

EDWARD F. POOLOS
DIRECTOR

JEFFERY W. KITCHENS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

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

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Wilcox County Water and Sewer District
Wilcox County
SRF Project No. FS010384-03

August 12, 2026

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made financial assistance available to the **Wilcox County Water and Sewer District**. In accordance with State and Federal regulations that govern the programs, 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.

Wilcox County Water and Sewer District proposes a project to install a new well and rehabilitate two existing wells, with an estimated total project cost of **\$5,465,857.33**. The proposed project will consist of construction of one new ground water supply well, treatment building, back-up generator, drilling new wells at existing well sites, SCADA, electrical improvements and other required site work and appurtenances. Completion of this project will increase the overall capacity of the system, relieve the current burden placed on the system's existing wells to meet daily demands and reduce the amount of water being purchased.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has determined that the project qualifies for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) 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 Mrs. Chavon R. Jones, SRF Branch, Permits & Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130, 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/ADCR/CRJ/lbb

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)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Wilcox County Water and Sewer District
Wilcox County, Alabama

SRF Project No. FS010384-03

A. Proposed Facilities and Actions

Wilcox County Water and Sewer District proposes a project to install a new well and rehabilitate two existing wells. The proposed project will consist of construction of one new ground water supply well, treatment building, back-up generator, drilling new wells at existing well sites, SCADA, electrical improvements and other required site work and appurtenances. Completion of this project will increase the overall capacity of the system, relieve the current burden placed on the system's existing wells to meet daily demands and reduce reliance and purchasing from neighboring systems.

B. Existing Environment

The Wilcox County Water and Sewer District currently serves approximately 2,230 customers in Wilcox County. The project is located in Wilcox County and includes the rehabilitation of 2 existing wells and construction of an additional well. The 2 existing wells are located at Oak Hill and Boykin. The new well will be constructed in Catherine. These wells are located in the north, central, and southern regions of the Board's Service Area. In relation to the Wilcox County and the State of Alabama borders, the project sites are distributed throughout the County. Wilcox County is located approximately 46 miles from the western border and 70 miles from the Southern border of Alabama. The nearest Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for the service area and project sites is the Montgomery MSA.

C. Existing Water Facilities/System

The Wilcox County Water and Sewer District serves approximately 2,230 customers and consists of five (5) wells with a combined permitted capacity of 530 gallons/minute, four (4) storage tanks with a combined storage capacity of 800,000 gallons, and four (4) booster pump stations with a combined pumping capacity of 555 gallons/minute. The Wilcox County Water and Sewer District distribution system consists of approximately three hundred and ten (310) miles of PVC water main and (4) miles of cast/ductile iron water main. Interconnections exist with the Camden Water System to sell/purchase water on a continuous basis. Interconnections also exist with the Pine Hill and the Butler County Water Systems to purchase water on a continuous basis.

D. Need for Proposed Facilities/System Improvements

Wilcox County Water has very limited production from their existing wells and has supplemented their demand by purchasing from Pine Hill Water and Butler County Water. With recent price increases it has become necessary to provide more water within the system. However, due to the age and small capacity of their existing wells Wilcox Water will need to rehabilitate and improve their existing wells and construct one additional well to provide for this need. The existing wells at Gees Bend and Oak Hill are 147 feet deep with a 4" casing. The project scope includes the complete rehabilitation of the existing well sites including drilling a new 12" diameter well to a depth of 700 feet to pull from the Ripley Aquifer. Additionally, a new deep well will be constructed on CR 38 in Catherine.

E. Alternatives Analysis

No Action Alternative

No action taken would continue to financially stress the operations of the Board as they continue to purchase potable water from neighboring systems to meet the demands of the system. This alternative would not have a construction cost but would continue to cost the system for years to come.

Alternative 1 – Deeper Wells at the Existing Well Sites

This alternative includes setting new drilled casing and screens in the Eutaw Aquifer, which is approximately 1,500-1,700 feet deep in the project area. This alternative is not acceptable due to the elevated chloride concentrations in the Eutaw Aquifer, and the higher cost to drill wells at this depth. Redrilling of the existing wells is estimated at \$6.1 MM - \$6.4 MM, not including the additional costs of purchasing water from the neighboring systems during the 300+ day construction schedule.

Alternative 2 – Enlarge the Diameter of the Existing Wells

This alternative includes the re-drilling of the existing wells to enlarge the diameter to provide higher capacity. This alternative is not acceptable as the existing wells would have to be taken off-line and necessitate purchasing additional water from the neighboring systems for an extended period of time. Redrilling of the existing wells is estimated at \$6.1 MM - \$6.4 MM, not including the additional costs of purchasing water from the neighboring systems during the 300+ day construction schedule.

Alternative 3 – Water Well Improvements (selected alternative)

This alternative utilizes the existing well sites at Boykin and Oak Hill to drill new wells with larger diameters to provide higher production. Additionally, a new well will be constructed in Catherine to further boost the system's overall production rate. This alternative has an estimated cost of \$5,514,900.00.

F. Environmental Justice

As defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Presidential Executive Order 12898, "General Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," requires all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing the disproportionately high and/or adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs and policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities.

The Environmental Justice map for the proposed project revealed that low income EJ populations are located in close proximity to the proposed project area. The proposed water system improvements will benefit all areas serviced by the water system. Upgrading the water system infrastructure will provide safe, sustainable drinking water for all areas of the community.

G. Environmental Consequences; Mitigating Measures

The proposed project activities represent no overall or lasting adverse environmental impact except as normally and minimally associated with construction activities. Some short-term effects including increased noise levels and dust, and the project will have no impact on 303d listed streams or live stream crossings. A Best Management Practices (BMPs) plan for erosion, siltation, and dust control will be required for each construction contract issued for the project.

Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

Project review and concurrence was requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided a comment letter dated October 18, 2022, which stated no federally listed species or critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. The project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources and best management practices should be used.

Historical and Archaeological

Review of proposed project work by the Alabama Historical Commission found no potential adverse impact of cultural resources. Project approval was granted upon the condition that the location, scope, and nature of construction activities remain as originally presented and occur within existing highway right-of-ways or previously disturbed areas. Should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during execution of project activities, work should cease and the Alabama Historical Commission should be contacted immediately.

Wetlands and Floodplains

The Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) was solicited for comment and concurrence of proposed project work. A review of the information submitted indicated a DA Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 will not be required for the rehabilitation of two wells and construction of a new one. This determination was based on the nature of the proposed activities, as described in the project description dated January 5, 2023.

Project concurrence dated October 20, 2022, was also received from the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission. The letter found the project to be consistent with regional and local plans.

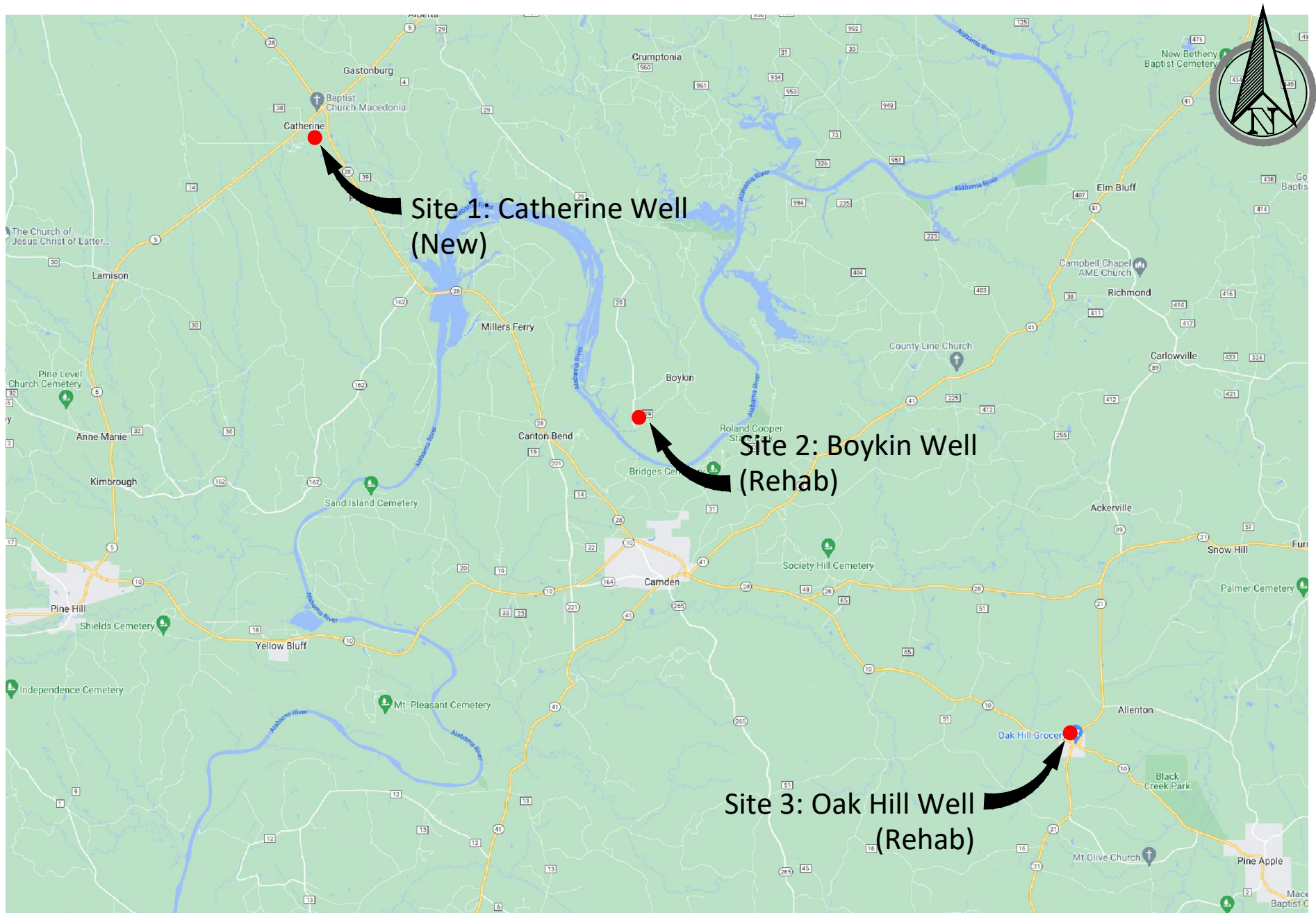
H. Public Participation: Sources Consulted

A Public Meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2022, at the Wilcox County Water and Sewer District Meeting Room located at 212 Claiborne St. Camden, Alabama 36726. The meeting provided information about the DWSRF Project, and the floor was opened for questions or concerns. Several questions were raised including; how the project is being funded and how it would affect the customers. No objections were expressed, and unanimous support was given by those in attendance.

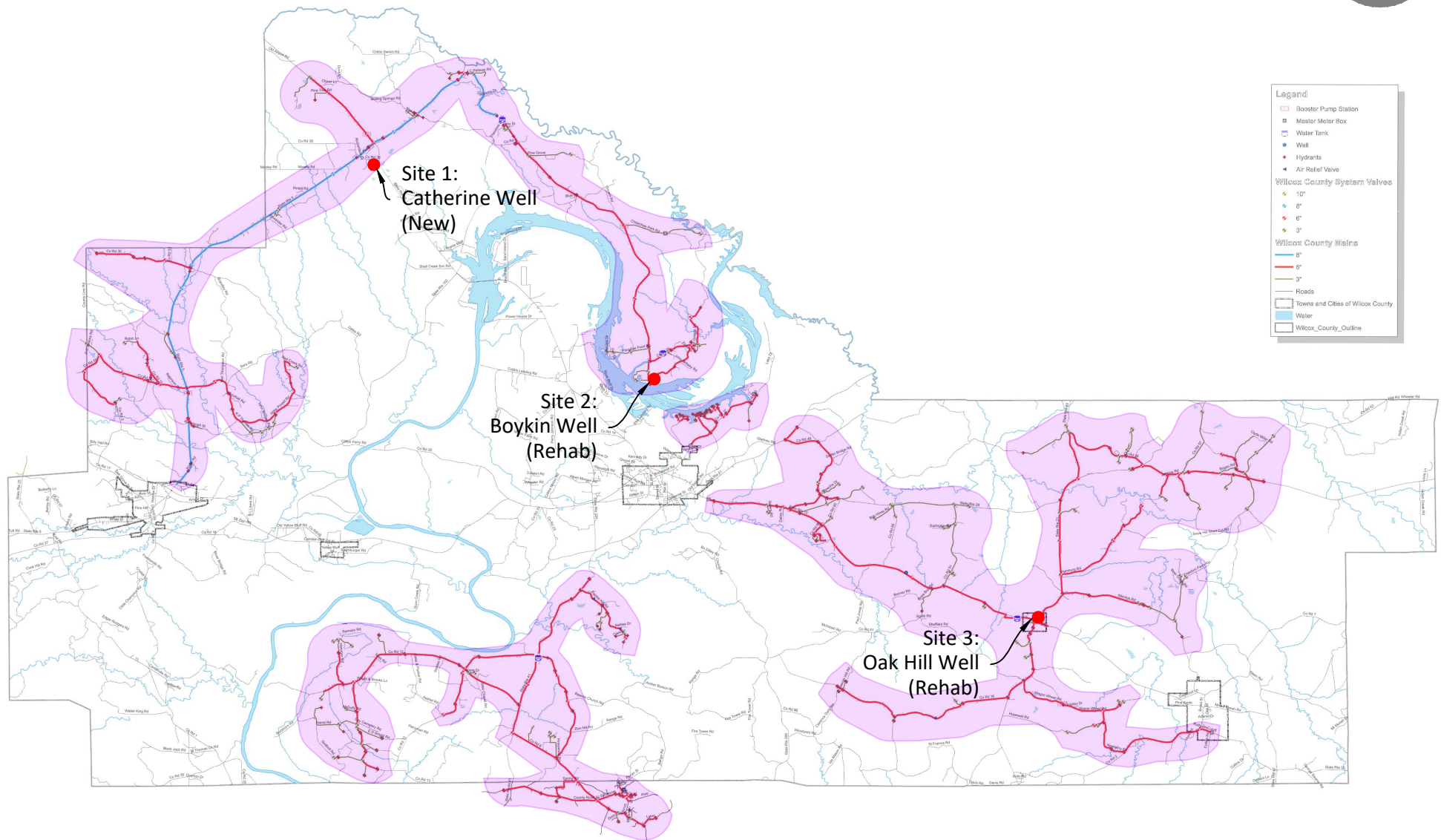
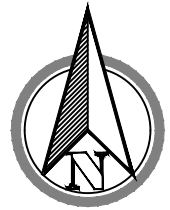
Sources to be consulted about this project for information or concurrence include the following:

Alabama Department of:
Agriculture and Industries
Conservation and Natural Resources
Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

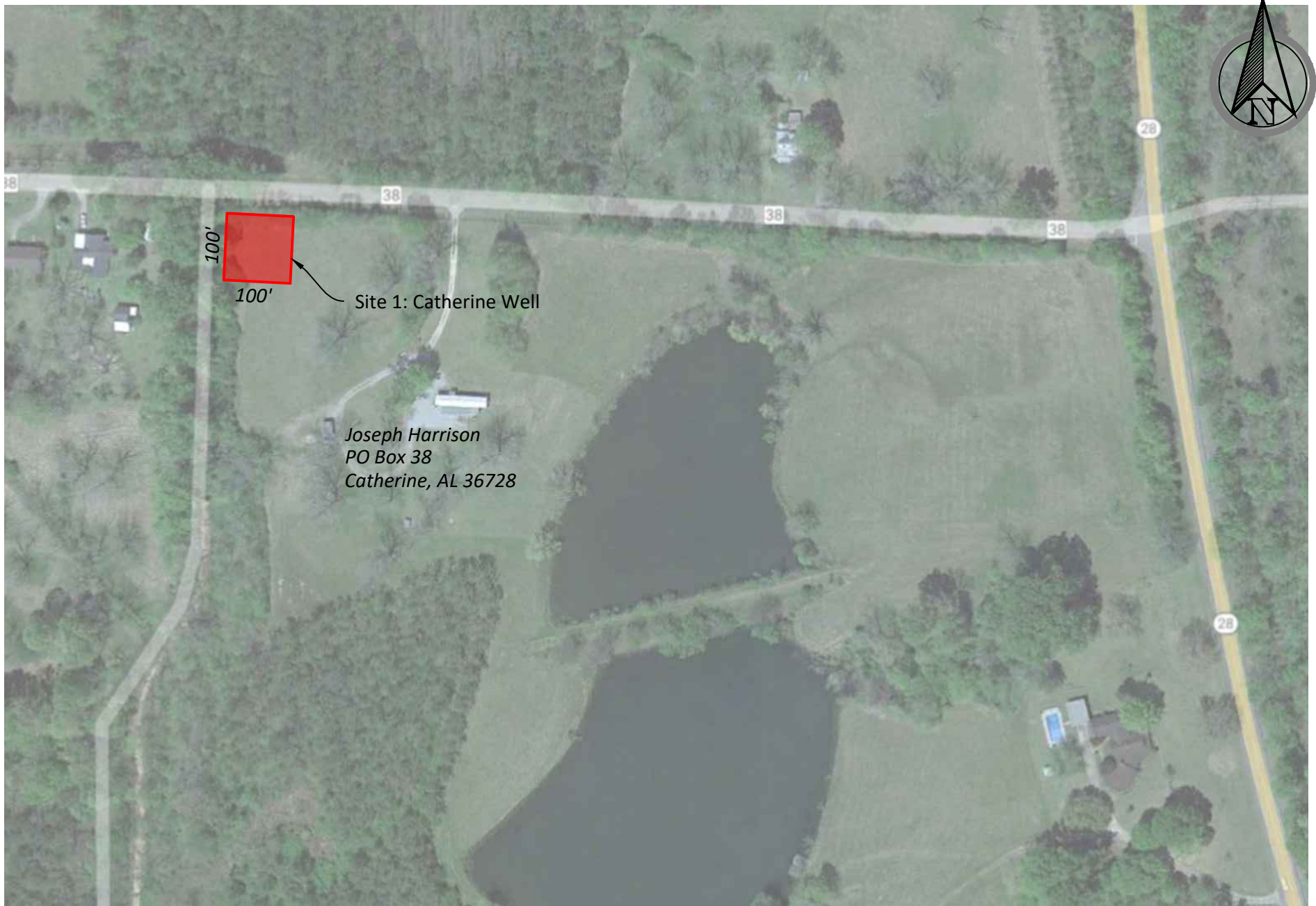
Public Health
State Soil and Water Conservation
Alabama Forestry Commission
Alabama Historical Commission
US Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service
US Environmental Protection Agency
Wilcox County Health Department



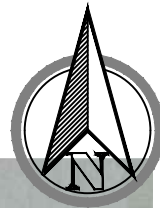
Location Map
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama



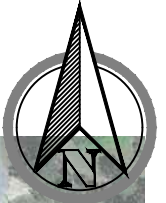
Service Area Map
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama



Location Map - Catherine Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama



Location Map - Boykin Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama



Location Map - Oak Hill Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



87°28'3"W 32°11'13"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		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 Zone X
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes, Zone X
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
		Effective LOMRs
		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		17.5
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
		Coastal Transect Baseline
MAP PANELS		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped

MAP PANELS



The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 11/1/2022 at 3:20 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or

Flood Map - Oak Hill Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama



National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

87°18'29"W 32°3'40"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		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 Zone X
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OTHER FEATURES		Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
		Coastal Transect Baseline
MAP PANELS		Profile Baseline
		Hydrographic Feature
		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped
		The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.



Flood Map - Boykin Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



87°28'3"W 32°11'13"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
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		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
		Coastal Transect Baseline
MAP PANELS		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped



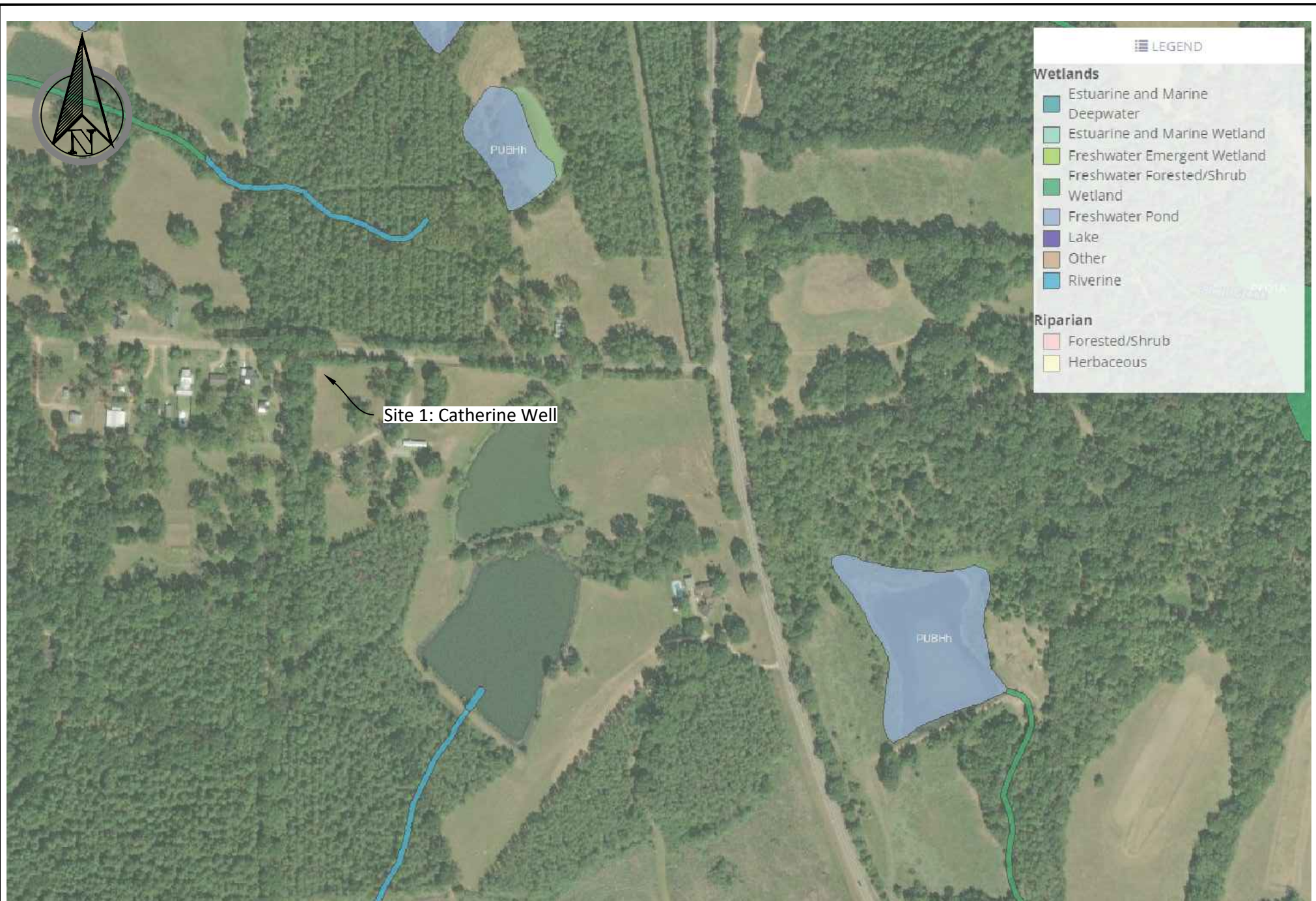
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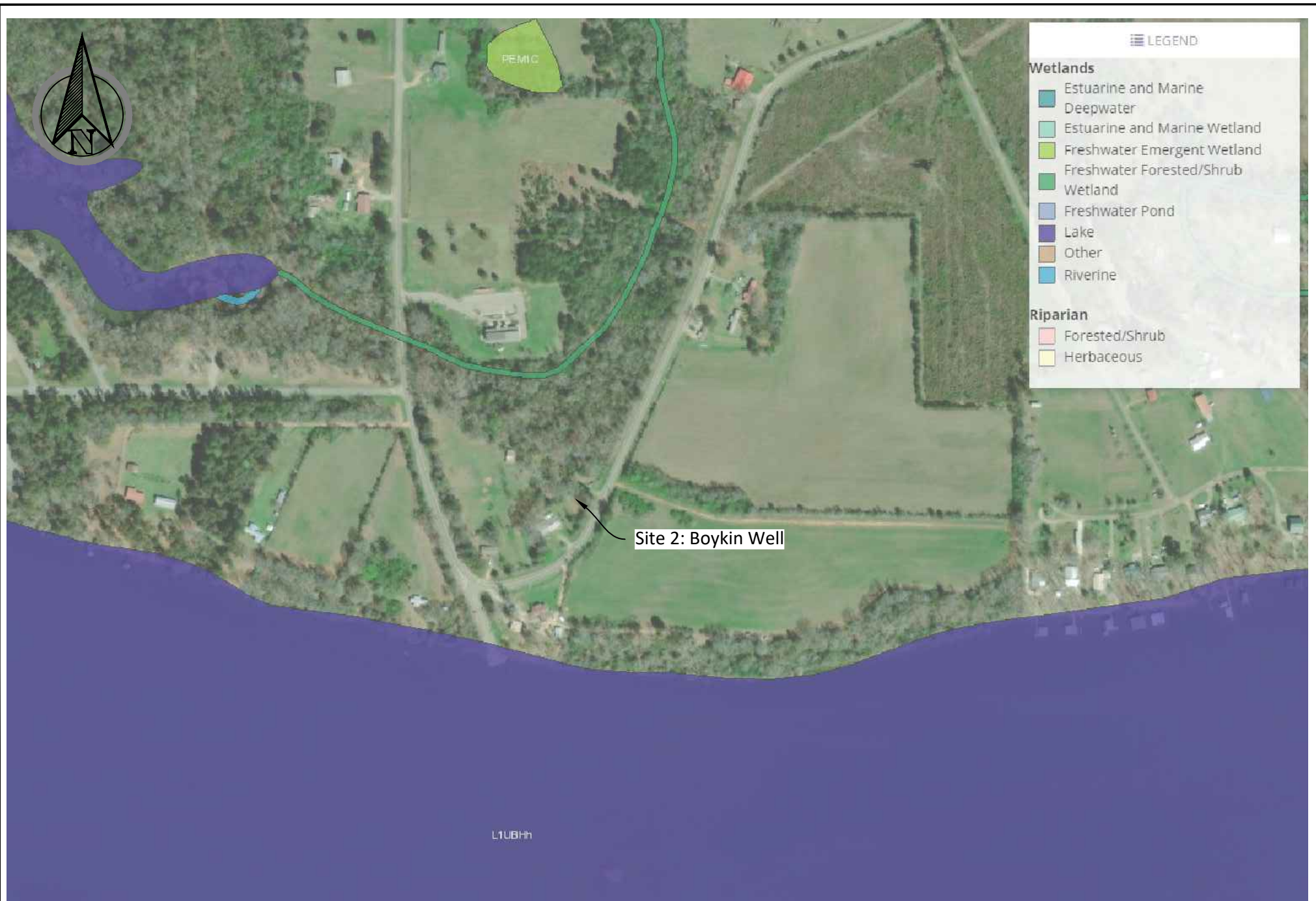
The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 11/1/2022 at 3:20 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or

Flood Map - Catherine Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama

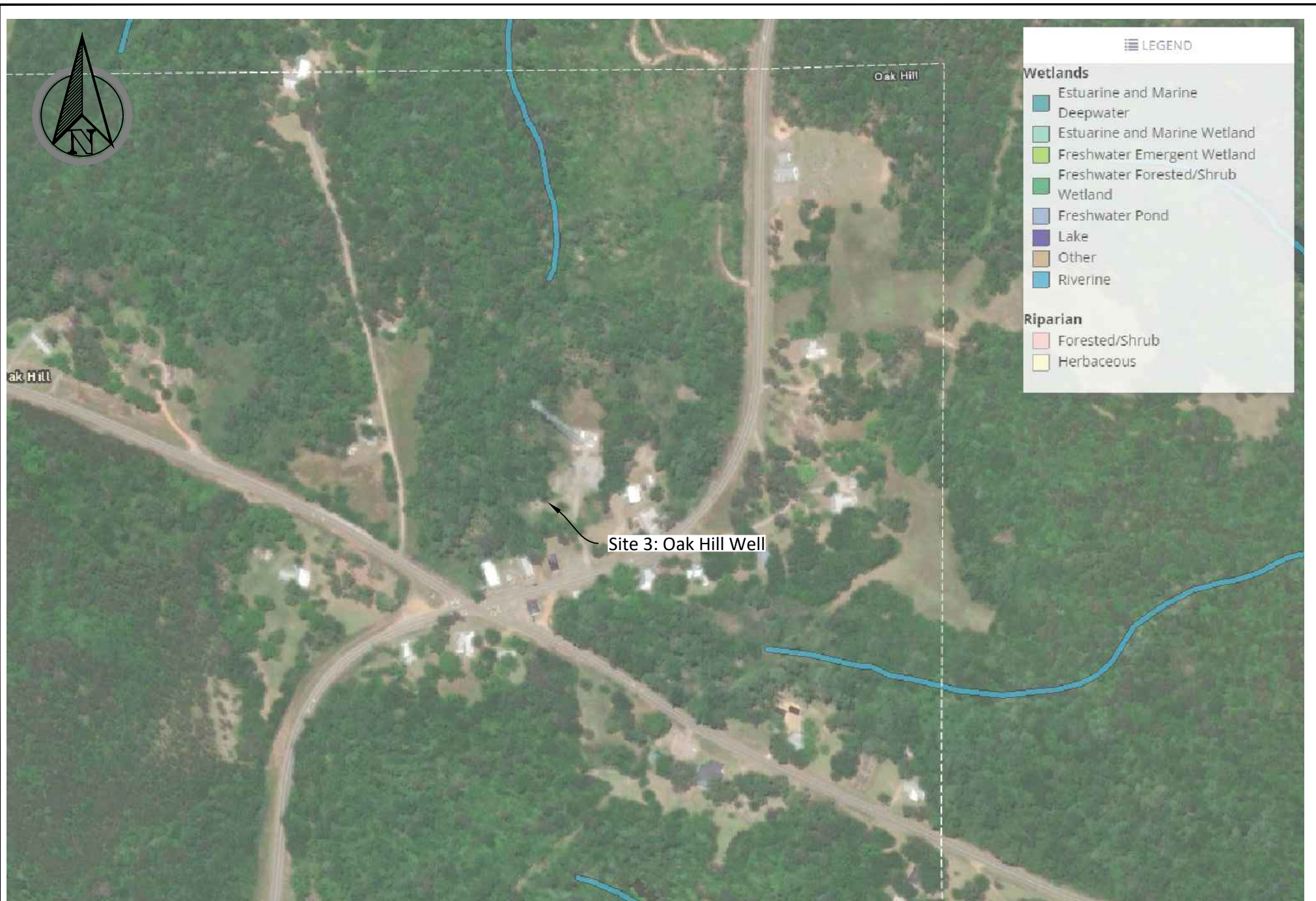




Wetland Map - Catherine Well
 Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
 Wilcox County, Alabama



Wetland Map - Boykin Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama



Wetland Map - Oak Hill Well
Water Well Improvements - Wilcox County Water
Wilcox County, Alabama



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

October 19, 2022

Chase Cotton
P.O. Box 1900
Andalusia, AL 36420

Re: AHC 23-0062
Water System Improvements-Wilcox County Water and Sewer Board
Wilcox County

Dear Mr. Cotton:

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

October 20, 2022

Mattie Dennis
Wilcox County Water and Sewer Board
12 Water Street
Camden, AL 36726

***RE: ADEM DWSRF Project
Water Well Improvements
Wilcox County***

Ms. Dennis:

The Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission has reviewed your proposal for the water well improvements project and supports your efforts to pursue DWSRF funding. The total project cost will be \$5,514,900.00.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,
Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank B. Dobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank Dobson

C: Civil Southeast, LLC

2023-0006294



Post Office Box 927
Daphne, AL 36526

866-245-0584
civilse.com



October 17, 2022

Mr. Ronald King
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

**RE: Water Well Improvements
ADEM DWSRF Project
Wilcox County Water and Sewer Board**

Mr. King:

The Wilcox County Water and Sewer Board is currently in the process of improving its water system by rehabilitating 2 existing deep wells and constructing 1 additional well. The project will be funded by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Before funding can be granted, environmental and regulatory compliance must be met.

A Project Location Map is attached.

If you should have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Civil Southeast, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chase Cotton".

Chase Cotton, PE
Senior Project Engineer



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

No federally listed species/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. We recommend use of best management practices specific to your project (See <http://www.fws.gov/daphne/section7/bmp.html>).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Williams".

William Williams, Field Supervisor
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

OCT 25 2022

Date # 3



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

August 30, 2023

South Mississippi Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army, No Permit Required, File Number SAM-2023-00034, Wilcox County Water and Sewer Board, well rehabilitation and new construction, Wilcox County, AL

Wilcox County Water and Sewer Board
Attention: Mr. Chase Cotton
Email Address: chase@civilse.com
Civil Southeast LLC
PO Box 927
Daphne, Alabama 36526

Dear Mr. Chase Cotton,

Reference is made to your request for a Department of the Army (DA) review of rehabilitation on the existing Oak Hill Well and Boykin Well as well as construction of the Catherine Well. This project has been assigned File Number **SAM-2023-00034**, which should be referred to in all future correspondence with this office concerning this project. The project is located at Section 30, Township 12N, Range 8E; Latitude 31.989301° North and Longitude -87.308087° West; Wilcox County, AL.

A review of the information you submitted indicates a DA Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 **will not be required** for the rehabilitation of two well and construction of a new one. This determination is based on the nature of the proposed activities, as described in the attached project description/plans dated January 5, 2023. Any proposed modifications to the project location or scope of work, or anticipated ground disturbance or discharge of fill material in streams and/or wetland areas, should be coordinated with our office prior to commencing the activity.

The statements contained herein do not convey any property rights or any exclusive privileges, and do not authorize any injury to property nor shall it be construed as excusing you from compliance with other Federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations that may affect proposed work.

If you have any questions, please contact Allison Monroe at Phone (251)690-3228, or Allison.f.monroe@usace.army.mil. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, visit our web site at 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 help us improve our services.

Sincerely,

Christina Schroeder, NM/TX Branch Chief
Albuquerque district
On behalf of South Mississippi Branch
Regulatory Division

Attachments