



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**APRIL 12 2016**

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2005-00855

**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-2005-00855

Applicant: Mr. Scott Southwick  
Georgia Pacific Consumer Products, LP  
437 Old Augusta Road South  
Rincon, Georgia 31326

Agent: Mr. Dan Bucey  
Resource & Land Consultants  
41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 303  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in the Savannah River, at the Savannah River Mill (SRM), located at 437 Old Augusta Road, in the City of Rincon, Effingham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.3515, Longitude -81.1620).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Georgia Pacific Consumer Products, LP has requested a DA to continue annual maintenance dredging at the existing SRM dock, bulkhead, and the intake outtake structures located in the Savannah River. According to the applicant, maintenance dredging is needed to ensure operation of the SRM by allowing the authorized withdrawal of water necessary for operation. As proposed, the applicant would remove approximately 1,800 Cubic Yards (CYs) of accumulated sediment and vegetation annually via a clamshell, and no more than 1,000 CY for the remainder of the life of the permit. However the applicant has stated that a hydraulic dredge could be used during dredging activities as well. The area to be maintained consists of a 100' x 350' area adjacent to the existing structures. The area would be dredged 3' below the river bottom.

Dredged material would be transported via pipe or truck to the mill's onsite disposal area, and no effluent shall be discharged from the disposal area back into the river.

## **BACKGROUND**

The proposed work was previously authorized under DA Savannah District permits SAS-1980-05851, SAS-1995-06850, and SAS-2205-00855.

On July 9, 1985, Department of the Army Permit SAS-1980-05851 was issued to Fort Howard Corporation authorizing construction of a dock and intake and outfall structures in the Savannah River.

On October 2, 1995, Department of the Army Permit SAS-1995-06850 issued to Fort Howard Corporation authorized maintenance dredging of approximately 500 CY (50 CY annually) from an area approximately 30' x 350', to a depth approximately -1' below the river bottom. The permit was modified to perform maintenance dredging via clamshell and hydraulic dredge to remove an additional 300 CY of material in order to improve water flow at the intake structure. The exported material was transported by dump truck and placed in existing onsite sludge disposal cells adjacent to SRM.

On September 7, 2005, Department of the Army Permit SAS-2005-00885 issued to Fort James Operating Company, Inc./Georgia Pacific Corporation- Savannah River Mill authorized periodic maintenance dredging along the existing dock, intake and outfall structures at SRM. Material was removed by clam shell or hydraulic dredging. Dredge material was loaded into dump trucks and transported to SRM's onsite disposal facility or into an existing onsite sludge disposal cells adjacent to the mill. Dredging events occurred approximately every three years. 800 CY of material was removed over the ten year permit period, with approximately 250-300 CY of material removed per dredging event. On January 16, 2015, the permit was modified to increasing the amount of material that could be dredged from 800 CY to 1,600 CY.

In November 2015, the applicant sampled and tested the sediments to be dredged in the Savannah, 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 November 11, 2015, the applicant's agent, Resource & Land Consultants, Inc. submitted a report prepared by Terracon Consultants, Inc., entitled, "Tier I Sediment Evaluation Report Georgia Pacific Intake/Outfall Structure Old Augusta Road and Savannah River Rincon, Effingham County, Georgia". The Terracon Consultants, Inc. report states that "the laboratory grain size distribution results indicate the sample classification is silt" and "no sources of possible contamination or any contaminants of concern were identified therefore; Terracon does not consider the proposed dredge material to be a possible "carrier of contaminants".

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](mailto: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.

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).

## 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, Ebenezer Townsite and Jerusalem Lutheran Church, is located approximately 3.0 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.

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 0.80 acre of EFH utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, bluefish or snapper grouper management complexes. 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: 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*), and the shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). 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.

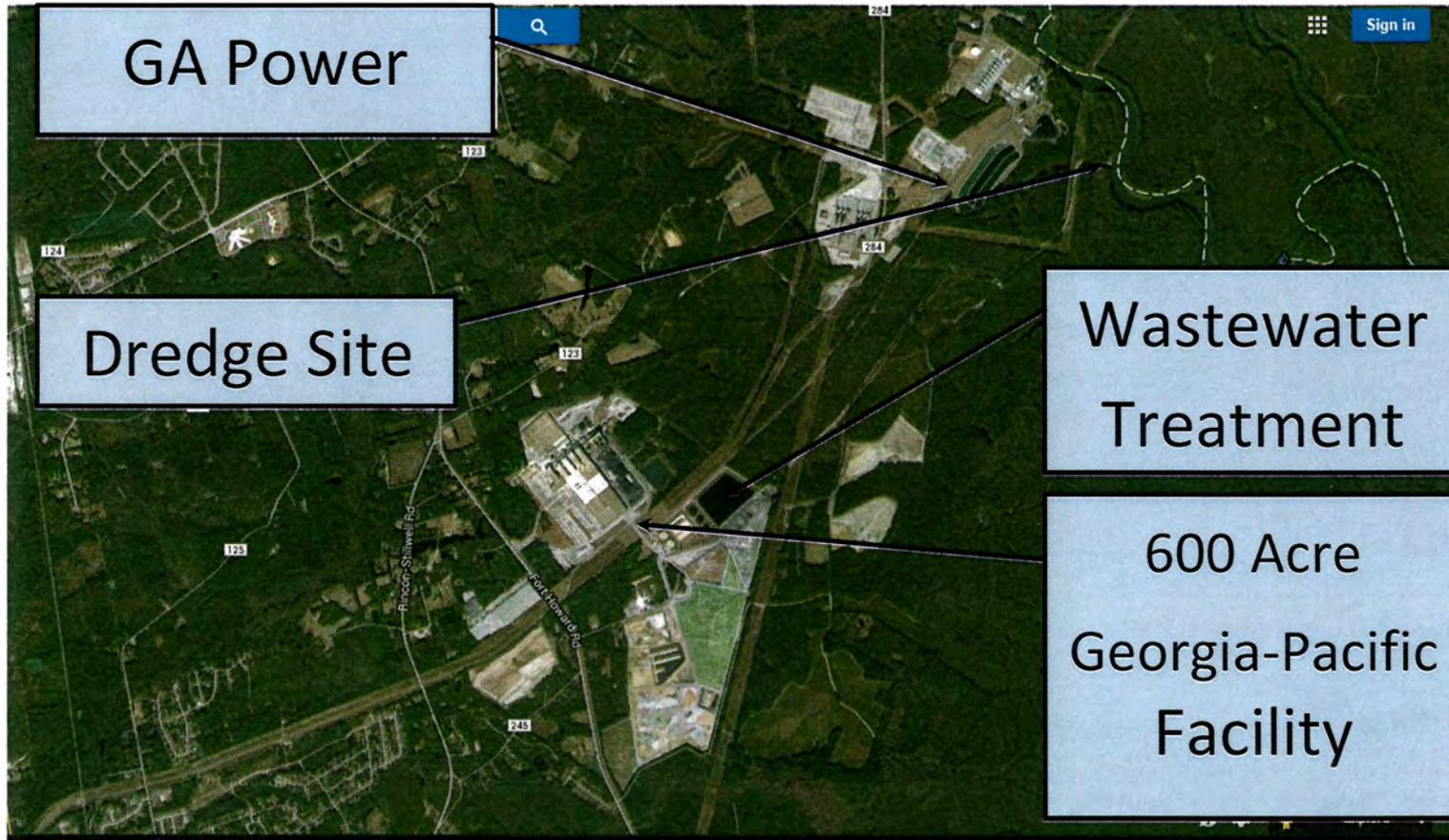
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mrs. Sarah E. Wise, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604, no later than 30 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 Mrs. Sarah E. Wise, Project Manager, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5550.

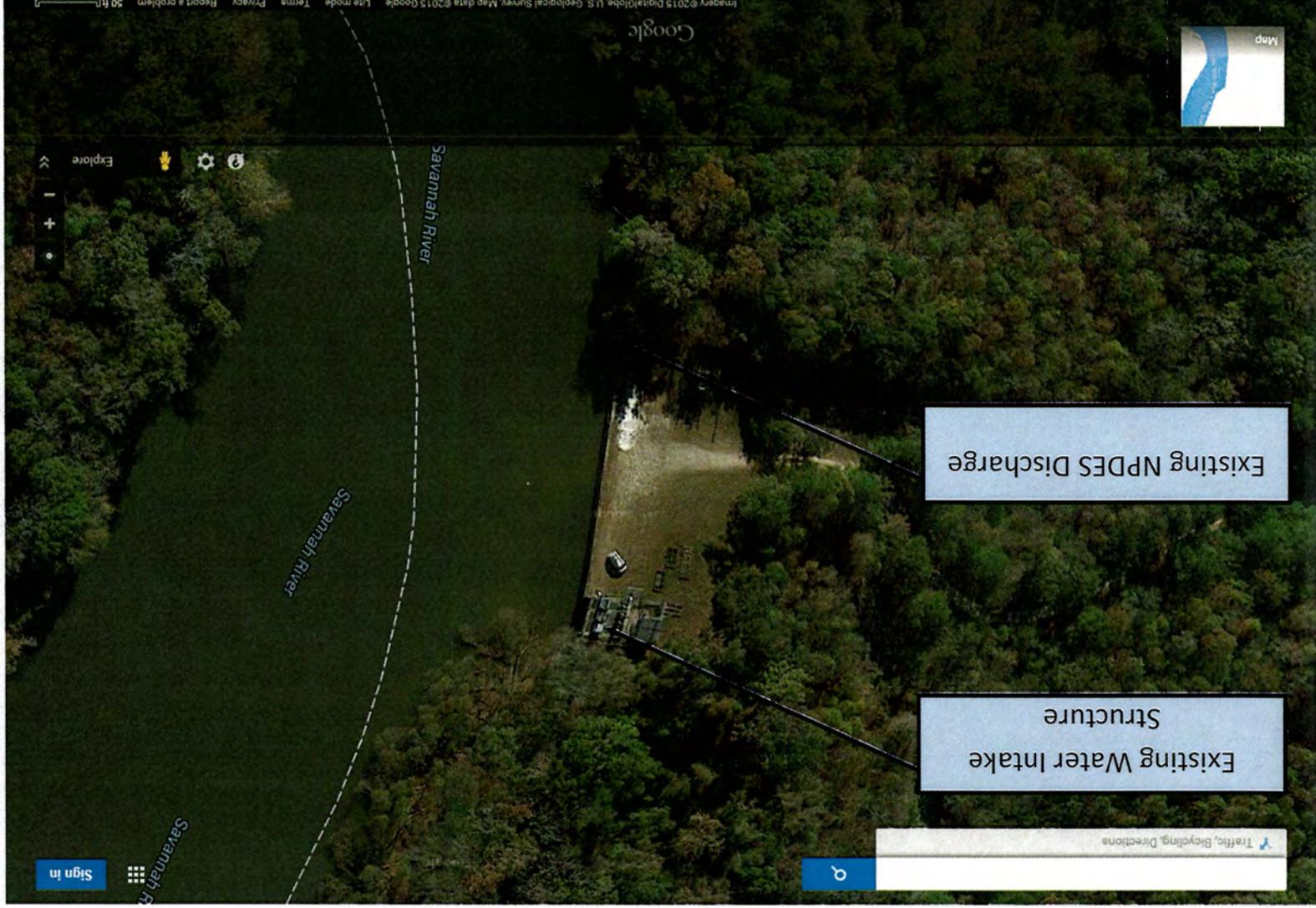
## Enclosures

1. Facility Size and Wastewater Treatment
2. Aerial Map
3. Existing Water Intake at Rincon Plant Sheet P1
4. Existing Water Intake at Rincon Plant Sheet P2
5. Existing Water Intake at Rincon Plant Sheet P3

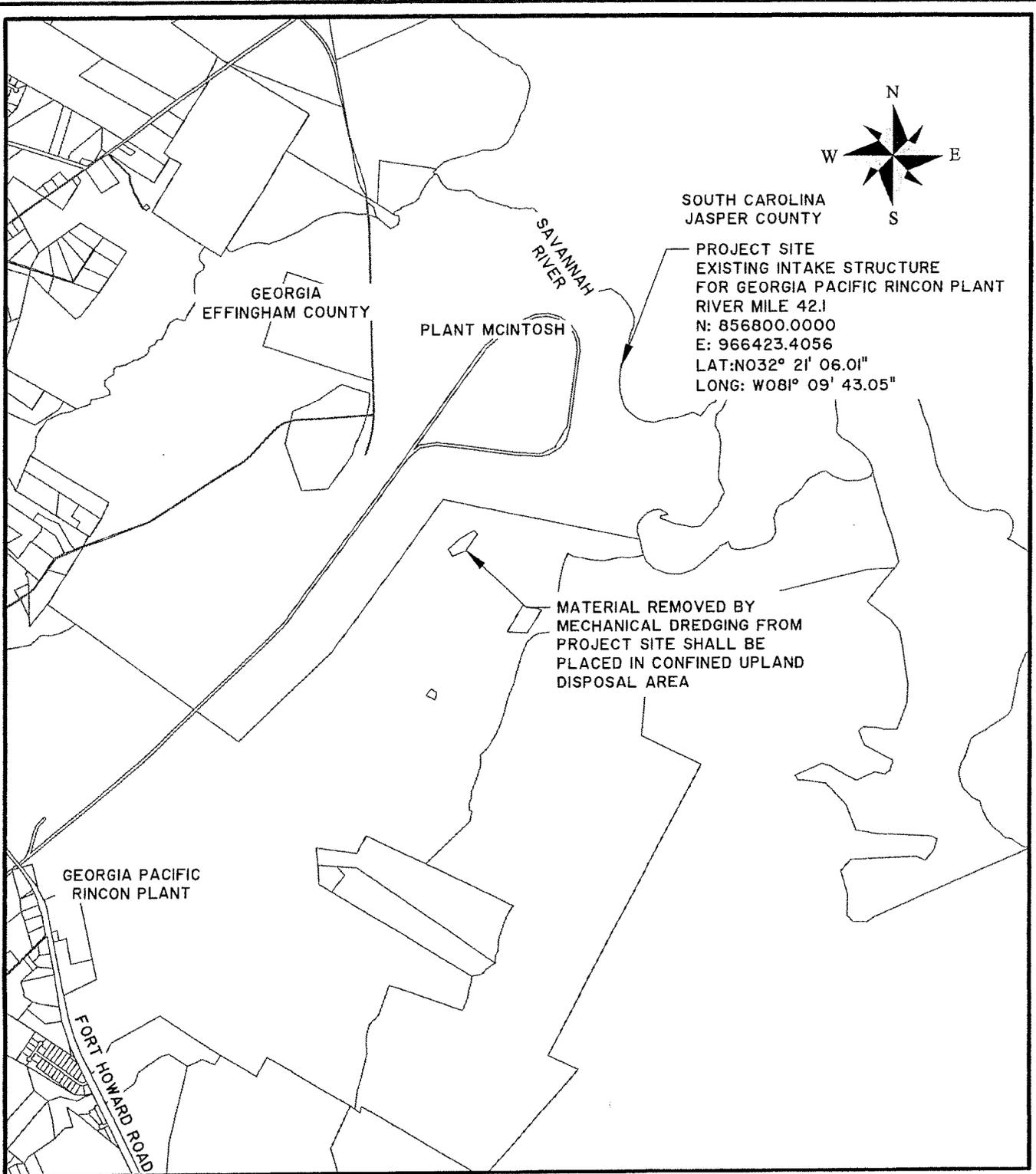
# Map 3 Facility Size and Wastewater Treatment



# Map 5 Aerial Map



Z:\25465\25465.0000\Engineering\Drawings\Construction\Plans\PERMIT DRAWINGS\VICINITY MAP.dwg - Feb 16, 2015 - 2:44:59 PM



## PROPOSED DREDGING

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

EXISTING WATER INTAKE AT RINCON PLANT

CLIENT:

GEORGIA PACIFIC

LOCATION: EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: FEB. 13, 2015

JOB NUMBER: J - 25465.0000

SHEET: P1  
SCALE: 1" = 3000'

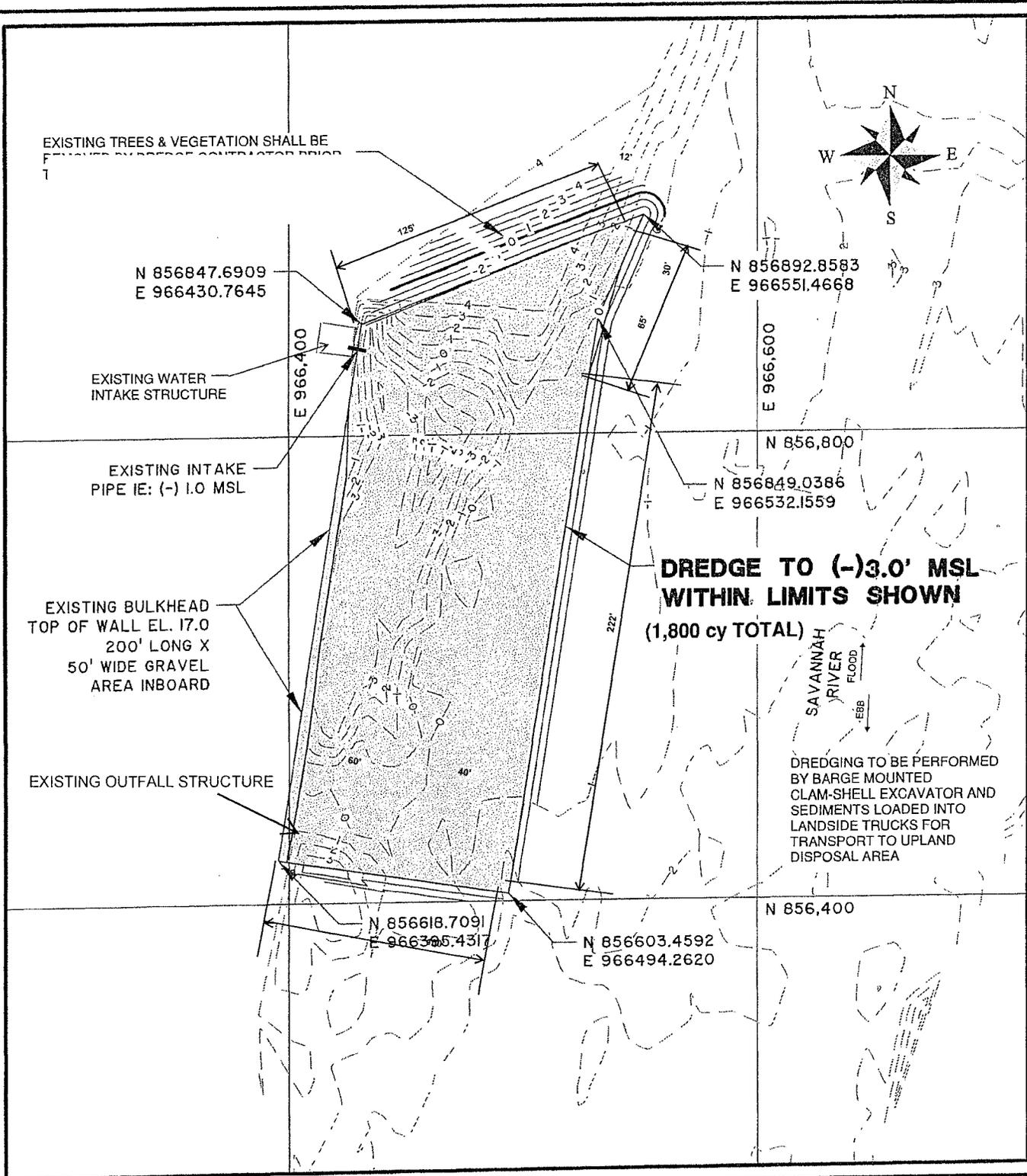


**THOMAS & HUTTON**  
Engineering | Surveying | Planning | GIS | Consulting

50 Park of Commerce Way  
Savannah, GA 31405 • 912.234.5300

[www.thomasandhutton.com](http://www.thomasandhutton.com)

Z:\25465\25465.0000\Engineering\Drawings\Construction Plans\PERMIT DRAWINGS\DREDGING PLAN.dwg - Feb 16, 2015 - 2:59:52 PM



**PROPOSED DREDGING**  
 PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
 EXISTING WATER INTAKE AT RINCON PLANT  
 CLIENT:  
 GEORGIA PACIFIC  
 LOCATION: EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 DATE: FEB. 13, 2015  
 JOB NUMBER: J - 25465.0000

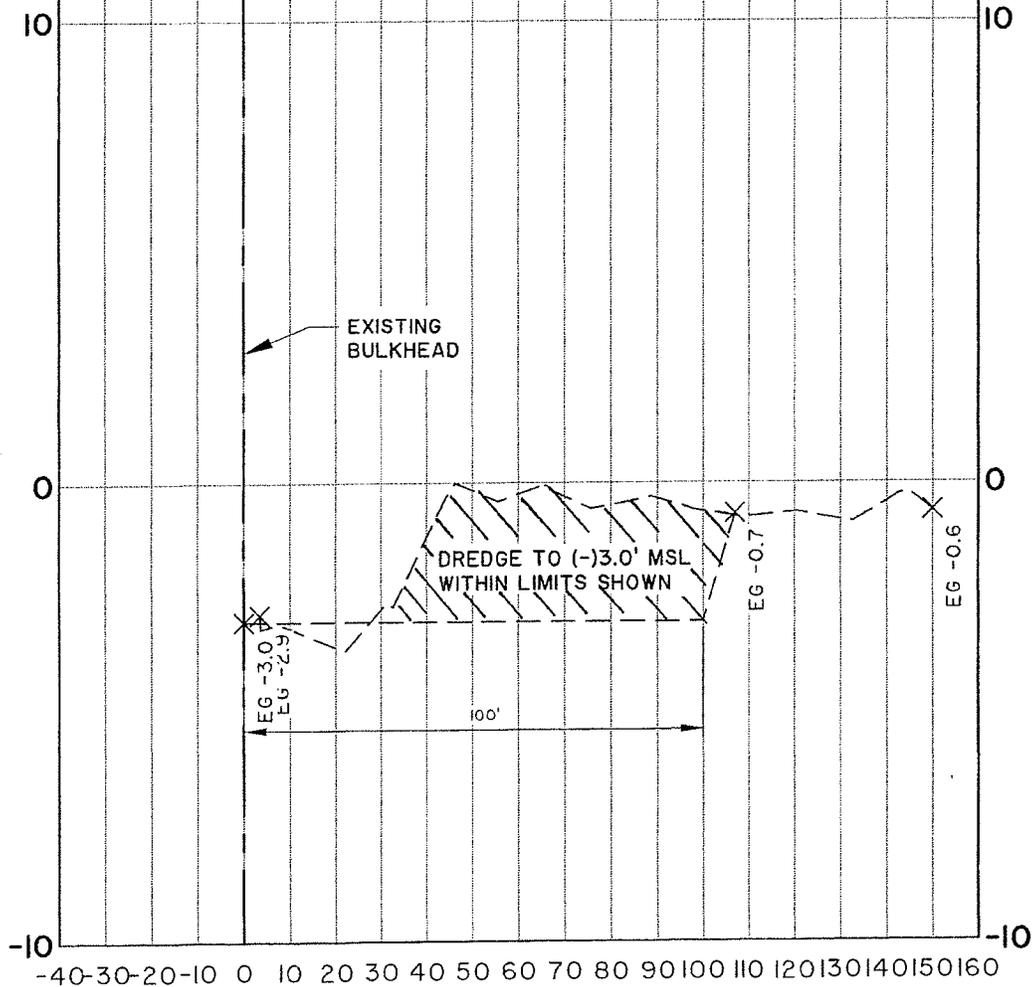
SHEET: P2  
 SCALE: 1" = 60'

**THOMAS & HUTTON**  
 Engineering | Surveying | Planning | GIS | Consulting

50 Park of Commerce Way  
 Savannah, GA 31405 • 912.234.5300

www.thomasandhutton.com

Z:\25465\25465.0000\Engineering\Drawings\Construction Plans\PERMIT DRAWINGS\DREDGE SECTION.dwg - Feb 16, 2015 - 3:05:10 PM



STA: 1+00

SCALE: HORZ.: 1" = 40'

VERT.: 1" = 4'

## PROPOSED DREDGING

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

EXISTING WATER INTAKE AT RINCON PLANT

CLIENT:

GEORGIA PACIFIC

LOCATION: EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: FEB. 13, 2015

JOB NUMBER: J- 25465.0000

SHEET: P3

SCALE: 1" = 40'



**THOMAS & HUTTON**  
Engineering | Surveying | Planning | GIS | Consulting

50 Park of Commerce Way  
Savannah, GA 31405 • 912.234.5300

[www.thomasandhutton.com](http://www.thomasandhutton.com)