

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

September 18, 2023

Regulatory Division Central Evaluation Branch

Project Manager
S. Gail Gainey
(504) 862-1545
Sandra.G.Gainey@usace.army.mil
Application Number: MVN-2022-01242-CG

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US 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 [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

DREDGE A PORTION OF THE GRAND BAYOU CHANNEL AND SLIP IN LAFOURCHE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Lafourche Parish Government, C/O GIS Engineering, LLC, ATTN: Mohan Menon, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1500, Baton Rouge, LA 70801.

LOCATION OF WORK: From the point of entry of the GIWW, a 3.25-mile portion of Grand Bayou, a connected slip, and adjacent bank lines north and south of Borg Larose Highway in Larose, Louisiana, in Lafourche Parish, within the Terrebonne Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08090302), as shown on the attached drawings (Latitude 29.538175 N, Longitude -90.401473 W).

CHARACTER OF WORK: The work described herein was previously authorized and partially completed under the emergency authorization issued on November 30, 2022. As required by the previous approval for work, the applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to perform maintenance dredging of a portion of Grand Bayou, including an existing slip, and to deposit dredged material along spoil banks to restore access to the existing water control structure currently impacted by silt build-up from the storm surge experienced during Hurricane Ida. Approximately 108,260 cubic yards of material would be dredged from approximately 37 acres of waterbottoms and deposited on a total of 36 acres of spoil banks adjacent to the waterbody. A preliminary analysis has determined wetlands to be present adjacent to the waterbody at the spoil banks; however, extent of coverage is undetermined at this time pending wetland delineation.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to avoid additional direct impacts and minimize secondary impacts to the maximum extent practicable by limiting the activity to the waterways and designated construction areas onsite, utilizing best management practices for erosion and siltation control during and after the construction phase of the project, and limiting spoil cast onto the adjacent, existing spoil banks to 500-foot segments with 50-foot gaps left between the spoil placement areas to maintain functioning hydrology. Any further reduction would not satisfy engineering standards for the waterway, and therefore limit function, deeming the project impracticable.

As compensation for any unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to use a Corps approved mitigation bank within the watershed of impact.

The comment period for the Department of Army will close in **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 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 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, RGC, S. Gail Gainey. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing 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 Branch 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. 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.

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. Further, all factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project.

The New Orleans District utilizes the National Register of Historic Places to identify properties listed on or near the proposed work and the Merchants and Planters Bank site is within a one-mile radius of the project site. The possibility also exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. However, extent of impacts is undetermined at this time pending a National Historic Preservation Act compliance determination. As deemed necessary, copies of this notice are made available to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer, and federally recognized Native American 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 endangered species under their jurisdiction.

Utilizing the Information & Planning Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana protocol, as signed on January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CEMVN has determined that the proposed project is located in waters known to be utilized by the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and with the inclusion of the Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Activities, the proposed work is not likely to adversely affect the species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of <u>0</u> 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, Office of Environmental Services, before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, (preferably by email to the project manager, or in writing),

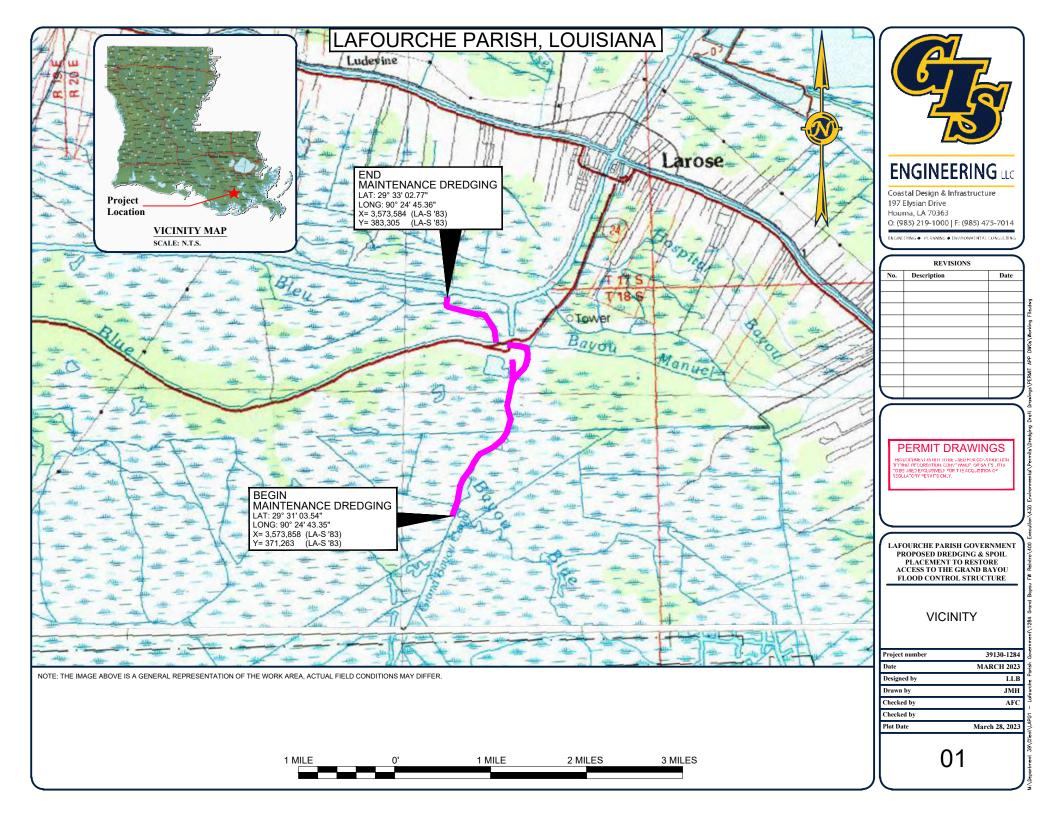
within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

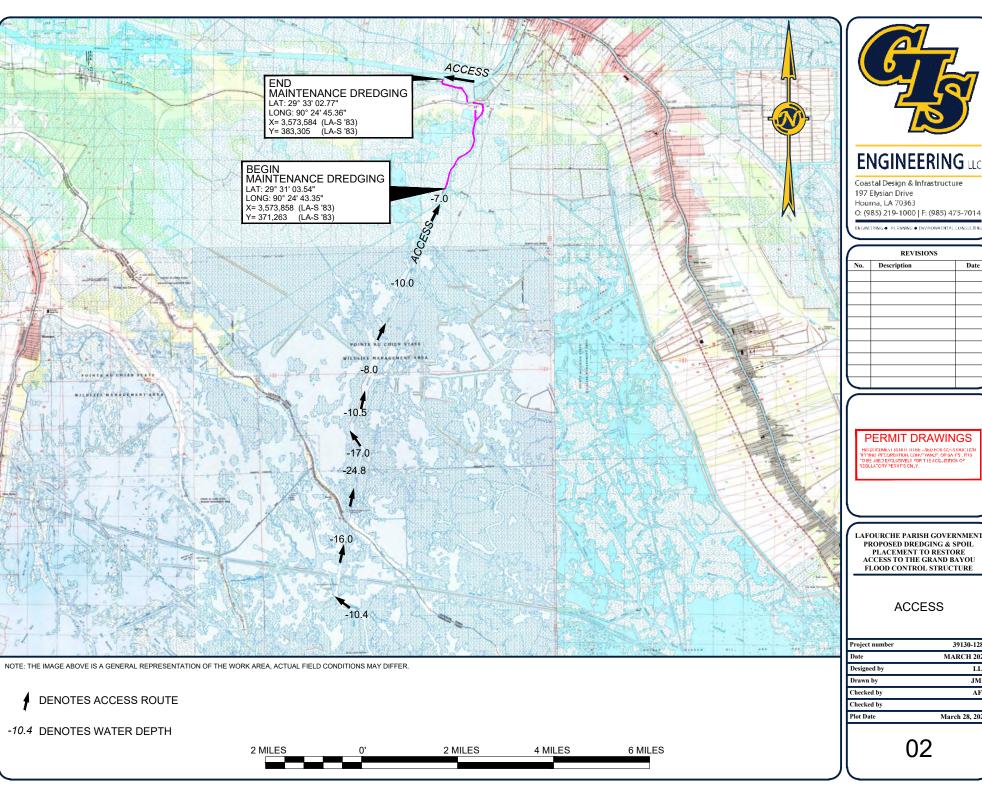
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (Louisiana Coastal Zone Application P20221122). The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless 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.

John M. Herman Chief, Central Evaluation Branch Regulatory Division

Enclosures





ENGINEERING LLC

197 Elysian Drive Houma, LA 70363 O: (985) 219-1000 | F: (985) 475-7014

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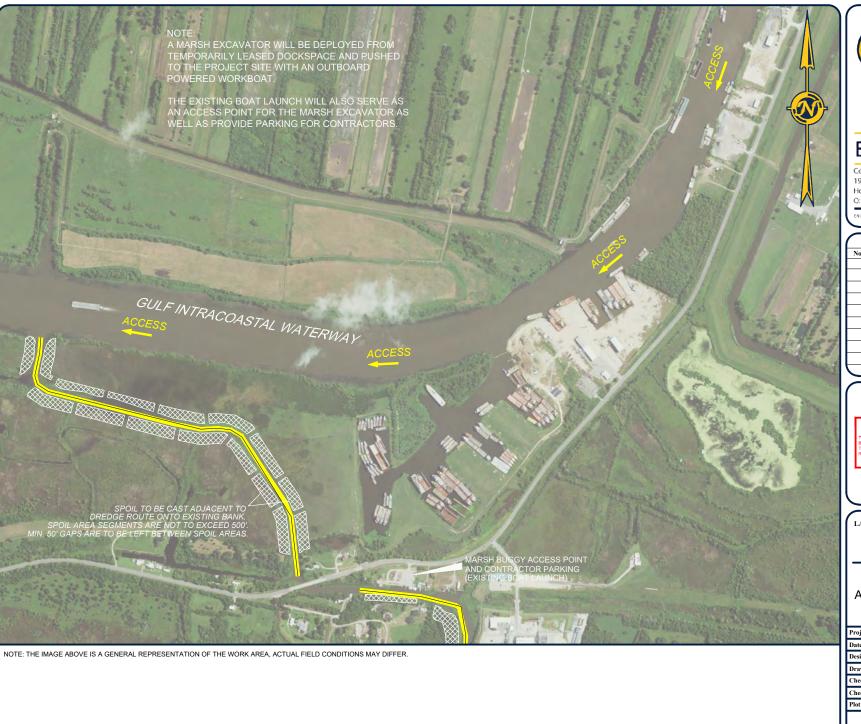
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LAFOURCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT PROPOSED DREDGING & SPOIL PLACEMENT TO RESTORE ACCESS TO THE GRAND BAYOU FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE

ACCESS

Project number	39130-1284	8
Date	MARCH 2023	Parish
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Checked by	AFC	2
Checked by		LAPG1
Plot Date	March 28, 2023	₹

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2,000'

1,000'

3,000'



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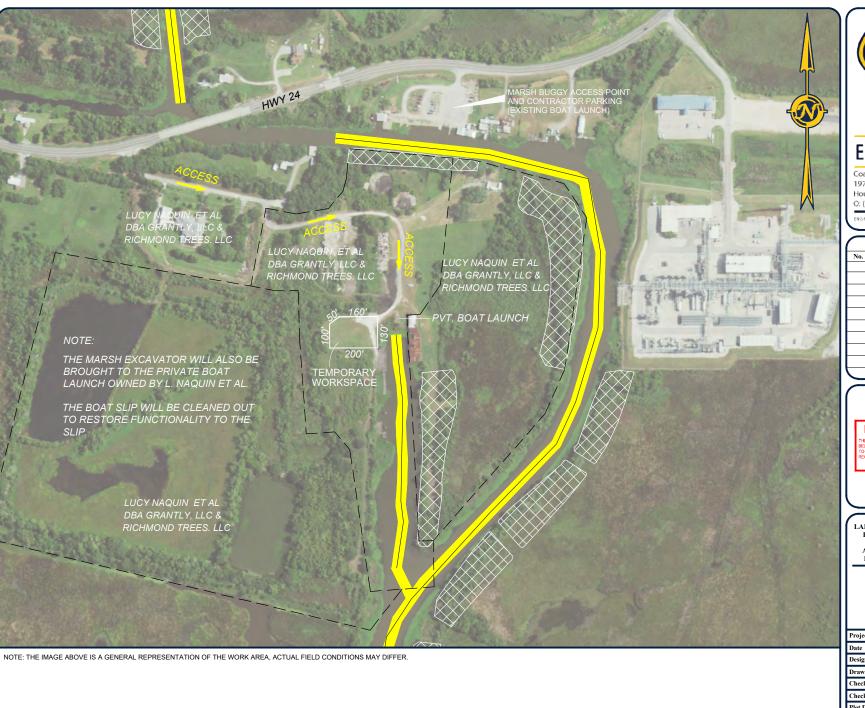
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ACCESS FROM GIWW

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400'

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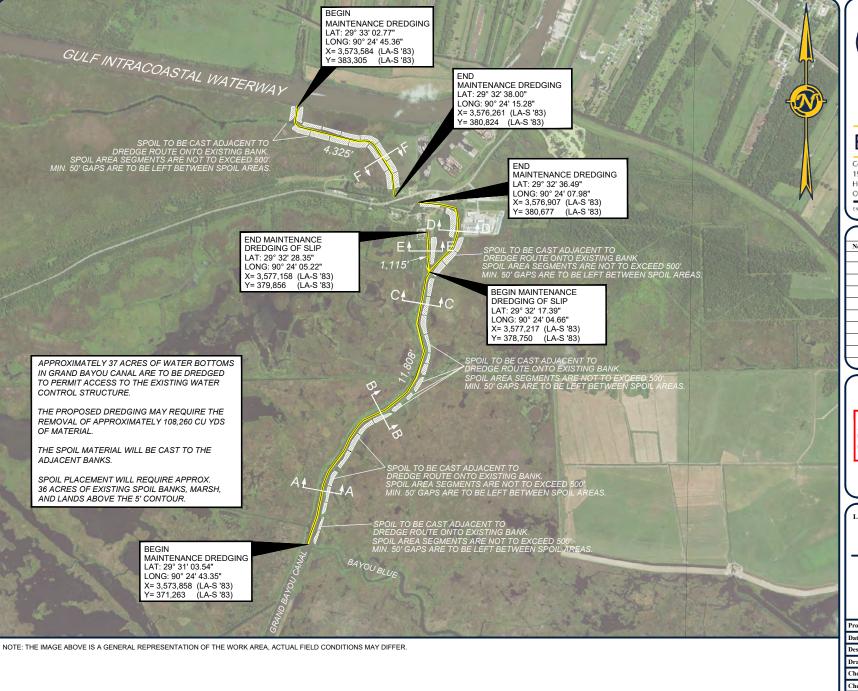
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ACCESS FROM EXISTING SLIP

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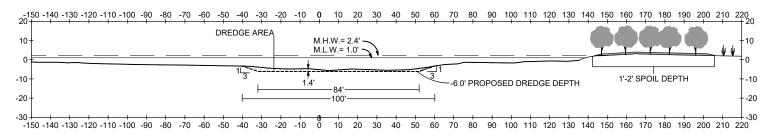
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PLAN

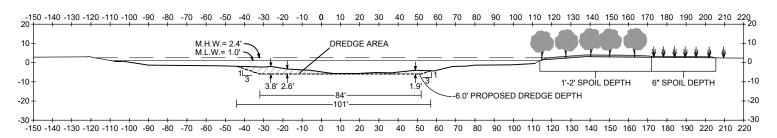
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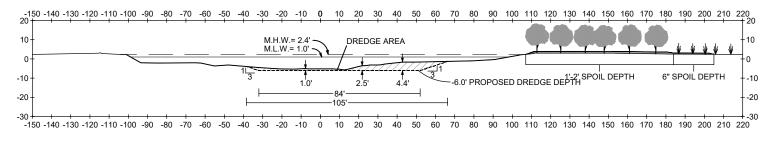
SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B



SECTION C-C



NOTE: THE IMAGE ABOVE IS A GENERAL REPRESENTATION OF THE WORK AREA, ACTUAL FIELD CONDITIONS MAY DIFFER.

50' 0' 50' 100' 150'



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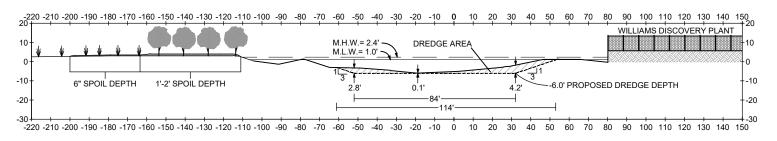
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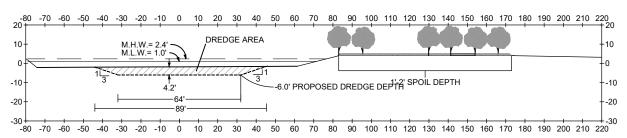
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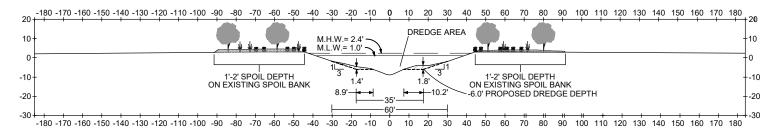
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SECTION E-E



SECTION F-F



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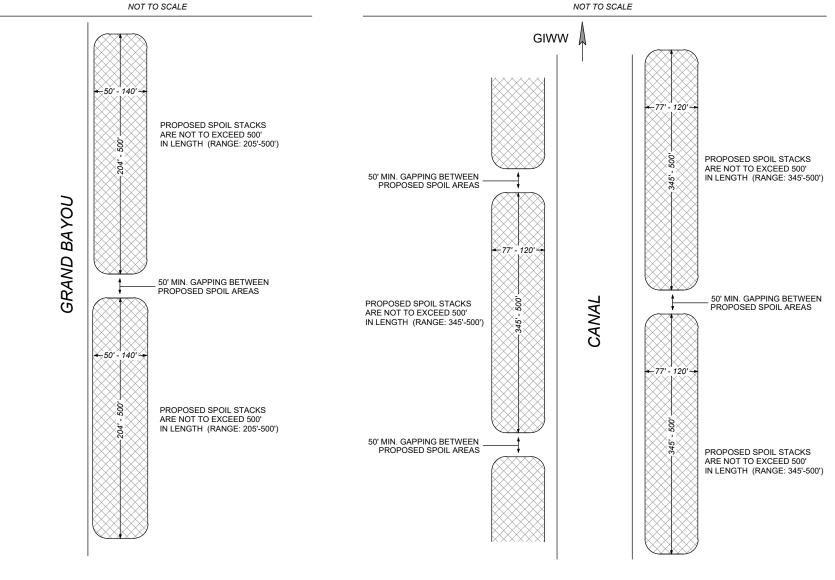
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TYPICAL SPOIL PLACEMENT IN MARSH SECTIONS AA THROUGH CC

TYPICAL SPOIL PLACEMENT IN MARSH SECTION FF

NOT TO SCALE





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TYPICAL SPOIL PLACEMENT

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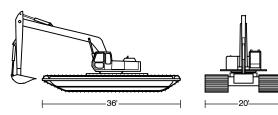
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LONG REACH MARSH EXCAVATOR

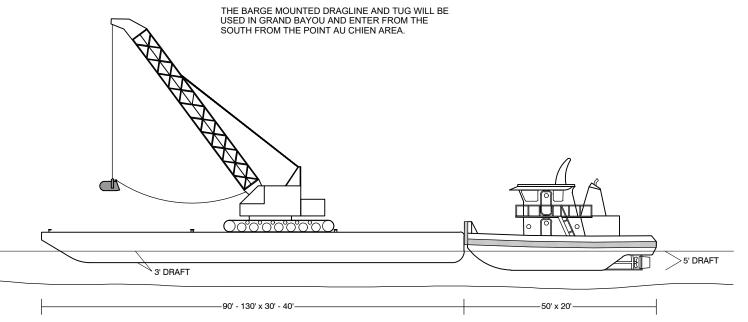
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A LONG REACH EXCAVATOR IS TO BE USED IN THE NORTHERN CANAL LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE GIWW AND IN THE SLIP AT THE PRIVATE BOAT LAUNCH.



TYPICAL SHALLOW DRAFT TUG, BARGE, AND DRAGLINE

NOT TO SCALE



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TYPICAL EQUIPMENT

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AFC

March 28, 2023

Project Notes

- Approximately 37 acres of water bottoms in grand bayou canal are to be dredged to permit access to the existing water control structure.
- The proposed dredging may require the removal of approximately 108,260 cu yds of material.
- The spoil material will be cast to the adjacent banks.
- Spoil placement will require approximately 36 acres of existing spoil banks, marsh, and lands above the 5' contour.

NDSI Notes

- 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.
- All structures built under the authorization and conditions of this permit shall be removed from the site within 120 days of abandonment of the facilities for the herein permitted use, or when these structures fall into a state of disrepair such that they can no longer function as intended. This condition does not preclude the necessity for revising the current permit or obtaining a separate Coastal Use Permit, should one be required, for such removal activities.
- Structures must also be marked/lighted in accordance with U. S. Coast Guard regulations.
- 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, jetting, etc.) or demolition activity.



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