



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

October 29, 2018

Operations Division
Regulatory Branch, ODR-E, Room 280

Project Manager
Stephanie Castaing
Stephanie.L.Castaing@usace.army.mil
(504) 862-1564

SUBJECT: MVN 2018-0704-EPP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received by the District engineer for a Department of the Army permit to authorize the following pursuant to (X) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or () Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF THE PEARL RIVER SHIP CHANNEL IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission, % Anchor QEA,
Attn: Renee Robertson, 9797 Timber Circle, Suite B, in Daphne, Alabama 36527.

LOCATION OF WORK: Project site is located within the Mississippi Sound, at the mouth of the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

Latitude: 30.178433 Longitude: -89.52525, Hydrologic Unit Code 08090203 – Eastern Louisiana Coastal.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Maintenance dredging and deepening of the Pearl River Ship Channel in order to provide safe navigation for larger vessels. Project implementation will require excavation of approximately 600,000 cubic yards of native material over a span of 5 years. The excavated material will be transferred via barge to the existing permitted (SAM-2013-00088-MJF) Heron Bay Beneficial Use site, located within Hancock County, Mississippi. The applicant maintains that no jurisdictional wetlands would be directly affected by this action, thus no compensatory mitigation is anticipated.

The comment period will close **15 days** from the date of this public notice advertisement. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons therefore, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request. Letters must reference the applicant's name and the subject number, be addressed and mailed to the above address, ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH. 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 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.

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 New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

The New Orleans District has determined that the proposed activity will have no effect on the Dusky Gopher frog (*Rana sevosa*) and the Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian Manatee with the inclusion of the Standard Manatee Conditions For In-Water Activities; based on the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species of Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

The New Orleans District's preliminary determination for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is that the proposed project activities may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the following species: Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) and the leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). Further consultation shall be initiated. The Corps is unaware of any other ESA listed species or of any other ESA designated critical habitat that may be affected by this project.

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 up to 50 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 water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications Section before a 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.

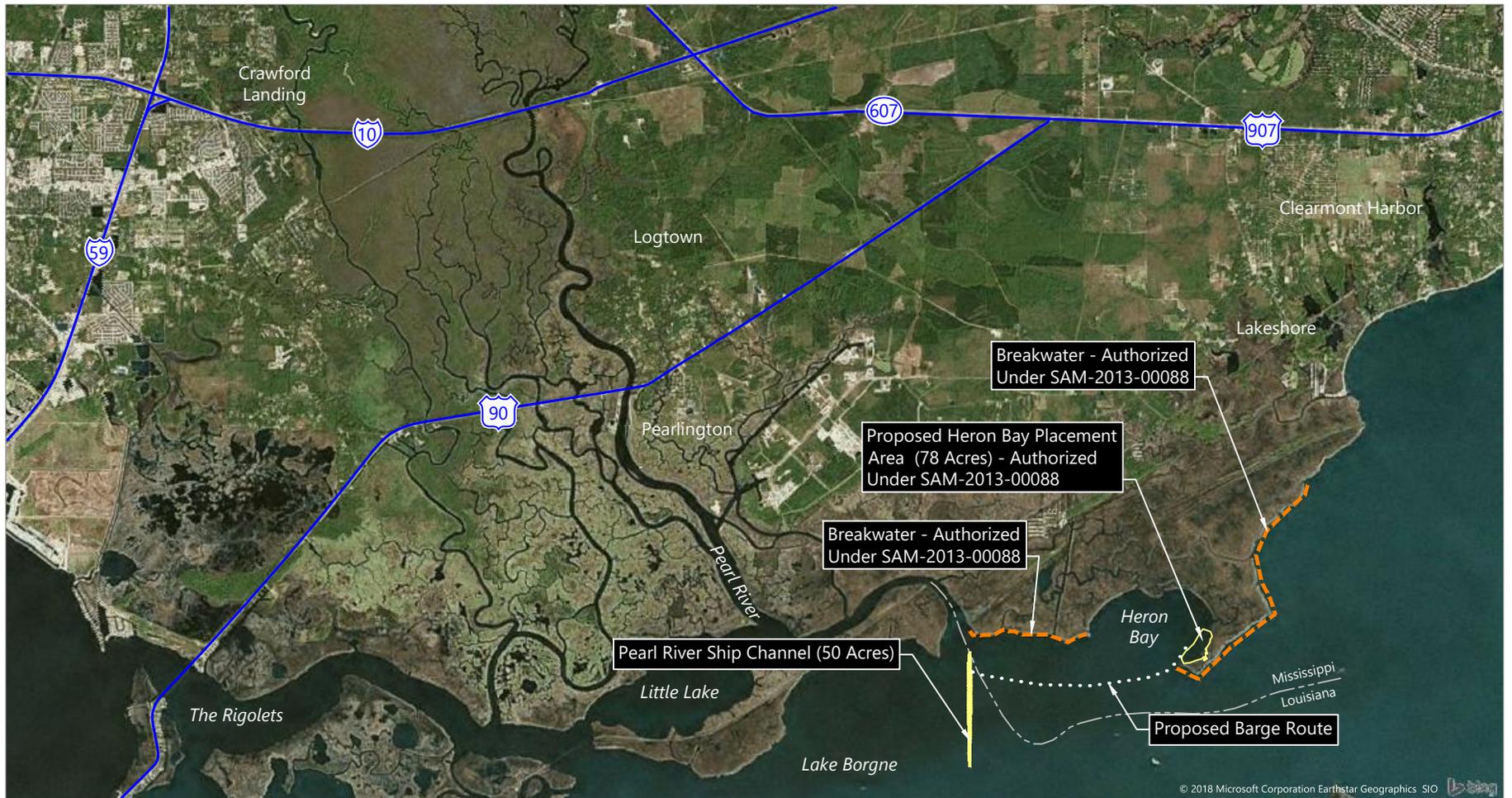
The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver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

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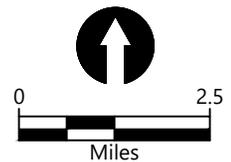
You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Enclosure

Michael V. Farabee
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section



SOURCE: Aerial image provided by Bing (Microsoft).
HORIZONTAL DATUM: Mississippi State Plane, East Zone, NAD83, U.S. Survey Feet.
NOTE: Ship channel length is 9,600 feet. Channel width varies from 200 feet to 250 feet, with the average being 227 feet.

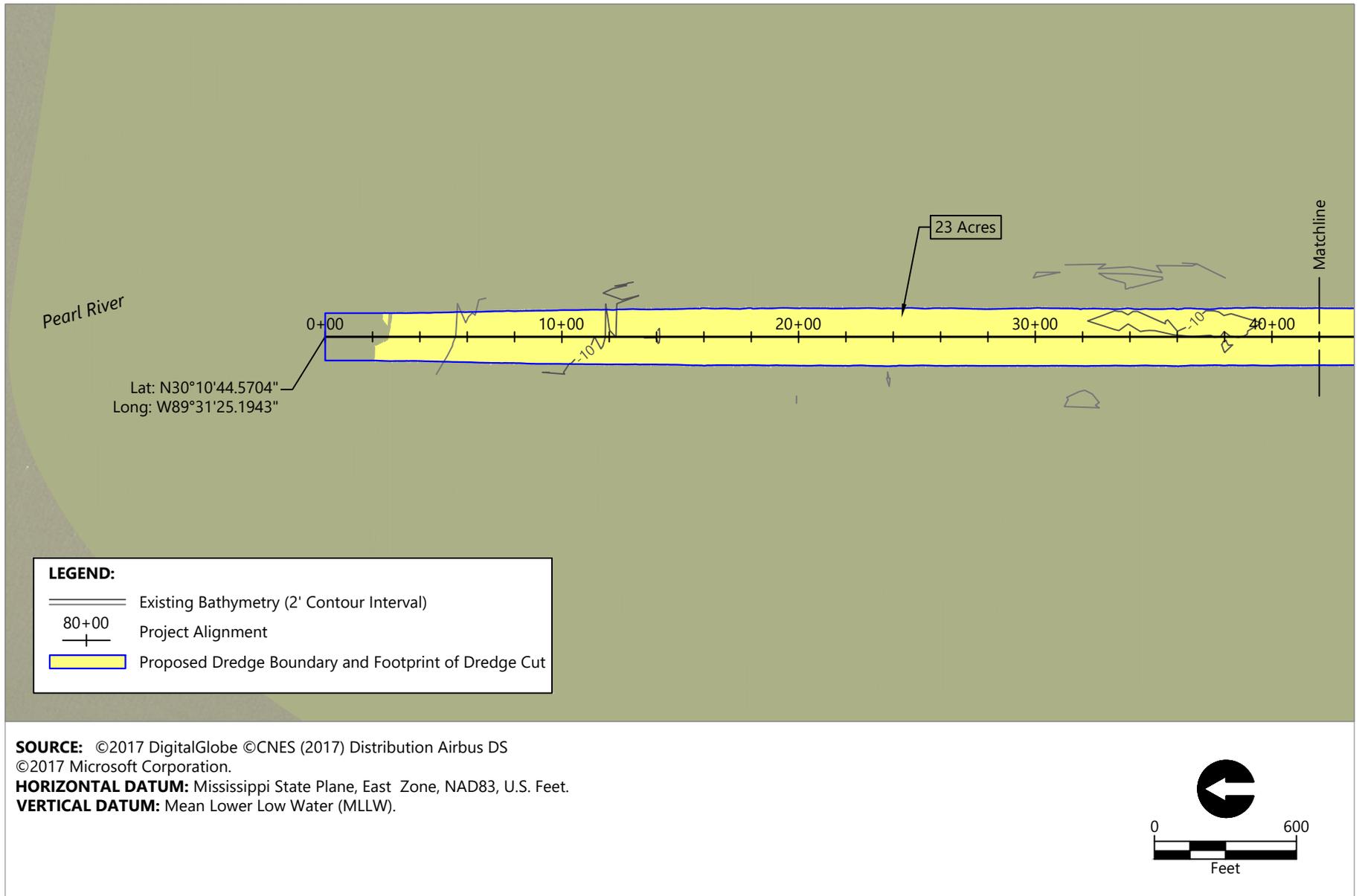


Publish Date: 2018/07/31 1:30 PM | User: dholmer
 Filepath: K:\Projects\1254-Hancock County\Hancock County Port\Permit-Pearl River Ship Channel\1254-RP-001 (Pearl River SC Permit).dwg Figure 1



Figure 1
Dredged Material Characterization Project Area

Pearl River Ship Channel Dredging Permit
 Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission

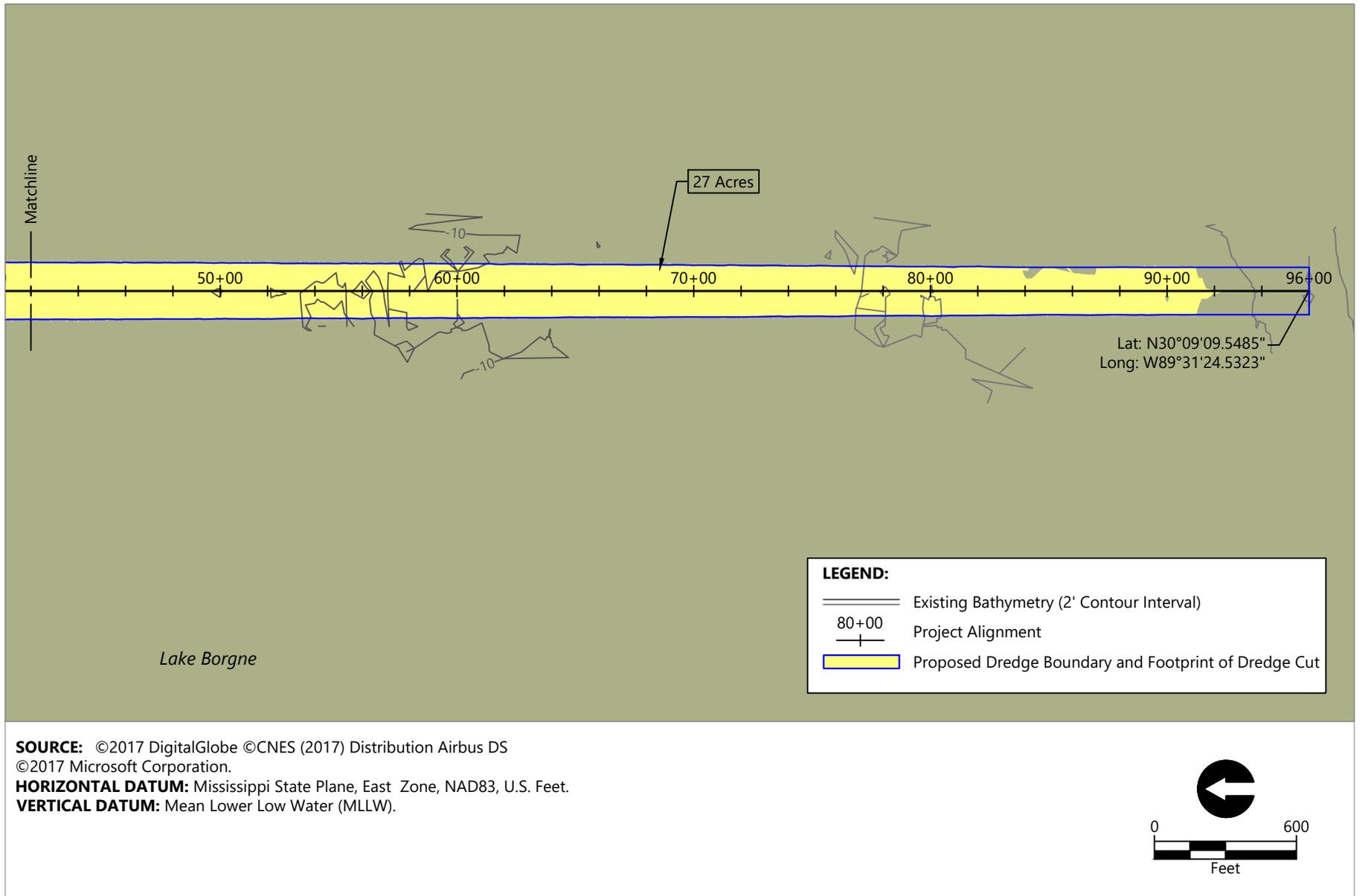


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Figure 2
Pearl River Ship Channel Site Plan (1 of 2)

Pearl River Ship Channel Dredging Permit
 Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission



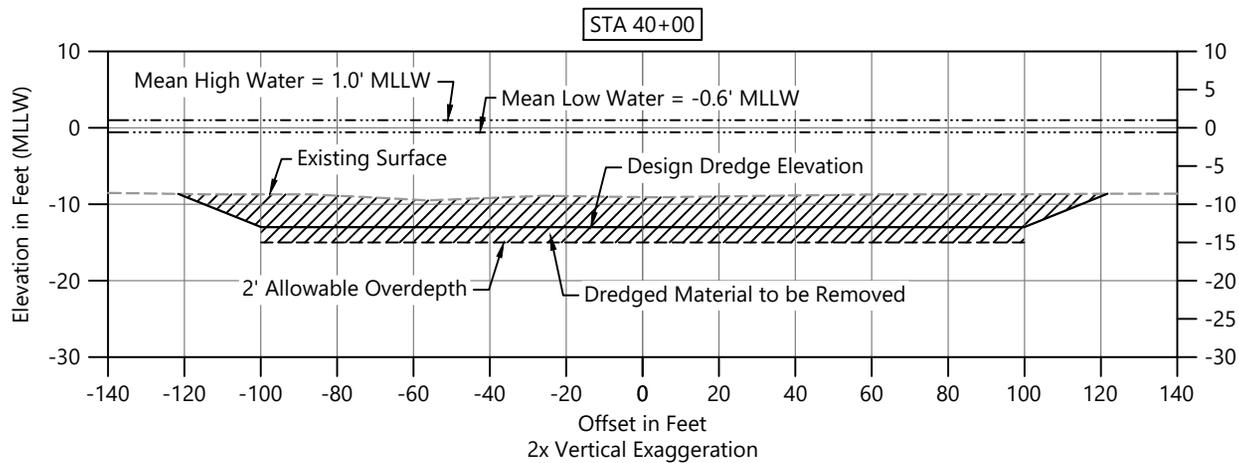
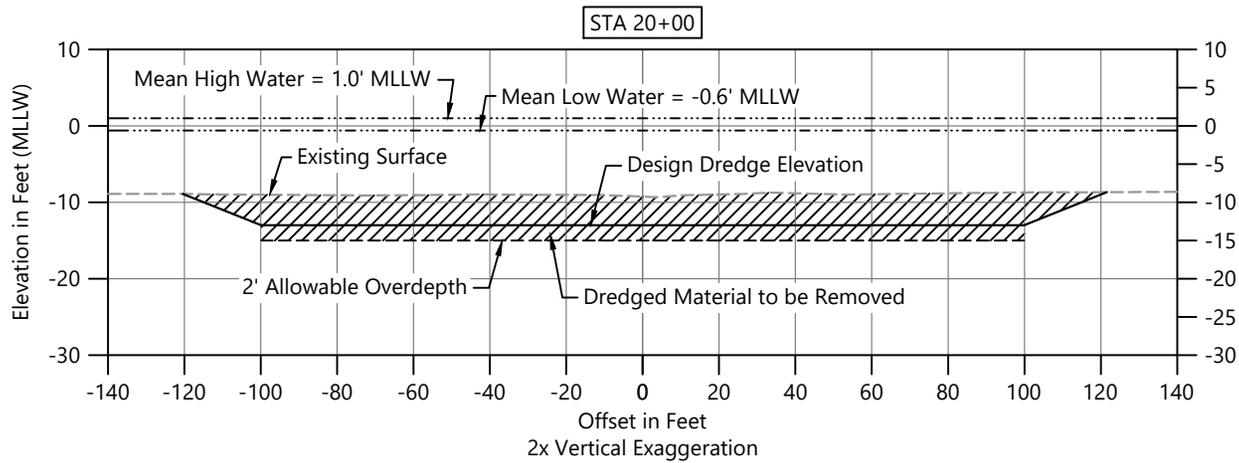
SOURCE: ©2017 DigitalGlobe ©CNES (2017) Distribution Airbus DS
©2017 Microsoft Corporation.
HORIZONTAL DATUM: Mississippi State Plane, East Zone, NAD83, U.S. Feet.
VERTICAL DATUM: Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

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Figure 3
Pearl River Ship Channel Site Plan (2 of 2)

Pearl River Ship Channel Dredging Permit
Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission

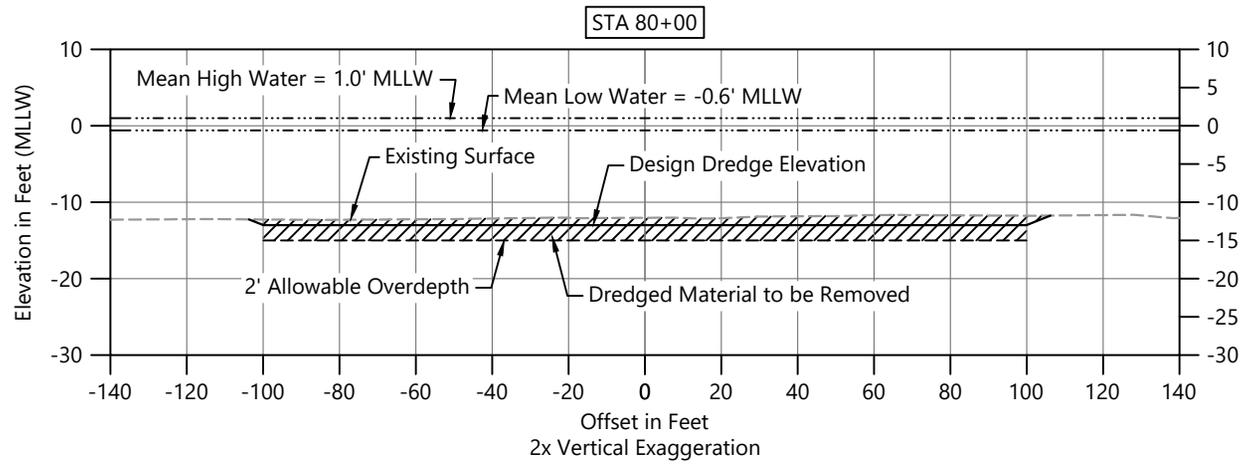
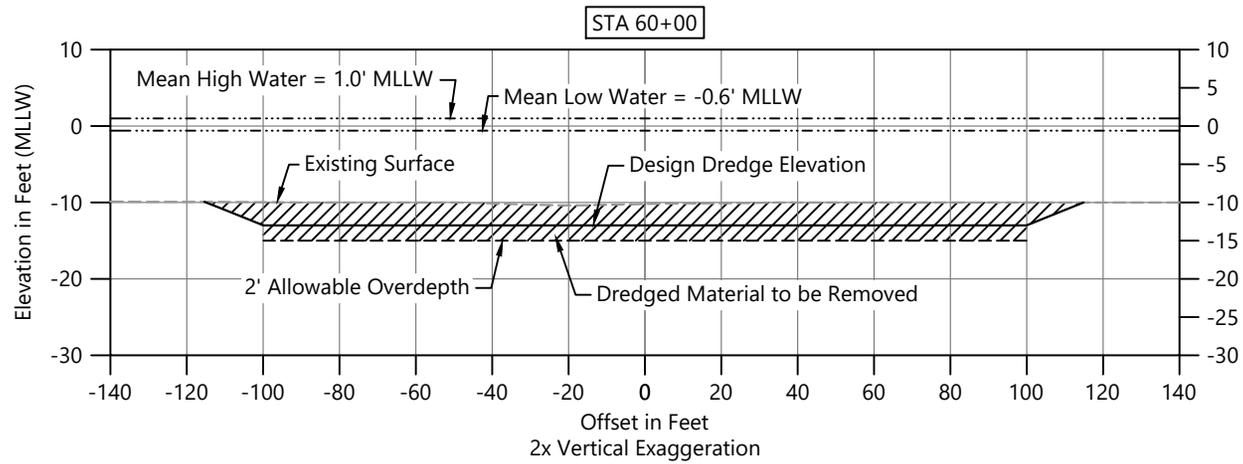


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Figure 4
Sections on Project Stationing (1 of 2)

Pearl River Ship Channel Dredging Permit
 Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission

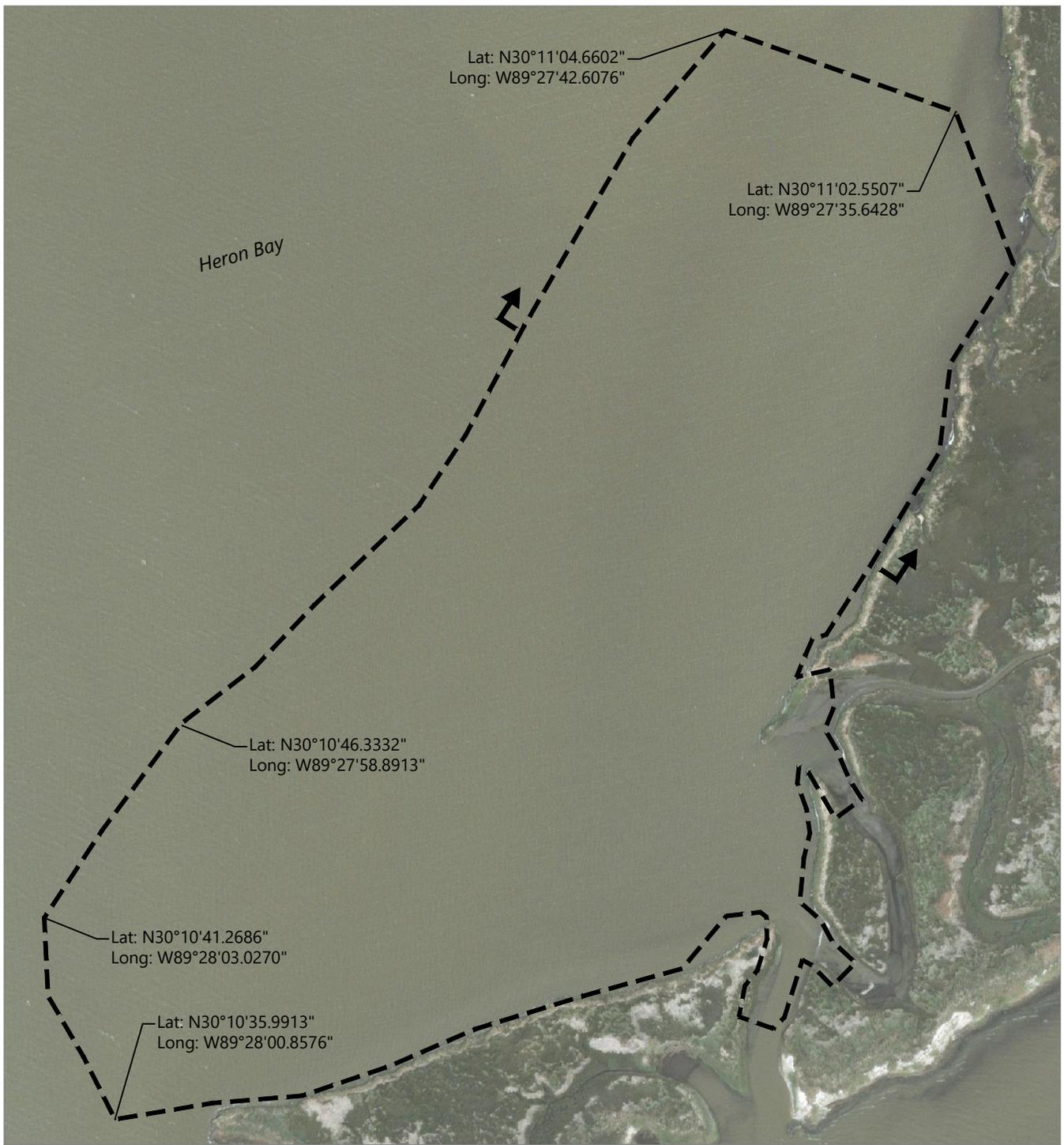


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Figure 5
Sections on Project Stationing (2 of 2)

Pearl River Ship Channel Dredging Permit
 Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission



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HORIZONTAL DATUM: Mississippi State Plane, East Zone, NAD83, U.S. Feet.

VERTICAL DATUM: Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

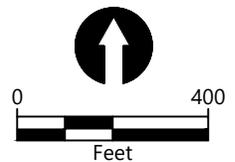
NOTE: Placement area permitted by MDMR (DMR-140197) and USACE (SAM-2013-00088-MJF)

LEGEND:

--- Target Area for Marsh Fill Placement



Cross Section Location (See Figure 7)



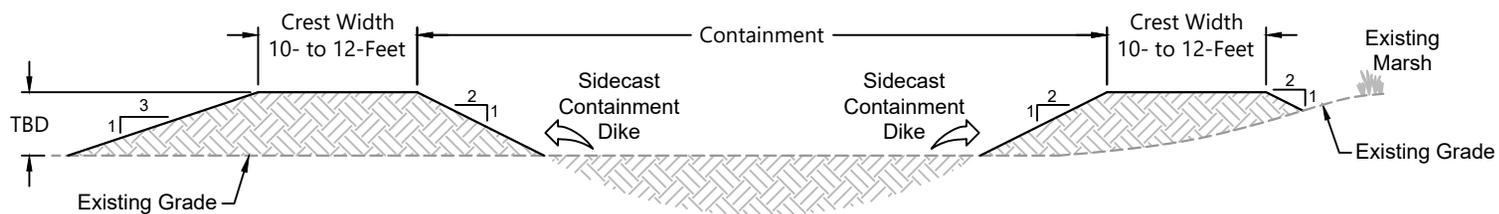
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Filepath: K:\Projects\1254-Hancock County\Hancock County Port\Permit-Pearl River Ship Channel\1254-RP-002 (Pearl River SC Permit).dwg Figure 6



Figure 6
Heron Bay, Mississippi Placement Area

Pearl River Ship Channel Dredging Permit
Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission



Typical Cross Section of Marsh Fill Placement Containment Area

Not to Scale

NOTES:

1. Dike height will be designed based on actual dredging volume.
2. Dikes to be degraded after marsh construction for intertidal circulation.
3. Marsh target range = +0.5' to +1.5' MLLW (+0.2' to +1.2' NAVD88).