



# Public Notice

**US ARMY CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS  
St. Louis District  
Gateway to Excellence**

**Reply To:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833**

Public Notice No.  
**P-2805**  
Public Notice Date  
**August 22, 2011**  
Expiration Date  
**September 12, 2011**

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

File Number: MVS-2010-247

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

**COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833  
ATTN: Alan Edmondson

**APPLICANT:** Prairie Coal Company, LLC, CityPlace One, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri, 63141

**AGENT:** Mr. Steve Glodo, P.E., P.L.S., Midwest Reclamation Resources, Inc., 1023 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Murphysboro, Illinois 62966

**LOCATION:** The mine permit boundary is located approximately 7 miles west-northwest of Pinckneyville, north of Route 13. The project area consists of approximately 848 acres located in Sections 29, 30, 31&32, Township 04 South, and Range 03 West, Perry County, Illinois. (Attachment 1) **NOTE:** For clarification on any attachments not legible due to printing, please contact the project manager of the project by using the contact information above or consult the St. Louis District Regulatory Webpage for more information. <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/ConOps/permits/pn.htm>

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed Lost Prairie Mine project is an underground coal mine utilizing conventional room and pillar mining methods to extract the Herrin No. 6 coal seam. Two portals will be created by construction of the slope. Two air shafts will be constructed for the ventilation system. The surface facilities will include roads, a rail loadout and transport system, coal and soil stockpiles, coal refuse disposal facilities, preparation plant, and an office/maintenance building with parking area. Production is expected to be approximately 800,000 tons during the first year of operation, then ramp up to approximately 3.5 million tons per year within five years.

The coal reserve will be mined utilizing up to five continuous miners. A conveyor belt will transport the coal to the surface where it will be stockpiled for processing. Processing will be performed using a 2–module Coal Washing Plant utilizing Heavy Media Separation. The clean coal will be transported by conveyor to a rail load out facility where the coal will be placed in rail cars for transport to market. Some coal may be loaded into licensed trucks for highway haulage to various customers.

Development of the surface facilities required for the new underground mine will involve disturbance of ephemeral streams and wetlands. Stream assessments and wetland delineations were performed by Third Rock Consultants of Lexington, Kentucky on 84 stream reaches and 25 wetlands, varying in size from 0.04 acres to 2.17 acres, within the project area. Of the 64,672 lineal feet of stream reaches, only 11,759 lineal feet of ephemeral stream reaches will be impacted by the mine. Of the total 15.29 acres of wetland within the project area, only 3.48 acres will be impacted. Of this, 3.01 acres are forested wetland, while 0.47acre is emergent wetland. The applicant proposes compensatory mitigation for the impacts to jurisdictional features.

**Mitigation:** A reasonable range of alternatives have been identified and considered for the project. Alternatives include those that are practical or feasible from a technical, environmental, and economic standpoint. Given the purpose and need of the project the proposed impacts were avoided to the maximum extent practicable; minimized, and the unavoidable impacts are proposed to be compensated for in the mitigation plan.

The applicant will restore the streams in approximately their original locations as part of the post mine reclamation plan. During mining, the proposed sediment pond will provide alternative habitat. The sediment pond will provide functions and value similar to those provided by the streams and riparian habitat, such as wildlife habitat. The streams will be restored and a forested riparian buffer will be planted on both sides of the restored stream channels.

It is noted that the proposed mitigation plan will be open to comment and subject to change. The Corps will make a determination of appropriate mitigation, upon review of all submitted information.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals issued the applicant a permit under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The SMCRA Permit for the coal mine is IDNR Permit #412.

**LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS:** See Attachments 1 to 3.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Alan Edmondson, Illinois Section Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8811. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to alan.r.edmondson@usace.army.mil.

**AUTHORITY:** This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** This public notice also provides documentation to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The “Fact Sheet” containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA’s web site, at [www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/](http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/). In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the “Fact Sheet” corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and “Fact Sheet” will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the “Fact Sheet” by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below.

Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Bureau of Water  
Watershed Management Section  
1021 N. Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

A copy of all written comments should also be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

**SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION:** The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) 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 the applicant’s proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed would not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and the public in response to this public notice.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered 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; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:** The U.S. 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 evaluate the impacts of the 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 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.

In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.



for

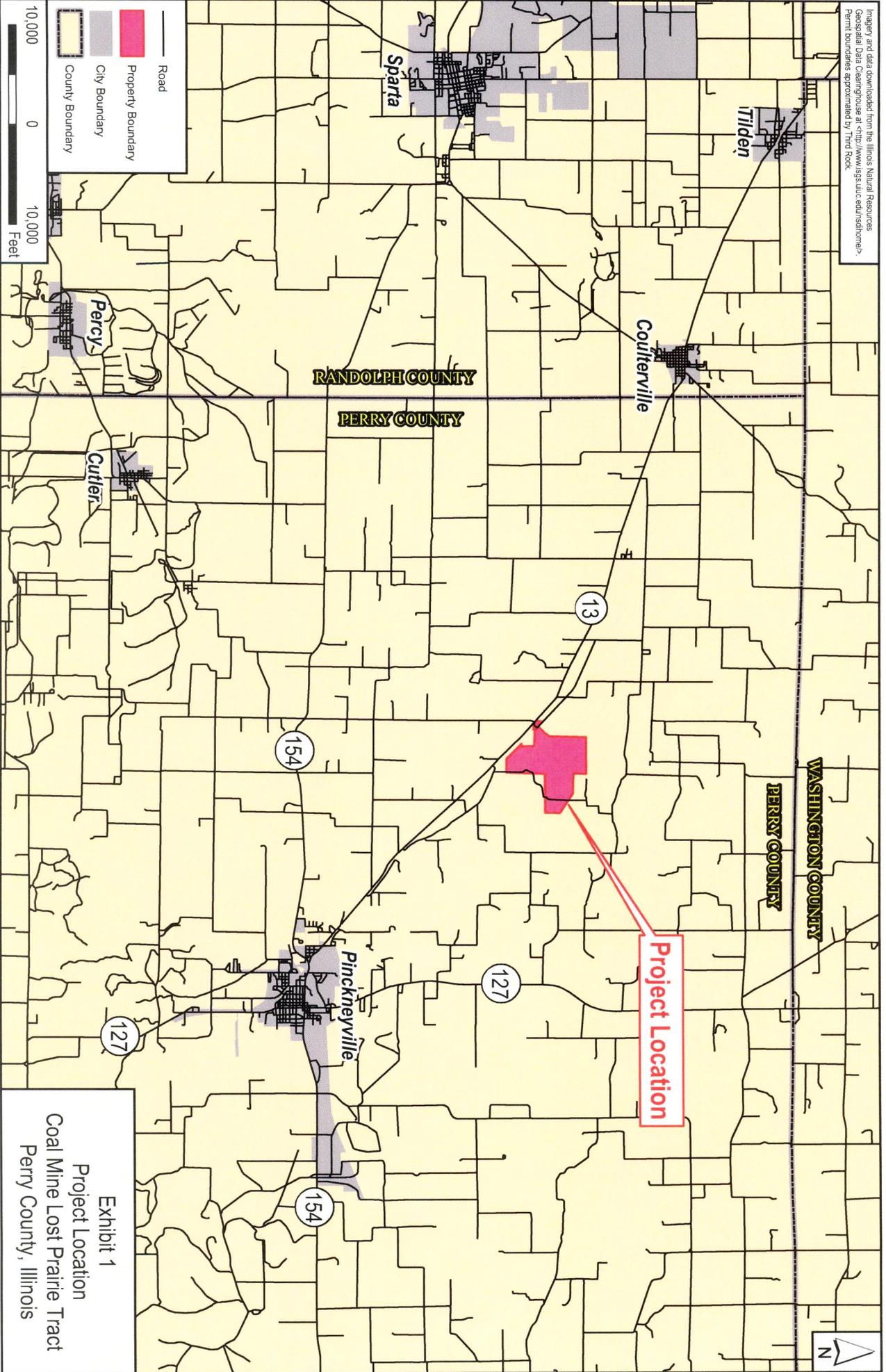
DANNY D. MCCLENDON  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

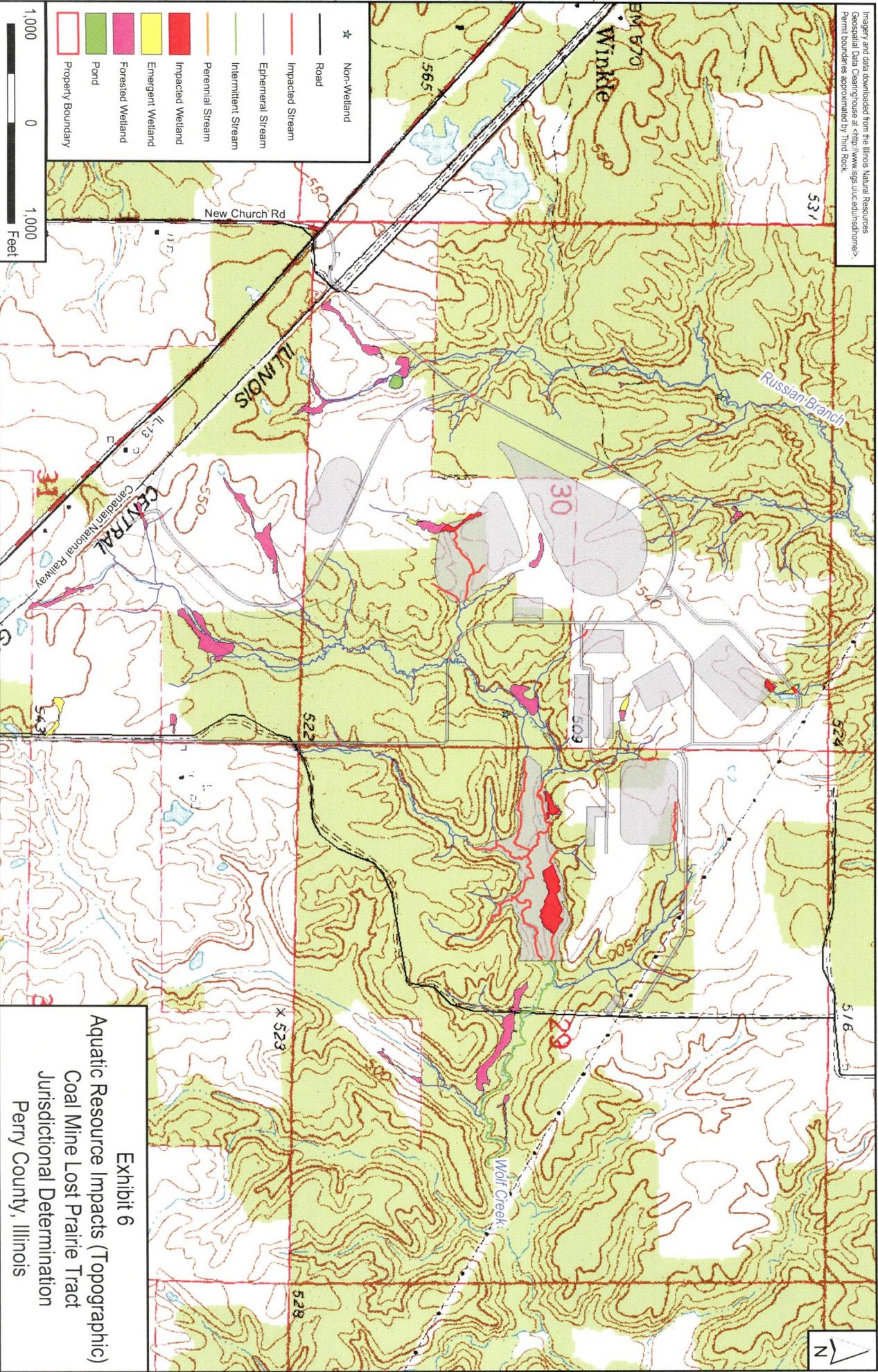
Imagery and data downloaded from the Illinois Natural Resources  
Geospatial Data Clearinghouse at <<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/rd/home>>  
Permit boundaries approximated by third block.



**Project Location**

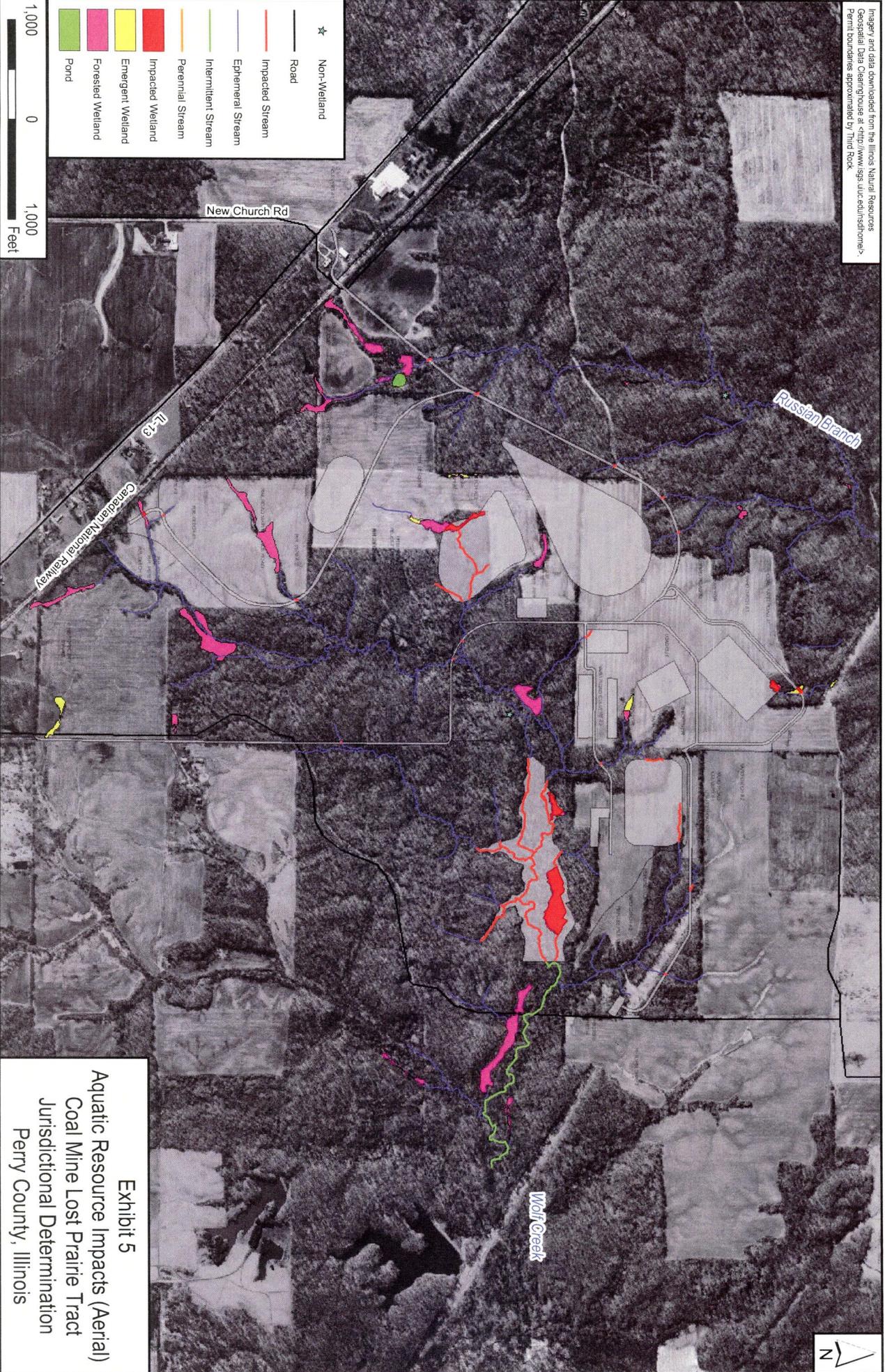
Exhibit 1  
Project Location  
Coal Mine Lost Prairie Tract  
Perry County, Illinois

Imagery and data downloaded from the Illinois Natural Resources  
Geospatial Data Clearinghouse at <<http://www.sgs.uiuc.edu/rdnhome/>>  
Permit boundaries approximated by third party.

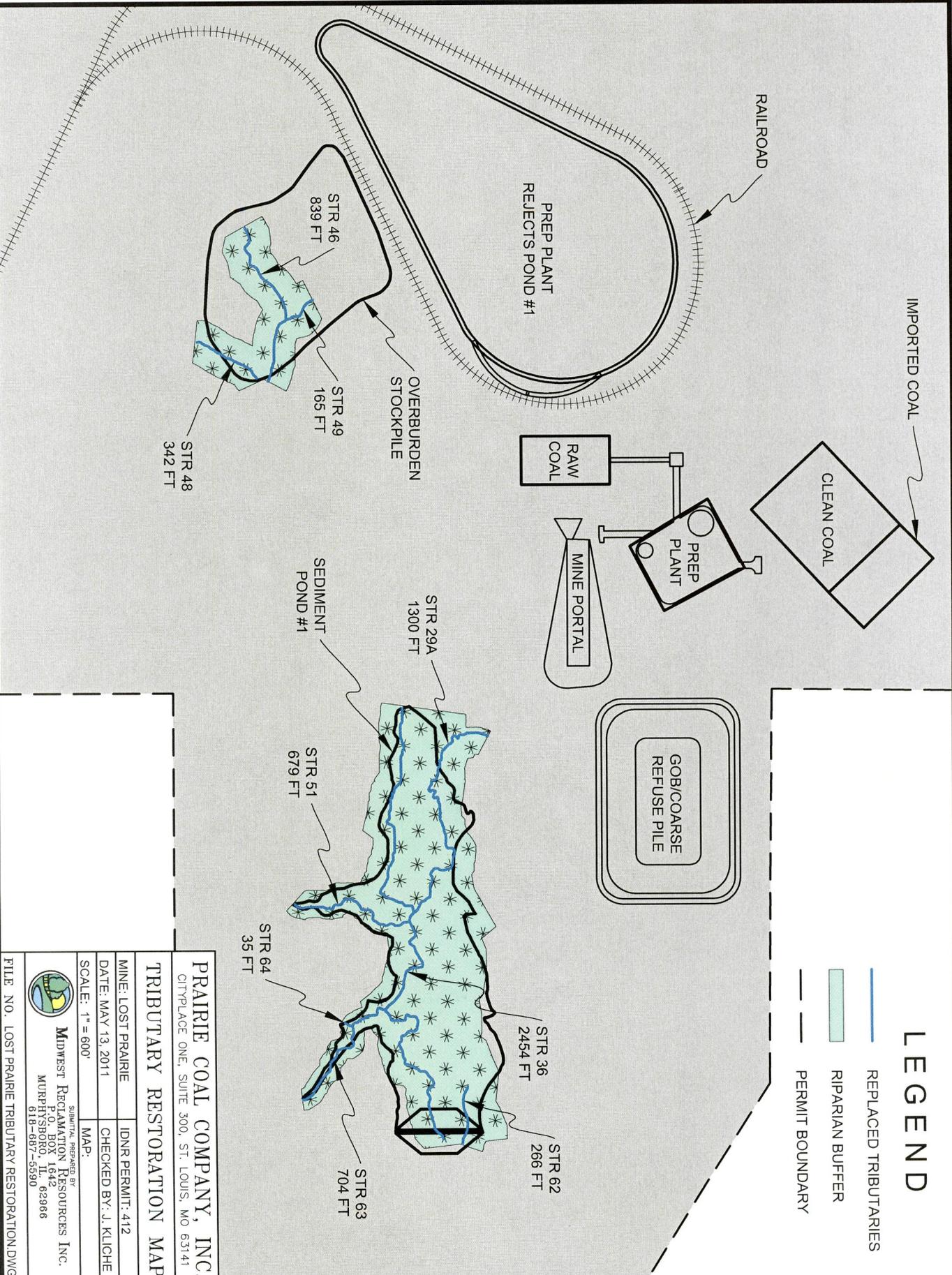


**Exhibit 6**  
Aquatic Resource Impacts (Topographic)  
Coal Mine Lost Prairie Tract  
Jurisdictional Determination  
Perry County, Illinois

Imagery and data downloaded from the Illinois Natural Resources  
Geospatial Data Clearinghouse at <http://www.igsis.uiuc.edu/rd/home>  
Permit boundaries approximated by third party.



**Exhibit 5**  
Aquatic Resource Impacts (Aerial)  
Coal Mine Lost Prairie Tract  
Jurisdictional Determination  
Perry County, Illinois



# LEGEND

-  REPLACED TRIBUTARIES
-  RIPARIAN BUFFER
-  PERMIT BOUNDARY

**PRAIRIE COAL COMPANY, INC.**  
 CITYPLACE ONE, SUITE 300, ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

**TRIBUTARY RESTORATION MAP**

MINE: LOST PRAIRIE	IDNR PERMIT: 412
DATE: MAY 13, 2011	CHECKED BY: J. KLICHE
SCALE: 1" = 600'	MAP:

DESIGNED BY:  **MIDWEST REMEDIATION RESOURCES INC.**  
 P.O. BOX 1642  
 MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966  
 618-687-5590

FILE NO. LOST PRAIRIE TRIBUTARY RESTORATION.DWG