

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 • Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700 • FAX (334) 271-7950

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Water Works & Gas Board of the City of Cordova
Walker County

DWSRF Project No. FS010260-01

May 20, 2020

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made \$200,000 in financial assistance available to the Water Works & Gas Board of the City of Cordova using funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program. In accordance with State and Federal regulations that govern the program, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has conducted a review to assess the potential impacts upon the environment that may result from implementation of this project.

The Water Works & Gas Board of the City of Cordova proposes to drill test wells to locate a ground water source for the Water Board's supply system, to upgrade the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, and to replace class 160 PVC water lines. This project will result in improved reliability, improved customer service, and increased operational revenues.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from further environmental study under the guidelines specified by the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) which specifically include actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. However, this decision may be reconsidered if significant adverse information concerning the potential environmental impacts of the project is discovered.

Comments relative to this project should be submitted in writing to Mr. William A. Lott, SRF Section, Permits & Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of public notice. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will not take formal action to proceed with the project without carefully evaluating any public comments opposing the project.

Sincerely,

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

LRL/DKB/WAL/kbh

Attachment



Cordova
SRF# FS010260-01

The Categorical Exclusion is promulgated in the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) in Part IV, Section C: Categorical Exclusions for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects: (Italicized sections apply.)

1. The following drinking water projects are eligible for categorical exclusions:
 - a. *Actions intended solely for minor rehabilitation, functional replacement, or ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.*
 - b. Minor construction, including:
 - (1) New wells or replacement wells for water supply purposes if ancillary to the existing system;
 - (2) Improvements not intended to increase capacity of the system;
 - (2) Facilities for the disinfection of public water supplies;
 - (3) Facilities such as looping that will result solely in the provision of adequate public water system pressure;
 - (4) Construction of water tanks;
 - (5) Construction of new water lines in previously disturbed areas within one mile of the existing distribution system.
 - c. Projects where funding is being provided for planning and/or engineering costs only (in which case the requirements of IV.C.1.a-d do not apply).
2. In order to determine if a drinking water project is eligible for a CE, all of the following must not apply:
 - a. The action is known or expected to directly or indirectly adversely impact any of the following:
 - (1) Cultural or historical resources;
 - (2) Endangered or Threatened Species and/or their critical habitats;
 - (3) Environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, prime agricultural land, or aquifer recharge zones.
 - b. The action is not cost effective.
 - c. The action will cause significant public controversy.
 - d. The action will create a new or expanded surface drinking water source.

This project complies with the above requirements and has been determined to be eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

JUN 22 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2019-TA-0533

Mr. Dave Bechtel, P.E.
130 Southcrest Drive, Suite 100
Homewood, AL 35209

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

Thank you for your letter dated June 3, 2020, requesting evaluation and comment for water well test drilling at two site locations near Cordova, Walker County, Alabama. We understand that well site #1 (Latitude/Longitude 33.7643691 N., -87.2004918 W.) and well site #2 (Latitude/Longitude 33.7500581 N., -87.1985345 W.) are located in or bordering upland pine forest. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Federally Listed Species

Our records indicate that no federally listed or candidate species are known to occur in the project area footprint; however, the following listed species may occur within or near the proposed project area:

- Indiana bat *Myotis sodalis* – Endangered
- Northern long-eared bat *M. septentrionalis* – Threatened

Based on information provided in your letter and that you shared in our June 10-11 phone conversations, you stated that the test sites would be a maximum of 50' x 60', less than 0.1 acre, and would require no tree clearing (or at most one tree) due to the ability to offset your drill as much as up to 30' from center. A review of our records indicates that there are no known hibernacula or roost trees located near the proposed drill site locations. We recommend that you not disturb (make contact) with any live tree > 5 inches or dead snag > 3 inches dbh that exhibit exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, or hollows with the drilling rig to prevent potential roosting disturbance.

Additionally, you stated that test drilling activity would generate substantial noise levels during daylight working hours for approximately two weeks up to one month depending on the underlying substrate. We have no drilling noise concerns regarding Indiana and northern long-eared bat species.

To minimize impacts to these species and their habitats, we recommend the proposed drilling be designed and implemented using the following BMPs to minimize the potential for sedimentation and erosion in the project area:

- Develop an erosion control plan tailored to the drilling site and the dredge spoil dumping site (if any). All erosion controls should be inspected routinely, especially during and immediately following significant rain events, to ensure no impacts to nearby surface waters and aquatic habitat. Immediate corrective action should be taken if erosion or sedimentation is observed.
- Immediately revegetate any disturbed areas with a native species or an annual grass.
- To the extent feasible, completed any work that results in exposed earth during periods when significant rainfall is not predicted.

For specific techniques, see “The Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas” (December 2018), available from the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee or on-line at:

<https://alconservationdistricts.gov/resources/erosion-and-sediment-control/>

For further discussion, please contact Mr. Jason Ross of my staff at (205) 247-3723. Please refer to the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM
PEARSON

Digitally signed by
WILLIAM PEARSON
Date: 2020.06.18
14:57:31 -05'00'

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209

February 26, 2019

North Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: File Number SAM-2019-00195-CMS, Cordova Test Well Drilling, Water Works and Gas Board of the City of Cordova

Water Works and Gas Board
of the City of Cordova
c/o Utility Engineering Consultants, LLC
Attention: Dave Bechtel
Post Office Box 100995
Irondale, Alabama 35210

Transmitted electronically to dbechtel@uecllc.com

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

This letter is in response to your February 18, 2019 letter regarding the proposed test drill for a water source in Cordova, Walker County, Alabama. This project has been assigned file number SAM-2019-00195-CMS, which should be referred to in all future correspondence regarding this project.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a Department of the Army (DA) permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344). If the project will involve work in or a discharge or placement of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S. under our regulatory jurisdiction, issuance of a DA permit will be required prior to conducting the proposed work. It is unclear from the limited information provided in your submittal if the project will require a discharge into jurisdictional waters of the U.S.

The statements contained herein do not convey any property rights or any exclusive privileges, and do not authorize any injury to property or obviate the requirements to obtain other local, State, or Federal assent required by law for the activities discussed above. If the scope of work or project location changes, you are urged to contact this office.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at (205)-290-9096 or courtney.m.shea@usace.army.mil.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. Also, please take a moment

to complete our customer satisfaction survey located near the bottom of the webpage.
Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Sincerely,

SHEA.COURTNE
Y.M.1387610231

Digitally signed by
SHEA.COURTNEY.M.1387610231
DN: cn=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD,
ou=PKI, ou=USA,
cn=SHEA.COURTNEY.M.1387610231
Date: 2019.02.26 15:28:31 -05'00'

Courtney Shea
Senior Project Manager



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
P.O. Box 300900
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 21, 2020

Dave Bechtel
P.O. Box 19218
Birmingham, AL 35219

Re: AHC 20-0715
City of Cordova - Test Well Drilling
Walker County

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

Upon review of the above referenced project, we have determined that project activities will have no effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we concur with the proposed project activities.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Alabama Burial Act (*Code of Alabama* 1975, §13A-7-23.1, as amended; Alabama Historical Commission Administrative Code Chapter 460-X-10 Burials) should be followed. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to insure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Eric Sipes at 334.230.2667 or Eric.Sipes@ahc.alabama.gov. Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/EDS/law



March 7, 2019

Dave B. Bechtel, P.E.
Utility Engineer Consultants, LLC
2000 Crestwood Blvd., Suite 100
Irondale, Alabama 35210

Dear Mr. Bechtel:

Re: Water Works & Gas Board of the City of Cordova – Test Well Drilling – Walker County

This letter is in response to your letter requesting our review on the subject project. The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) does not know of any reason to oppose, and therefore concurs with the project. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Charles E. Ball'.

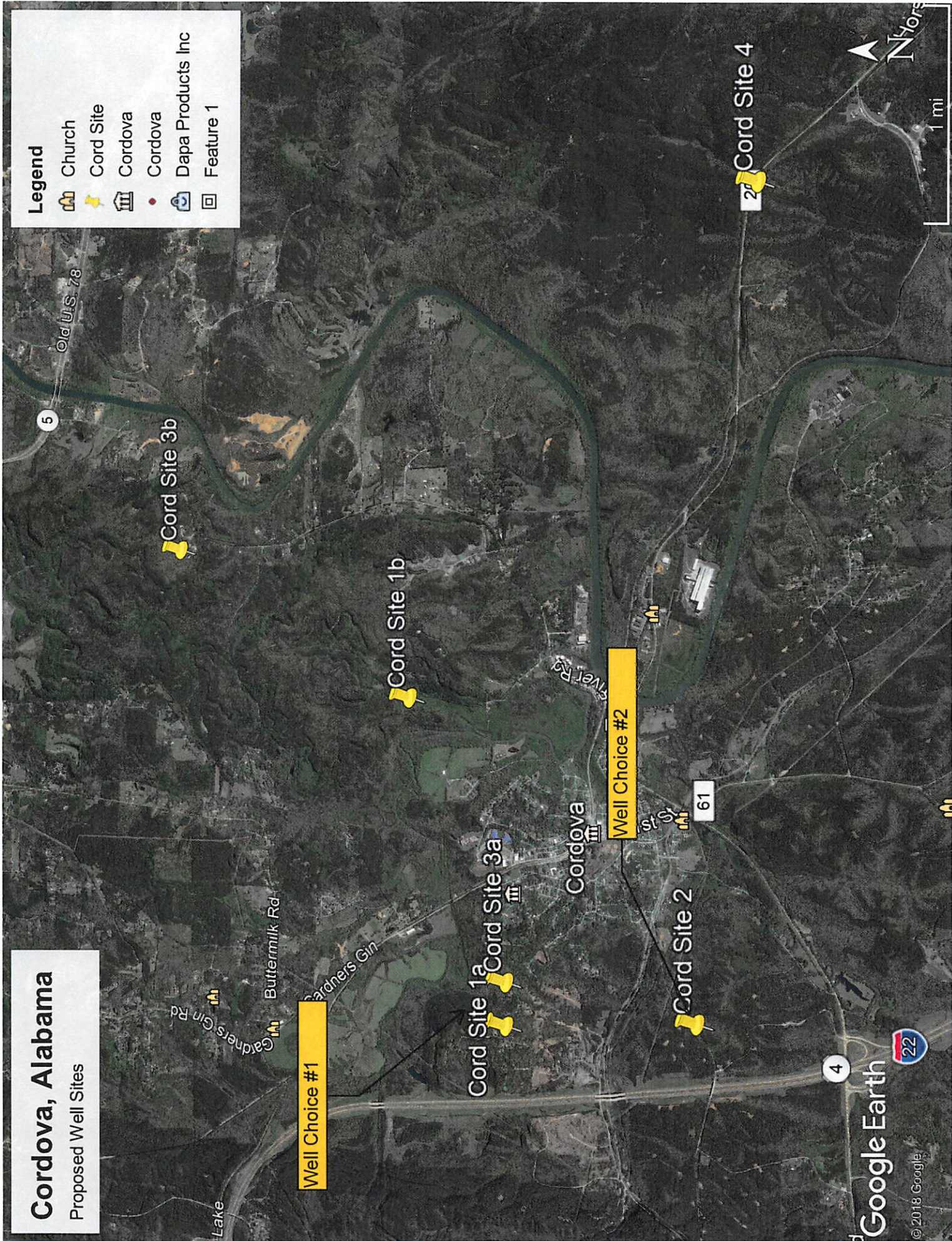
Charles E. Ball, AICP
Executive Director

Cordova, Alabama

Proposed Well Sites

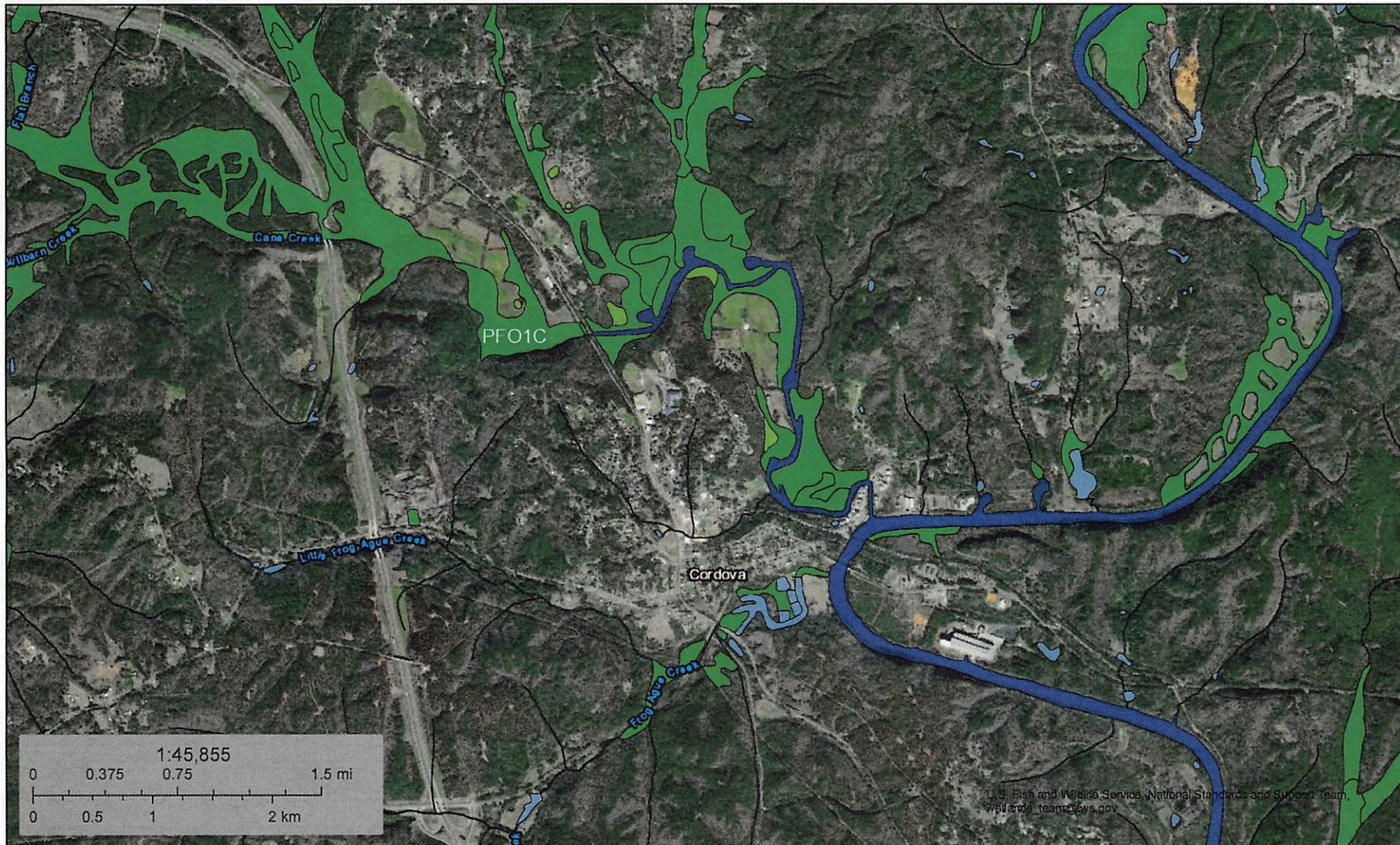
Legend

- Church
- Cord Site
- Cordova
- Cordova
- Dapa Products Inc
- Feature 1



Google Earth

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February 21, 2019

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond

- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.