



PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

**U.S. ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CHICAGO DISTRICT**

PUBLIC NOTICE/APPLICATION NUMBER: LRC-2018-00651

COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS: February 28, 2019

COMMENT PERIOD EXPIRES: March 29, 2019

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

APPLICANT

Kari Harris
Wisconsin Central Ltd. Railroad
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430

PROPOSED ACTION

Proposal to install 4.27 miles of main line railroad track between Shoe Factory Road and Spaulding Road (See attached drawings). A detailed description of this proposal is provided on page 2 of this notice.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Along the existing railroad tracks near Hoffman Estates and Elgin in Cook County, Illinois (Latitude 42.037327, Longitude -88.220691).

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and as shown on the attached drawings. You are invited to provide your comments by **March 29, 2019** on the proposed work, which will become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. A permit will be issued or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344)

Written comments shall be mailed to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District, Regulatory Branch
Attn: **LRC-2018-00651**, Mr. Soren Hall
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1437

It should be noted that ALL comments received by this office (via hard copy or electronic) will only be accepted with the full name and address, and email address, if available of the individual commenting, and must be received by the close of the public notice period. Electronic comments may be sent to the project manager at Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed work consists of the construction a second main line railroad track for 4.27 miles within the exiting Wisconsin Central Ltd (WCL) right-of-way in the designated project area. When combined with existing tracks, this would create a 6.1 mile long segment of double track. This track corridor is one of the primary north-south mainline tracks along the WCL corridor that transports between Winnipeg, Canada, and Chicago. The forecasted capacity for 2020 includes a growth of approximately 9 trains per day along this stretch of track.

The second main line track in the proposed location is intended to allow for uninterrupted flow of freight traffic by allowing northbound and southbound trains to pass freely without stopping or slowing. The second main line track would also reduce vehicle delays at the Shoe Factory Road grade crossing as southbound trains currently stage to the north of the intersection to wait for northbound trains to pass. Gate crossing delays can be extensive as staged trains take a long time to get up to speed and pass through the intersection. The proposed project could also positively affect commuter rail traffic on the Milwaukee District West line that intersects the track at the southern end of the proposed project.

There were no other practicable alternatives identified in the application materials due to the linear nature of the railroad lines and pre-existing infrastructure. Due to the presence of the existing mainline track within the project limits the only alternatives are to build the second main line track to either the east or west of this existing mainline track. The proposed alternative is to construct the second main line track on the west side of the existing main as the siding that will be extended to create the second main currently exists on the west side at the northern extent of the project limits (Shoe Factory Rd.).

A second constraint to constructing a second main line track on the east side of the existing mainline track is the presence of Poplar Creek Forest Preserve that directly abuts the railroad right of way for the majority of the northern project limits. The Shoe Factory Road Prairie Nature Preserve is located within the Forest Preserve. This Nature Preserve is identified on the Illinois Natural Heritage Database and construction on the east side would likely result in greater impacts to natural resources versus the proposed construction on the west side.

The project would result in impacts to several jurisdictional resources totaling 1.24 acres. Additional reproduces were identified but were determined to be not jurisdictional. The resources were all identified as having low floristic quality, so a mitigation ratio of 1.5:1 is proposed. See the table below for additional details.

Resource	Impact (Acres)	Mitigation Ratio	Mitigation	FQI	Mean C
Poplar Creek (Area 8)	0.01	1.5:1	0.02	2.89	1.67
Tributary (Area 1)	0.95	1.5:1	1.43	11.32	1.94
Tributary (Area 6)	0.28	1.5:1	0.42	15.41	2.86
Total	1.24		1.86		

The water quality and conveyance functions of the Railroad Tributary (Areas 1 and 6) would be replaced within the partially relocated waterways, which total 1.9 acres. The waterway slopes would be enhanced with native vegetation. The slopes of all ditches which drain to all waters of the US would also be planted with native vegetation as Best Management Practices (BMP's).

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION

The applicant has stated the following concerning avoidance and minimization of impacts to Waters of the United States: Alternatives for completing the work are described above. Once the location of the new track is established, the fill is limited to the amount necessary to properly construct the new track.

MITIGATION

The applicant has stated the following concerning compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Waters of the United States: All of the impacted wetland/Waters of the U.S. are low quality resources that lack floristic diversity and do not qualify as high quality aquatic resources (HQARs). The applicant proposed to purchase 1.86 acres of wetland mitigation credits to satisfy the mitigation criteria.

The Corps has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time and will make the final determination on whether the proposed mitigation is appropriate and practicable in accordance with 33 CFR Part 332.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

This proposed action will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972.

JURISDICTION

This application will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 due to placement of 1.24 acres of fill in waters of the U.S. Poplar Creek and the tributaries to Poplar Creek were determined to be jurisdictional based on their downstream connection to the Fox River.

EVALUATION FACTORS

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of 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. In addition, if the proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact on the public interest will include application of Section 404(b)(1) guidelines (40 CFR 230) promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Corps of Engineers is also soliciting comments from the public, Federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed activity. Once this office completes a review of the comments received, it will be determined whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal.

To prepare this decision, comments are taken into consideration to assess impacts on the public interest factors listed above, as well as endangered species, historic properties, water quality, and general environmental effects. Comments will be used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. A determination concerning the need for a public hearing will also be based on the comments received.

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF SELECTED FACTORS

WATER QUALITY:

The applicant has applied 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 the 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 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-notice/. 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 concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to the following agency, along with a copy of the comments provided to the Corps of Engineers:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section

1021 N. Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

If you have any questions please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:

The applicant may have to submit an application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) for a permit pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5). Comments concerning the IDNR-OWR permit should be addressed to the following agency, along with a copy of the comments provided to the Corps of Engineers:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Water Resources
2050 West Stearns Road
Bartlett, Illinois 60103

If you have any questions please contact the IDNR at (847) 608-3116.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES:

The Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed activity may affect a Federally-listed endangered/threatened species or designated critical habitat. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) has been initiated.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES/CULTURAL RESOURCES:

Preliminary review indicates that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect any historic property which is listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

PUBLIC HEARING

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 hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request for a hearing may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

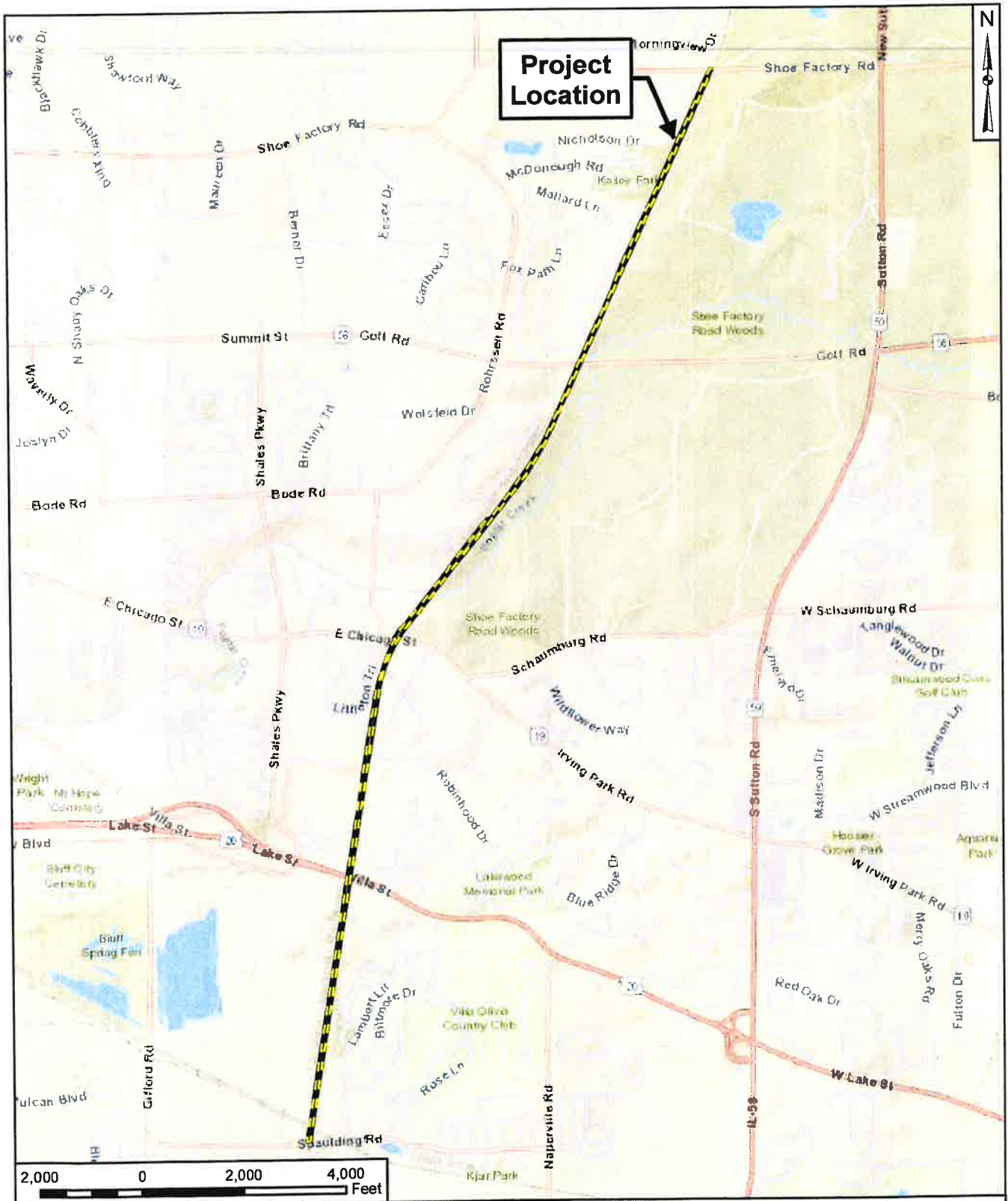
It should be noted that materials submitted as part of the permit application become part of the public record and are thus available to the general public under the procedures of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under


FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the Chicago District Corps of Engineers Office of Counsel.

Interested parties wishing to comment on the proposed activity must do so in writing no later than **March 29, 2019**. 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 Corps of Engineers endorsement of the project as described.

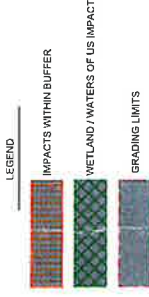
If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Soren Hall by telephone at (312) 846-5532, or email at Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil. **It should be noted that ALL comments received by this office (via hard copy or electronic) will only be accepted with the full name and address of the individual commenting.** You can also visit our website at <http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx> for more information on our program.



 <p>V3 Companies 7325 Janes Avenue Woodridge, Illinois 60517 630.724.9200 phone 630.724.9202 fax www.v3co.com</p> <p>Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform with Excellence"</p>	PROJECT NO.: 18252	CLIENT: Wisconsin Central Ltd. 17641 S. Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430	PROJECT LOCATION MAP		
	CREATED BY: AMM	DATE: 07/05/2018	BASE LAYER: ESRI World Street Map	SITE: Spaulding to South Sutton Siding Extension/Double Track Project MP 37.80 to MP 41.80 Cook County, Illinois	FIGURE: 1
	SCALE: See Scale Bar				
	<small>N:\2018\18252\Drawings\ArcGIS\Wetland\FIG1\loc18252.mxd</small>				




WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
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 SOUTHERN REGION
HR
 SPAULDING TO SUTTON DOUBLE TRACK
 USACE WETLAND/WATERS IMPACTS
 SHEET 1 OF 3
 EFFECT OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
 DRAWN BY: DCH/SCALE: 1" = 100' (1" = 100'
 CHECKED BY: NCH/DATE: 19 DEC 2016 FILE:



AREA	TOTAL AREA WITHIN BGV (AC)	WETLAND/OWS IMPACTS (AC)	MITIGATION REQ'D (1:5X) RATIO: AC/AC	BUFFER TYPE	TOTAL BUFFER AREA (AC)	BUFFER IMPACTS (AC)
1	1.09	0.85	1.43	FUNCTIONAL	7.04	0.56
6	0.54	0.28	0.42	HIGH-FUNCTIONAL	2.38	0.36
8	0.18	0.01	0.02	NON-FUNCTIONAL	1.42	0.17
				LOW-FUNCTIONAL	0.83	0.04
TOTAL	1.81	1.14	1.67		0.20	0.00




SOUTHERN REGION
 WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.
 CHICAGO DIVISION
 MILWAUKEE, WI
 53201-1000

HR
 OFFICE OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]

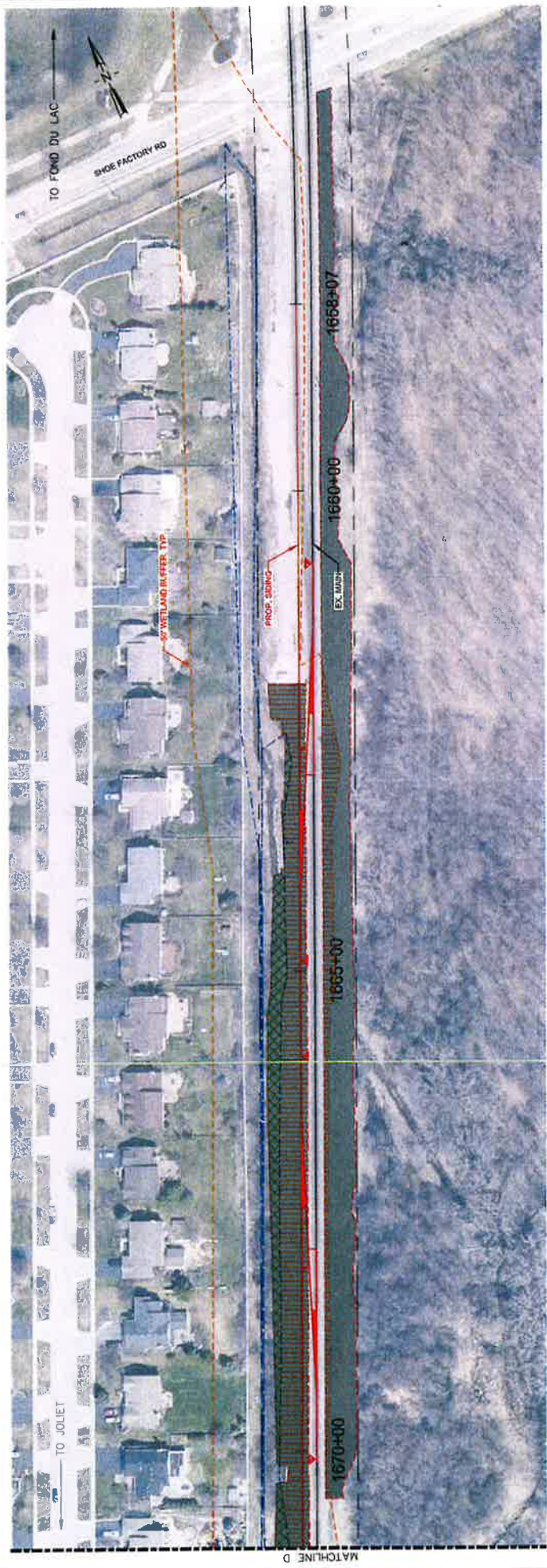


LEGEND

	IMPACTS WITHIN BUFFER
	WETLAND / WATERS OF US IMPACT
	GRADING LIMITS

AREA	TOTAL AREA WITHIN BUFFER (AC)	WETLANDS/US IMPACTS (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USG) RATIO (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USG) RATIO (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USG) RATIO (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USG) RATIO (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USG) RATIO (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USG) RATIO (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USG) RATIO (AC)
1	1.09	0.55	0.28	0.42	0.28	0.42	0.28	0.42	0.28
6	0.54	0.28	0.42	0.28	0.42	0.28	0.42	0.28	0.42
8	0.18	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
TOTAL	1.81	1.84	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87

SPALDING TO SUTTON DOUBLE TRACK
 USACE WETLAND/WATERS IMPACTS
 SHEET 2 OF 3



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SPALDING TO SUTTON DOUBLE TRACK
 USACE WETLAND/WATERS IMPACTS
 SHEET 3 OF 3

OFFICE OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
 DRAWN BY: BOB SCALE: 1" = 100' DWG. NO.:
 CHECKED BY: JNS DATE: 13 DEC 2018 FILE:



LEGEND

[Red hatched pattern]	IMPACTS WITHIN BUFFER
[Green cross-hatched pattern]	WETLAND /WATERS OF US IMPACT
[Blue hatched pattern]	GRADING LIMITS

AREA	TOTAL AREA WITHIN ROW (AC)	WETLAND/US IMPACTS (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USACE RATED) (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USACE RATED) (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USACE RATED) (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USACE RATED) (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USACE RATED) (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USACE RATED) (AC)	MITIGATION REQD (USACE RATED) (AC)
1	1.09	0.95	1.43	1.43	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
6	0.54	0.28	0.42	0.42	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94
8	0.18	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
TOTAL	1.81	1.24	1.87	1.87	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.37	2.37