



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

OCT 30 2014

Regulatory Division
SAS-1996-07470

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit application will close 30 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, and must be submitted so as to be received on or before the last day of the comment period. Written comments concerning the Department of the Army Permit application must reference the Applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the above address.

Application Number: SAS-1996-07470

Applicant: John Workman
R&B Landfill, Inc.
475 Bennett Road
Homer, Georgia 30547

Agent: Mr. Erik Alford
Ecological Solutions, Inc.
630 Colonial Park Drive
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Location of Proposed Work: The proposed project site is an approximately 482-acre tract, a component of the overall 969-acre property, associated with the existing R&B Municipal Solid Waste Landfill facility, located approximately two miles southeast of the intersection of SR184 and SR51, northeast of the City of Homer, in Banks County, Georgia (latitude 34.3447, longitude -83.4399).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The proposed project will involve a lateral expansion of an existing permitted municipal solid waste landfill facility. The existing landfill site is comprised of three separate footprints referred to as the east, central, and west disposal units. The west disposal unit is proposed for the waste footprint expansion. The soil borrow area for landfill

capping, to be used over the life of the landfill, is located west of the proposed landfill expansion area.

The landfill operation will continue to use a liner and leachate collection system consisting of a combination of a geomembrane (compacted soil with a maximum soil permeability of 1×10^{-5} cm/sec) and a geocomposite liner. The leachate collection system will consist of a series of perforated pipes placed along a protective cover layer covering the landfill floor and side slopes. Collected leachate will be transported to storage tanks for further disposal. Leachate is transported to a wastewater treatment plant for treatment and disposal. No leachate is used to water roads outside the waste disposal cells. Groundwater monitoring stations, including monitoring well spacing, monitoring well construction, sampling schedules, sampling parameters, etc. will be installed in accordance to State guidelines. In addition, a 200-foot buffer will be maintained around the site, per State regulations.

The Applicant has indicated that impacts to aquatic resources have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The project, as proposed, would impact a total of 1,235 linear feet of jurisdictional streams, including 275 linear feet of perennial streams and 960 linear feet of intermittent streams. Additionally, 2,945 linear feet of impacts to ephemeral streams are proposed. No proposed wetland impacts are associated with the landfill expansion. The Applicant is proposing to acquire 5,722.5 stream mitigation credits in order to compensate for impacts to perennial and intermittent streams, and 0.67 wetland credit to compensate for impacts to ephemeral streams. Project mitigation will be completed through a purchase of mitigation credits from an approved compensatory mitigation bank(s) servicing the project watershed.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The Applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

The Applicant's stated overall purpose for the proposed expansion of the R&B Landfill is to provide for additional waste disposal capacity within the existing landfill facility. The R&B Landfill has a remaining capacity of approximately 15 million cubic yards, with an expected remaining lifespan of 20 years at current disposal rates and a lesser lifespan based on growth and increase in waste volume. In order to fulfill the need for additional waste capacity for Banks County and the metropolitan Atlanta area, the Applicant is proposing the expansion of the R&B Landfill to provide for an additional 16,500,100 cubic yards of capacity, increasing the projected life of the facility to 36 years at current disposal rates.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 7 MLK, Jr. Drive, Suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be reviewed in the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200 Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

State-owned Property and Resources: The Applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the Applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: The Applicant has conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the proposed lateral expansion site, in order to locate and identify cultural resources within the project area and assess resource significance. The findings of the survey recommended that 14 archeological sites and the six isolated finds are ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Two prehistoric and three historic sites are considered potentially eligible for the NRHP. Based on the proposed project plan, none of these potentially eligible sites will be affected by the current undertaking and in-place preservation is proposed for these cultural resources. The Applicant has indicated that if it is determined at some point in the future that one or more of these sites cannot be preserved, Phase II testing will be conducted so that definitive NRHP eligibility recommendations can be made.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

The Applicant conducted a protected species survey in July 2013. Four federally protected species are known to occur in Banks County. These include three federally endangered species: black-spored quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*), smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*), and Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and one proposed federally endangered species, northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Applicant contends that the project as proposed would have no effect on black-spored quillwort and smooth coneflower; however it may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat.

The Applicant has identified suitable foraging and/or roosting habitat exists within the forested areas of the project tract. Clearing activities are proposed as part of the project implementation, but large contiguous forested areas will remain undisturbed. These areas will be actively managed to preserve the integrity of potential foraging/roosting bat habitat and will include avoiding clearing forested areas during roosting season. Additionally, landfill operations will be limited to daytime hours and are intended to avoid interference with foraging behavior within the undisturbed forested areas. The Applicant proposes to mitigate for potential effects on these bat species by implementation of a Bat Habitat Management Plan. The Applicant proposes to develop the Habitat Management Plan in close coordination with USFWS representatives during the post-submittal process.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact 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, flood plain 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.

Consideration of Public Comments: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American 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 issue, 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 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.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

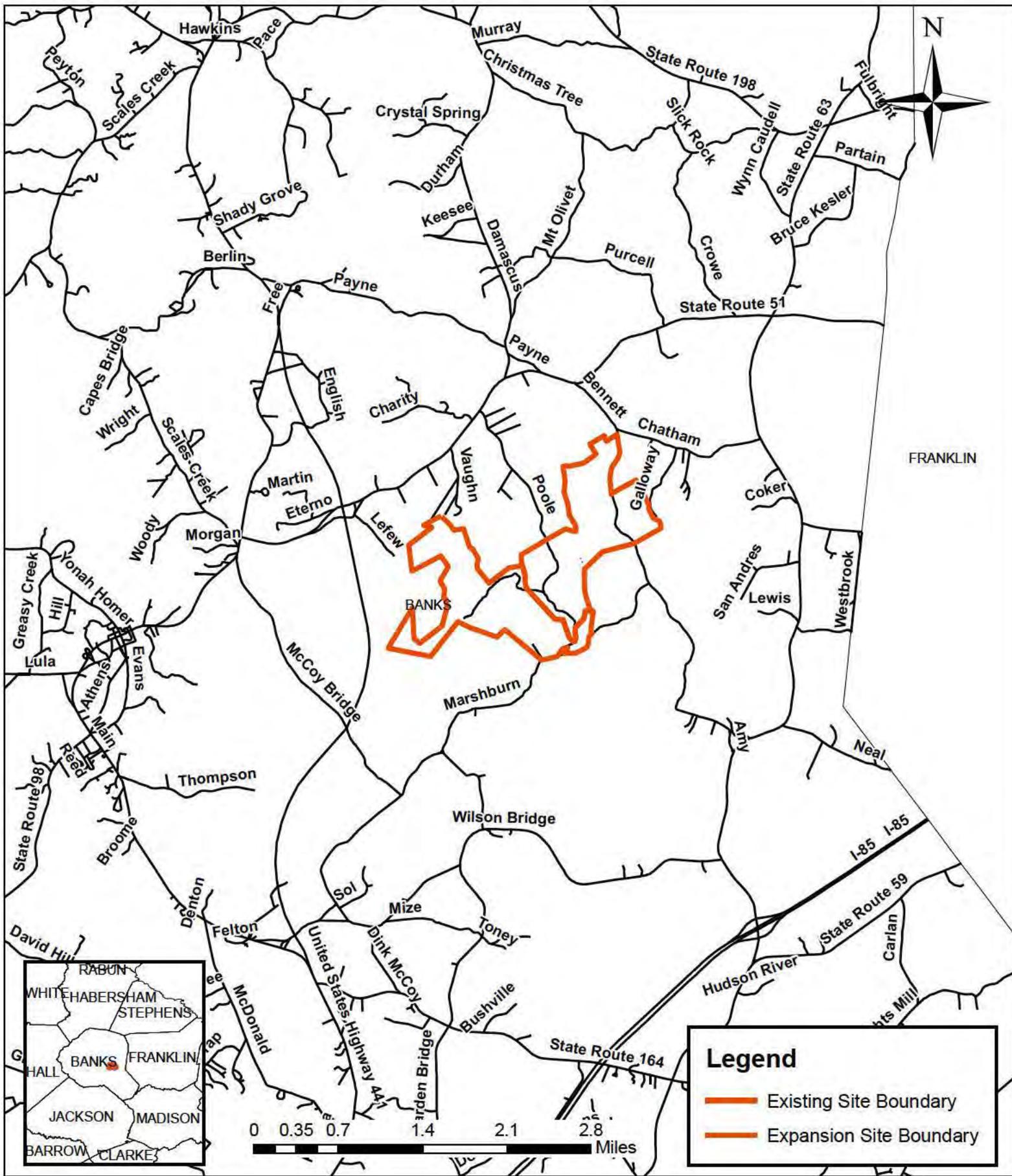
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

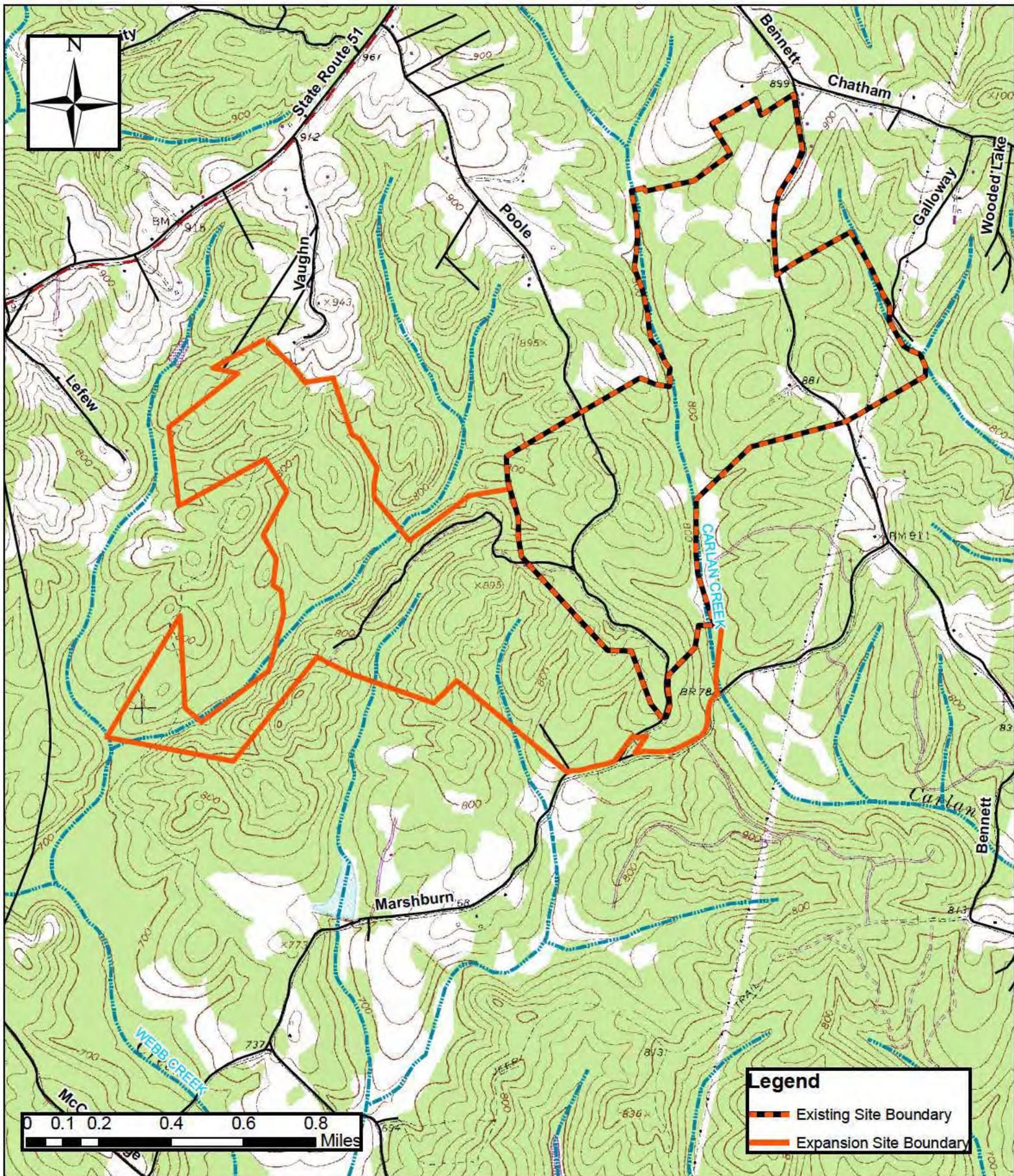
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Adam F. White, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than **30 days** from the date of this notice. Please refer to the Applicant's name (R&B Landfill, Inc.) and the Permit Application Number (SAS-1996-07470) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Adam F. White, Project Manager, Piedmont Branch at 678-422-2730 or via email at adam.f.white@usace.army.mil.

**Encls

1. Site Location Map
2. Site Topographic Map
3. Onsite Alternatives - Option 4 (Preferred)



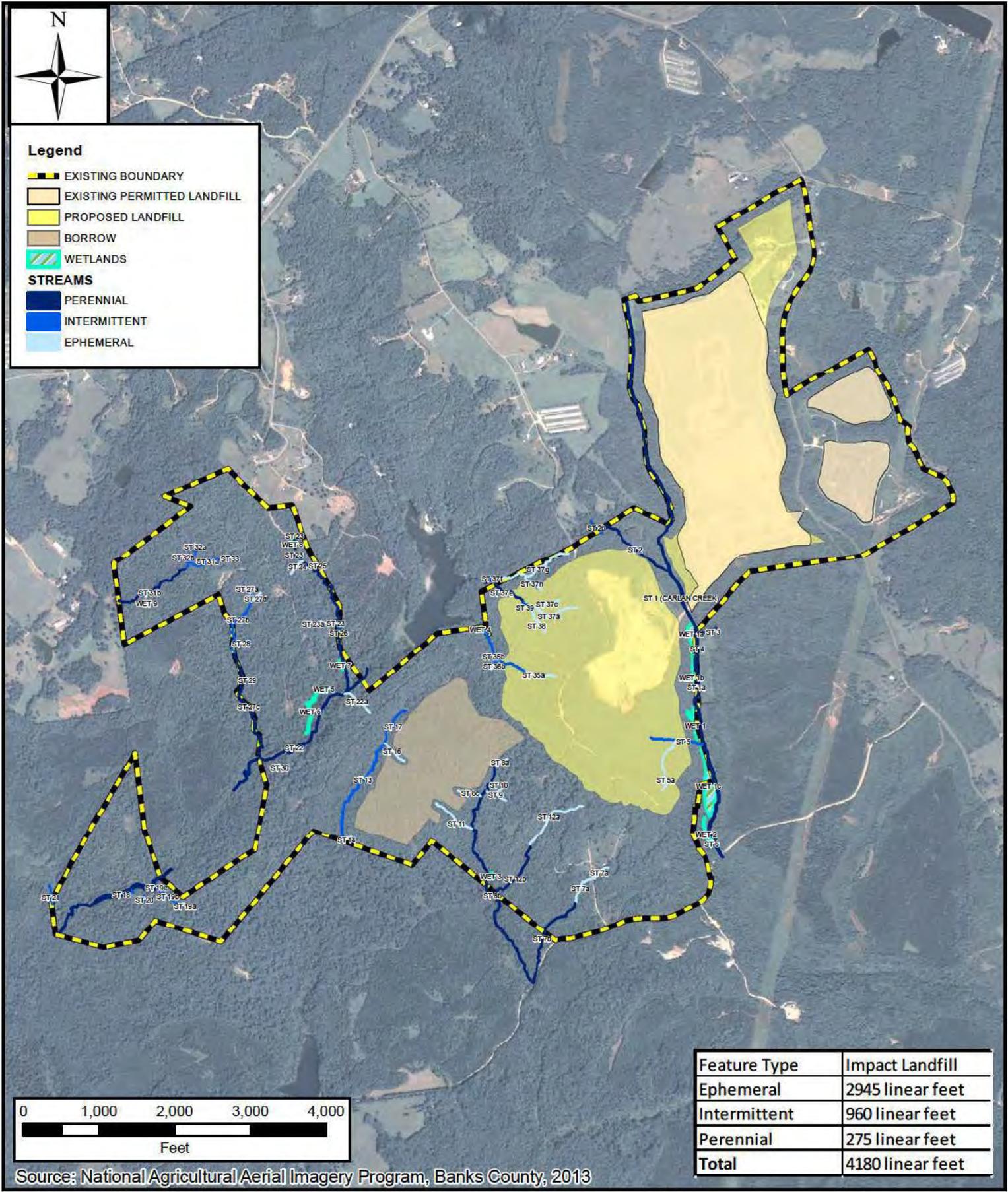


May 2013
20226-004



R&B Landfill Site Expansion
Banks County, Georgia
Site Topographic Map

Figure 2



R&B Landfill Site Expansion
Banks County, Georgia
Onsite Alternatives - Option 4 (Preferred)

July 2014
20226-004

Figure 6