



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640

**MARCH 26 2015**

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2011-00086

**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 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2011-00086

Applicant: Mr. Jim Candler  
Georgia Power Company  
2480 Maner Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Agent: Mr. Mark Ballard  
Ecological Solutions, Inc  
630 Colonial Park Drive  
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located on the north side of the Diamond Causeway across Skidaway Narrows and onto Skidaway Island in Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 31.94440, Longitude -81.06037).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: To impact approximately 0.51 acre of tidally influenced wetlands for the construction of an approximately 1,533-foot long permanent access road to reestablish Georgia Power's ability to inspect, maintain, and repair a segment of the Ferguson Avenue - Skidaway Island Transmission Line from Structure 36 through 39. Approximately 0.37 acre of tidal wetland impact would be in recently restored salt marsh at a former location of an earthen bridge approach. A jurisdictional determination is pending. To mitigate for the fill of approximately 0.51 acre of tidally influenced jurisdictional wetlands, the applicant has proposed the purchase of 5.1 wetland credits from Ogeechee River Mitigation Bank. In addition, the applicant proposes to allocate funds to Skidaway Island State Park to offset impacts Essential Fish Habitat.

## **BACKGROUND**

Skidaway Island transmission line is the sole source of electricity to Skidaway Island and the island's approximately 8,500 residents. Georgia Power requires access at four key structures along the transmission line for maintenance and inspection purposes (structures 36, 37, 38 and 39). Historically, access to these structures was gained using a pre-existing fill approach for the draw bridge, on-site uplands, and temporary mats. GDOT's construction of a new span bridge, removal of the fill approach, guardrail construction, and topographic construction changes, have caused Georgia Power to lose adequate access to these structures. Ultimately, the loss of access has limited Georgia Power's ability to inspect, maintain, and repair the Skidaway Island transmission line.

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.

## **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, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, 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 be reviewed in the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640.

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.

Marshland Protection: This notice also serves as notification of a request to alter coastal marshlands (under the provision of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, Georgia Laws, 1970, p. 939 and as amended), if required. Comments concerning this action should be submitted to the Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1 Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

Georgia Coastal Management Program: Prior to the Savannah District Corps of Engineers making a final permit decision on this application, the project must be certified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, to be consistent with applicable provisions of the State of Georgia Coastal Management Program (15 CFR 930). Anyone wishing to comment on Coastal Management Program certification of this project should submit comments in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Federal Consistency Coordinator, Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

### **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: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed access road will impact the eastern edge of a prehistoric and historic shell midden site (site 9CH68), identified during studies to widen the Diamond Causeway. Previous shovel testing identified no artifacts in this portion of the site. Also, two previously recorded historic structures, both eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), are located within 1 mile of the project area. Neither of these structures is within the immediate vicinity or viewshed and would not be impacted by the project. Overall, the proposed project would have no adverse effect on cultural, archaeological, and or historic resources.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of approximately 0.51 acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, bluefish or snapper grouper management complexes. The applicant proposes to allocate funds to Skidaway Island State Park to offset impacts Essential Fish Habitat. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have an individual or cumulatively substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. Our final determination relative to project impacts to EFH and the need for mitigation measures are subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS and the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

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, 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.

Wetland 1 and 2 within the site area contains possible foraging habitat for wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). No wood storks have been observed within the project area. Loss of potential foraging habitat is anticipated with the proposed project. However, there is surrounding salt marsh habitat available. Therefore the Corps has made an initial determination that the proposed project would have a may affect, not likely to adversely affect the wood stork and requests concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition, central portions of wetland 1 also contain possible habitat for shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). However, this portion of wetland 1 would not be impacted by construction; therefore, the Corp's initial determination is that the proposed project would have no effect of shortnose sturgeon habitat.

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.

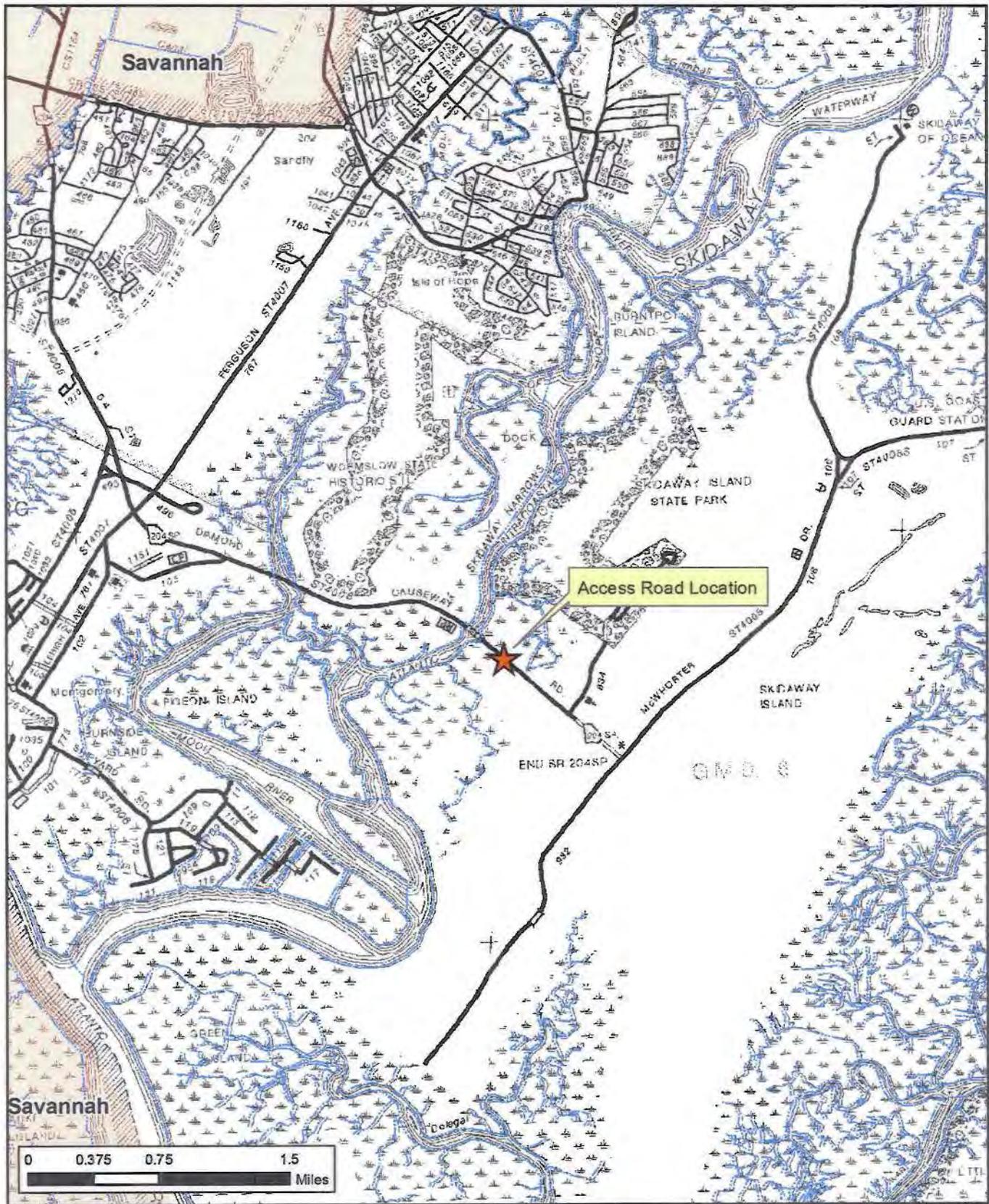
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. 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: Sherelle D. Reinhardt, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Sherelle Reinhardt, Project Manager, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5964.

\*\*Encls

1. Site Location Map (Figure 1, 1 page)
2. Jurisdictional Areas Map (Figure 3, 1 page)
3. Ferguson – Skidaway Island Transmission Line Access Drive / Proposed Wetland Impact Exhibits, Savannah, Georgia (Sheets 1 – 9)



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Georgia Power Company  
 Ferguson Avenue - Skidaway Island Access Road  
 Chatham County, Georgia

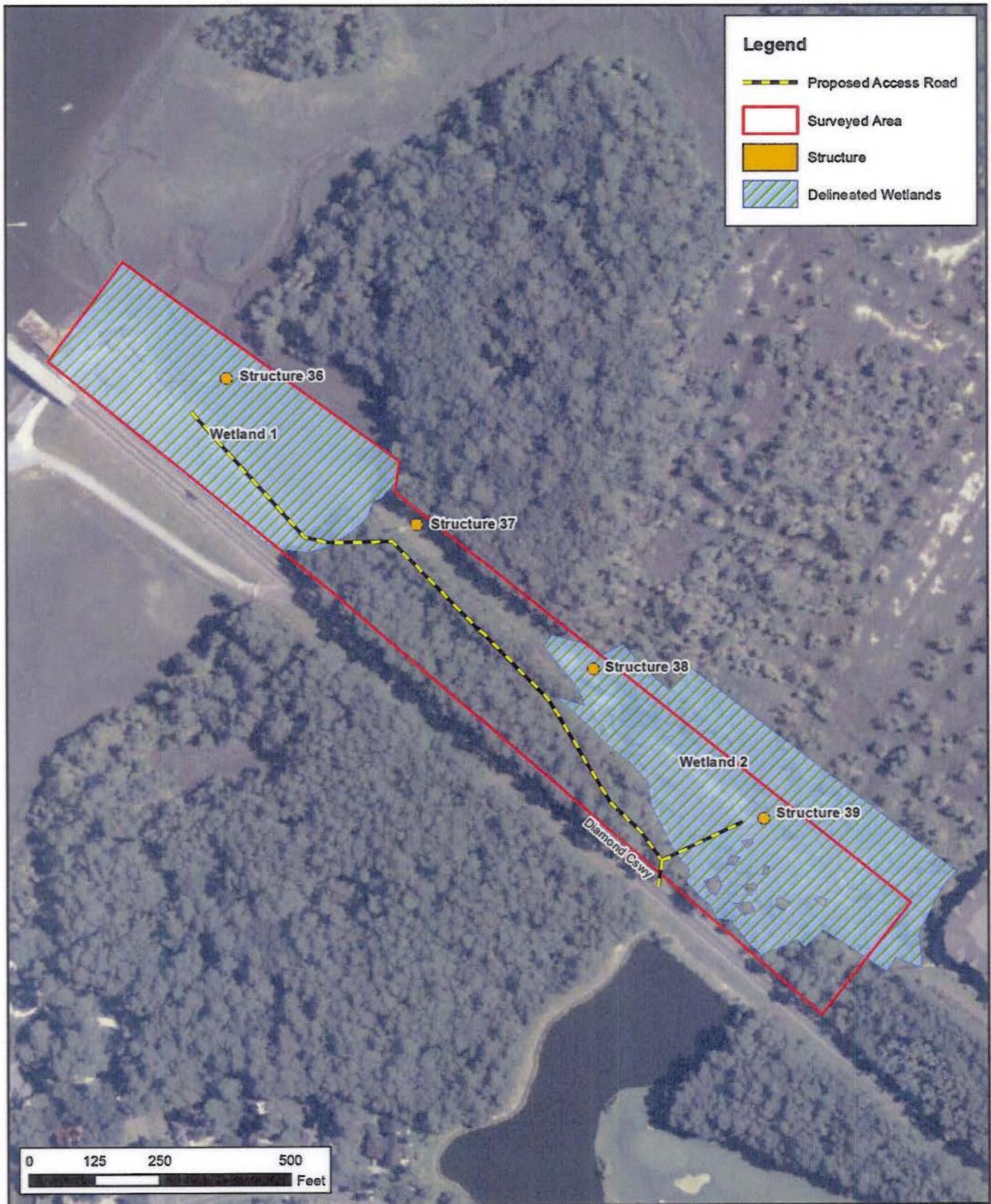
July 2014  
 20236-074



**Site Location Map**



**Figure 1**



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Georgia Power Company  
Ferguson Avenue - Skidaway Island Access Road  
Chatham County, Georgia

July 2014  
20236-074



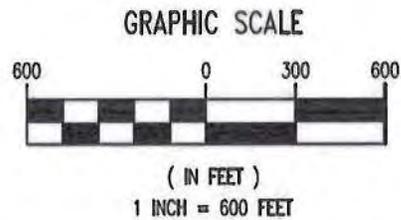
**Jurisdictional Areas Map**



**Figure 3**

# SHEET INDEX:

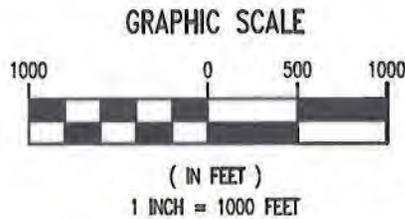
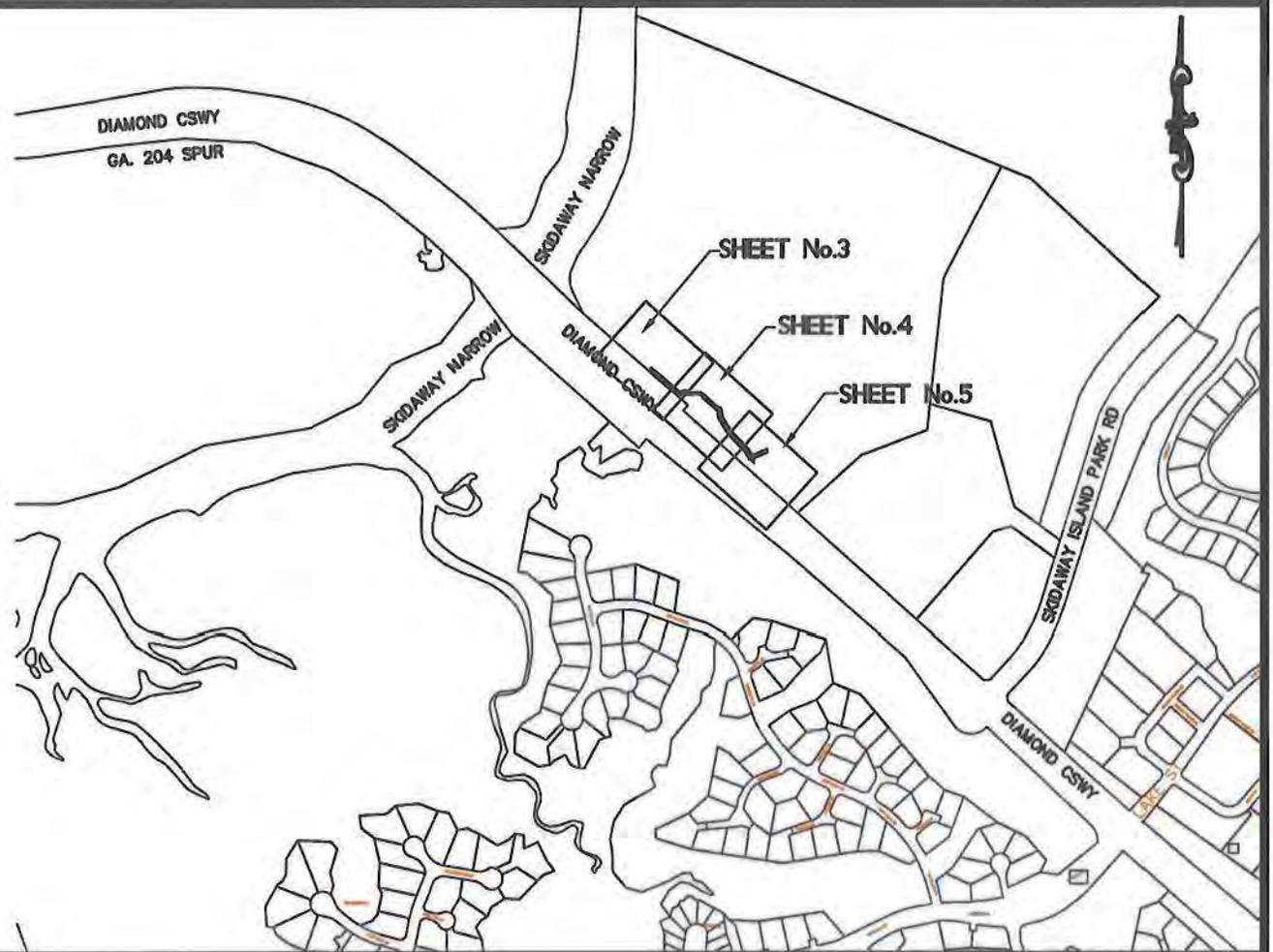
1. VICINITY MAP
2. KEY MAP
3. PLAN VIEW
4. PLAN VIEW
5. PLAN VIEW
6. WETLAND FILL SECTION
7. UPLAND FILL SECTION
8. HYDROLOGIC CONNECTION SECTION



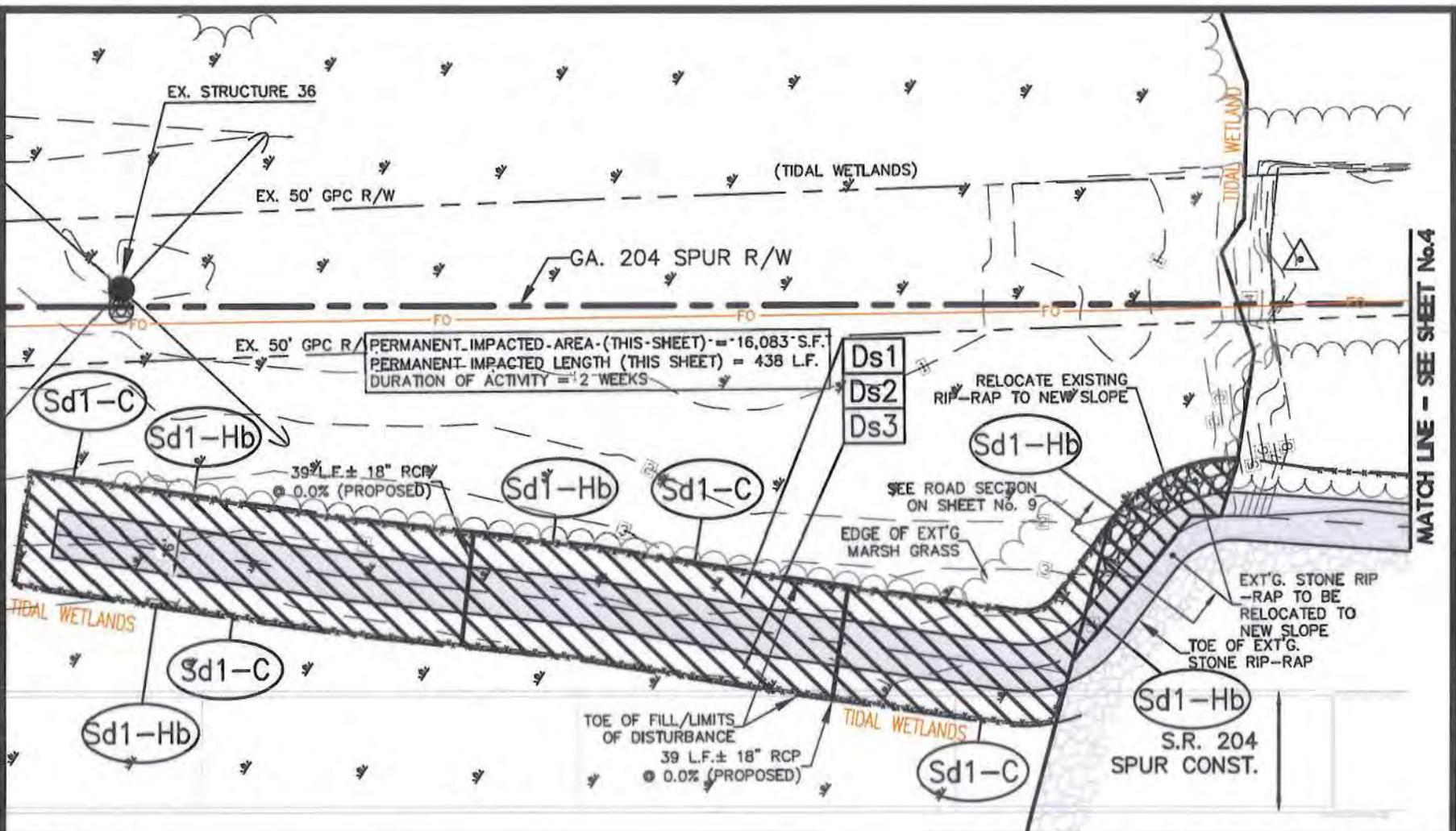
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**IMPACT SUMMARY**

- A) TOTAL AREA OF WETLAND: \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES
- B) TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT: 0.50 ACRES
- C) LONGITUDE: W 81° 03' 41" LATITUDE: N 31° 58' 39"
- D) REASON FOR IMPACT: CONSTRUCTION OF 16 FOOT WIDE ACCESS ROAD
- E) PLANTING OF RIPARIAN VEGETATION SHOULD BE DONE VIA BARE ROOTS, POTTED PLANTS, OR BROADCAST METHOD.  
SUGGESTED NATIVE VEGETATION (D&J):  
UPLAND: WAX MYRTLE  
WETLAND: ACCEPTABLE NATIVE REVEGETATION ARE: WAX MYRTLE, EASTERN BACCHARIS AND SALTWATER FALSE WILLOW HERB LAYER, NETTIED CHAMFERN, BIG CORDGRASS, NEEDLEGRASS RUSH.
- F) HAND AUGER BORINGS (13 TOTAL, 5 TO 8 FEET DEEP) PROVIDED INFORMATION ON EXISTING SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS, INCLUDING SOIL GRADATION AND DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER. BASED ON THEIR FINDINGS, THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS RECOMMENDED A TRIDIRECTIONAL GEOTRID UNDER ALL PROPOSED ROADS, WITH 24 INCHES OF CLEAN SAND OVER IT IN WETLANDS (12 INCHES MINIMUM CLEAN SAND IN UPLANDS), AND THE REMAINING FILL (IF NEEDED TO ACHIEVE GRADES) BEING ENGINEERED FILL. THE ROAD SURFACE WILL BE 6 INCHES OF STABILIZED AGGREGATE. PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS ADDRESS PROPER PLACEMENT AND COMPACTION TECHNIQUES FOR FILL. FLOW OF SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE WATER WILL BE ENHANCED BY THE INITIAL LAYER OF CLEAN GRANULAR MATERIALS, AND BY THE PLACEMENT OF CULVERTS AT ROUGHLY 100-FOOT SPACING WHERE THE ROAD FILL MAY OTHERWISE IMPEDE SURFACE WATER FLOW



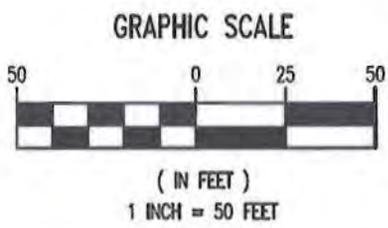
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<b>LAND DEPARTMENT</b>			
<b>FERGUSON - SKIDAWAY ISLAND</b>			
<b>TRANSMISSION LINE ACCESS DRIVE /</b>			
<b>PROPOSED WETLAND IMPACT EXHIBITS</b>			
<b>SAVANNAH, GEORGIA</b>			
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MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET No.4

**LEGEND:**

-  - WETLAND AREA
-  - WETLAND BUFFER
-  - ROAD SURFACE

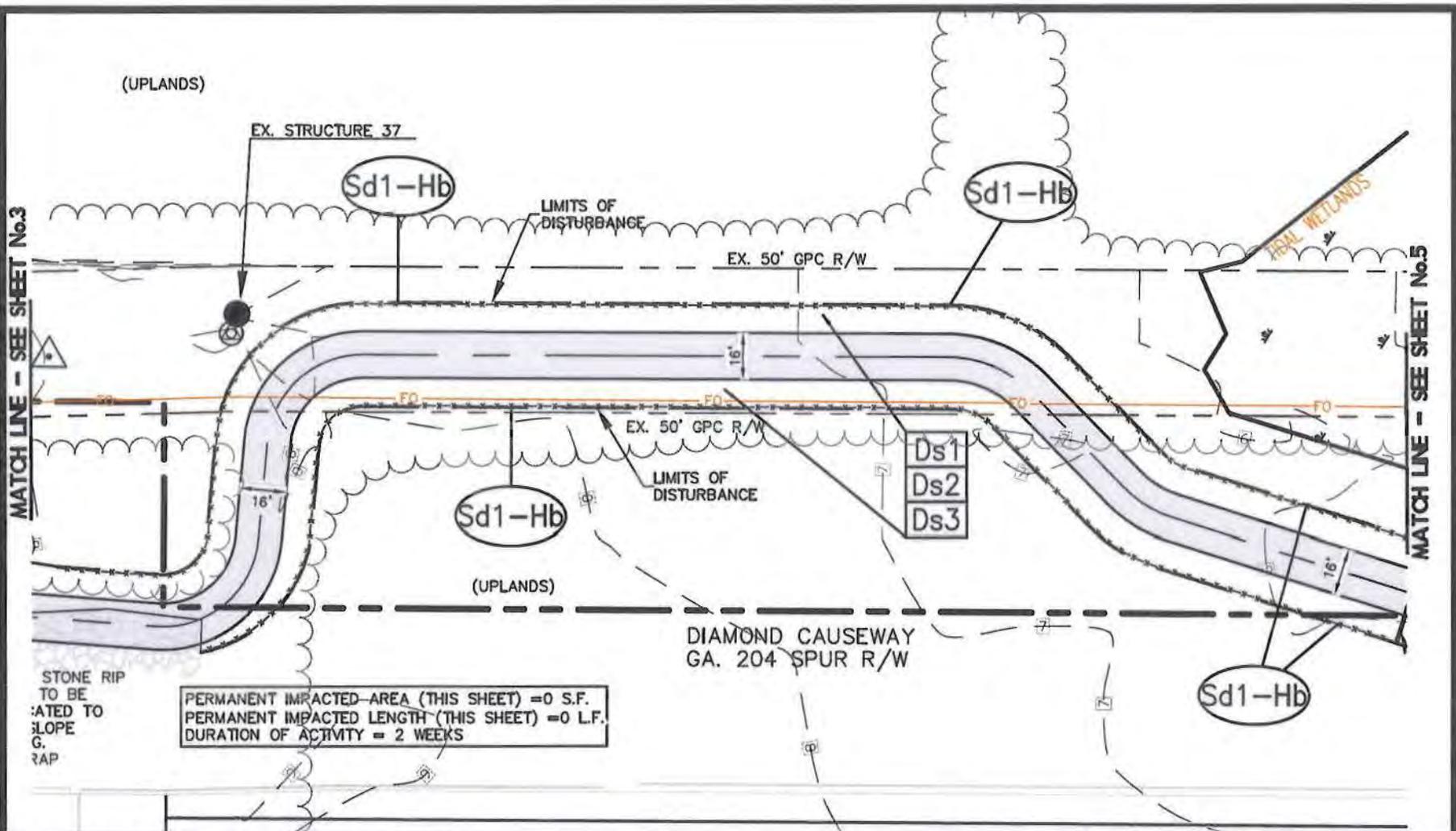


**GEORGIA POWER CO., ATLANTA, GA.**  
**LAND DEPARTMENT**  
 FERGUSON - SKIDAWAY  
 TRANSMISSION LINE ACCESS DRIVE /  
 PROPOSED WETLAND IMPACT EXHIBITS  
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

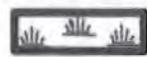
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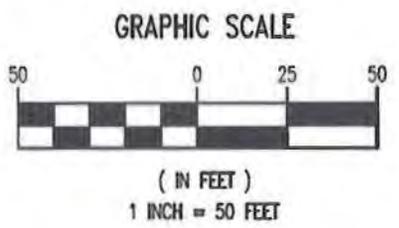
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SCALE 1" = 50'		DATE 10/02/2015
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**LEGEND:**

-  - WETLAND AREA
-  - WETLAND IMPACT AREA
-  - ROAD SURFACE



**GEORGIA POWER CO., ATLANTA, GA.**  
LAND DEPARTMENT

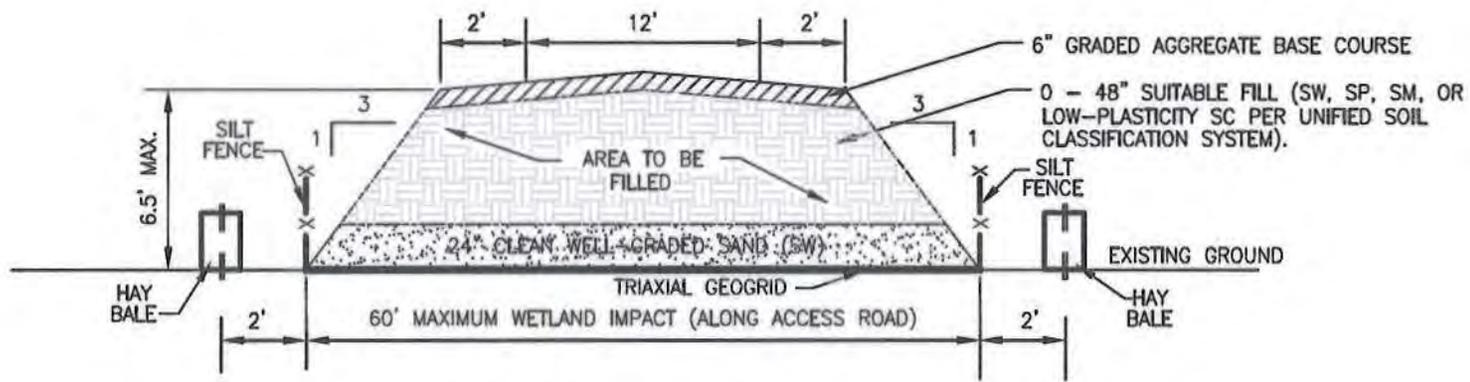
**FERGUSON - SKIDAWAY ISLAND  
TRANSMISSION LINE ACCESS DRIVE /  
PROPOSED WETLAND IMPACT EXHIBITS**  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

NO. DATE BY REVISIONS APPROVALS


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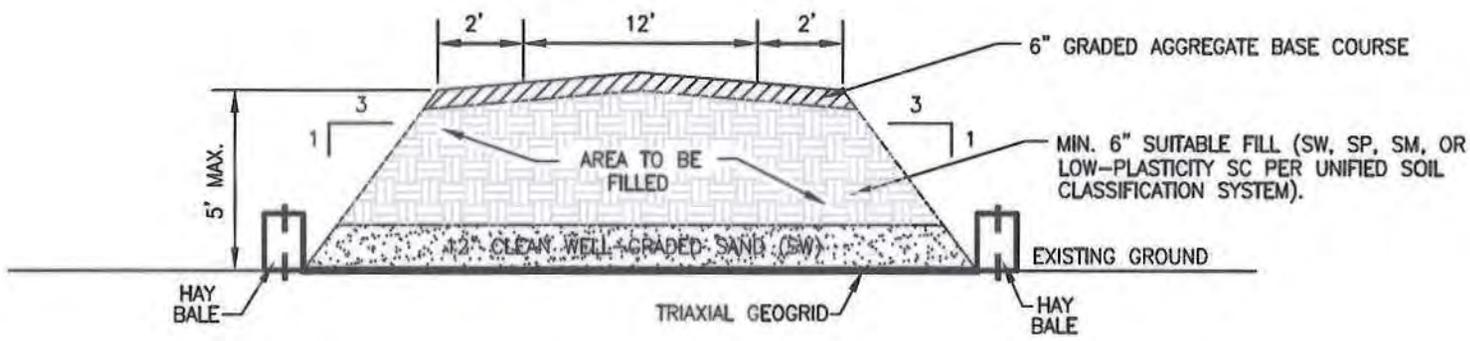
NOTE: MINIMUM ROADWAY SURFACE ELEVATION SHALL BE 7.0



WETLAND FILL SECTION  
NOT TO SCALE

TOTAL VOLUME OF WETLAND FILL = 3,000 CY.±

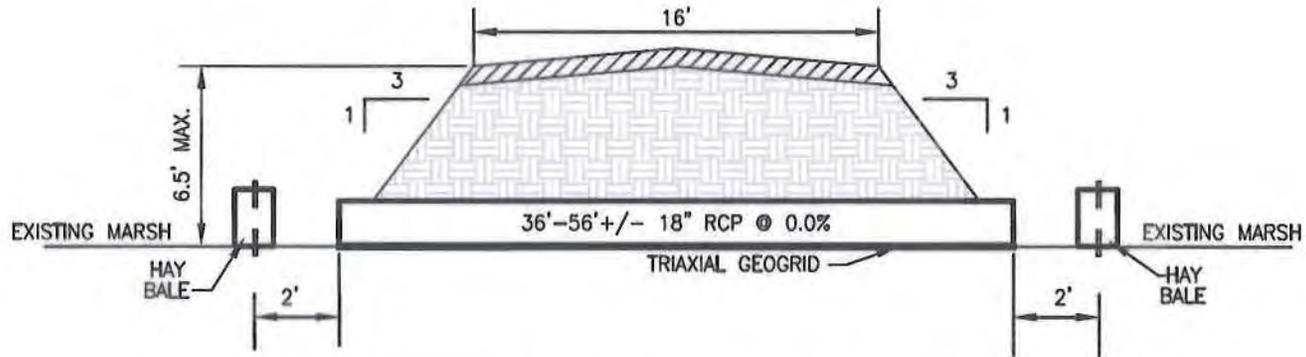
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UPLAND FILL SECTION  
NOT TO SCALE

		<b>GEORGIA POWER CO., ATLANTA, GA.</b> <b>LAND DEPARTMENT</b> <b>FERGUSON - SKIDAWAY ISLAND</b> <b>TRANSMISSION LINE ACCESS DRIVE /</b> <b>PROPOSED WETLAND IMPACT EXHIBITS</b> SAVANNAH, GEORGIA		
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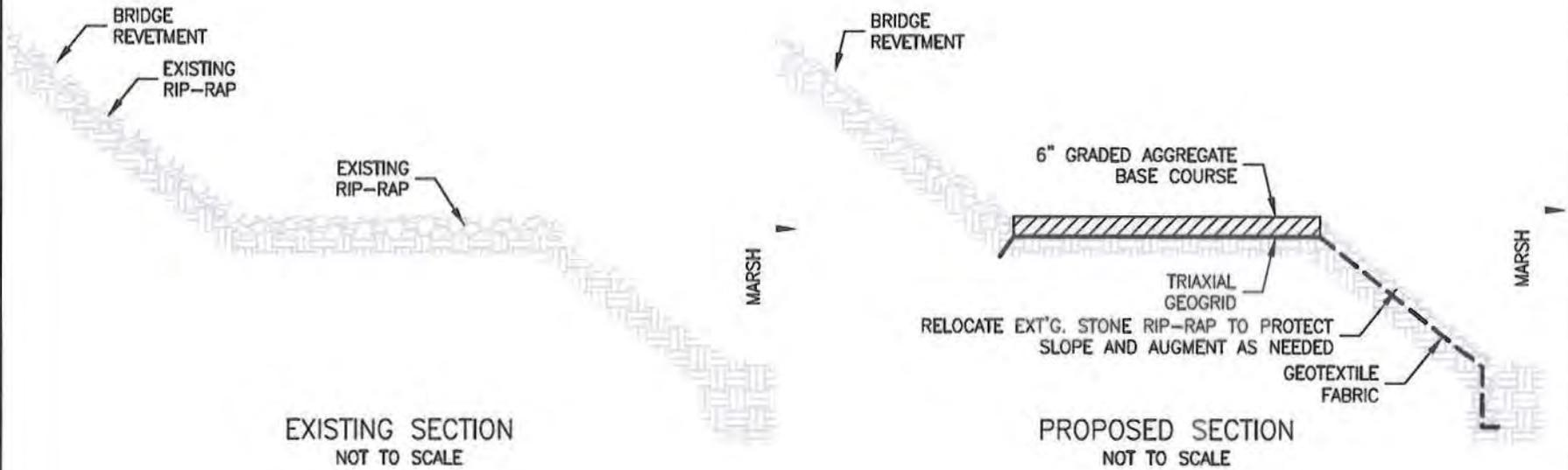
NOTE: 1. MINIMUM ROADWAY SURFACE ELEVATION SHALL BE 7.0  
 2. SET PIPE INVERT ELEVATION AT EXT'G. MARSH SURFACE ELEVATIONS.



HYDROLOGIC CONNECTION SECTION  
 NOT TO SCALE

		GEORGIA POWER CO., ATLANTA, GA.		
		LAND DEPARTMENT		
		FERGUSON - SKIDAWAY ISLAND		
		TRANSMISSION LINE ACCESS DRIVE /		
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**NOTE:**  
 1. MINIMUM ROADWAY SURFACE ELEVATION SHALL BE 7.0



		<b>GEORGIA POWER CO., ATLANTA, GA.</b> <b>LAND DEPARTMENT</b>		
		<b>FERGUSON - SKIDAWAY ISLAND</b> <b>TRANSMISSION LINE ACCESS DRIVE /</b> <b>PROPOSED WETLAND IMPACT EXHIBITS</b> SAVANNAH, GEORGIA		
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