WETLANDS DELINEATION AT INTRACOASTAL PROPERTY CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA

Prepared for:

Moffett Realty, Inc. 210 South Ryan Lake Charles, LA 70601

October 28, 2008

R. Regan Brown Environmental Scientist

Biologist

Prepared by:

Arabie Environmental Solutions, Inc.

P.O. Box 928 Lake Charles, Louisiana 70602

(337) 436-3248

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SUMMARY

An approximate 69-acre tract located between the Intracoastal Waterway and the South Fork of Black Bayou in Cameron Parish, Louisiana was evaluated for the presence of jurisdictional wetlands. The wetland delineation was performed in accordance with the procedures and methods as described in the U.S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Manual for Wetland Delineations. Jurisdictional determinations were issued for the property in 1997 and 1999 (Account No.'s 199800267 and 199902508) and indicated that approximately two-thirds of the tract was wetlands. The results of this delineation are consistent with those determinations and indicate that approximately 40.3-acres of wetlands are located on the delineated property.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Arabic Environmental Solutions, Inc. (Arabic Environmental) was retained to conduct a wetland delineation of an area located at Latitude 30° 1' 40.83", Longitude -93° 14' 5.53". The site is located north of the Intracoastal Waterway and south of the Southfork of Black's Bayou, in Section 12, Township 12 South, Range 9 West, in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The purpose of the delineation was to evaluate the area for the potential presence of jurisdictional wetlands. A site location map is included as Figure 1 and a site diagram is included as Figure 2.

Scott Kemmerer and Regan Brown of Arabie Environmental performed the field evaluation on October 16, 2008. Mr. Kemmerer has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Marine Biology and has experience in wetland ecosystem evaluation and specialized training in wetland vegetation identification and in performing wetland delineations. Mr. Brown has a Masters of Science Degree in Environmental Science and has had specialized training in environmental investigations and in performing wetland delineations. Austin Arabie managed the project and reviewed the report. Mr. Arabie has over thirty years experience in environmental investigations and permitting, with over ten years experience in wetland delineations and wetland permitting. He has received specialized training in performing wetland delineations and in identifying wetland vegetation. Copies of the applicable Certificates of Training are included as Attachment A.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The wetland delineation performed by Arabie Environmental was conducted in accordance with technical guidelines and methods for wetland delineations set forth by the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) in the 1987 Manual for Wetland Delineations. These technical guidelines and methods utilize a multi-parameter approach to identify and delineate wetlands for purposes of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

According to the COE 1987 Manual for Wetland Delineations, a site must have hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology in order for it to be classified

as a wetland.

The following definitions are from the COE 1987 Manual for Wetland Determinations:

Hydrophytic vegetation – the sum total of macrophytic plant life growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content. When hydrophytic vegetation comprises a community where indicators of hydric soils and wetland hydrology also occur, the area has wetland vegetation.

Hydric soils – a soil that is saturated, flooded, ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation (US Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Service 1985). Hydric soils that occur in areas having positive indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology are wetland soils.

Wetland hydrology – the sum total of wetness characteristics in areas that are inundated or have saturated soils for a sufficient duration to support hydrophytic vegetation.

Prior to the site visit, the Cameron Parish Soil Survey prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) was reviewed. The purpose of that review was to determine the soil type as mapped by the USDA. As indicated by the Soil Survey for Cameron Parish, soils on the site consist of three soil types: Mowata-Vidrine silt loams (Mt), Larose muck (LE), and Udifluvents, 1 to 20 percent slopes (UD). Mowata-Vidrine silt loams and Larose muck are classified as hydric soils in Cameron Parish. In addition to the soils map, an infrared aerial photograph was reviewed. The infrared aerial photograph with the survey data overlain is included as Attachment B.

The delincation was begun by walking over the area and making a general evaluation of the topography and drainage features. Sample points were selected at appropriate locations to properly characterize the soil, vegetation, and hydrology. Three representative sample points were selected and a detailed evaluation was conducted at these locations. The data collected at these sample points were recorded on Wetland Data Forms. The Wetland Data Forms are included as Attachment C.

After a general evaluation of the tract and conducting data points, the wetlands and uplands were mapped using a Global Positioning System (GPS). Once GPS mapping was completed, geospatial data was imported into ArcView GIS for graphical display and land cover analysis.

3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The delineated tract is located north of the Intracoastal Waterway and south of the South Fork of Black Bayou in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

The property is comprised of three distinct habitats. The northern portion of the property is comprised of marsh dominated by cordgrass. A large portion of the tract is comprised of a scrub/shrub habitat dominated by wax myrtle, Chinese tallow trees, and yaupon. The southern portion of the property is a pasture with scattered tallow trees and wax myrtle. A large spoil bank is located along a portion of the Intracoastal Waterway

Photographs of the sample locations were taken and are included as Attachment D.

4.0 FINDINGS

The tract of land was inspected with respect to the potential presence of wetlands. Three sample points were selected to characterize the property. At these sample points, the soils, hydrology, and vegetation were characterized and the information recorded on Wetland Data Forms. The findings of the delineation are described in the following sections.

4.1 VEGETATION

The typical dominant plant species that were encountered at the sample locations included the following:

NOT INDICATED

Rosa laevigata (Cherokee Rose)

FACULTATIVE

Baccharis halimifolia (Saltwater False-Willow)
Ilex vomitoria (Yaupon)
Rubus louisianus (Louisiana Blackberry
Triadica sebiferum (Chinese Tallow)

FACULTATIVE (+)

Myrica cerifera (Wax Myrtle)

FACULTATIVE WET

Celtis laevigata (Hackberry Tree) Solidago sempervirens (Seaside Goldenrod) Spartina patens (Saltmeadow Cordgrass)

FACULTATIVE WET (+)

Andropogon glomeratus (Bushy Bluestem)

Iva frutescens (Big-Leaf Sumpweed)
Juneus effusus (Soft Rush)

OBLIGATE

Salix nigra (Willow Tree)

All of the sample points exhibited a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation.

4.2 SOILS

The review of the Soil Survey indicated that the delineated tract is comprised of three soil types: Mowata-Vidrine silt loams (Mt), Larose muck (LE), and Udifluvents, I to 20 percent slopes (UD). Mowata-Vidrine silt loams and Larose muck are classified as hydric soils in Cameron Parish.

Mowata-Vidrine silt loams are level and poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained. They are on broad flats on the Gulf Coast Prairies. The landscape consists of broad flats that have many small, convex mounds. The mounds are circular and range from 50 to 150 feet in diameter and 1 to 6 feet in height. The Mowata soil is located in the intermound areas and comprises approximately 60% of the complex. The Vidrine is located on the mounds and comprises approximately 30% of the complex. According to the soil survey, areas are irregular in shape and range from 40 to 2,000 acres.

Larose muck is level and very poorly drained. It is in freshwater marshes and is ponded most of the time and frequently flooded. According to the soil survey, areas are irregular in shape and several hundred acres in size. Slopes are less than 1 percent.

Udifluvents, 1 to 20 percent slopes consists of sandy to clayey soil material that has been excavated from other places during the construction and maintenance of navigable waterways. These soils have no identifiable soil layers. They are variable in texture and slope. Areas range from irregular in shape to long and narrow and are from 20 to several hundred acres in size.

Soil sampling conducted during this investigation revealed that soils on the tract were consistent with the soil survey.

4.3 HYDROLOGY

General observations and inspection of soil samples were performed to evaluate for wetland hydrology. Potential primary indicators include inundated areas, saturated soil in the upper 12 inches, free water in the soil, water marks, drainage patterns of wetlands, and sediment deposits. During the course of this delineation, primary indicators were noted on the tract. In addition, some secondary indicators were noted. One primary indicator or two secondary indicators must be present for an area to have wetland hydrology.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

An approximate 69-acre property located north of the Intracoastal Waterway and south of the South Fork of Black Bayou in Cameron Parish, Louisiana was evaluated for the presence of wetlands. Wetland determinations were issued on the property in 1997 and 1999. The results of the determinations indicated that approximately a third of the tract was not wetlands. The results of this delineation were similar. Approximately 40.3-acres of wetlands were identified on the delineated property. The wetlands are mainly marsh dominated by cordgrass. Old pasture areas on the tract were determined to not be wetlands, as well as many areas dominated by a scrub/shrub habitat. The scrub/shrub habitat on the property was dominated by wax myrtle, yaupon, and tallow trees.

FIGURE 1

Site Location Map

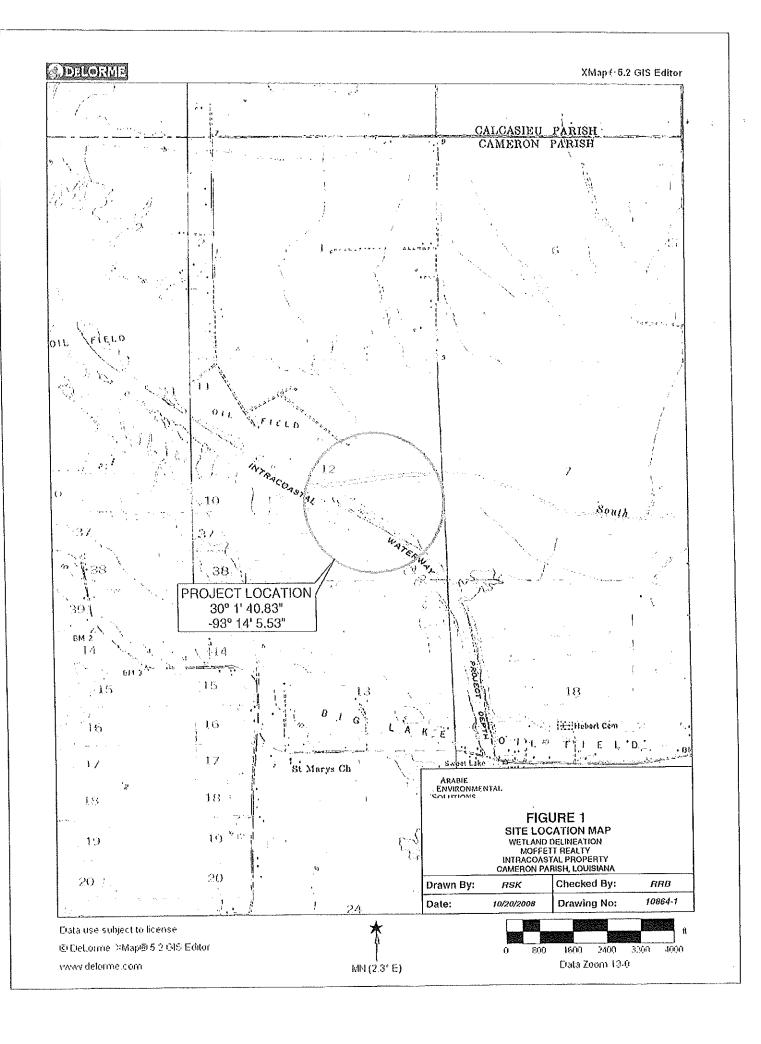
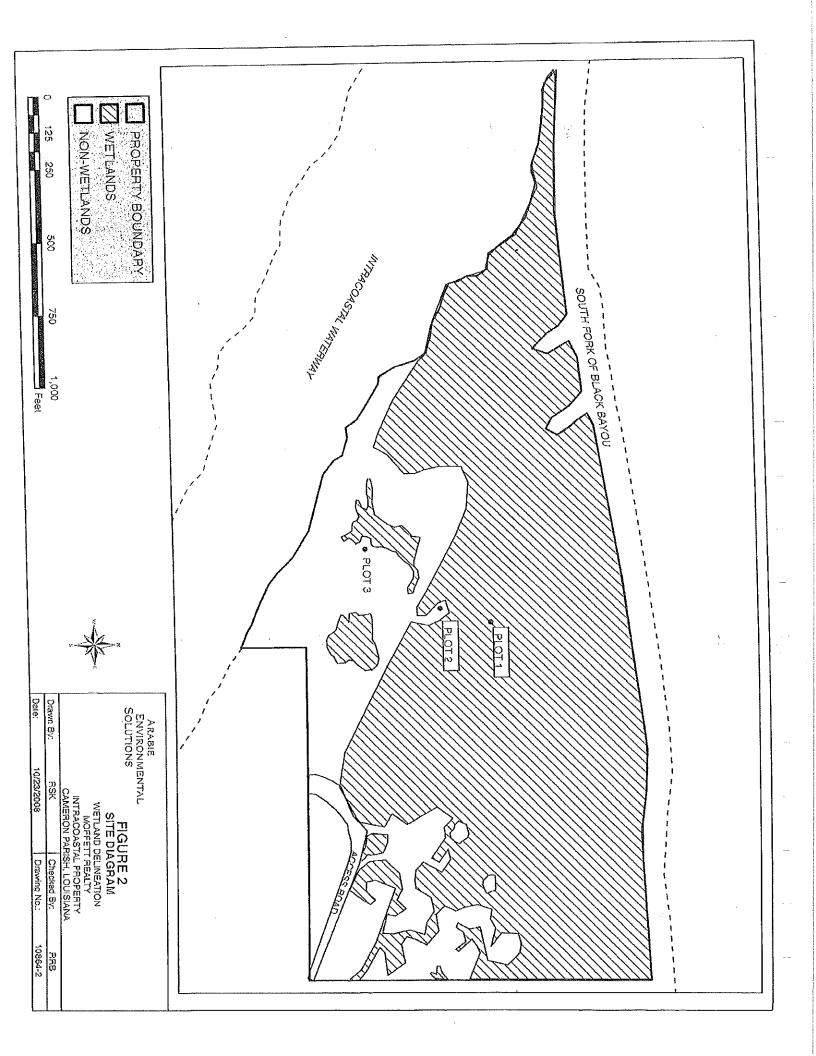


FIGURE 2

Site Diagram



Certificates of Training

VALLACHMENT A

METLAND BIOGEOCHEMISTRY INSTITUTE

to

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

and Agricultural and Mechanical College

resident Li รร์อิวาทร รทเ paraldrugg (Maraya) tifies that

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Delineator Certification Program. 307(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 for the Wetland as provided for in the training materials developed in conjunction with Section This training has been based in part on the Delinear Manual), Wetlands Delinearion Manual, Technical Report & 87-1 (1987 Manual),

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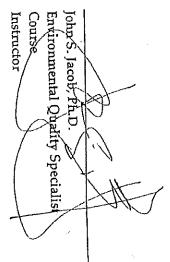


This is to certify that

R. Scott Kemmerer

has completed the

40 USCOE Hour Wetland Delineation Certification Course



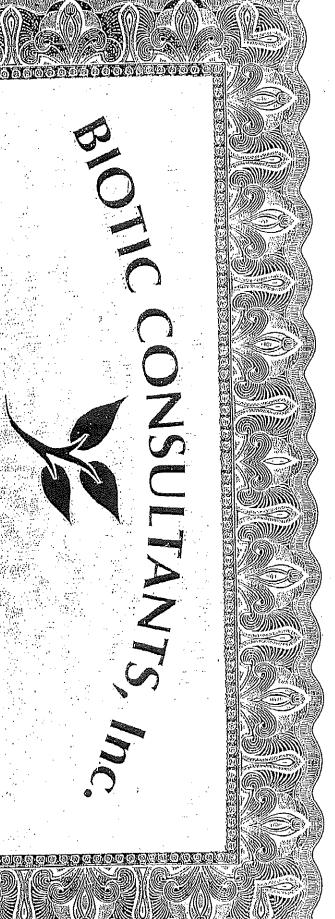
October 26, 2007

Date Completed









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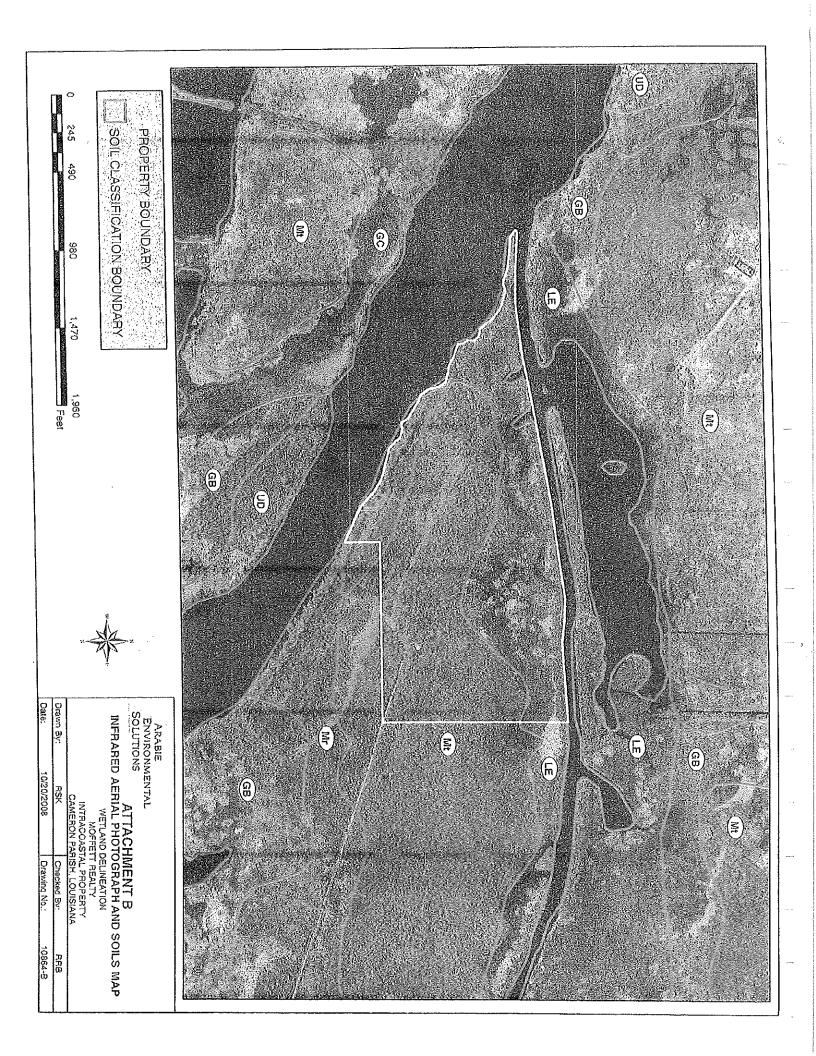
Course Coordinator

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ATTACHMENT B



Welland Data Forms

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WETLAND DATA FORM: ROUTINE ONSITE DETERMINATION METHOD

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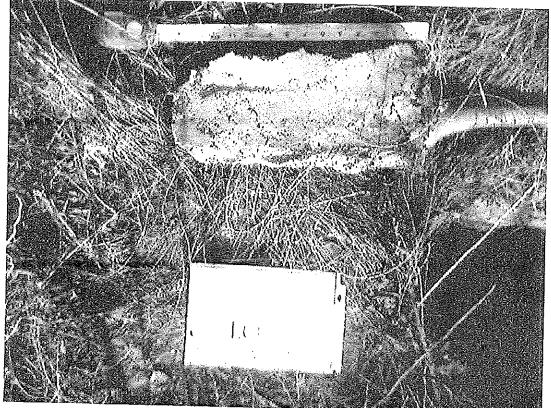
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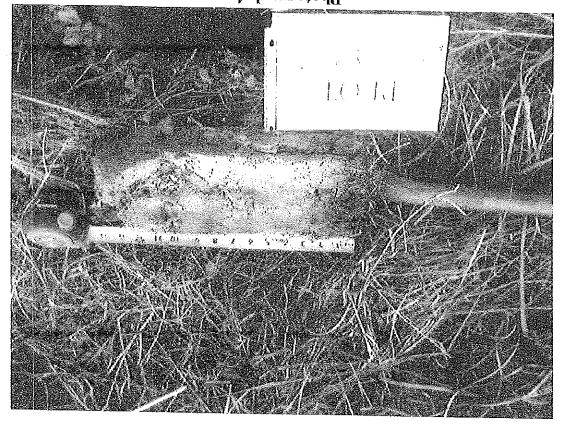
ATTACHMENT D

Photograph 2. View of Plot I.



Photograph 1.





Photograph 3. View of Plot 2.



Photograph 4. Plot 3.

Photograph 5. View of Plot 3.