

EDWARD F. POOLOS
DIRECTOR

JEFFERY W. KITCHENS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



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

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Decatur Utilities
Morgan County

SRF Project No. FS010118-04

September 17, 2025

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made **\$1,500,000** in financial assistance available to **Decatur Utilities** utilizing funds from the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants** 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 Decatur Utilities proposes a project that will conduct a PFAS treatability and pilot testing study to evaluate treatment alternatives for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This project will utilize temporary pilot-scale treatment systems to evaluate different media and flow conditions. The study will allow Decatur Utilities to compare treatment alternatives and identify the most effective approaches for PFAS removal. These will improve the utility's ability to make informed decisions on long-term treatment solutions without constructing any permanent facilities during this study.

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,

Edward F. Poolos
Director

EFP/MDM/WAL/JMW/kmb
Attachment



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

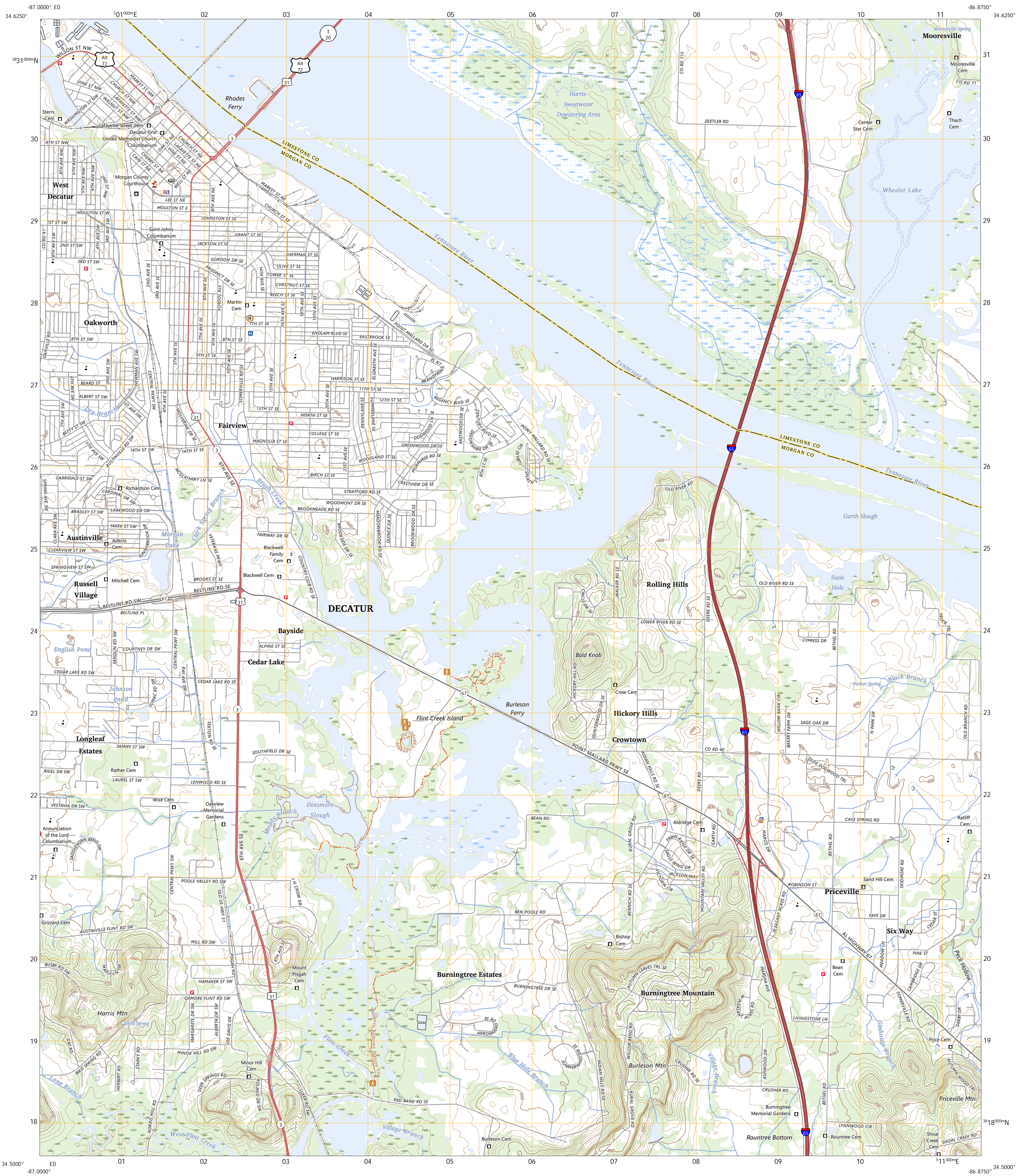
Decatur Office
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.
Decatur, AL 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

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.)

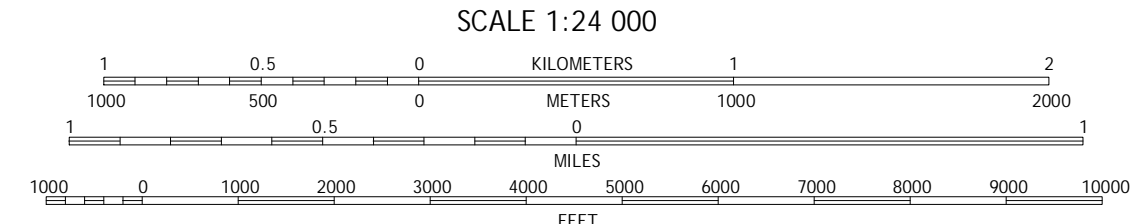
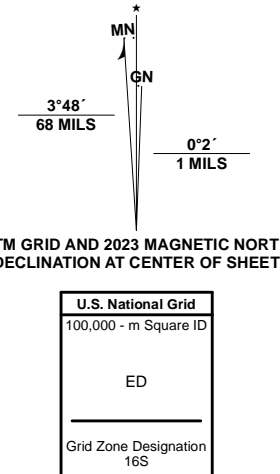
1. The following drinking water projects are eligible for categorical exclusions:
 - a. Actions intended solely for minor rehabilitation, functional replacement, or ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.
 - b. Minor construction, including:
 - (1) New wells or replacement 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.

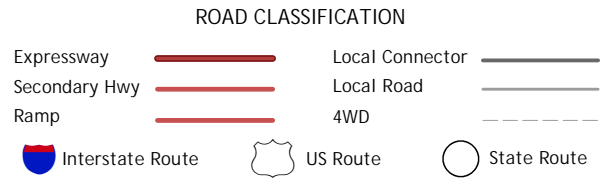
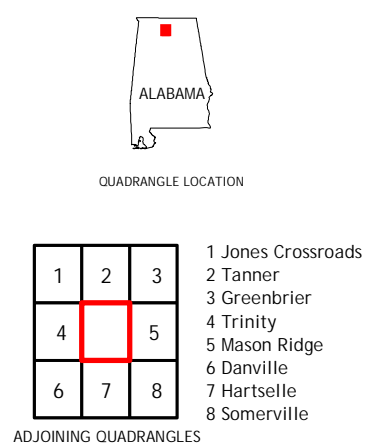


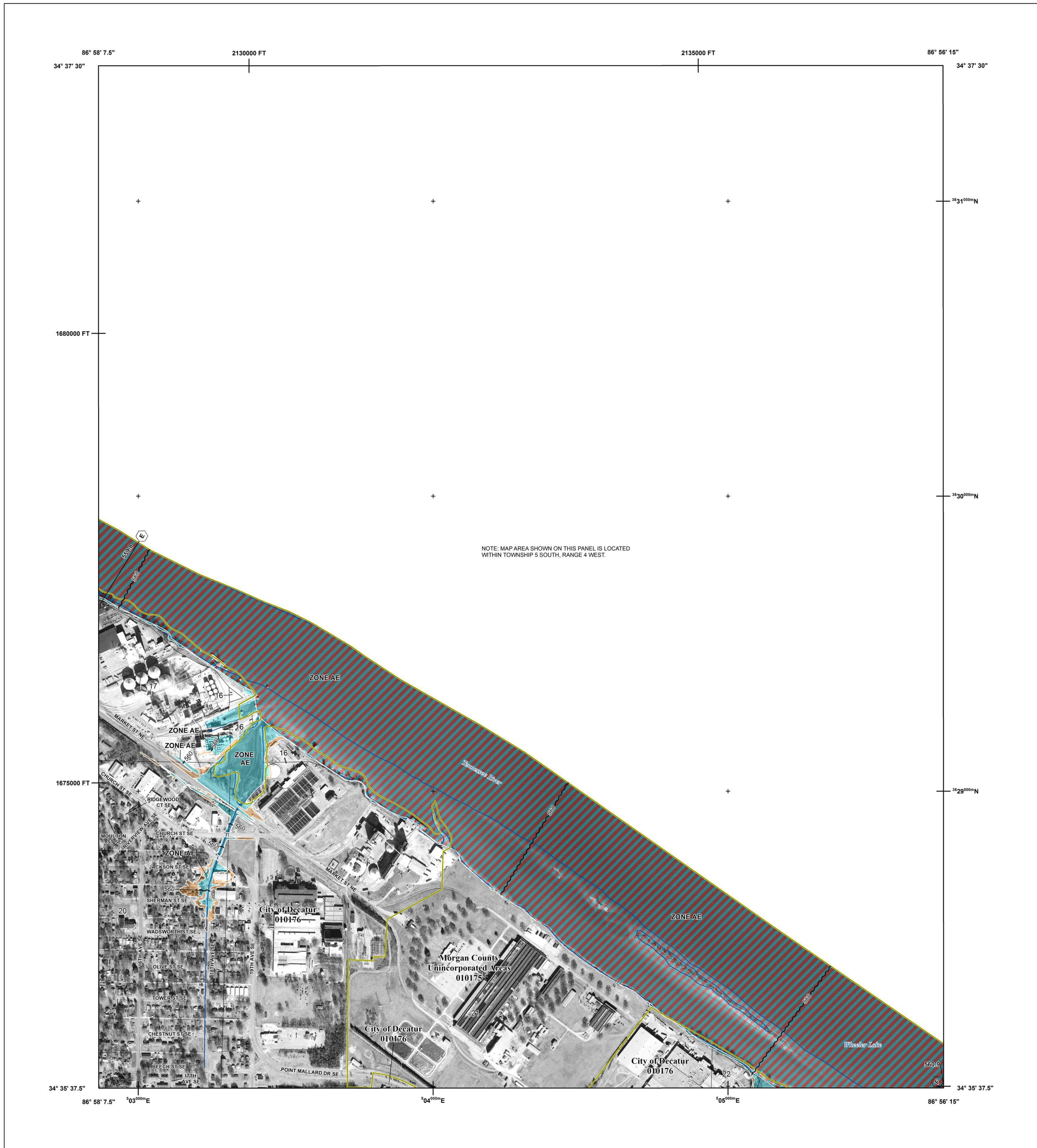
Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and
1 000-meter grid/Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 16S
This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.

Imagery: NAIP, September 2019 - September 2019
Roads: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 - 2017
Names: GNS, 1980 - 2023
Hydrography: National Hydrography Dataset, 2003 - 2021
Contours: National Elevation Dataset, 2022
Boundaries: see metadata file, 2020 - 2022
Public Land Survey System: BLM, 2020
Wetlands: National Wetlands Inventory, 1981











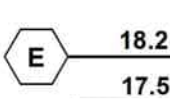
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988
This map was produced to conform with the
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard.





FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION

SEE FIS REPORT FOR ZONE DESCRIPTIONS AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT
THE INFORMATION DEPICTED ON THIS MAP AND SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTATION ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN DIGITAL FORMAT AT
[HTTP://MSC.FEMA.GOV](http://MSC.FEMA.GOV)

		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, V, A99</i> With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i>
SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Regulatory Floodway
		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i>
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee <i>See Notes, Zone X</i>
		Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
OTHER AREAS		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i>
GENERAL STRUCTURES	-----	Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
		Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation (BFE)
		Coastal Transect
	-----	Coastal Transect Baseline
	-----	Profile Baseline
	-----	Hydrographic Feature
	~~~~~ §13 ~~~~~	<b>Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)</b>
<b>OTHER FEATURES</b>	-----	<b>Limit of Study</b>
	-----	<b>Jurisdiction Boundary</b>

## NOTES TO USERS

For information and questions about this map, available products associated with this FIRM including historic versions of this FIRM, how to order products or the National Flood Insurance Program in general, please call the FEMA Map Information eXchange at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or visit the FEMA Map Service Center website at <http://msc.fema.gov>. Available products may include previously issued Letters of Map Change, a Flood Insurance Study Report, and/or digital versions of this map. Many of these products can be ordered or obtained directly from the website. Users may determine the current map date for each FIRM panel by visiting the FEMA Map Service Center website or by calling the FEMA Map Information eXchange.

For community and countywide map dates refer to the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction.

To determine if flood insurance is available in this community, contact your Insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-638-6620.

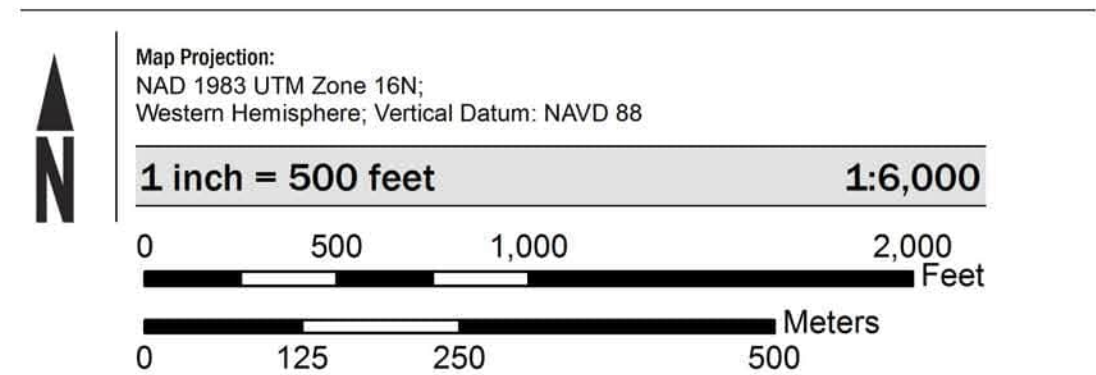
Base map information shown on this FIRM was provided in digital format by Morgan County at a scale of 1:24000. This information was derived from aerial photography dated 2011.



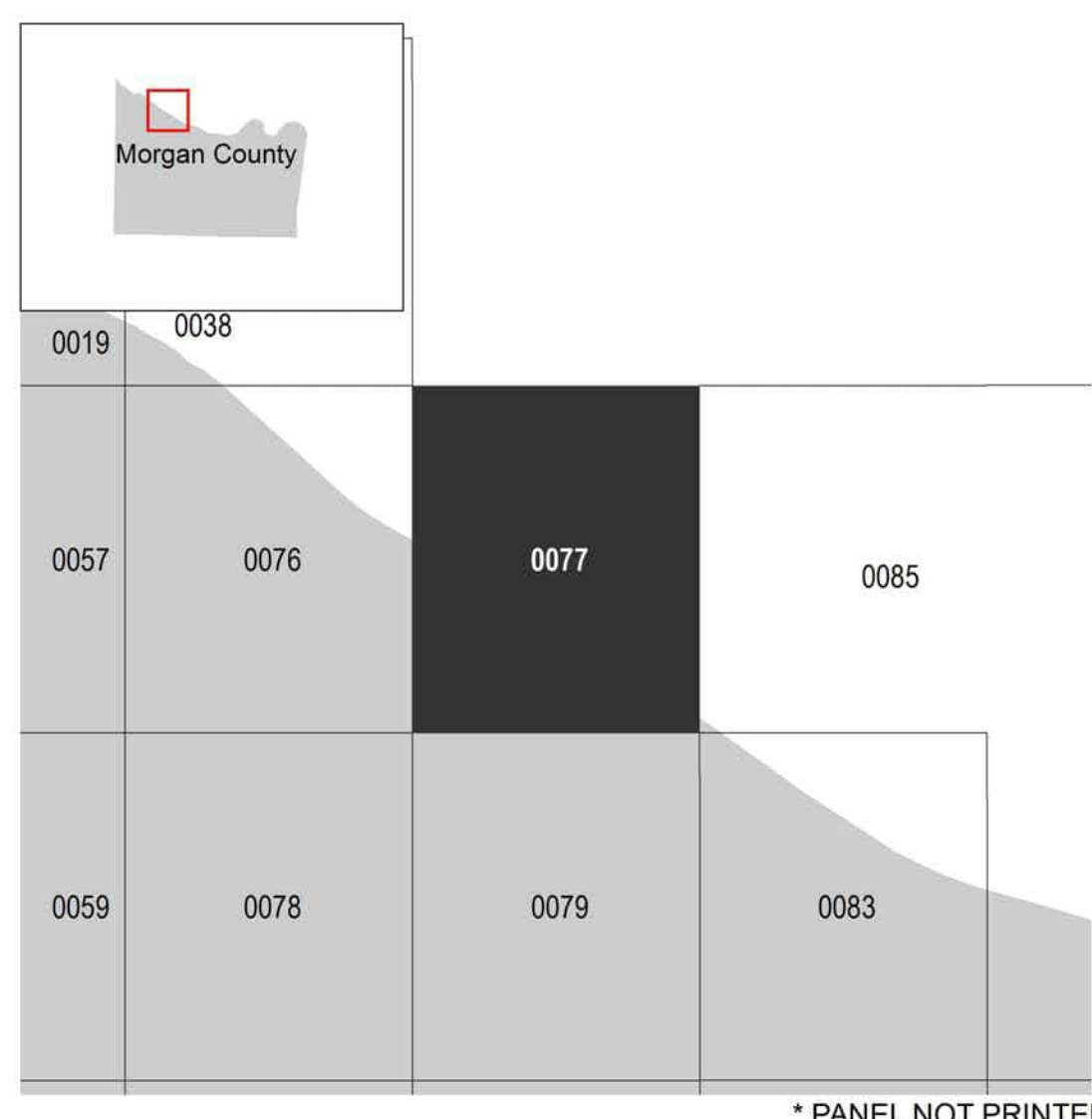
In cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local communities in Alabama, this Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was developed by the Alabama Office of Water Resources in a digital statewide format to assist communities in their efforts to minimize the loss of property and life through effectively managing development in flood-prone areas. The State of Alabama has implemented a long term approach to floodplain management to reduce the impacts of flooding. This is demonstrated by the State's commitment to mapping floodplain areas at the local level. As part of this effort, The Alabama Office of Water Resources is working closely with FEMA as a Cooperating Technical Partner to produce and maintain this digital FIRM.

**Please visit [www.adeca.alabama.gov/floods](http://www.adeca.alabama.gov/floods) for more information.**

### SCALE



## PANEL LOCATOR



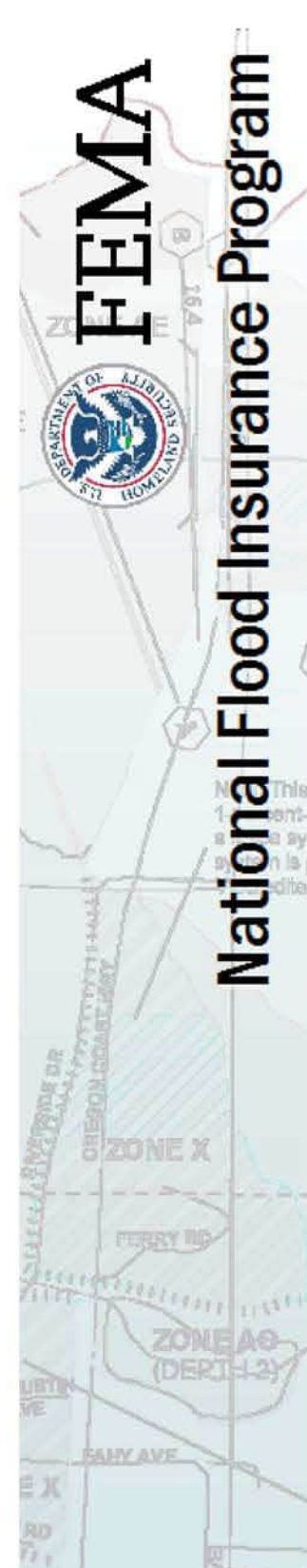
**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**  
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

**MORGAN COUNTY,  
ALABAMA**  
and Incorporated Areas



Panel Contains:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
CITY OF DECATUR	010176	0077	F
MORGAN COUNTY	010175	0077	F



VERSION NUMBER  
2.3.3.2

MAP NUMBER  
01103C0077F  
MAP REVISED  
AUGUST 16, 2018



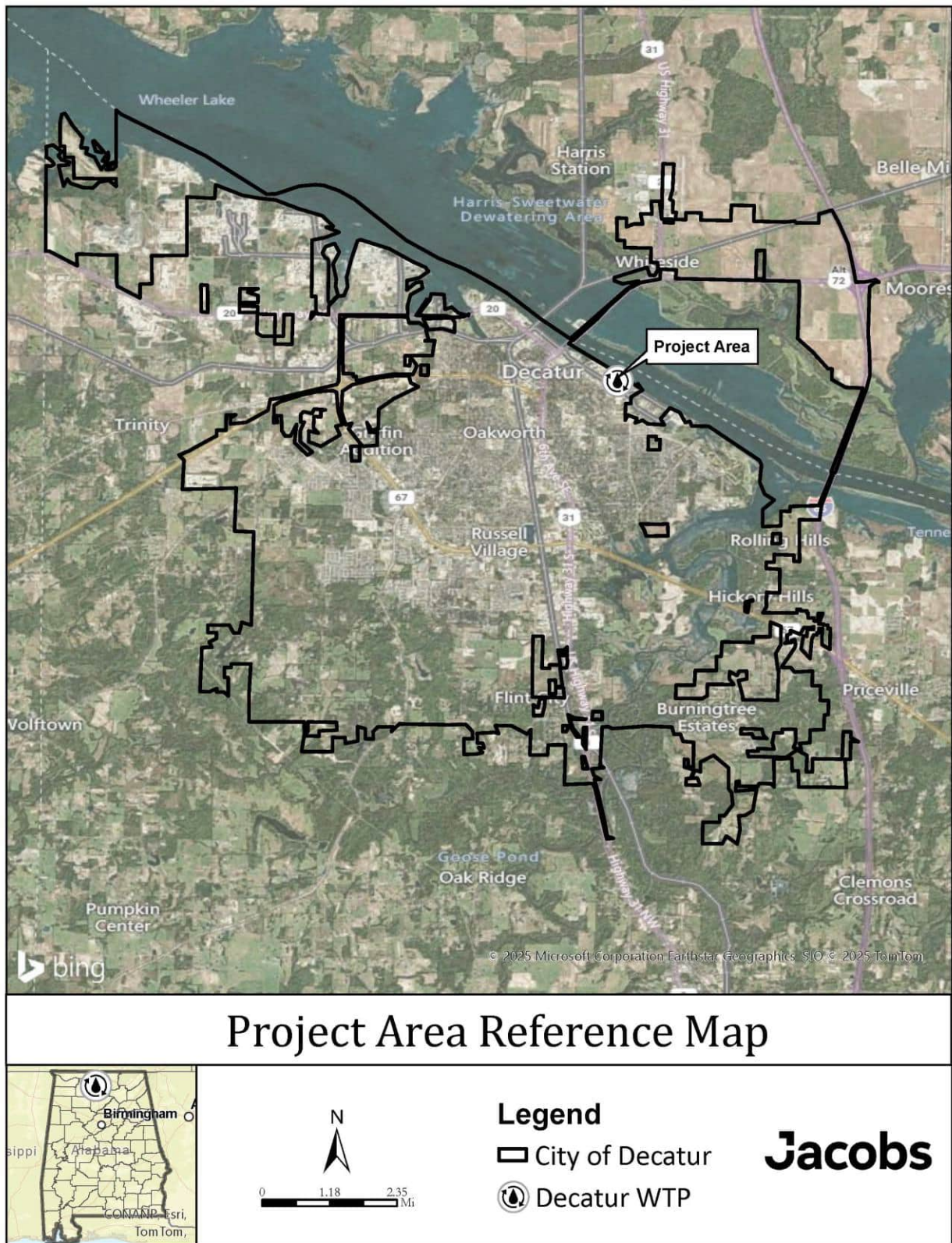


Figure 1: Project Area Reference Map



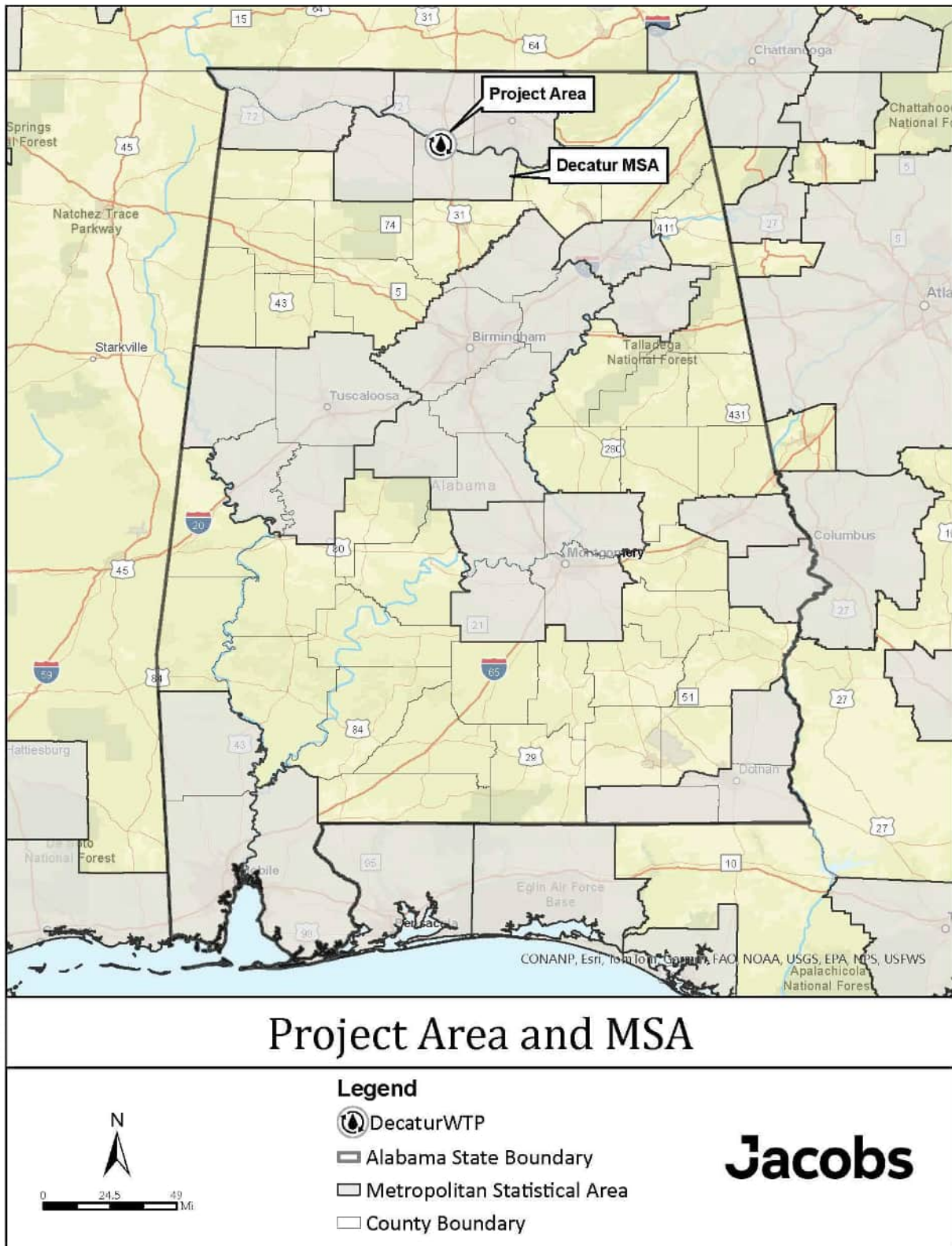


Figure 2: Project Area and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)



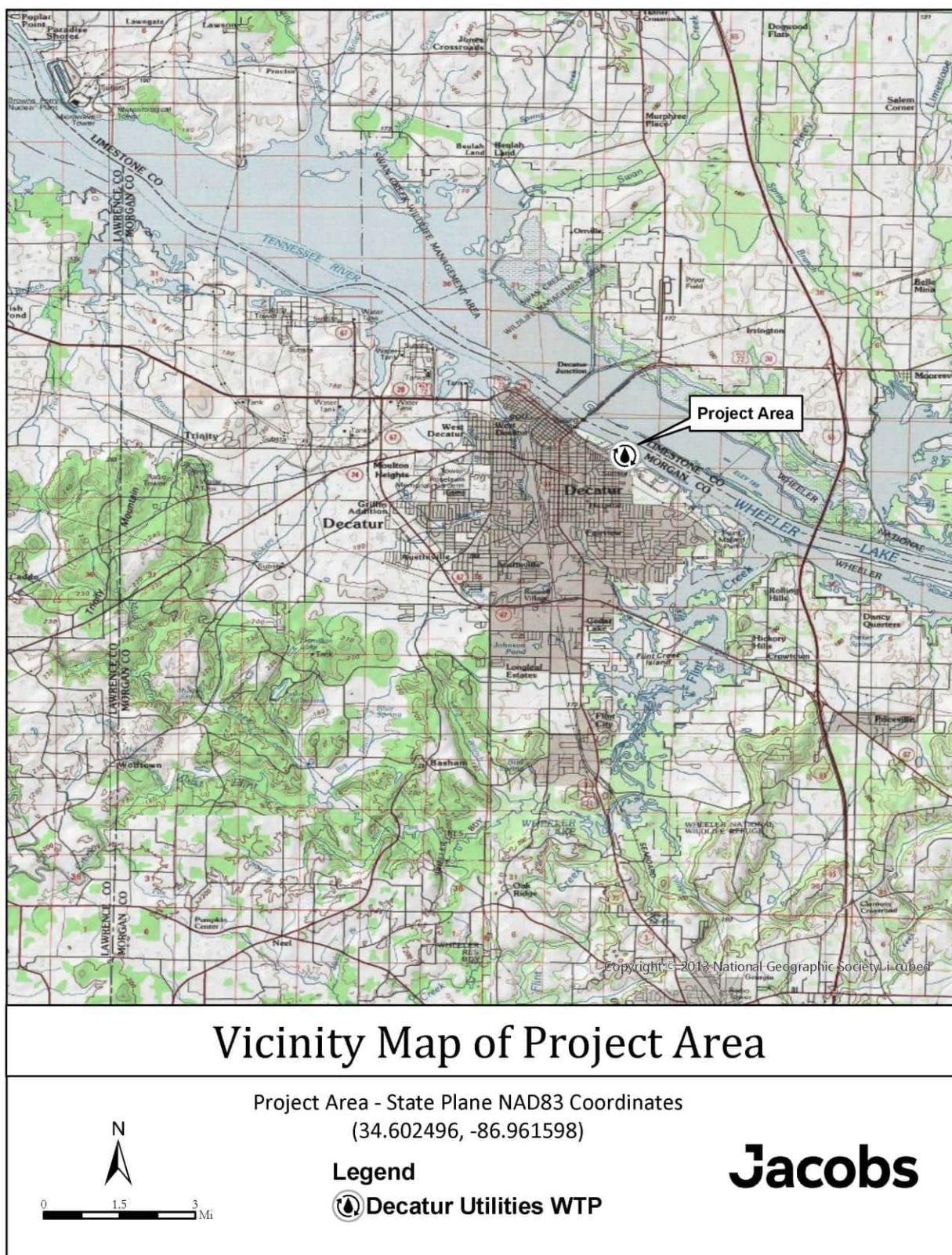


Figure 3 Vicinity Map of Project Area





**Figure 4 Project Site Location Map**

Source: City of Decatur, AL Interactive GIS Maps ([www.cityofdecatur.com/gis](http://www.cityofdecatur.com/gis))





# 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

May 22, 2025

Sarah Anderson  
1 Perimeter Park South Suite 315N  
Birmingham, AL 35243

Re: AHC 25-0774  
PFAS Treatability Study and PFAS Treatment Alternatives Pilot Testing  
Morgan County

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Upon review of the above referenced project, we concur 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 determination of no effect to historic properties.

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 Eric Sipes at 334.230.2667 or [Eric.Sipes@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Eric.Sipes@ahc.alabama.gov). Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Hewett  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAH/EDS/lah



May 20, 2025

Attached are a project aerial area map, a state location project area and MSA map, a USGS vicinity map, and a project site location map of the proposed project.

In accordance with the application, we request your review and a response in writing including comments and concurrence of the project within 30 days of the date of this letter to aid in submitting the application by the appropriate deadline.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this request or require any additional information, please feel free to contact Nina Williams at [Nina.Williams@Jacobs.com](mailto:Nina.Williams@Jacobs.com) or me.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Anderson*

**Sarah Anderson**  
Project Engineer  
[Sarah.Boles@jacobs.com](mailto:Sarah.Boles@jacobs.com)

Attachments



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

No endangered or threatened species or critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. As described, the project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW.

*William J. Pearson*

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

JUL 07 2025

Date

# 2



July 7, 2025

Jacob Engineering  
ATTN: Sarah Boles Anderson, Project Engineer

**RE: Letter of Concurrence - DWSRF Application  
Decatur Utilities  
City of Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama**

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) has reviewed the information provided for the Decatur Utilities proposed project in the City of Decatur, Alabama, and we offer our concurrence. NARCOG understands that the proposed project is for a *Decatur WTP PFAS Treatability Study and PFAS Treatment Alternatives Pilot Testing* study, which includes the following to reduce the concentration of PFAS in the post-filtered water.

- Rapid Small Scale Column testing (RSSCT) to evaluate granular activated carbons (GAC), ion exchange (IX), and NSF-61 certified alternative absorbent (CERTCO Fluoro-Sorb®).
- Assessment of Reverse Osmosis (RO) as a treatment alternative and foam refractionation as a RO concentrated treatment methodology.
- Assessment of conceptual design, planning efforts to establish preliminary design concepts, and construction estimates for full scale implementation.
- Full scale pilot of the top performing alternatives determined from the RSSCT to provide additional data on operational parameters of the treatment solutions and support final recommendations for preliminary design.
- Preliminary design using selected PFAS treatment technology for future improvements to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

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

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Hester, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development

cc: Robby Cantrell, Executive Director





400 W. Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

July 30, 2025

Ms. Sarah Anderson  
1 Perimeter Park South 315 North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35243

Dear Ms. Anderson:

WHEELER RESERVOIR – LETTER OF NO OBJECTION – DECATUR UTILITIES – PROJECT  
NUMBER D3707201 – TRACT NO. WR-1277 – TENNESSEE RIVER MILE 306 L – MAP 190-10D,  
QUAD MAP 68 SW – MORGAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

We have reviewed your May 22, 2025, request for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to concur with the proposed Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Treatability Study and PFAS Treatment Alternatives Pilot Testing assessment at 1900 Market Street, Decatur, Alabama in Monroe County, Alabama.

Temporary installation of testing equipment as proposed would not affect TVA land or landrights, nor would it be considered an obstruction requiring approval by TVA under Section 26a of the TVA Act. Therefore, TVA has no objection to you proceeding with the proposed work if constructed and installed in accordance with the plans as submitted.

Additional information may be found at: <https://www.tva.com/environment/shoreline-construction-permits/section-26a-jurisdiction>.

TVA assumes no liability and undertakes no obligation or duty (in tort, contract, strict liability, or otherwise) to you or to any third party for any damages to property (real or personal) or personal injuries (including death) arising out of or in any way connected with your construction, operation, or maintenance of the facility that is the subject of this letter.

Any revisions of the plans as submitted, or any permanent structures are proposed should be sent to us for review before you proceed with any modifications of the proposed work. If you have any questions, please contact me at [awpatrick@tva.gov](mailto:awpatrick@tva.gov) or 423-914-6784.

Sincerely,

*Anne W Patrick*

Anne W. Patrick, Program Manager Land Use  
West Region Land Management  
Public Land Management



**From:** [Bowling, Michael J CIV USARMY CELRN \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Williams, Nina](#)  
**Cc:** [Boles, Sarah](#); [Harris, Dustin](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Project D3707201  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 4:12:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for responding. Given the scope of your grant, USACE does not have regulatory responsibilities within the understood scope of your current project. Nothing in your current plan is actionable or regulated by USACE Regulatory. We are always here as a resource and available should you wish to contact us. If your plans alter, or you have any other needs, I am the admin for your area and work directly with the area supervisor. Please feel free to reach out to me directly should you need anything further in this or any other matter.

Very Respectfully,

Michael J Bowling

**Regulatory Program Assistant  
Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Nashville District  
West Field Office  
2424 Danville Rd SW Ste N  
Decatur, AL 35601**

Office: (256) 350-5620

We now have online submission capabilities! You may apply for Jurisdictional Determinations and Permits at:

<https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>

Internet: <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Wetlands-Permits/>

The Nashville District is committed to providing the highest level of support to the public. To help us



ensure we continue to do so, please complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey located at our website at <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>



---

**From:** Williams, Nina <Nina.Williams@jacobs.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 3:43 PM  
**To:** Bowling, Michael J CIV USARMY CELRN (USA) <Michael.J.Bowling@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** Boles, Sarah <Sarah.Boles@jacobs.com>; Harris, Dustin <Dustin.Harris@jacobs.com>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] RE: Project D3707201

Michael,

See response in Red below.

Let me know if you have any additional questions or need additional information.

Thanks,  
Nina

**Nina D. Williams, P.E.* | [Jacobs](#) | N AL Market Lead**  
M: 205.612.0865 | [nina.williams@jacobs.com](mailto:nina.williams@jacobs.com)  
*Licensed in AL

---

**From:** Bowling, Michael J CIV USARMY CELRN (USA) <[Michael.J.Bowling@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.J.Bowling@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 12:56 PM  
**To:** Williams, Nina <[Nina.Williams@jacobs.com](mailto:Nina.Williams@jacobs.com)>  
**Cc:** Boles, Sarah <[Sarah.Boles@jacobs.com](mailto:Sarah.Boles@jacobs.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Project D3707201

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting USACE Regulatory, Nashville District. I have looked over the letter describing the Study and Grant being applied for from the State. We are familiar with the location and site of this facility. What physical impact, if any, will this study have at the shoreline and into the waters? **The pilot study will not have any impact at the shoreline or into the waters. The pilot is a**



skid that will be located within the existing footprint of the facility and placed on an existing slab. The discharge from the pilot will be routed to the existing WTP's process drain system that is treated prior to discharge under an existing NPDES permit. Will there be any fill or construction in the water or along the shore? This is a temporary pilot skid that will have no construction in or along the Tennessee River. What we regulate on Section 10, Navigable Waters, is very defined. We share responsibility with TVA and USCG on these waters. Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to assisting you with this process.

Very Respectfully,

Michael J Bowling

**Regulatory Program Assistant  
Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Nashville District  
West Field Office  
2424 Danville Rd SW Ste N  
Decatur, AL 35601**

Office: (256) 350-5620

We now have online submission capabilities! You may apply for Jurisdictional Determinations and Permits at:

<https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>

Internet: <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Wetlands-Permits/>

The Nashville District is committed to providing the highest level of support to the public. To help us ensure we continue to do so, please complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey located at our website at <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>

