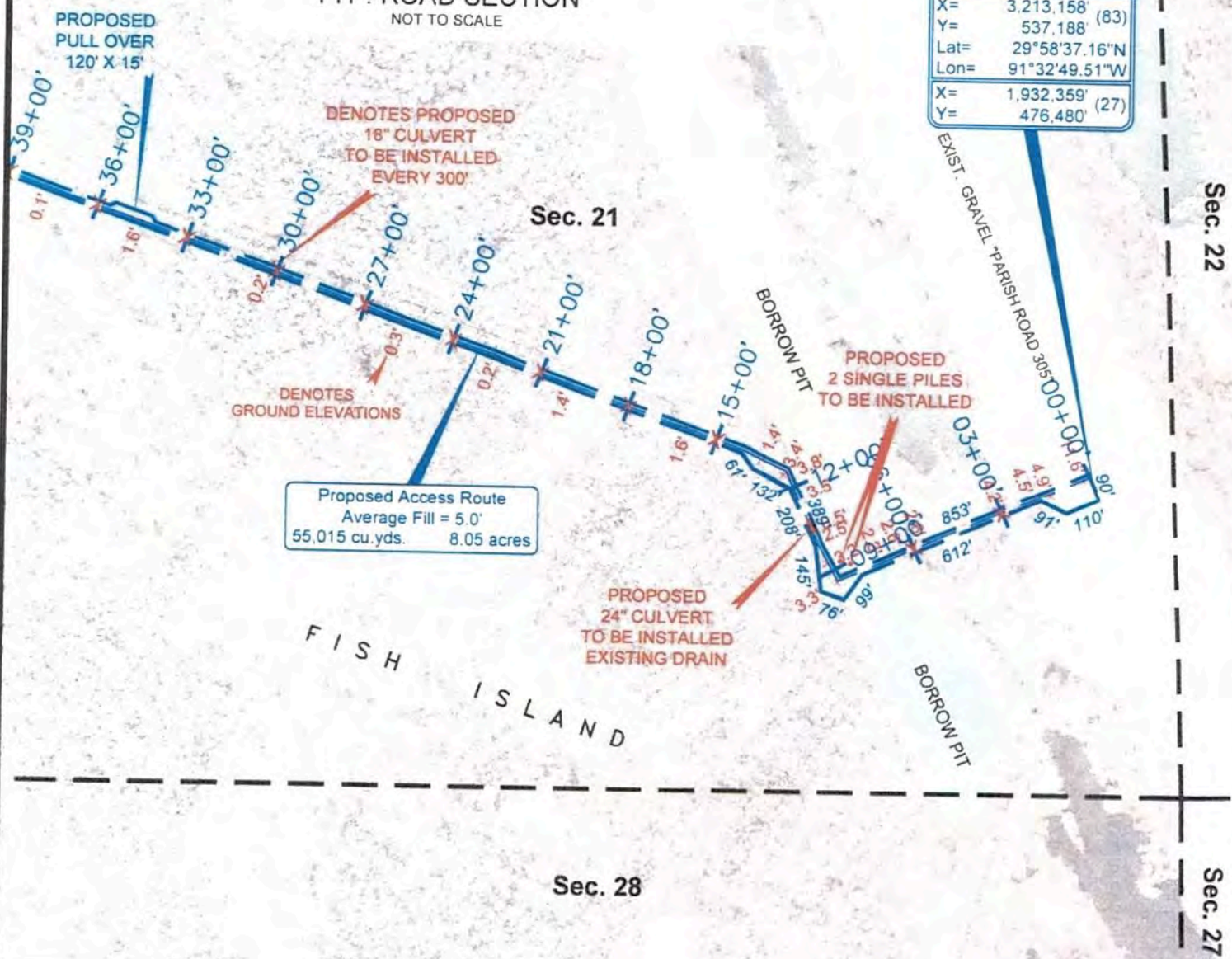
# T12S-R9E



PLAN 2  
PLAN 1  
MATCH  
LINE

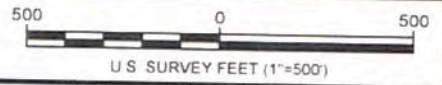


BEGIN ACCESS	
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Y=	537,188
Lat=	29°58'37.16"N
Lon=	91°32'49.51"W
X=	1,932,359 (27)
Y=	476,480

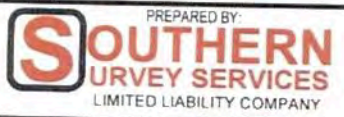


THIS PLAT IS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REGULATORY PERMITS.

PLAN 1



PROPOSED DRILL SITE & LOCATION  
TOPAZ PROSPECT  
Fish Island Field  
Iberia Parish, Louisiana



111 ARABIAN DRIVE  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70507  
OFFICE (337) 565-6083  
LA REG No. 738

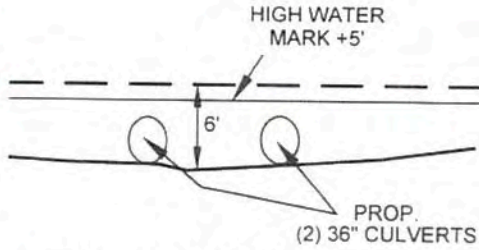
JOB NO.	190094	SIZE:	8.5x11	C190094 PG2-4 052219(2010).DWG
CHK:	DTC	DWG:	REP	DATE: 5/22/2019
SHEET: 2 OF 5			REV: 0	

# T12S-R9E

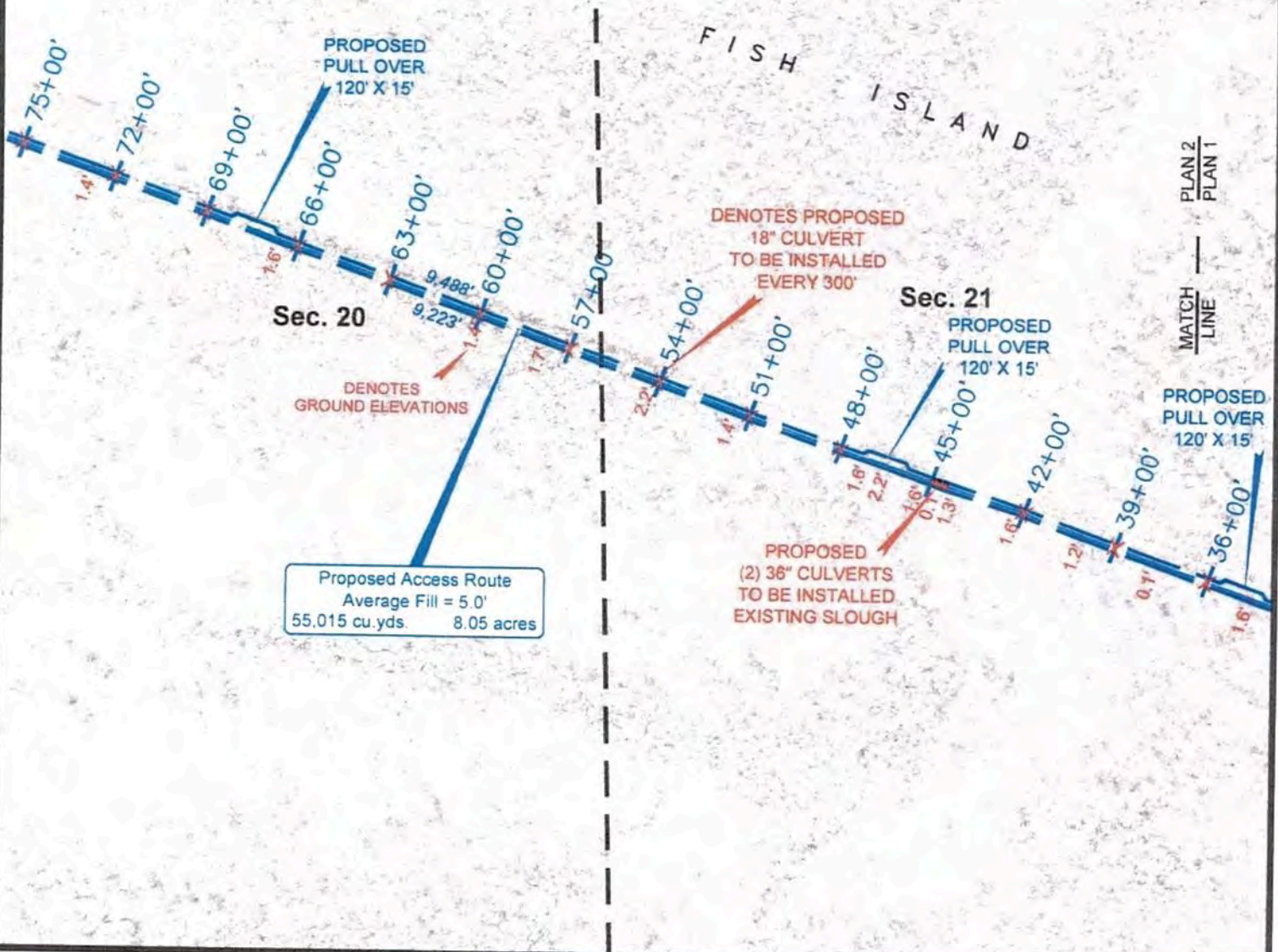
  
 NAD27  
 LA SOUTH ZONE  
 LAMBERT GRID NORTH

PLAN 3  
PLAN 2

MATCH  
LINE



TYP. SLOUGH CROSSING  
NOT TO SCALE



PLAN 2  
PLAN 1

MATCH  
LINE

PROPOSED  
PULL OVER  
120' X 15'

THIS PLAT IS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REGULATORY PERMITS.

PLAN 2



MERTZ

PROPOSED DRILL SITE & LOCATION  
TOPAZ PROSPECT  
Fish Island Field  
Iberia Parish, Louisiana

PREPARED BY:  
**SOUTHERN SURVEY SERVICES**  
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

111 ARABIAN DRIVE  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70507  
OFFICE (337) 565-6083  
LA REG No 738

JOB NO. 190094

SIZE: 8.5x11

C190094 PG2-4 052219(2010).DWG

CHK: DTC

DWG: REP

DATE: 5/22/2019

SHEET: 3 OF 5

REV: 0

**PROPOSED LOCATION**

X= 3,203.194' (83)  
 Y= 540.506'  
 Lat= 29°59'09.82"N  
 Lon= 91°34'42.89"W  
 X= 1,922.395' (27)  
 Y= 479.799'

**T12S-R9E**

**Sec. 17**

LAKE FAUSSE POINTE



NAD27  
 LA SOUTH ZONE  
 LAMBERT GRID NORTH

DENOTES PROPOSED  
 18" CULVERT  
 TO BE INSTALLED  
 EVERY 300'

DENOTES  
 GROUND ELEVATIONS

PLAN 3  
 PLAN 2

MATCH  
 LINE

Proposed Pad  
 See Sheet 5 of 5

Proposed Access Route  
 Average Fill = 5.0'  
 55,015 cu.yds. 8.05 acres

Sec. 20

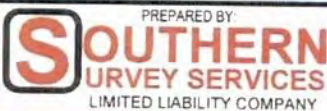
FISH ISLAND

THIS PLAT IS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
 THE ACQUISITION OF REGULATORY PERMITS.

PLAN 3



PROPOSED DRILL SITE & LOCATION  
 TOPAZ PROSPECT  
 Fish Island Field  
 Iberia Parish, Louisiana



111 ARABIAN DRIVE  
 LAFAYETTE, LA 70507  
 OFFICE (337) 565-6083  
 LA REG No: 738

JOB NO. 190094

SIZE: 8.5x11

C190094 PG2-4 052219(2010).DWG

CHK: DTC DWG: REP

DATE: 5/22/2019

SHEET: 4 OF 5

REV: 0

MAXIMUM OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS OF LEVEES SHALL NOT EXCEED 350' X 350'.

# T12S-R9E

MATERIALS FOR RING LEVEES TO BE HAULED IN.

UPON ABANDONMENT OF LOCATION WETLANDS WILL BE RESTORED AS NEAR TO PREPROJECT CONDITIONS AS PRACTICABLE.

APPROX. 738 CU. YDS. OF MATERIAL REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT RING LEVEES.

APPROX. 22,667 CU. YDS. OF MATERIAL REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT PAD.

ALL FILL SHOWN TO BE HAULED IN.

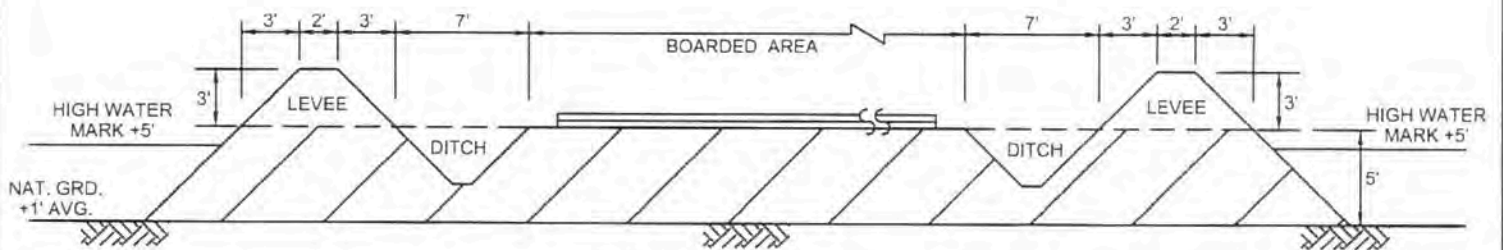
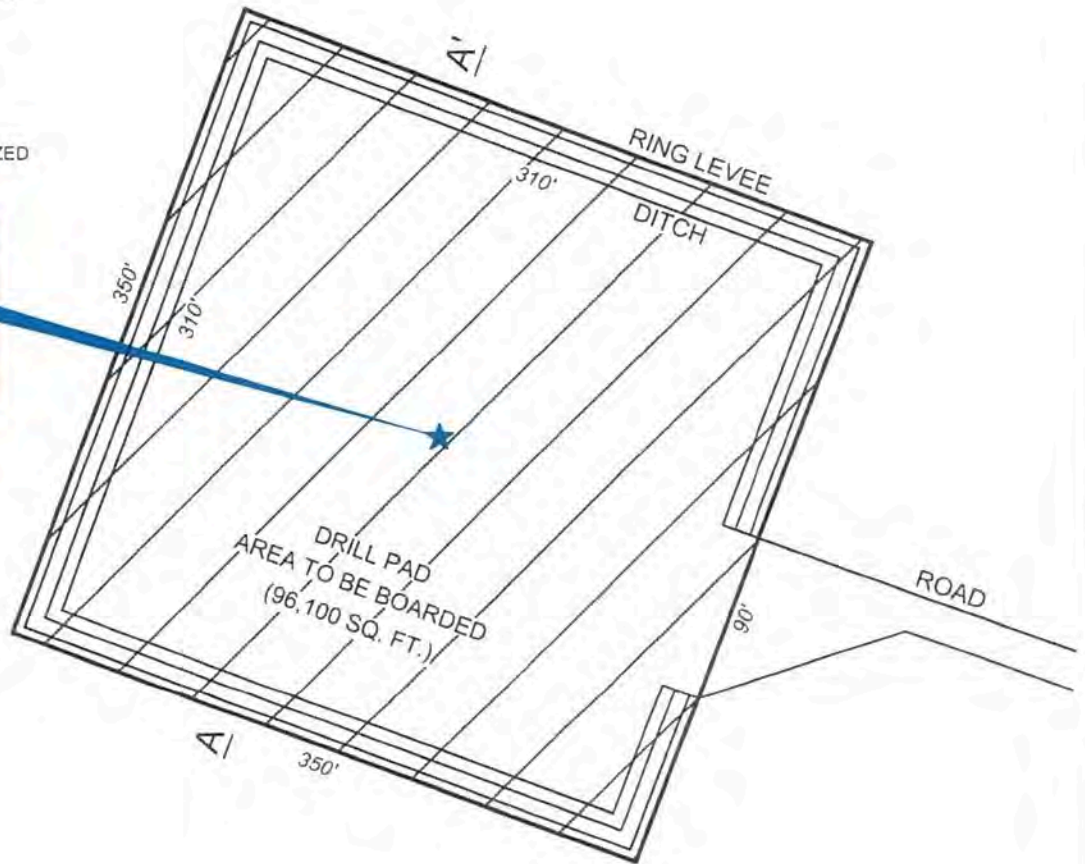
A CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM WILL BE UTILIZED DURING DRILLING OPERATIONS.

PROPOSED LOCATION	
X=	3,203,194' (83)
Y=	540,506'
Lat=	29°59'09.82"N
Lon=	91°34'42.89"W
X=	1,922,395' (27)
Y=	479,799'

Sec. 19  
Sec. 20



NAD27  
LA SOUTH ZONE  
LAMBERT GRID NORTH



SECTION A - A'

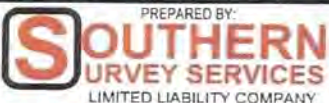
0' HORZ & VERT 10'

THIS PLAT IS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REGULATORY PERMITS.

DETAIL



PROPOSED DRILL SITE & LOCATION  
TOPAZ PROSPECT  
Fish Island Field  
Iberia Parish, Louisiana



111 ARABIAN DRIVE  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70507  
OFFICE: (337) 565-6083  
LA REG No. 738

JOB NO. 190094

SIZE: 8.5x11

C190094 PG5 4-18-19.DWG

CHK: DTC DWG: REP

DATE: 4/29/2019

SHEET: 5 OF 5

REV: 0