

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107
and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N # 2004-1R-219

2 July 2004

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et seq.) an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

GRAND STRAND WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
c/o WESI CONSULTING
P.O. BOX 2368
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526

for a permit to fill material in unnamed

FRESHWATER WETLANDS

located west of Highway 17 Bypass to Highway 707. Turn right on Highway 707 and left on Bay Road. The entrance of the Schwartz Wastewater Treatment Plant is located off Freewoods Road near Conway, Horry County, South Carolina (Latitude: N33°38.536', Longitude: W79°02.425').

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, 2 AUGUST 2004

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists placing 24,038 cubic yards of fill material in approximately 7.25 acres of freshwater wetlands and ditches in order to provide space and grading requirements for the upgrade and expansion of the Schwartz Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This application was originally submitted and advertised as PN #2003-1U-174-C on 6 June 2003, and has been modified regarding scope and design in response to comments received. Construction plans include new headworks, additional aeration basins and clarifiers, ultra violet disinfection and a fine bubble post aeration system. Additionally, a new sludge processing system consisting of two-belt filter presses and a lime stabilization unit will be constructed.

As mitigation for the proposed 7.25 acres of jurisdictional wetland impact, the applicant proposes to preserve a 0.77-acre strip of wetland along the northeast boundary of the project site. In addition the applicant proposes to purchase 75.50 credits from the Historic Ricefields Association Mitigation Program as mitigation.

The purpose of the project is to upgrade and expand the facility to meet SCDHEC discharge requirements and accommodate the increasing demand of the population in the area.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107.**

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review. Persons wishing to comment or object to State certification must submit all comments in writing to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at the above address within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 7.25 acres of freshwater wetlands associated with estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Consultation of the National Register constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a

2 July 2004

request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

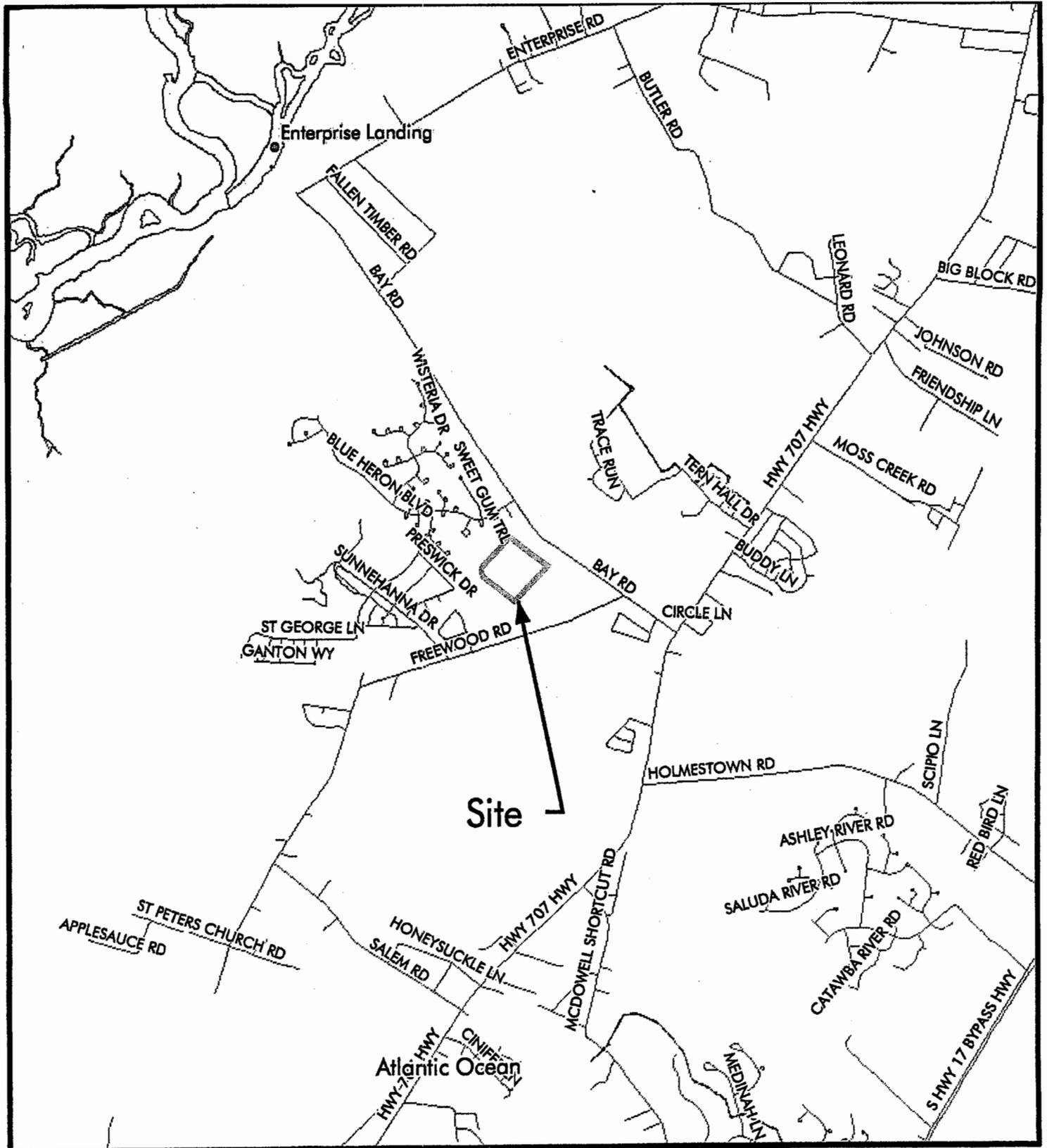
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. 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 project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project 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 and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. 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 activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact me at 843-329-8167 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



Robin Collier-Socha
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Site

Atlantic Ocean



2411 Oak Street, Suite 108
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
 Phone: 843.448.2009
 Fax: 843.424.0193
 www.wesiconsulting.com

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Map of:
 Vicinity Map
 Schwartz WWTP

Prepared For:
 GSW&SA
 Conway, SC

Site Address:
 Bay Road
 Myrtle Beach, SC

Date: 06/17/04
 Scale: 1"=3000'
 County: Horry
 Project: GS-P557-03-AC

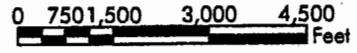
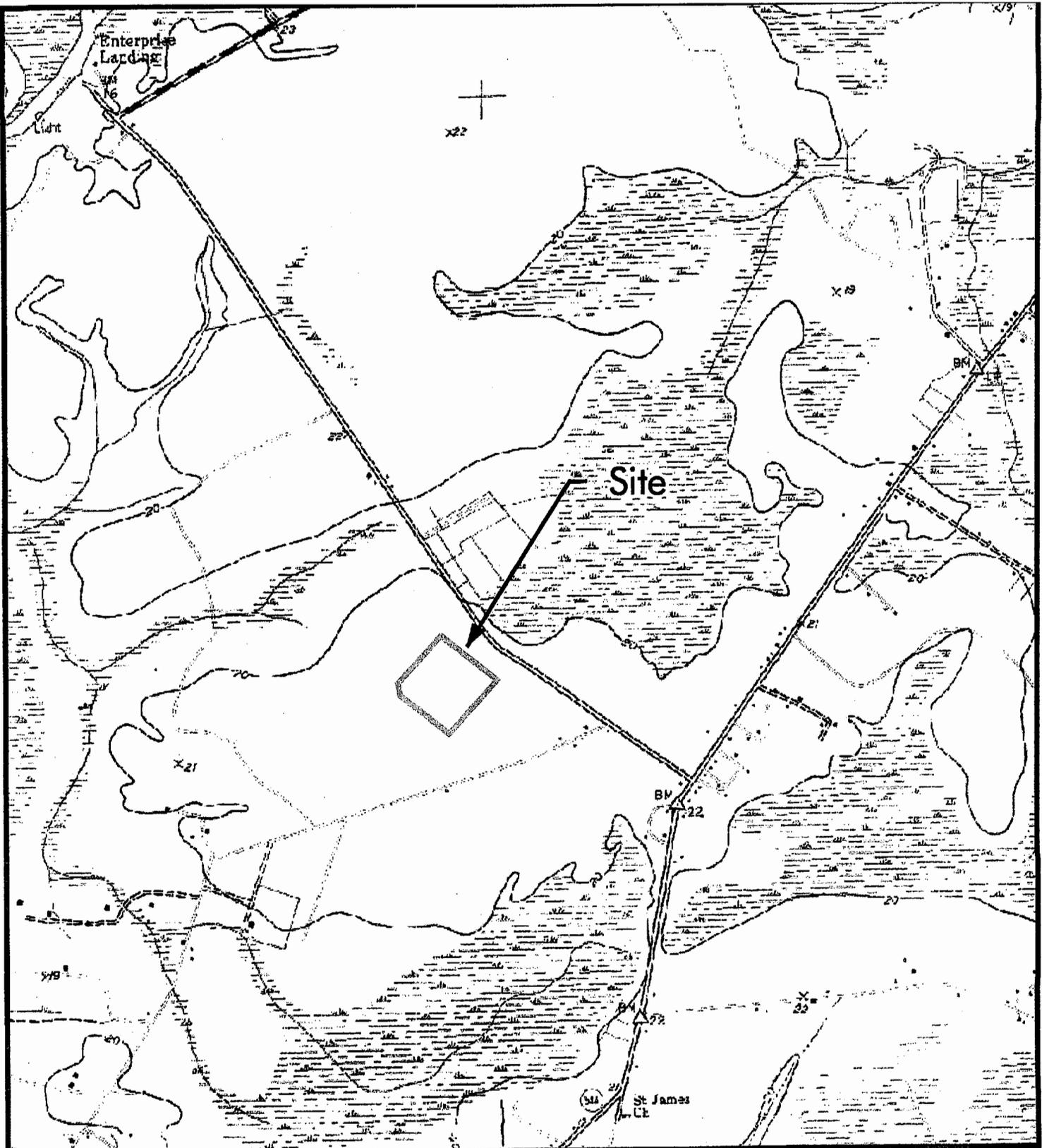


Figure:
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Map of:
USGS Topographic Map
1:24,000 Series Bucksville Quadrangle
Schwartz WWTP

Prepared For:
GSW&SA
Conway, SC

Site Address:
Bay Road
Myrtle Beach, SC

Date: 06/17/04
 Scale: 1"=2000'
 County: Horry
 Project: GS-P557-03-AC

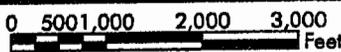
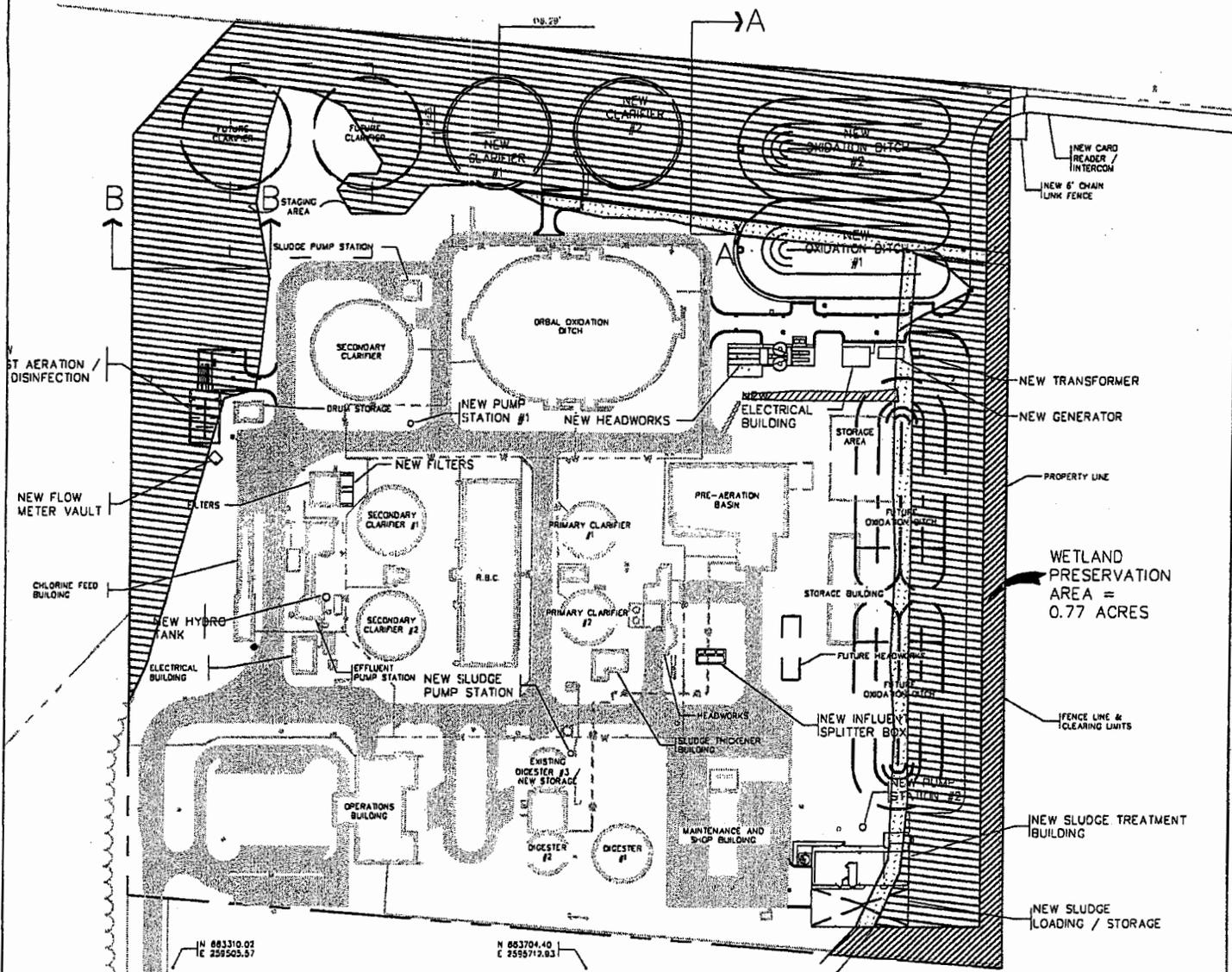


Figure:

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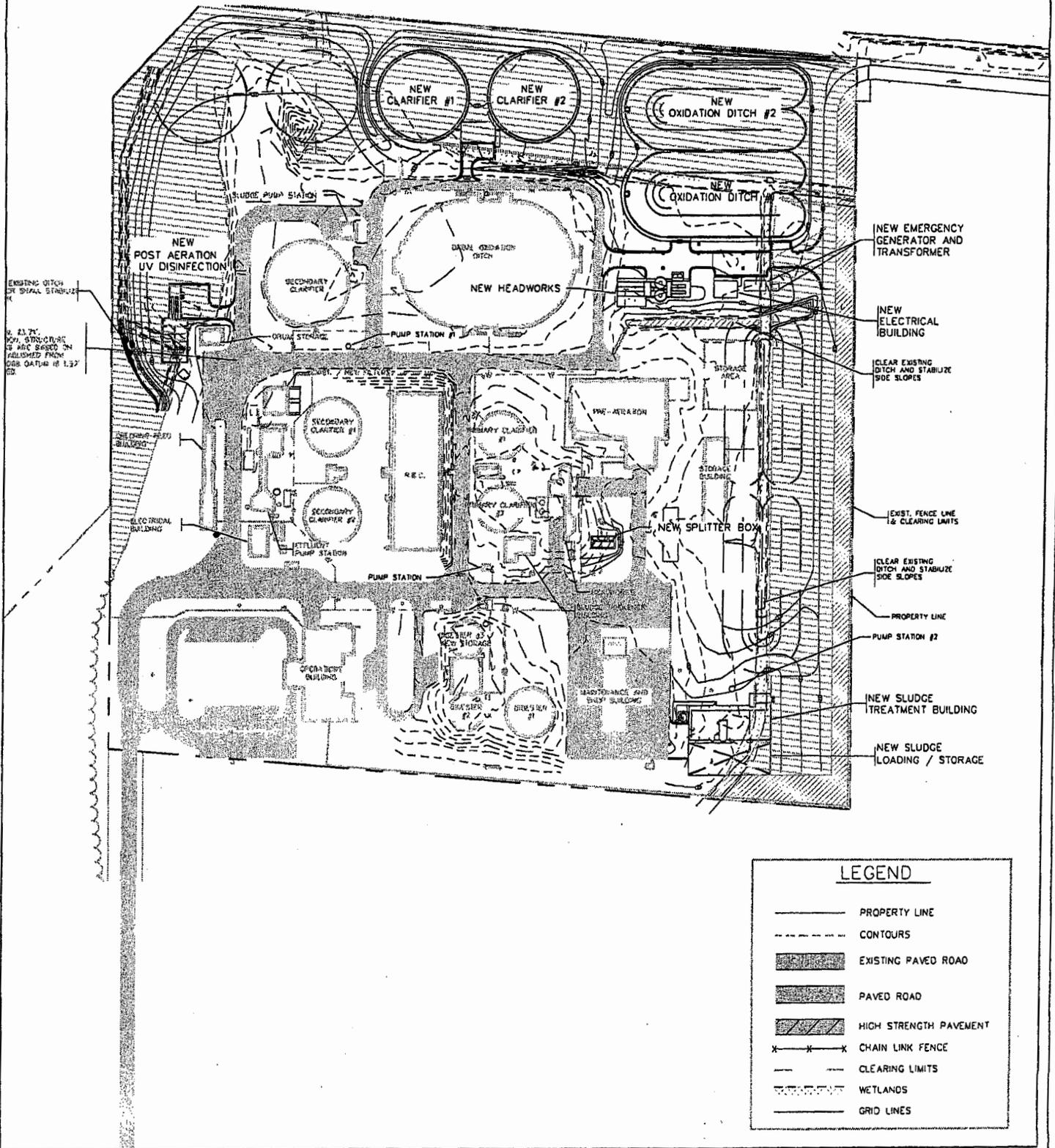


SCHWARTZ WWTP SITE DATA AND LEGEND	
	NON-JURISDICTIONAL DITCHES TOTAL NON-JURISDICTIONAL DITCHES TO BE IMPACTED = 0.05 ACRES
	USACE JURISDICTIONAL DITCHES TO BE FILLED TOTAL USACE JURISDICTIONAL DITCHES TO BE FILLED = 0.54 ACRES
	USACE JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND TO BE FILLED TOTAL USACE JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND (INCLUDING JURISDICTIONAL DITCHES) TO BE FILLED = 7.25 ACRES
	USACE JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND TO BE PRESERVED TOTAL USACE JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND AREA TO BE PRESERVED = 0.77 AC.

LEGEND	
	PROPERTY LINE
	CONTOURS
	EXISTING PAVED ROAD
	PAVED ROAD
	HIGH STRENGTH PAVEMENT
	CHAIN LINK FENCE
	CLEARING LIMITS
	WETLANDS
	GRID LINES

\\WESI\PROJECTS\2003\CAD\IGS-P557-03-A (SCHWARTZ WWTP)\06-15-04(FIGURE 3) OVERALL SITE PLAN.DWG, 6/17/2004 4:22:07 PM

<p>2411 Oak Street, Suite 108 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 843.448.2009 www.wesiconsulting.com</p>	<p>Disclaimer: Wetland & Environmental Services Incorporated, and partner companies, as well as, any other Divisions are hereby known as WESI.</p> <p>The User agrees not to use this document, in whole or in part, for any purpose or project other than the project which is the subject of this Agreement. User agrees to waive all claims against WESI resulting in any way from unauthorized changes or reuse of the documents by anyone other than WESI. In addition, User agrees to the fullest extent permitted by law, to indemnify and hold WESI harmless from any damage, liability or costs, including reasonable attorneys fees and cost of defense arising from any changes made by anyone or entity other than WESI. This document may not be used, copied electronically altered or submitted in whole or in part without the prior written consent of WESI.</p> <p>This information on this map has been compiled from various sources. The information is not guaranteed, either expressly or implied. In certain situations, the Map has been prepared without the benefit of a Wetland Delineation, Threatened and Endangered Species Study, Phase I Site Assessment or Archaeological Studies. The result of any one or other studies required could materially alter the Map as shown.</p>	<p>Map of: Overall Site Plan Schwartz WWTP</p> <p>Prepared For: GSW&SA Conway, SC</p> <p>Date: 6/16/04 Scale: 1"=200' County: Harry Project: GS-P557-03-AC</p>	



LEGEND	
	PROPERTY LINE
	CONTOURS
	EXISTING PAVED ROAD
	PAVED ROAD
	HIGH STRENGTH PAVEMENT
	CHAIN LINK FENCE
	CLEARING LIMITS
	WETLANDS
	GRID LINES

P:\2003\CAD\GS-P557-03-A (SCHWARTZ WWTP)\06-15-04\FIGURE 6) GRADING PLAN.DWG, 6/17/2004 1:36:32 PM

WESI CONSULTING
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 Grading Plan
 Schwartz WWTP

Prepared For:
 GSW&SA
 Conway, SC

Date: 6/16/04
 Scale: 1"=200'
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 Myrtle Beach, SC

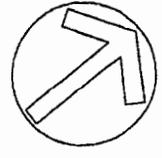


Figure:
5