



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Little Rock District

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS – STATE OF ARKANSAS

Application Number: SWL 2001-17396-3

Date: January 29, 2020

Comments Due: February 24, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: **Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the Public Involvement section for details on submitting comments.**

Point of Contact. If additional information is desired, please contact the regulator, Gerald Dickson, telephone number: (501) 340-1372, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: Gerald.W.Dickson@usace.army.mil

Project Information. Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. Code 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

**Mr. Jeremy Hendrix
Redstone Construction Group, Inc.
505 West Dixon Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206**

has requested a time extension of an existing permit for work in waters of the United States associated with the mining of an earthen berm that currently separates an ongoing sand and gravel removal operation from the Arkansas River. The proposed project is located at Jones Cutoff near Willow Beach on the left descending bank of the Arkansas River, Navigation Mile 111.5, in section 12, T. 1 N., R. 11 W., Pulaski County, Arkansas.

This permit was originally issued to B&B Materials, Inc., but has subsequently changed ownership to Redstone Construction Group, Inc. This permit was originally authorized by Department of the Army Permit SWL 2001-17396-1 for dredging operations on February 10, 2017. The company dredges sand and gravel by use of a floating plant with a 12-inch discharge pipe with a 2,800 gallons-per-minute capacity. Dredged material is pumped to the portable classification plant, and separated into aggregate, masonry sand, and concrete sand. Silt may be separated with a cyclone separator. The material is temporarily stored on location and moved off location to various buyers via truck. The permit would be extended through December 31, 2023.

The proposed project consists of the removal of an earthen berm that currently separates an ongoing sand and gravel removal operation from the Arkansas River. This berm measures approximately 2,500 feet in length, and approximately 20 feet in width at the top and approximately 400 feet in width at the base. In addition, riprap is to be placed at each end abutment of the excavated berm. This riprap will be placed on 3:1 slopes and shall extend around each abutment between 300 and 500 feet.

The entire mining facility is approximately 81 acres in size, including a buffer area. A 45.4-acre area is currently mined with a hydraulic dredge, and there are 5.3 acres of processing area where the grading, washing, and storage of finished product takes place.

The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) is dredged for commercial uses and to maintain the navigation channel. Natural creation of sand deposits and commercial and maintenance removal of these deposits is an ongoing process for the life cycle of the Arkansas River since the construction of the MKARNS. The Little Rock District Regulatory Division does not typically require compensatory mitigation for dredging activities. Due to this established standard operating procedure and the minor impacts of the project, no compensatory mitigation would be required if the project is permitted.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets.

Water Quality Certification. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period and a public hearing, if held, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. Evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit.

Cultural Resources. A Corps staff archeologist will review topographic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, and other data on reported sites in the area. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

Endangered Species. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

Floodplain. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate floodplain officials in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 60 (Floodplain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management.

Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit, which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal CFR 230.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **February 24, 2020**. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the

record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. 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. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; 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, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The 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 this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the 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 the 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.

Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosures

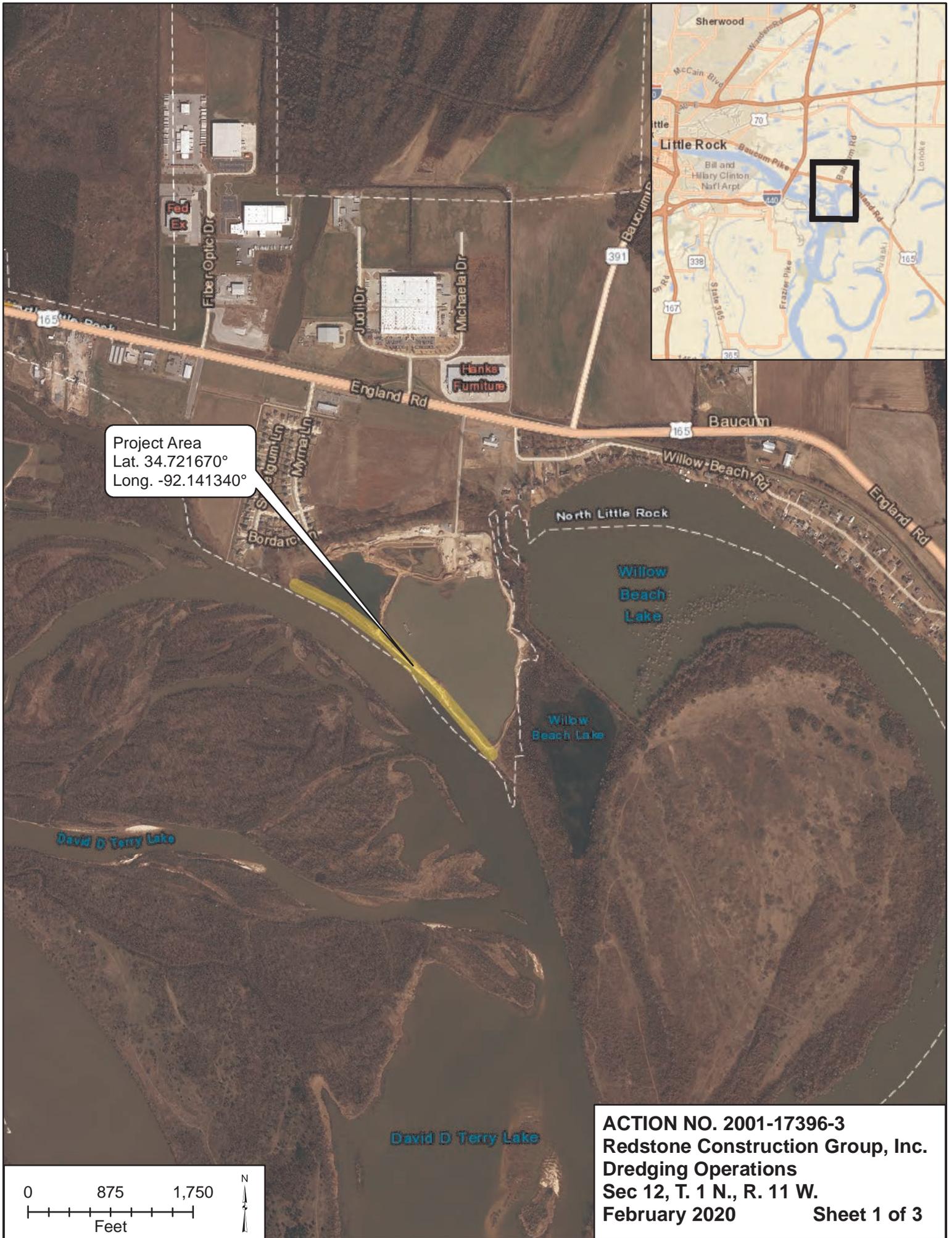
Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

Latitude: **34.72167°**

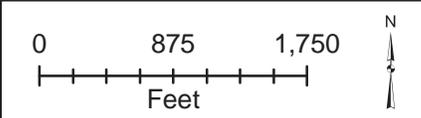
Longitude: **-92.14134°**

UTM Zone: **15N** North: **3842513.60**

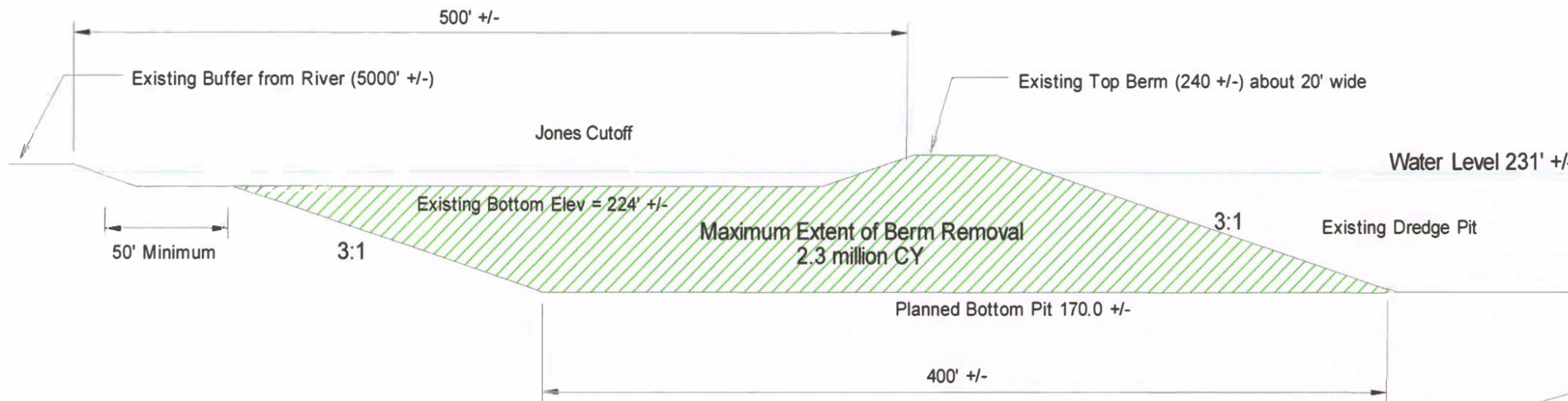
East: **578619.58**



Project Area
Lat. 34.721670°
Long. -92.141340°

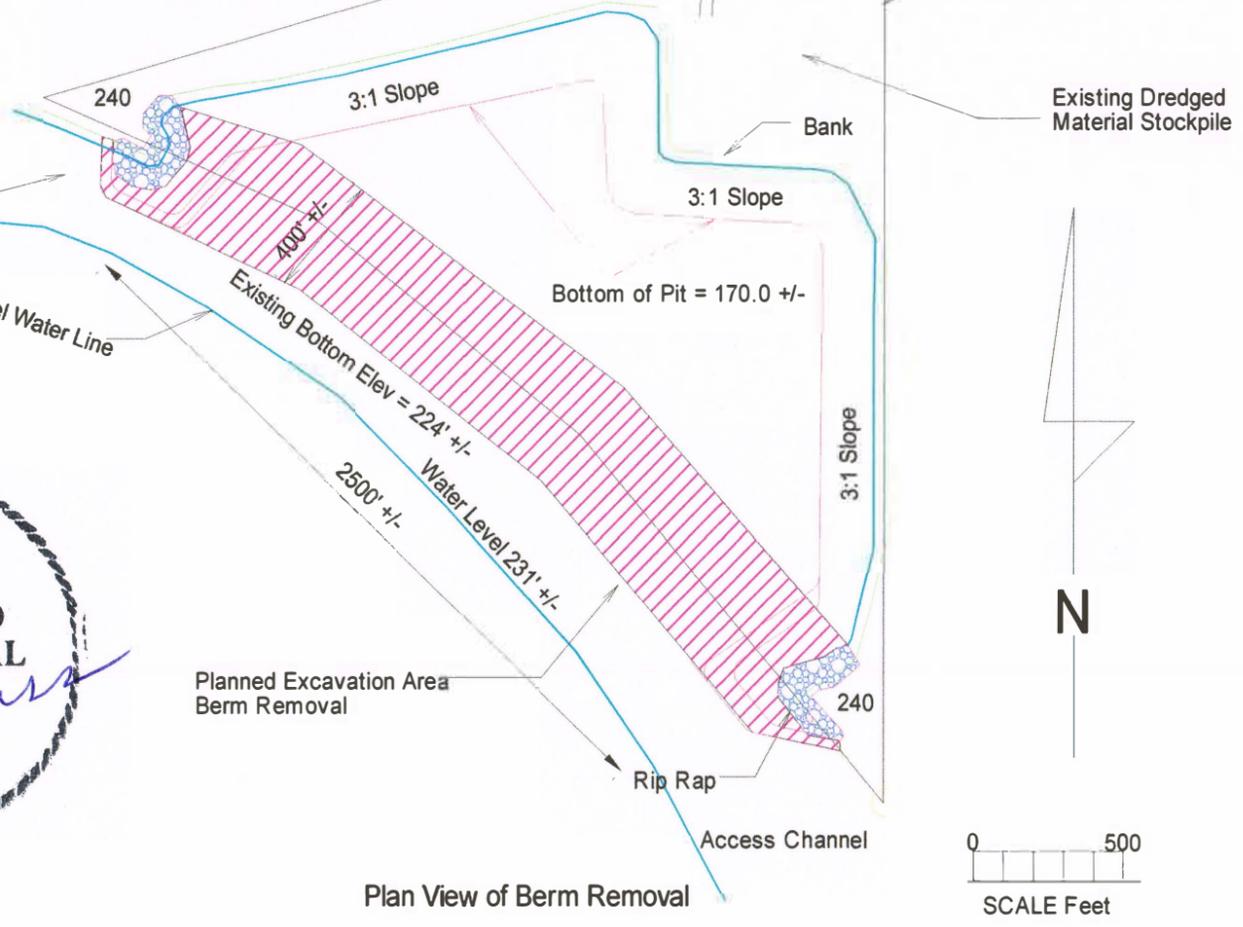


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Redstone Construction Group, Inc.
Dredging Operations
Sec 12, T. 1 N., R. 11 W.
February 2020 **Sheet 1 of 3**

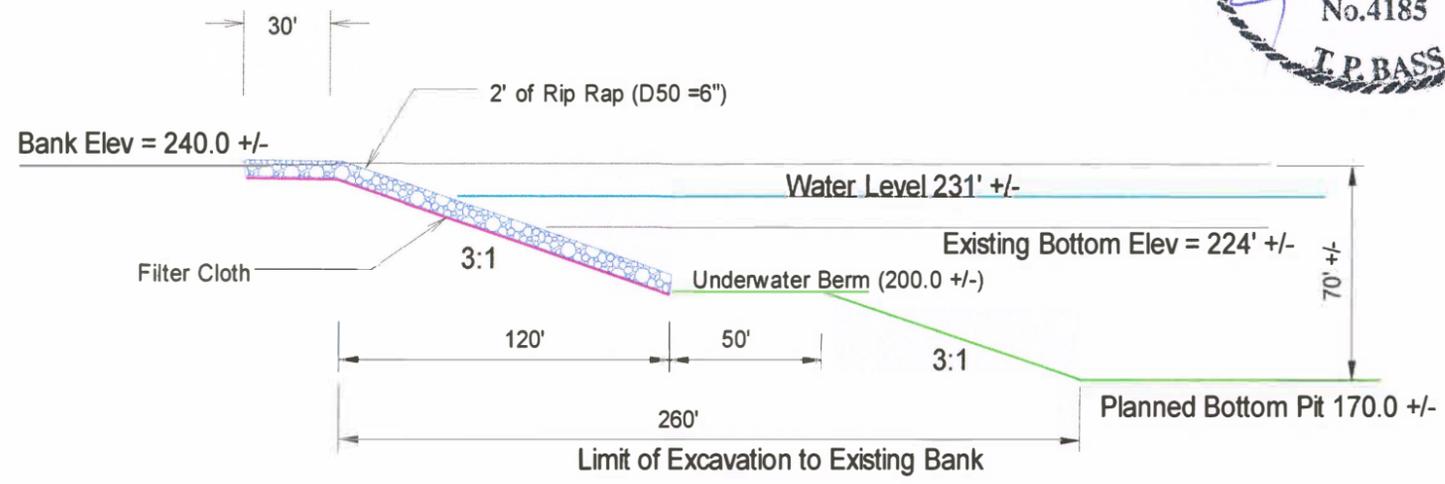


Typical Cross Section of Berm Removal

Portable Hydraulic Dredging
 A portable floating dredge will be used for removing material from the existing berm and lake bottom. The dredge floats on the water and pumps the material through a temporary six inch pipeline to the existing offsite stockpile location for processing into granular for sale. The dredge acts like a floating vacuum removing material very precisely. Hydraulic dredges use a discharge line, and possibly a return line, which are the only disturbances to the surrounding environment. The dredge, which is not much larger than a small boat, is the only machine to be used. It is an unobtrusive method that does not require disturbing the shoreline.



Plan View of Berm Removal



Typical Cross Section of Berm Removal Ends

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Redstone Construction Group, Inc.
Dredging Operations
Sec 12, T. 1 N., R. 11 W.
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