DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MAY 13 2011

Operations Division
Central Evaluation Section

SUBJECT: MVN-2006-3363-CQ

Rio Bravo Exploration & Production Company
2000 Bering Drive, Suite 210
Houston, Texas 77057

Gentlemen:

Receipt is acknowledged of your application dated April 14, 2011, requesting authority to add an additional surface location on a previously authorized well site to drill the H. H. Gueymard No. 1 Well, approximately 2.3 miles northeasterly of Saint Gabriel, Louisiana, in Iberville Parish.

The proposed modification to authorized work is permitted under authority of General Permit NOD-13. This approval to perform work is valid until December 12, 2011. This authorization does not eliminate the need to obtain any other federal, state, or local approval, which may be required by law.

The following special conditions have been made a part of this authorization:

1. Many local governing bodies have instituted laws and/or ordinances in order to regulate dredge and/or fill activities in floodplains to assure maintenance of floodwater storage capacity and avoid disruption of drainage patterns that may affect surrounding properties. Your project involves dredging and/or placement of fill, therefore, you must contact the local municipal and/or parish governing body regarding potential impacts to floodplains and compliance of your proposed activities with local floodplain ordinances, regulations or permits.

2. The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has stated that the project area is part of the aboriginal Chitimacha homelands. If, during the course of work at the site, prehistoric and/or historic aboriginal cultural materials are discovered, the permittee will contact the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana at Post Office Box 661, Charenton, Louisiana 70523, and CEMVN. CEMVN will initiate the required federal, state, and tribal coordination to determine the significance of the cultural materials and the need, if applicable, for additional cultural resource investigations.

3. If the proposed project requires any additional work not expressly permitted herein, or impacts any wetlands other than the areas indicated on the attached drawings, the permittee must apply for an amendment to this authorization, prior to commencement of work in such areas.

4. Permittee shall obtain all local, state, and parish approvals prior to the commencement of work at the project site.

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MAY 19 2011

5. Permittee shall adhere to the special conditions listed in the enclosed Department of the Army General Permit NOD-13. Failure to comply may result in permit suspension and/or revocation.

6. The permittee shall employ siltation controls around all construction sites that require earthwork (clearing, grading, dredging and/or deposition of fill material) such that eroded material is prevented from entering adjacent wetlands and/or waterways.

7. All discharges associated with drilling and production activities will be handled in a manner consistent with applicable Federal, state, and local laws and guidelines.

8. No hydrocarbons, substances containing hydrocarbons, drilling mud, drilling cuttings, and toxic substances shall be allowed to enter adjacent waterways and wetlands.

This opinion has been made on the basis of information provided by your letter. If it is later established that you furnished erroneous data, you may be directed to alter or modify your plans, to remove structures you have installed, and/or to restore the work area to pre-project conditions at your own expense. If it is established that you knowingly furnished erroneous data, you could also be subject to legal action.

The New Orleans District Regulatory Branch is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete and return the attached Customer Service Survey or go to the survey found on our web site at http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html.

The drawings submitted with your letter are enclosed hereto and made a part of the record. Should you have any further questions concerning this matter, please call Kenny Blanke at (504) 862-1217.

Sincerely,

Martin S. Mayer

Pete J. Serio
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures
See page 3 for copies furnished:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

Area Supervisor
National Marine Fisheries Service
c/o LSU Center for Wetland Resources
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-7535

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Activities Branch (6E-FT)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

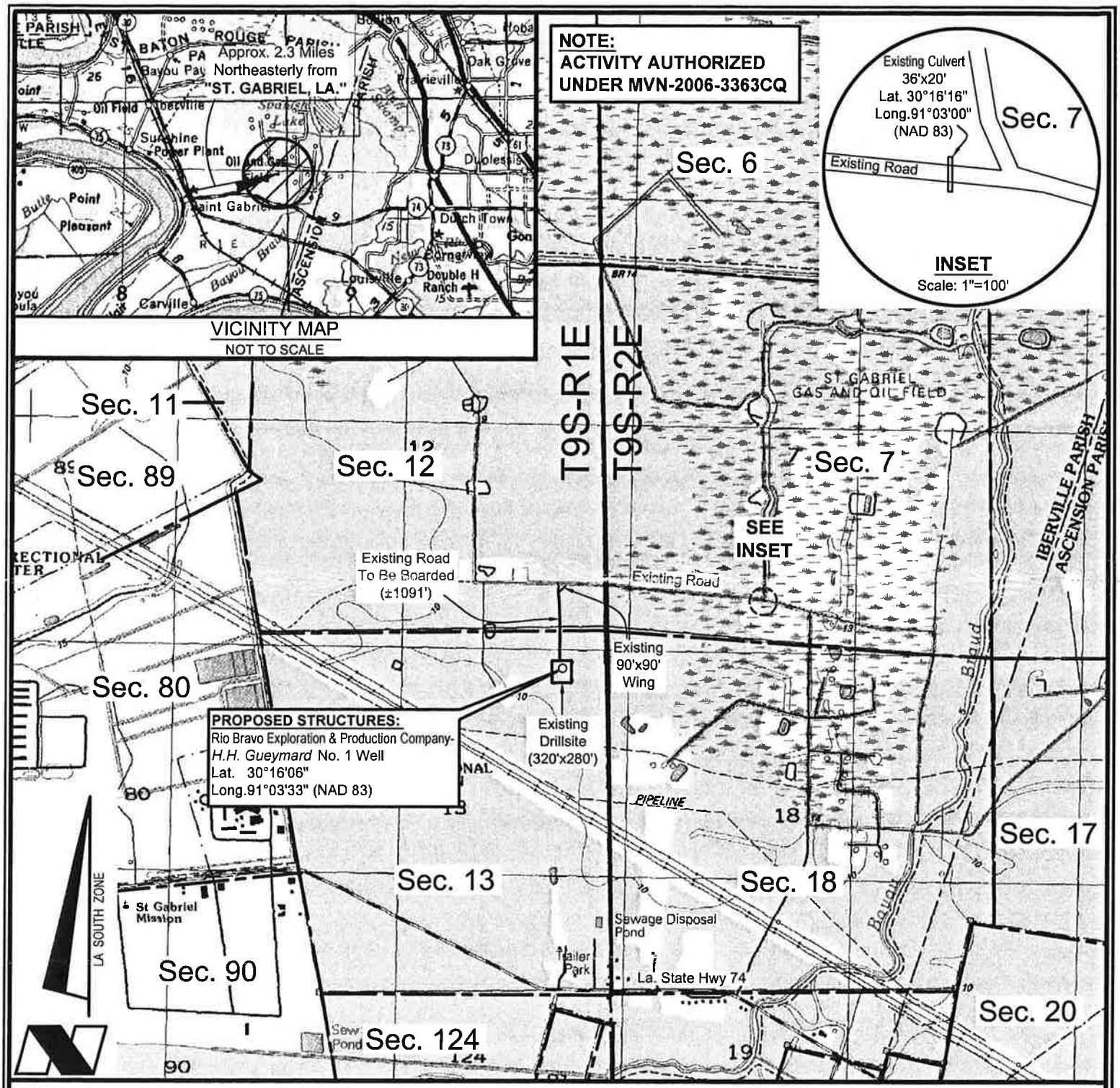
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Water Resources
P.O. Box 82215
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2215

State Historic Preservation Office
Post Office Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4247

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Ecological Studies Section
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Management Division
Post Office Box 44487
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4487

U.S. Coast Guard
Sector New Orleans Command Center
201 Hammond Highway
Metairie, Louisiana 70005



NOTE:
THE CONTENTS OF THESE PLANS ARE INTENDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PERMITS

VICINITY MAP

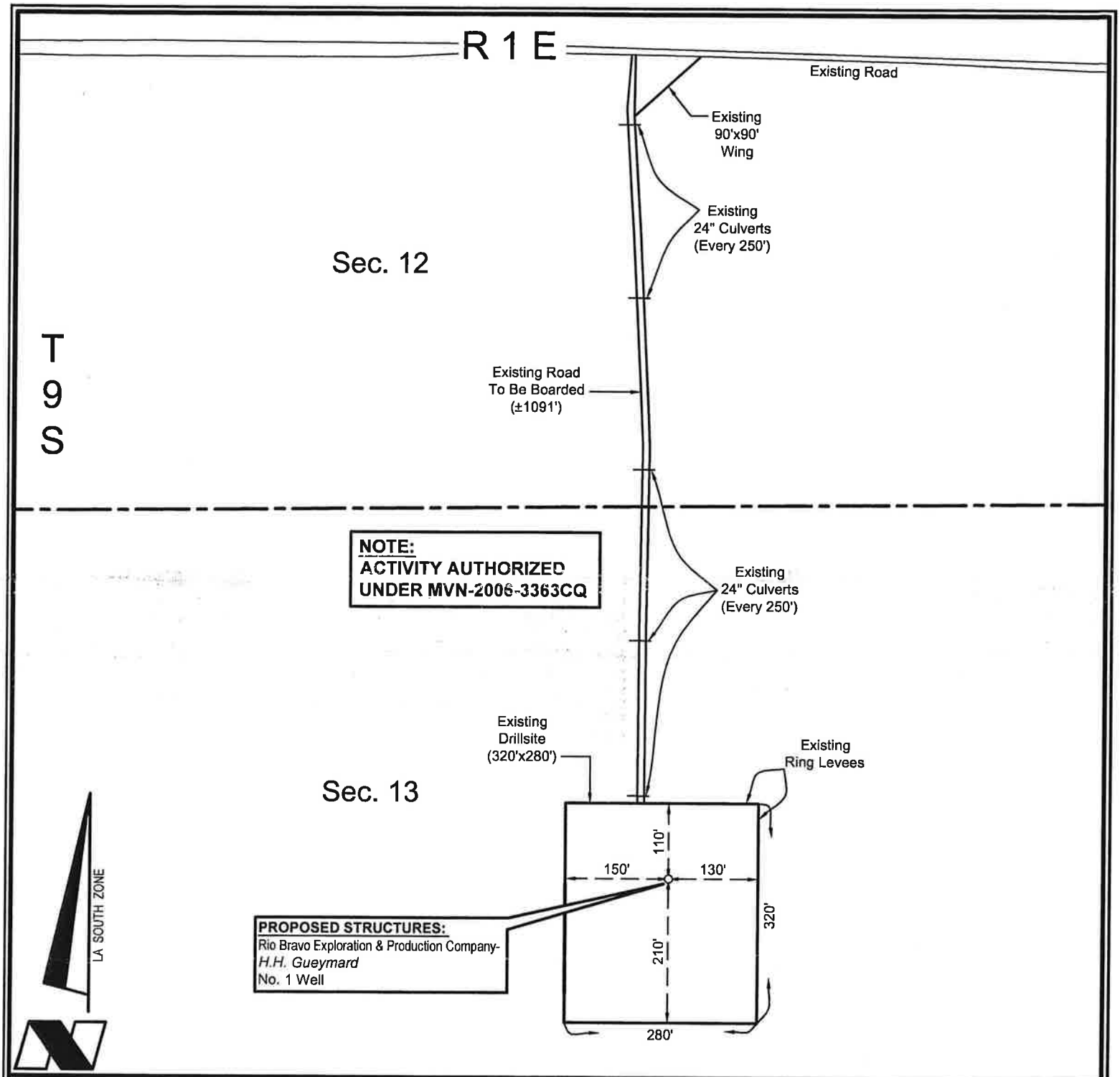
2000' 0 1000' 2000'
Scale: 1" = 2000'

RIO BRAVO EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COMPANY

PROPOSED STRUCTURES
H.H. Gueymard No. 1 Well
Section 13, T9S-R1E
Iberville Parish, Louisiana

C.H. FENSTERMAKER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Lafayette New Orleans Houston
135 Regency Sq. Lafayette, LA 70508
Ph. 337-237-2200 Fax. 337-237-3299
www.fenstermaker.com

DRAWN BY: TNV	REVISED:	DATE: 04/05/11
PROJ. MGR.: RLL		SHEET 1 OF 3 SHEETS
FILENAME: T:\2011\2119778\DWG\RIO BRAVO- GUEYMARD NO. 1 WELL - COE.dwg		



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PLAN VIEW

200' 0 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 200'

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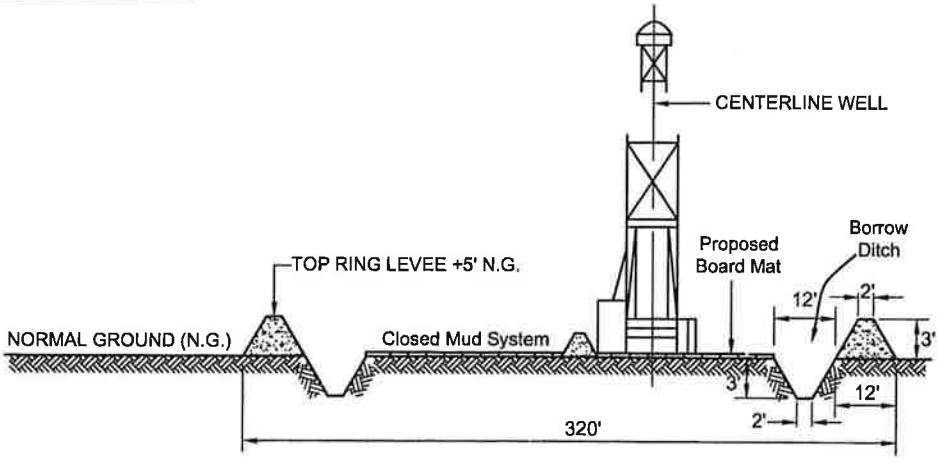
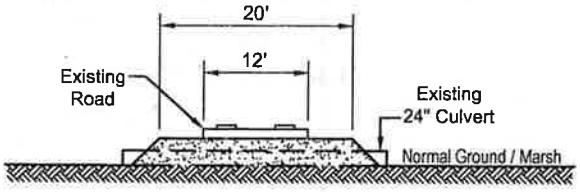
DRAWN BY: TNV	REVISED:	DATE: 04/05/11
PROJ. MGR.: RLL		SHEET 2 OF 3 SHEETS
FILENAME: T:\2011\2119778\DWG\RIO BRAVO- GUEYMARD NO. 1 WELL - COE.dwg		

NOTE:
ACTIVITY AUTHORIZED UNDER MVN-2006-3363CQ



TYPICAL CROSS-SECTION OF DRILLSITE

No Scale



TYPICAL BOARD ROAD

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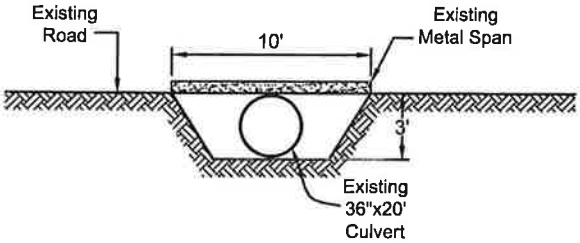

X-SECTION TYPICAL

No Scale

NOTES:

1. All fill required for road, wings and drillsite mat has been hauled in and authorized under MVN-2006-3363CQ.
2. The drillsite and ring levees will be degraded within 90 days following abandonment. The material will be deposited to the extent practicable into the borrow areas from which the material was excavated and the area leveled and restored to as near preproject conditions as practicable.
3. In the event the well is productive, boards may be replaced with gravel or other suitable permitizing material and the area restored except for the minimum area required for production.
4. Closure procedures, including onsite land treatment and/or offsite disposal of mud pit contents and other drilling residues, shall be conducted in accordance with appropriate Federal and State Regulations.
5. Closed Mud System will be used.

DISCLAIMER: At this time, Fenstermaker & Associates, Inc. has not performed nor was asked to perform any type of engineering, hydrological modeling, flood plain, or "No Rise" certification analyses, including but not limited to determining whether the project will impact flood hazards in connection with federal/FEMA, state, and/or local laws, ordinances and regulations. Accordingly, Fenstermaker makes no warranty or representation of any kind as to the foregoing issues, and persons or entities using this information shall do so at their own risk.

NOTE:
THE CONTENTS OF THESE PLANS ARE INTENDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PERMITS

RIO BRAVO EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COMPANY

PROPOSED STRUCTURES
H.H. Gueymard No. 1 Well
Section 13, T9S-R1E
Iberville Parish, Louisiana

C.H. FENSTERMAKER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Lafayette New Orleans Houston
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DRAWN BY: TNV	REVISED:	DATE: 04/05/11
PROJ. MGR.: RLL		SHEET 3 OF 3 SHEETS
FILENAME: T:\2011\2119778\DWG\RIO BRAVO- GUEYMARD NO. 1 WELL - COE.dwg		

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

JUL 1 8 2007

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:
Operations Division
Regulatory Branch

SUBJECT: (General Permit)NOD-13

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

TIME EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF THE GENERAL PERMIT FOR BOARD ROADS AND RING LEVEES

Interested parties are hereby notified that (General Permit)NOD-13, originally issued by this office on March 22, 1981, covering dredging and deposits of dredged and/or fill material for the construction of oilfield roads, drilling locations, pits, levees, and associated facilities in wetlands of the New Orleans District, is being extended through December 31, 2012. A copy of the modified and extended general permit is attached.

The proposed time extension and modification was advertised for public comment on May 18, 2007. The only change from the general permit as advertised in the public notice is a minor re-wording recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency on page 2, paragraph d.(3).

Although the general permit is being extended, persons who become aware of problems or adverse impacts are requested to notify the Regulatory Branch of this District at the above address. The general permit will be suspended, revoked, or modified it is shown to be in the public interest to do so.

Pete Serio

Pete J. Serio
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Operations Division
Regulatory Branch

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY GENERAL PERMIT

Authorization No.: (General Permit)NOD-13

Original Effective Date: March 22, 1981

Proposed Expiration Date: December 31, 2012

Under authorization granted by applicable section of Parts 320 through 330 of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, and delegated authority from the Commander, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer at New Orleans has determined that it is in the public interest to issue a general permit for dredging and deposits of dredged and/or fill material for construction of oilfield roads, drilling locations, pits, levees, and associated facilities in wetlands of the New Orleans District.

Specific legislation requiring Department of the Army permits for work of this nature are:

a. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (33 USC 403), and

b. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

This general permit <u>does</u> <u>not</u> authorize work within the following areas:

a. In or within one mile of the boundaries of any national park or monument, wildlife refuge, management area, state park, and established buffer zone at a national park site without approval of the respective park, refuge, management area, or monument manager.

b. Within one-half mile of a bald eagle nesting site.

c. Within one-half mile of a known rookery area.

d. Within any area where the activity is likely to adversely affect federally listed threatened or endangered species, or a species proposed for such designation, or that is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species.

e. Within one-quarter mile of a levee constructed with or maintained with federal funds without the approval of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Operations Divisions, and the respective levee board.

f. Within one-quarter mile of a levee or other flood control facilities owned or operated by agencies of state and local government.

g. In or within 500 feet of any designated scenic stream.

h. On barrier islands.

i. At or in close proximity to any known historic or archeological site or within the boundaries of a historic district.

This general permit is subject to the applicable standard conditions of our permit form, ENG Form 1721. A copy of the form is attached to this general permit as enclosure 1. A copy of a typical board road and ring levee drawing is attached as enclosure 2.

The following special conditions are made a part of this permit:

a. Maximum length, including roads, pits, and appurtenances, authorized by this permit is 1,500 feet. Normally, the maximum top width of roads would be 20 feet, maximum berm width would be 15 feet, and the maximum top width of staggered borrow areas would be 20 feet.

b. Work authorized by this permit must follow the shortest, direct route through wetlands unless acceptable reasons for deviations are provided. Legitimate reasons for deviating include, but are not limited to, avoiding cultural resources sites, ponds utilized by waterfowl, shellfish, or mollusk producing ponds and property on which right-of-way cannot be obtained.

c. Authorized work must follow existing pipelines, powerlines, and similar disturbed areas to the maximum extent practicable.

d. Applications for work to be performed under authority of this general permit must include the following:

(1) A completed application form (ENG 4345), and drawings clearly showing the location, character, and extent of the proposed work (see enclosure 2).

(2) A detailed discussion of alternative drilling sites and alternate routes considered and reasons why an apparently less environmentally damaging alternative was not selected.

(3) A compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable wetland losses. This plan will adhere as closely as possible to the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Army and the Environmental Protection Agency (i.e., compensatory mitigation will generally be in-kind, performed within the same geographical area as the project site, etc.). The compensatory mitigation plan must provide a minimum of 1 to 1 acreage replacement, with each plan evaluated on the basis of conditions existing at the proposed project site. Compensatory mitigation may consist of wetland restoration, enhancement of

degraded wetlands, wetland creation, or participation at an approved mitigation bank. The plan should be designed to replace the functions of the affected project site. It may be performed on federal wildlife refuges, state wildlife management areas, and parish or private lands. The plan must include a letter from the refuge or land manager agreeing to the proposed plan. Compensatory mitigation shall be performed as specified within the individual general permit authorization.

(4) Signed statements from the affected landowners establishing that they have no objection to the required restoration and that they agree not to develop or disturb restoration/mitigation areas without the prior approval of the District Engineer.

e. Roads, ring levees, and appurtenances authorized by this general permit may not connect with other fill authorized by this general permit nor may they be within one-half mile of an existing or restored road approved by this general permit, unless the use of such existing facilities is determined to be the least damaging practicable alternative by the New Orleans District (i.e., a proposed drill site contiguous to an existing road or ring levee may, if appropriate, be authorized by this general permit).

f. Fills must utilize non-wetland areas, existing roads, existing dredged material deposits, and similar areas to the maximum extent practicable.

g. To insure compliance with conditions b, c, d, e, and f, immediately above, drawings submitted with applications for work under this general permit must:

(1) Show all existing roads, waterways, well locations, pipelines, canals, etc., within one mile of the proposed work site.

(2) Provide the authorization under which any existing privately-owned road which connects with a proposed road was constructed. If the authorization number is not known, the approximate date of construction and interest which constructed the road must be provided, if known.

h. Additional conditions may be added to this general permit by the District Engineer if it is found to be in the public interest to do so.

i. This general permit may be suspended, in whole or part, by the District Engineer if it is found to be in the public interest to do so.

j. If cultural resources are uncovered at a site of work authorized by this general permit, work must be suspended and written notification provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer and to the Regulatory Branch of this office.

k. Work authorized by this general permit may not be performed until the Regulatory Branch of this office has reviewed the material submitted by applicants and notified applicants that the work may proceed.

l. Culverts shall be installed through the road fills in accordance with the following:

(1) Minimum diameter shall be 24 inches.

(2) Maximum distance between culvert installation shall be 500 feet.

(3) Culverts shall be installed at all crossings of small streams, ditches, and sloughs. These culverts shall be of sufficient size so as to convey normal flows and shall be installed so as to approximate pre-project flow conditions and not promote drainage of wetlands.

m. Culvert openings must be maintained to allow for free flow of water. Locations, number, and sizes of culverts must be shown on the drawings.

n. Bridges with clear openings at least 6 feet wide may be used in lieu of culverts.

o. Borrow pits for road fills must be discontinuous. The pits should be staggered with a maximum length of 300 feet. If pits are not staggered, gaps at least 50 feet in length shall be left between the 300-foot long segments of borrow pits. Culverts or bridge openings may not be installed through road fills to connect staggered segments of the borrow pit. Culverts and/or ditches may not be installed to connect sections of discontinuous borrow pit along one side of a road fill.

p. The maximum outside dimensions of ring levees shall not exceed 400 feet, or a total area of 160,000 square feet.

q. Material for construction of ring levees must be excavated from inside the leveed areas. All pits (e.g., production, sludge, or burn pits) must be located within in the ring levee.

r. Material used for the construction of the roads and ring levees must be free of contaminants.

s. Ring levees shall be degraded by restoring the material with which they were built into the areas from which it was removed, and disturbed areas leveled and restored to as near pre-project conditions as practicable within 30 days after pits have been cleaned.

t. The discharge and/or disposal of drilling muds, cuttings associated with drilling fluids, and produced waters from drilling or production operations must be in compliance with federal and state regulations.

u. Road fills and/or drilling pads in wetlands constructed with native material shall be degraded when the locations which they were installed to serve are abandoned. The material shall be deposited to the extent practicable into the borrow areas from which it was excavated and the area leveled and restored to as near pre-project conditions as practicable. If the road fills and/or drilling pads in wetlands were constructed with hauled-in material, that material shall be removed from the site and hauled to a non-wetland area, with the project site being leveled and restored to as near pre-project conditions as practicable. Restoration must be accomplished within 90 days of abandonment unless the District Engineer has granted additional time in writing because of weather conditions or clearly unusual circumstances. Requests for additional time must be made by the permittee or agent in writing at least 20 days prior to expiration of the 90 day period allowed for restoration. Abandoned sites shall be replanted with appropriate species, depending upon the ecotype, in the first planting season (December 15 through March 15) following abandonment.

v. Boards and other extraneous construction material shall be removed from the site prior to commencement of degrading operations. All plastic sheeting shall be removed from areas of the roadway and drill site from which boards are removed.

w. In the event that the well is a producer, the well pad shall be reduced to the minimum size necessary for production and that the remaining area of the drill site and ring levee be restored to as near pre-project conditions as practicable within 90 days of completion of the well. The restored area shall be planted with appropriate species as described in condition u. above.

x. Interests performing work under authority of this general permit must obtain water quality certification from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) before any work may be accomplished. Requests for the certification must advise the DEQ that they propose to perform their work under authority of this general permit.

y. Interests performing work under authority of this general permit within Louisiana's Coastal Zone must obtain a coastal use permit or waiver from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division, prior to commencement of work.

z. The District Engineer must be notified of abandonment of wells served by facilities authorized by this general permit within 10 days of abandonment. The notification must be in writing and must include the date of abandonment and the estimated date the restoration work will begin.

aa. Further written notification must be given to the District Engineer within 5 days of completion of the restoration work, including required mitigation.

bb. A geologic review meeting will be required for the following items of work applied for under this general permit:

(1) All board roads, regardless of length.

(2) Ring levees larger than 300' X 300', or 90,000 square feet.

(3) Ring levees with maximum dimensions of 300' X 300' if an existing ring levee exists within the directional drilling radius. The directional drilling radius is the maximum distance from a proposed bottom hole location from which a given well feasibly can be directionally drilled. It is determined by the following formula: [(proposed total well depth in feet – surface casing distance in feet –1425) X .57735027] + 375. If, at the conclusion of the meeting it is determined that it is technically and/or economically infeasible to reduce the dimensions of the board road and/or ring levee, authorization will be granted under this general permit provided the project meets all other terms and conditions of this general permit.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Pete Serio

Pete J. Serio
Chief, Regulatory Branch
For
Alvin B. Lee
Colonel, US Army
District Commander