

PUBLIC NOTICE



US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
OMAHA DISTRICT

APPLICANT: BROOKINGS MUNICIPAL
UTILITIES
APPLICATION NO: NWO-2013-102-PIE
WATERWAY: WETLANDS ABUTTING
UNNAMED TRIBUTARY
TO THE BIG
SIOUX RIVER
ISSUE DATE: JANUARY 30, 2013
EXPIRATION DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Regulatory Office, 28563 Powerhouse Rd, Room 118, Pierre, SD 57501
<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/SouthDakota.aspx>

21-DAY NOTICE

JOINT NOTICE OF PERMIT PENDING

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The application of Brookings Municipal Utilities for approval of plans and issuance of a permit under authority of the Secretary of the Army is being considered by the District Commander, US Army Engineer District, Omaha, Nebraska.

The applicant requests authorization to expand the Brookings Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in order to accommodate the projected increase in organic and hydraulic loading to the WWTP over the next 20 years. The project is located in the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 14, Township 109 North, Range 50 West, Brookings County, South Dakota.

The proposed project consists of constructing upgrades to the WWTP by expanding to the east of existing facilities. These upgrades will include the addition of three final clarifiers (with the potential of a fourth clarifier), adding an ultraviolet building to replace the chlorination process, installing a below-grade interconnecting pipeline and constructing a permanent access road. Construction will permanently impact 2.86 acres of wetland and temporarily impact a maximum of 5.34 acres of wetland.

The purpose of the proposed project is to accommodate the projected 26% increase of organic and hydraulic loading to the WWTP over the next 20 years and should suit the needs of the city of Brookings through 2035.

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, & COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:

A wetland delineation was conducted early within the project timeline to identify wetlands within the project area. The existing WWTP was found to be surrounded by wetlands, and therefore, wetlands could not be avoided for the WWTP upgrades. The selected location for the WWTP upgrade is located in a wetland that has been previously disturbed during construction of the existing facilities. The 2.86 acres of permanent wetland impacts will be mitigated on site by creating 5.4 acres of wetlands that will have similar functions and values as those wetlands lost. Also, 0.64 acres of buffer will be preserved around the outer edges of the mitigation locations to set the mitigation areas away from the property boundaries.

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Services, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, 57501-3181, will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the State's opinion that the operations undertaken by the applicant will not result in a violation of applicable water quality standards. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources hereby incorporates this public notice as its own public notice and procedures by reference (ARSD 74:51:01).

Omaha District will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. We have checked the National Register of Historic Places and "its current supplements," and no property listed in the Register or proposed for listing is located in the permit area. However, the applicant conducted an archeological records search in conjunction with the wastewater treatment facility study. A site (39BK0005) consisting of three conical mounds was noted during a survey in 1991. This site would not be impacted by the improvements to the WWTP. This is the extent of our knowledge about historic properties in the permit area at this time. We will evaluate input by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice, and we may conduct or require a reconnaissance survey of the permit area or check for unknown historic properties, if warranted.

In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, 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 proposals must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the activity will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 production, and, in general the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impacts of the project on public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

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 reason for holding a public hearing. The request must be submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers, South Dakota Regulatory Office, 28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 118, Pierre, South Dakota 57501.

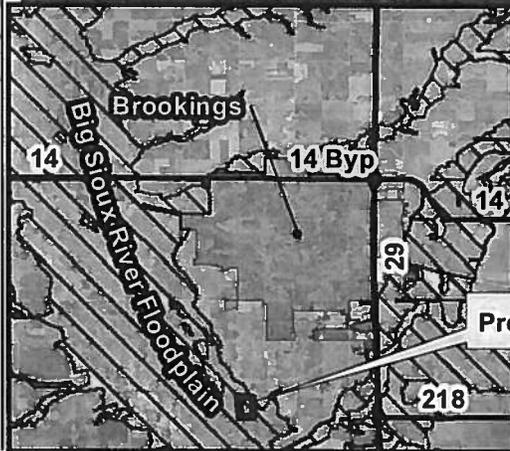
Any interested party (particularly officials of any town, city, county, state, Federal agency, Indian Tribe, or local association whose interests may be affected by the proposed work) is invited to submit to this office, written facts, arguments, or objections on or before February 20, 2013. Any agency or individual having an objection to the proposed work should specifically identify it as an objection with clear and specific reasons. Comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted, made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in subsequent actions on this permit application. All replies to the public notice should be addressed to the address listed in the previous paragraph. Harry Decker, telephone number (605) 224-8531, may be contacted for additional information.

Comments received after the close of the business day on the expiration date of this public notice will not be considered.

This project, if authorized, will be under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Drawings showing the location and extent of the work are attached to this notice.

PROJECT LOCATION



Legend

-  Project Area
-  100 Year Floodplain (Zone A)
-  Section Boundary
-  City Limits

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

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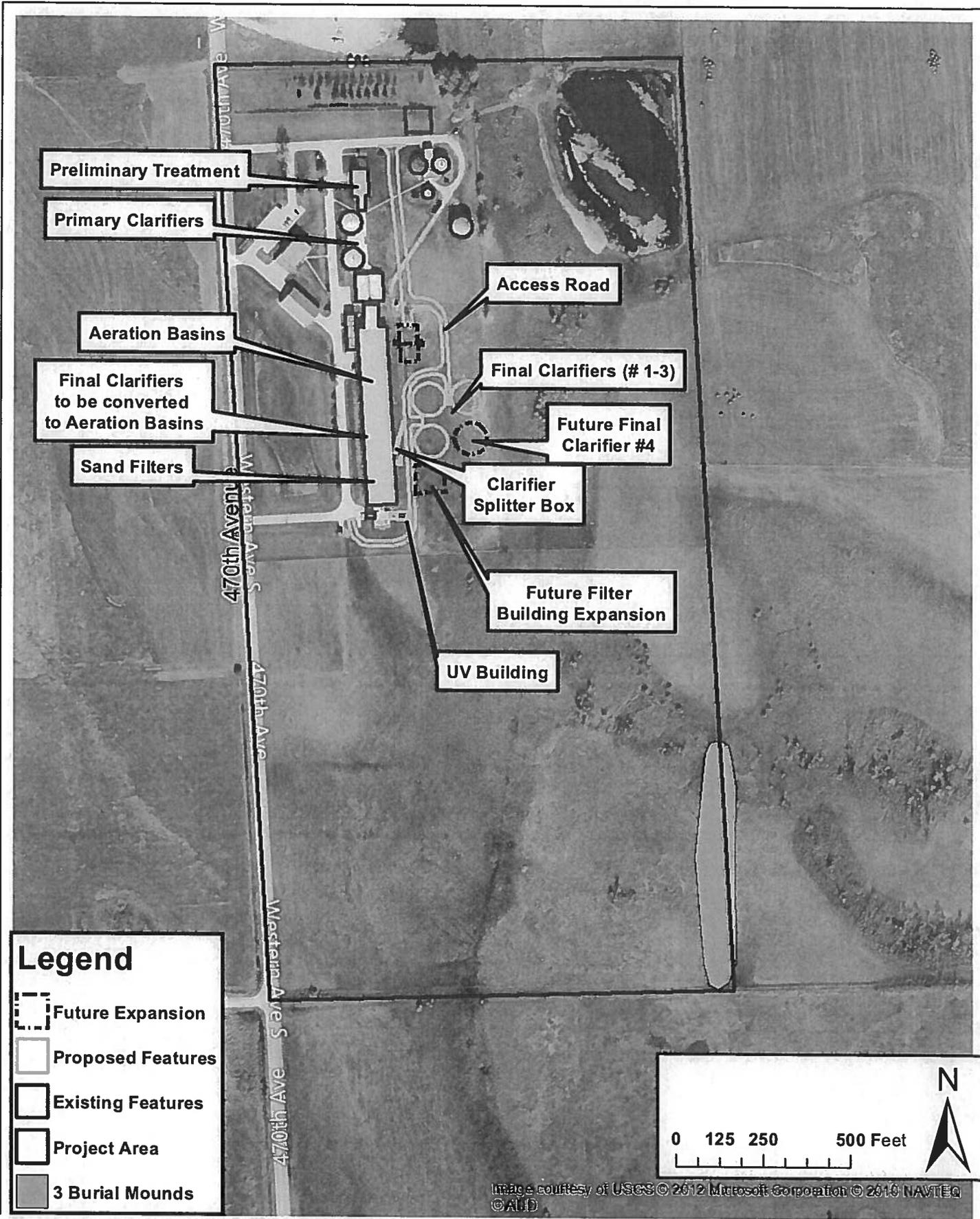

Project Location
 Brookings WWTP Facility Upgrades

Brookings Municipal Utilities
 Brookings, South Dakota

DATE
 January 2013

FIGURE
 A-1

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Legend

-  Future Expansion
-  Proposed Features
-  Existing Features
-  Project Area
-  3 Burial Mounds

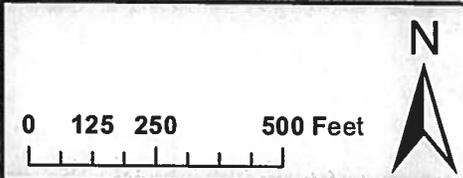


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Project Overview

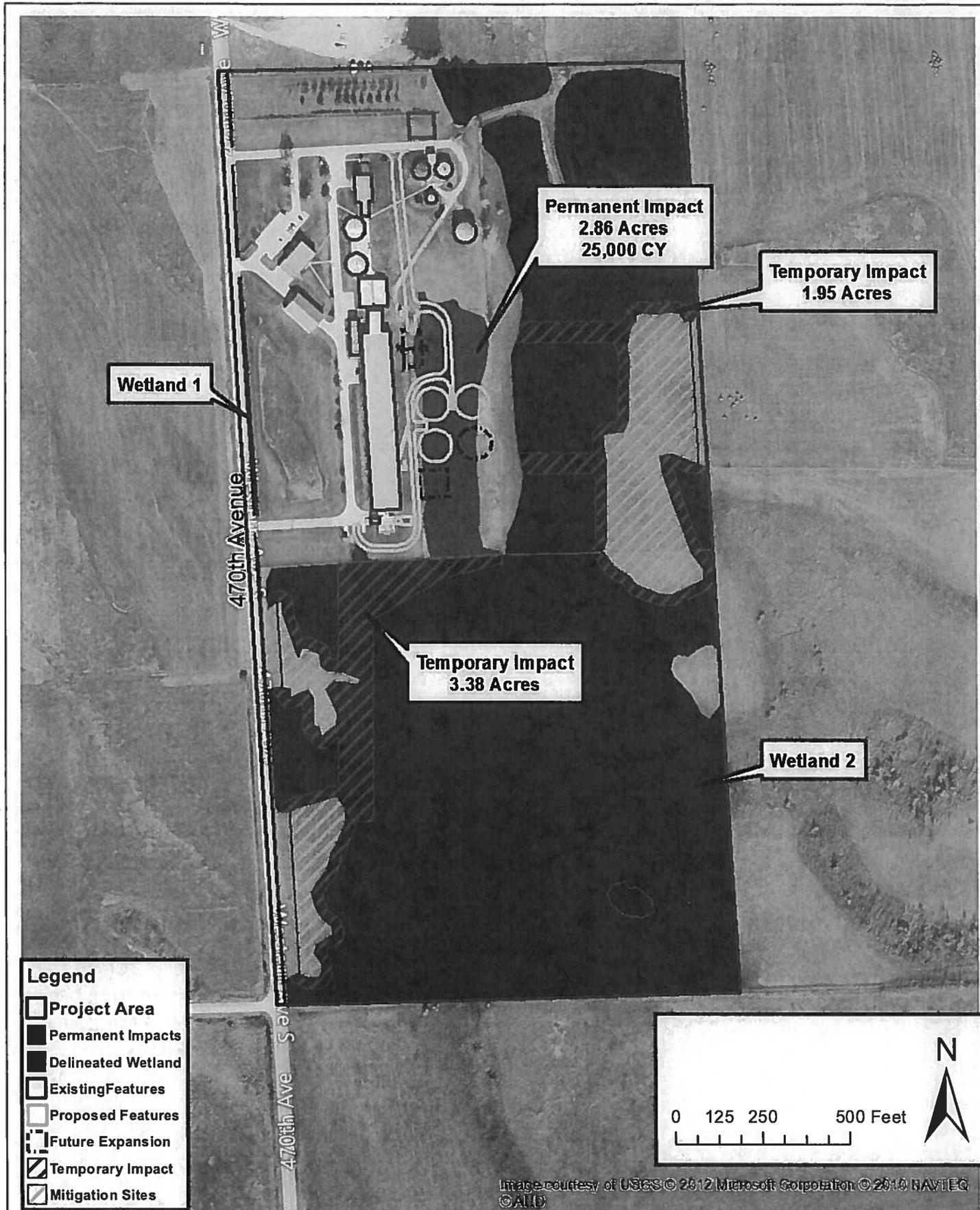
Brookings WWTP Facility Upgrades

Brookings Municipal Utilities
Brookings, South Dakota

DATE
January 2013

FIGURE
B-1

SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS



Summary of Project Impacts

Brookings WWTP Facility Upgrades



Brookings, South Dakota

DATE
January 2013

FIGURE
B-2