



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435  
[www.mvk.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil)



# Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2023-00239
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Michael Maaninen
PHONE NO.:	(601) 953-9350
E-MAIL:	<a href="mailto:Michael.A.Maaninen@usace.army.mil">Michael.A.Maaninen@usace.army.mil</a>
DATE:	November 12, 2024
EXPIRATION DATE:	December 12, 2024

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-RD, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule (Certification Improvement Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective November 27, 2023, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that has the potential to result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a discharge from a Federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Improvement Rule, once the applicant submits a certification request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the certifying authority will jointly establish the reasonable period of time for the certifying authority to act upon the certification request.

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

**Name of Applicant:**

Mr. Jason Stevens  
SNF Holding Company  
3080 Port & Harbor Drive Road D  
Pearlington, Mississippi 39572  
Jasons@snf.com

**Name of Agent:**

Autry Akins  
Geosyntec Consultants  
5420 Corporate Blvd Suite 202  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808  
Autry.Akins@geosyntec.com

**Location of Work:** The proposed project site is located in Section 24, T9S-16W, Latitude 30.241949, Longitude -89.558909 at 3080 Port & Harbor Drive Road D, Pearlinton, Hancock County, Mississippi.

**Description of Work:** (See enclosed maps 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 conduct regulated activities in "Waters of the U.S." for the purpose of expanding the Pearlinton facility located in the city of Pearlinton, Hancock County, Mississippi.

The planned expansion would include clearing, grading, and filling wetlands for the construction of two eight-railcar capable spurs and the clearing of adjacent upland areas for vehicles to maneuver in.

Approximately 2.21 acres of pine flatwoods scrub-shrub wetlands and 0.14 acres of emergent wetlands would be impacted on the approximately 15.06-acre site by the proposed project. To off-set the unavoidable impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase compensatory mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank.

The dominant vegetation within the project consists of slash pine, live oak, water oak, and youpon. Soil within the project area consists of Beauregard silt loam, Handsboro association, and Harleston fine sandy loam.

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:** The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. A Phase I cultural

resources survey was conducted on August 7, 2024, resulting in negative findings and no cultural resources were identified. Consultation was initiated September 27, 2024, for concurrence on the Corp's no effect to historic properties determination. No comments were received during the review period. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is considered complete.

**Endangered Species:** Threatened and Endangered Species for this area include the Northern Long-eared Bat, the West Indian Manatee, the Eastern Black Rail, the Gopher Tortoise, the Ringed-map Turtle, and the Dusky Gopher Frog. Utilizing the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES) as signed on June 28, 2017, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on the West Indian Manatee, Gopher Tortoise, and the Ringed-map Turtle, and may affect, not likely to adversely affect the Eastern Black Rail, Dusky Gopher Frog, and the Northern long-eared bat, but any resulting incidental take is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

**Floodplain:** In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The project is not located within the 100-year floodplain.

**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

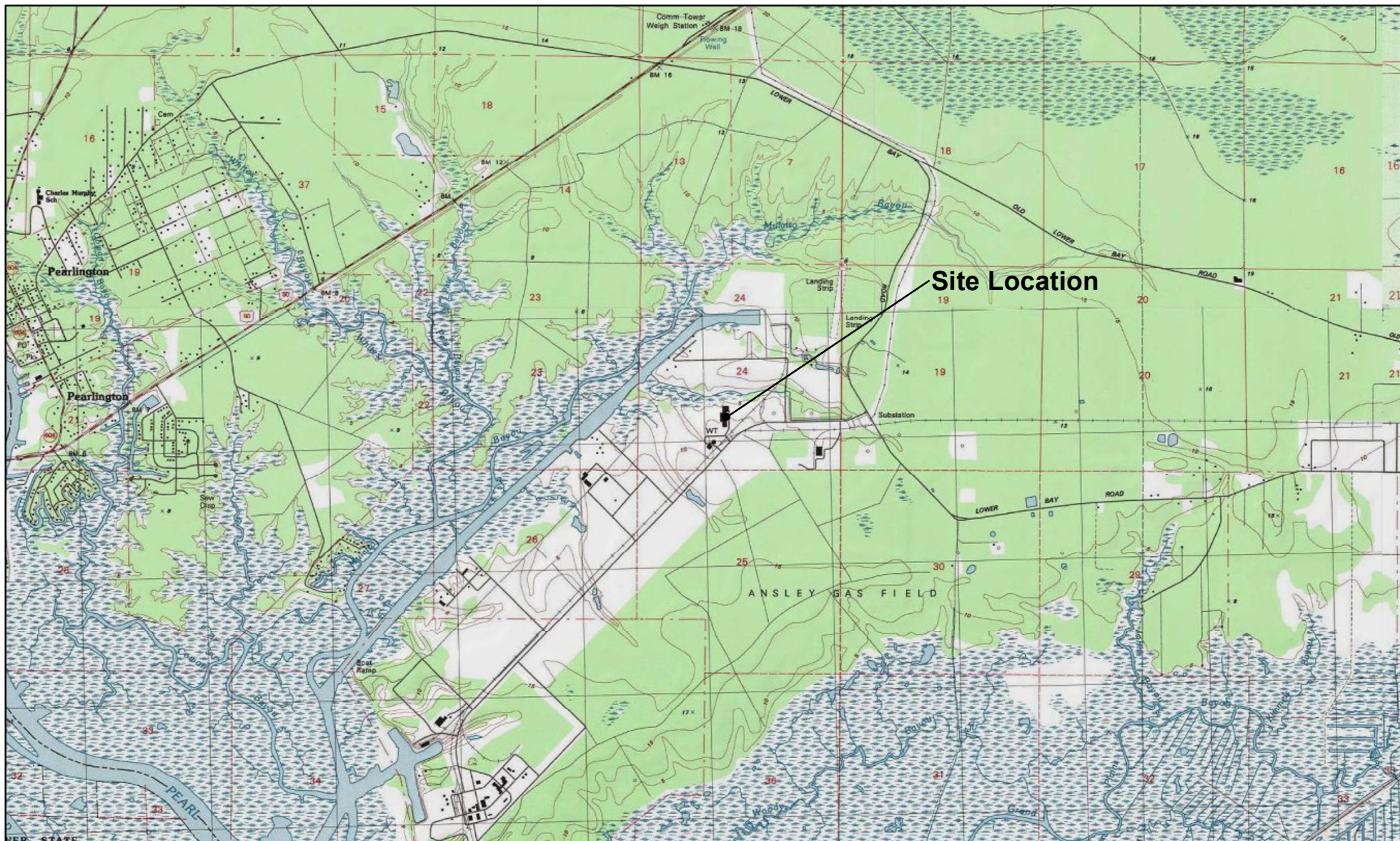
also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

**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/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

Bryan Williamson  
Chief, Mississippi Branch/Deputy  
Regulatory Division





**Site Location**

## Site Location

SNF Holding Company  
Port Bienville Facility  
Hancock County, Mississippi

**Geosyntec**  
consultants

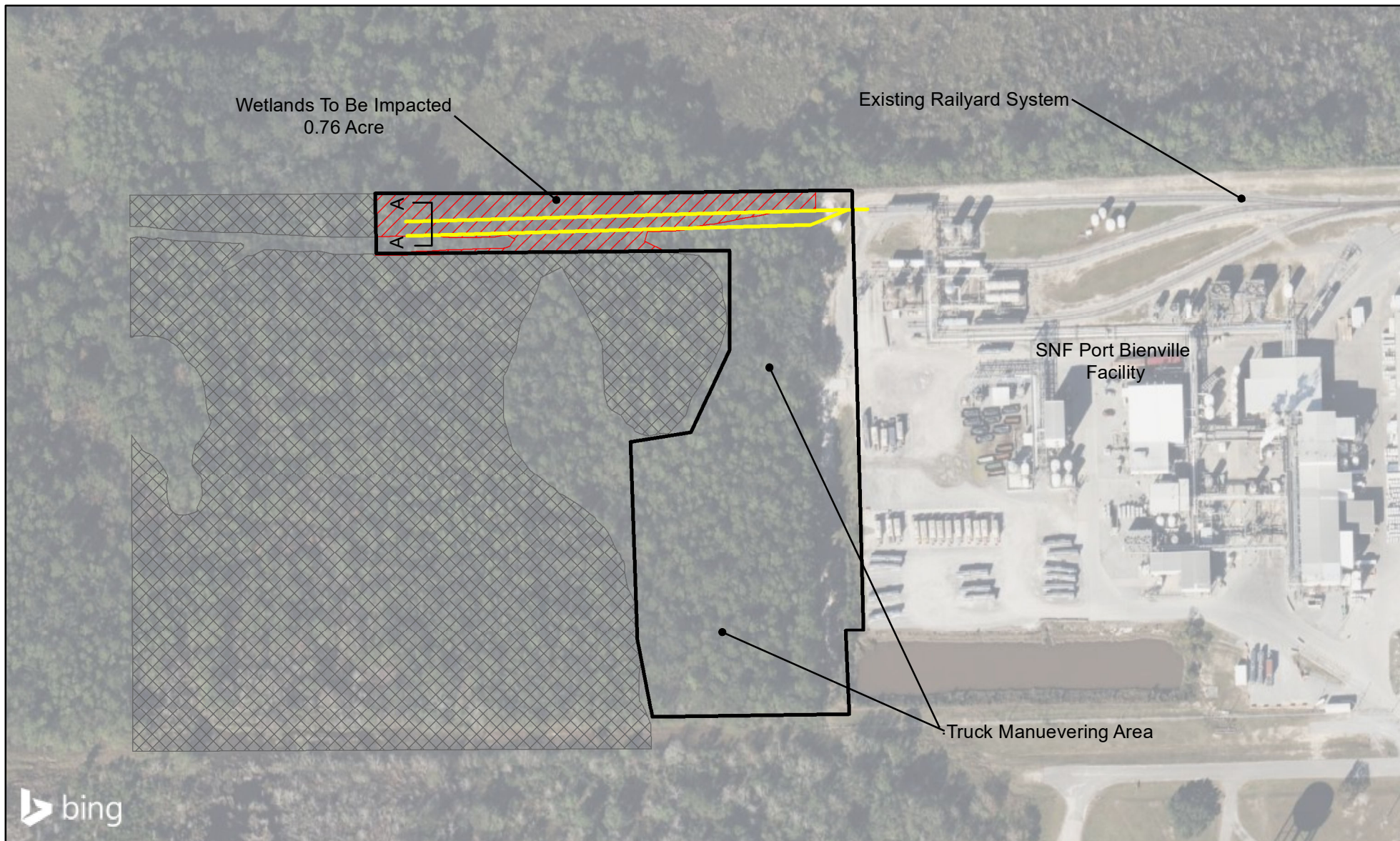
**Figure**

**1**



0 4,200  
Feet





- Project Footprint
- Pearlinton Facility
- Preferred Rail Layout
- Wetlands To Be Impacted: 0.76 Acre
- Wetlands Avoided: 9.57 Acres



0 200  
Feet

## Project Overview

SNF Holding Company  
Port Bienville Facility  
Rail Expansion & Site Improvement

**Geosyntec**  
consultants

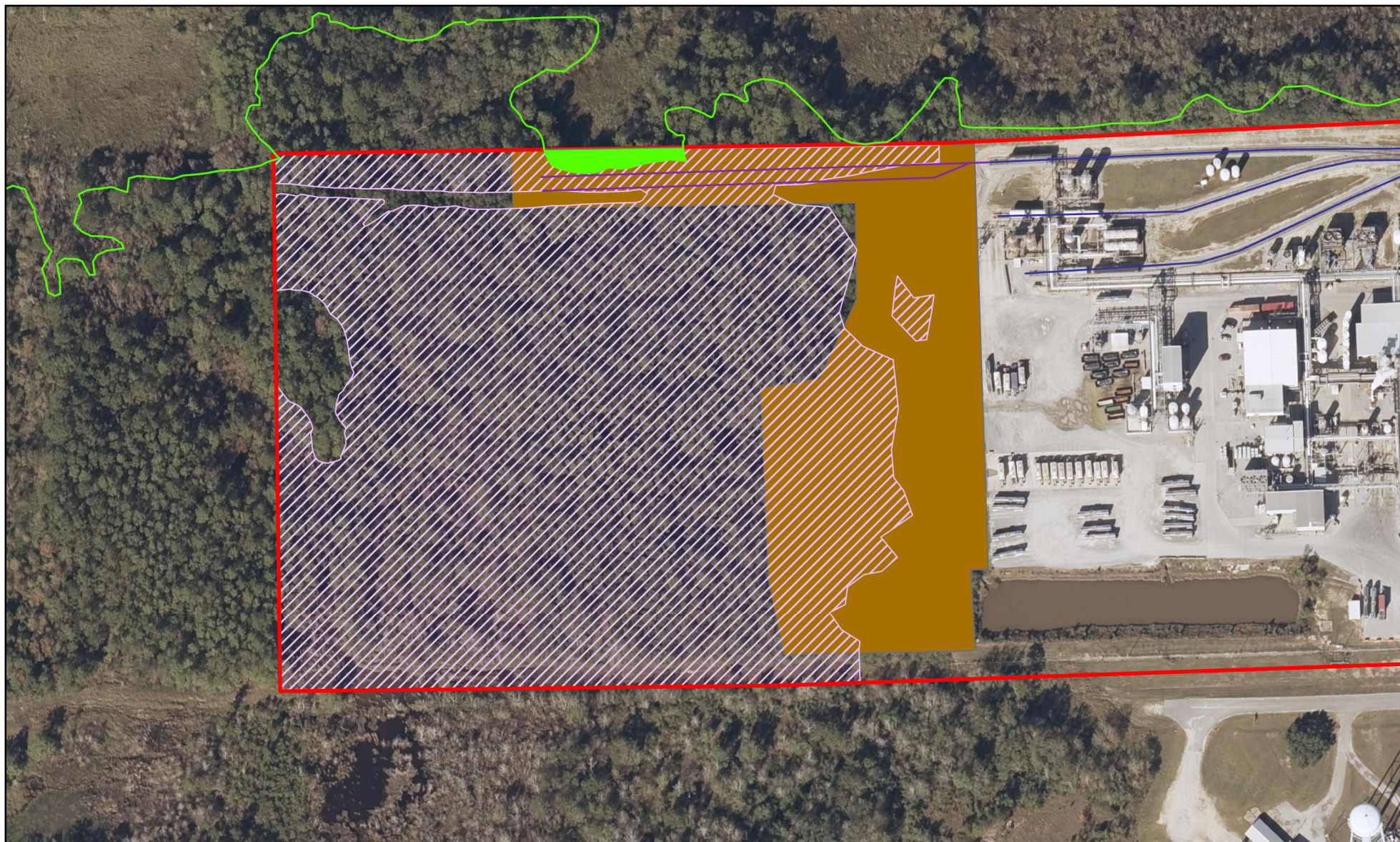
Baton Rouge, LA

May 2023

**Figure**

**2**





#### Legend

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="border: 2px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Pearlinton Facility | <span style="background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px); display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Updated Wetlands (12.82 acres) |
| <span style="background-color: brown; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Project Footprint | <span style="border: 2px solid green; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Marsh Boundary  |
| <span style="border-bottom: 2px solid blue; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> Existing Railroad         | <span style="background-color: green; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Marsh within boundary (0.106 acres)   |
| <span style="border-bottom: 2px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> Rail Centerline         |  |



0 180 Feet

#### SNF Polychemie

Pearlington, Mississippi  
Port Bienville

**Geosyntec**  
consultants

GXE9597

October 2023




**Figure**

**4**





#### Legend

-  Data Points
-  Pearlington Facility
-  Updated Wetlands (12.82 acres)
-  Previous Wetlands (10.33 acres)



0 180 Feet

#### SNF Polychemie

Pearlington, Mississippi  
Port Bienville

**Geosyntec**  
consultants

GXE9597

August 2023

**Figure**

**2**