



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

Public Notice

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

Public Notice No.
P-2818
Public Notice Date
April 6, 2012

Expiration Date
April 26, 2012

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Comments on the activities described below should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice 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
ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (Charles Frerker)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. Prairie State Generating Company LLC (Prairie State), c/o: Mr. Keith Bastian, Senior VP of Power Operations, 1739 New Marigold Road, Marissa, Illinois 62257, (618) 824-7644, has applied:

a. To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Regulatory Branch for authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge fill material into approximately 3.75 acres of manmade emergent wetlands, 9,300 linear feet of an unnamed, primary tributary to Mud Creek (labeled as Tributary 1) and 1,245 linear feet of a previously straightened, unnamed secondary tributary to Mud Creek (labeled as Tributary 2). The permit is requested as part of Prairie State's proposal to dispose of the coal combustion by-products (CCB) generated by their new power plant. Prairie State is proposing to construct a dedicated monofill adjacent to the power plant. The proposed monofill, referred to as the Near Field Monofill, would be used to dispose of coal fly and bottom ash, flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum, and mine waste generated by on-site power generating activities. The current Prairie State monofill is located 19 miles from the plant and is accessible by rail and truck. The existing monofill does not have the capacity to contain the CCB that will be generated during the anticipated life of the power plant. The preferred site for the Near Field Monofill is a 740 acre tract located adjacent to the existing power plant. The new monofill would be designed with a 30-year capacity, the projected life of the power plant. Construction of the monofill facility on the preferred site would allow Prairie State to efficiently dispose of the CCB using enclosed conveyor units. In addition, disposing of the waste material at the proposed Near Field Monofill will result in a cost savings over the life of the plant for Prairie State.

The majority of the 740 acre preferred site is currently agricultural fields in active row crop production. To accommodate the construction of the monofill, two tributaries and two emergent wetlands would be impacted. Tributary 1 has been previously straightened in sections, contains areas of concentrated trash, several low water crossings and contains a narrow to non-existent riparian corridor. A habitat assessment was conducted within the unnamed tributary using the Environmental Protection Agencies' Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Wadable Rivers (EPA RBP). Habitat and biological integrity within the unnamed tributary was between poor and marginal. Tributary 2 is a man-made straight channel with somewhat unstable banks and a narrow riparian corridor. Neither tributary contributes great value to the health, function or value of Mud Creek or the surrounding watershed. The 3.75 acres of wetlands proposed to be impacted do not significantly contribute to the health, function or value of the overall watershed due to their degraded condition, small size and location. The impacted wetlands are man-made, occasionally farmed, surrounded by active agricultural fields, contain low plant diversity, have a minimal capacity for flood storage and lack connective wildlife habitat. Based upon an initial assessment, it is believed the manmade wetlands were constructed under an expired Wetland Reserve Program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Prairie State proposes to offset the impacts to both unnamed

tributaries by relocating the tributary and creating a riparian corridor along the northern and western edges of the proposed new monofill. The 11,700 linear foot relocated creek channel would be designed to contain a meandering channel with riffle and pool features, stable banks and a wider riparian corridor. The applicant's intent is to create the relocated channel with improved water quality, food chain support and habitat creation. Prairie State proposes to install two access road crossing structures in the relocated tributary. For additional mitigation, Prairie State proposes to construct a 160-foot-wide riparian corridor along the entire length of the relocated channel for a total of 43 acres. The riparian corridor creation area will be planted with large caliber trees on a 20 foot x 20 foot spacing (109 trees per acre) for a total of 4,687 total trees. To compensate for the 3.75 acres of manmade wetland impacts, Prairie State proposes to create a 5.6-acre emergent wetland adjacent to the riparian corridor of Mud Creek, just south of the power plant. The 5.6-acre emergent wetland will provide improved water quality protection, food chain support, breeding and migration habitat for migratory birds, breeding and over-wintering habitat for amphibians and increased connectivity of habitat types that currently is non-existent in the wetlands within the farm fields. Overall the created emergent wetland would have a higher quality and function than the impacted manmade wetlands and the relocated stream segment and riparian corridor should provide increased channel stability, habitat creation and improve water quality within the Lower Kaskaskia watershed. The proposed creek relocation, its surrounding riparian corridor, and the 5.6-acre emergent wetland are located on property currently owned by Prairie State. Once construction of the sites is complete, a deed restriction would be filed with the Washington County Recorder of Deeds to protect the relocated creek, its riparian corridor and the emergent wetland in perpetuity.

The applicant considered alternate configurations of the cells within the monofill to further avoid and minimize impacts. Ultimately the applicant determined changing the size, shape and location of the cells would not allow them to meet the life span requirements of the facility. The applicant determined if they shifted or resized the cells to the south and north of the creek to allow the creek to remain in place, the geometry would not allow the cells to expand high enough. The adjoining property is not an option for purchase and expansion of the facility because the facility is bordered on three sides by county roads that would have to be abandoned and the plants water supply lake is situated on the other side.

During consideration of alternative monofill sites, Prairie State sought to develop a design alternative that avoided and minimized environmental impacts to the greatest extent possible while achieving the initial goals of waste disposal, efficiency, and cost reduction. A no-build alternative was considered. Prairie State is currently utilizing an approved monofill located about 19 miles from the power plant. The current monofill is accessible by rail and truck and does not have the capacity to contain all the waste materials generated during the anticipated life of the power plant. The proposed Near Field Monofill will have a minimum 30-year capacity and would eliminate transportation cost because it is located adjacent to the existing power plant. Transporting the plant waste to the monofill via an enclosed conveyor system as opposed to transportation over 19 rail miles will reduce pollution emissions and eliminate the possibility of material releases if a train derailment occurred. Due to the significant transportation cost, lack of capacity, and environmental considerations, the no-build alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

A no-impact alternative at the preferred site was considered. Avoiding impact to the tributaries and wetlands would only allow construction of the three southern cells, reducing the ash disposal capacity of the total monofill by more than 75% and reducing the lifespan of the landfill to about 7 years. The preferred monofill is currently designed to correspond with the expected lifespan of the power plant which is a minimum of 30 years. Additional areas of equal size or greater size would need to be developed into a landfill after about 7 years of operation to accommodate the shortfall. Leaving the creek in place and developing cells on both the north and south sides was not considered practical because it would require running an overland conveyor through the floodplain and across the creek. This creates potential pollution issues. The alternate would mean transporting the material on existing roadways requiring approximately 3,000 roundtrips per week with corresponding fuel usage and air emissions. The preferred alternative is designed to initially collect contact water runoff and leachate in ponds located immediately south of the monofill, and after creek relocation, to collect contact water runoff and leachate in ponds located in the interior of the facility. Contact water from the ash disposal operation will be collected and reused for ash conditioning.. The applicant stated that the reduced size of the proposed monofill would not meet the long-term capacity needs of the power plant and additional monofill sites would be required. Since the no-impact alternative would fail to meet the needs of the power plant, the applicant eliminated it from further consideration.

Developing the monofill on another site was also considered. Prairie State does own additional parcels surrounding the power plant, however no other parcel is large enough to meet the 30-year storage capacity needed for the monofill site. Also, property to the north and east of the power plant is designated for coal reserves, and based on this plan a monofill cannot be constructed on top of land designated for underground mining. Due to the topography of the area, Prairie State determined it would be very difficult to find a 740-acre parcel located adjacent to or near their existing power plant that does not contain any wetlands or waters of the United States. The majority of land south of the power plant is in the Mud Creek floodplain and floodway, which contains higher quality and diverse wetlands functioning as a riparian corridor. Due to these reasons, development of the monofill on other alternative parcels was eliminated from further consideration.

The attached figures and maps provide additional project details regarding the proposed project and mitigation.

b. 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/. 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, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. (See paragraph 11 of this public notice for Corps address).

c. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for state approval of the proposed work in accordance with the Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act of the State of Illinois (615 ILCS 5). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

2. Based on our initial processing of the applicants' proposal, the action is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.

3. This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

4. 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.

5. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice. Prairie Archaeology & Research, Ltd. conducted Phase I and Phase II archaeological surveys of property in and around the 740-acre study area between 2006 and 2010. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) concurred with Prairie Archaeology's assessment that no significant historic, architectural, or archaeological resources are located within the parcels.

6. The proposed project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the threatened Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthaera leucophaea*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat primarily based on the fact that the 740 acre

project site has been continuously farmed for decades and the tributaries corridors are narrow and relatively disturbed. However, in order to complete our evaluation, this public notice solicits comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

7. Any interested parties, particularly navigation interests, Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local associations whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before the public notice expiration date. The decision whether to authorize the proposed work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, 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; 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, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Project authorization will be granted only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.

8. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny authorization 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 also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

9. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice must be submitted in writing and sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, Attn: OD-F (Frerker), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil, on or before the public notice closing date.

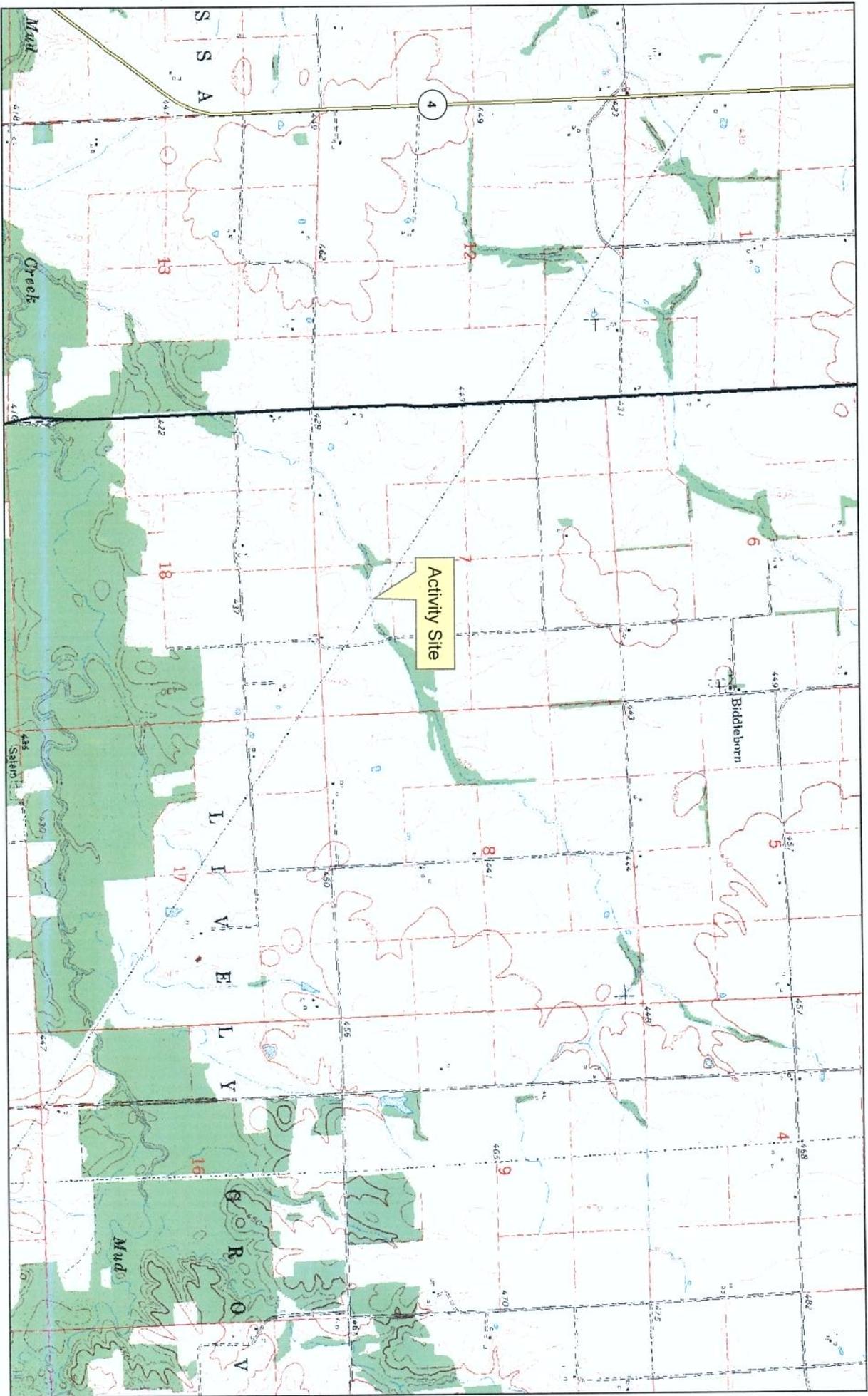
10. In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies who wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.


for Danny D. McClendon
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually posted for 21 days.



P-2818
Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Washington County, Illinois



P-2818

PROPOSED MONOFILL CONFIGURATION

DATE: _____

REVISION: _____

1789 NEW MARBOLD RD., MARSSA, IL 62527

Planning State
Sustaining Company, LLC

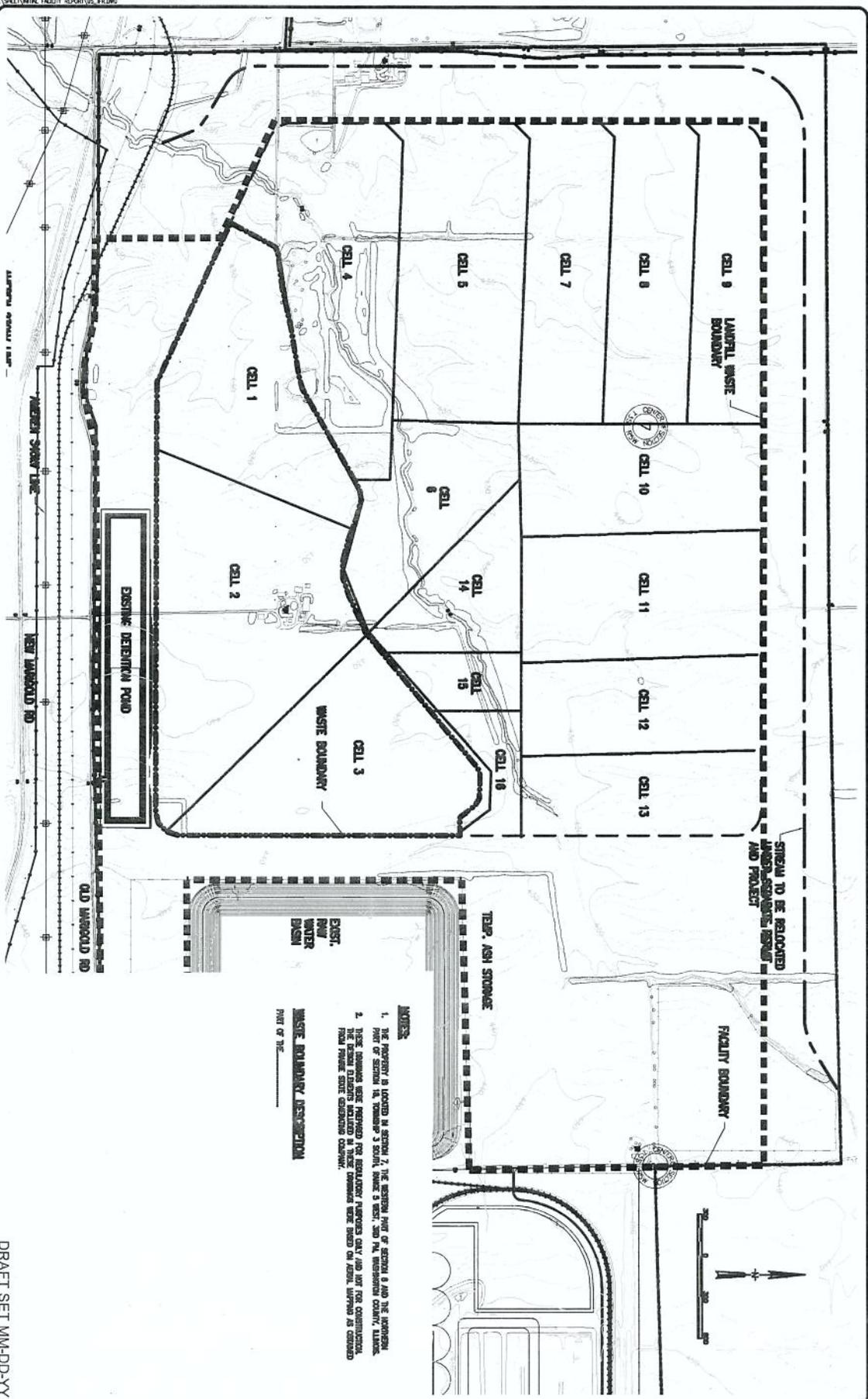
DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION
06-28-11	MM/DD-YY	ISSUED FOR PERMITTING
06-28-11	MM/DD-YY	REVISED

HANSON
Hanson Professional Services Inc.
5249 Old Mill Road, Suite 200
Marissa, IL 62528
Phone: (217) 788-2400
Fax: (217) 788-2400
www.hansoninc.com

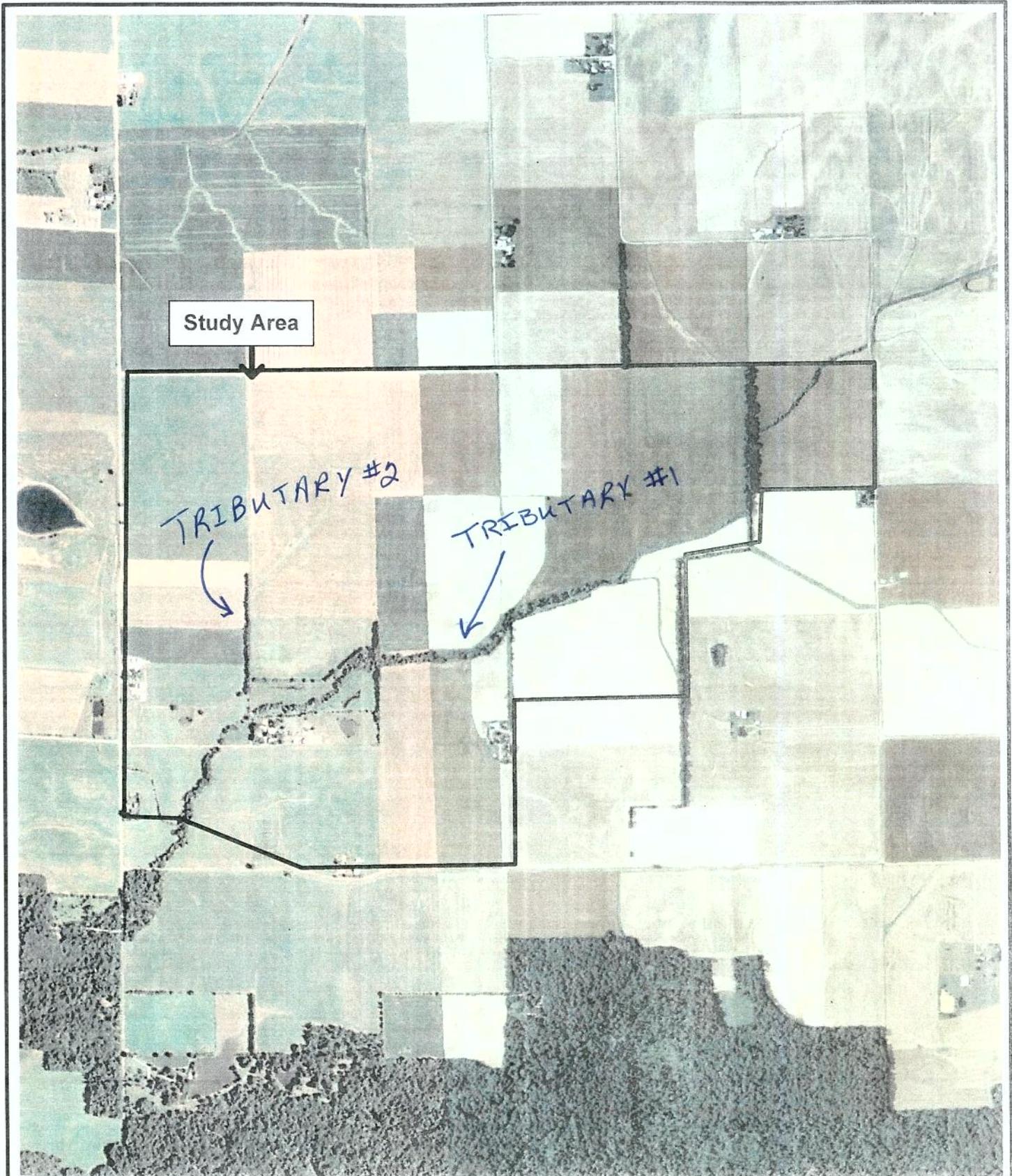
PROPOSED SITE PLAN
INITIAL FACILITY REPORT
NEAR FIELD FACILITY

DRAFT SET MM-DD-YY

5



- NOTES:**
1. THE FACILITY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 7, THE SOUTHWEST PART OF SECTION 8 AND THE NORTHEAST PART OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, AND THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
 2. THESE DRAWINGS WERE PREPARED FOR REGULATORY PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION. FROM THESE DRAWINGS, THE DESIGN ENGINEER HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE PROPOSED MONOFILL IS CONSIDERED TO BE A WASTE BOUNDARY.
- WASTE BOUNDARY DESIGNATION**
PART OF THE _____



Study Area

TRIBUTARY #2

TRIBUTARY #1

Source: USDA Geospatial Data Gateway, 2006 Aerial Photograph Washington County, Illinois

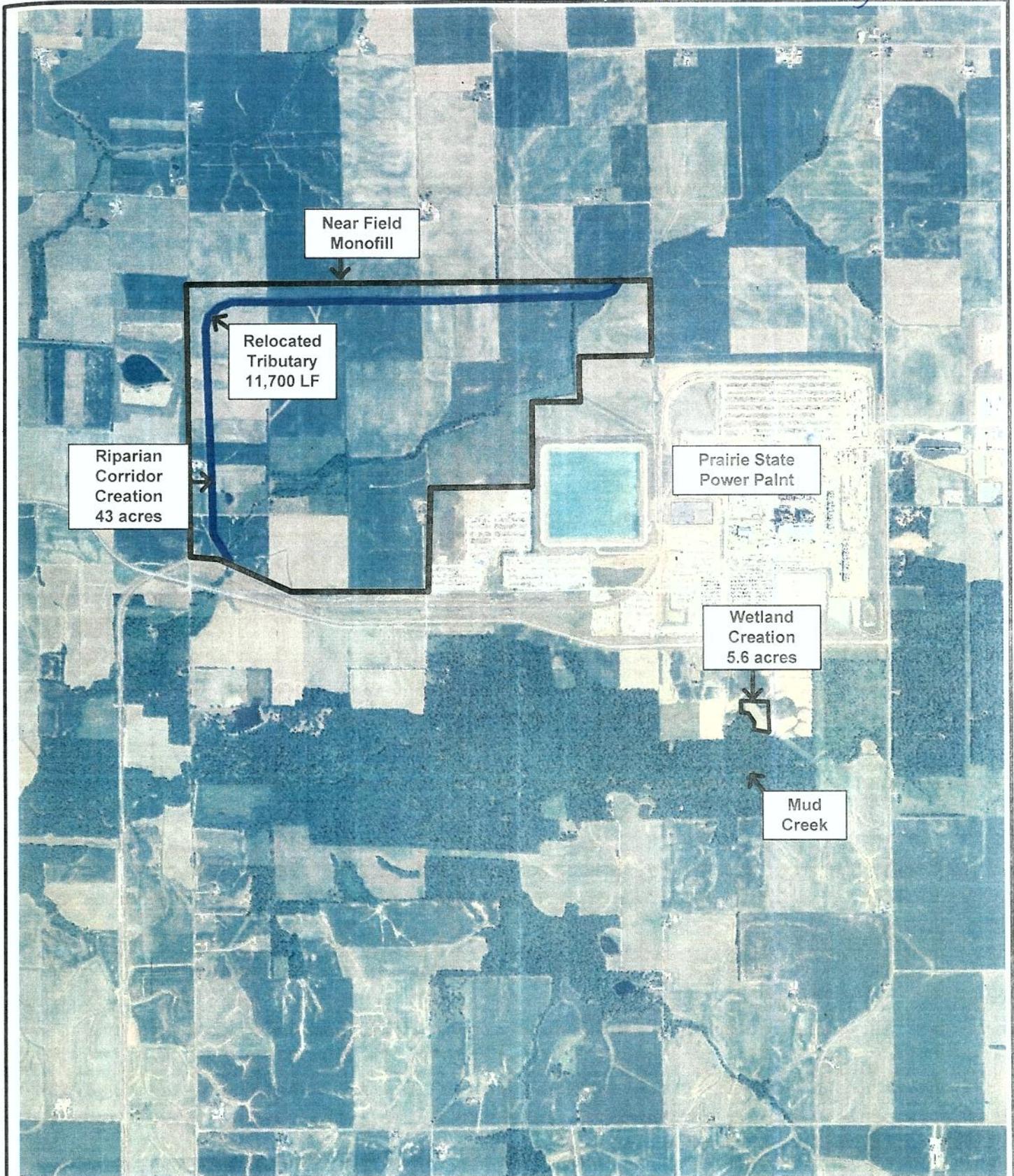
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2006 Aerial Photograph

Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

JOB NO. 10E0037



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Source: 2010 Washington County
Aerial Photograph
<http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>

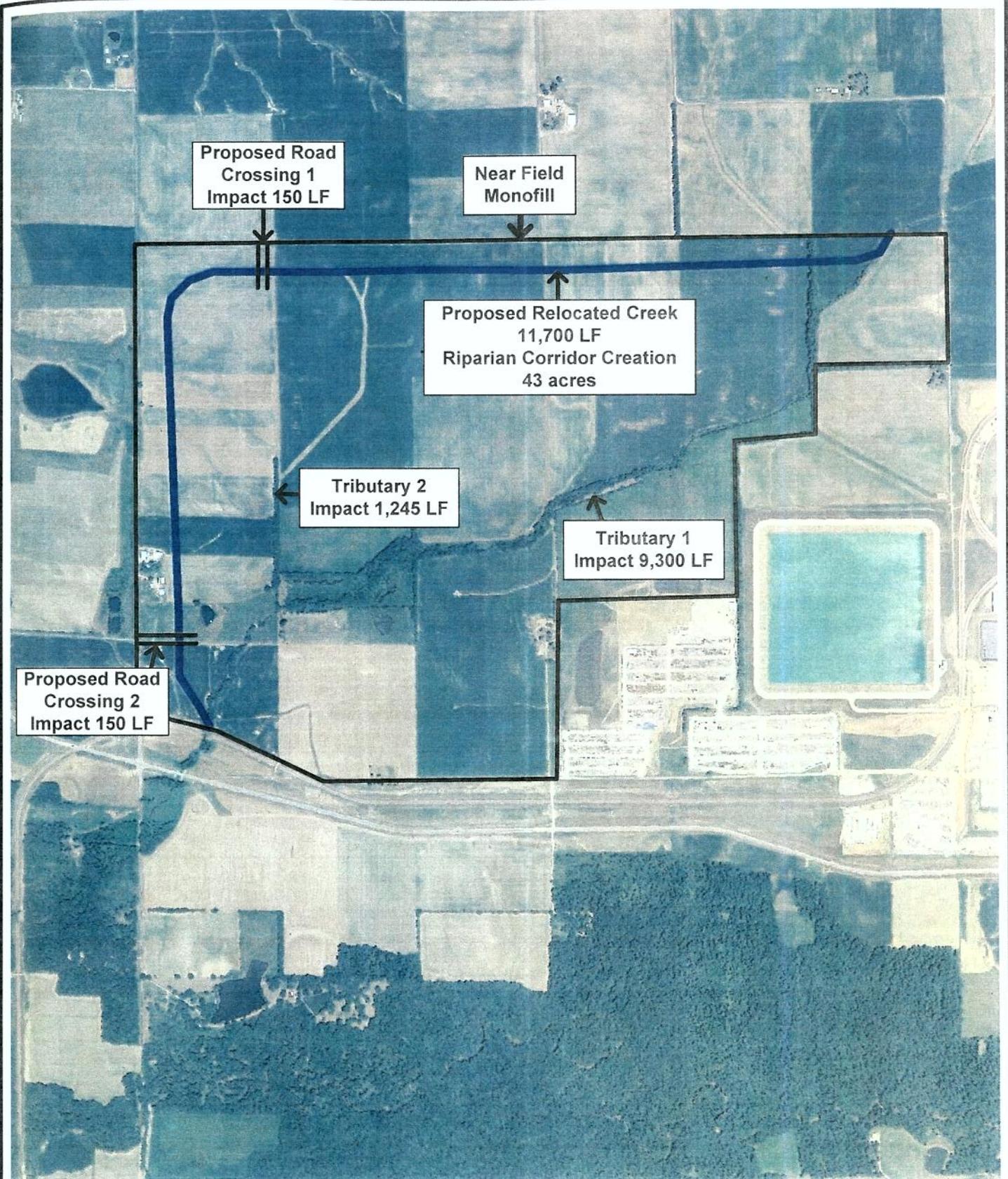


Mitigation Plan Overview

Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

JOB NO. 10E0037

FIGURE K-1



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Source: 2009 Washington County
Aerial Photograph
<http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>



Creek Relocation – Aerial Photograph
Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

P-2818

Photograph 1 – Unnamed Tributary 1 at Biddleborn Road, facing downstream.



Photograph 2 – Unnamed Tributary 1 downstream of Biddleborn Road, facing downstream.



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Source: June 5, 2010
Field Visit



Photographs

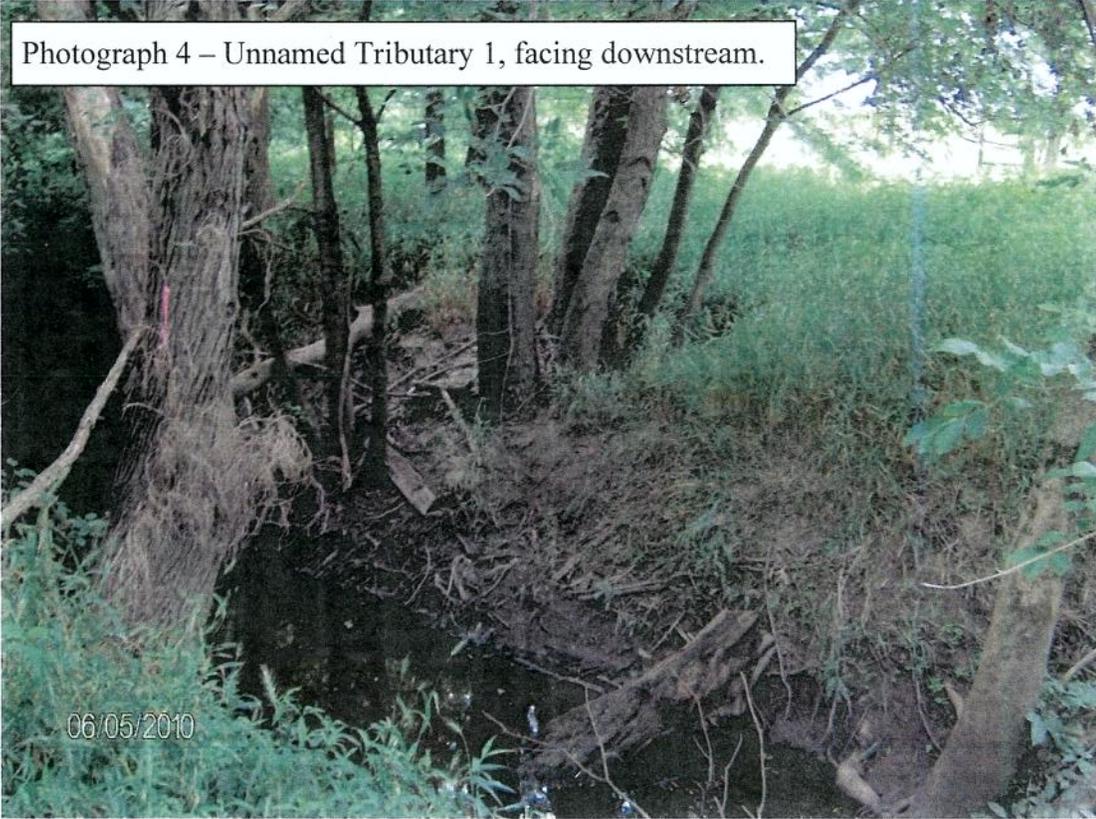
Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

JOB NO. 10E0037

Photograph 3 – Unnamed Tributary 1, facing downstream.



Photograph 4 – Unnamed Tributary 1, facing downstream.



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Source: June 5, 2010
Field Visit

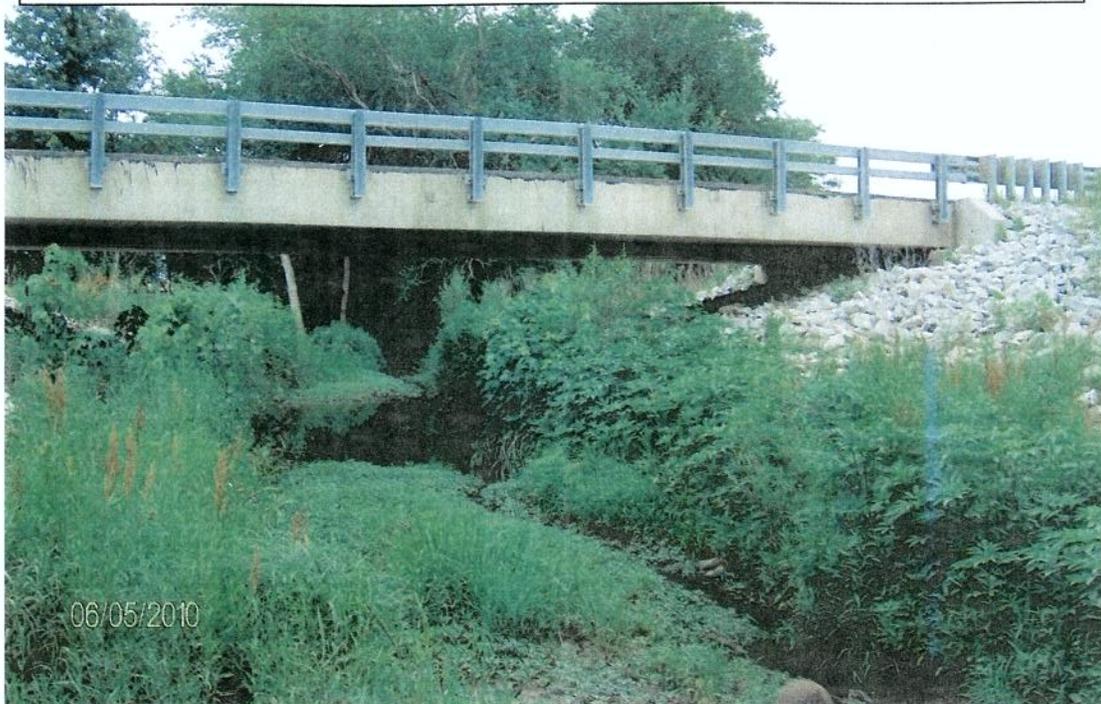


Photographs

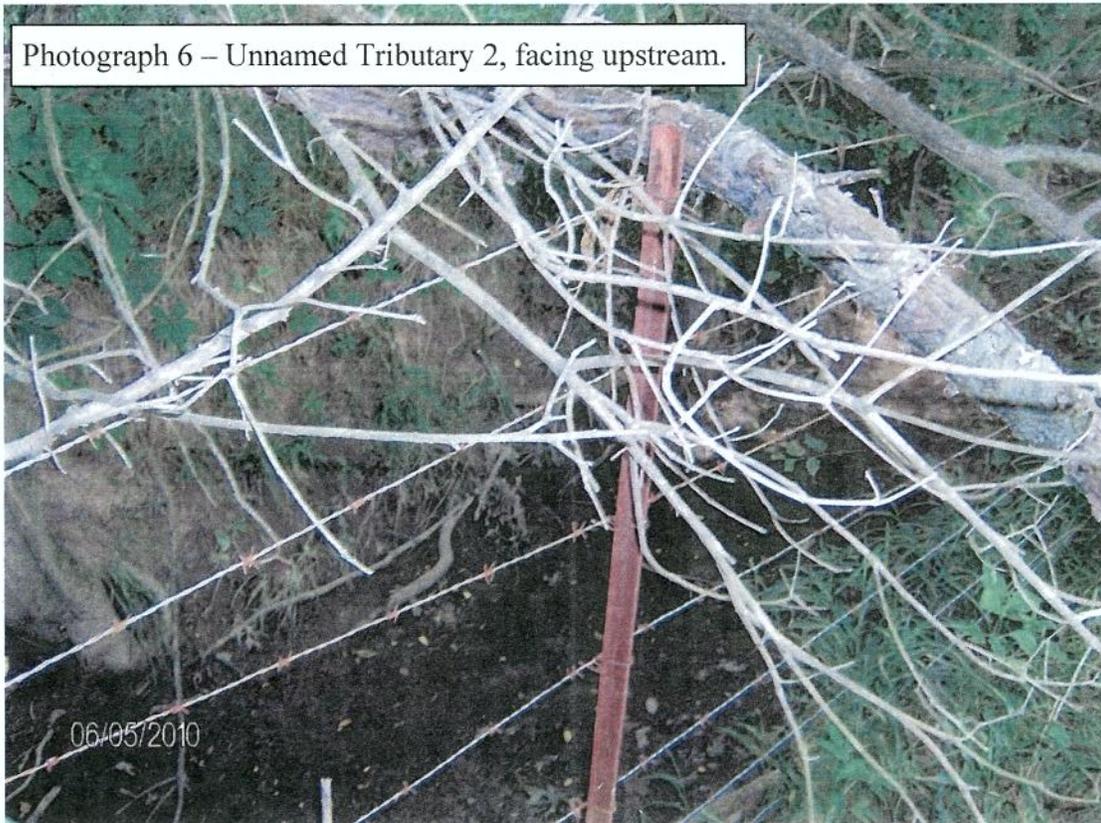
Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

JOB NO. 10E0037

Photograph 5 – Off site section of Unnamed Tributary 1, crossing under New Marigold Road, facing upstream.



Photograph 6 – Unnamed Tributary 2, facing upstream.



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Source: June 5, 2010
Field Visit

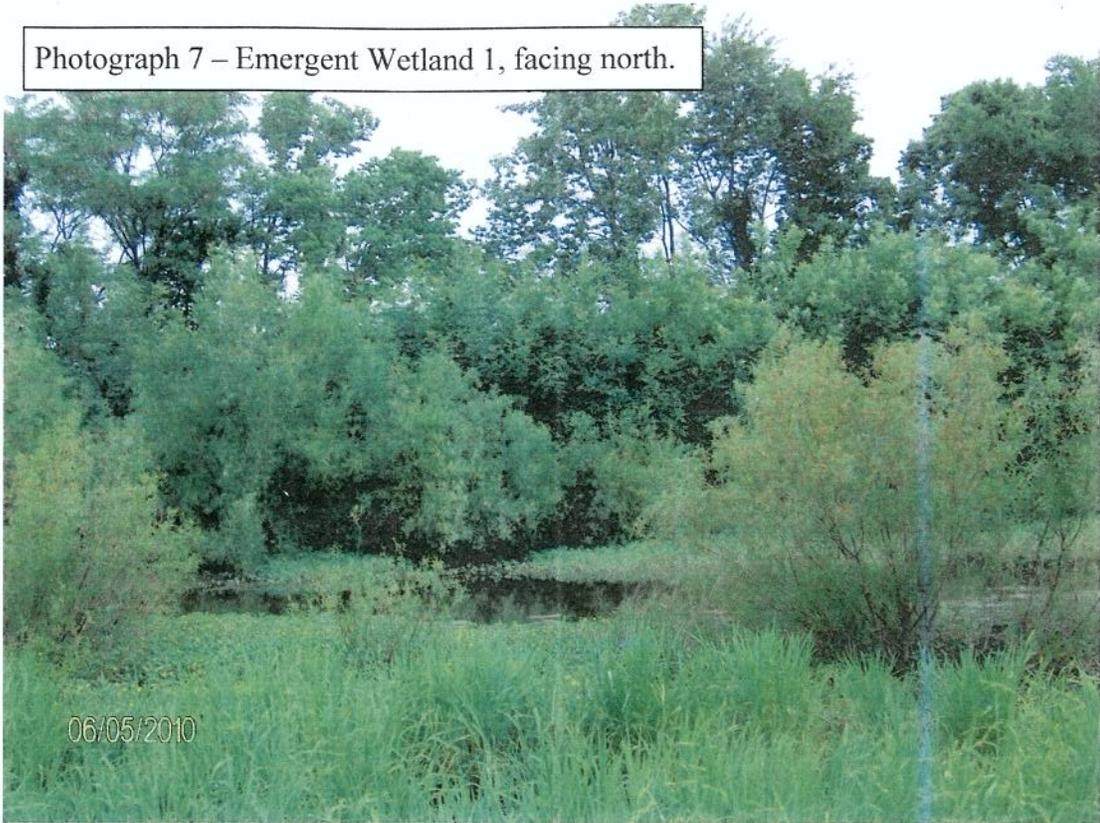


Photographs

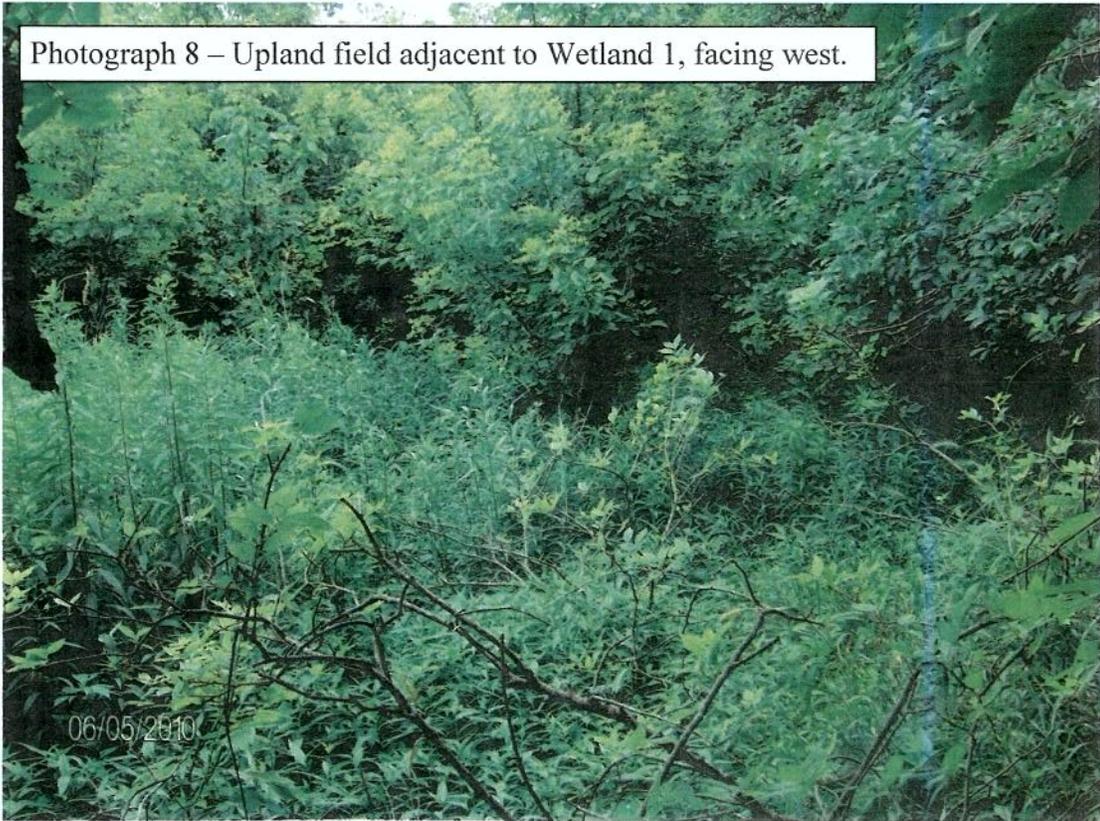
Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

JOB NO. 10E0037

Photograph 7 – Emergent Wetland 1, facing north.



Photograph 8 – Upland field adjacent to Wetland 1, facing west.



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Source: June 5, 2010
Field Visit



Photographs

Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

JOB NO. 10E0037

Photograph 9 – Emergent Wetland 2, facing north.



Photograph 10 – Upland field adjacent to Wetland 2, facing south.



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Source: June 5, 2010
Field Visit



Photographs

Prairie State Generating Company, LLC
Near Field Monofill
Washington County, Illinois

JOB NO. 10E0037