



Public Notice

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

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

Permission No.
OD-R 19-042
Public Notice Date
June 09, 2020
Expiration Date
July 09, 2020

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO MODIFY A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army Section 408 permission for certain work near federally constructed flood protection projects 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 (USACE) Permission 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
Readiness Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: Brenton C. Barkley, or Brenton.C.Barkley@usace.army.mil

REQUESTER: Ameren Services Company, Attention: Mr. Kevin Atkins

LOCATION: The project is located in Brooklyn, St. Clair County, Illinois and Madison/Granite City/Hartford, Madison County, Illinois between levee station code 1209+00 and 250+00 and 940+00 along the Metro East Sanitary District Levee System, levee station code 20+00 and 410+00 along the Chouteau Island / Chain of Rocks West Levee System and levee station code 330+00 and 410+00 along the Wood River Lower Levee System. The federal civil works projects affected is the East St. Louis & Vicinity Flood Protection Project, St. Clair County, Illinois and Madison County, Illinois and the Wood River Flood Protection Project, St. Clair County, Illinois.

PROPOSED ACTION: Ameren Illinois Corporation (Ameren) is proposing to relocate an existing transmission line into the new Gateway Substation which includes the construction of transmission line structures, installation of distribution line power pole and conductor cables and construction of

temporary access roads.

To accomplish the necessary relocation;

1. install foundations, lattice tower structures and new distribution cables,
2. install distribution line power poles,
3. removal of existing lattice tower structures and foundations,
4. existing foundations will be removed to 3 ft. below grade and backfilled with bentonite and native soil,
5. all spoils will then be removed from the site, and work areas will be revegetated with appropriate vegetation.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See Attachment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Brenton C. Barkley, St. Louis District 408 Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8568. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8725 or by e-mail to Brenton.C.Barkley@usace.army.mil.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY: This request will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 408). This activity requires a Section 10 (Rivers and Harbors Act) and Section 404 (Clean Water Act) permit review based on the submitted plans. There are direct impacts to wetlands or waters of the U.S. associated with the project.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to grant the requested permission for project modification under Section 408 will be based on several factors. 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. Review of the requests for modification will be reviewed by a USACE review team considering the following factors:

1. Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. The decision whether to approve a request for modification would be based on a determination of no impairments.
2. Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts that the proposed alteration to the USACE project may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors that are relevant in each particular case. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks. If the potential detriments are found to outweigh the potential benefits, then it may be determined that the proposed alteration is injurious to the public interest.

3. Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. The USACE will review this information to ensure the proposed activity is in compliance with all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and ordinances. The scope of analysis for the NEPA and environmental compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review is limited to the area of alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration.

The proposed rebuild of the Gateway to Roxford portion of the existing Cahokia to Roxford Transmission Line would extend from the Gateway Substation near Brooklyn, Illinois, north to the Roxford Substation near Hartford, Illinois. The proposed project would extend along the east bank of the Mississippi River bordering and crossing the MESD levee, crossing the Chain of Rocks Canal at the southern end of Gabaret Island, extending along the west side of the Chain of Rocks West Levee, re-crossing the Chain of Rocks Canal and Chain of Rocks West levee at the northern end of Chouteau Island, crossing the Chain of Rocks Levee and Chain of Rocks East Levee, and extending riverside of and then crossing the Wood River Lower Levee near the Roxford Substation.

A draft environmental assessment (EA) is being prepared and a summary of the information gathered during the review is provided below to inform the public's review and comment. The proposed rebuild project is anticipated to result in minor and temporary impacts to air quality, ground disturbance, surface water, groundwater, water quality, land cover / land use, prime farmland, aquatic resources, wildlife, recreation, navigation, traffic, visual resources, and noise levels. The conversion of approximately 14.1 acres of forest (12.0 acres upland and 2.1 acres forested wetland) to herbaceous vegetation within the new portions of the ROW alignment would occur. During construction, moderate impacts to three bald eagle nests may be unavoidable and require an incidental take permit from the USFWS. The USACE has obtained an official species list from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an EcoCAT report from Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The USACE anticipates, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurs, that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, the pallid sturgeon, the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, and decurrent false aster. There would be no adverse effect to any other protected or sensitive species. There are no significant hazardous and toxic waste (HTRW) issues. There would not be disproportionate socioeconomic or environmental justice impacts. The proposed rebuild would not adversely impact flood risk management systems, or induce floodplain impacts. The proposed rebuild, within a previously disturbed footprint, has been reviewed by internal archaeologists to evaluate the potential to affect Historic Properties protected under Section 106. The USACE is considering a determination that the proposed action would result in "no historic properties affected". The proposed rebuild would have no significant effects upon tribal properties or resources. No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed rebuild. Normal maintenance tree trimming, vegetation mowing, and routine line and/or structural repairs would be required within the utility alignment. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

4. Environmental Impact Statement. A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.
5. Technical Analysis. The St. Louis District is working closely with the requestor to ensure that all technical plans, maps, drawings, specifications are provided and complete. A District-led

Technical Review is being conducted to determine any potential adverse impacts to the USACE flood protection system.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The USACE 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 USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permission 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 taken into consideration 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.

SUMMARY: It should be noted that materials submitted as part of the Section 408 request become part of the public record and are thus available to the general public under the procedures of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the USACE--St. Louis District, Office of Counsel.

Interested parties wishing to comment on the proposed activity must do so in writing no later than **July 09, 2020**. It is presumed that all parties receiving this notice will wish to respond to this public notice; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the project as described.

This public notice is not a paid advertisement and is for public information only. Issuance of this notice does not imply USACE endorsement of the project as described.

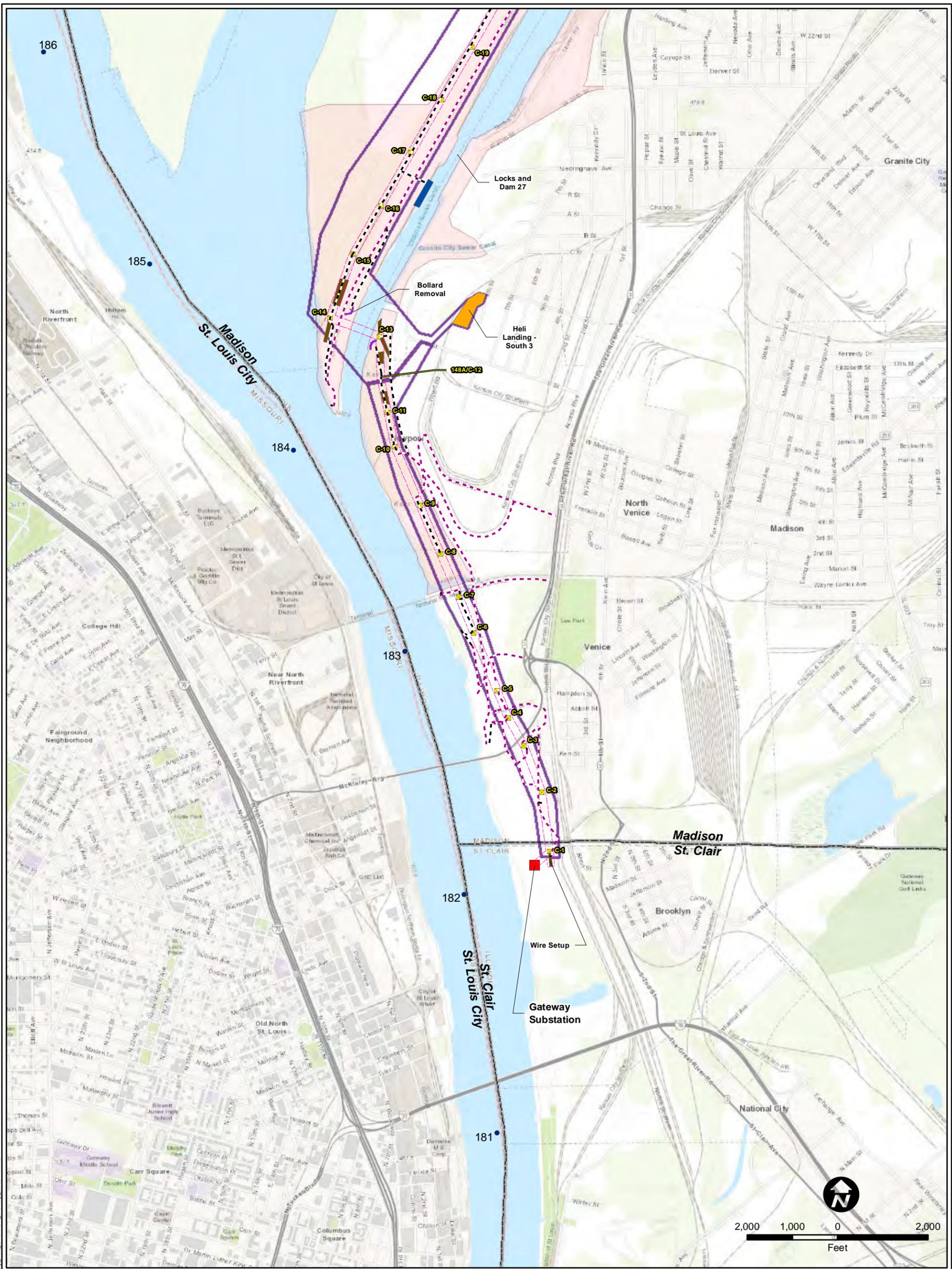
ORIGINAL SIGNED

JOHN L. OSTERHAGE, P.E.
Chief, Readiness Branch

Attachment

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.



Legend

- River Mile
- Substation
- ▭ Rivers Project Boundary
- ▭ County Boundary

Permanent Impact Features

- Rebuild Transmission Structure
- ▭ Proposed Project
- ▭ Transmission ROW

Temporary Impact Features

- Existing Access Road
- New Temporary Access Road
- Barge Landing
- Bollard Removal
- Helicopter Landing Area
- Pull Area
- Helicopter Flight Path

Project Overview
Sheet 1 of 3

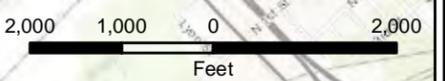


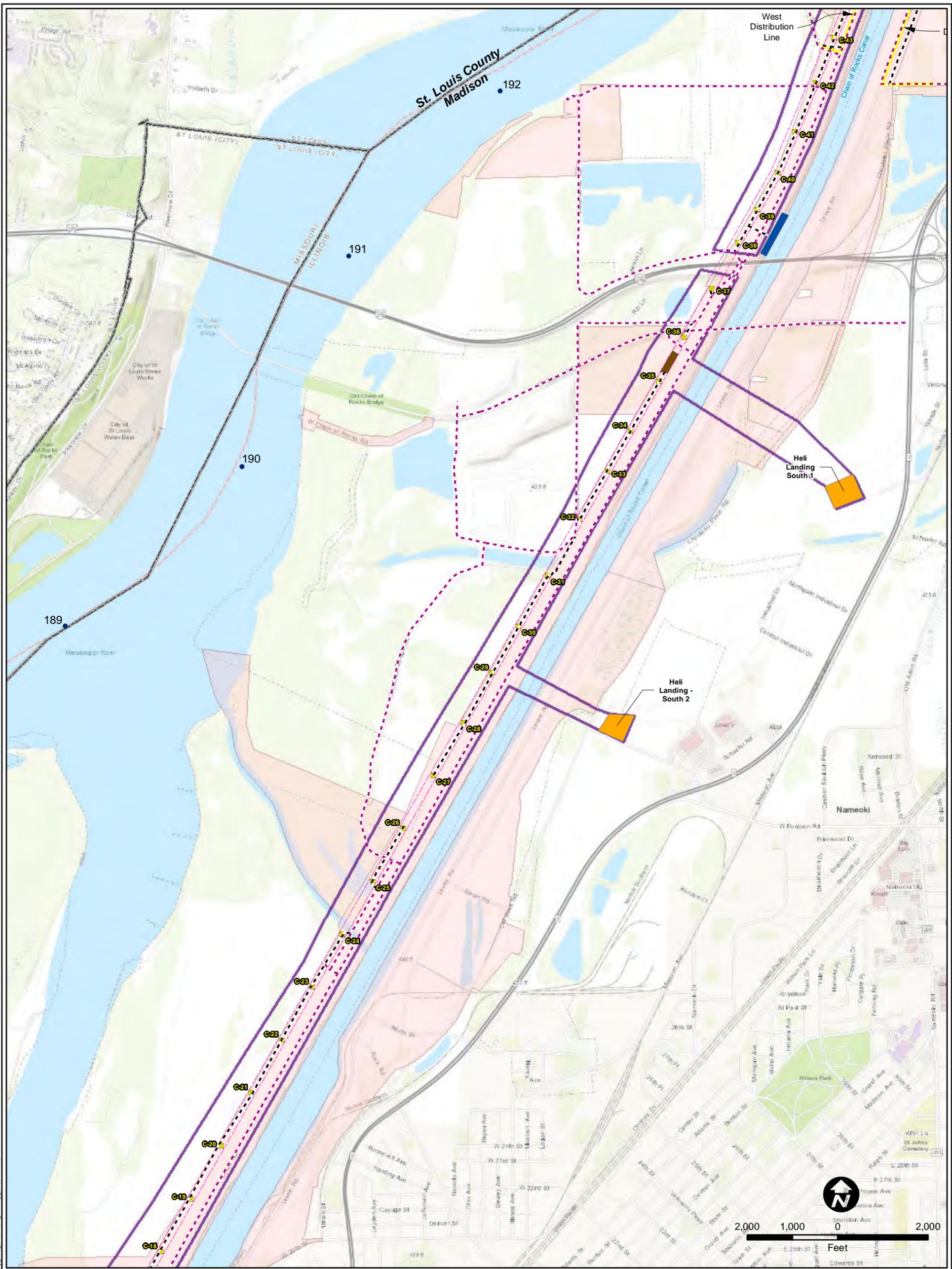
**Gateway to Roxford
Transmission Line
Rebuild Project**

Job No. 325218100
 Drawn By: BSM
 Reviewed By: RAC
 Date: 2/14/2020



The map shown here has been created with all due and reasonable care and is strictly for use with Wood Projects. This map has not been certified by a licensed land surveyor, and any third party use of this map comes without warranties of any kind. Wood assumes no liability, direct or indirect, whatsoever for any such third party or unintended use.





Legend

- River Mile
- ▭ Rivers Project Boundary
- ▭ County Boundary

Permanent Impact Features

- ▭ Rebuild Transmission Structure
- ▭ Proposed Project
- ▭ Transmission ROW
- ▭ Distribution ROW

Temporary Impact Features

- ▭ Existing Access Road
- ▭ New Temporary Access Road
- ▭ Barge Landing
- ▭ Helicopter Landing Area
- ▭ Pull Area
- ▭ Helicopter Flight Path

Project Overview
Sheet 2 of 3



**Gateway to Roxford
Transmission Line
Rebuild Project**

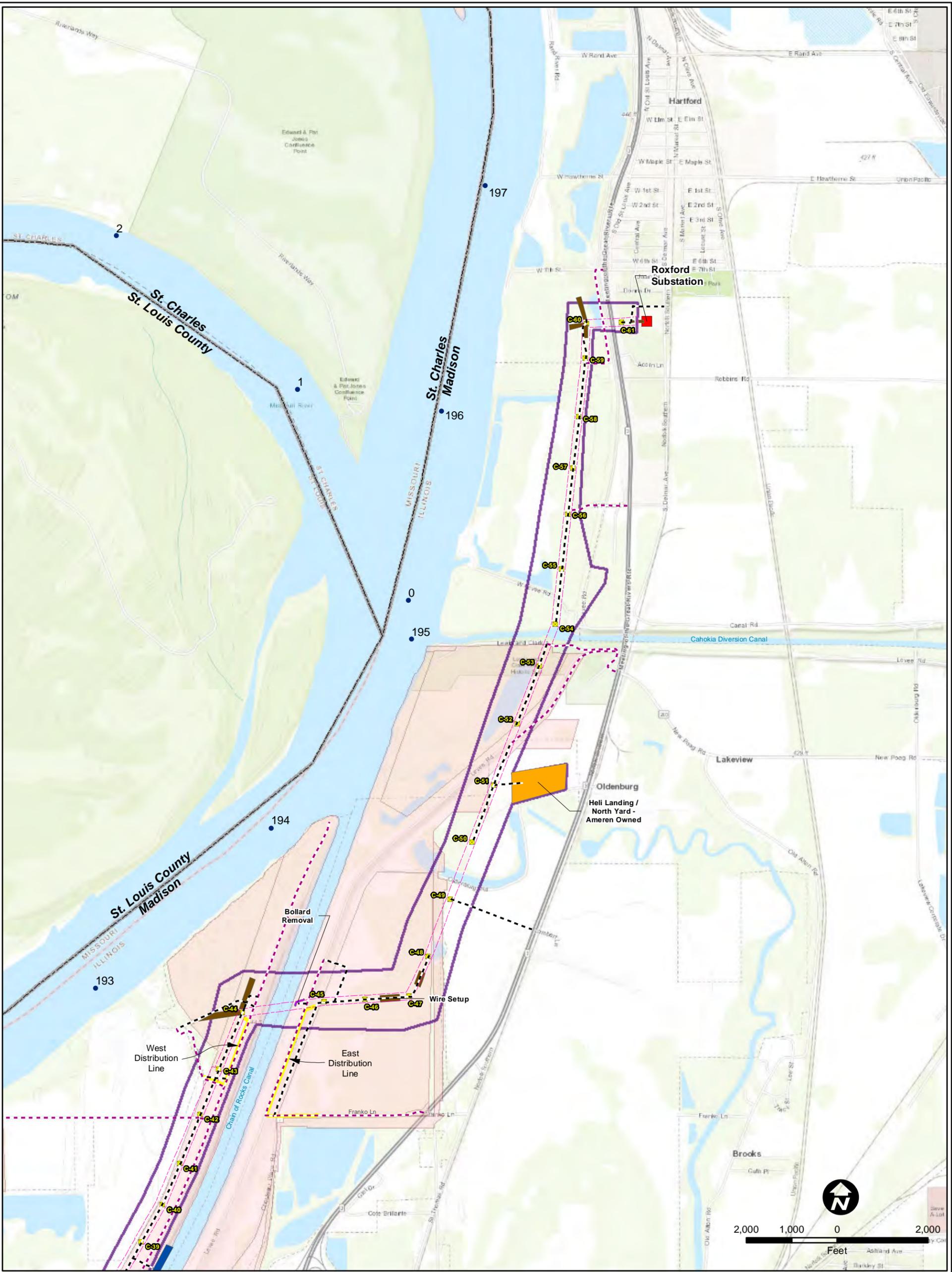
Job No. 325218100
 Drawn By: BSM
 Reviewed By: RAC
 Date: 2/14/2020



The map shown here has been created with all due and reasonable care and is strictly for use with Wood Projects. This map has not been certified by a licensed land surveyor, and any third party use of this map comes without warranties of any kind. Wood assumes no liability, direct or indirect, whatsoever for any such third party or unintended use.



Path: K:\GIS\Amenen_Gateway_Programs\MXD\0_408_Report\Gateway_408_Overview_Vicinity_200214.mxd



Legend

- River Mile
- Substation
- ▭ Rivers Project Boundary
- ▭ County Boundary

Permanent Impact Features

- Rebuild Transmission Structure
- ▭ Proposed Project
- ▭ Transmission ROW
- ▭ Distribution ROW

Temporary Impact Features

- Existing Access Road
- New Temporary Access Road
- Barge Landing
- Bollard Removal
- Helicopter Landing Area
- Pull Area
- Helicopter Flight Path

Project Overview

Sheet 3 of 3



**Gateway to Roxford
Transmission Line
Rebuild Project**

Job No. 325218100
 Drawn By: BSM
 Reviewed By: RAC
 Date: 2/14/2020



The map shown here has been created with all due and reasonable care and is strictly for use with Wood Projects. This map has not been certified by a licensed land surveyor, and any third party use of this map comes without warranties of any kind. Wood assumes no liability, direct or indirect, whatsoever for any such third party or unintended use.

