



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

September 20, 2022

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2005-00435

**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-2005-00435

Applicant: Mr. Christian Demere  
GKT Properties, Inc.  
Post Office Box 576  
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Agent: Mr. Brandon Wall  
Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Project Purpose as Proposed by Applicant: The applicant's stated project purpose is "to accommodate a growing need for breakbulk processing areas in the Savannah harbor."

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in the Savannah River, at the Georgia Kaolin Terminal, in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.1128, Longitude -81.1265).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

The applicant is proposing to impact aquatic resources associated with the expansion of the existing industrial operation at the Georgia Kaolin Terminal (GKT) to accommodate breakbulk cargo. The proposed project would add a new breakbulk berth at the facility to diversify the marine operation of the terminal and meet an increased need to accommodate breakbulk cargo in the Savannah Harbor. First, an existing 17' x 24' octagonal mooring dolphin (365 sq. ft. total) and 5.5' x 130' (715 sq. ft.) catwalk on the northwest end of the existing GKT dry bulk dock would be removed from jurisdiction to make way for the new dock structure. The new dock would consist of an 810' x 70' main wharf structure (57,510 sq. ft.) to accommodate the stevedoring of break

bulk vessels. The apron of the dock would extend to the upland to further facilitate the handling and staging of breakbulk cargos and to ensure safe and efficient operation of the facility (57,490 sq. ft.). On the upstream side of the dock would be a new mooring dolphin (700 sq. ft.) connected to the dock with a 60' x 5.5' (330 sq. ft.) catwalk. A total of 15 new cone fenders would be mounted to the face of the dock. Each fender would measure approximately 9.5' x 5' (713 sq. ft. total). The fender line of the new dock would break slightly to the west from the alignment of the existing dry bulk dock face in order to line up with the neighboring upstream dock and to not interfere with the Federal Navigation Channel. The proposed dock extension would be no closer to the Federal Channel than the existing dock structure. The total area of proposed pile supported structure is 116,743 sq. ft. (2.68 acres).

To accommodate modern breakbulk cargo vessels, the proposed project would also require dredging to a depth of -45' MLLW (with a 2' overdredge allowance) between the dock face and the Federal Channel over a 2.78 acre area. As shown on the permit exhibits, all dredging would be in deep open water with existing depths averaging approximately 36 - 38 feet. During this effort, the existing GKT dry bulk berth is proposed to be deepened within its permitted dredging footprint (2.56 acres) from the currently authorized -42' MLW to -45 MLLW (with a 2' overdredge allowance). A 3' deep x 8' wide trough would also be dredged at the fender line. Initial material for both berths would be removed by hydraulic dredging or clamshell methods. Estimated dredging volumes to a depth of -45 MLLW (plus 2' overdredge) for both berths is 70,800 cubic yards. All dredged material would be placed into the Georgia Ports Authority's Hutchinson Island Tract B Confined Disposal Facility (CDF).

## **BACKGROUND**

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

There is currently a maintenance dredging permit for the existing berths (SAS-2001-12750) which authorizes the annual removal of 54,000 cubic yards of material to a depth of -36 ML W. In addition, in 2019 the Corps verified a Nationwide Permit to construct a rail spur within the terminal and in 2020 the Corps issued a Letter of Permission (SAS-2005-00435) authorizing the installation of a new rail-mounted cement unloader on the existing dock.

## **STATE OF GEORGIA**

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division will review the proposed project for Water Quality Certification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant has requested a Water Quality Certification from the State of Georgia. Prior to issuance of a Department of the Army Permit for a project located in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia, review for Water Quality Certification in

accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required. A reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year, is established under the Clean Water Act for the State to act on a request for Water Quality Certification, after which, issuance of such a Department of the Army Permit may proceed. This public notice serves as notification to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act for neighboring jurisdiction review and begins the 30-day clock for USEPA to notify affected states.

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 Marsh and Shore Management 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, Coastal Management Program, 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: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and the Georgia Natural, Archeological and Historic Resources GIS database, indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are located on 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 may result in the destruction or alteration 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: A preliminary review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resource Divisions (NMFSPRD)'s list of Endangered and Threatened Species (IPaC) indicates the following listed species may occur in the project area: West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*); Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*); Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*); Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*); Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*); Frosted Flatwoods Salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*); Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). In addition, the project site also provides habitat for the Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) and the Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) and contains designated critical habitat for the Atlantic sturgeon.

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. In addition, we are requesting information from the USFWS whether the project is within 2,500 feet of an active wood stork nesting colony.

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 Corps 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 Corps 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 by email to [sarah.e.wise@usace.army.mil](mailto:sarah.e.wise@usace.army.mil). Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Sarah Wise, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401, 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.

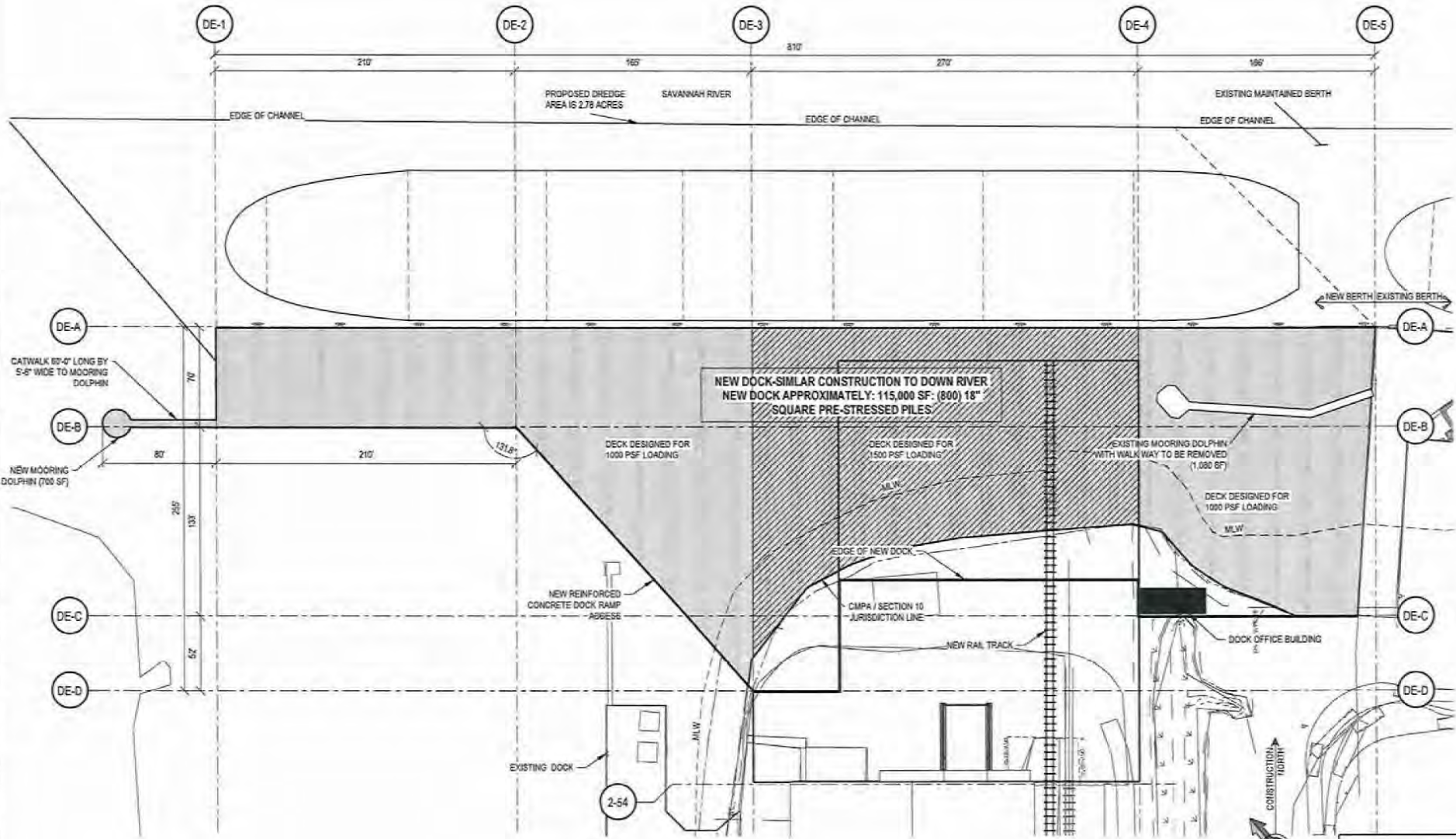
If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Sarah Wise, Lead Biologist, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5550.

Enclosures:

1. Project Drawings



THESE PLANS, DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF ENGINEERING SYSTEM SOLUTIONS, AND SHALL NOT BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM.



**1 NEW BERTHING PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"

**ISSUED FOR PERMIT**  
  
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ENGINEERING SYSTEM SOLUTIONS  
 4543 NORTH 29TH EAST, STE A  
 IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83401  
 Phone: (208) 552-9874  
 Fax: (208) 552-9302

PROJECT:  
  
 LOCATION:

**GKT BREAKBULK  
 FOR  
 COLONIAL TERMINALS  
 SAVANNAH, GA**

REV	REVISION NOTE	DATE (YY.MM.DD)
A	ISSUED FOR PERMIT	22.07.11

START DATE: OCT 1, 2021  
 PROJECT NUMBER: IND21171  
 SHEET NUMBER:  
D1.10

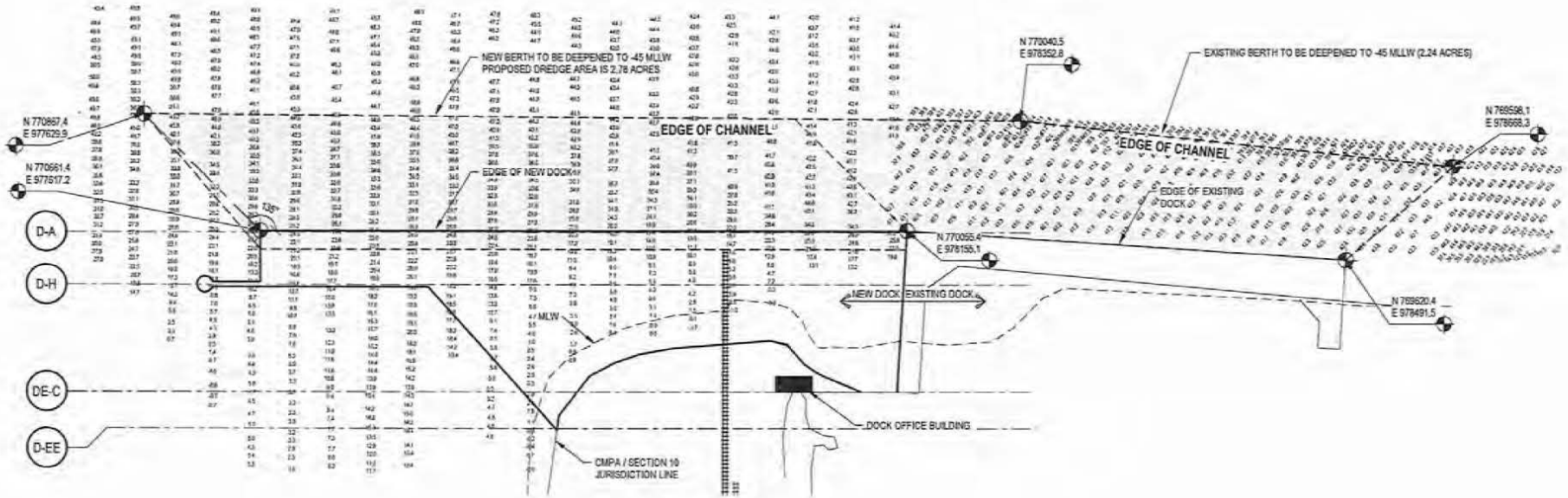
DREDGE VOLUMES AT EXISTING DOCK		
VOLUME TO -45' (CY)	VOLUME TO -47' (CY)	TOTAL DREDGE VOLUME (CY)
17,020 CY	9,230 CY	26,250 CY

DREDGE VOLUMES AT NEW DOCK		
VOLUME TO -45' (CY)	VOLUME TO -47' (CY)	TOTAL DREDGE VOLUME (CY)
36,020 CY	8,530 CY	44,550 CY

TOTAL DREDGE VOLUMES		
VOLUME TO -45' (CY)	VOLUME TO -47' (CY)	TOTAL DREDGE VOLUME (CY)
53,040 CY	17,760 CY	70,800 CY



**1 DREDGING PLAN**  
SCALE: 1" = 200'-0"

**ISSUED FOR PERMIT**

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4543 NORTH 29TH EAST, STE A  
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83401  
Phone: (208) 552-8974  
Fax: (208) 552-9902

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LOCATION:

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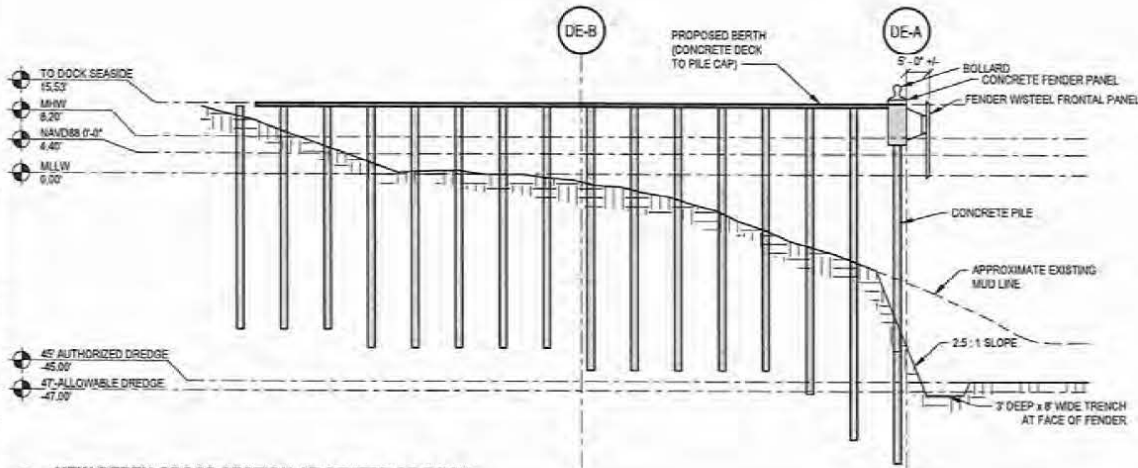


**DOCK NOTES:**

- A. DOCK DESIGNED FOR 1,000 PSF TO 1,500 PSF LOADING. SEE DRAWING D1.10 FOR LOADING EXTENTS.
- B. APPROXIMATELY (800) 18" SQUARE PRE-STRESSED PILES DESIGNED FOR 125 TON.

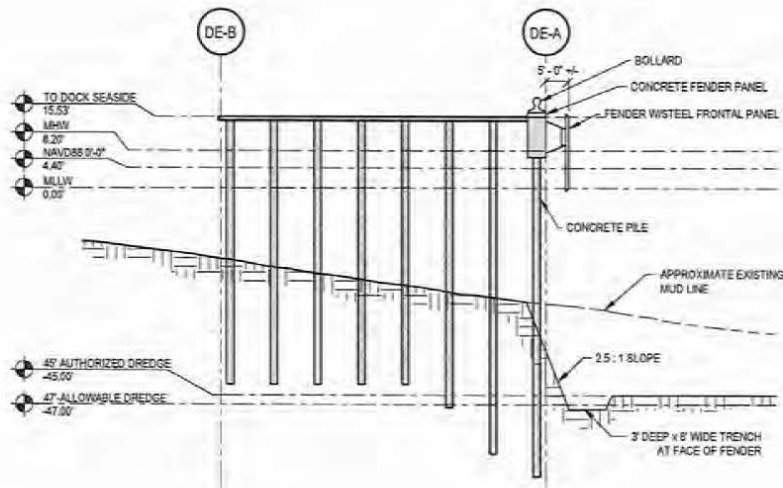
**NOTES:**

- 1. ALL PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE PERFORMED IN A MANNER TO MINIMIZE THE TURBIDITY IN THE SAVANNAH RIVER.
- 2. NO OILS OR POLLUTANTS SHALL BE RELEASED INTO THE SAVANNAH RIVER AS A RESULT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.
- 3. ALL WORK PERFORMED DURING PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE DONE IN A MANNER TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH LEGITIMATE WATER USES.



**1 NEW BERTH CROSS SECTION AT CENTER OF DOCK**

SCALE: 1" = 40'-0"



**2 NEW BERTH CROSS SECTION AT EAST END**

SCALE: 1" = 40'-0"

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A	ISSUED FOR PERMIT	22.07.11

START DATE: OCT 1, 2021

PROJECT NUMBER: IND21171

SHEET NUMBER:

**D1.50**