



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DECEMBER 30 2015

Regulatory Division
SAS-1994-03873

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) 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-1994-03873

Applicant: Mr. Dale L. Fulton
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Post Office Box 1295
42 Inverness Center Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Agent: Mr. Mark Ballard
Ecological Solutions, Inc.
630 Colonial Park Drive, Suite 200
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in the Altamaha River, at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), near the City of Baxley, Appling County, Georgia (Latitude 31.9378, Longitude -82.3443).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. has requested DA to continue annual maintenance dredging at the HNP intake structure. According to the applicant, maintenance dredging is needed to ensure water influx allowing proper operation of the HNP. As proposed, the applicant would remove 45,000 Cubic Yards (CYs) of accumulated sediment annually via a hydraulic cutterhead dredge. However the applicant has stated that a clamshell, dragline or similar device could be used during dredging activities as well. The area to be maintained consists of an L-shaped area adjacent to the existing intake structure. The proposed dredging area is 900 linear feet (parallel to the river bank) x 388 linear feet (channelward at its widest point). The area would be dredged 5' below the river bottom at the most channelward point and 10' below river bottom near the river bank.

Hydraulically dredged material would be piped to an upland disposal area located approximately 1,000' west of the intake structure. The disposal area is approximately 2.2 acres in size, bounded on all sides by compacted earthen berms and contains a 24" stand pipe to regulate the discharge of effluent. According to the applicant, the effluent would flow back into the Altamaha River. Once dewatered, the material would be trucked offsite by the Altamaha County Road Department or transported to an existing 1.9 acre stock pile site within the HNP facility.

BACKGROUND

The proposed work was previously authorized under DA Savannah District permits SAS-1994-03870 and SAS-1994-03873.

On August 19, 1994, Department of the Army Permit SAS-1994-03870 was issued authorizing maintenance dredging at the plant intake. This permit authorized maintenance dredging in a 375' long (parallel to the bank) and 150' wide (channelward) area to maintain an average depth of 5' below river bottom at the most channelward point and 10' below bottom at the bank (approximately 21,000 cubic yards). The material dredged was disposed in an existing upland settling basin, approximately 420' x 420' x 10' deep. The permit was subsequently modified to include the addition of an "L" shaped area that extended 614' parallel to bank and 388' channelward at its widest point. This resulted in an additional 14,000 cubic yards of material, increasing the total material to be dredged annually to 35,000 cubic yards.

On September 8, 2005, Department of the Army Permit SAS-1994-03873 authorized the continued maintenance dredging of the above area plus the expansion of the L shaped area to 900' (parallel to the bank) x 388' (channel wide at its widest point) for a total of approximately 45,000 cubic yards of material to be dredged annually. The area was dredged to approximately 5' below river bottom at the most channel ward point and approximately 10' below river bottom near the bank. The material was removed by hydraulic dredge was pumped to an existing upland settling basin, approximately 420' x 420' x 10' deep. .

In June 2015, the applicant sampled and tested the sediments to be dredged in the Altamaha River, in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Discharge in the Waters of the U.S. – Inland Testing Manual". On July 17, 2015, the applicant's agent, Ecological Solutions, Inc. submitted a report prepared by EA Engineering, Science, and Technology Inc., PBC entitled, "Tier I Evaluation and Pathway Analysis of Dredged Material Placed in the Upland Dewatering Basin at Southern Nuclear's Plant Hatch, Appling County, Georgia". The EA Engineering, Science, and Technology Inc. report states that "grain size analysis indicated that the sediment to be dredged from the Plant Hatch intake area is predominantly brown poorly graded sand with a small proportion of fine gravel" and "constituents of concern are expected to be minimal and, if present, are unlikely to be

bioavailable to ecological receptors or bound to sediment particles in concentrations that would be expected to pose a risk to human and ecological receptors”.

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, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 10 cents per page. All coastal projects are filed at our Brunswick office and will need to be requested from Mr. Bradley Smith at Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov. 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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604.

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.

U.S. 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. The closest registered property, Jim Smith House, is located approximately 7.45 miles from the project site. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: The project area is specific to the proposed dredging area. The Corps has determined the proposed project may effect, not likely to adversely effect the following species: Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*), shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), and the Altamaha spiny mussel (*Elliptio spinosa*). These species are known to inhabit Georgia's coastal waters and estuaries. 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, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

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.

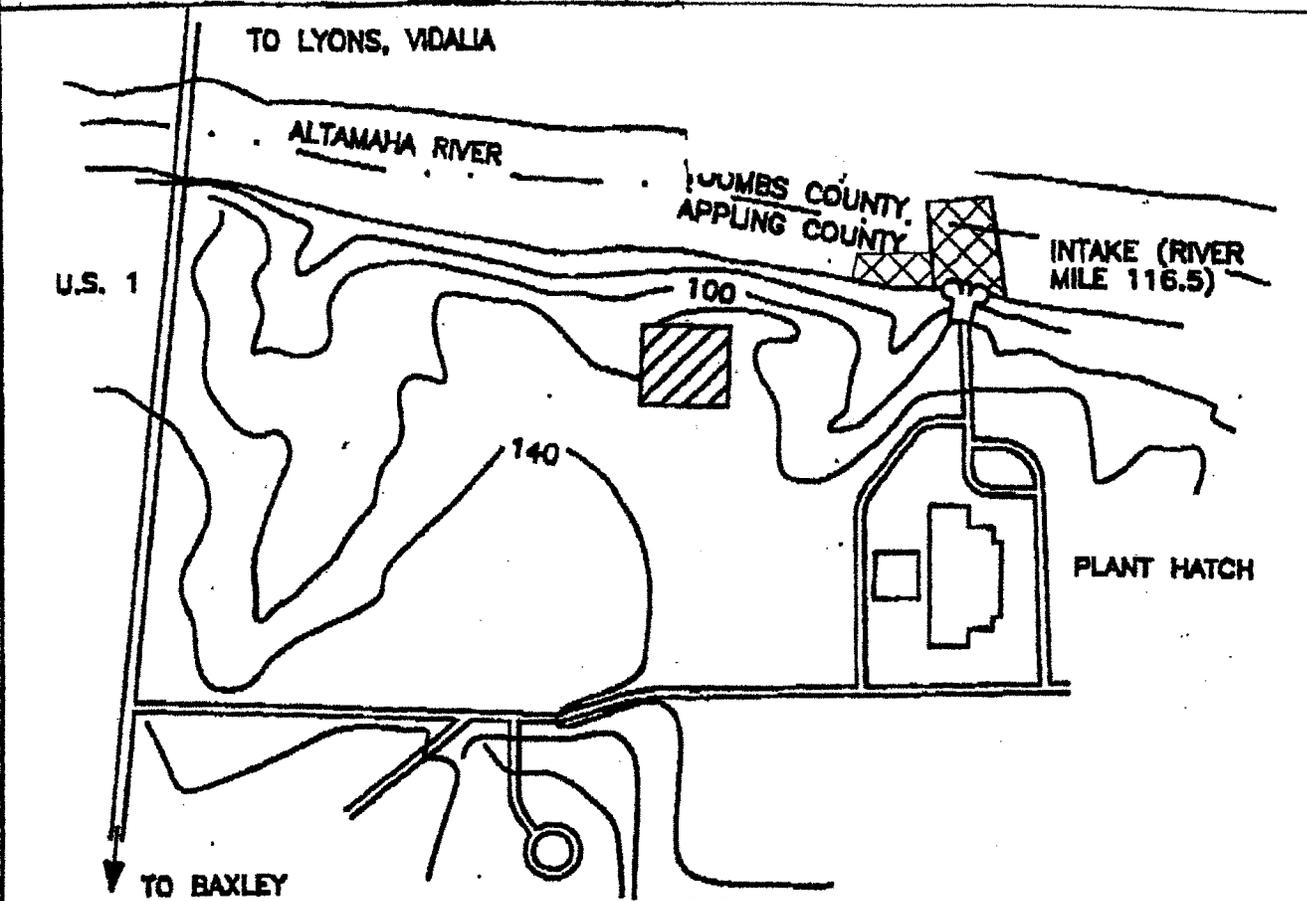
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Ms. Sara E. Bahnson, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604, no later than 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. Sara E. Bahnson, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch at 912-652-6210.

Encls

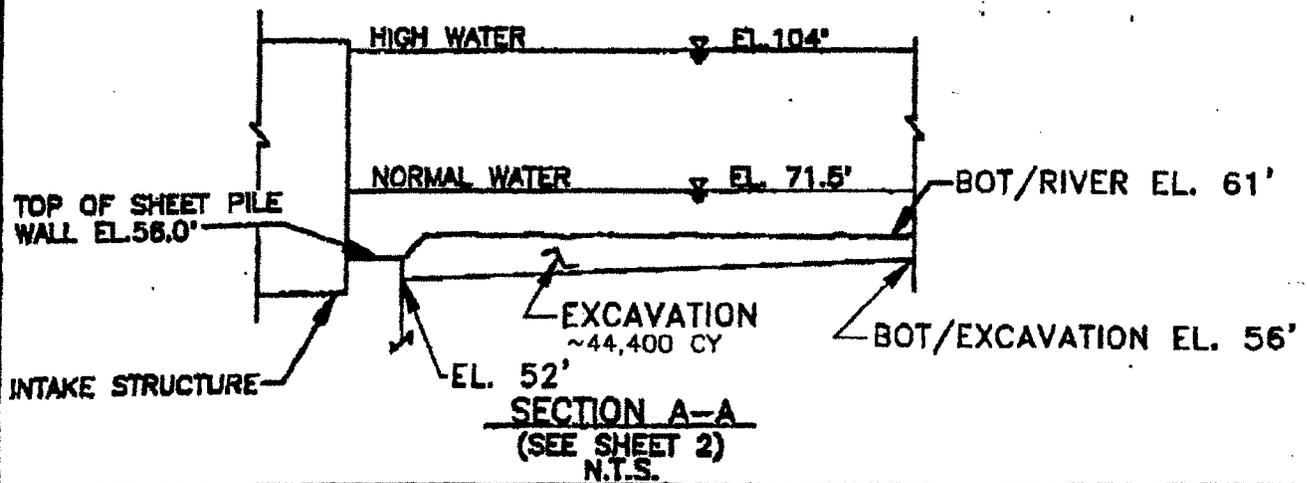
1. Southern Nuclear Plant Hatch Intake Structure Dredging - 2013 Aerial Photograph
2. Southern Nuclear Plant Hatch Intake Structure Dredging - Jurisdictional Determination Findings
3. Southern Nuclear Plant Hatch Intake Structure Dredging - Project Features
4. Corp. Dredging Section 8/15/01
5. Corp Dredging Plan 8/15/01

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY
 H.C. NUCLEAR PLANT - GERUG. POWER COMPANY



-  EXCAVATION AREA
-  SETTLING BASIN
-  SPOIL AREA

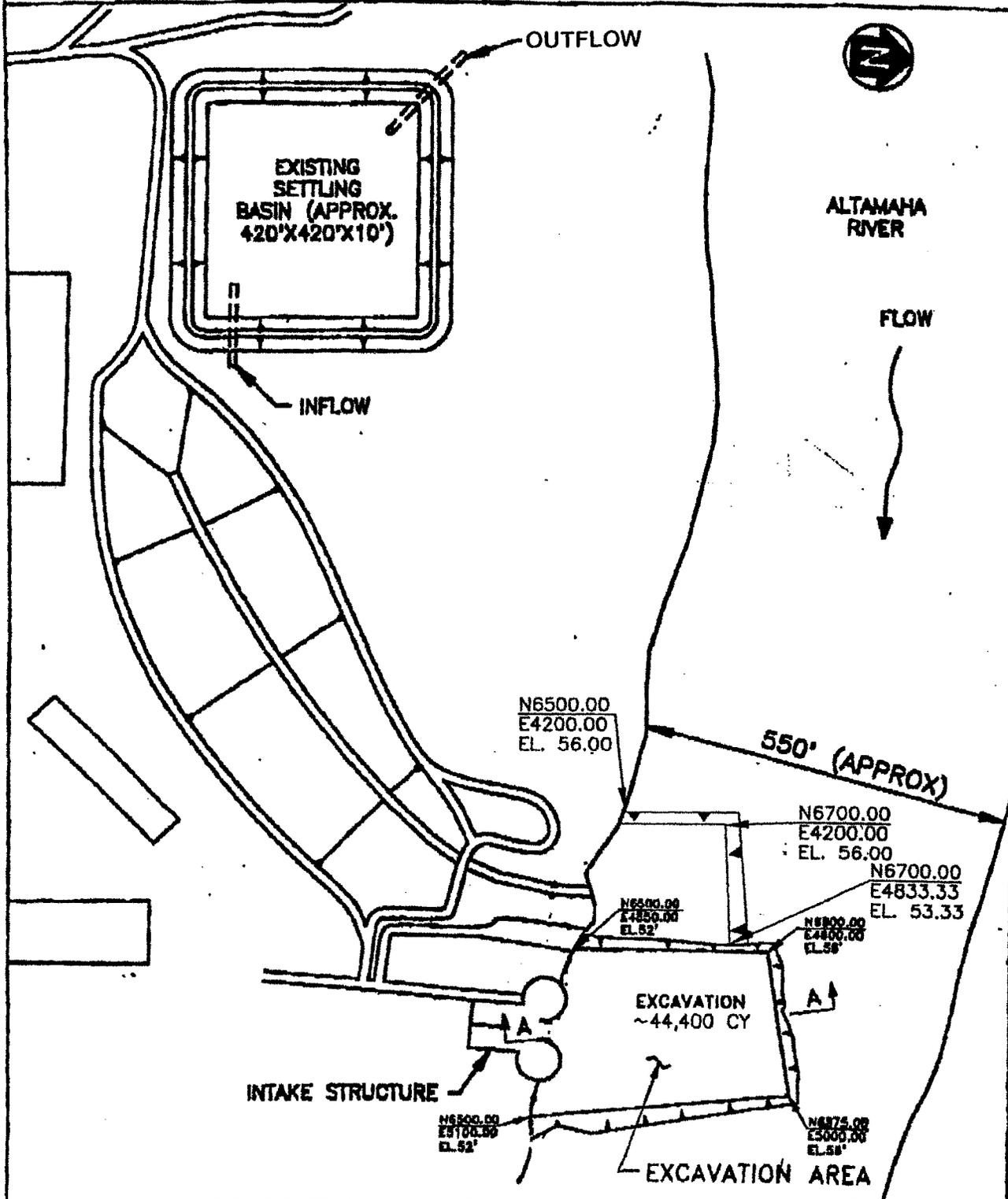
VICINITY MAP
N.T.S.



CORP. DREDGING SECTION 8/15/01
 design: J. HOWSER

NUMBER
 1 OF 2

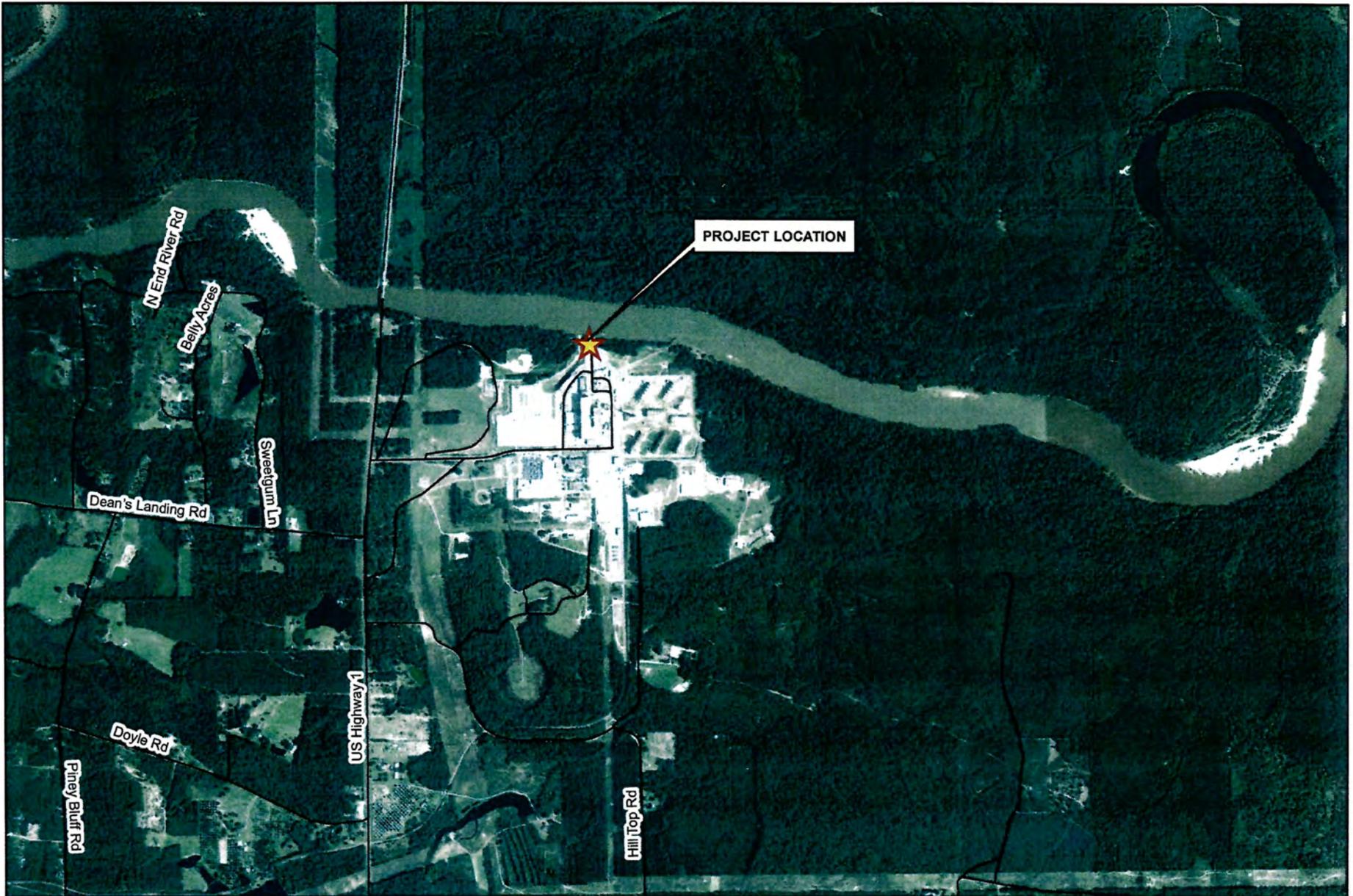
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY
 HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT - GEORGIA POWER COMPANY



CORP DREDGING PLAN 8/15/01
 design. J.HOWSER

NUMBER
 2 of 2

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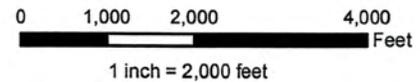


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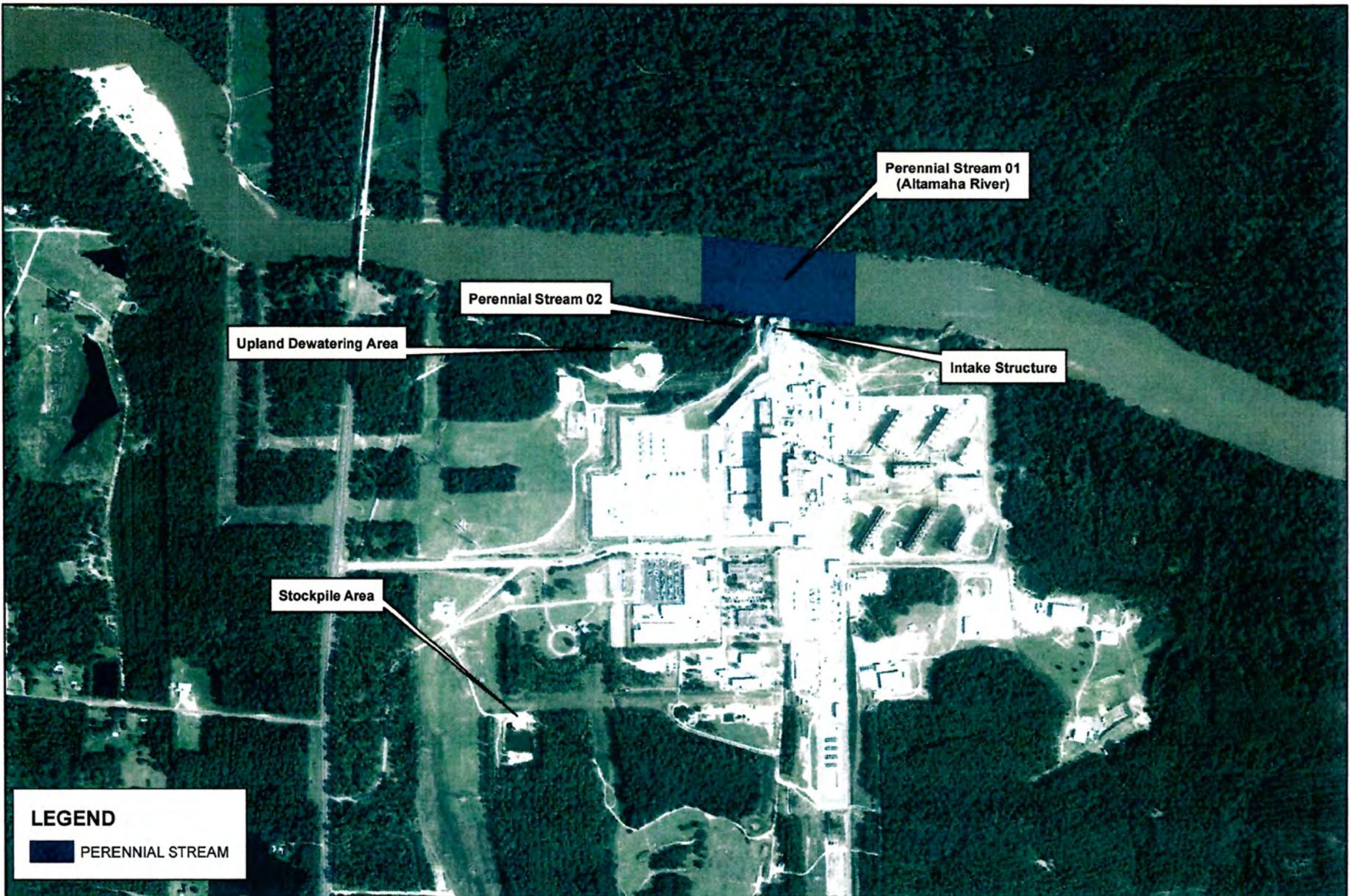
Southern Nuclear
 Plant Hatch Intake Structure Dredging
 Appling County, Georgia
 (Altamaha River)

2013 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
 National Agriculture Imagery Program, Appling County, GA



AUGUST 2015
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FIGURE 3



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LEGEND

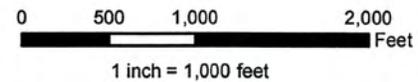
■ PERENNIAL STREAM



Southern Nuclear
 Plant Hatch Intake Structure Dredging
 Appling County, Georgia
 (Altamaha River)

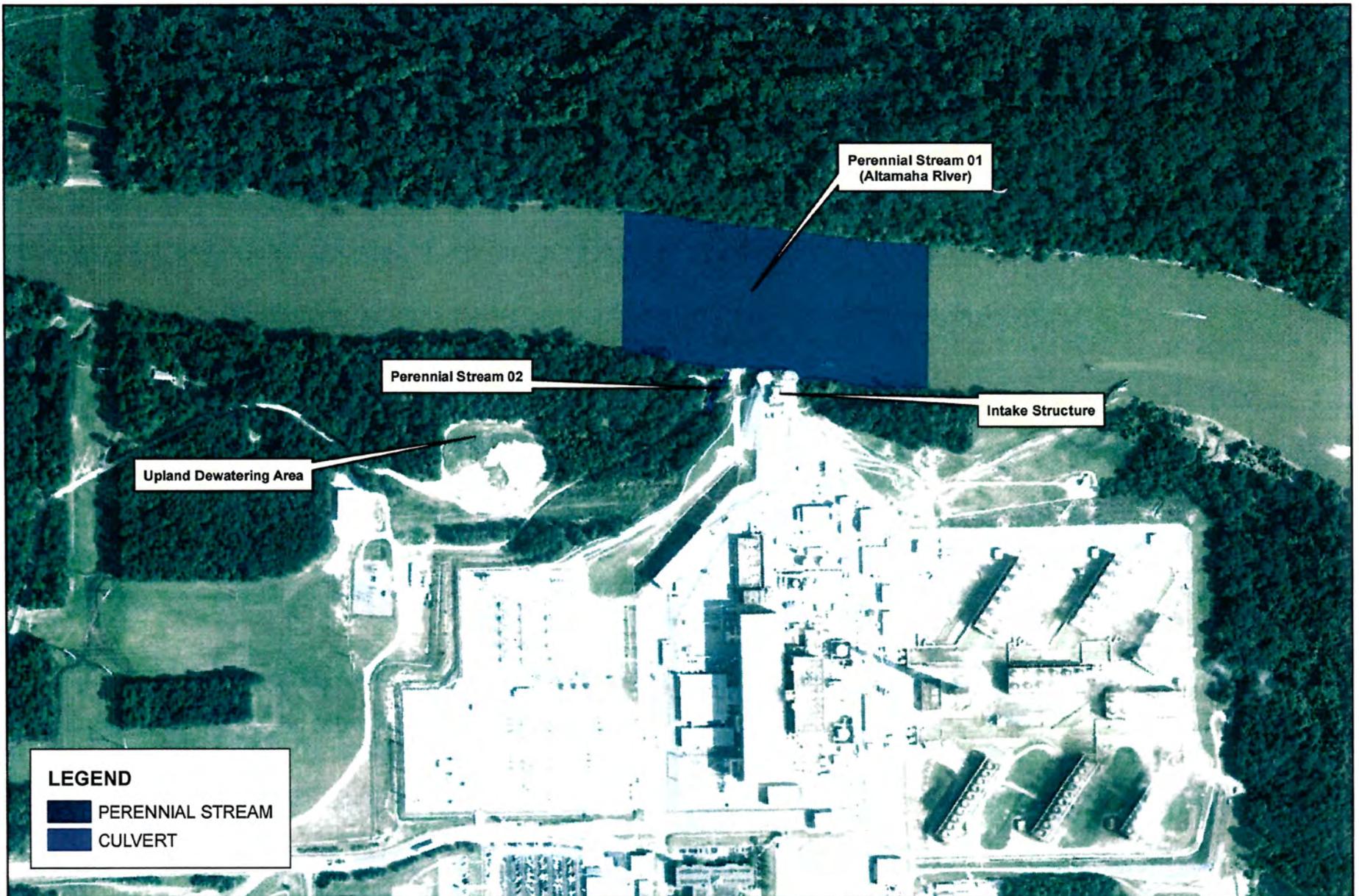
JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION FINDINGS

2013 National Agriculture Imagery Program, Appling County, GA



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FIGURE 8



20285-001_Permit_Supp_GIS_Loc

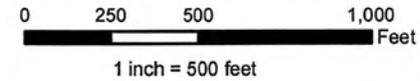
LEGEND

- PERENNIAL STREAM
- CULVERT



Southern Nuclear
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Project Features



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