



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: ASJ-MVK-2004-470
EVALUATOR: Ms. A. Susan Jarvis
PHONE NO.: (601) 631-5146
FAX NO.: (601) 631-5459
E-MAIL: regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE: August 12, 2004
EXPIRATION DATE: September 2, 2004

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

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:
Louisiana Department of
Transportation and Development
Post Office Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Name of Agent:
Mr. Jeff Robinson, P.E.
Louisiana TIMED Managers,
Incorporated
Suite 200
6300 Corporate Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Location of Work: Sections 13 and 24 of T21N-R5E; sections 5, 7, 8, and 18 of T21N-R6E; sections 4, 9, 16, 20, 21, 28, 29, and 32 of T22N-R6E and sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 28, and 33 of T23N-R6E,

latitude 32°54'20" longitude 91°51'40", within the Bayou Bartholomew drainage basins, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana.

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 mechanically clear and fill 6.13 acres of wetlands and 2.81 acres of other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlay of U.S. Highway 425 from Bastrop, Louisiana, to the Arkansas state line.

The project would begin on U.S. Highway 425 in Bastrop, Louisiana, approximately 0.2 mile south of the Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi Railroad intersection and would extend in a northerly direction ending at the Arkansas state line. A five-lane Portland cement concrete urban section would be constructed along the first 1.3 miles of the project segment from Station (STA.) 100+00 to 119+99. For the next six miles of the project, from STA. 199+99 to 214+16, the existing roadway would remain in place for northbound traffic and two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway would be constructed to the west of existing highway for the southbound traffic, separated by a 66-foot-wide depressed median. The remaining 8.3 miles of the project from STA. 214+16 to 349+86 would consist of a new four-lane asphaltic concrete roadway, separated by a 66-foot-wide depressed median, on the same general alignment as the existing highway.

Roadbed dimensions for the new five-lane urban section would have an average top width of 66 feet and an average bottom width of 68 feet. The newly constructed two-lane and four-lane sections would have an average top width of 40 feet and an average bottom width of 110 feet. The average right-of-way would be 265 feet. This project would require approximately 1,082,000 cubic yards of general excavation and 559,000 cubic yards of general embankment. The total project length would be 15.6 miles.

The purpose of the work is to widen and upgrade the existing U.S. Highway 425 roadway, to provide a four-lane north-south link between northeast Louisiana and the Arkansas state line to improve vehicular mobility and to improve accessibility along the U.S. Highway 425 corridor by increasing the safety and level of service of the highway.

The proposed project calls for the existing U.S. Highway 425 from Bastrop, Louisiana, to the Arkansas state line, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, to be four-laned and upgraded to meet current transportation standards. This proposed project is the result of legislation created in 1989, known as the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED), which designated certain highways and transportation facilities for

improvement. One objective of the TIMED program is to ensure that a four-laned highway connects most major urban areas of the state. The four-laning of U.S. Highway 425 is an important element in linking northeastern Louisiana with Arkansas.

A total of 20 sites were delineated and nine sites were identified as wetlands that would be impacted by the project. Sites BL02 and BL03 cover an area located in the vicinity of Station No. (STA.) 134+07 to 151+15, and would impact approximately 3.45 acres. Site LA01 covers an area located in the vicinity of STA. 195+90 to 197+10, and would impact approximately 0.88 acre of wetlands. Sites SL05 through SL10 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 274+15 to 315+95, and would impact approximately 1.8 acres of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the nine delineated wetland sites include: *Acer rubrum*, *Ambrosia trifida*, *Andropogon glomeratus*, *Bignonia capreolata*, *Celphalanthus occidentalis*, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, *Diospyros virginiana*, *Forestiera acuminata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Ligustrum sinense*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Lonicera japonica*, *Planera aquatica*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Polygonum amphibium*, *Quercus nigra*, *Quercus phellos*, *Salix nigra*, *Smilax* sp., *Symplocos tinctoria*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Ulmus alata*, and *Ulmus rubra*.

A total of approximately 6.13 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project, including the cleared right-of-way. The applicant proposes to begin mitigation for the wetlands being impacted by construction activities for this project by minimizing impacts in accordance with their standard specifications. Unavoidably lost wetland functions and values would be appropriately mitigated.

A total of 2.81 acres of other waters of the United States would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project, including the cleared right-of-way. Of the 20 delineated sites, 14 sites were identified as other waters of the United States. The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Table (BL, LA, and SL sites).

The proposed bridges over Horse Bayou, located in the vicinity of STA. 106+00 to 106+45, and Cypress Bayou, located in the vicinity of STA. 134+07 to 138+15 would be concrete slab span bridges. The proposed bridge over Bayou Bartholomew, located in the vicinity of STA. 195+90 to 197+10 would be a Type II girder bridge. Impacts to wetlands associated with the bridge construction would include approach and revetment work.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in 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 Morehouse Parish listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not 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.

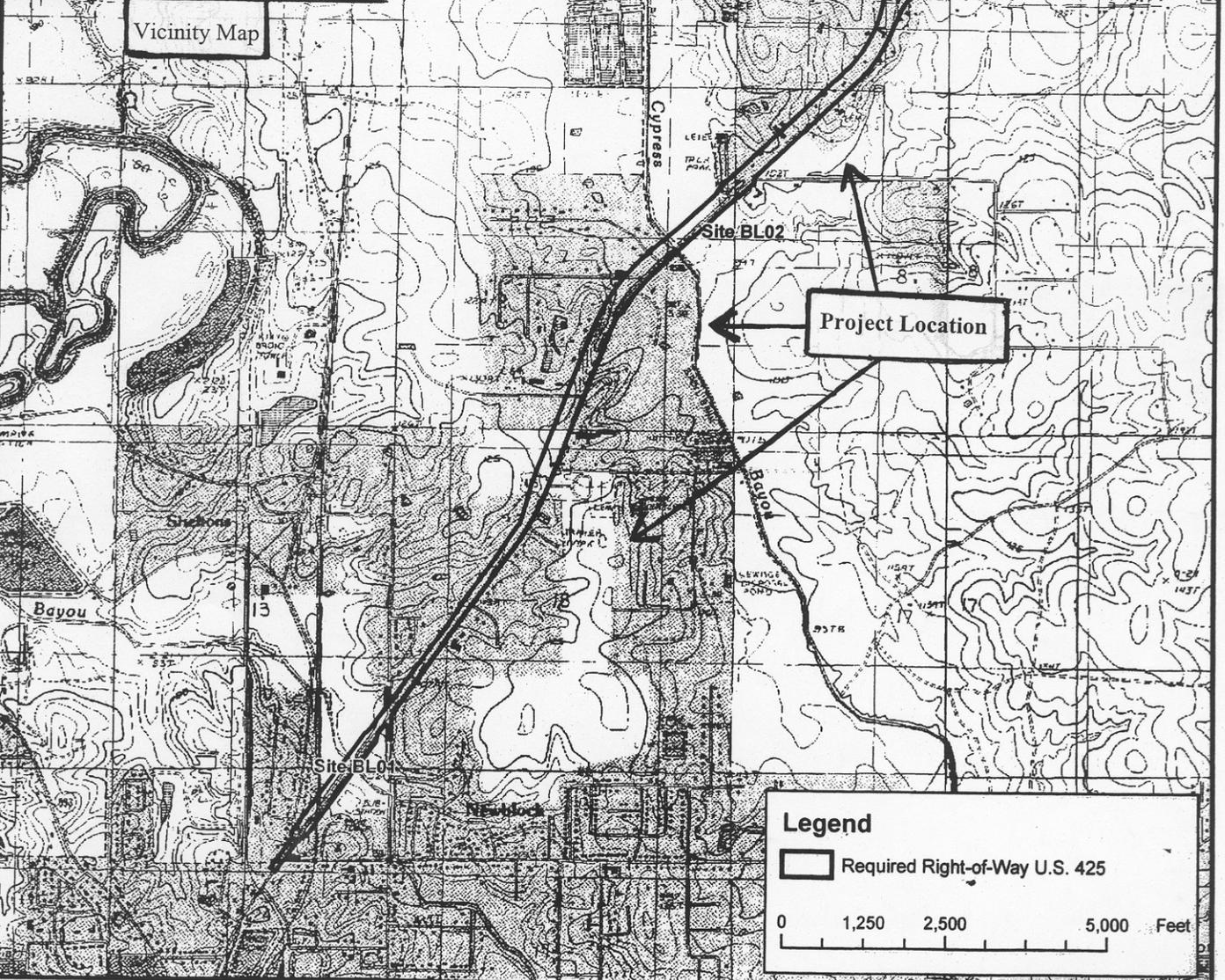
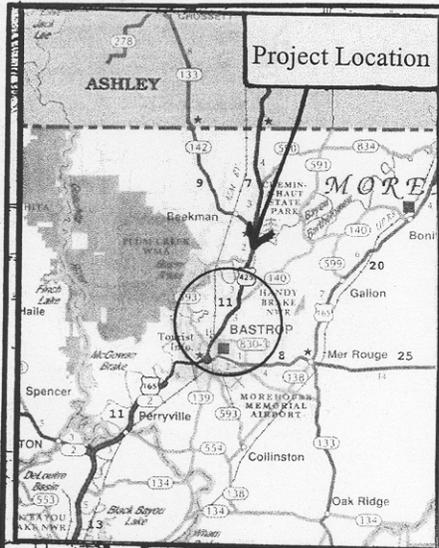
Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may 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) 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/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader
Evaluation Section



Legend

Required Right-of-Way U.S. 425

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet

PROJECT LOCATION MAP
 US Highway 425, Bastrop to Log Cabin,
 Morehouse Parish, Louisiana
 State Project No. 038-03-0022

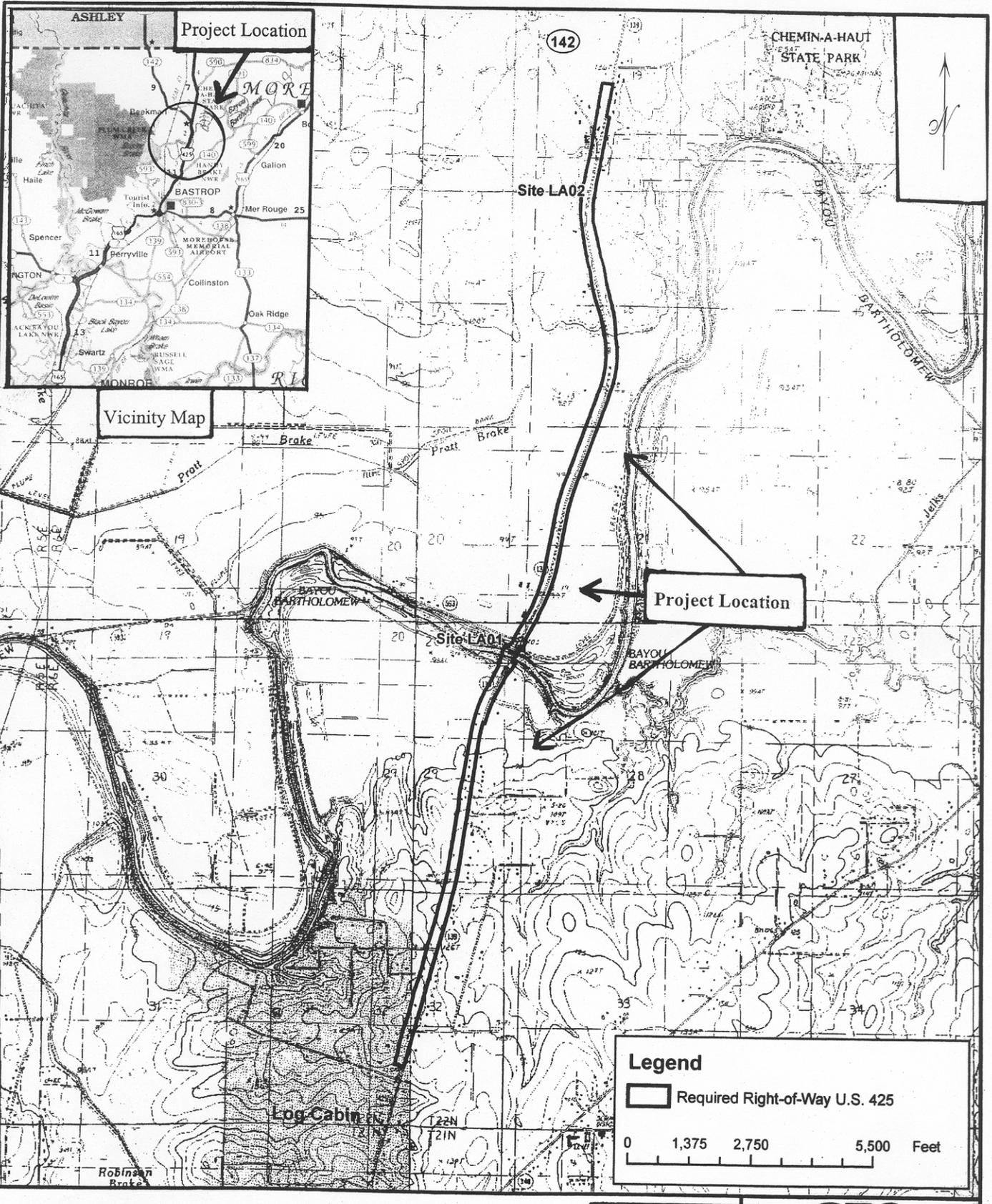
CEMVK-OD-FE ASJ-MVK-2004-470
(RAMS # 200404820)

LA DOTD

Scale: 1:30,000
 Source: USGS/CBC
 Map Author: S. P. P.

① SEE TABLE.

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles



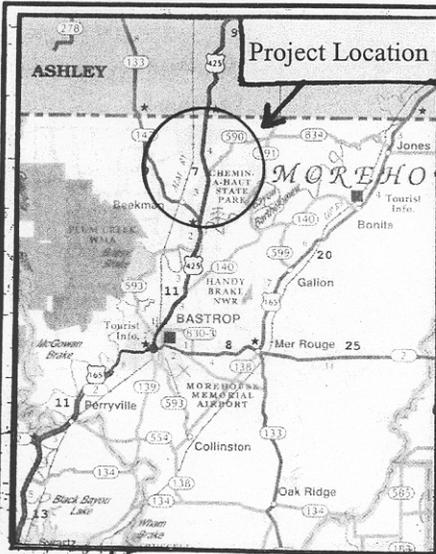
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

US Highway 425, Log Cabin to Jct. LA 142,
 Morehouse Parish, Louisiana
 State Project No. 038-03-0024

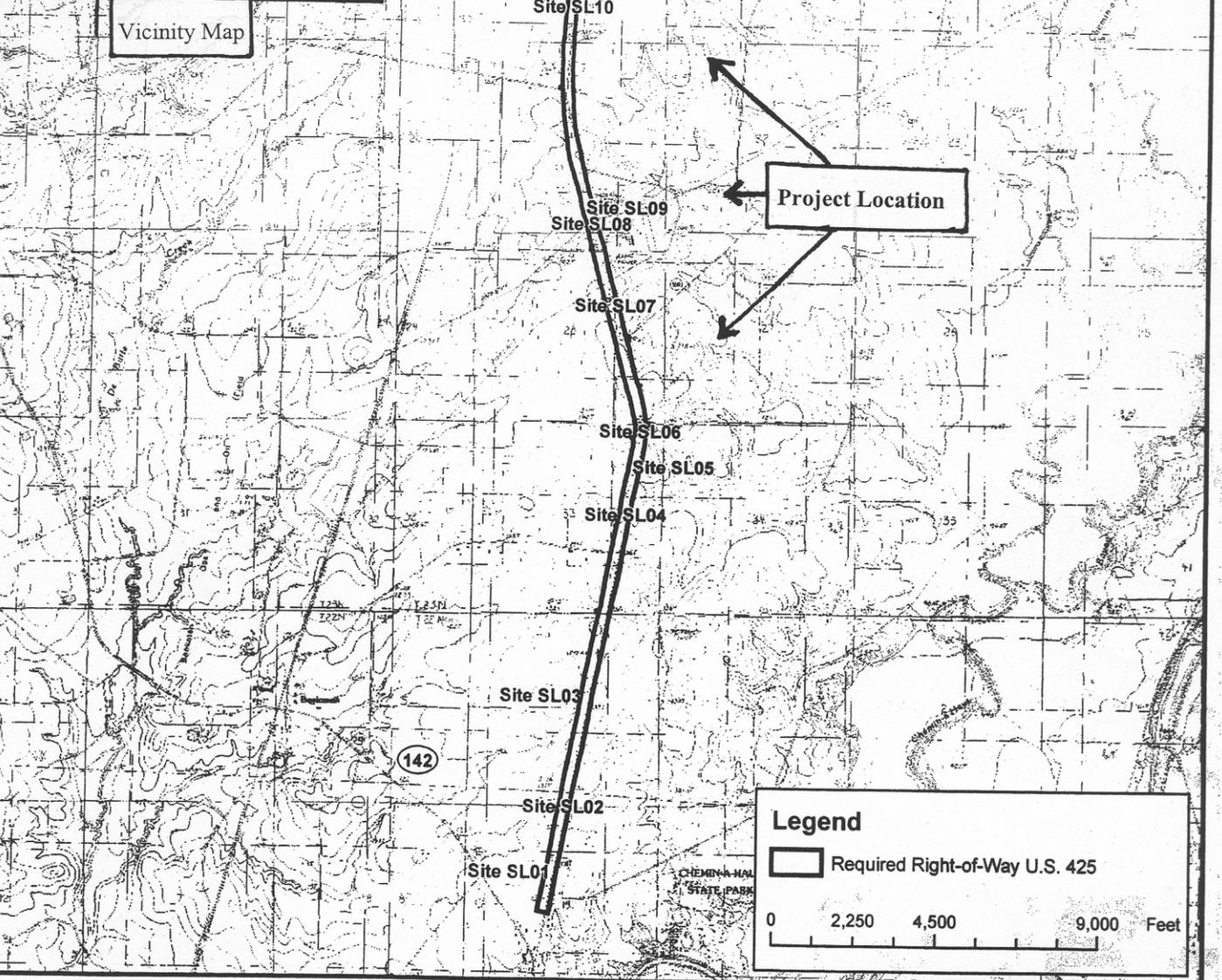
CEMVK-OD-FE ASJ-MVK-2004-470
 (RAMS # 200404820)

LA DOTD

SEE TABLE.



Vicinity Map



Legend

 Required Right-of-Way U.S. 425

0 2,250 4,500 9,000 Feet

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

US Highway 425, Jct. LA 142 to Arkansas State Line
 Morehouse Parish, Louisiana
 State Project No. 038-30-0008

CEMVK-OD-FE ASJ-MVK-2004-470
 (RAMS # 200404820)

LA DOTD

Date: _____
 Scale: 1:54,000
 Source: USGS/GEC
 Map Author: C. Perry

③ SEE TABLE.

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE
STATE PROJECT NO. 038-03-0022, 038-03-0024, 038-30-0008
U.S. Highway 425 – Bastrop to Arkansas state line
Morehouse Parish, Louisiana

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type	
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters		
MAP ①	BL01	106+00	106+45	--	0.10	HB
	BL02	134+07	138+15	2.89	0.36	CB/FW
	BL03	150+98	151+15	0.56	--	FW
	BL04	160+15	160+20	--	0.03	ES
	BL05	164+60	164+70	--	0.04	IS
MAP ②	LA01	195+90	197+10	0.88	1.41	BB/BLH
	LA02	230+45	230+50	--	0.03	IS
MAP ③	SL01	241+20	241+50	--	0.12	IS
	SL02	246+00	246+10	--	0.05	ES
	SL03	254+30	255+40	--	0.20	ES
	SL04	271+25	271+35	--	0.05	ES
	SL05	274+15	274+60	0.06	--	FW
	SL06	278+25	278+60	0.10	--	SS
	SL07	289+50	290+00	0.12	--	SS
	SL08	296+70	296+80	0.18	--	FW
	SL09	299+25	300+00	1.20	--	FW
	SL10	315+45	315+95	0.14	0.03	ES/HW
	SL11	333+80	336+50	--	0.24	ES
	SL12	339+20	339+25	--	0.05	IS
	SL13	344+15	344+20	--	0.10	IS
Totals			6.13	2.81		

Legend: HB – Horse Bayou; CB – Cypress Bayou; FW – Forested Wetland; ES – Ephemeral Stream; IS – Intermittent Stream; BB – Bayou Bartholomew; BLH – Bottomland Hardwood; SS – Scrub/Shrub Wetland; HW – Herbaceous Wetland