

US Army Corps of Engineerso

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil



## Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: EVALUATOR: PHONE NO.: E-MAIL: DATE: EXPIRATION DATE: MVK-2019-652 Mr. Andy Sanderson (601) 631-5083 Andy.Sanderson@usace.army.mil February 10, 2020 March 2, 2020

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army permit for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.

Application also has been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with La. R.S. 30.2074(A) (93), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Additional information is on file with the above office, and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained upon payment of cost of copying. Comments concerning the application can be filed with the Office of Environmental Services within 20 days of this notice to the following address: Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit</u>: 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.

<u>Name of Applicant</u>: Mr. Joe Ford Bossier Parish Police Jury 204 Burt Boulevard Benton, Louisiana 71006 <u>Name of Agent</u>: Mr. Matthew Williams Land and Aquatic Resource Management, LLC 132 Lone Oak Street Benton, Louisiana 71006

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 5, T16N-R12W, Latitude 32.4060°N, Longitude -93.6289°W, within the Sunny Point watershed in the Middle Red-Coushatta Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC: 11140202), Bossier Parish, Louisiana. <u>Description of Work</u>: (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 discharge dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional waters of the United States for the extension of the existing Arthur Teague Parkway. The proposed work is to construct an approximate 200 feet wide by 4.45 mile long four-lane road with two connecting two-lane thoroughfares (120 feet wide by 2,000 feet long, and 120 feet wide by 4,700 feet long) to provide access to Highway 71. The proposed road would begin at the termination of the southern end of the existing Arthur Teague Parkway and continue to its terminus just north of Ash Point Road. The two-lane thoroughfares would be located along the existing Red River South Marina Drive and along an existing access road just north of Ash Point Road. The stated purpose of the proposed work is to provide traffic relief in the southern portion of Bossier Parish.

The site contains approximately 25.28 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, along with approximately 181 linear feet of ephemeral stream channel and 1.07 acres of open water. The total wetland impacts from fill would be approximately 13.47 acres of herbaceous (includes culverting), 0.40 acre of shrub scrub, and 10.34 acres of forested wetlands. The majority of these wetland areas would have culverts placed (31 culverts of varying lengths and diameters) to convey hydrology underneath the proposed road. Approximately 1.23 acres of herbaceous, linear wetlands, and 1.07 acres of open water would be filled via rerouting and/or placement of culverts. Approximately 181 linear feet of ephemeral stream would be routed through two-36 inch by 138 feet long culverts. In addition to jurisdictional wetland impacts, the proposed road would also cross an existing Red River Levee two times. A total of approximately 39,714.53 cubic yards of fill material would be placed into streams, wetlands, and open water features.

The vegetative communities within the project area are dominated by box elder, sugar hackberry, Chinese tallow, bald cypress, green ash, buttonbush, green flatsedge, and Eastern annual saltmarsh aster. Soils within the project site are dominated by Caplis very fine sandy loam and Moreland clay with NRCS hydric component ratings of 0 and 0, respectively.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from an USACE approved mitigation bank that services the project area.

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. <u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>, 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: An historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No sites determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are within the permit area or affected area.

Endangered Species: Listed species for the project area include the Northern long-eared bat and red-cockaded woodpecker. Utilizing the Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species (SLOPES) as signed on December 1, 2014, 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 red-cockaded woodpecker, and may affect the Northern long-eared bat, but that take is not prohibited under 4(d) Rule. 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.

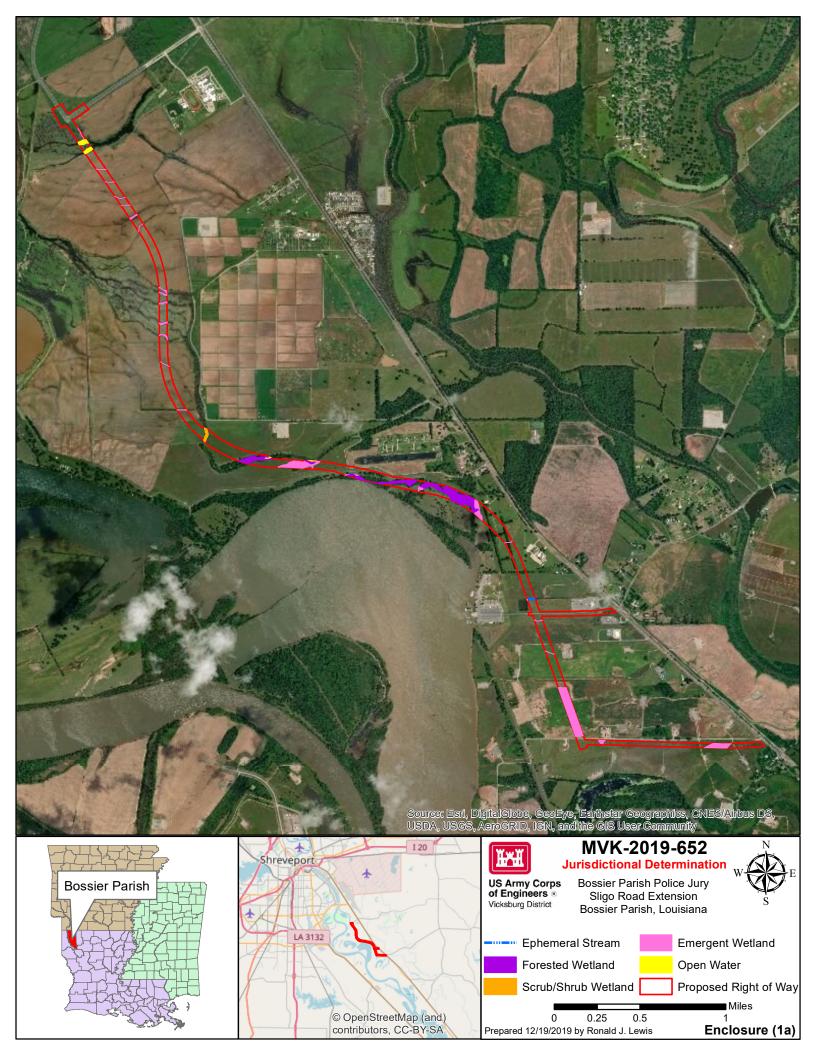
<u>Floodplain</u>: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The proposed project site is within the 100 year floodplain.

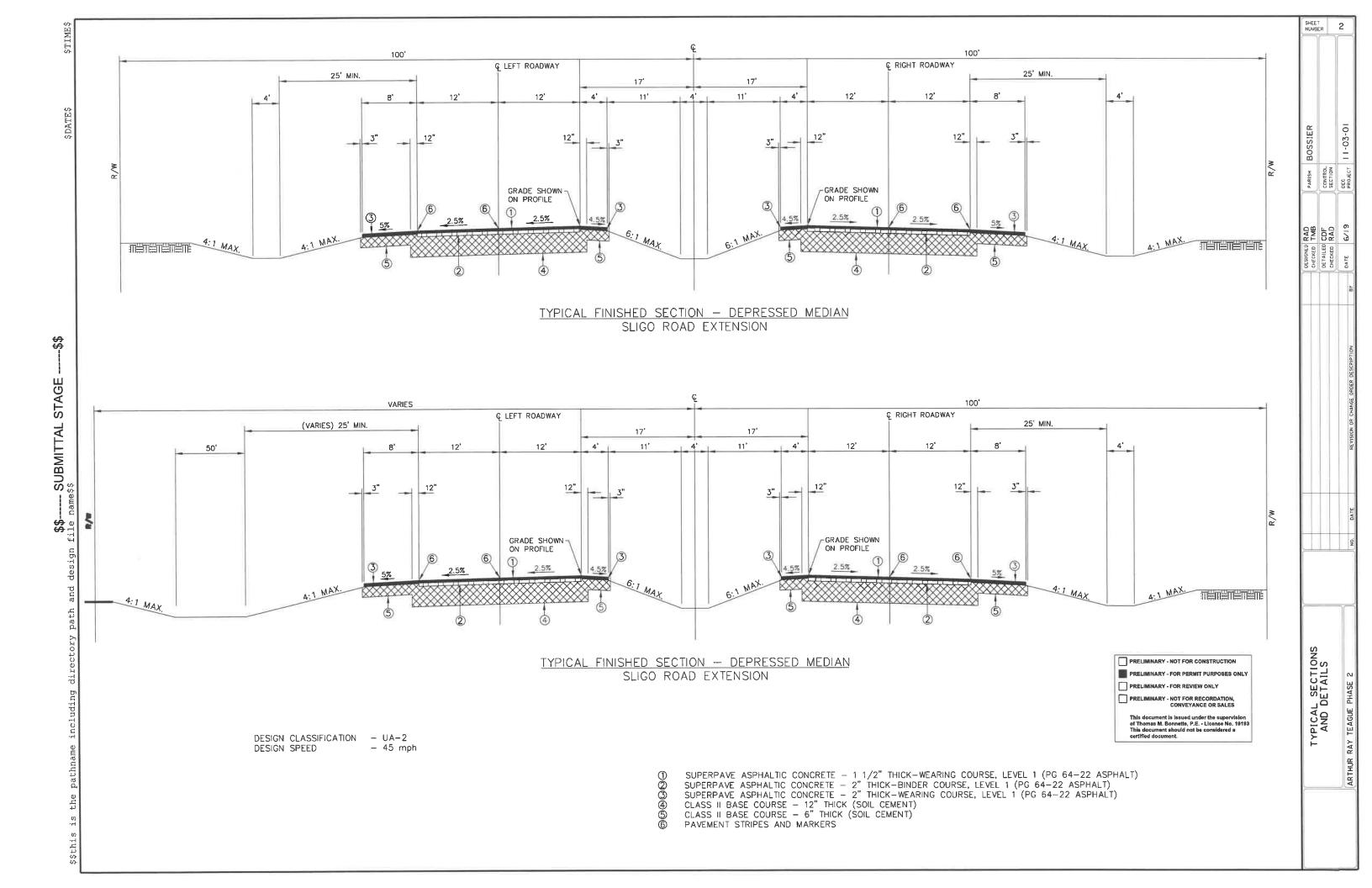
<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which 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. <u>Public Involvement</u>: 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.

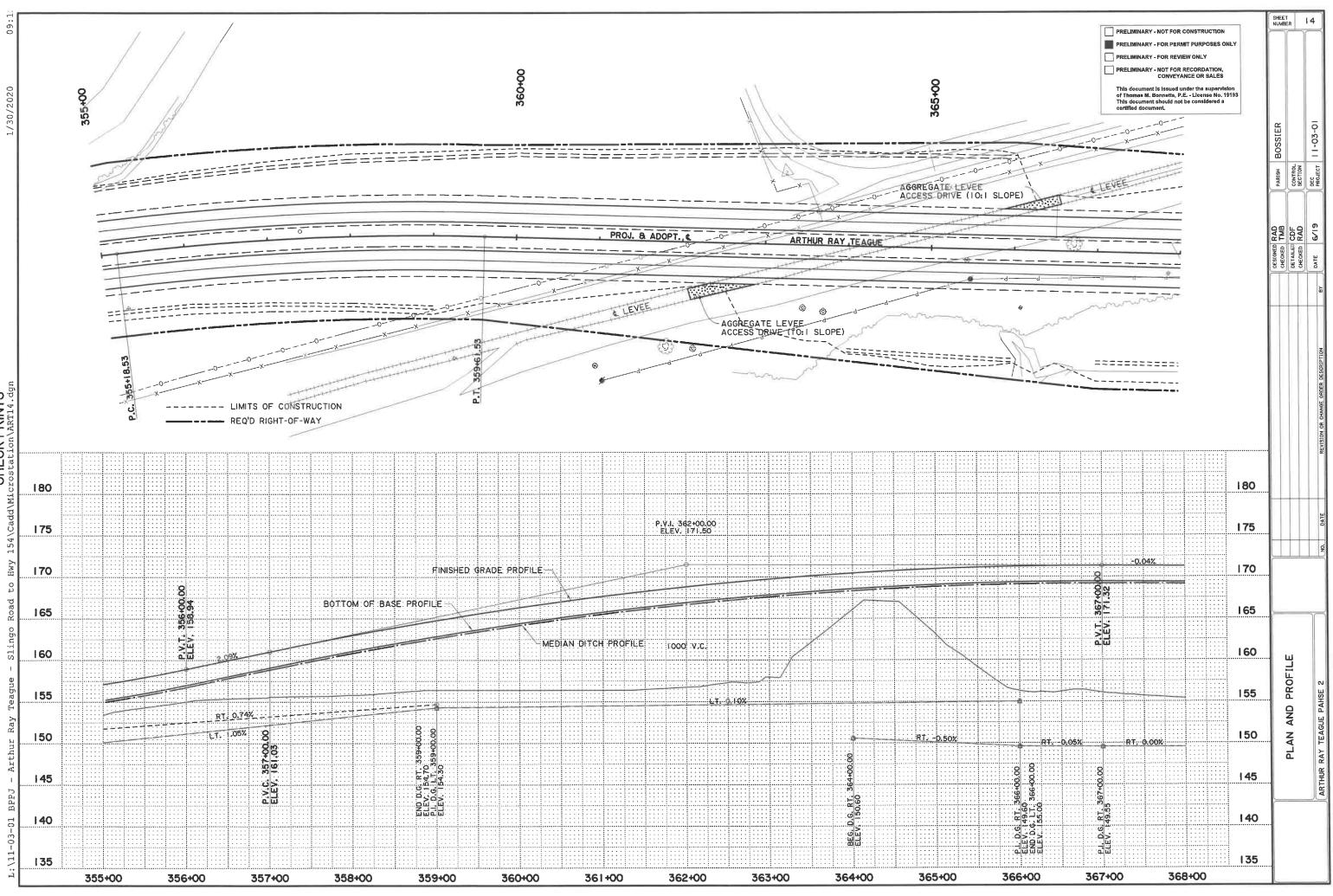
<u>Opportunity for a Public Hearing</u>: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment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

<u>Notification of Final Permit Actions</u>: 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, <u>http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

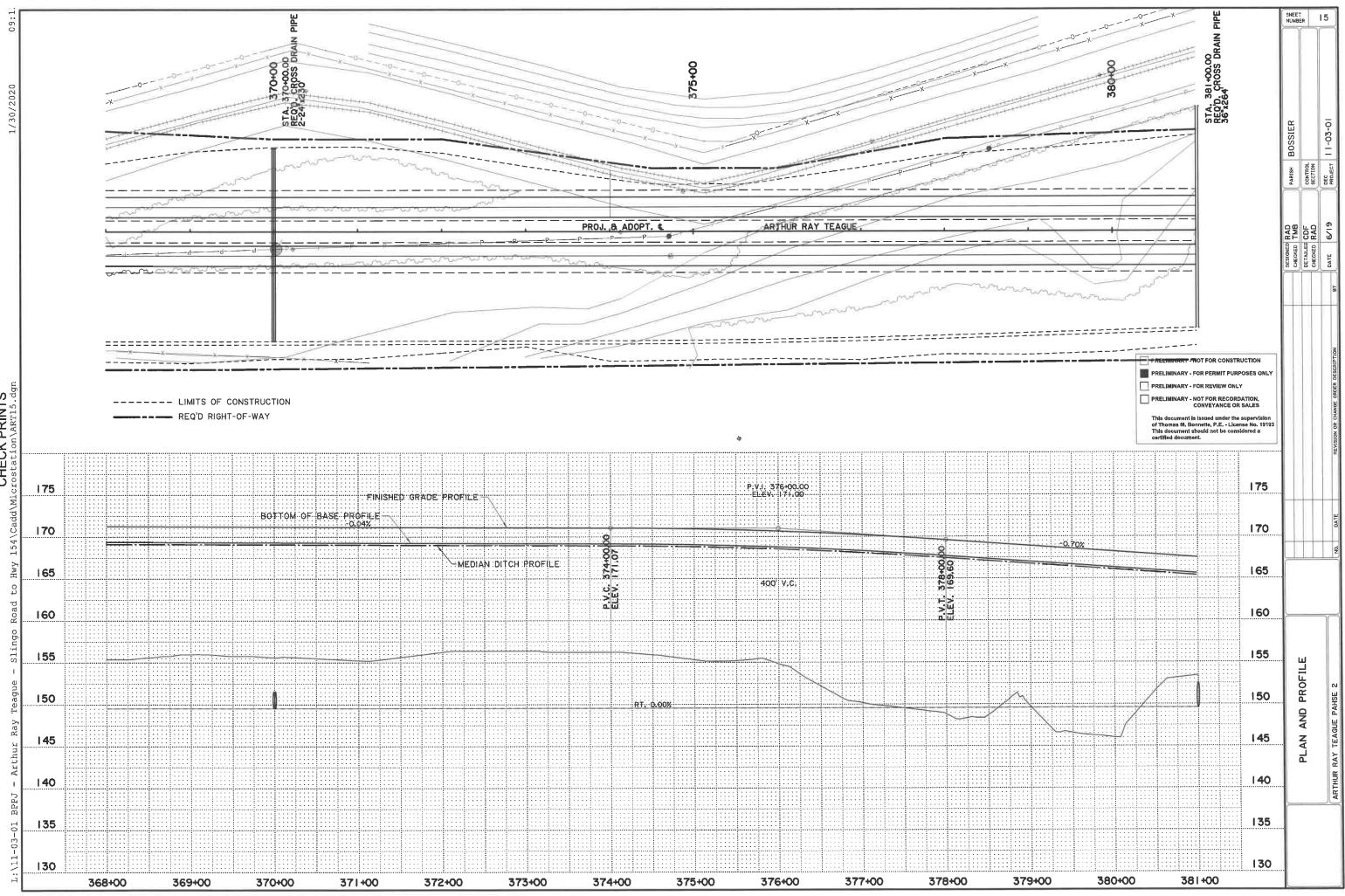
Thomas A. McCabe Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch



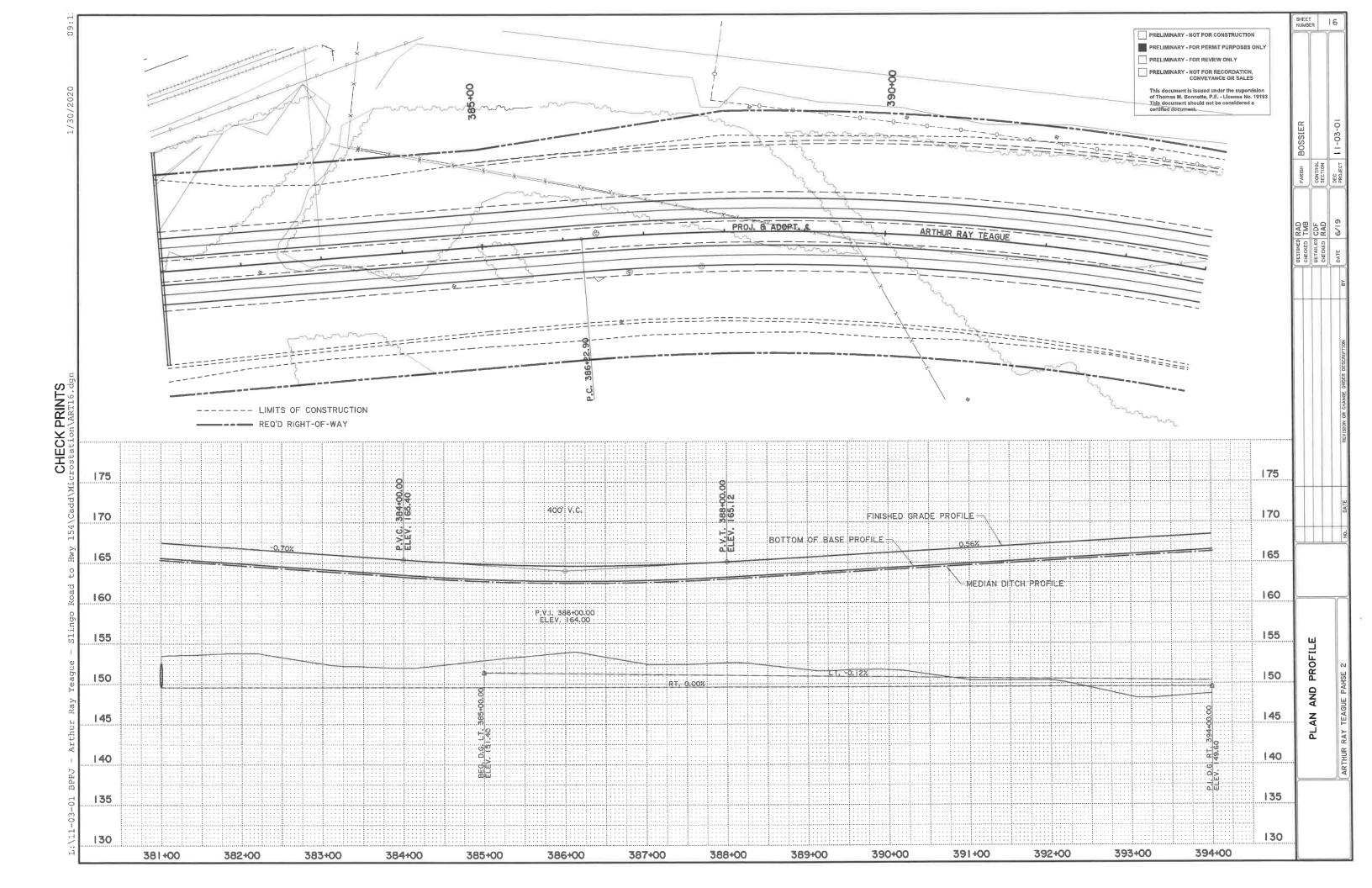


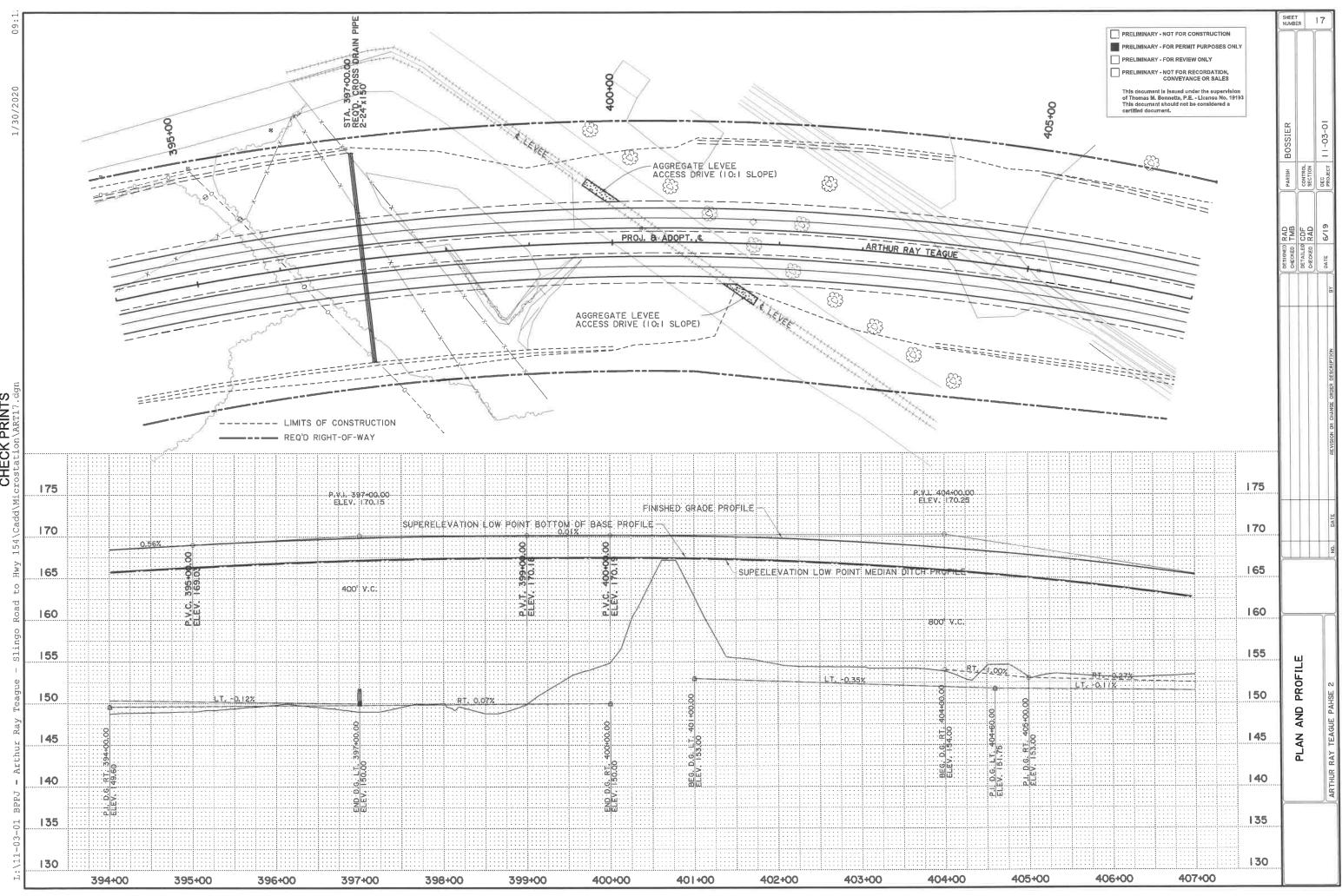


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