



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Rock Island District

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Applicant: U.S. Silica Company  
CEMVR-RD-2022-1270

Issued: October 05, 2022  
Expires: November 04, 2022  
Section 404

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## **US Army Corps of Engineers**

1. **Applicant:** U.S. Silica Company, Tom Proctor, 701 Boyce Memorial Drive, Ottawa, Illinois 61350
2. **Project Location:** The proposed project is located approximately 4 miles west of Ottawa, Illinois on the southeast side of the intersection of 1251<sup>st</sup> Road and IL Route 71. The project is in LaSalle County, Sections 19, 20, and 29, Township 33 North, Range 3 East. Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 16. Latitude: 41.311859, Longitude: -88.908690.
3. **Project Description and Purpose.** The applicant is proposing to expand the existing U.S. Silica surface mining operations to the west. The project area is approximately 300 acres, of which approximately 186 acres will be mined. The primary purpose of the project is to expand mining operations to mine below ground sand reserves on U.S. Silica owned property. Previous authorizations include the U.S. Silica South Ottawa project CEMVR-OD-P-404220-2.
  - a) **Wetland Impacts.** Twelve wetland sites comprising of 34.1 acres are located within the review area. The construction of the mine will result in 4.64 acres of unavoidable permanent losses to wetlands which includes 0.06 acres forested wetland and 4.55 emergent wetland.
  - b) **Stream Impacts.** Approximately 250 feet of Brown's Brook and 40 feet of intermittent Tributary B will be impacted.
  - c) **Permit and Action Areas.** Since waters of the U.S. (including wetlands and streams), span the length and breadth of the site, the Corps has determined the permit and action areas consist of the entire 300 acres associated with the mine expansion proposal.
4. **Avoidance and Minimization Statement.** The applicant will provide an alternatives analysis for this project. Multiple alternatives, which include avoidance and minimization measures, will be considered including a no action alternative. The alternatives analysis will be limited to a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the project. Original proposal for this project included moving Brown's Brook, impacting approximately 6,720 linear feet but this plan was abandoned. Appropriate erosion control measures will be taken during project development to reduce the potential for unintentional sedimentation and sediment runoff into adjacent regulated waters. U.S. Silica intends on meeting compensatory mitigation requirements through purchasing credits from an approved mitigation bank.

## 5. Agency Review.

a. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

b. State of Illinois.

(1) The project plans will be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review.

(2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation, and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5).

(3) Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the Office of Water Resources at [dnr.dworm@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.dworm@illinois.gov) or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at <http://dnr.state.il.us/owr>.

6. **Historical/Archaeological.** The District has received and reviewed the Archaeological Short Report Form reports entitled, U.S. Silica – Mine Expansion. SCI No. 2017-3155.40 dated 25 January 2018 and U.S. Silica – Mine Expansion South Ottawa Reserves Site 11LS935 and Site 11LS943 / IHPO Log #002071217, Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois dated 13 April 2018. Mr. Don Booth with SCI Engineering, Inc., in O’Fallon, Illinois was the Principal Investigator for the reports. The reports are adequate, and the District Archaeologist concurs with the recommendations in the reports. The report will be coordinated with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) under separate cover letters. In addition, further work has yet to be conducted within the permit area. Once the results of the additional testing have been completed and reviewed the results and recommendations will be coordinated with the Illinois SHPO and THPOs under separate cover letters. It is anticipated that additional consultation will be required to develop a mitigation strategy for historic resources within the permit area. Formal notification and request for consultation will be provide to the SHPO and THPOs upon completion of the data gathering.

## 7. Endangered Species.

a. District staff have performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the IPaC website as occurring in LaSalle County, Illinois:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*);
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*),
- Decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*)
- Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*)
- The Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is listed as a candidate species.

The project location overlaps with critical habitat for the Indiana bat. The Corps determined the project will have no effect on the Eastern prairie fringed orchid and decurrent false aster since no suitable habitat was found within the action area which is comprised almost entirely of agricultural land

devoted to row crop production. LaSalle County is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat and the federally threatened Northern long-eared bat, and an onsite habitat assessment found approximately 10-15 acres of low to high quality suitable maternity and/or foraging habitat along Browns Brook on the eastern project boundary and approximately 5 acres of low to high quality suitable maternity and/or foraging habitat along the wooded hill side on the southern project boundary. The site is also considered critical habitat for the Indiana bat due to its proximity to a known winter hibernaculum. The Corps determined the proposed permit action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the two bat species provided all tree clearing (approximately 1 acre) occurs outside the maternity and fall swarming seasons of the bats which extends from April 1 to October 31.

b. On November 7 and 8, 2017, four migrating whooping cranes (*Grus americana*) were observed on or near the project site. It is suspected that these individuals are part of a non-essential experimental population found in the State of Wisconsin. While this population is fully protected as threatened, other provisions of the Endangered Species Act are relaxed to provide greater management flexibility and positive public support of the recovery efforts. The Corps determined the regulated activities proposed under this public notice may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the bird species provided the adjacent Catlin Salt Marsh INAI site remains undisturbed.

c. The proposed project is being coordinated with the FWS and respective resource agencies through this public notice. Any comments concerning Federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be considered in the final assessment of the project.

d. Effective August 9, 2007, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was removed from the List of Threatened and Endangered Species due to successful recovery efforts, but the bald eagle continues to be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There are no known active eagle nests or winter roosts within the action area; however, the site is near Starved Rock State Park, Plum Island, and the Starved Rock Lock and Dam which are known winter roosts and feeding areas for the bald eagle.

**8. Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines.** The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

**9. Public Interest Review.** The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

**10. Who Should Reply.** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal.

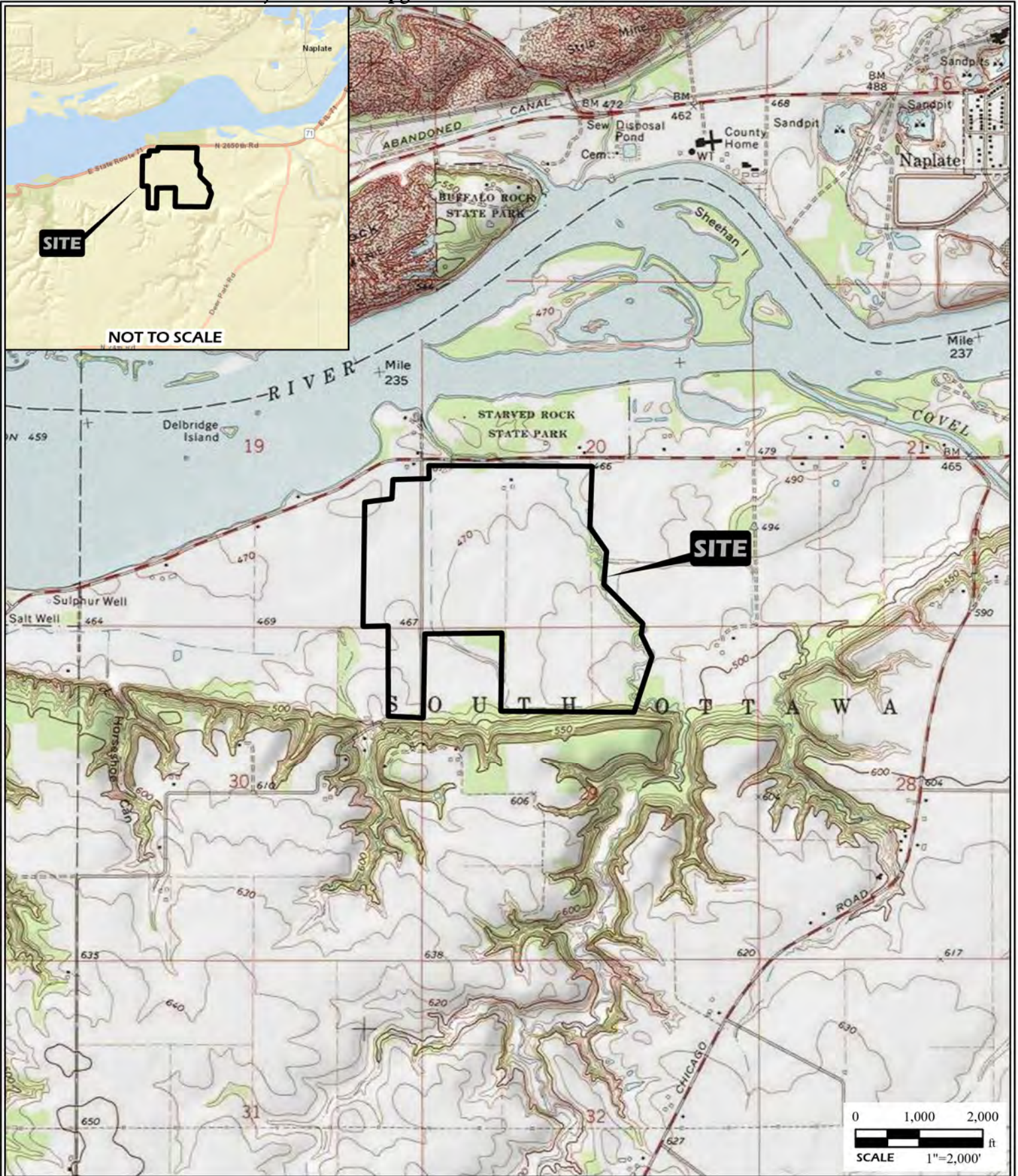
To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.



**11. Public Hearing Requests.** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

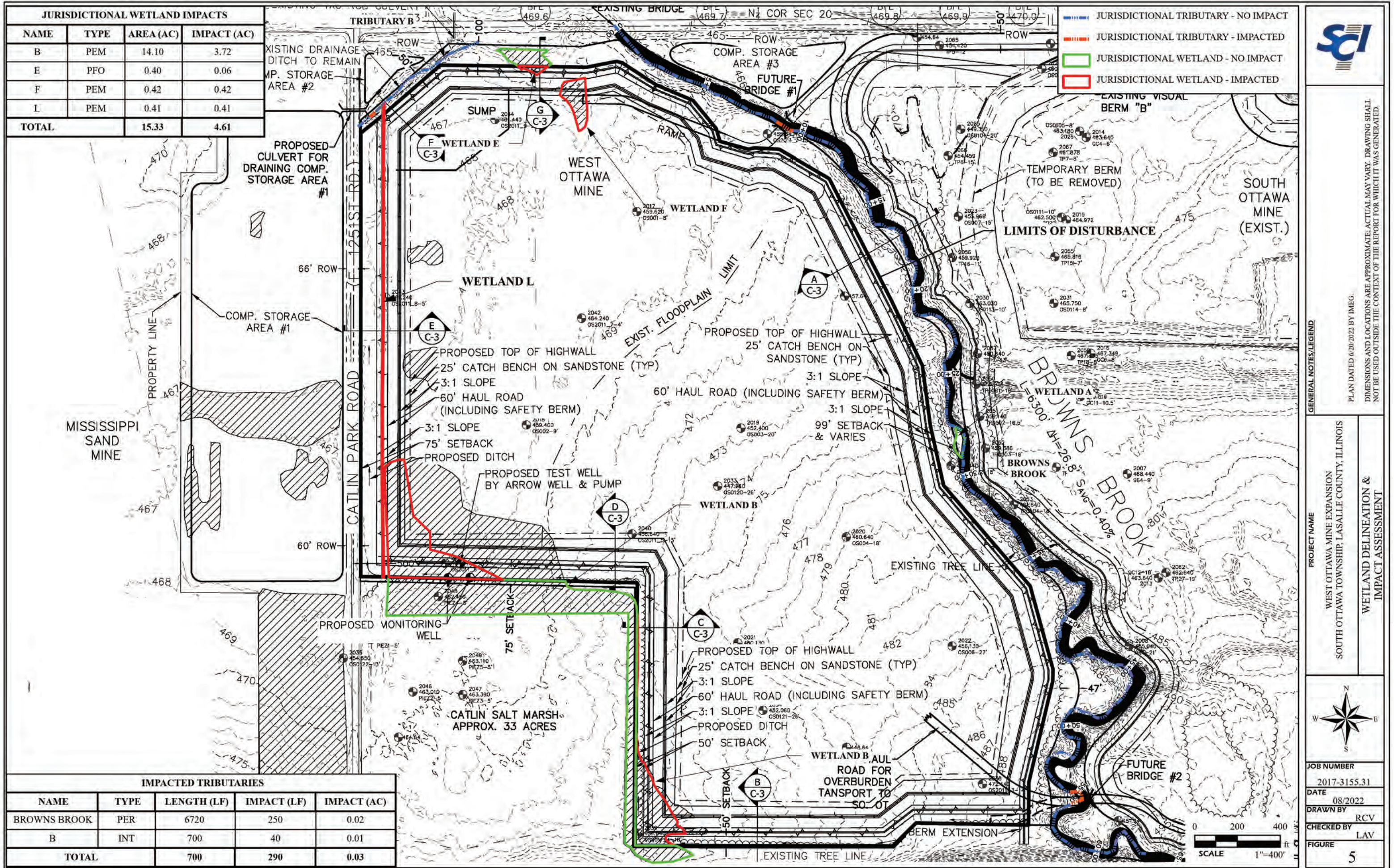
**12. Reply to the Corps of Engineers.** Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: RD-E (Wendy Frohlich), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact Mrs. Wendy Frohlich at 309-794-5674 or email: [wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil](mailto:wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil).

Attachments  
Plans

Mrs. Wendy Frohlich  
Project Manager, Eastern Branch  
Regulatory Division



	<b>PROJECT NAME</b> WEST OTTAWA MINE EXPANSION SOUTH OTTAWA TOWNSHIP, LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS			<b>GENERAL NOTES/LEGEND</b> USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP STARVED ROCK, ILLINOIS QUADRANGLE DATED 1970 10' CONTOURS		
	<b>VICINITY AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAP</b>					STREET MAP <a href="http://gto.arcgisonline.com/maps/world_street_map">HTTP://GOTO.ARCGISONLINE.COM/MAPS/WORLD_STREET_MAP</a>
	DRAWN BY RCV	DATE 08/2022	JOB NUMBER 2017-3155.31			



JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND IMPACTS			
NAME	TYPE	AREA (AC)	IMPACT (AC)
B	PEM	14.10	3.72
E	PFO	0.40	0.06
F	PEM	0.42	0.42
L	PEM	0.41	0.41
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15.33</b>	<b>4.61</b>

IMPACTED TRIBUTARIES				
NAME	TYPE	LENGTH (LF)	IMPACT (LF)	IMPACT (AC)
BROWNS BROOK	PER	6720	250	0.02
B	INT	700	40	0.01
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>700</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>0.03</b>

- JURISDICTIONAL TRIBUTARY - NO IMPACT
- JURISDICTIONAL TRIBUTARY - IMPACTED
- JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND - NO IMPACT
- JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND - IMPACTED



GENERAL NOTES/LEGEND

PLAN DATED 6/20/2022 BY: MEG

DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE; ACTUAL MAY VARY. DRAWING SHALL NOT BE USED OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THE REPORT FOR WHICH IT WAS GENERATED.

PROJECT NAME

WEST OTTAWA MINE EXPANSION

SOUTH OTTAWA TOWNSHIP, LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WETLAND DELINEATION & IMPACT ASSESSMENT



JOB NUMBER

2017-3155.31

DATE

08/2022

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RCV

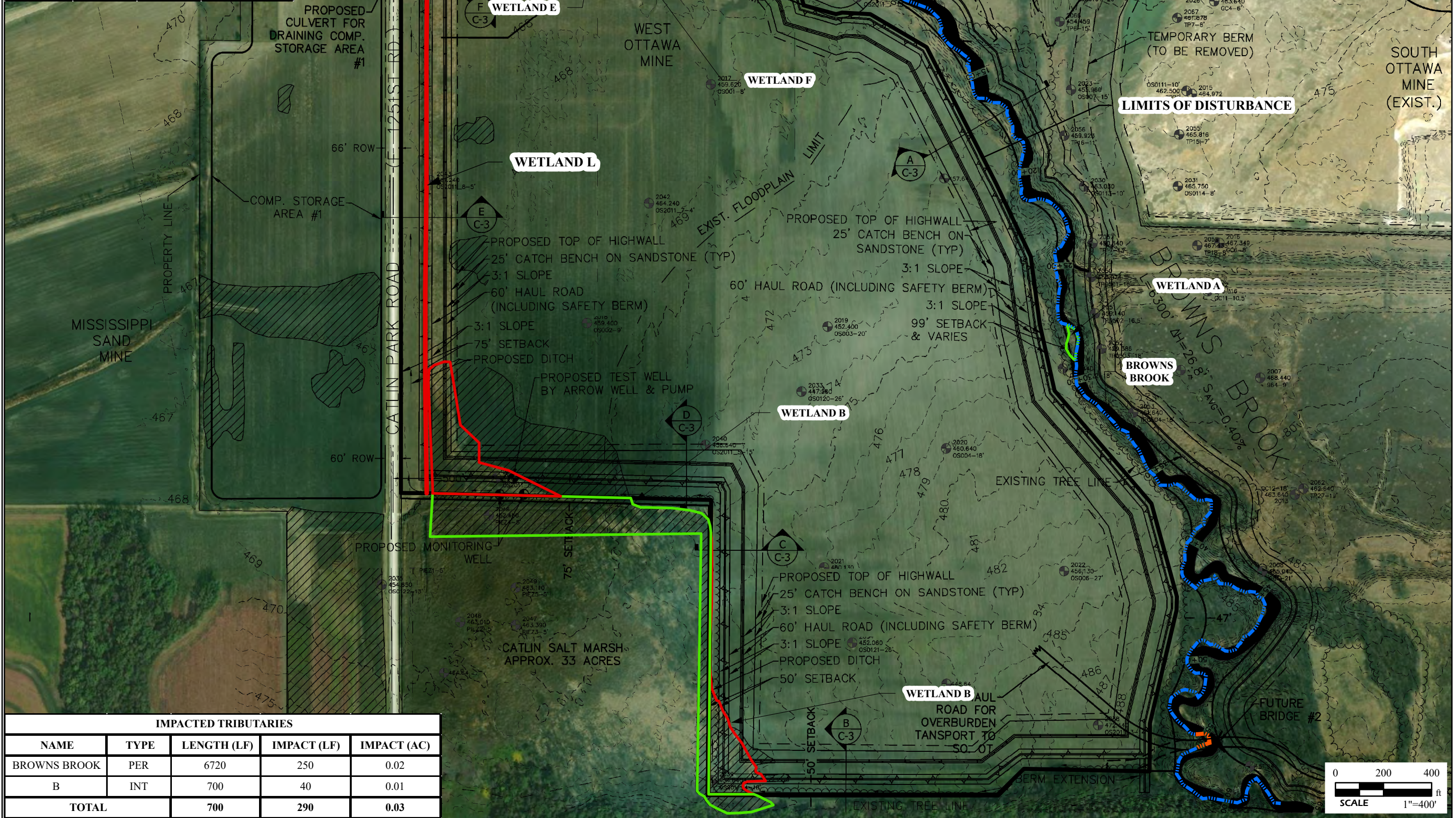
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FIGURE

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JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND IMPACTS			
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	JURISDICTIONAL TRIBUTARY - IMPACTED
	JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND - NO IMPACT
	JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND - IMPACTED



**GENERAL NOTES/LEGEND**

PLAN DATED 6/20/2022 BY IMEG.

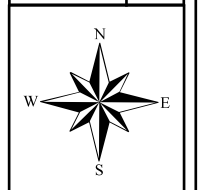
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**PROJECT NAME**

WEST OTTAWA MINE EXPANSION  
SOUTH OTTAWA TOWNSHIP, LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**WETLAND DELINEATION & IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AERIAL)**



**JOB NUMBER**  
2017-3155.31

**DATE**  
08/2022

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**FIGURE**  
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