

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
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: SAC-2021-00203

September 8, 2022

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

Mr. William Taylor
Dominion Energy South Carolina
220 Operations Way, MC J46
Cayce, South Carolina 29033
c/o
Mr. Chris Lake
Palmetto Environmental Consulting, Inc.
PO BOX 1730
Lexington, SC 29071

for a permit to discharge fill material into freshwater, non-tidal wetlands associated with the

New River

located near Red Dam Road, Hardeeville (Northeast of Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle School), Jasper County, South Carolina (Latitude: 32.3350°, Longitude: -81.0322°), Hardeeville Quadrangle.

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 the **Corps** until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

30 Days from the Date of this Notice

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

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices> .

Applicant's Stated Purpose

According to the applicant, the purpose of the proposed project is to fold the existing Jasper-Yemassee 230kV line into the future Okatie 230kV Substation and this is required to meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) mandatory requirements for reliability of the electric grid in the region due to projected load growth in the Jasper and Beaufort County area.

Project Description

The proposed work consists of the expansion of the existing Okatie 115kV Switching Station located near Hardeeville, SC and converting it to a 230-115kV transmission substation causing it to be renamed to the Okatie 230kV Substation. One existing transmission line currently located in the existing right-of-way corridor adjacent to the property will be folded into the new expanded portion of the substation (one line in and one line out). In detail, this will impact approximately 5.76 acres of wetlands adjacent to the existing substation through a combination of fill and clearing (3.07 and 2.69 acres, respectively).

Avoidance and Minimization

The applicant has stated that the proposed project will avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment by expanding an existing substation rather than constructing a new facility nearby. To the extent feasible while preserving the project purpose and need, proposed impacts will occur adjacent to and contiguous with the existing substation pad. These impact locations will involve filling along the upland/wetland boundary, thereby avoiding impacts that significantly jut into the wetland.

Proposed Compensatory Mitigation

The applicant has proposed to mitigate for impacts to wetlands and/or waters of the United States by purchasing the appropriate number of credits from Canady's Mitigation Bank (MB). Note that this project is out of service area for Canady's MB. As a

contingency, the Applicant proposes the Pending Red Bluff MB or the Pending Palmetto Umbrella – Savannah Branch Mitigation Bank.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

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 Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. 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. This Public Notice will serve as the notification to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act.

Essential Fish Habitat

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 5.76 acres of freshwater, non-tidal wetlands inland of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's 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). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Endangered Species

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project and based on the location of the project and available information, the following species may be present in the County where the work will occur:

- Frosted flatwoods salamander* (*Ambystoma cingulatum*)
- American wood stork* (*Mycteria americana*)
- Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*)
- Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
- Red-cockaded woodpecker* (*Picoides borealis*)
- Rufa red knot* (*Calidris canutus rufa*)

Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*)
Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)
Finback whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
Right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)
Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*)
Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)
West Indian manatee* (*Trichechus manatus*)
American chaffseed* (*Schwalbea americana*)
Green sea turtle* (*Chelonia mydas*)
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle* (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
Leatherback sea turtle* (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
Loggerhead sea turtle* (*Caretta caretta*)

Based on all information provided by the applicant and the most recently available information, the District Engineer has determined the following:

The project will have no effect on any of the listed species for Jasper County and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat.

This public notice serves as a 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.

Cultural Resources

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(1)(1)), and has initially determined that no historic properties are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and any other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on

historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

Corps' Evaluation

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 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 cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

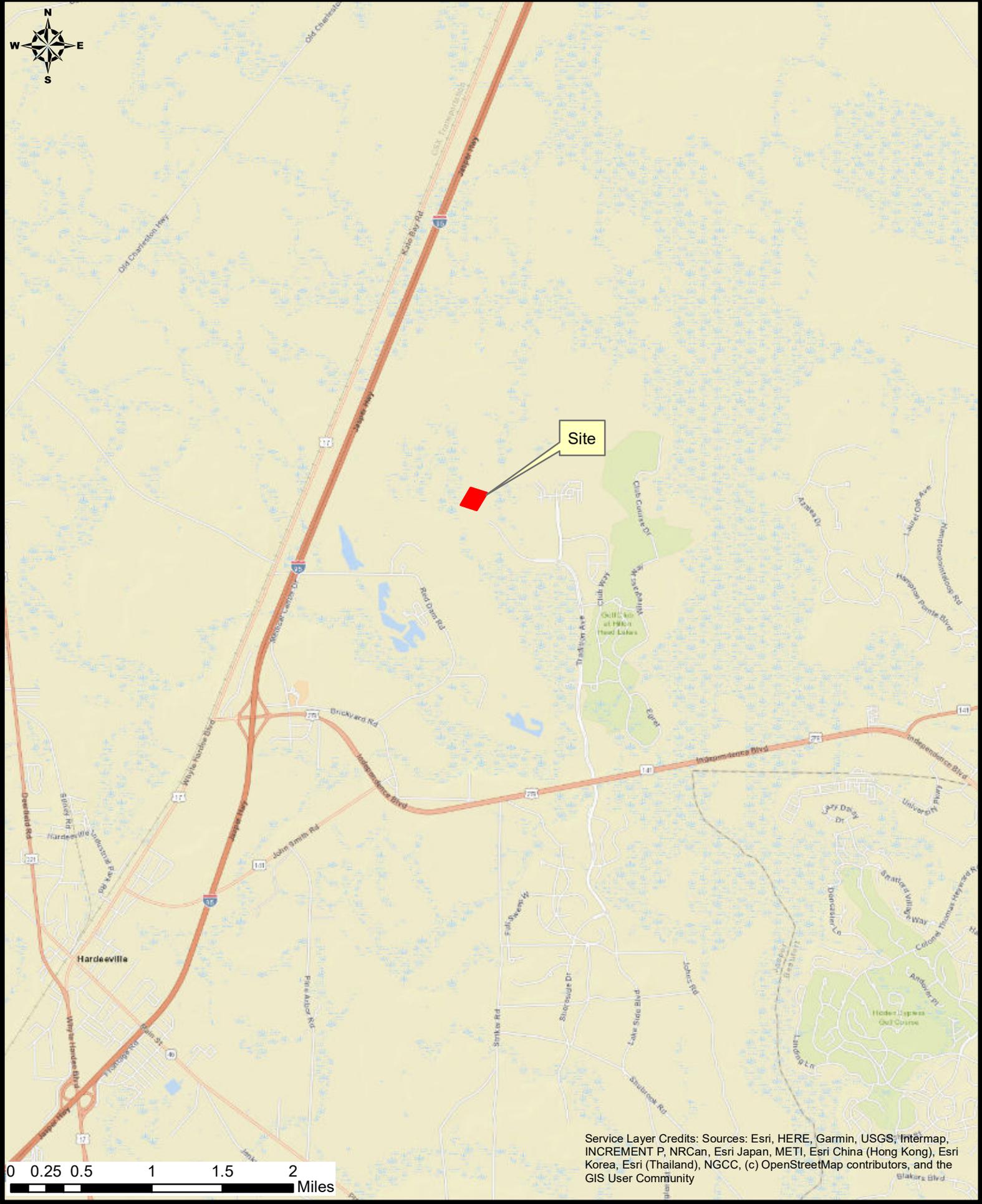
Solicitation of Public Comment

The Corps 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 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. 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.

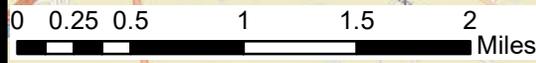
Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice/file number (SAC-2021-00203), to Shawn.A.Boone@usace.army.mil or the following address:

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

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Shawn Boone, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8158, or by email at Shawn.A.Boone@usace.army.mil.



Site

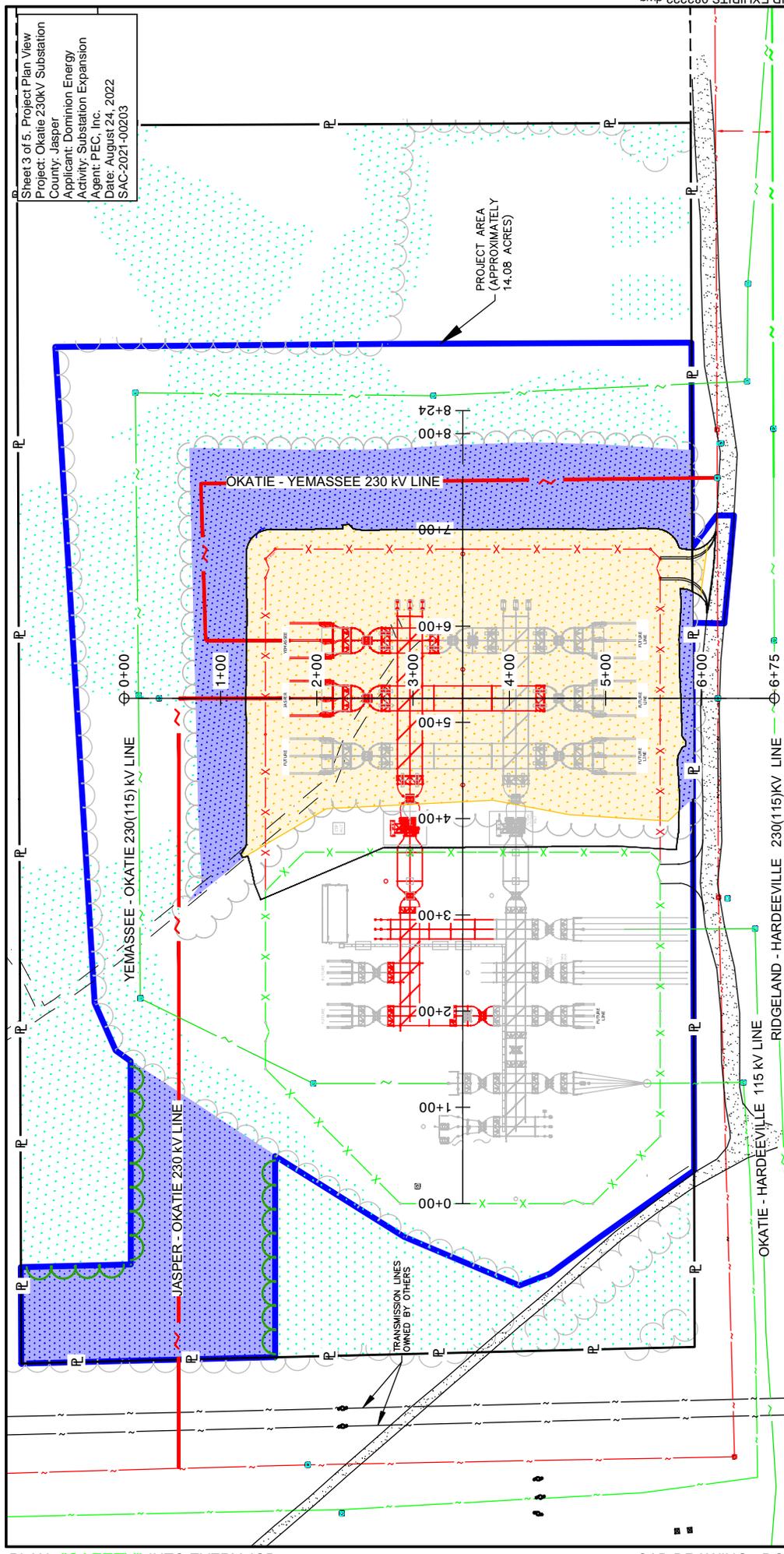


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Sheet 3 of 5 - Project Plan View
 Project: Okatie 230kV Substation
 County: Jasper
 Applicant: Dominion Energy
 Activity: Substation Expansion
 Agent: PEC, Inc.
 Date: August 24, 2022
 SAC-2021-00203

PROJECT AREA
 (APPROXIMATELY
 14.08 ACRES)

Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.

FOR: CONCEPTUAL OKATIE 230 KV SUBSTATION

DETAIL: WETLAND AND CLEARING PLAN

DRAWN	DATE	M. F. CODE	SURVEY JOB #
CAH	08/22/22		
APPROVED	DATE	CONST	W.O. #
	08/22/22		

SCALE: 1"=100'

DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA, INC. CONTAINS CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION. ANY UNAUTHORIZED USE, REPRODUCTION OR TRANSFER OF THIS MATERIAL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

WETLANDS	
PROJECT AREA	PROPOSED IMPACTS
SQ.FT. TOTAL	FILL
250,708	133,729
ACRE TOTAL	CLEARING
5.76	116,979
	3.07
	2.69
	200

GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=100'

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

LEGEND

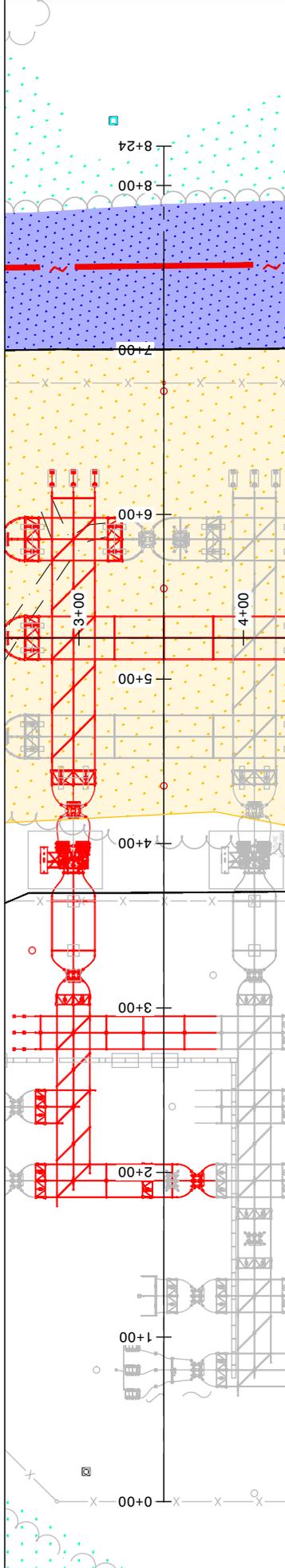
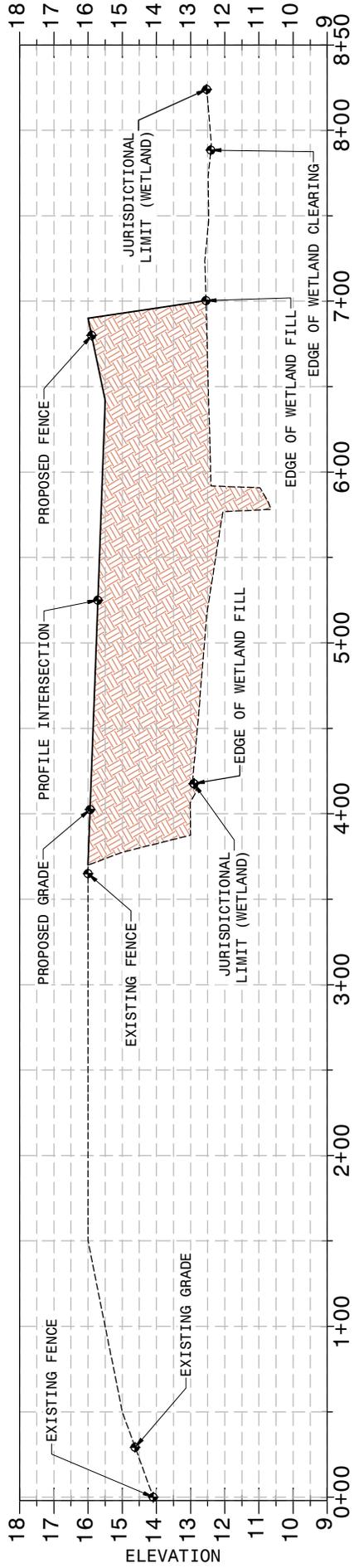
- EXISTING DIRT ROAD
- PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
- EXISTING FENCE
- EXISTING 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- EXISTING 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- PROPOSED 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- PROPOSED 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- EXISTING TREE LINE
- PROPOSED TREE LINE

WETLAND

- WETLAND CLEARING IMPACTS
- WETLAND FILL IMPACTS

TRANSMISSION LINES OWNED BY OTHERS

Sheet 4 of 5. South to North Profile
 Project: Okatie 230KV Substation
 County: Jasper
 Applicant: Dominion Energy
 Activity: Substation Expansion
 Agent: PEC, Inc.
 Date: August 24, 2022
 SAC-2021-00203



Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.
 FOR: CONCEPTUAL OKATIE 230 KV SUBSTATION
 DETAIL: SOUTH TO NORTH PROFILE

DATE	08/22/22
APPROVED	CAH
DATE	08/22/22
PROJECT	OKATIE 230KV Substation IP EXHIBITS 082222.dwg
DRAWING NUMBER	
LINE NUMBER	
SHEET NUMBER	
REVISION DATE	08/22/22
NUMBER	A

M. F. CODE: SURVEY JOB #
 CONST: W.O. # R/W

SCALE: 1"=60'

FINISH GRADE FILL CU.YD.	WETLAND FILL	WETLAND FILL
17,603	16,044	

WETLANDS	
PROPOSED IMPACTS FILL	WETLANDS
133,729 SQ.FT.	116,979
3.07 ACRE	2.69

LEGEND

- EXISTING DIRT ROAD
- PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
- EXISTING FENCE
- EXISTING GRADE
- EXISTING 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- EXISTING 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- PROPOSED 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- PROPOSED 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- EXISTING TREE LINE
- PROPOSED TREE LINE

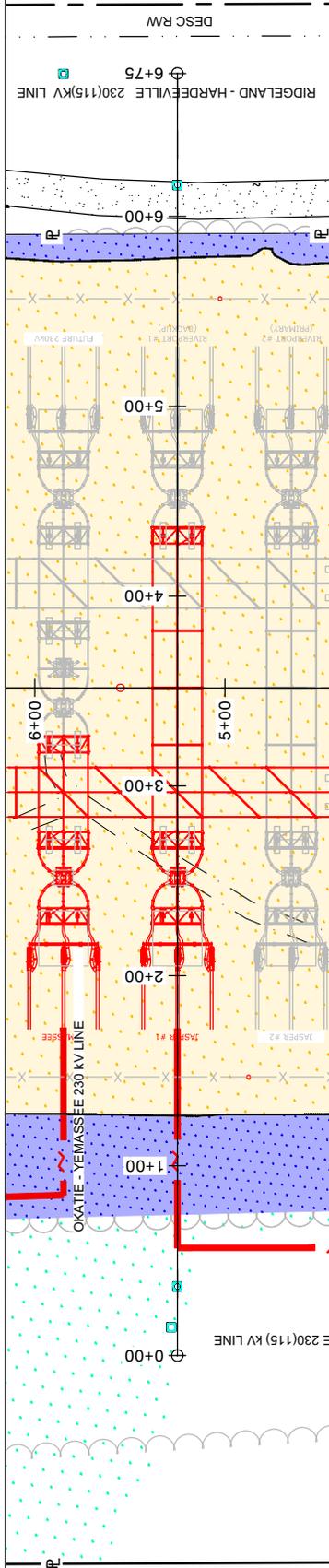
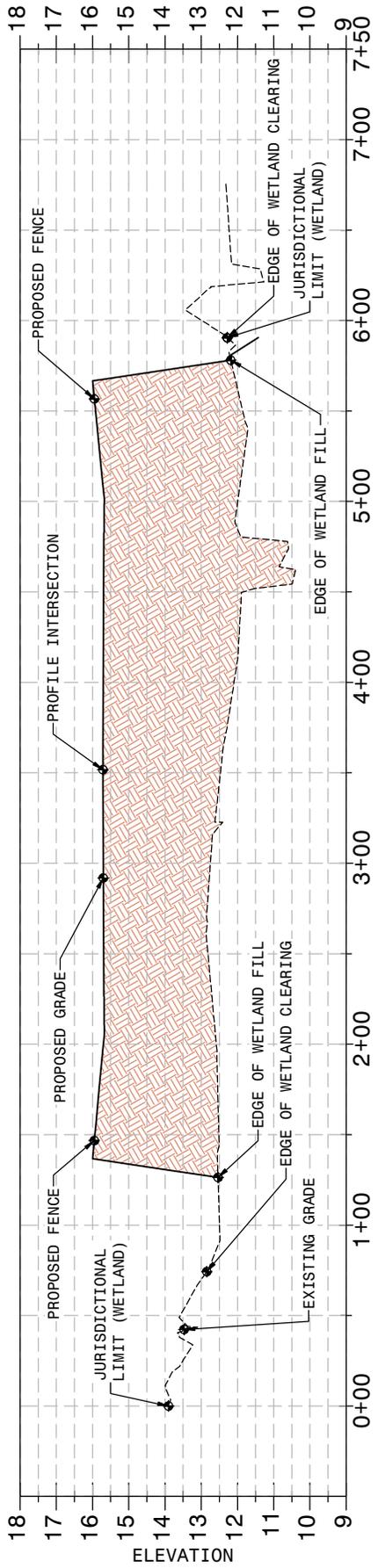
WETLAND CLEARING IMPACTS
WETLAND FILL IMPACTS

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=60'

CONTAINS CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION. MATERIAL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Sheet 5 of 5 - West to East Profile
 Project: Okatie 230kV Substation
 County: Jasper
 Applicant: Dominion Energy
 Activity: Substation Expansion
 Agent: PEC, Inc.
 Date: August 24, 2022
 SAC-2021-00203

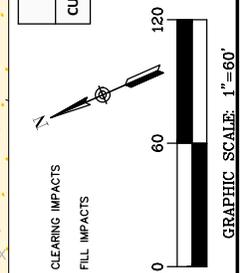


Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.
 FOR: CONCEPTUAL OKATIE 230 KV SUBSTATION
 DETAIL: WEST TO EAST PROFILE

DRAWN	CAH	DATE	08/22/22
APPROVED		DATE	08/22/22
PROJECT		DRAWING NUMBER	
LINE NUMBER		SHEET NUMBER	
REVISION DATE		NUMBER	A
M. F. CODE		SURVEY JOB #	
CONST		W.O. #	R/W
SCALE: 1"=60'			

CU.YD.	FINISH GRADE FILL	WETLAND FILL
	17,603	16,044

WETLANDS	
PROPOSED IMPACTS FILL	CLEARING
SQ.FT. 133,729	116,979
ACRE 3.07	2.69



FOR INFORMATION ONLY

LEGEND

- EXISTING DIRT ROAD
- PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
- EXISTING FENCE
- EXISTING 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- EXISTING 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- PROPOSED 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- PROPOSED 115 KV TRANSMISSION LINE
- EXISTING TREE LINE
- PROPOSED TREE LINE

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