



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1104 NORTH WESTOVER BOULEVARD, UNIT 9
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707

DECEMBER 26 2012

Regulatory Division
SAS-2012-01028

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2012-01028

Applicant: Mr. Mike Dinnerman
Cook County Airport Authority
1200 South Hutchinson Avenue
Adel, Georgia 31620

Agent: Ms. Annie Gillespie
CDM Smith
3715 Northside Parkway Northwest
Building 300, Suite 400
Atlanta, Georgia 30327

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in wetlands adjacent to Morrison Creek at the existing Cook County Airport facility, west of Adel, Cook County, Georgia (Latitude 31.1363, Longitude -83.4481).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The applicant is proposing to construct new taxilanes and hangers at the existing Cook County Airport. The proposed project includes the filling of 0.49 acre of wetland. The work in wetlands would consist of the removal of unsuitable material, filling with suitable material, and grading and paving with asphalt for taxiway and taxilanes. Areas that are not paved would be graded, compacted and grassed. To mitigate for these impacts the applicant proposes to purchase 3.82 wetland mitigation credits from Cecil Bay Mitigation Bank.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Aviation Authority is the lead Federal agency for the proposed action. They have stated, "This project is Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review under FAA 1050.1E:310e." Under Corps file number SAS-2006-01228 the applicant was issued a permit to impact 4 acres of wetlands during the extension of the existing runway. To mitigate for the

impacts, the permittee purchased 20.4 wetland mitigation credits from Cecil Bay Mitigation Bank.

The Airport property is surrounded by mostly undeveloped land with some single-family residential and commercial properties. The dominant use of this site has been airport use and therefore most of the property is regularly maintained grass. The wetland within the project area is a 1.36 acre wetland located on the southeast edge of the project area. This wetland is classified as Freshwater Emergent on the National Wetlands Inventory map. The dominant vegetation in this area includes scattered red maple and black willow; shrub species of wax myrtle and button bush; herbaceous species of soft rush and woolgrass.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can be reviewed in the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 1104 North Westover Boulevard, Unit 9 Albany, Georgia 31707.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Corps must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: Review, by the applicant, of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. The closest historical resource is located in downtown Adel, approximately 1.7 miles from the

project. Additionally, archival research has been conducted in the past for the Airport and indicated that no previously known archeological sites existed within the project area. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work. We request information from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division or any other interested party, on whether any resources may be present in the area.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area. A review of the USFWS website (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered>) indicates that Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) may occur at the project site.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a 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, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American 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 U.S. Army 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.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Terry C. Kobs, 1104 North Westover Boulevard, Unit 9 Albany, Georgia 31707, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Terry C. Kobs, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch at 229-430-8567.

Encls

1. Project Location Map
2. Engineering Survey
3. Project Extents Map

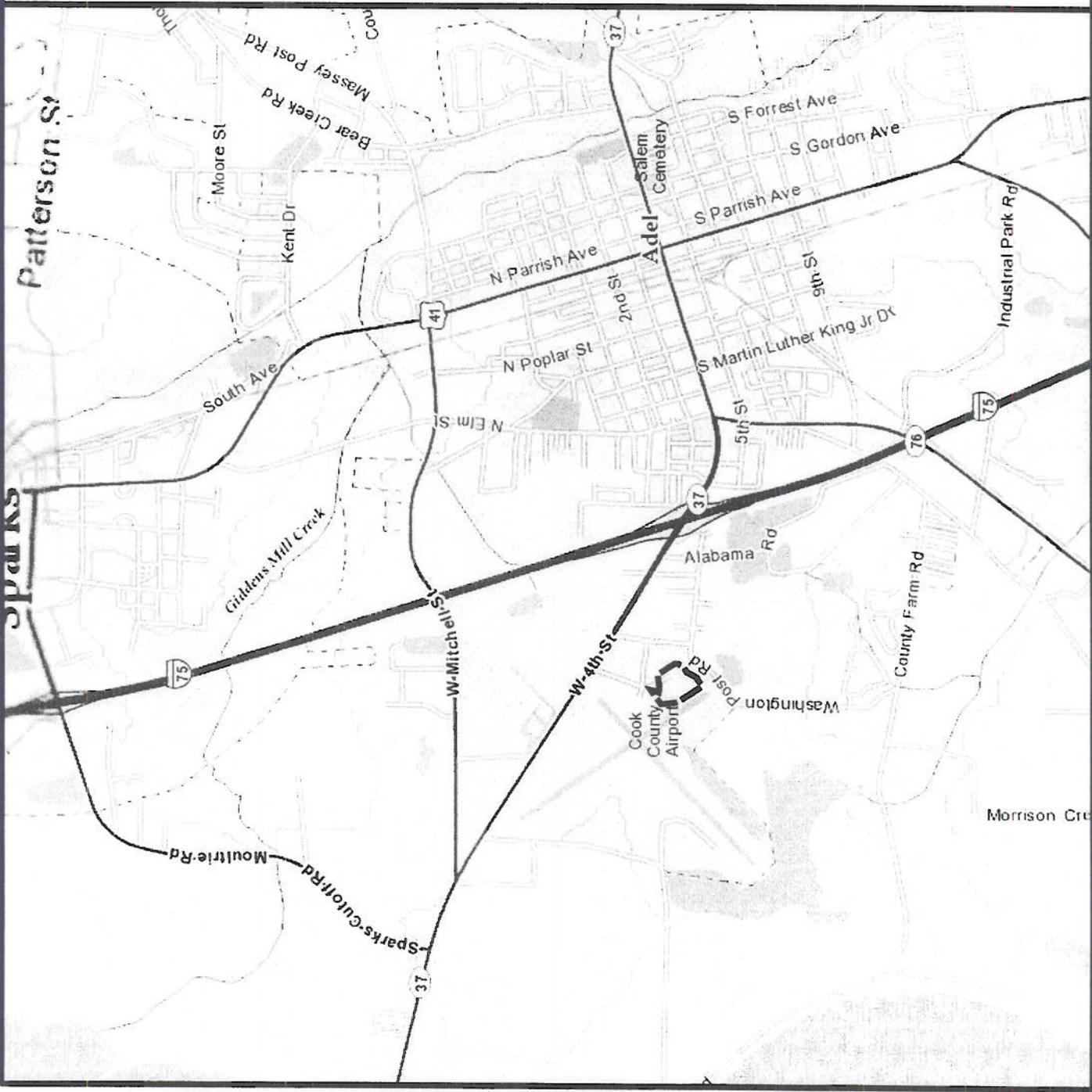
Cook County Airport
Taxilane Expansion

Project Location Map

Legend



Approx. Disturbed Area



Taxilane Expansion

at

Cook County Airport

Adel, GA

Project Extents Map

LEGEND

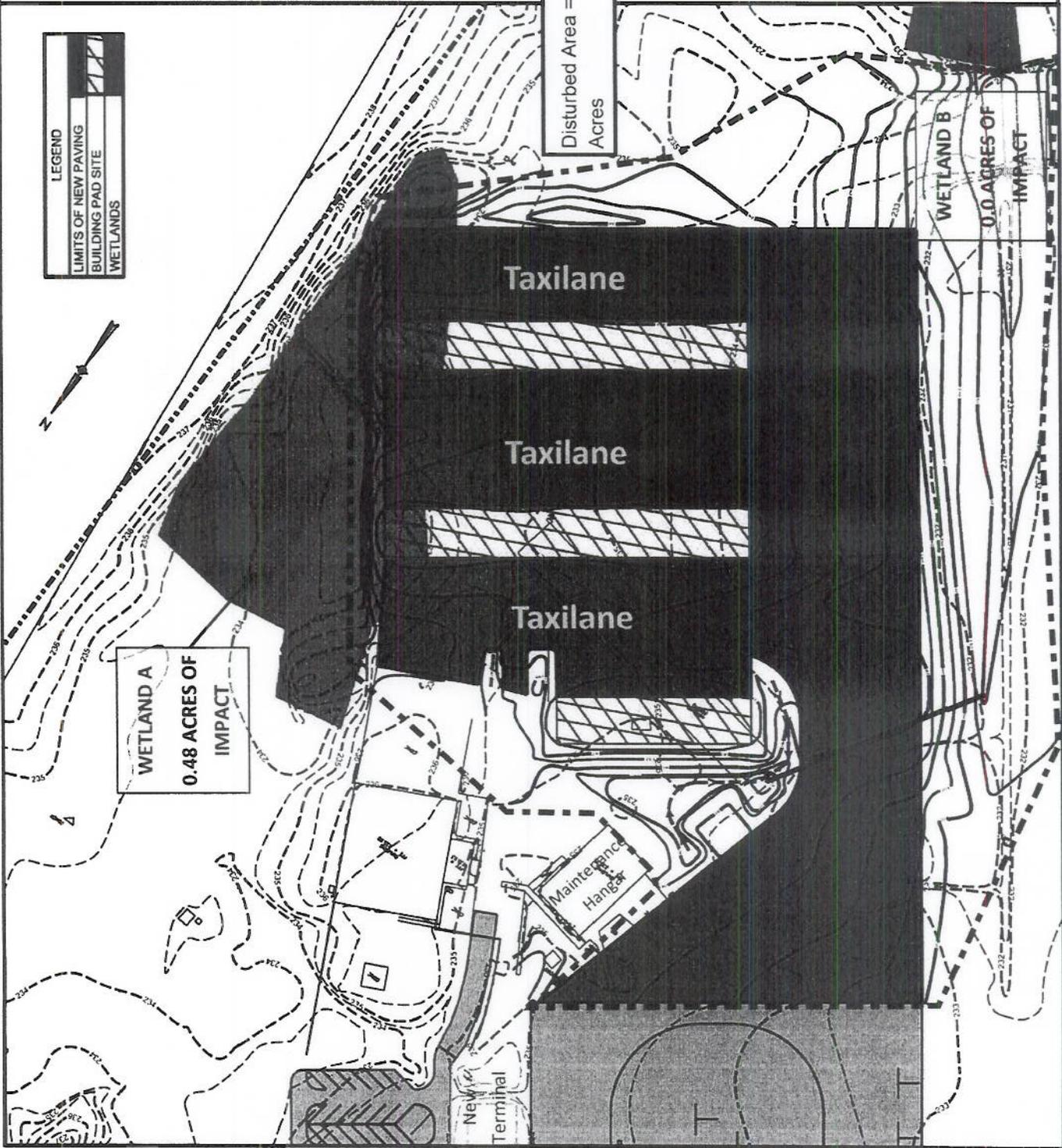
[Solid black box]	LIMITS OF NEW PAVING
[Hatched box]	BUILDING PAD SITE
[Dashed line]	WETLANDS



Disturbed Area = Approximately 9 Acres

WETLAND A
0.48 ACRES OF
IMPACT

WETLAND B
0.0 ACRES OF
IMPACT



COOK COUNTY
AIRPORT

TAXILANES AND
GRADING
FOR HANGARS

ENGINEERING
SURVEY

