



Alabama Department of Environmental Management
adem.alabama.gov

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

West Morgan / East Lawrence Water & Sewer Authority
Lawrence & Morgan Counties
SRF Project No. FS010090-04

May 14, 2025

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made up to \$22,000,000 in financial assistance available to the West Morgan / East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority using funds from the FY 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL-DWSRF-EC) Emerging Contaminants loan program and the Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant 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 West-Morgan/East Lawrence Water Authority proposes to interconnect with the West Lawrence Water Authority and Hartselle Utilities water systems. West Lawrence currently purchases water from the City of Moulton. Hartselle currently purchases water from Decatur Utilities and provides water exclusively to the Town of Falkville. Both sources have been tested and revealed to have emerging contaminants within the drinking water. WM/EL operates a reverse osmosis system which eliminates emerging contaminants from drinking water. Interconnection to WM/EL would provide the communities with increased water quality and allow the systems to comply with the proposed MCL standard for PFOA and PFAS contaminants.

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 Lott, SRF Section, Permits and Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of this 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,

Jeffery W. Kitchens
Acting Director

JWK/RM/WAL/kbh
Attachment



Birmingham Office
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168
(205) 941-1603 (FAX)

Decatur Office
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.
Decatur, AL 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

Coastal Office
1615 South Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36605
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)

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;
 - (3) Facilities for the disinfection of public water supplies;
 - (4) Facilities such as looping that will result solely in the provision of adequate public water system pressure;
 - (5) *Construction of water tanks;*
 - (6) 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.



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Tel: 334-242-3184
Fax: 334-242-1083

August 11, 2023

Tim Rylee
Insite Engineering
5800 Feldspar Way
Hoover, AL 35244

Re: AHC 23-1184
West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority lines and treatment plant upgrades
Lawrence County

Dear Mr. Rylee:

We concur with the above referenced project provided all construction activities will occur within **existing and previously disturbed** highway right-of-way and/or other previously disturbed areas. For the purposes of this letter, previous disturbance is defined as mechanical disturbance to either culturally sterile subsoil, or the maximum depth of the proposed undertaking. It should be noted that agricultural plowing does not typically meet this threshold of disturbance, nor do previously undisturbed portions of the ROW that require clearing of additional vegetation. Any area that is to be involved and does not fall into one of the above categories will require a cultural resource assessment by a professional archaeologist. Submit the resulting report to our office for review and determination prior to project initiation.

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 ensure 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 Amanda McBride at 334.230.2692 or Amanda.McBride@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/AMH/nj



August 10, 2023



InSite Engineering, LLC
ATTN: Tim Rylee, P.E.
5800 Feldspar Way
Hoover, AL 35244

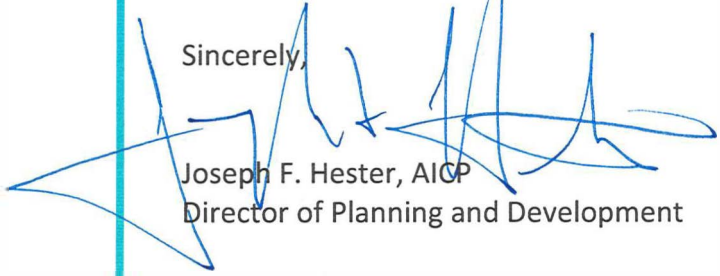
RE: Letter of Concurrence
West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority (WMEL)
Lawrence County – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan

Dear Mr. Rylee:

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) has reviewed the information provided for the proposed water distribution system upgrades project in Lawrence County, and we offer our concurrence. NARCOG understands that the proposed project consists of performing work within the existing service area of WMEL. The proposed project will include the following: installing a water main connecting the WMEL water system to neighboring utilities. The proposed project will ensure that the existing facilities operate more efficiently and meet the regulations and standards set forth by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), which will improve the quality of life for the residents of Lawrence County. All upgrades will be within existing WMEL property, rights-of way, and/or easements.

In conclusion, NARCOG finds the proposed project to be consistent and compatible with local, state, and regional plans. Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (256) 355-4515.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Hester, AICP
Director of Planning and Development

cc: Robby Cantrell, Executive Director
File



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NASHVILLE DISTRICT
WESTERN REGULATORY FIELD OFFICE
2424 DANVILLE ROAD SW
SUITE N
DECATUR AL 35603

August 23, 2023



SUBJECT: File No. LRN-2018-00686; West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority Water Distribution System Water Main Installation, Tennessee River Mile 308.4 Left Bank, Lawrence County, Alabama.

Jeaniece Slater
Wesr Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority
2547 Kirby Bridge Road
Decatur, Alabama 35609

Dear Ms. Slater:

This is in response to your August 21, 2023, request for our comments regarding the subject project.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has regulatory responsibilities pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Under Section 10, the USACE regulates all work in, or affecting, navigable waters of the U.S. Under Section 404, the USACE regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S. (33 CFR Part 328).

A review of the information provided indicates the subject activity may involve work in wetlands/waters of the U.S.; therefore, a Department of the Army permit may be required.

We understand the project proposal may not have specific design plans at this time, and this inquiry is an initial review to obtain grant funds. We have no objections to the applicant receiving grant funds for the proposal.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact me at the above address or telephone (256) 350-5620. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

William E Sinclair
Regulatory Project Manager
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



August 9, 2023

Mr. William J. Pearson
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526



Dear Mr. Pearson;

My name is Timothy Rylee, P.E., and I work for InSite Engineering, LLC. We are consulting engineers for the West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority.

The West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority has proposed to perform upgrades to the water distribution system by installing a water main connecting the West-Morgan water system to neighboring utilities in accordance with ADEM regulations and standards. All water lines and proposed improvements are within existing West Morgan-East Lawrence Water & Sewer Authority property, right-of-ways, and/or easements.

LOCATION

Please find attached a vicinity map of the existing water system network, water treatment plant, and proposed project sites. The location of the proposed water main installation is as follows: NW Corner: Township 5S, Range 7W, Section 16; NE Corner: Township 5S, Range 6W, Section 14; SW Corner: Township 6S, Range 7W, Section 33; SE Corner: Township 6S, Range 6W, Section 35.

SUMMARY

In accordance with ADEM DWSRF funding procedures we are requesting concurrence of this modification from your agency. According to the DWSRF Applicants Instructions a response from your agency is required to meet all standards and guidelines for all applicants. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Please respond to care of Tim Rylee, InSite Engineering, LLC or via email at

tim@insiteengineering.org

Sincerely,
InSite Engineering, LLC

Timothy R. Rylee, P.E.

File 05003.00/2023DWSRF/FWS Letter



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B - Daphne, Alabama 36526
Phone: 251-441-5181 Fax: 251-441-6222

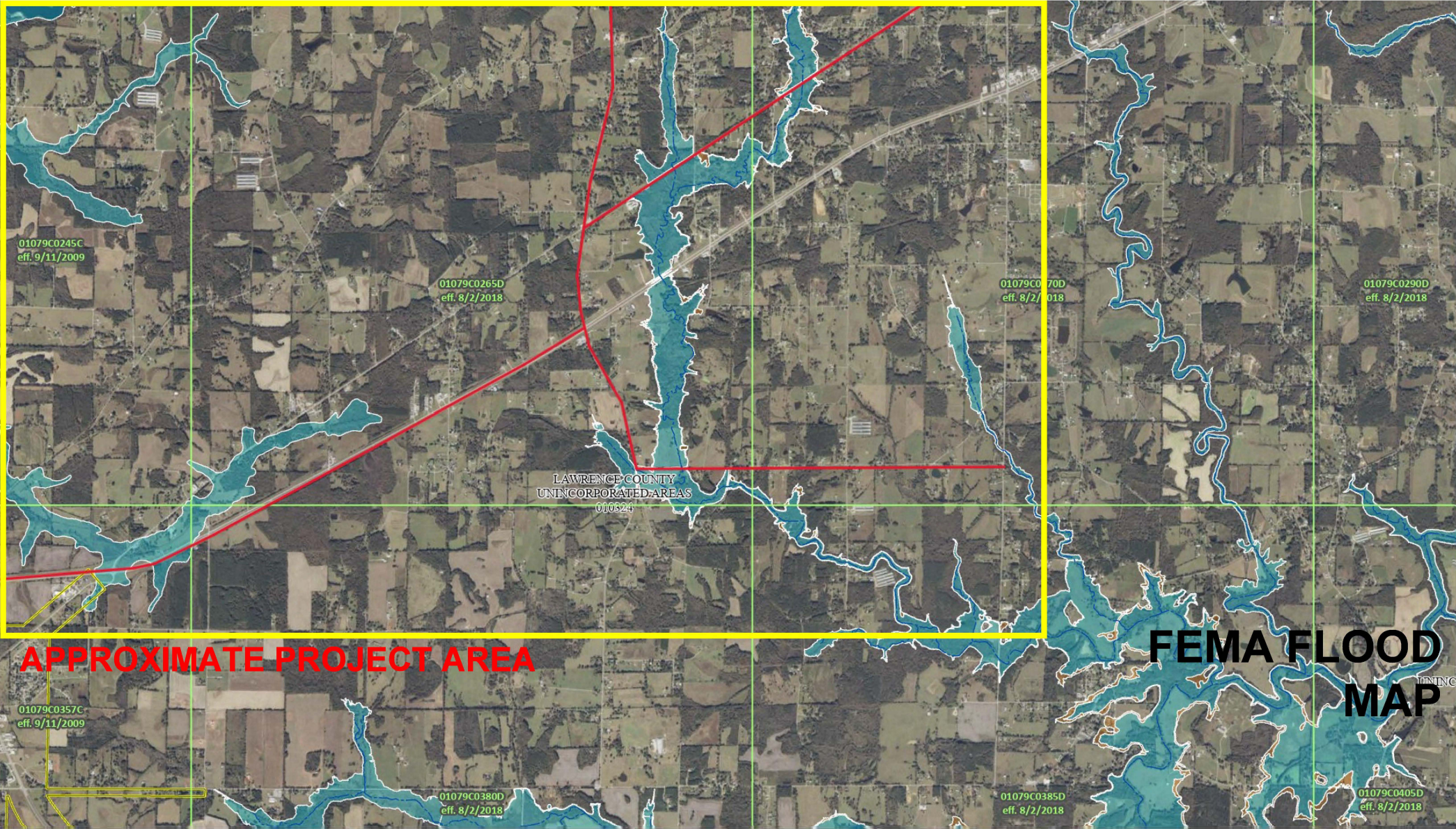
Based upon our records and the information provided in your letter, we agree with your findings that no federally listed species/critical habitat occur in the project area. **If project design changes are made, please submit new plans for review.**

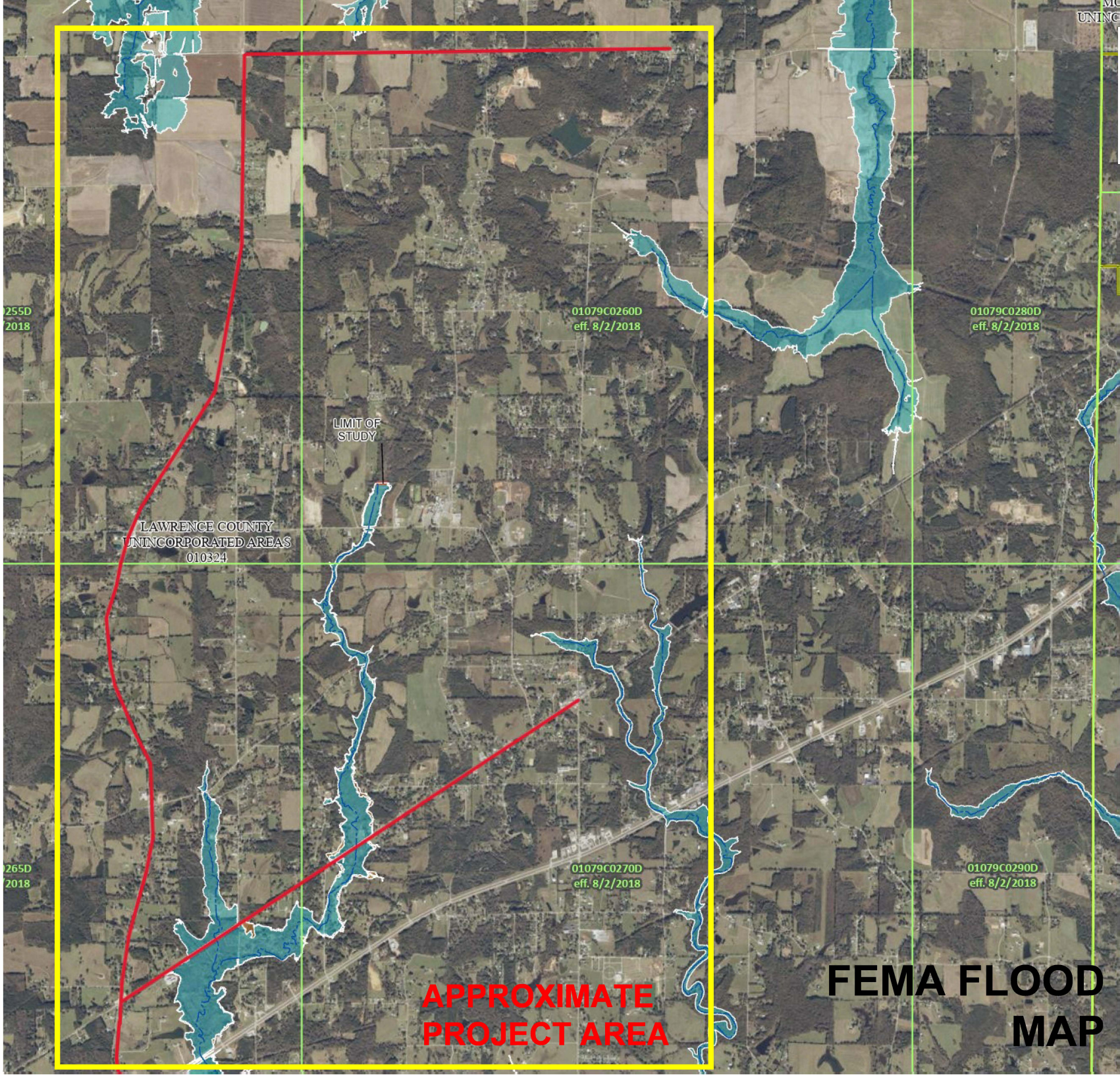
William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

APR 30 2024

Date

#6





**APPROXIMATE
PROJECT AREA**

**FEMA FLOOD
MAP**