



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Fort Worth District

# Public Notice

Applicant: Anadarko E&P Company, LP.

Permit Application No.: SWF-2009-00097 and SWF-2009-00098

Date: April 28, 2009

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The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

## **Regulatory Program**

Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program.

## **Section 10**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate *all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States*. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

## **Section 404**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the *discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands*. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

## **Contact**

Name: Mr. Frederick Land

Phone Number: (817) 886-1729

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT

AND

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION

**SUBJECT:** Application for a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States associated with a proposal by Anadarko E&P Company, LP to construct the Letourneau 7-29HH and Letourneau 7-30HH natural gas well pads, access roads, and pipelines in Harrison County, Texas.

**APPLICANT:** Anadarko E&P Company, LP  
Ms. Nancy Tool  
P.O. Box 1300  
Houston, Texas 77251

**APPLICATION NUMBER:** SWF-2009-00097 and SWF-2009-00098

**DATE ISSUED:** April 28, 2009

**LOCATION:** The proposed natural gas well pads, access roads, and pipelines would be located in the Sabine River floodplain approximately 6.1 miles southeast of the State Highway 149 and Interstate Highway 20 intersection in Harrison County, Texas. Letourneau 7-29HH would be located at UTM coordinates 347769.25 East and 3586369.10 North and Letourneau 7-30HH would be located at 347887.76 East and 3586768.61 North (Zone 15). These well sites are on the Easton, TX 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map in the USGS Hydrologic Unit 12010002.

**OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS:** State Water Quality Certification

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Anadarko E&P Company, LP proposes to construct two well sites, access roads, and pipelines to facilitate natural gas exploration on an existing mineral lease area (see Sheets 1-8). The Letourneau 7-29HH and Letourneau 7-30HH project areas are located within the floodplain of the Sabine River; therefore, all wetlands delineated on the proposed project area are jurisdictional under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed Letourneau 7-29HH and Letourneau 7-30HH well sites would be located less than 600 feet of active gas wells constructed in waters of the United States and are not eligible for authorization under the regional general permits for exploration and production wells. Construction of the Letourneau 7-29HH well site, access road, and pipeline would adversely impact a total of approximately 1.55 acres of waters of the United States, 1.41 acres forested wetlands and 0.14

acre of emergent wetlands, within the floodplain of the Sabine River. Construction of the Letourneau 7-30HH well site, access road, and pipeline would adversely impact a total of approximately 1.47 acres of waters of the United States in the form of forested wetlands within the floodplain of the Sabine River.

During project planning, the applicant considered several alternatives. One of the alternatives considered was directional boring. Directional drilling over long distances is cost-prohibitive. Directionally drilling the Letourneau 7-29HH and Letourneau 7-30HH locations would produce fewer reserves than straight-hole wells. A directionally drilled well is slanted and therefore longer than an equivalent straight-hole well. Due to the horizontal component of the directionally drilled well, approximately 10% fewer reserves are recovered. Additionally, because they are longer in measured depth and have a horizontal component, directional wells tend to plug more frequently with solids and salts. Another alternative considered was moving the wells more than 600 feet apart but this was not feasible due to lease agreements.

### **The Letourneau 7-29HH**

The applicant proposes to discharge approximately 9,886 cubic yards of dredged and fill material into approximately 1.55 acres of waters of the United States in conjunction with the construction of the Letourneau 7-29HH natural gas well pad, access road and pipeline.

The proposed Letourneau 7-29HH well site would be approximately 420-foot by 420-foot. Construction of the well site would adversely impact approximately 0.64 acres of a palustrine forested wetlands within the floodplain of the Sabine River. Dominant vegetation of the wetlands includes sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*), brushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), panicgrass (*Panicum* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.), rosettegrass (*Dichanthelium* sp.), and rushes (*Juncus* sp.). The applicant would discharge approximately 8,079 cubic yards of clay and crushed rock into the wetlands to construct a well pad.

The applicant proposes to construct an access road to transport drilling equipment. Construction of the proposed access road would adversely impact approximately 0.32 acre of a palustrine forested wetlands within the floodplain of the Sabine River. Dominant vegetation of the forested wetlands includes sugarberry, willow oak, sweetgum, cedar elm, dwarf palmetto, broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), panicgrass, rosettegrass, and rushes. The road right-of-way would be 40 feet wide and 590 feet long. The applicant would discharge approximately 1,807 cubic yards of clay fill material into the wetlands to construct a well pad that would consist of approximately 3 feet of clay overlain with 6 inches of crushed rock.

The applicant proposes to construct a pipeline to transport product from the proposed well. The pipeline would connect to an existing well site located to the east. The pipeline right-of-way would be 50 feet wide and 2,561 feet long. Construction would consist of open-trench installation and would result in temporary adverse impacts to 0.45 acre of a palustrine forested wetlands and 0.14 acre of a palustrine emergent wetlands. Dominant vegetation of the forested

wetlands includes willow oak, water oak (*Quercus nigra*), sweetgum, sugarberry, dwarf palmetto, eastern baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*), and flatsedge (*Cyperus* sp.). Dominant vegetation of the emergent wetlands consists of flatsedge, sedges, bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and beaksedge (*Rhynchospora* sp.)

Following construction of the pipeline, pre-construction contours would be restored and the upper twelve inches of soil would be used as replacement surface substrate and as a seed bank to encourage revegetation (0.14 acres of emergent wetlands). The topsoil contains a viable seed bank, and natural regeneration of emergent wetlands on the pipeline area is expected within two growing seasons. A site visit would be conducted after the first and second growing seasons to determine if 80% of native vegetative cover has re-established in the emergent wetland areas. If vegetative cover is 80% or higher, restoration would be complete and no further monitoring would be performed. If the 80% native vegetation re-establishment has not occurred after the second year of growth, the wetland areas would be seeded with species native for the site.

At the completion of drilling activities, the excess pad area would be removed, cleaned, reclaimed, and returned to preconstruction contours. Tree seedlings would be planted bare root at a rate of 435 stems per acre. Monitoring success criteria after five years would be a minimum of 80% survival, including volunteers of desirable species.

The remaining well pad and access road would remain to facilitate well operations, which are expected to remain in operation for approximately 25 years. Upon well abandonment, the applicant would remove remaining fill from the project site and restore the area to pre-construction contours.

To compensate for the unavoidable adverse impacts to waters of the United States, the applicant proposes to compensate at a ratio of 3:1 (acres mitigation: acres adversely impacted) for high quality forested wetlands and 2:1 of moderate quality forested wetlands by purchasing 2.9 credits from the West Mineola Mitigation Bank.

### **Letourneau 7-30HH**

The applicant proposes to discharge approximately 7,905 cubic yards of dredged and fill material into approximately 1.47 acres of waters of the United States in conjunction with the construction of the Letourneau 7-30HH natural gas well pad, access road, and pipeline.

The proposed Letourneau 7-30HH well site would be approximately 420-foot by 420-foot. Construction of the well site would adversely impact approximately 1.39 acres of a palustrine forested wetlands within the floodplain of the Sabine River. Dominant vegetation of the wetlands includes willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*), Alabama supplejack (*Berchemia scandens*), sedges (*Carex* sp.), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*). The applicant would discharge approximately 7,849 cubic yards of clay and crushed rock into the wetlands to construct a well pad.

The applicant proposes to construct an access road to transport drilling equipment. Construction of the proposed access road would adversely impact approximately 0.01 acre of a palustrine forested wetlands within the floodplain of the Sabine River. Dominant vegetation of the forested wetlands includes sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), slimpod rush (*Juncus diffusissimus*), sedges (*Carex* sp.), dwarf palmetto, black willow (*Salix nigra*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and willow oak (*Quercus phellos*). The road right-of-way would be 40 feet wide and 584 feet long. The applicant would discharge approximately 56 cubic yards of clay fill material into the wetlands to construct a well pad that would consist of approximately 3 feet of clay overlain with 6 inches of crushed rock.

The applicant proposes to construct a pipeline to transport product from the proposed well. The pipeline would connect to the proposed Letourneau 29 pipeline to be located to the north. The pipeline right-of-way would be 50 feet wide and 195 feet long. Construction would consist of open-trench installation and would result in temporary adverse impacts to 0.07 acre of a palustrine forested wetlands. Dominant vegetation of the wetlands includes willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*), Alabama supplejack (*Berchemia scandens*), sedges (*Carex* sp.), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*).

Following construction of the pipeline, pre-construction contours would be restored and the upper twelve inches of soil would be used as replacement surface substrate and as a seed bank to encourage revegetation (0.07 acres of emergent wetlands). The topsoil contains a viable seed bank, and natural regeneration of emergent wetlands on the pipeline area is expected within two growing seasons. A site visit would be conducted after the first and second growing seasons to determine if 80% of native vegetative cover has re-established in the emergent wetland areas. If vegetative cover is 80% or higher, restoration would be complete and no further monitoring would be performed. If the 80% native vegetation re-establishment has not occurred after the second year of growth, the wetland areas would be seeded with species native for the site.

At the completion of drilling activities, the excess pad area would be removed, cleaned, reclaimed, and returned to preconstruction contours. Tree seedlings would be planted bare root at a rate of 435 stems per acre. Monitoring success criteria after five years would be a minimum of 80% survival, including volunteers of desirable species.

The remaining well pad and access road would remain to facilitate well operations, which are expected to remain in operation for approximately 25 years. Upon well abandonment, the applicant would remove remaining fill from the project site and restore the area to pre-construction contours.

To compensate for the unavoidable adverse impacts to waters of the United States, the applicant proposes to compensate at a ratio of 3:1 (acres mitigation: acres adversely impacted) for high quality forested wetlands and 2:1 of moderate quality forested wetlands. Total off-site

mitigation would include 3.3 acres of forested wetlands purchasing 3.29 credits from the West Mineola Mitigation Bank.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS:** This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-331, the Regulatory Program of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other pertinent laws, regulations, and executive orders. Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impact, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concerns for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits 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 its cumulative effects. Among the factors addressed are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore 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 USACE 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 USACE in determining whether to issue, issue with modifications, or conditions, 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 the 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.

**STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) certification is required for activities associated with the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or geothermal resources, as described in Tex. Nat. Res. Ann. §91.101. Concurrent with the processing of this Department of the Army Permit application, the RRC is reviewing this application under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and Title 16, Texas Administrative Code, Section 3.93, to determine if the proposed work would comply with applicable water quality laws and regulations. By virtue of an agreement between the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the RRC, this public notice is issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the RRC a decision on water quality certification under the above authorities. Written comments concerning the request for certification may be submitted to the Assistant Director, Environmental Services, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The RRC may also hold a public meeting on the request for certification if the RRC determines that a public meeting is in

the public interest. If the RRC holds a meeting to receive public comment on a request for certification, the RRC will give notice of the meeting to the applicant, the USACE, and persons identified under 16 TAC §3.93(d)(2) at least ten days prior to the meeting.

**ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES:** The USACE has reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's latest published version of endangered and threatened species to determine if any may occur in the project area. The proposed project would be located in Harrison County, where the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) are known to occur or may occur as migrants. The bald eagle has been delisted and is being monitored for five years and the Louisiana black bear is a listed threatened species. Our initial review indicates that the proposed work would have no effect on federally-listed endangered or threatened species.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:** The USACE has reviewed the latest complete published version of the National Register of Historic Places and found no listed properties to be in the project area. However, presently unknown scientific, archaeological, cultural or architectural data may be lost or destroyed by the proposed work under the requested permit.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT:** The USACE is sending a copy of this public notice to the local floodplain administrator. In accordance with 44 CFR part 60 (Flood Plain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use), the floodplain administrators of participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required and maintain records of such review.

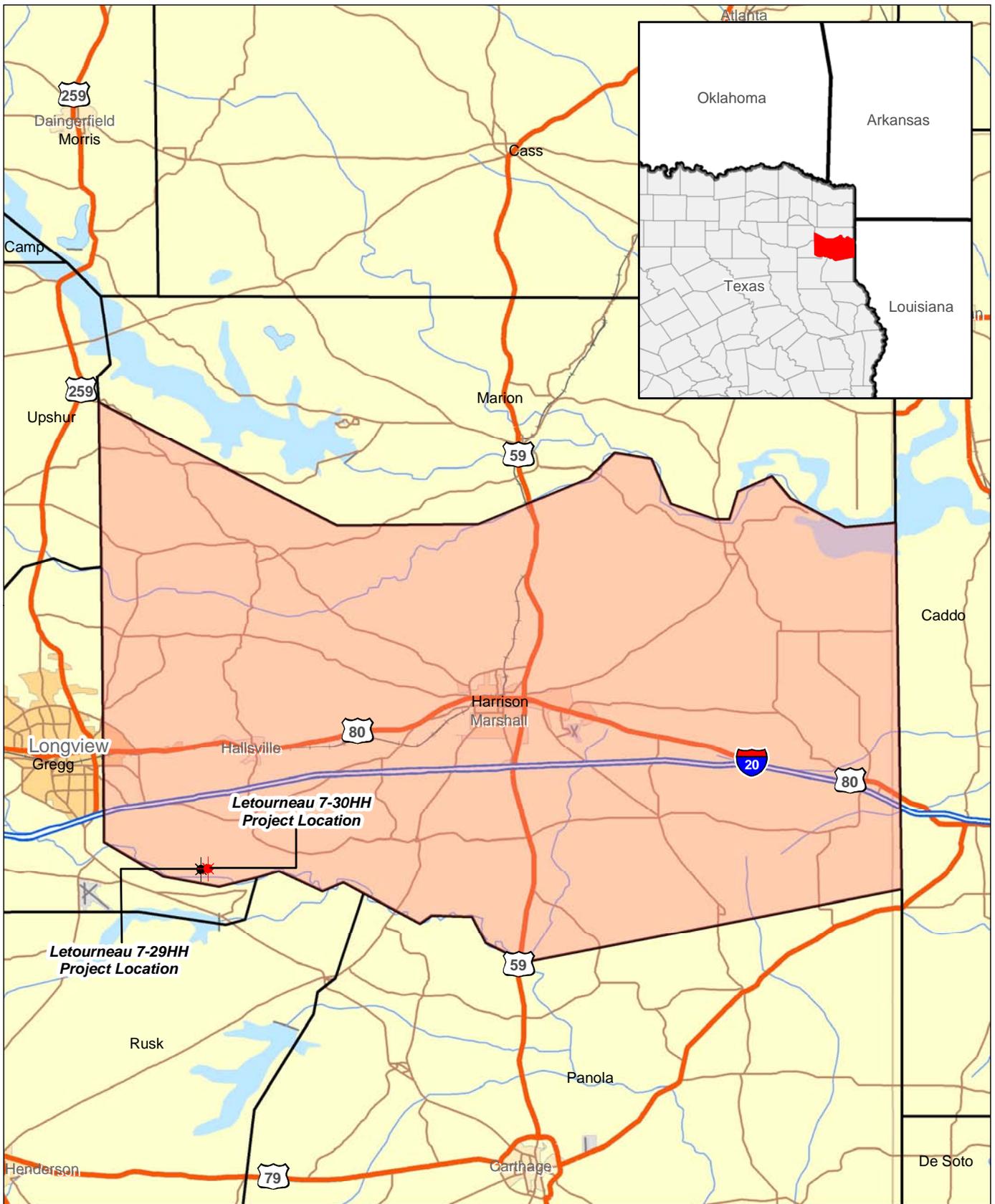
**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:** The public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing fact upon which a decision by the USACE may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Prior to the close of the comment period any person may make a written request for a public hearing setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine whether the issues raised are substantial and should be considered in his permit decision. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:** All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before May 27, 2009, which is the close of the comment period. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to Mr. Fred Land; Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Post Office Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. You may visit the Regulatory Branch in Room

3A37 of the Federal Building at 819 Taylor Street in Fort Worth between 8:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Telephone inquiries should be directed to (817) 886-1729. Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available.

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS



Sheet 1 of 8  
 Vicinity Map for the Proposed Letourneau 7-29HH & Letourneau 7-30HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline in Harrison County, TX

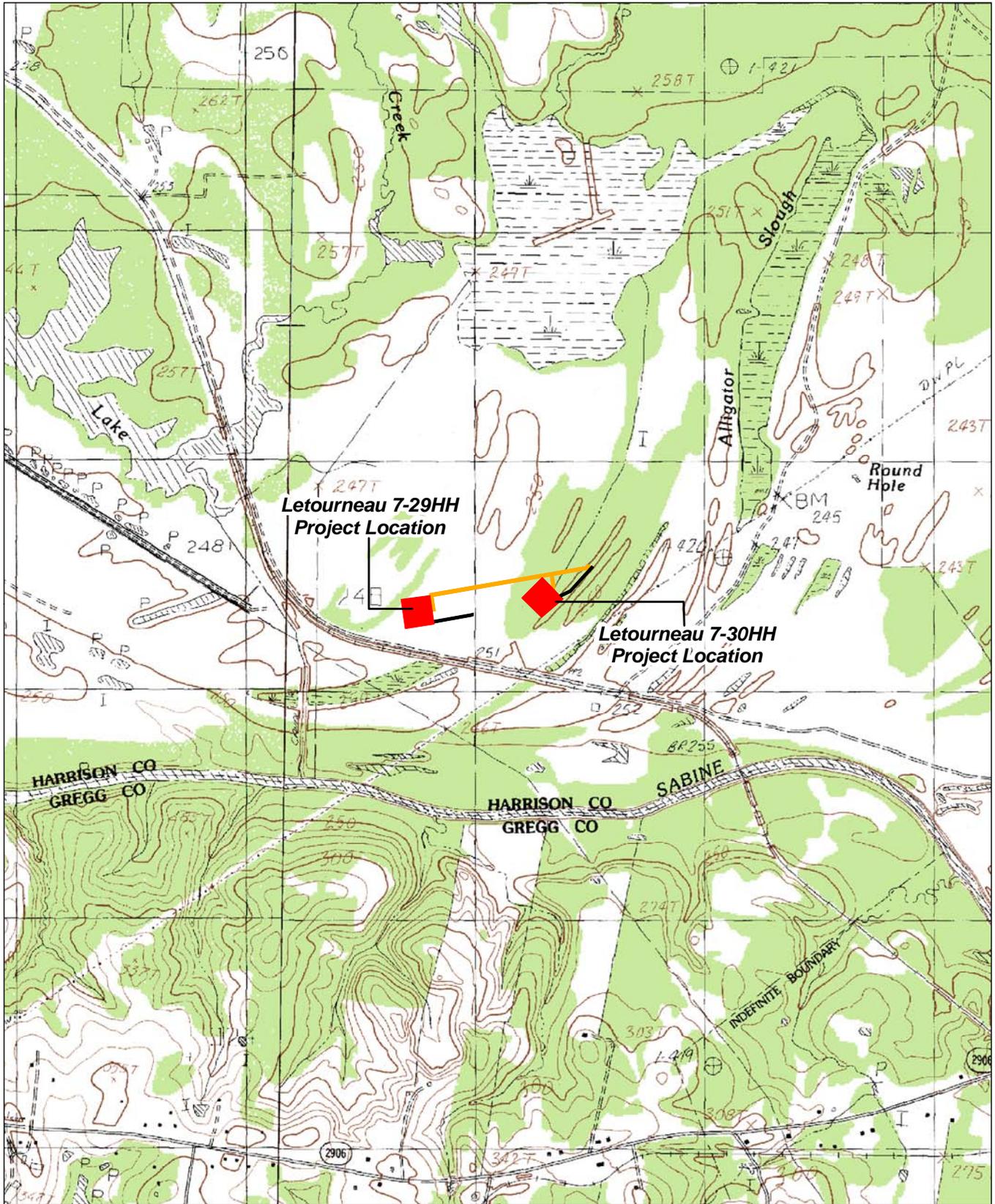


1501 Bill Owens Parkway  
 Longview, TX 75604  
 Phone: (903) 297-4673  
 Fax: (903) 297-4675

Anadarko E&P Company, LP  
 Project Number: 046056.00

Date: 04/06/2009

Coordinate Sys: Lat/Long NAD 27  
 Units: Deg, Min, Sec



Sheet 2 of 8  
 Topographic Features of the Proposed Letourneau 7-29HH & Letourneau 7-30HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline in Harrison County, TX

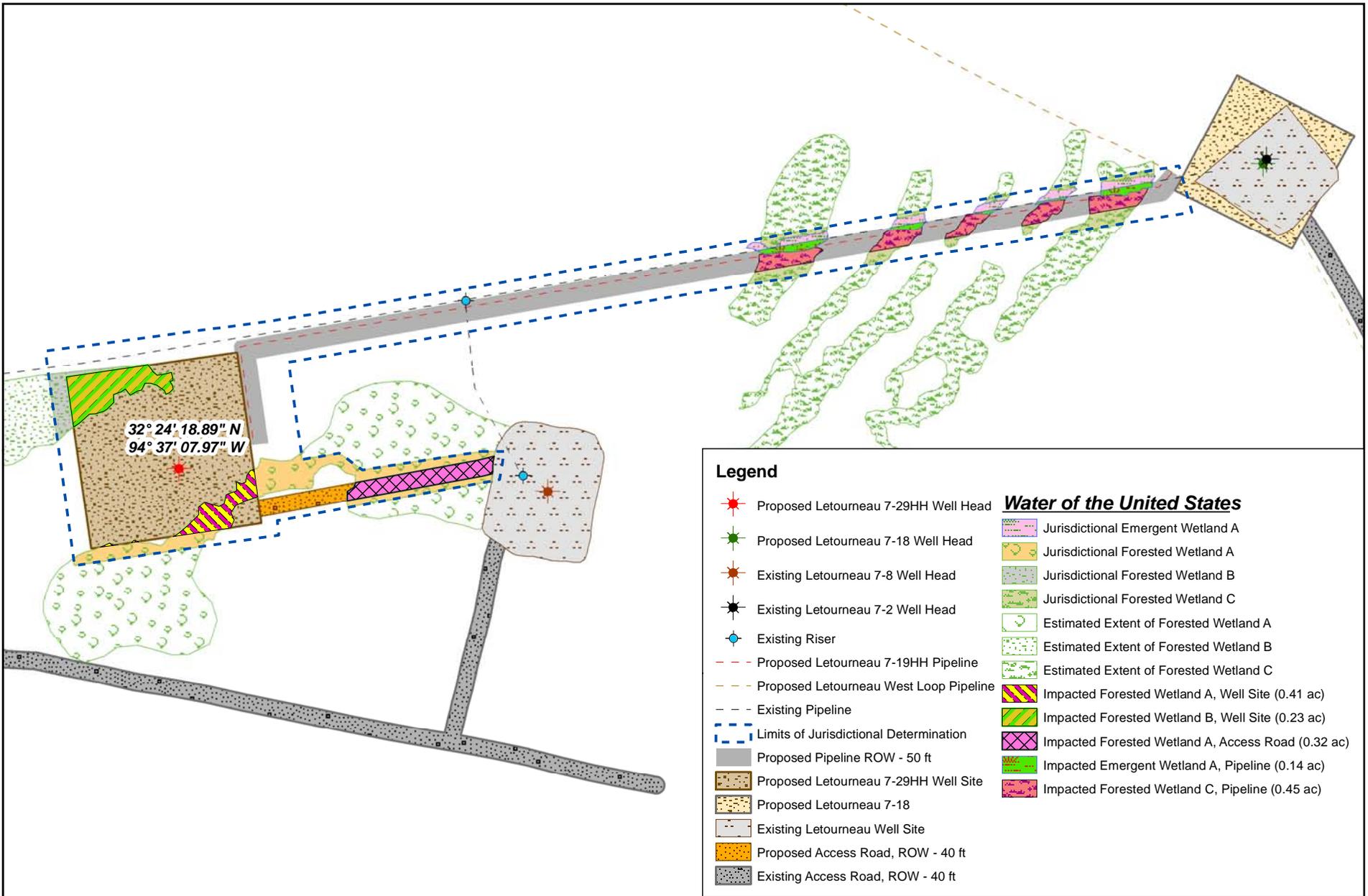


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 Fax: (903) 297-4675

Anadarko E&P Company, LP  
 Project Number: 046056.00

Date: 04/06/2009

Base Map: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic  
 Quadrangle: Easton, TX (Provisional Ed., 1983)

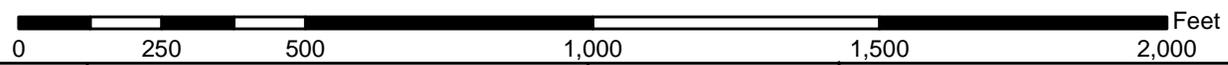


**Legend**

- Proposed Letourneau 7-29HH Well Head
  - Proposed Letourneau 7-18 Well Head
  - Existing Letourneau 7-8 Well Head
  - Existing Letourneau 7-2 Well Head
  - Existing Riser
  - Proposed Letourneau 7-19HH Pipeline
  - Proposed Letourneau West Loop Pipeline
  - Existing Pipeline
  - Limits of Jurisdictional Determination
  - Proposed Pipeline ROW - 50 ft
  - Proposed Letourneau 7-29HH Well Site
  - Proposed Letourneau 7-18
  - Existing Letourneau Well Site
  - Proposed Access Road, ROW - 40 ft
  - Existing Access Road, ROW - 40 ft
- Water of the United States**
- Jurisdictional Emergent Wetland A
  - Jurisdictional Forested Wetland A
  - Jurisdictional Forested Wetland B
  - Jurisdictional Forested Wetland C
  - Estimated Extent of Forested Wetland A
  - Estimated Extent of Forested Wetland B
  - Estimated Extent of Forested Wetland C
  - Impacted Forested Wetland A, Well Site (0.41 ac)
  - Impacted Forested Wetland B, Well Site (0.23 ac)
  - Impacted Forested Wetland A, Access Road (0.32 ac)
  - Impacted Emergent Wetland A, Pipeline (0.14 ac)
  - Impacted Forested Wetland C, Pipeline (0.45 ac)



Sheet 3 of 8  
 Site Plan of the Proposed Letourneau 7-29HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline in Harrison County, TX



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 Phone: (903) 297-4673  
 Fax: (903) 297-4675

Anadarko E&P Company, LP

Project Number: 046056.00

Date: 04/06/2009

Coordinate System: Lat/Long NAD27  
 Units: Deg, Min, Sec



**Legend**

-  Proposed Letourneau 7-29HH Well Head
-  Existing Letourneau 7-8 Well Head
-  Proposed Pipeline
-  Existing Letourneau 7-8 Well Site
-  Existing Lease Road, ROW - 40 ft
-  Maintained Letourneau 7-29HH Well Site
-  Maintained Access Road, ROW - 40 ft
-  Maintained Pipeline ROW - 30 ft
-  Reclaimed Forested Wetland A (0.19 ac)
-  Reclaimed Forested Wetland B (0.41 ac)
-  Reclaimed Upland Area (2.89 ac)

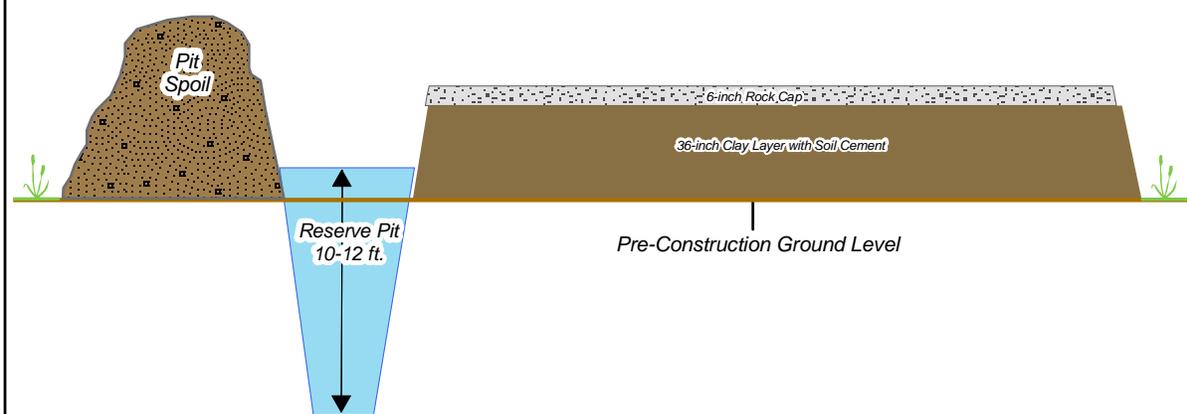


Sheet 4 of 8  
 Reclamation Plan for the Proposed Letourneau 7-29HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline in Harrison County, TX

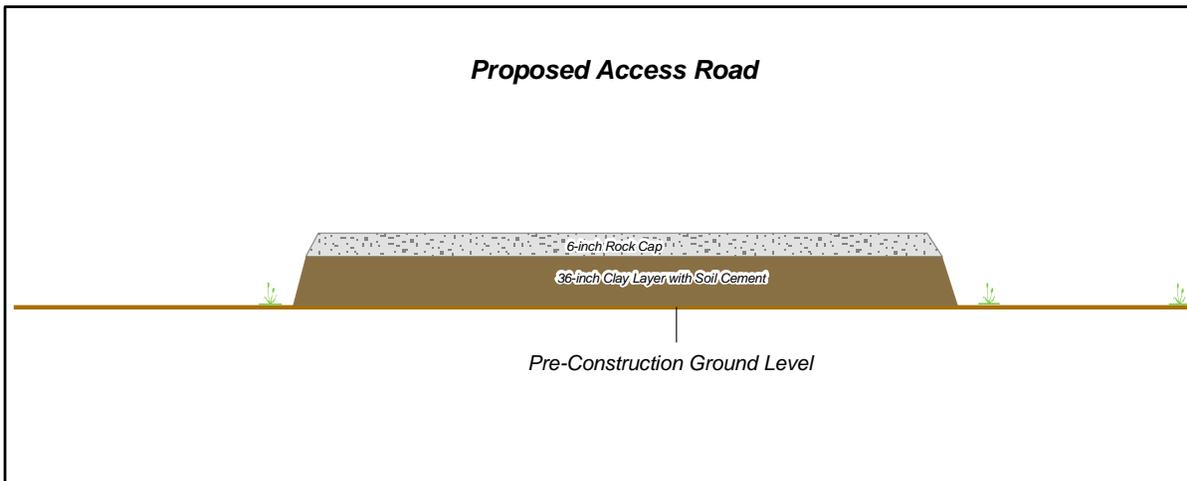


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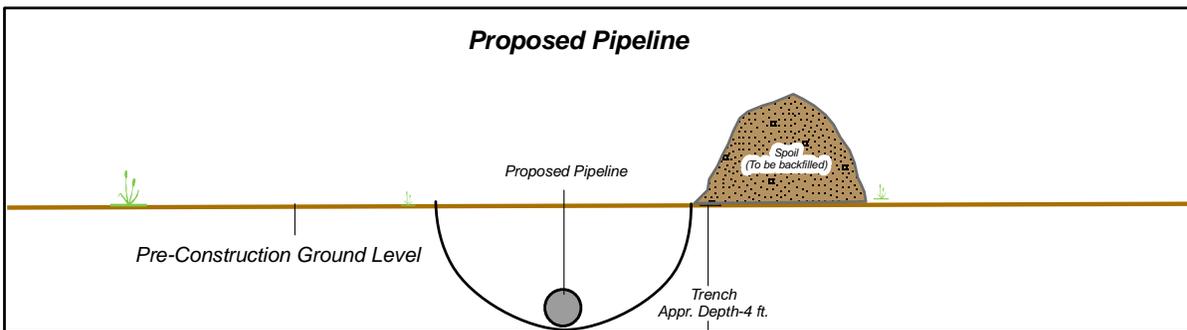
**Proposed Well Pad**



**Proposed Access Road**

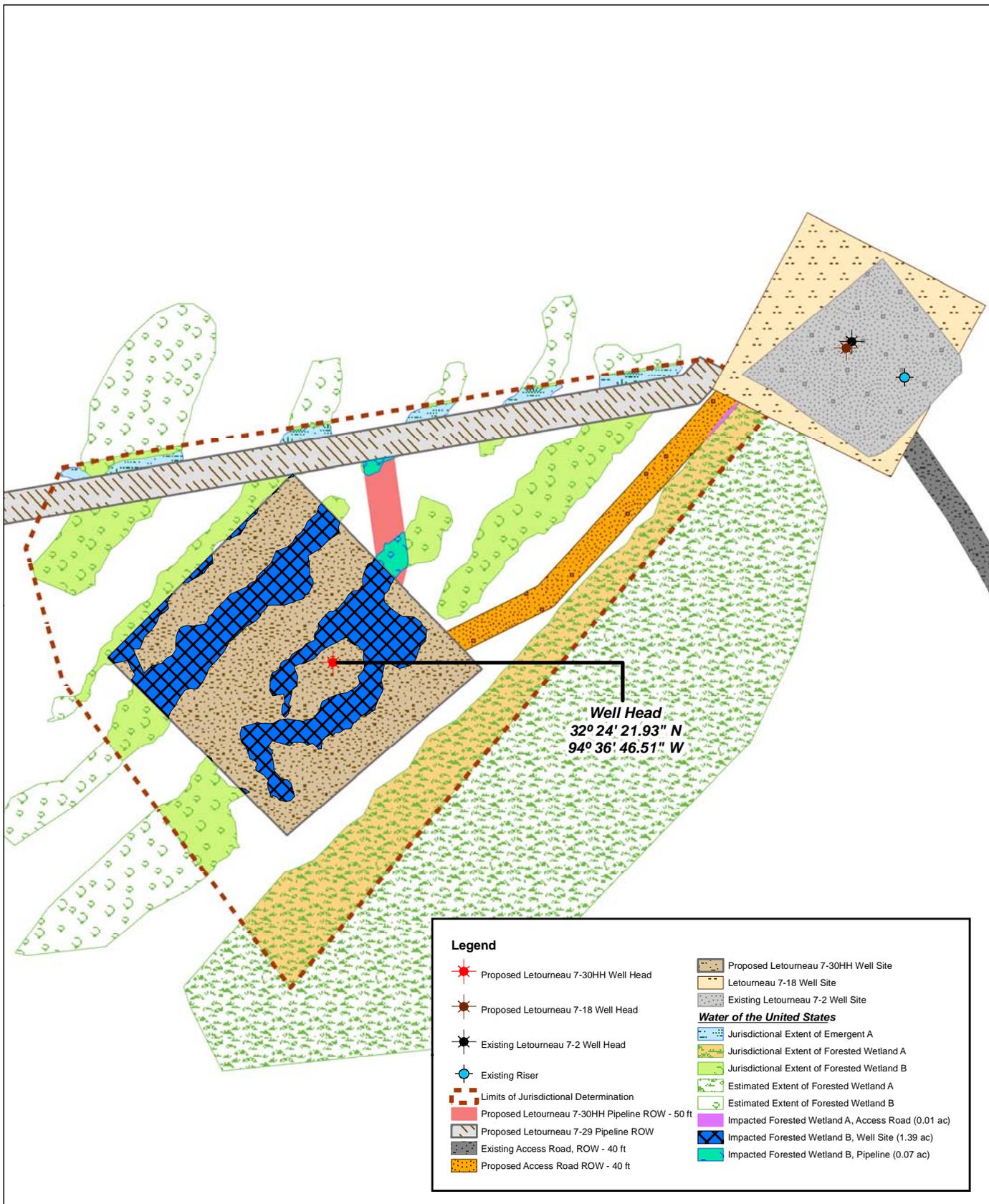


**Proposed Pipeline**



**Not To Scale**

Sheet 5 of 8  
 Cross-Section View of the Proposed  
 Letourneau 7-29HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline  
 in Harrison County, TX



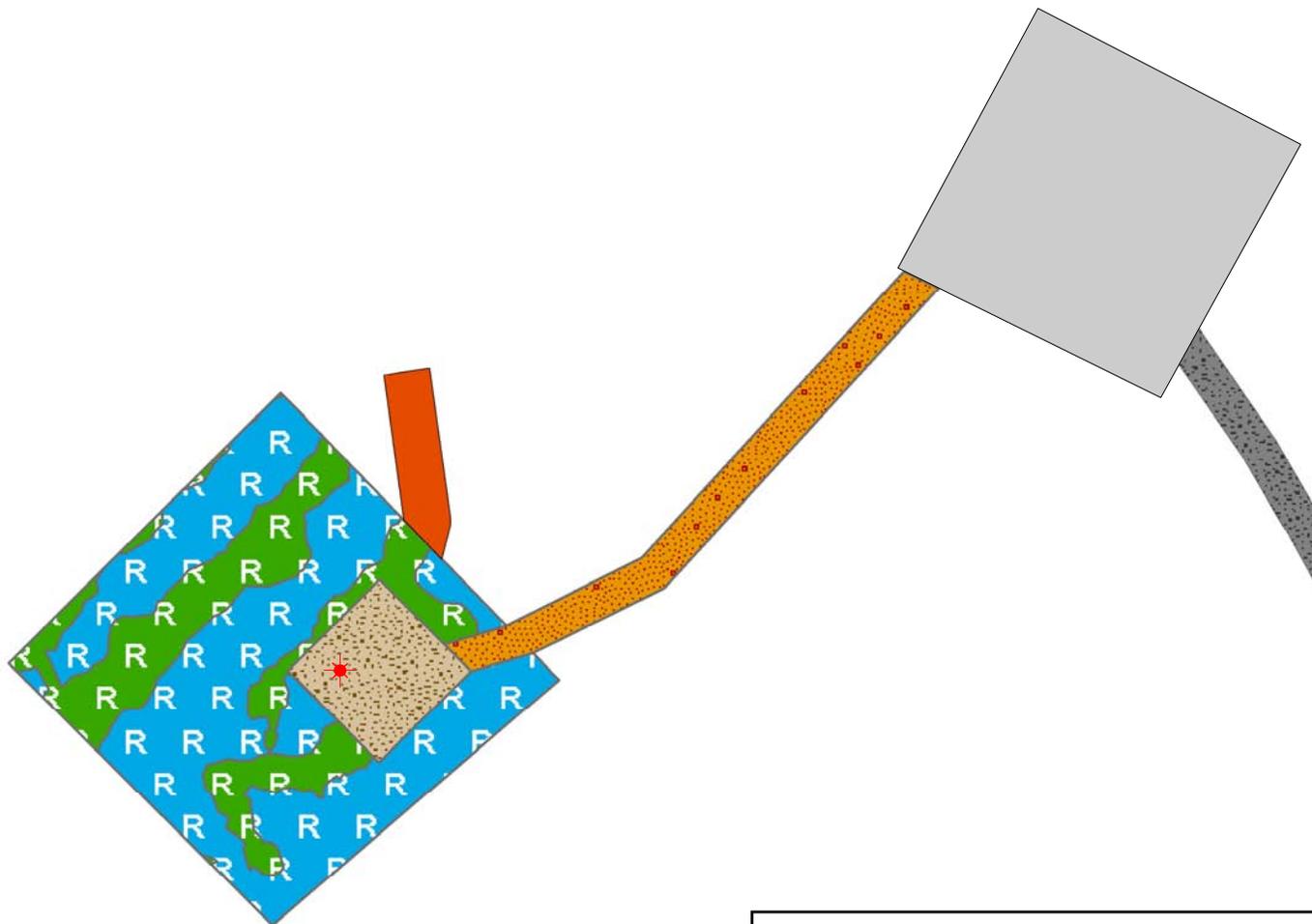
**Legend**

- Proposed Letourneau 7-30HH Well Head
- Proposed Letourneau 7-18 Well Head
- Existing Letourneau 7-2 Well Head
- Existing Riser
- Limits of Jurisdictional Determination
- Proposed Letourneau 7-30HH Pipeline ROW - 50 ft
- Proposed Letourneau 7-29 Pipeline ROW
- Existing Access Road, ROW - 40 ft
- Proposed Access Road ROW - 40 ft
- Proposed Letourneau 7-30HH Well Site
- Letourneau 7-18 Well Site
- Existing Letourneau 7-2 Well Site
- Water of the United States**
- Jurisdictional Extent of Emergent A
- Jurisdictional Extent of Forested Wetland A
- Jurisdictional Extent of Forested Wetland B
- Estimated Extent of Forested Wetland A
- Estimated Extent of Forested Wetland B
- Impacted Forested Wetland A, Access Road (0.01 ac)
- Impacted Forested Wetland B, Well Site (1.39 ac)
- Impacted Forested Wetland B, Pipeline (0.07 ac)



Sheet 6 of 8  
 Site Plan of the Proposed Letourneau 7-30HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline in Harrison County, TX





**Legend**

-  Proposed Letourneau 7-30HH Well Head
-  Existing Access Road, ROW - 40 ft
-  Proposed Letourneau 7-18 Well Site
-  Maintained Letourneau 7-30HH Well Site
-  Maintained Letourneau 7-30HH Access Road
-  Maintained Letourneau 7-30HH Pipeline ROW
-  Reclaimed Forested Wetland B (1.11 ac)
-  Reclaimed Upland Area (2.30 ac)



Sheet 7 of 8  
 Reclamation Plan for the Proposed Letourneau 7-30HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline in Harrison County, TX



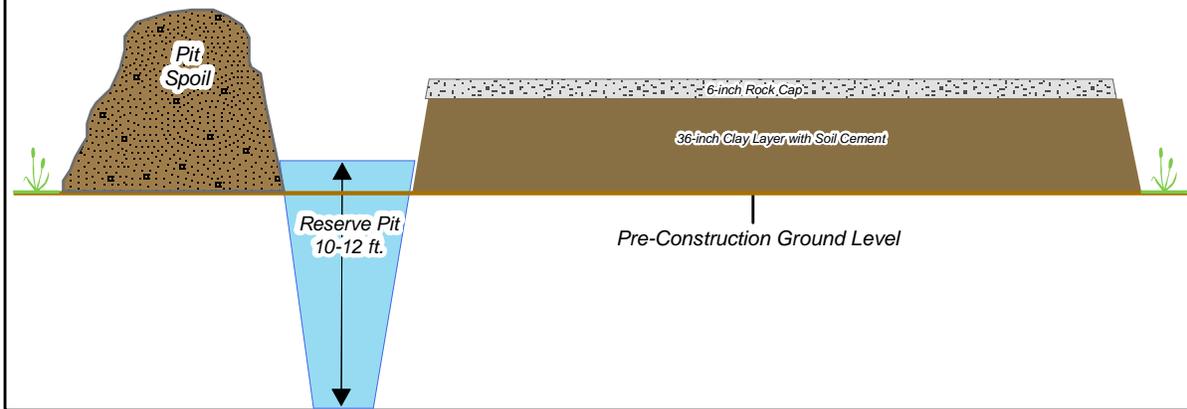
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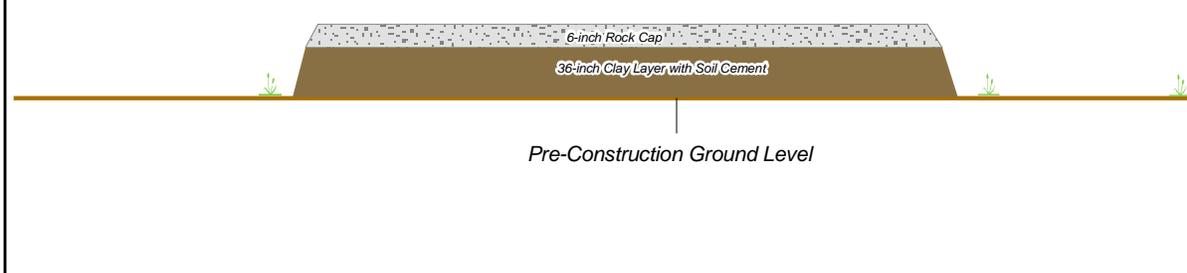
Date: 04/06/2009

Coordinate Sys: Lat/Long NAD 27  
 Units: Deg, Min, Sec

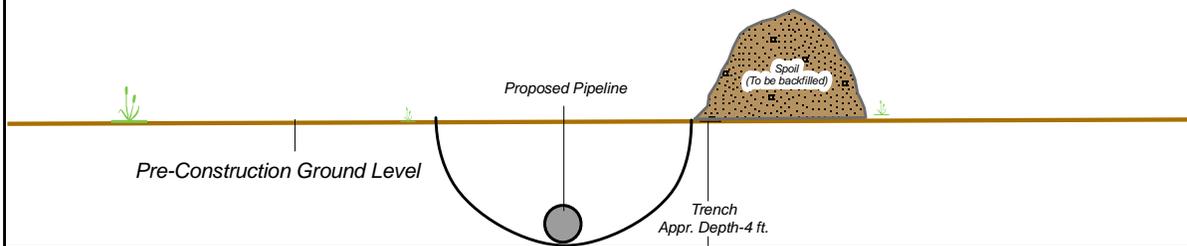
**Proposed Well Pad**



**Proposed Access Road**



**Proposed Pipeline**



**Not To Scale**

Sheet 8 of 8  
 Cross-Section View of the Proposed  
 Letourneau 7-30HH  
 Well Site, Access Road, and Pipeline  
 in Harision County, TX