



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

June 5, 2023

Regulatory Division
 Western Evaluation Branch

Project Manager:
 Sara Fortuna
 (504) 862-2284
sara.b.fortuna@usace.army.mil

Application #: MVN-2020-00875-WKK

PUBLIC NOTICE

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), and/or [**X**] Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408).

ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES AND STRUCTURES **IN CAMERON AND CALCASIEU PARISHES**

NAME OF APPLICANT: Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, c/o: Royal Engineers and Consultants, L.L.C., 14635 S. Harrell's Ferry Road, Suite 4B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes, located off LA Highway 27 and LA Highway 82, located in and near the communities of Cameron, Creole, Grand Chenier, Hackberry, Lake Charles, Louisiana, (POB: Latitude North: 30.045380°N , Longitude West: -93.342016°W and Latitude North: 29.761403°N, Longitude West: -93.628150°W, POE: Latitude North: 29.764487°N, Longitude West: -92.951215°W and Latitude North: 30.172080°N, Longitude West: -93.112051°W), as shown within the enclosed drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 08080206, Calcasieu Basin, Hydrologic Unit Code 08080202, Mermentau Basin, and Hydrologic Unit Code 08080203, Calcasieu Basin)

CHARACTER OF WORK: Work consists removing, replacing, and upgrading approximately 105 miles of transmission lines, excavating approximately 162 cubic yards of earthen material to horizontally directional drill the 230kV transmission line under the Mermentau River, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and the Calcasieu Ship Channel, and placing approximately 134,000 cubic yards of limestone gravel for the installation of 1,349 utility poles ranging from 3-foot to 6-foot in diameter and 100 to 115 feet in height, conductors, conduit routing, towers, laydown and staging areas, and repairing and/or constructing ten substations. All transmission line work would be done within existing Right-of-Ways. The purpose of the project is due to the damage the electrical system encountered during Hurricane Laura. The electrical system would allow to withstand higher wind and storm surge, support more load, and increase power restoration.

Wetland Impacts:

Transmission Line, Poles, and Structure Impacts: Approximately 225.12 acres of emergent wetlands and 134.95 acres of non-wetland waters would be temporarily impacted via installation of the transmission line and work areas. Approximately 0.11 of an acre of emergent wetlands and 0.03 of an acre of non-wetland waters would be permanently impacted via pole installation.

Substation Impacts: Approximately 1.6 acres of emergent wetlands would be permanently impacted via Fulton Substation. Approximately 0.03 of an acre of emergent wetlands would be permanently impacted via Holly Beach Substation. Approximately 0.13 of an acre of emergent wetlands and 0.0168 of an acre of non-wetland waters would be permanently impacted via Michigan Wisconsin Substation.

GIWW Crossings: Approximately 0.006 of an acre of non-wetland waters would be temporarily impacted at Crossing N. Approximately 0.1190 of an acre of non-wetland waters (5,168 feet) would be permanently impacted via structure installation at Crossing S.

Calcasieu Ship Channel Crossings: Approximately 0.68 of an acre of emergent wetlands and 0.0030 of an acre of non-wetland waters (150 feet) would be permanently impacted via structure installation and 0.15 of an acre of emergent wetlands would be temporarily impacted via transmission line installation at Crossing W. Approximately 0.39 of an acre of emergent wetlands would be permanently impacted via structure installation and 1.17 acres of emergent wetlands would be temporarily impacted via transmission line installation at Crossing E.

Mermentau River Crossings: Approximately 0.80 of an acre of emergent wetlands would be permanently impacted via structure installation and 0.16 of an acre of emergent wetlands would be temporarily impacted via transmission line installation at Crossing W. Approximately 0.66 of an acre of emergent wetlands would be permanently impacted via structure installation and 2.25 acres of emergent wetlands and 0.063 of an acre of non-wetland waters would be temporarily impacted via

transmission line installation at Crossing E.

Overall Total wetland and water impacts: Approximately 4.94 acres of emergent wetlands and 0.14 of an acre of non-wetland waters would be permanently impacted and approximately 232.30 acres of emergent wetlands and 163.17 acres of non-wetland waters would be temporarily impacted via project implementation.

Compensatory Mitigation:

If a Department of the Army permit can be granted, the applicant has proposed to mitigate unavoidable wetlands impacts at an approved and acceptable mitigation bank within the N.O. District.

The comment period on the requested Department of the Army Permit will close **20 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 be preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineer's project manager listed above or forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGW, Sara Fortuna**. Individuals or parties may also request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by mail or preferably by emailing the specified project manager listed above. Any request for an extension of time to comment 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 Branch Chief will review the request and the requester will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous and inclusive of the initial comment period and will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days. This public notice is also available for review online at <https://go.usa.gov/xennJ>

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Based on the Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana, as signed on January 27, 2020, 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 is located in wetlands and/or waters known to be utilized by the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* spp. *jamaicensis*), the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), the Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), the Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and on April 24, 2023, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the project for effects to Federal trust resources under their jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act.) The project is not likely to adversely affect those resources. No impacts to sea turtle nesting habitat. If the DA permit is approved, the permittee will be required to follow the IPaC mitigative conditions for the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*).

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.

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 **260.6 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. On March 24, 2023, NMFS issued the Final Essential Fish Habitat Assessment dated March 2023 to FEMA, which stated that most anticipated impacts to Essential Fish Habitat will be temporary and that NMFS does not object to the project as proposed.

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 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality before a Department of the Army permit could be issued.

Any person may request 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, and can be preferably emailed to the USACE project manager listed above or mailed to the address listed above.

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 Department of Natural Resource's Coastal Resources Program (Application # P20220805). The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant receives approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

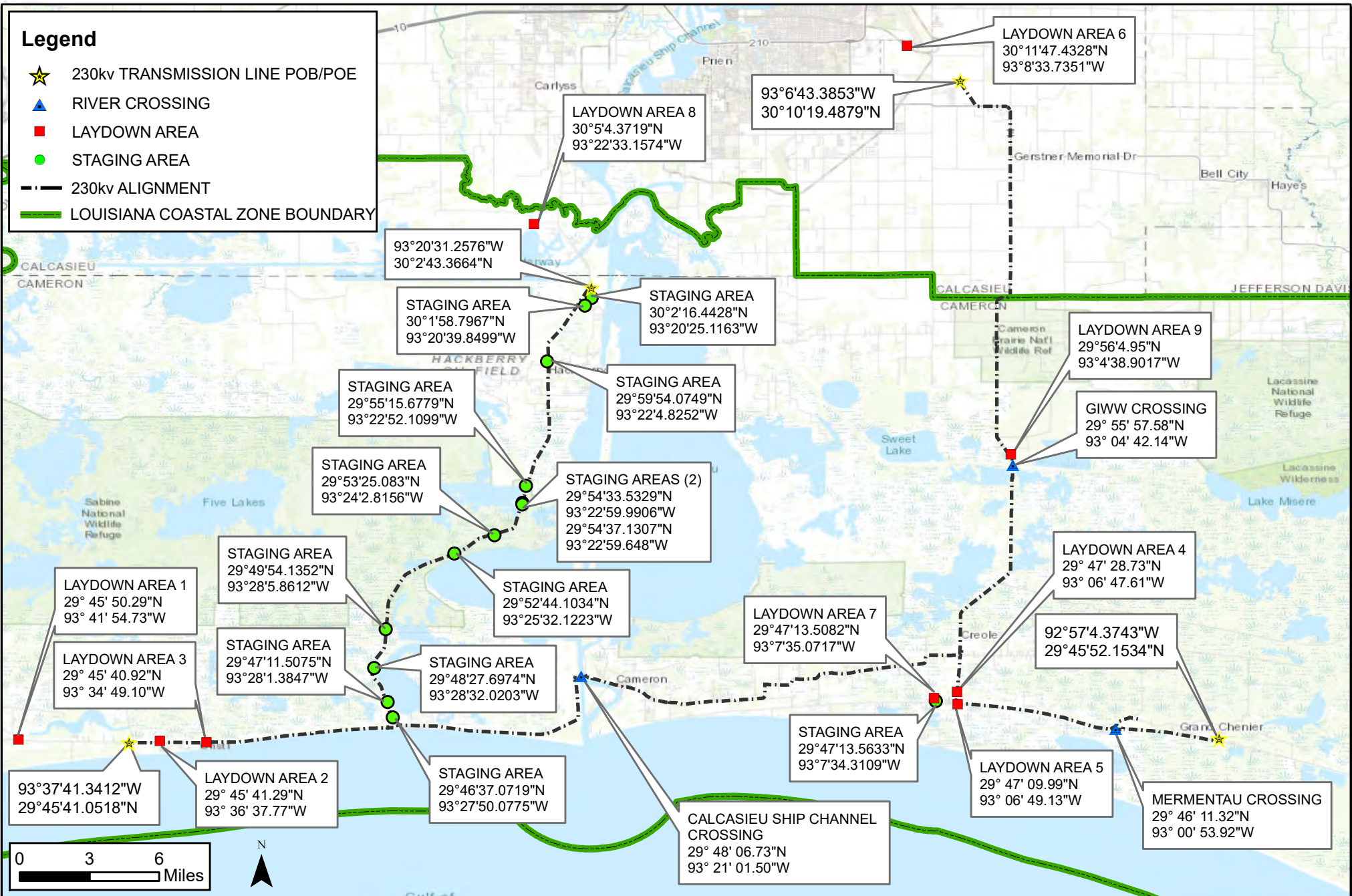
You are invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Darrell S. Barbara
Chief, Western Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Legend

- ★ 230kv TRANSMISSION LINE POB/POE
- ▲ RIVER CROSSING
- LAYDOWN AREA
- STAGING AREA
- - - 230kv ALIGNMENT
- LOUISIANA COASTAL ZONE BOUNDARY



ROYAL ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS, LLC
 1231 Camellia Boulevard
 Lafayette, LOUISIANA 70508

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY



JEFF DAVIS ELECTRIC CO-OP

TITLE: 230kv TRANSMISSION OVERVIEW MAP			
PROJ. NAME: JDEC 230KV TRANSMISSION		SCALE: AS SHOWN	
DES: REC	DR: REC	JOB No. 2021-03-01	SHEET NO. G1
CH: REC	APP: REC	DATE: JAN 2023	REV:

WETLAND IMPACT TABLE

Site	Total Footprint	Perm. Work Area	Temp. Work Area	Perm. Wetland Impacts	Temp. Wetland Impacts	EEM Brackish Marsh	EEM Fresh Marsh	EEM Intermediate Marsh	EEM Saline Marsh	PEM Non-Marsh	PFO Non-Marsh	Other Waters	Coastal Zone	Fill (cubic yards)
Transmission Line Work Area	880.00	-	880.00	-	225.12	85.63	10.66	75.99	44.34	8.44	0.07	134.95	Yes (Partial)	-
Trans/Dist Poles	0.26	0.26	-	0.11	-	0.049	0.0034	0.035	0.017	0.0021	0.00016	0.03	Yes (Partial)	-
Chalkley	4.35	4.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	5,850.95
Charlie	0.52	0.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	694.41
Fulton	2.72	2.72	-	1.6	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	-	Yes	3,656.89
Grand Chenier	0.48	0.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	643.68
Hacket	1.21	1.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	1,626.78
Holly Beach	1.34	1.34	-	0.03	-	-	-	0.03	-	-	-	-	Yes	1,808.08
Johnson Bayou	1.03	1.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	1,385.83
Manchester	0.46	0.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	623.15
Mich/Misc	0.34	0.34	-	0.13	-	-	-	0.13	-	-	-	0.017	Yes	461.28
Creole	2.47	2.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	3,317.26
GIWW Crossing N	1.05	0.90	0.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.006	Yes	1,209.19
GIWW Crossing S	4.99	0.69	4.30	0.56	3.45	-	-	4.01	-	-	-	0.01	Yes	925.92
Calc Crossing W	1.05	0.90	0.15	0.68	0.15	0.82	-	-	-	-	-	0.008	Yes	1,207.85
Calc Crossing E	3.93	0.69	3.24	0.39	1.17	1.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	926.46
Merm Crossing W	1.09	0.94	0.16	0.80	0.16	0.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	1,258.88
Merm Crossing E	3.15	0.80	2.35	0.66	2.25	2.90	-	-	-	-	-	0.063	Yes	1,071.66
Laydown 1	1.72	1.72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	2,306.46
Laydown 2	4.99	4.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	6,711.51
Laydown 3	0.38	0.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	508.75
Laydown 4	2.15	2.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	2,884.67
Laydown 5	0.66	0.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	889.62
Laydown 6	58.02	58.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	78,004.67
Laydown 7	4.88	4.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	6,560.89
Laydown 8	3.57	3.57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	4,799.67
Laydown 9	3.00	3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	4,033.33
Access Route	43.91	-	-	-	-	1.38	11.46	-	-	-	-	28.16	Yes	-
Totals:	99.45	890.35	4.94	232.30	93.30	22.12	81.80	44.35	8.44	0.08	163.24	133367.83		

NOTE: 1. AREAS LISTED ABOVE REPRESENT ACREAGE.



ROYAL ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS, LLC
 1231 Camellia Boulevard
 Lafayette, LOUISIANA 70508

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

CLIENT:



JEFF DAVIS ELECTRIC CO-OP

TITLE:

IMPACT TABLE

PROJ. NAME:		JDEC 230kv TRANSMISSION			
DES:	REC	SCALE:	N/A		
DR:	REC	JOB No.	2021-03-01	SHEET NO.	REV.
CH:	REC	DATE:	MARCH 2023	G3	
APP:	REC				