



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

Public Notice

Applicant: Anadarko E&P Company, LP.

Permit Application No.: SWF-2012-00026

Date: March 22, 2012

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. Eric Dephouse, Project Manager

Phone Number: (817) 886-1820

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

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

AND

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

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 2-58HH well site and access road in Harrison County, Texas.

APPLICANT: Anadarko E&P Company, LP
c/o Ms. Sue Beem
P.O. Box 1300
Houston, Texas 77251

APPLICATION NUMBER: SWF-2012-00026

DATE ISSUED: March 22, 2012

LOCATION: The proposed project would be located in the Sabine River Floodplain approximately 3.6 miles southeast of the Interstate Highway 20 and Farm-to-Market Road 450 intersection in Harrison County, Texas. USGS NAD 27 coordinates for the proposed project are as follows: Latitude 32.41815556° North, Longitude 94.5864° West. The site is mapped on the Easton, Texas 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map in the USGS Hydrologic Unit 12010002.

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS: Section 401 State Water Quality Certification

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Anadarko E&P Company, LP (Anadarko) proposes to discharge approximately 4,573 cubic yards of dredged and fill material into 0.81 acre of waters of the United States (US) in conjunction with the construction of the Letourneau 2-58HH well site and access road expansion. A previously permitted project (SWF-2007-00542) has resulted in impacts to 1.81 acres of wetlands within the well site, 0.54 acre of wetlands within the access road, and 0.38 acre of wetlands within the pipeline route. However, the well itself has not been drilled. The proposed project is an expansion of the existing well site, and would not meet the terms and conditions of a Regional General Permit No. 11 (RGP-11). Therefore, a standard individual permit would be required.

Anadarko permitted the previous project with the USACE to drill two wells within the Cotton Valley formation and proposes to utilize this site to horizontally drill into the Haynesville formation. A larger well site is required to accommodate the drilling rig and additional equipment needed to drill horizontally into the Haynesville formation; therefore, Anadarko is

proposing to expand the previously constructed well site which was permitted under the RGP-11 for Project No. SWF-2007-00542.

The purpose of this project is to facilitate exploration on an existing mineral lease. The project area is located within the floodplain of the Sabine River; therefore, all wetlands delineated on the proposed project are jurisdictional under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Construction of the proposed Letourneau 2-58HH project would adversely impact a total of 0.81 acre of waters of the United States (0.64 acre of forested, 0.11 acre of scrub/shrub, and 0.06 acre of emergent wetlands), in addition to 1.43 acres of the previously United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved on-site mitigation area for the Letourneau 5-14 and 5-15 well site (RGP-11; USACE Project No.: SWF-2007-00542), within the floodplain of the Sabine River. 5.6 credits from the West Mineola Mitigation Bank have already been purchased for impacts under Project No. SWF-2007-00542. Additional credits would be purchased under the proposed expansion.

The southern portion of the proposed well site expansion would impact 0.06 acre of an emergent wetland community. Dominant vegetation includes black willow (*Salix nigra*) seedlings, common rush (*Juncus effusus*), and sedge (*Carex* sp.).

There are two scrub/shrub wetland communities located within the proposed expansion of the well site. Dominant vegetation within these two communities includes common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), black willow, willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), water elm (*Planera aquatica*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), sedge, and buckwheat vine (*Brunnichia ovata*). The proposed construction would impact a total of 0.11 acre of scrub/shrub wetlands.

Two forested wetland communities are located within the proposed expansion. Dominant vegetation within these two communities includes willow oak, green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), deciduous holly (*Ilex decidua*), cedar elm, water oak (*Quercus nigra*), common persimmon, sedge, buckwheat vine, and Alabama supplejack (*Berchemia scandens*). The proposed construction would impact 0.64 acre of forested wetlands.

Alternatives were evaluated by the applicant. The applicant is proposing to construct the proposed well site on an existing location that was built in wetlands but drilling plans were terminated. The proposed project can then utilize the existing access road and pipeline previously permitted by the USACE, therefore eliminating the need to construct those features in undisturbed wetlands. One alternative was to reclaim the existing well site and build a new larger well site to accommodate the proposed project; however, this alternative does not decrease the amount of impacts and only increases the amount of higher quality forested wetland impacts by having to construct a new access road and pipeline associated with the new site. Under the no action alternative, the proposed project would not be constructed and Anadarko would not produce natural gas. All adverse environmental effects associated with the proposed project would be avoided at least for the short term. It is likely that if natural gas and oil exploration associated with the proposed project does not occur, it would occur in the field from other leases and/or operators. Movement of the site is limited by the limits of Anadarko's lease and the requirement to maintain legal distances between unit boundaries. The Railroad Commission of Texas regulates the spacing of wells and requirements of spacing between the well and the unit

boundary. Anadarko is obligated to adhere to these regulations. Anadarko has considered constructing a larger well site to drill the Letourneau 2-58HH. The larger site would provide additional workspace during drilling. Anadarko has reduced the proposed well site to minimize adverse impacts to wetland areas. The proposed well site is the smallest possible pad size to safely accommodate the drilling rig scheduled to drilling horizontally into the Haynesville formation. The location of the proposed project is the only viable option for Anadarko to obtain their correlative rights to hydrocarbons they have leased.

Following drilling termination of the Letourneau 2-58HH, all saltwater, drilling mud, brine, hydrocarbons, and any substances considered toxic under federal regulations would be removed from the location and taken to an upland disposal site. Anadarko plans to reduce the well site from the original 420 feet by 520 feet (5.01 acres) to approximately 200 feet by 220 feet (1.01 acres) upon completion of drilling activities. The portion of the well site that is no longer needed for well operation and maintenance would be utilized as on-site mitigation (see Sheet 6 of 7). The on-site mitigation area totals 1.80 acres (0.69 acre of impacted wetlands from the proposed expansion and 1.12 acres of previously proposed on-site mitigation for the existing Letourneau 5-14 and 5-15 well site).

Anadarko would return the wetland portions of the reclamation area back to original contours and natural elevation. This would allow the natural progression of flooding and recession that established the original hydrologic regime of the wetland community. The wetland portions of the reclamation area would be replanted with seedlings of native forested wetland species during the following winter months. To restore the wetland portions, seedlings would be planted at a rate of at least 435 stems per acre. Seedlings would include mast-producing species to enhance the wetland's value. A minimum of twelve species would be evaluated, with at least four species with the highest site quality rating selected for planting. Of the species planted, no single species should constitute more than 30% of the total seedlings planted per site, depending on availability. The fifth year goal is to have a minimum of 80% survival rate with at least 348 stems per acre.

Monitoring of the reclamation area would be conducted upon each site visit, with a minimum of one site visit per year. Monitoring would involve maintenance, recording survivability and predation of the seedlings, photographing progress of aquatic functions, and developing recommendations to improve wetland restoration success. Monitoring would continue until survival requirements have been achieved, and the area is functioning as a wetland. Survival rates would be calculated during normal maintenance visits and reported to the USACE in an annual report each year until survival requirements have been reached.

The remaining well site and access road would remain to facilitate well operations, which are expected to remain in operation for approximately 15-25 years. Upon well abandonment, the applicant would remove remaining fill from the project site and restore the area to pre-construction contours.

Anadarko proposes to utilize credits from the West Mineola Mitigation Bank to fulfill off-site mitigation requirements. Both the Letourneau 2-58HH project area and the West Mineola Mitigation Bank are located within the Sabine River watershed. High quality wetlands are mitigated at a 3:1 ratio, medium quality wetlands at a 2:1 ratio, and low quality wetlands at a 1:1 ratio using the established temporary impact mitigation ratios for the West Mineola Mitigation

Bank. Anadarko proposes to utilize 1.80 acres of on-site mitigation in addition to off-site mitigation for the impacts to the surrounding wetland communities totals 1.83 acres or 1.8 credits.

Project Name	Wetland Acreage Impacted				Mitigation Ratio ¹	Total Mitigation Acreage Required ²	On-Site Mitigation Acreage ³	Off-Site Mitigation Acreage ⁴
	Well Site	Access Road	Letourneau 5-14 and 5-15 On-Site Mitigation Area	Total Wetland Acreage				
Letourneau 2-58HH	0.64			0.64	3:1	1.92	0.54	1.38
	0.07	0.04		0.11	2:1	0.22	0.10	0.12
	0.06		1.43	1.49	1:1	1.49	1.16	0.33

TOTAL 0.77 ac 0.04 ac 1.43 ac 2.24 ac TOTALS 3.63 ac 1.80 ac 1.83 ac

¹ West Mineola Mitigation Bank ratios.

² Wetland Acreage multiplied by Mitigation Ratio.

³ Determined from wetlands impacted within the project that could be restored.

⁴ Total Mitigation Acreage minus On-Site Mitigation.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-331, the Regulatory Program of the 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 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 United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) latest published version of endangered and threatened species to determine if any may occur in the project area. However, information from the USFWS and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) indicated only the following federally listed species have the potential to occur within Harrison County: the interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*), the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*), the red wolf (*Canis rufus*), and the Earth fruit (*Geocarpon minimum*). Potential impacts to the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were also assessed within the proposed project area. The bald eagle has been delisted and is being monitored for five years. The interior least tern and the red wolf are listed as endangered species. The piping plover, Louisiana black bear, and Earth fruit are listed as threatened species. Our initial review indicates that the proposed work would have no effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species. Based on species occurrence data from the TPWD, none of the listed species have been documented within the proposed project area.

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 and 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

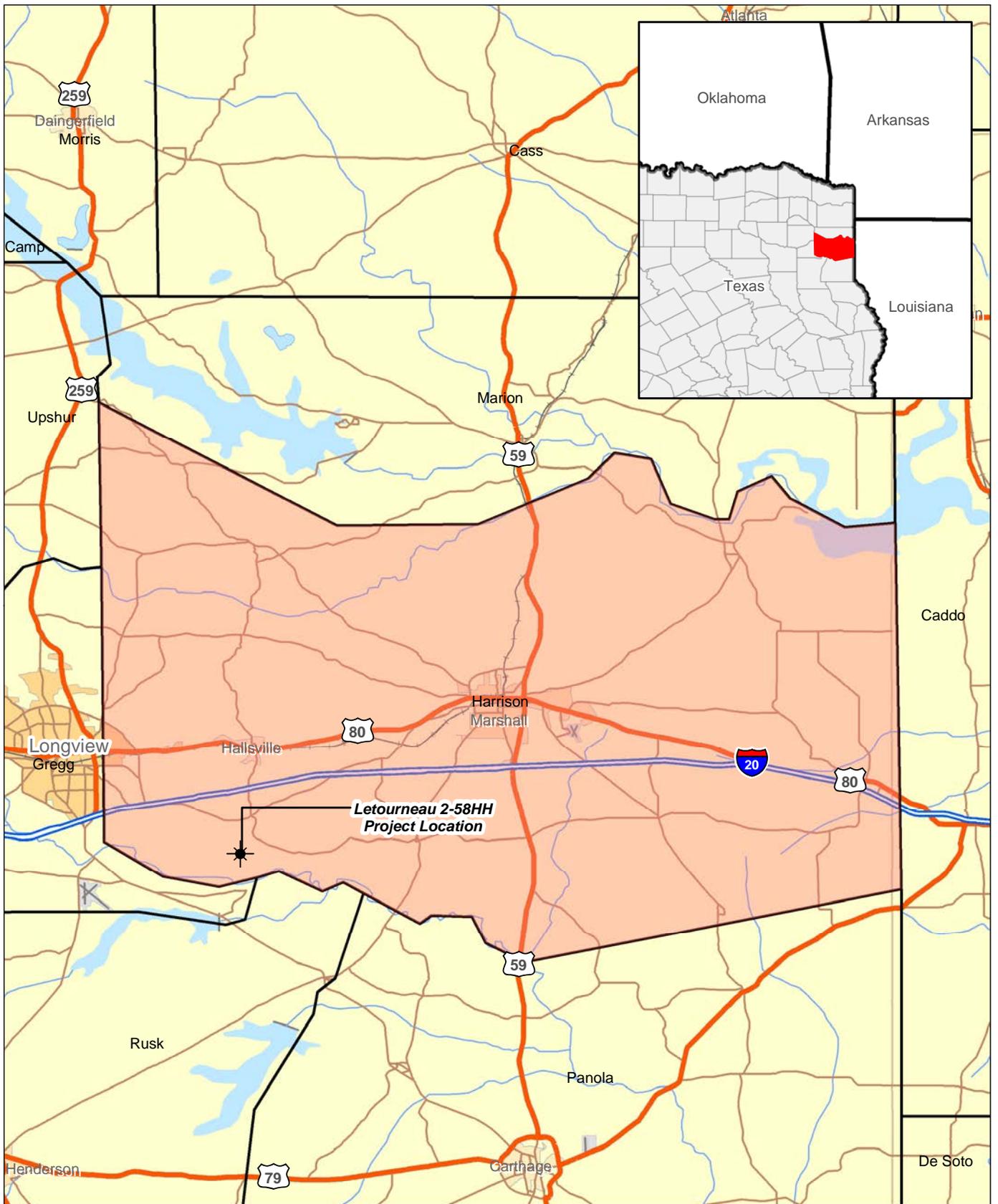
participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required and maintain records of such review.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts 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 would 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 would 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 April 21, 2012, 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. Eric Dephouse; 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) 886-1820. 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 7
 Vicinity Map for the Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH
 Project Location in Harrison County, TX

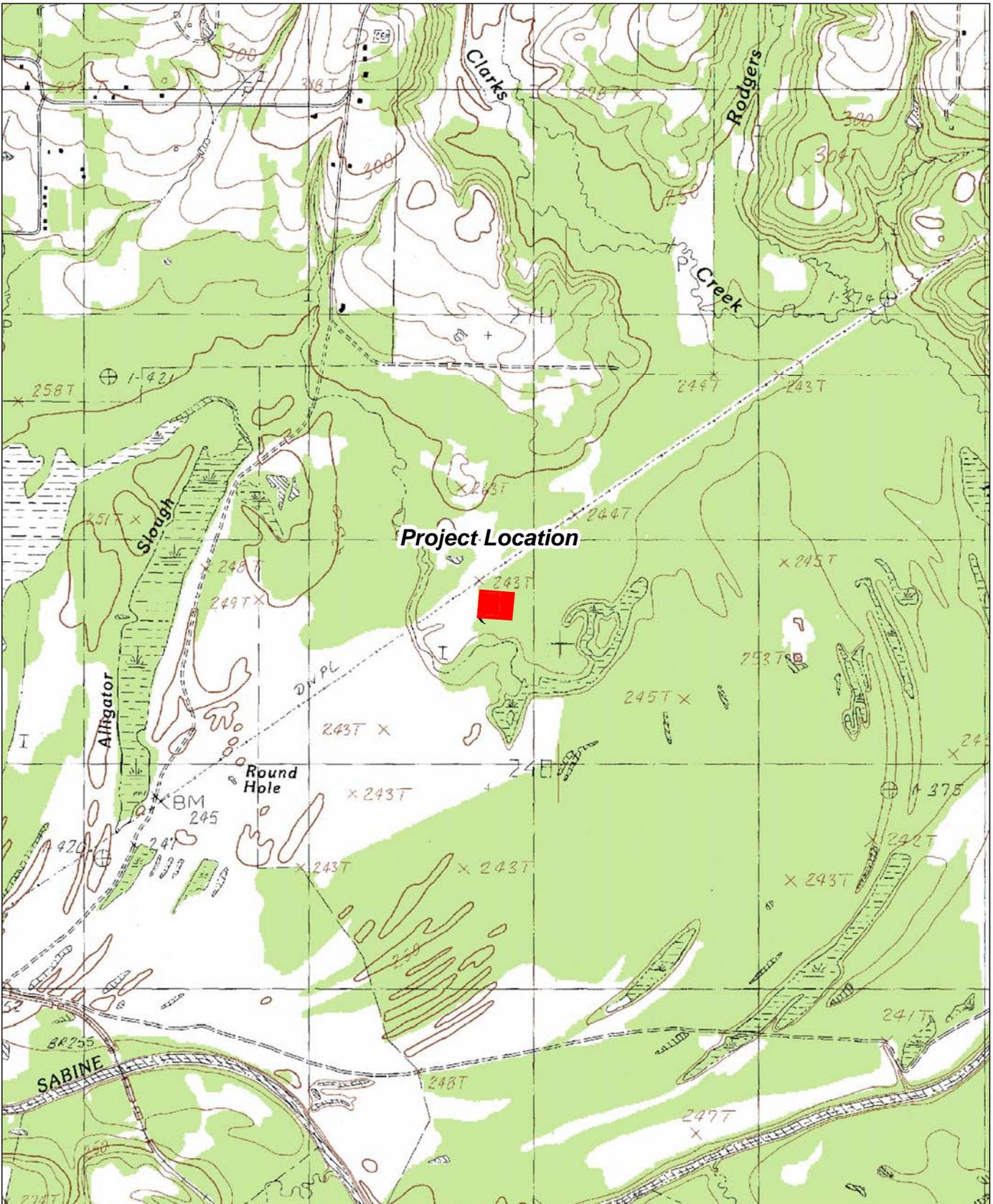


1501 Bill Owens Parkway
 Longview, TX 75604
 Phone: (903) 297-4673
 Fax: (903) 297-4675

Anadarko E&P Company, LP
 USACE Project Number: SWF-2012-00026

Date: 03/13/2012

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



Project Location



Sheet 2 of 7
 Topographic Features of the Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH
 Well Site and Access Road in Harrison County, TX

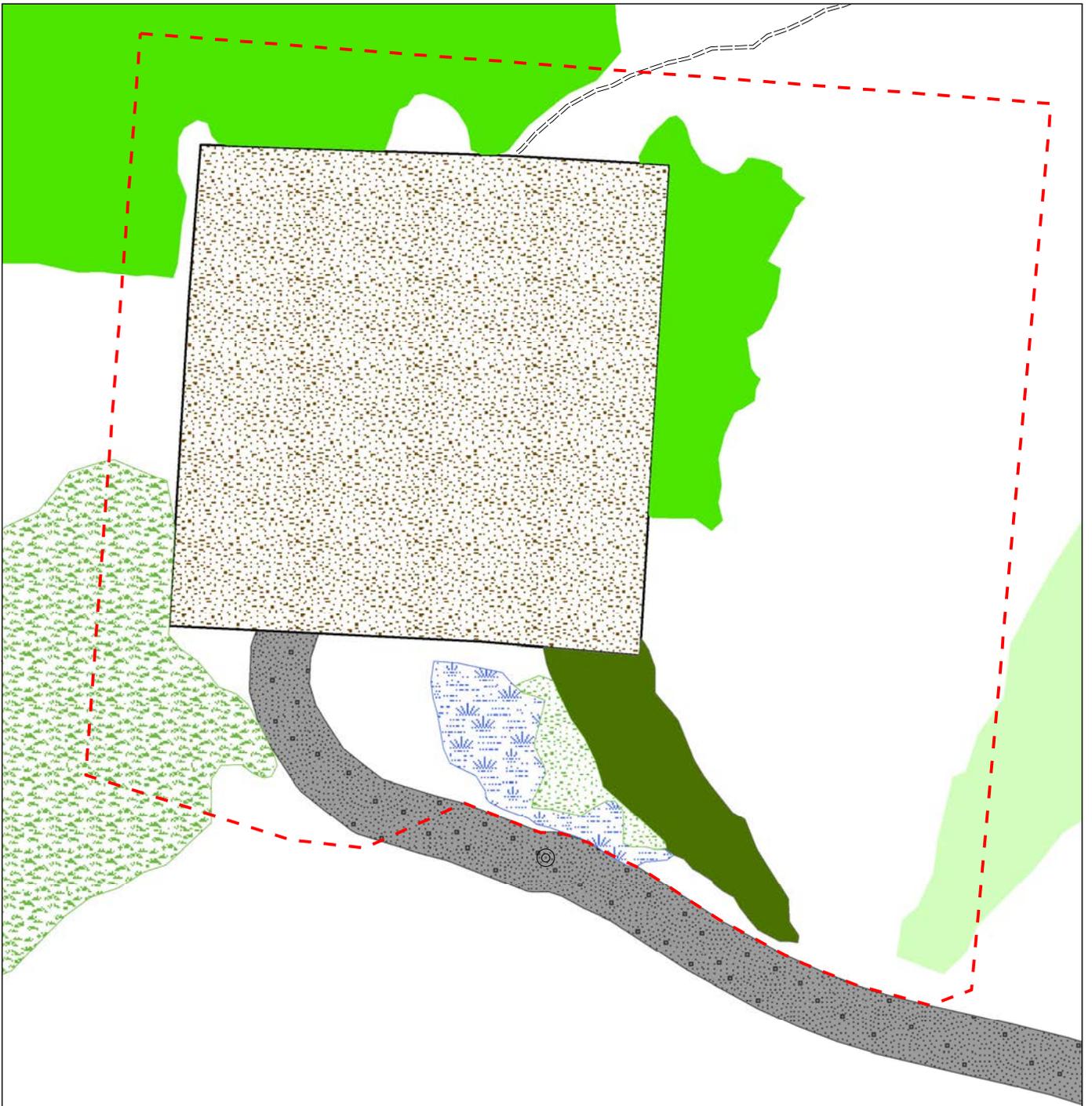


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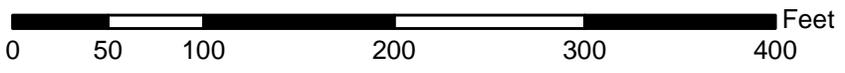
Base Map: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic
 Quadrangle: Easton, TX (Provisional Ed. 1983)



Legend	
	Existing Culvert
	Woods Road
	Existing Well Pad
	Existing Lease Road ROW - 40 ft
	Limits of Jurisdictional Determination
Waters of the United States	
	Forested Wetland A
	Forested Wetland B
	Non-Impacted Forested Wetland
	Emergent Wetland
	Scrub/Shrub Wetland A
	Scrub/Shrub Wetland B



Sheet 3 of 7
Existing Conditions of the Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH
Well Site and Access Road in Harrison County, TX

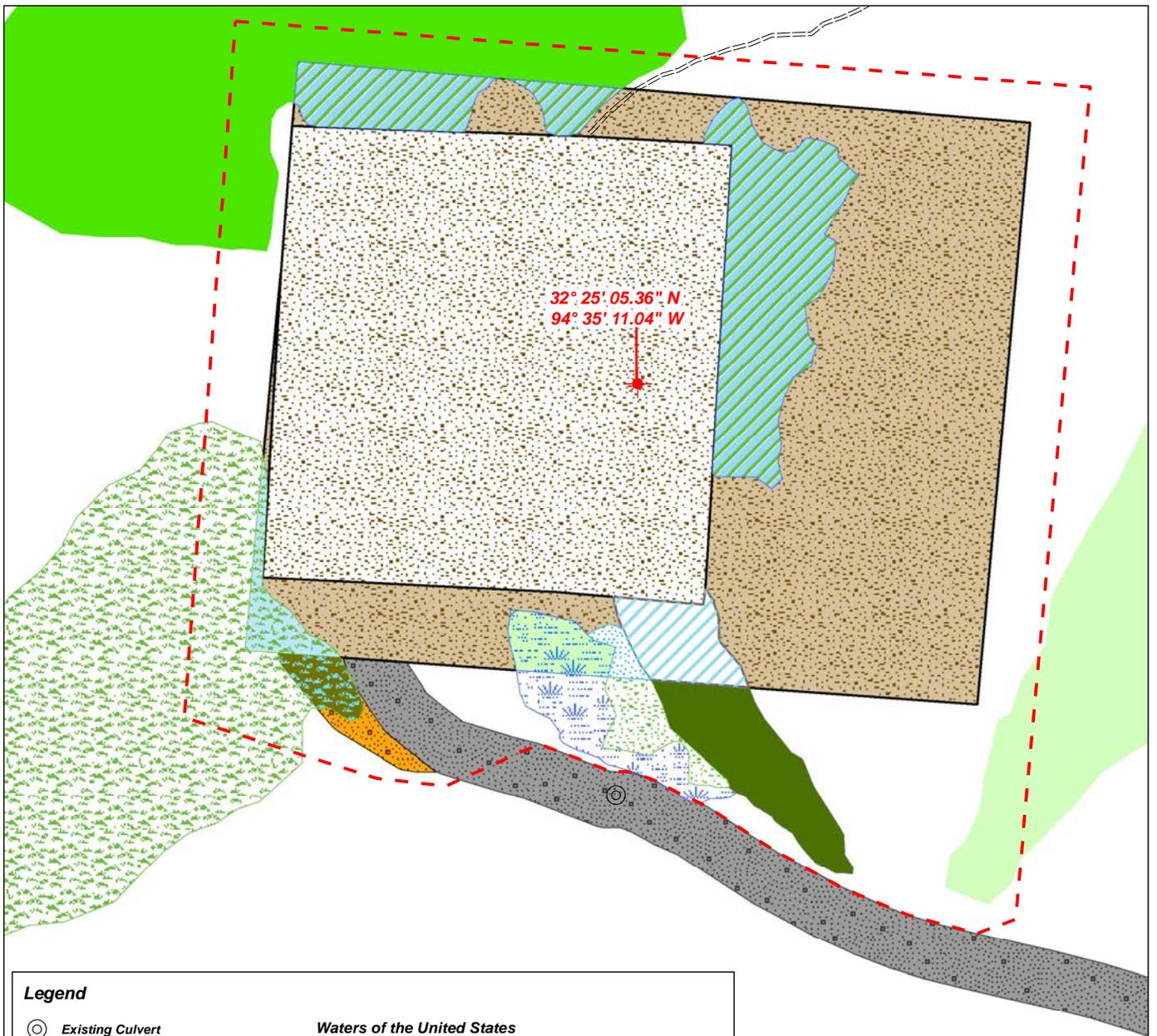


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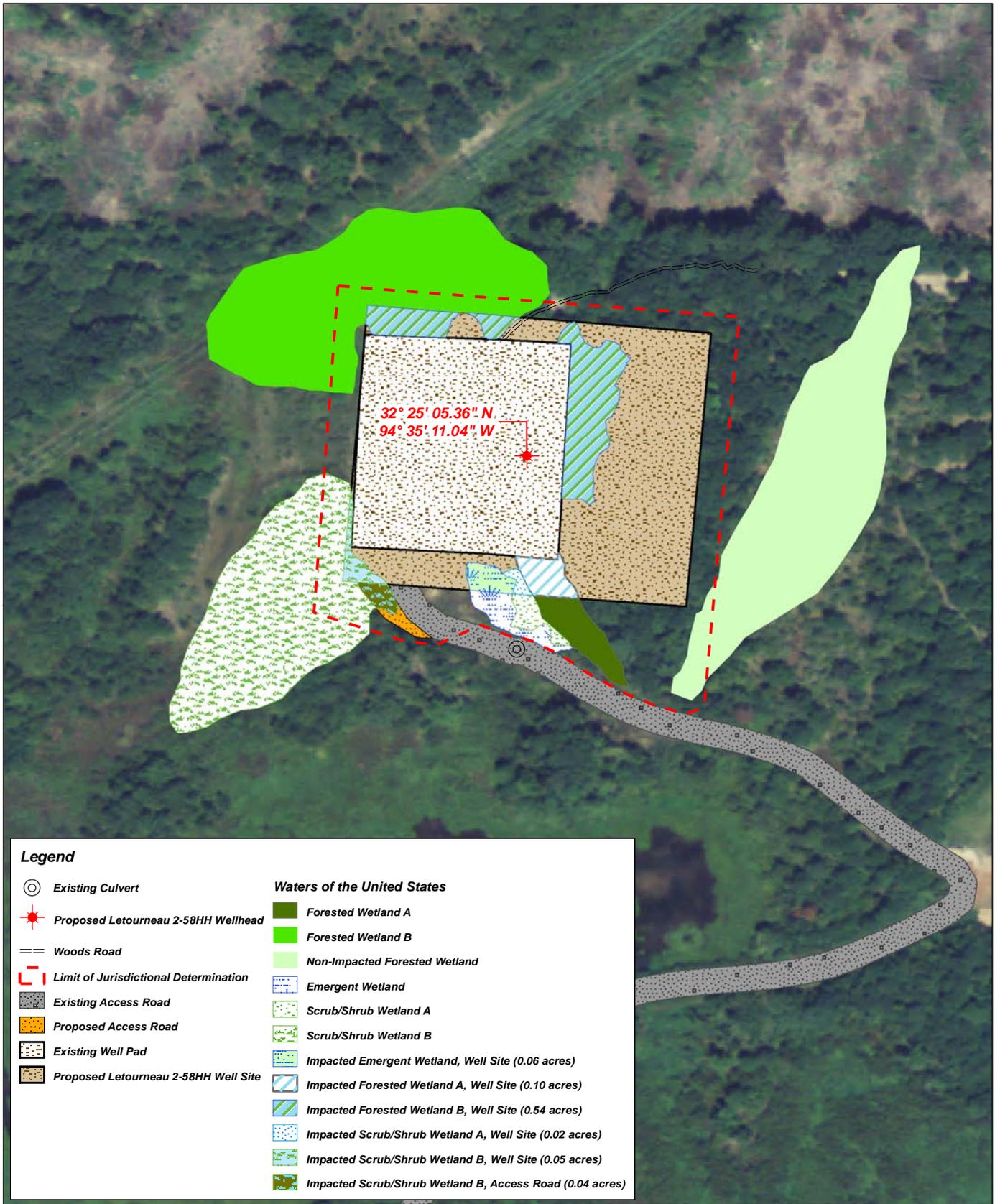
Date: 03/13/2012

Coordinate Sys: Lat/Long NAD 27
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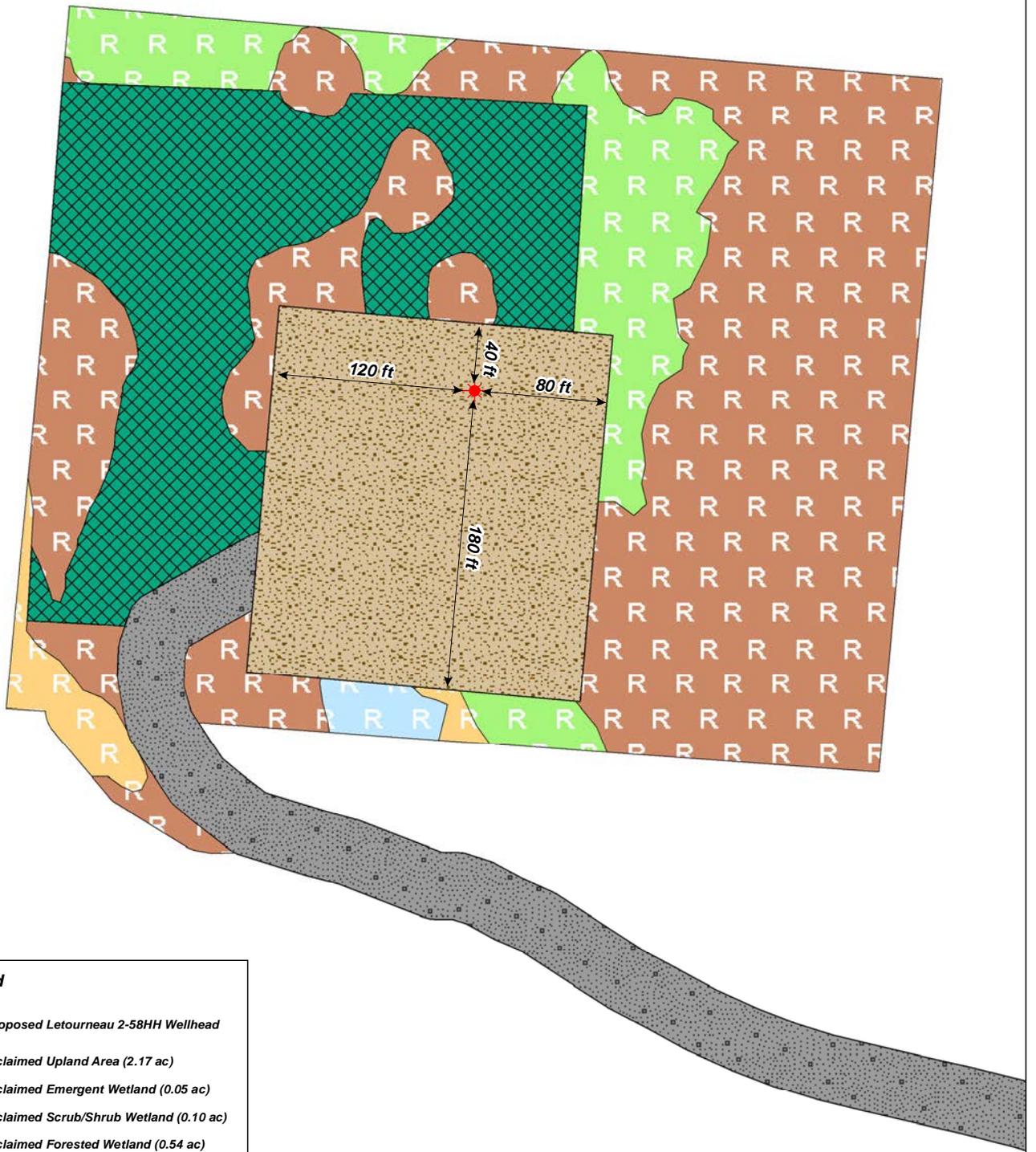
Legend	
	Existing Culvert
	Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH Wellhead
	Woods Road
	Limit of Jurisdictional Determination
	Existing Access Road
	Proposed Access Road
	Existing Well Pad
	Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH Well Site
Waters of the United States	
	Forested Wetland A
	Forested Wetland B
	Non-Impacted Forested Wetland
	Emergent Wetland
	Scrub/Shrub Wetland A
	Scrub/Shrub Wetland B
	Impacted Emergent Wetland, Well Site (0.06 acres)
	Impacted Forested Wetland A, Well Site (0.10 acres)
	Impacted Forested Wetland B, Well Site (0.54 acres)
	Impacted Scrub/Shrub Wetland A, Well Site (0.02 acres)
	Impacted Scrub/Shrub Wetland B, Well Site (0.05 acres)
	Impacted Scrub/Shrub Wetland B, Access Road (0.04 acres)

	<p>Sheet 4 of 7</p> <p>Site Plan of the Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH Well Site and Access Road in Harrison County, TX</p>		<p>1501 Bill Owens Parkway Longview, TX 75604 Phone: (903) 297-4673 Fax: (903) 297-4675</p>
Anadarko E&P Company, LP USACE Project Number: SWF-2012-00026	Date: 03/13/2012	Coordinate Sys: Lat/Long NAD 27 Units: Deg, Min, Sec	



Legend	
	Existing Culvert
	Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH Wellhead
	Woods Road
	Limit of Jurisdictional Determination
	Existing Access Road
	Proposed Access Road
	Existing Well Pad
	Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH Well Site
Waters of the United States	
	Forested Wetland A
	Forested Wetland B
	Non-Impacted Forested Wetland
	Emergent Wetland
	Scrub/Shrub Wetland A
	Scrub/Shrub Wetland B
	Impacted Emergent Wetland, Well Site (0.06 acres)
	Impacted Forested Wetland A, Well Site (0.10 acres)
	Impacted Forested Wetland B, Well Site (0.54 acres)
	Impacted Scrub/Shrub Wetland A, Well Site (0.02 acres)
	Impacted Scrub/Shrub Wetland B, Well Site (0.05 acres)
	Impacted Scrub/Shrub Wetland B, Access Road (0.04 acres)

	Sheet 5 of 7 Aerial Photograph of the Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH Well Site and Access Road in Harrison County, TX		
Anadarko E&P Company, LP USACE Project Number: SWF-2012-00026	Date: 03/13/2012	Base Map: NRCS Data Gateway Website 2010 NAIP; Harrison County-Wide Mosaic	1501 Bill Owens Parkway Longview, TX 75604 Phone: (903) 297-4673 Fax: (903) 297-4675

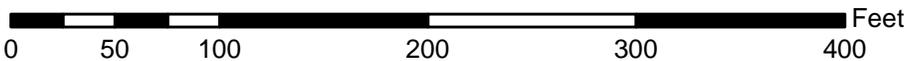


Legend

-  **Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH Wellhead**
-  **Reclaimed Upland Area (2.17 ac)**
-  **Reclaimed Emergent Wetland (0.05 ac)**
-  **Reclaimed Scrub/Shrub Wetland (0.10 ac)**
-  **Reclaimed Forested Wetland (0.54 ac)**
-  **Reclaimed On-Site Mitigation Area (1.11 ac)**
-  **Maintained Access Road ROW - 40 ft**
-  **Maintained Letourneau 2-58HH Well Site**



Sheet 6 of 7
 Reclamation Plan of the Proposed Letourneau 2-58HH
 Well Site and Access Road in Harrison County, TX

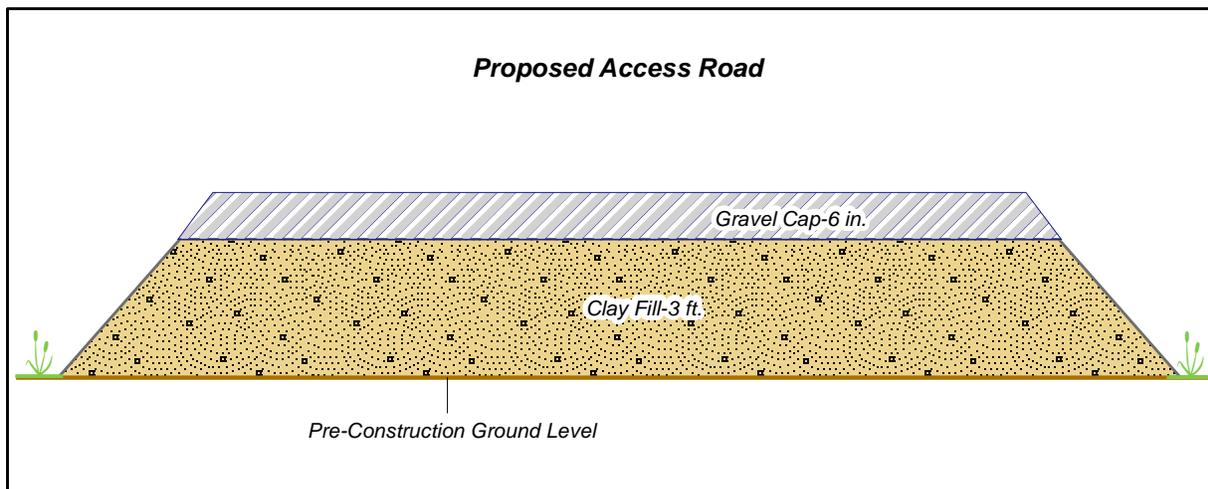
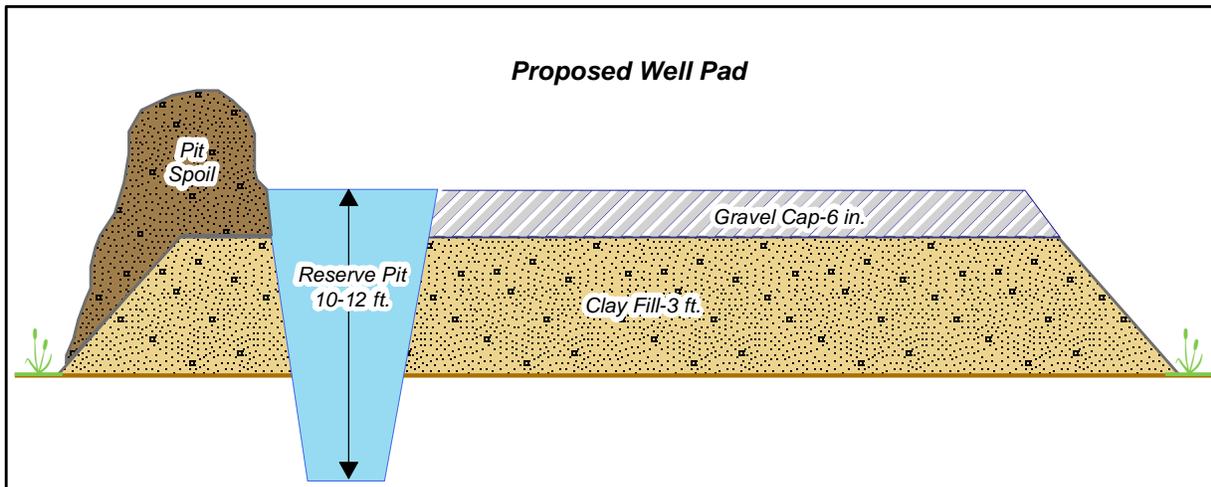


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Not To Scale

Sheet 7 of 7
 Cross-Section Views of the Proposed
 Letourneau 2-58HH
 Well Site and Access Road in Harrison County, TX

Anadarko E&P Company, LP

USACE Project Number: SWF-2012-00026

Sphere 3 Environmental, Inc.
 03/13/2012