US Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	ADS-200311290
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Arel D. Simpson
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5996
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	November 20, 2003
EXPIRATION DATE:	December 11, 2003

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the Arkansas 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, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 8913, Little Rock, AR 72219-8913, 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. Raymond Unruh
715 Patty Road
Macon, Mississippi 39341-7513

Location of Work: Section 2, T20S-R26W, latitude 33°02'44" North longitude 93°46'18" West, within the Red River Drainage Basin, Lafayette County, near Bradley, Arkansas.

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 construct earth fill embankment reservoirs to raise commercial catfish. The project is located in 2.32 acres of jurisdictional wetlands.

The project area is located within a 94.9-acre farm tract. Approximately 8.5 acres of the 94.9-acre farm tract are abandoned cropland and have naturally revegetated to brush and trees for several years. Approximately 2.32 acres of the 8.5 naturally revegetated acres are jurisdictional wetlands. These jurisdictional wetlands would be mechanically cleared and filled to construct 8 catfish ponds. Each catfish pond would be 610 feet by 777 feet in centerline levee length. The 8 catfish ponds would be connected in a 2 east-west pond by 4 north-south pond pattern. Approximately 15,090 feet of centerline levee would be constructed. A levee cross-section profile would have a height of 6 feet with a top width of 20 feet, 4 to 1 side slopes, and a base width of 68 feet.

Three catfish ponds of approximately 10 acres each in size have been constructed in non-wetlands. The existing ponds would be incorporated into the completed project design. Land clearing would be done with a bulldozer. The levees would be constructed with tractors and dirt pans. Approximately 12,332 cubic yards of Perry clay would be used to construct the levee system.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for jurisdictional wetland impacts using the nearest approved mitigation bank.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and levee construction 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 Lafayette County 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 advise 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) 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.

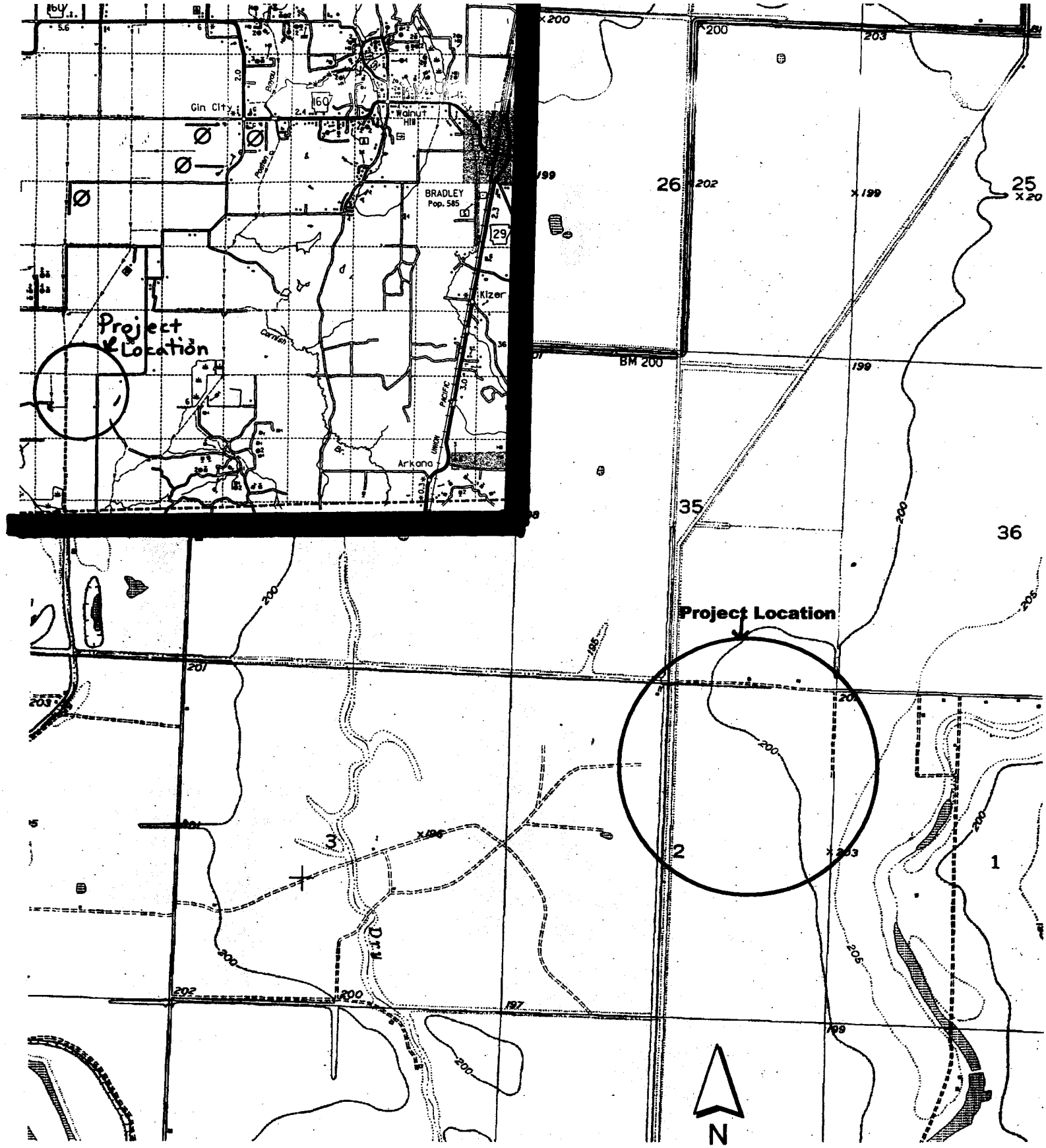
Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this 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.

for Joyce Butler

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch



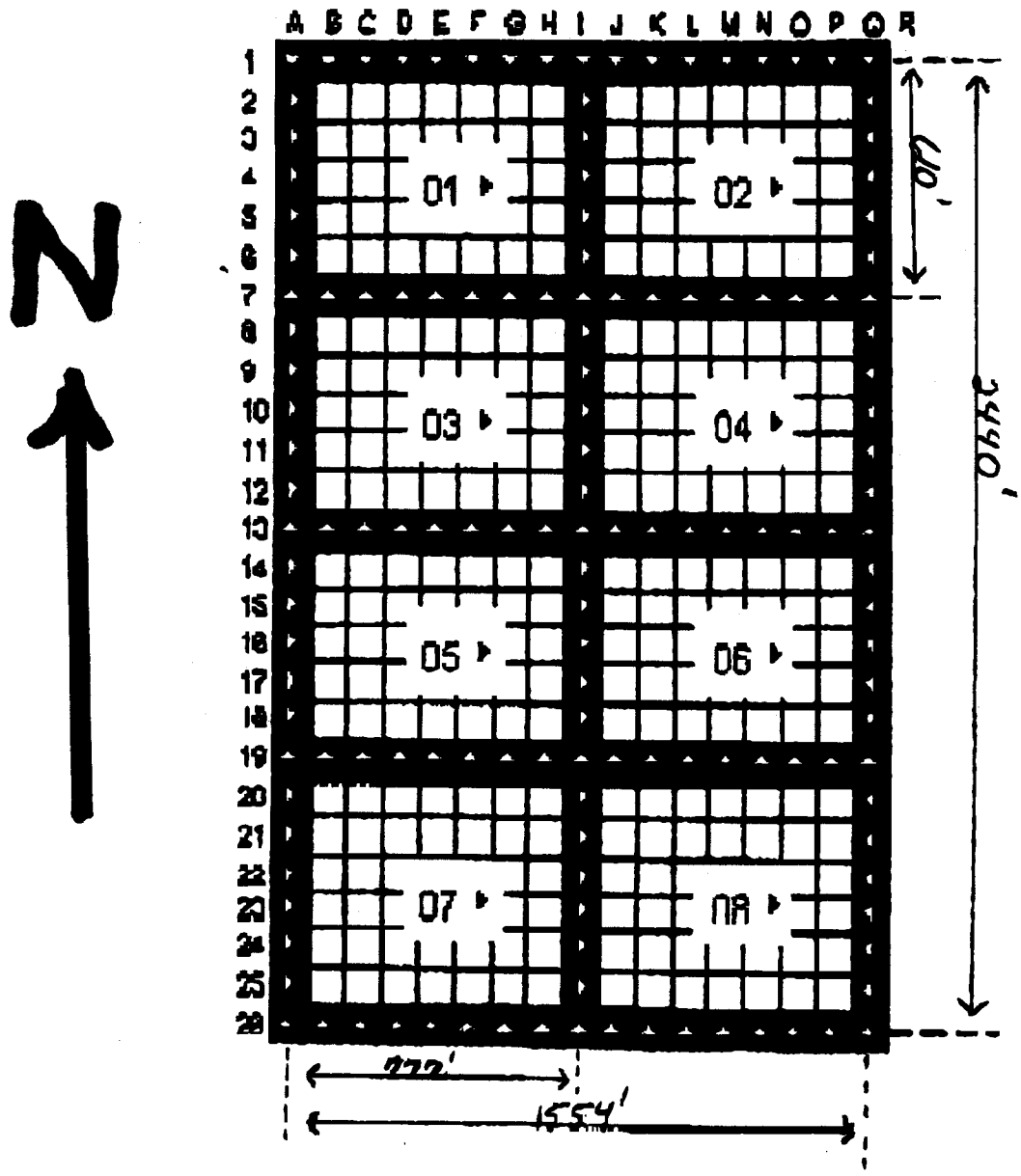
1320 0 1320 Feet

Raymond Unruh Commercial Fish Ponds

ADS-200311290

MR RAYMOND UNRUH

Raymond Unruh
Pond Map



Total Ac. Surveyed 94.9

Charge @ 20.00 per/ac $1898.00

RAYMOND UNRUH
[illegible] ROAD
MACON, MA 39341

ADS-200311290

MR RAYMOND UNRUH

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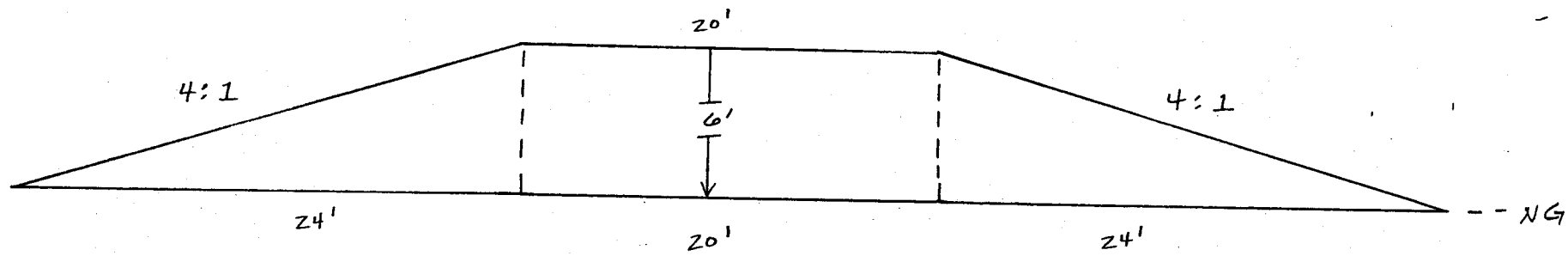
MR RAYMOND UNRUH

9.78 yd^3 per 1 ft. levee

9.78 yd^3 x 940 linear ft. of levee
= 9193.2 yd^3

2072 yd^3 (only outside toe of levee, South side pond # 3 - 777' linear length)

1067 yd^3 (only outside toe of levee South side pond # 4 - 400' linear length, pond already constructed)



Raymond Unruh
Levee cross-section
(fish ponds)
Lafayette County, AR