US Army Corps
of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	RHW-MVK-2013-766
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Ramona Warren
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5441
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	Ramona.H.Warren@usace.army.mil
DATE:	June 11, 2014
EXPIRATION DATE:	July 2, 2014

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality are considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit and State Water Quality Certification for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental permits Division, Water Quality Certification Branch at Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Mr. Jim Anderson
Post Office Box 307
Brandon , Mississippi 39403

Name of Agent:
Ms. Priscilla Williamson
Natural Resources Conservation Service
506 Highway 16 W, Site 3
Carthage, Mississippi 39051

Location of Work: Sections 26, T10N-R6E, latitude 32.690183 N, longitude -89.659330W, within the Upper Pearl River Drainage Basin, Leake County, Carthage, Mississippi.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)
The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to place dredged/fill material into other waters of the United States to straighten an existing drainage and to construct a green-tree reservoir in Leake County, Mississippi. The applicant's stated purposes is to (1) provide a direct outflow of runoff through the property in order to create a drainage system that would minimize soil loss, and (2) to construct a green-tree reservoir to enhance the current waterfowl/wildlife habitat.

The existing drainage is 1,627 feet in length, with average top width of 37 feet an average bottom width of 9 feet, and depth of 2.5 inches. The proposed straighten drainage would be 1,108.8 feet in length, with top width 27.2 feet, and a 16-foot bottom width with 4:1 side slopes. The depth would remain the same as the existing drainage. The applicant proposes to plant vegetation on the slopes to minimize soil loss.

The construction of the green-tree reservoir would consist of a levee system to impound water seasonally for winter wildlife. A flashboard riser would be used as a water control structure; the structure would only have boards in place from November 1st to February 15th. The proposed pool area would be designed to provide micro topography for wildlife resting and feeding. The water depth would be no greater than 24 inches, but would be designed to fluctuate between 0 and 24 inches.

The proposed levee would be approximately 1,585 feet in length, 10-foot top width, and 4 feet in height. Approximately 5,636 cubic yards of borrow material would be used to construct the levee. The material would be removed partly from the re-routing of an existing ditch that runs along the east side of the property. The remaining material borrowed would come from the existing soils on the property. The existing ditch is 15 feet wide and 4,310 feet long. The ditch would be excavated to the following dimensions: 27.2-foot top width and 16-foot bottom width. The proposed levee would be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing ditch and borrow area.

There are a total of 1.7 acres of wetlands located within the project boundary of which 0.069 acre and 1,784.7 linear feet of other waters of the U.S. would be impacted by the proposed project. There would be approximately 1.6 acres of wetlands seasonally inundated by the proposed reservoir. The Corps is currently reviewing the water-level management plan for the proposed project.

The wetland vegetation on-site consists of Water oak, Cherrybark oak, Spruce pine, American hornbeam and Muscadine. The soil on site consists of Rose-bloom and Arkabutla which are frequently flooded.

The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional waters, 0.09 acre of wetlands and 0.1 acre (1,784.7 LF) of other waters, through purchase of appropriate wetland/stream credits from an approved mitigation bank.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in other waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Pearl River County, Mississippi, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Corps Regulatory archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version. The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, state lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties: No known historic properties exist in the proposed permit area. Copies of the public notice have been sent to Federally recognized Tribes and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not likely adversely affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these

are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

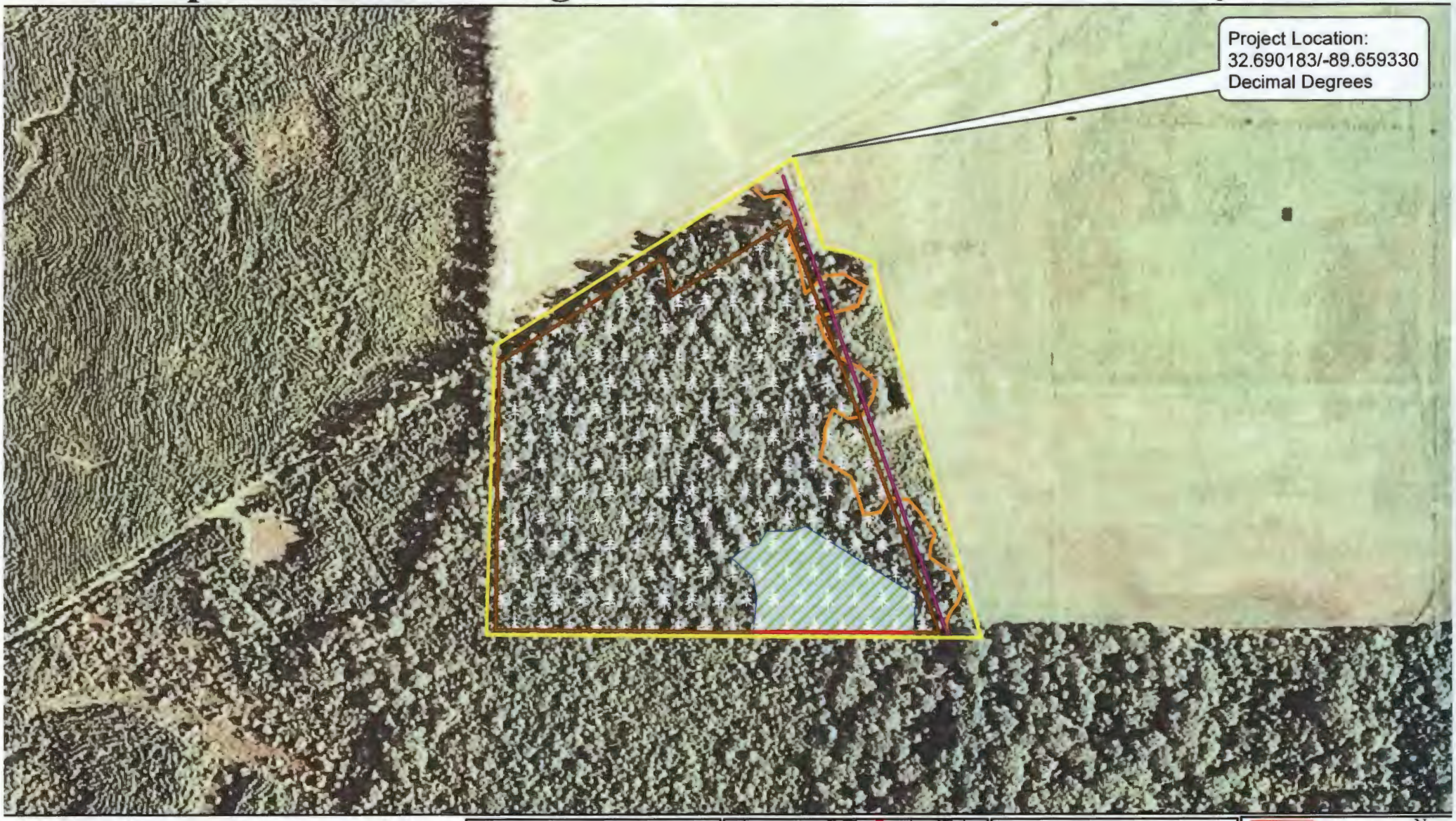
Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date, and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx, and click on ORM Permit Decisions under Program Links.

Anne S. Woerner

Anne S. Woerner
Chief, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch

Proposed Ditch Re-Alignment & GTR Site, Leake County, MS



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Feet

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- ~Project Boundary
- ~Proposed Levee
- ~Proposed New Drain
- ~Proposed GTR
- Proposed Seasonal Wetland Impacts (~1.581 Acres)
- Proposed Permanent Wetland Impacts (~0.069 Acres)
- Proposed Impact to Other Waters of the U.S. (1,784.7 Linear Feet)

Thursday, April 24, 2014

MVK-2013-766

Proposed Ditch
Re-alignment and GTR Project
On Jim Anderson's Property
Project in Leake County, MS

Impacts Map

Aerial Imagery: NAIP 2012
Map By Jared Everitt

US Army Corps of Engineers.

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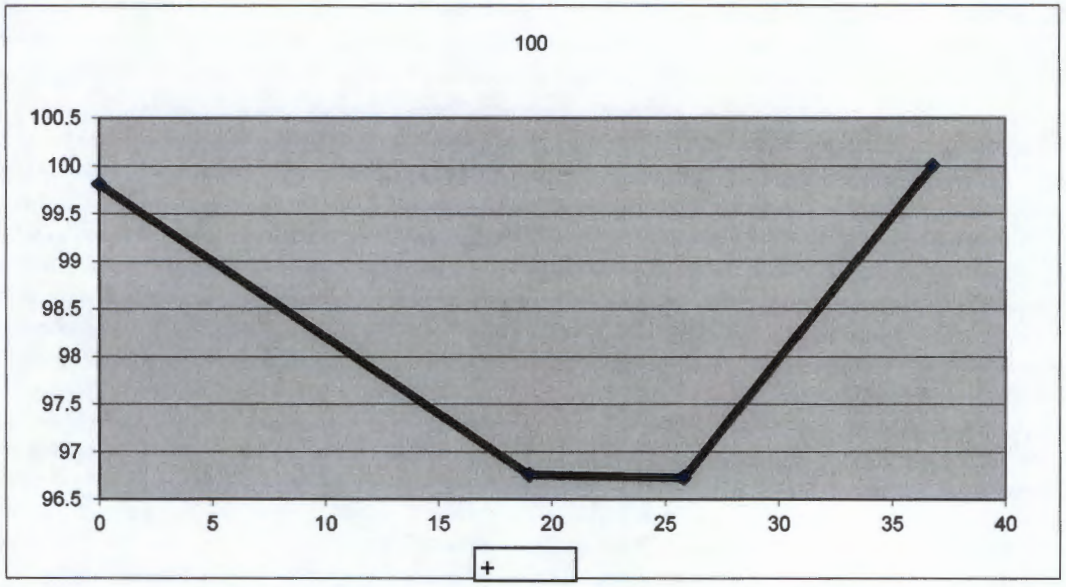
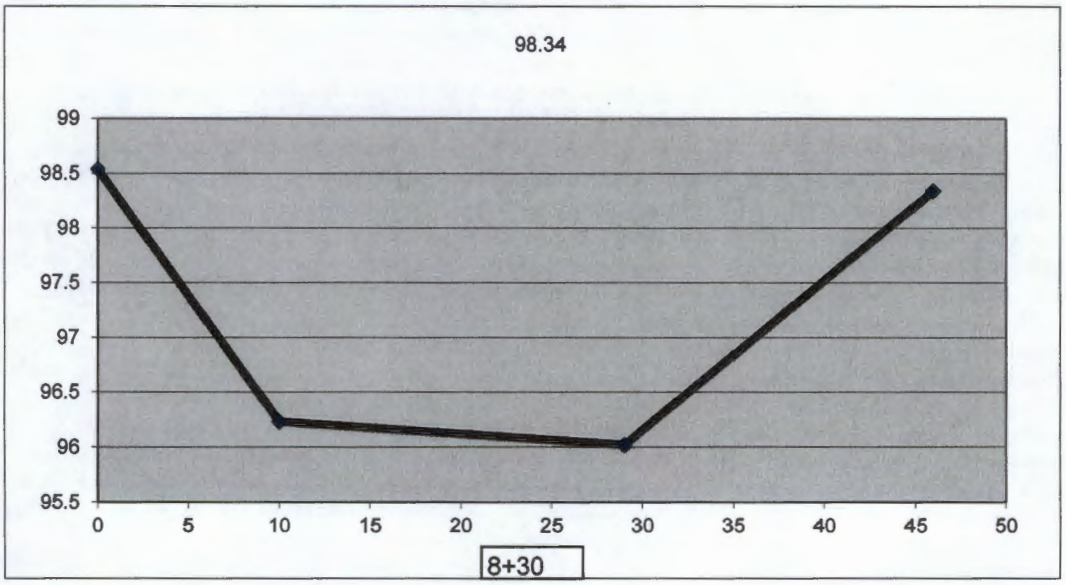
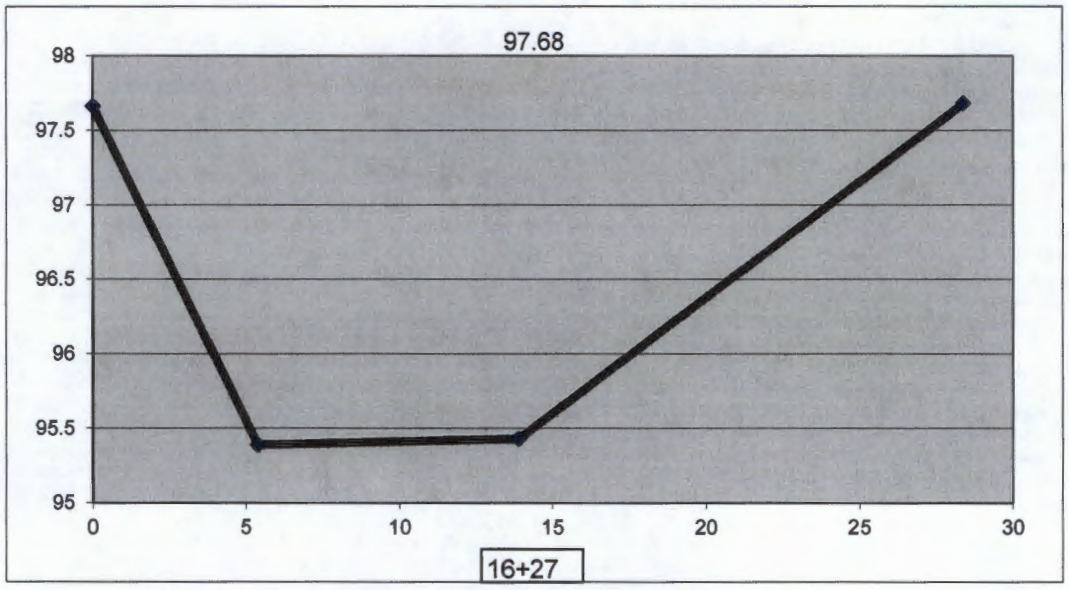
Regulatory Branch

Enforcement Section

Existing Ditch Cross Section



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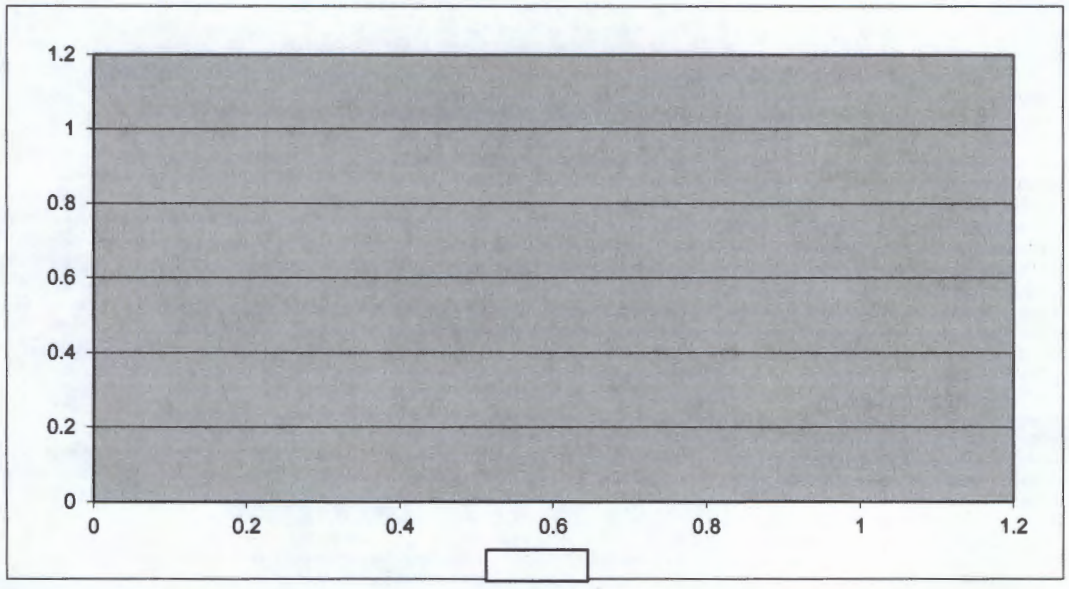
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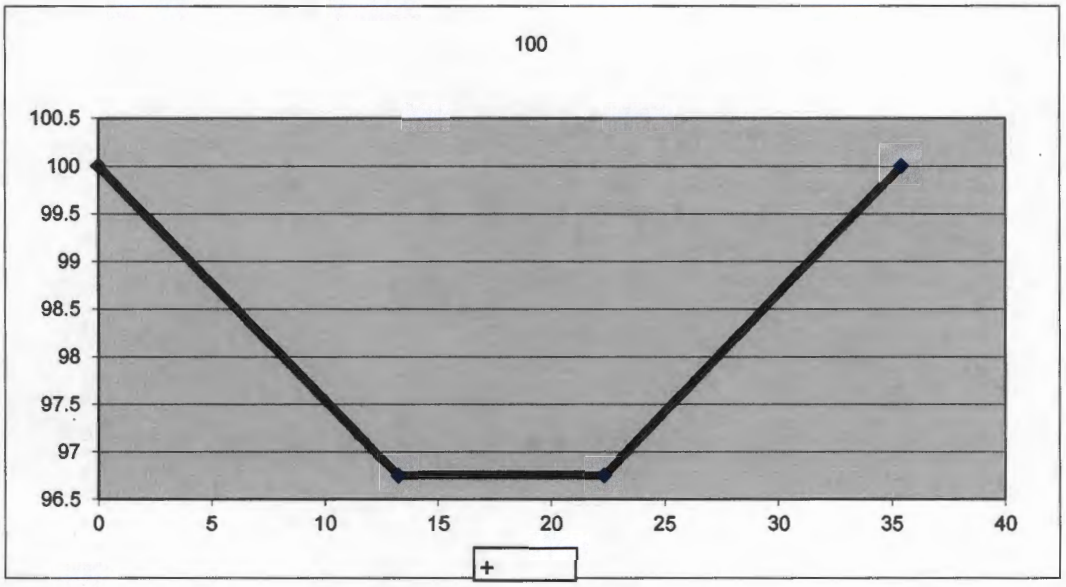
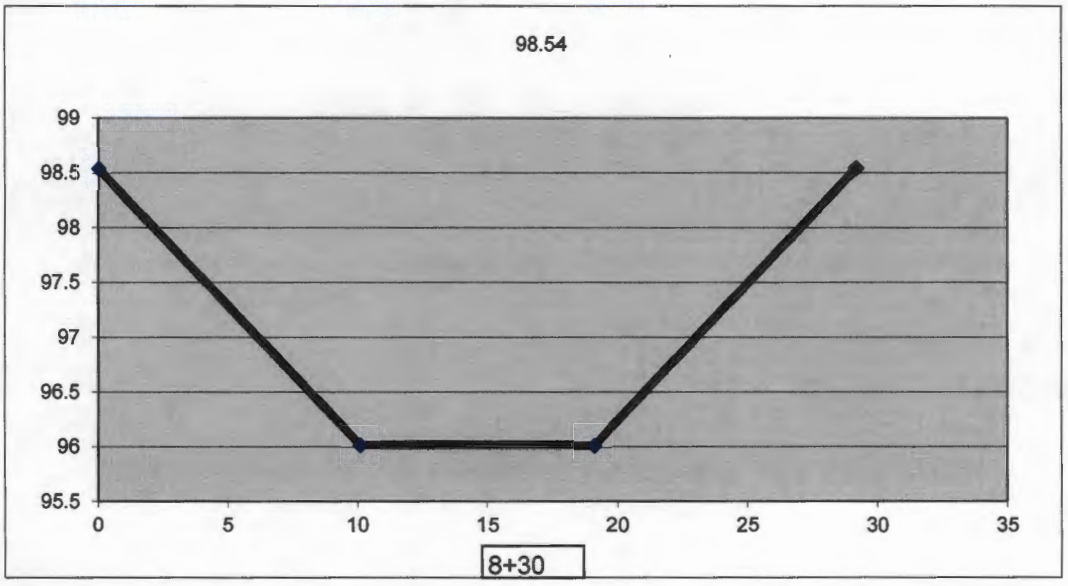
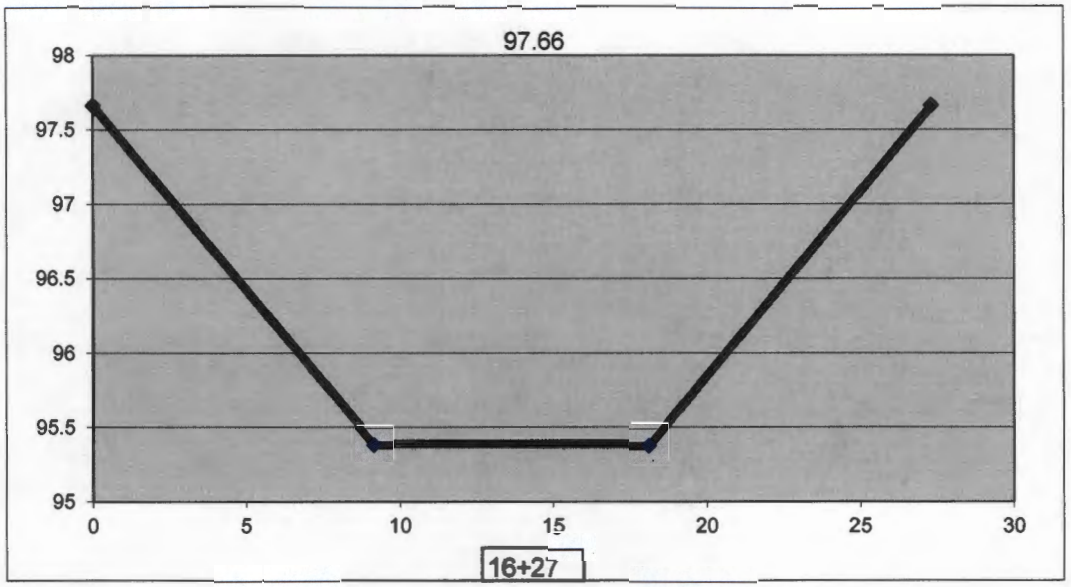
Proposed Drain Cross Sections



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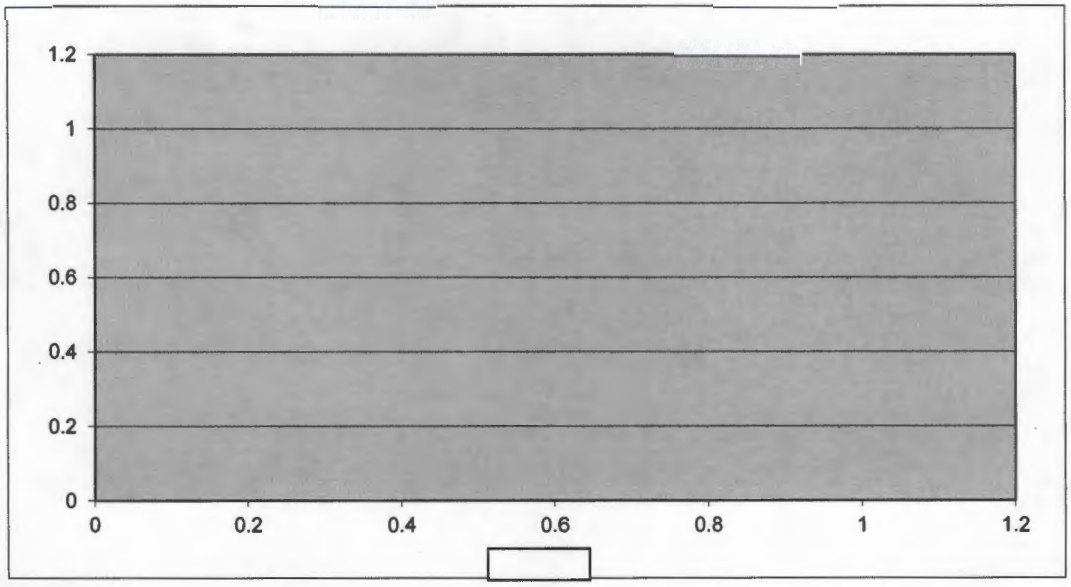
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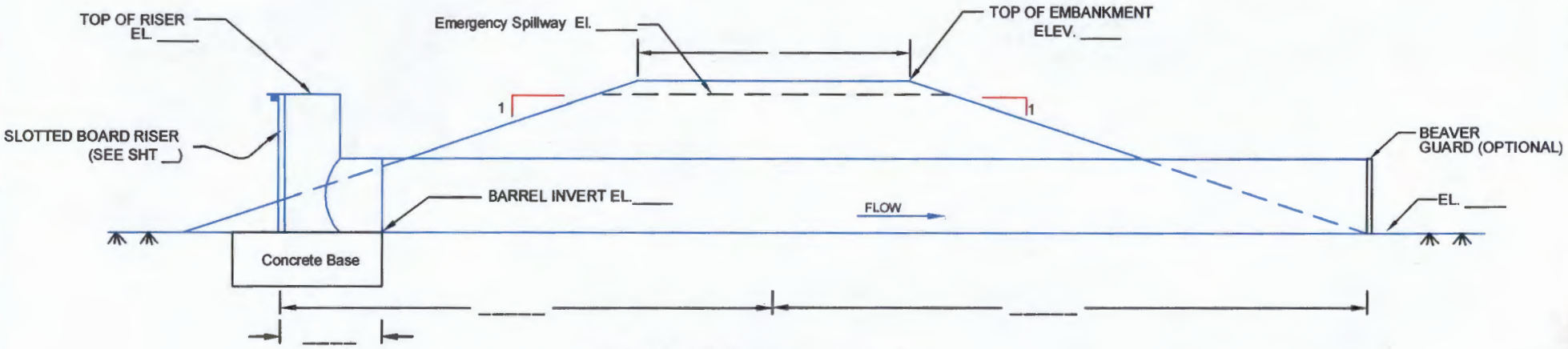
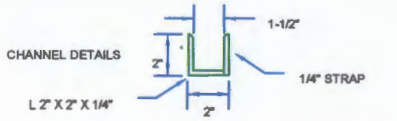
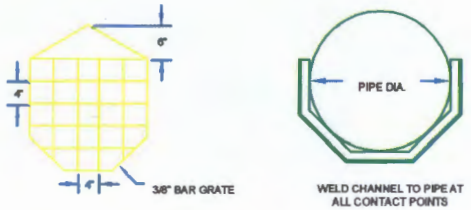


SECTION ALONG CENTERLINE OF PIPES



BEAVER GUARD CHANNEL DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

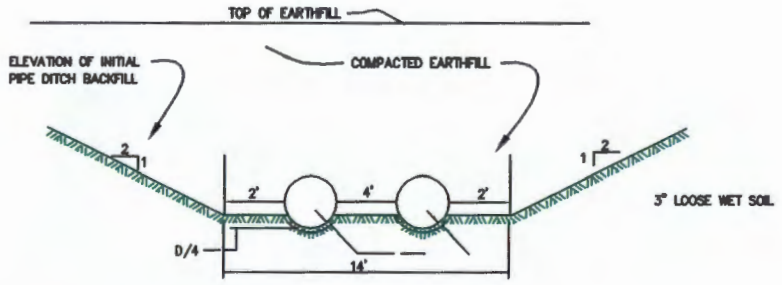


BEAVER GUARD DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

ESTIMATED QUANTITIES	
ITEM	QUANTITY
EARTHFILL *	CY
EXCAVATION	CY
C.M. Pipe	
RISER	L.F. **
BARREL	L.F. **
CONCRETE	C.Y.
ANTI-VORTEX BAFFLE	EA.
ANTI-SEEP COLLARS	EA.
CONNECTING BANDS	EA.
VEGETATION	AC.

* Based on original ground surface. Excludes settlement, stripping, keyway.

**These quantities are for one pipe structure. Two will be installed at the same elevations and dimensions.



DETAIL OF PIPE DITCH
SD-00040

PIPE STRUCTURE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVIC

Designed ____ Date ____
Drawn ____ ____
Traced ____ ____
Checked ____ ____
Approved by ____
Title ____
Date ____
Title ____
Sheet ____ of ____
Drawing No.

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
MISSISSIPPI

MS-ECS-644-01 (JS)
November 2012

Establishing Winter Water for Waterfowl

Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to provide shallow water areas for migrating waterfowl by catching rainfall and holding it in areas that will provide food and loafing areas. The earlier in fall water can be made available to migratory birds, the better the opportunity to attract early migrants. The water control structure should be closed to the required height. To prevent water loss, boards in flash board risers should be secured with wooden wedges. Screw type gates should be lubricated and checked for obstructions that may prevent complete closure. In crop field situations, it is best to leave behind as much waste grain as possible by leaving the field unplowed. Fields planted to grains for waterfowl food plots or those managed for moist soil plants should be left undisturbed. The practice is considered established when 8" or more of water has been pumped onto planned area before the required date. This practice will provide increased water quality and quantity benefits in addition to providing valuable wildlife habitat.

General Requirements

- Impoundments must have dikes and a water control structure to facilitate rainfall collection and subsequent draining for planting.
- **Boards must be placed no later than November 1 and not removed before February 15 for catching rainfall.**
- Current migratory game bird hunting regulations allow hunting of waterfowl over standing crops, flooded standing crops, and harvested croplands. These crops may not be manipulated except by normal agricultural practices used to produce and harvest the crop. Grain inadvertently scattered by entering and leaving the field, placing decoys, or retrieving birds is not considered baiting. Japanese millet can readily reseed in subsequent years and can be manipulated when naturally reseeded, but not during the establishment year. **Check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for current hunting and baiting regulations.**

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

SHALLOW WATER DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

(Ac.)

CODE 646

DEFINITION

The inundation of lands to provide habitat for fish and/or wildlife.

PURPOSE

To provide habitat for wildlife such as shorebirds, waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other species that require shallow water for at least a part of their life cycle.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On lands where water can be impounded or regulated by diking, excavating, ditching, and/or flooding.

On floodplain areas that provide refuge habitats for native fish during high flow periods.

This practice does not apply to:

- Wildlife Watering Facility (648) intended to provide watering places for wildlife;
- Wetland Restoration (657) intended to rehabilitate a degraded wetland where the soils, hydrology, vegetation community, and biological habitat are returned to a close approximation of the original conditions;
- Wetland Enhancement (659) intended for modification of an existing wetland where specific attributes are targeted by management objectives, possibly at the expense of other attributes, or the rehabilitation of a degraded wetland where the result is a wetland that is different than what previously existed on the site;
- Wetland Construction (656) intended to treat point and non-point sources of water pollution;
- Wetland Creation (658) for creating a wetland on a site which historically was not a wetland; or
- Fish Pond Management (399).

CRITERIA

Soils must have low permeability or seasonal high water table to inhibit subsurface drainage and allow for maintenance of proper water levels.

Site must be free of hazardous materials.

Water supply for flooding the area during periods of planned inundation must be adequate.

An adequate method for dewatering is required when water levels must be artificially lowered in order to produce desired habitat condition.

Water levels must be able to be maintained between 1 to 18 inches in depth over the majority of the area during periods of planned inundation. An exception to this criterion is made for floodplain habitats connected to stream channels where water depths of up to 6 feet provide habitat for native fish species that use these habitats during periods of inundation associated with high stream flows.

Where active habitat management is planned (such as disking or water level management) a point of access will be planned and developed to facilitate management activity.

Invasive plant species and federally/state listed noxious and nuisance species shall be controlled on the site.