JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

May 24, 2010 gm13

United States Army
Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

(504) 862-1581
Project Manager
John M. Herman
MVN 2010-1148-CY

State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(225) 219-3459
Project Manager
Jamie Phillippe
WQC 100521-02

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [ ] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF EXISTING SURFACE MINING OPERARTION IN POINTE COUPEE PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: BIG RIVER INDUSTRIES, INC., c/o Southeast Environmental Solutions, Inc., ATTN: Fred Crabill, 801 North Park Road, Plant City, Florida 33563-3956.

LOCATION OF WORK: In Erwinville, Louisiana, Section 26, T6S-R10E, in Pointe Coupee Parish, as shown on the attached drawings.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to expand an existing surface mining operation for commercial use. The mining operation began in 1946 at its current location due to the particular clay soils that are predominately found under wetlands. These soils expand under extreme heat (fire kilned) to produce a lightweight aggregate material known as Gravelite. This material is used in many commercial applications such as: bulkheads, retaining walls, concrete masonry units, roads and flexible pavements, etc. For the past 10 years, the applicant has provided approximately 500,000 cubic yards per year of lightweight aggregate from this location. The proposed expansion is needed to continue this operation which would produce another +/- 18.7 million cubic yards of clay over the next 30 years. The proposed expansion would encompass approximately 312 acres of new adjacent land of which approximately 300 acres would be part of the actual mining operation. Of this, approximately 56% or 168 acres are wetlands that would be systematically impacted through conversion to open water lakes. Also, those portions of Bayous Chalpin and Cholpe tributaries located onsite would be impacted as well.

The applicant states that the proposed expansion site cannot be avoided or impacts minimized since the purpose of the project is to continue an existing surface mining operation that has been sustained at the current location since 1946 and to which is site-specific because of the amount and accessibility of underlying clays. The applicant stated that they will provide compensatory mitigation at a Corps approved mitigation bank within the immediate watershed.

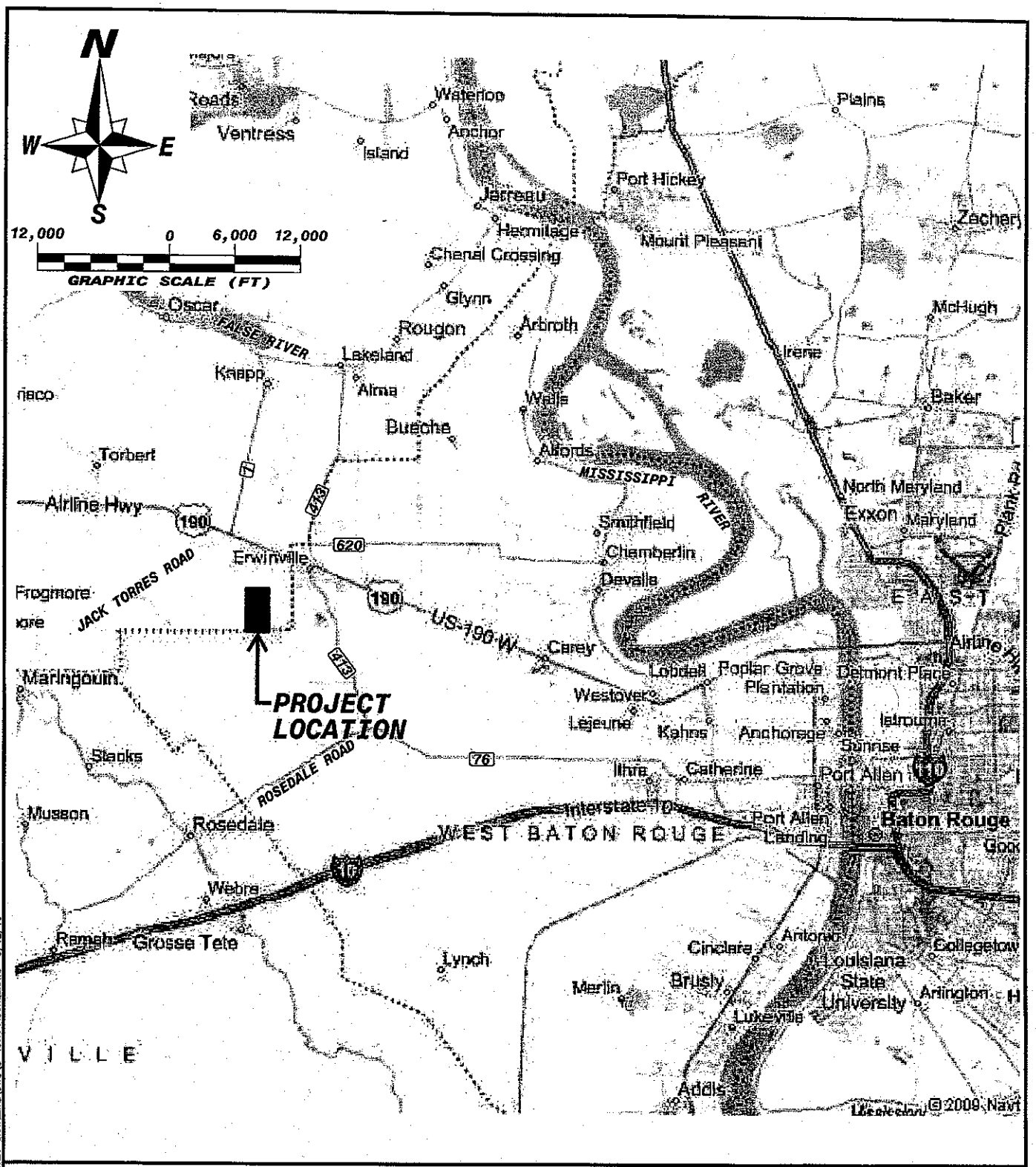
The comment period for the Department **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing to the project manager or clicking on the project manager's name on the public notice grid on the web page. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days. Letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, 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, floodplain 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.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and



BIG RIVER INDUSTRIES, INC. - GRAVELITE DIVISION	Date	Project No.	Figure No.
	5/11/2010	S-497A	1

SWB ENGINEERING SCIENCES, INC.
P.O. BOX 941385
MAITLAND, FL 32794-1385
PH:(407) 539-1699 FAX: (407) 539-0388

VICINITY MAP

12652 AIRLINE HIGHWAY 190
ERWINVILLE, LOUISIANA

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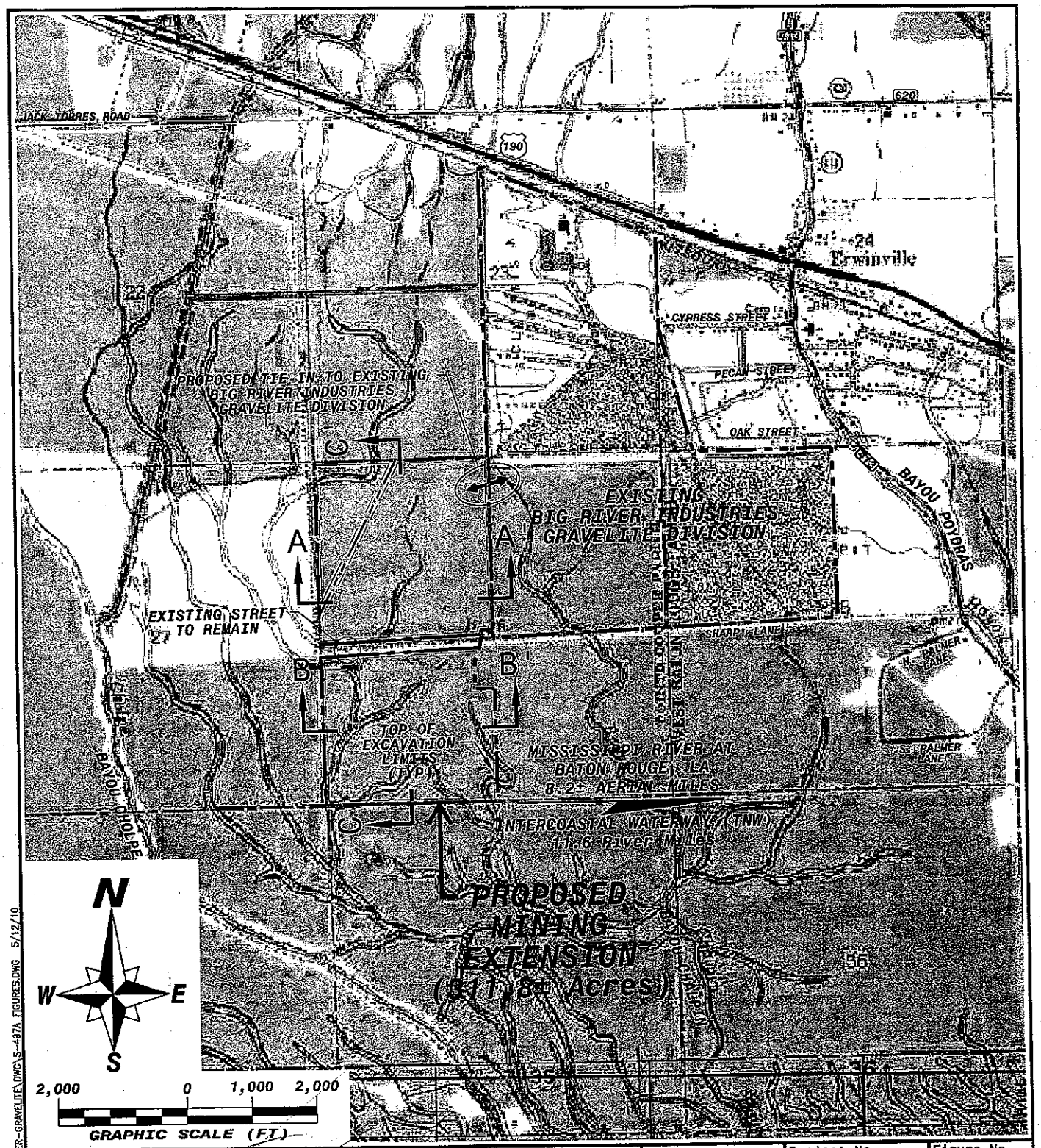

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PLAN VIEW
PROPOSED EXTENSION

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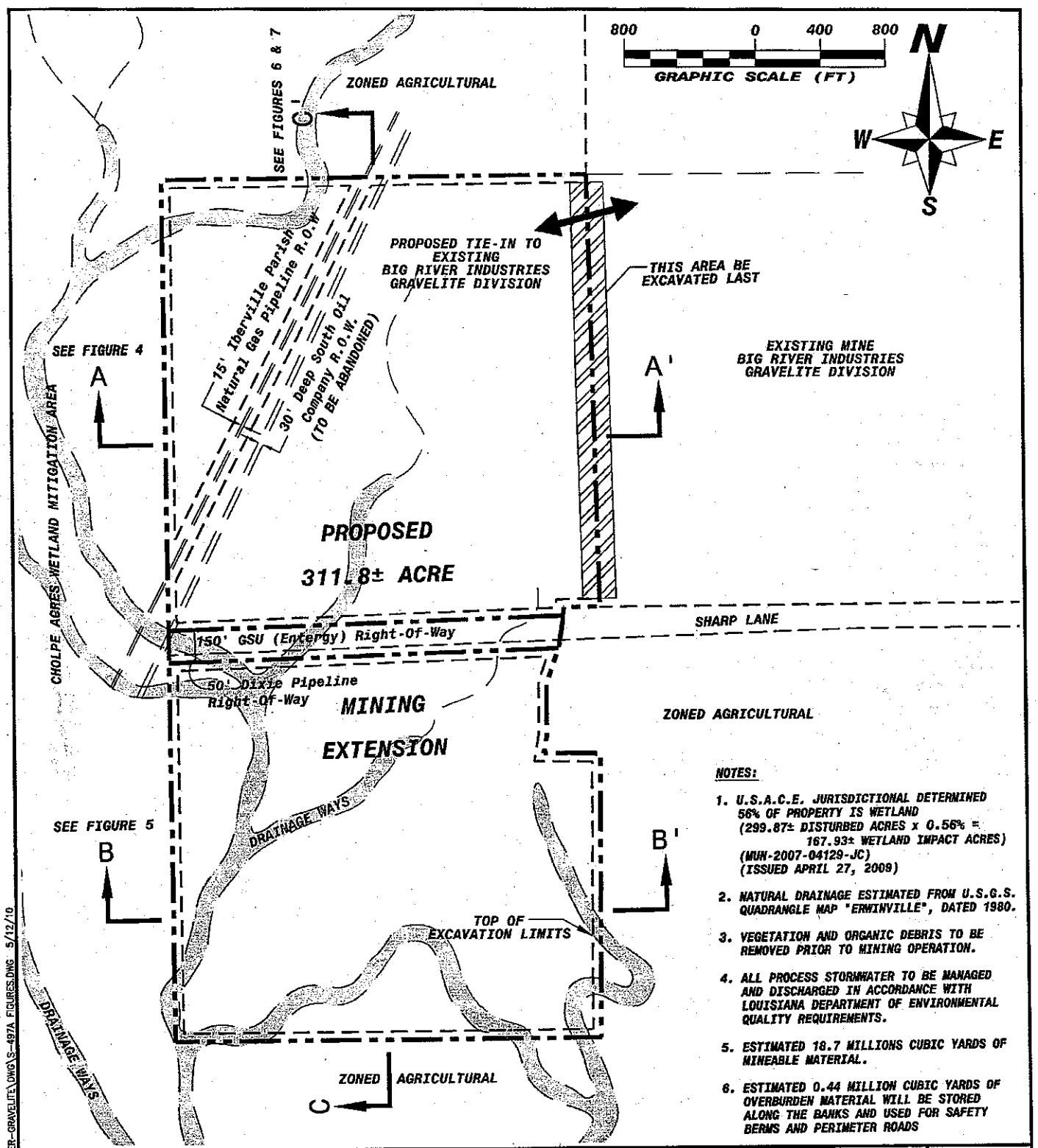

NOTES:

1. U.S.A.C.E. JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINED 56% OF PROPERTY IS WETLAND (299.87± DISTURBED ACRES x 0.56% = 167.93± WETLAND IMPACT ACRES) (MUN-2007-04129-JC) (ISSUED APRIL 27, 2009)
2. NATURAL DRAINAGE ESTIMATED FROM U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE MAP "ERWINVILLE", DATED 1980.
3. VEGETATION AND ORGANIC DEBRIS TO BE REMOVED PRIOR TO MINING OPERATION.
4. ALL PROCESS STORMWATER TO BE MANAGED AND DISCHARGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REQUIREMENTS.
5. ESTIMATED 18.7 MILLIONS CUBIC YARDS OF MINEABLE MATERIAL.
6. ESTIMATED 0.44 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF OVERBURDEN MATERIAL WILL BE STORED ALONG THE BANKS AND USED FOR SAFETY BERMS AND PERIMETER ROADS

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PROJECT LIMITS

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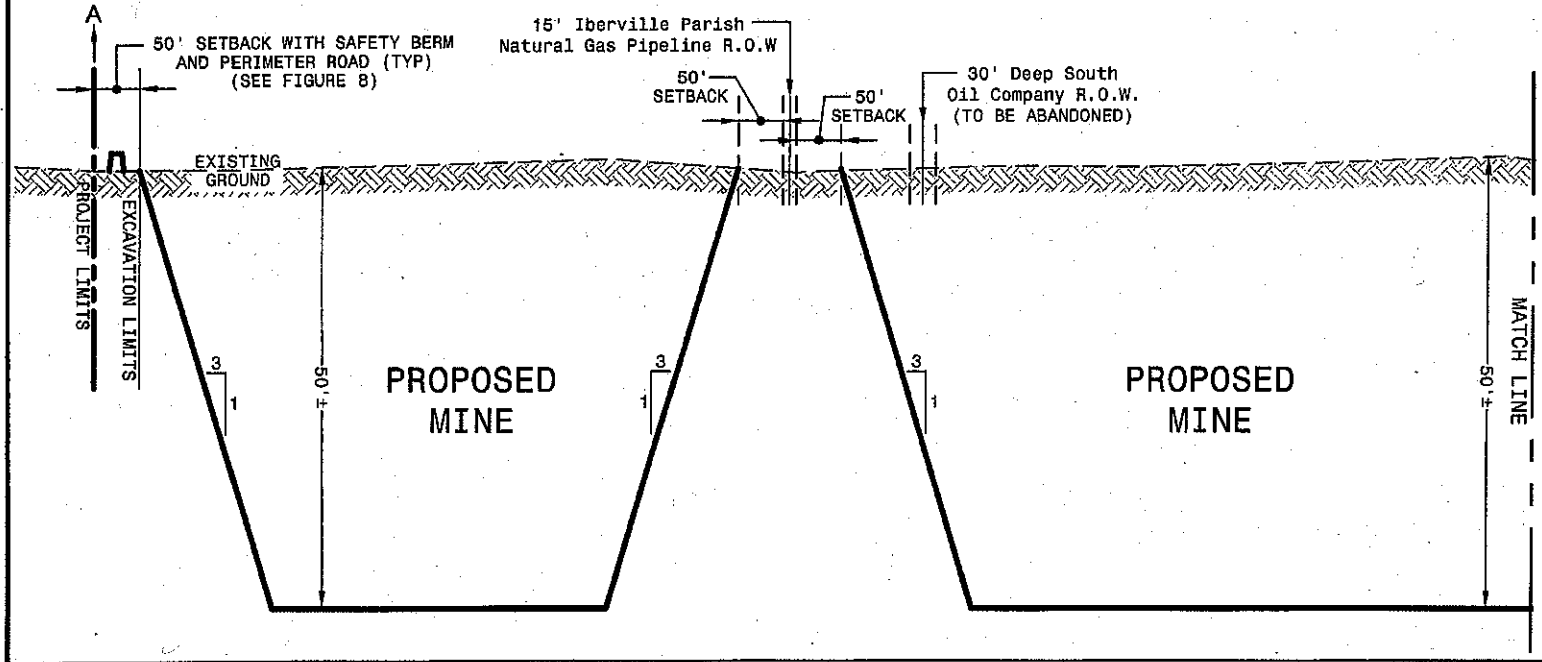
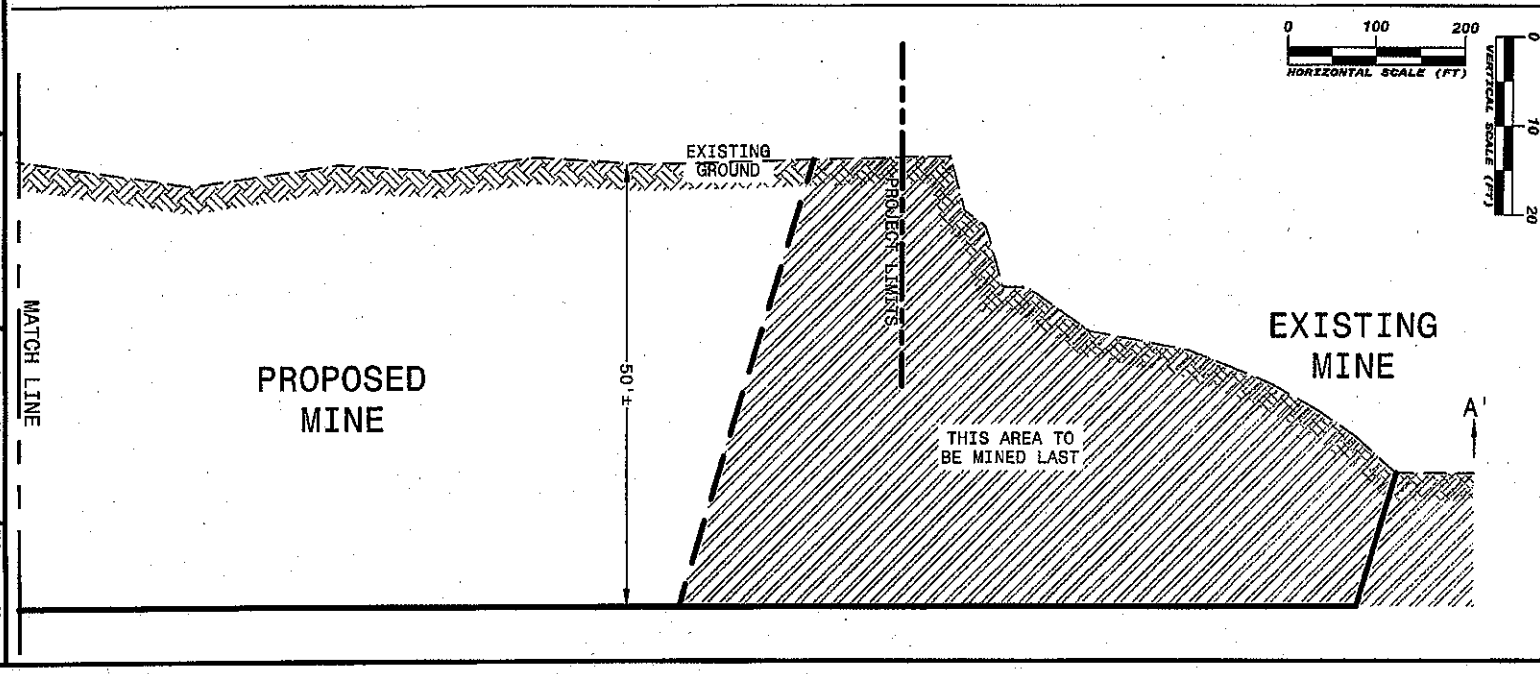
SECTION A-A'





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SECTION A-A'

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ERWINVILLE, LOUISIANA

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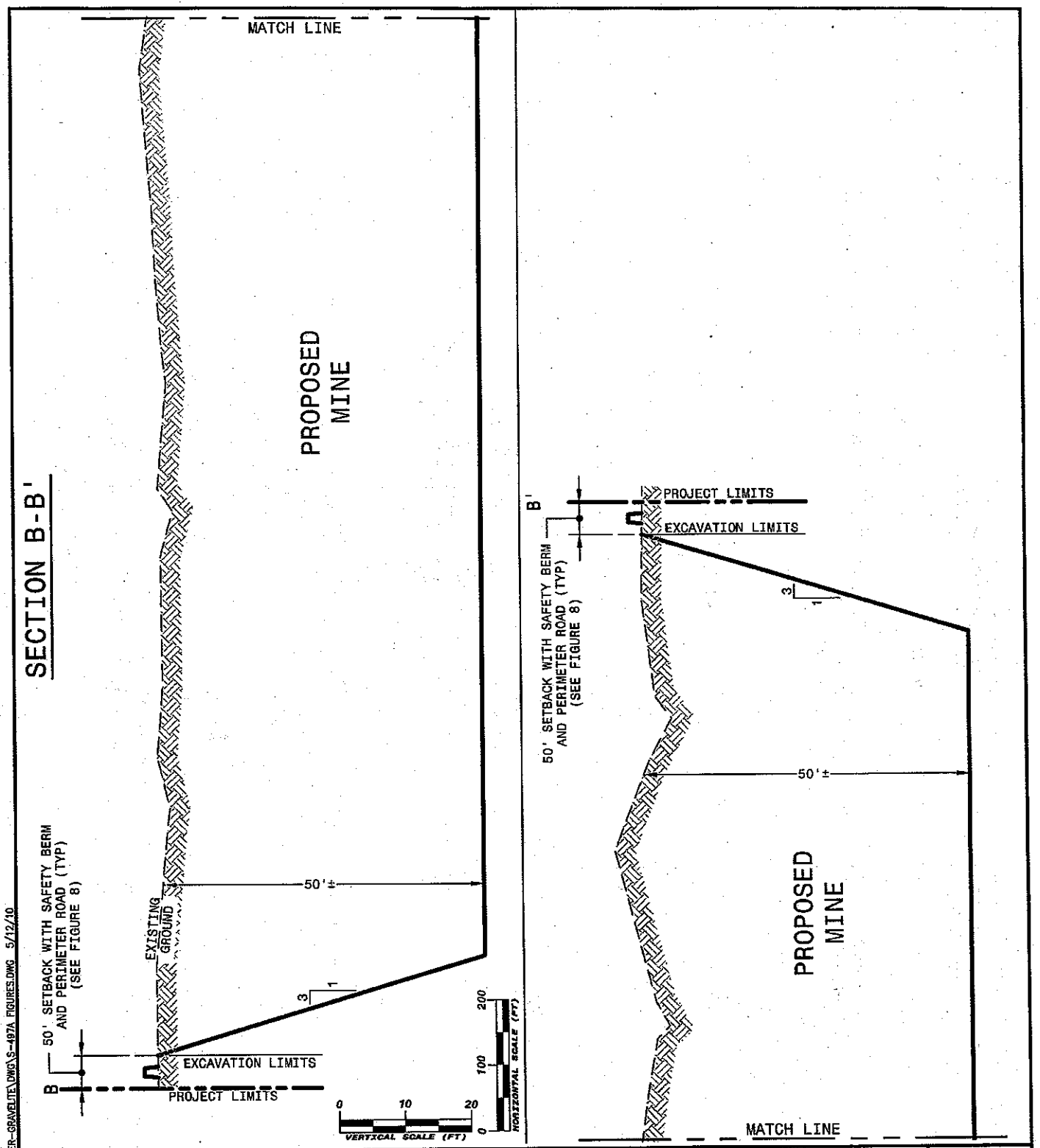

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SECTION B-B'

12652 AIRLINE HIGHWAY 190
ERWINVILLE, LOUISIANA

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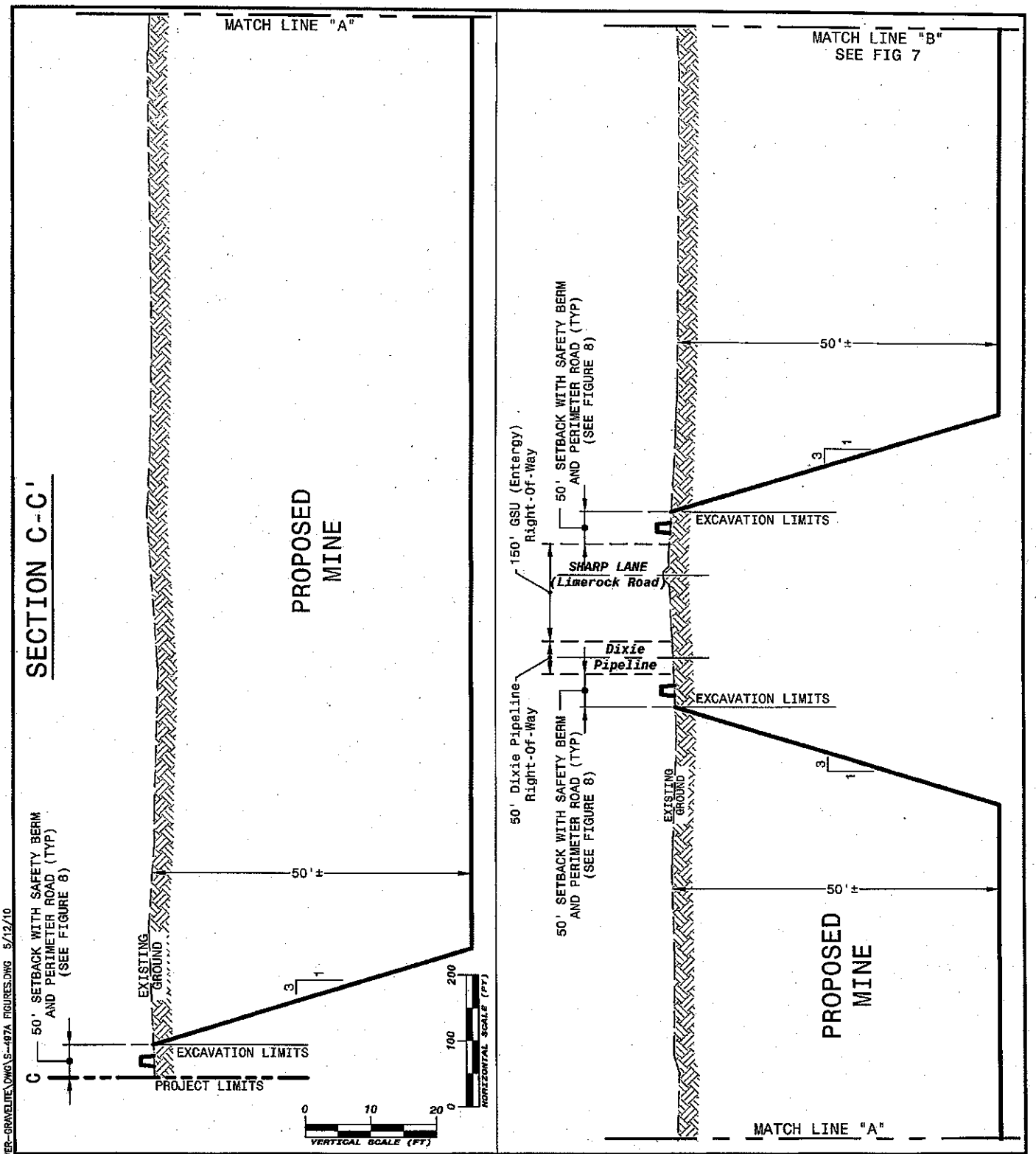

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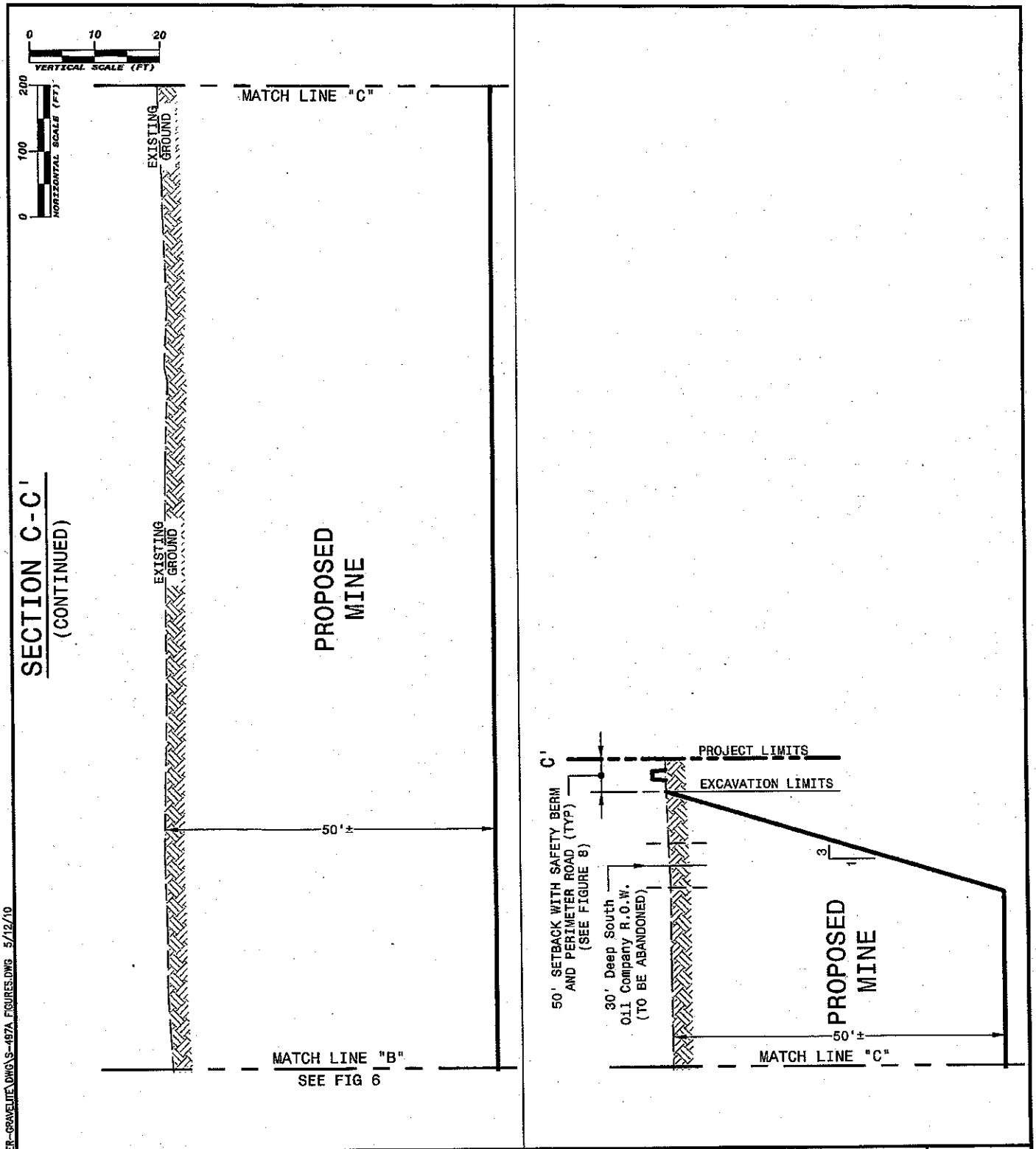
SECTION C-C'

12652 AIRLINE HIGHWAY 190
ERWINVILLE, LOUISIANA



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SECTION C-C'

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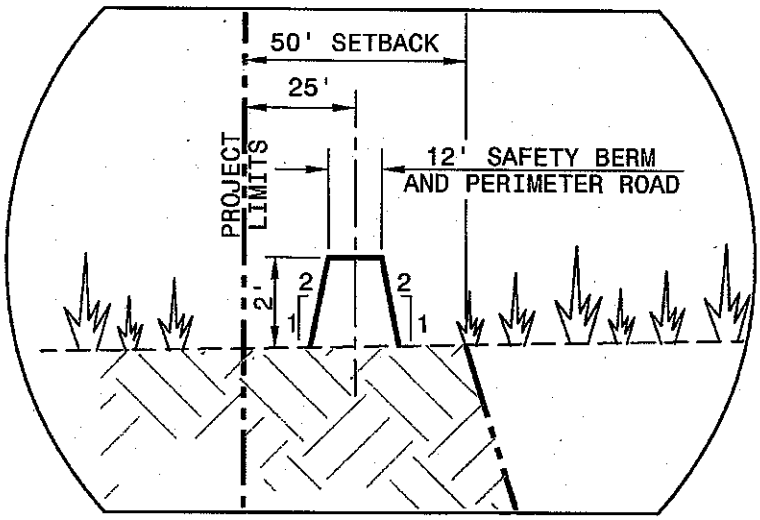

SAFETY BERM DETAIL
not to scale

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SAFETY BERM DETAIL

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