

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 1890  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

Action ID No. 199400590

March 13, 2003

PUBLIC NOTICE

The NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT), c/o Dr. GREGORY J. THORPE, PhD, MANAGER, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH, 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1548 has applied for a DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (DA) PERMIT pursuant to SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands for the construction of a four-lane, median divided, full control of access highway on new location beginning at the intersection of the existing four-lane roadway south of Ellerbe at SR 1448, in Richmond County, to the intersection of existing US 220 and US 220A, just south of Candor in Montgomery County, including the NC 73 extension from the intersection of US 220 and NC 73 and connecting with the new US 220 four-lane facility north of SR 1452 in Richmond County, North Carolina. State Project 8.T550803, Federal Aid No. NHF-45-1(49), TIP NO. R-2231 and R-3303, NCDOT Division 8.

The following description of the work is taken from data provided by the applicant and from observations made during site visits by representatives of the Corps of Engineers.

**History:**

The social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with potential build alternatives for R-2231 have been described in a North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) signed by FHWA on July 15, 1991 and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) signed by FHWA on October 22, 1996. The social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with potential build alternatives for R-3303 have been described in a North Carolina NCDOT/FHWA Environmental Assessment (EA) signed by FHWA on March 28, 2000.

The NCDOT/FHWA DEIS identifies and discusses nine construction alternatives for the R-2231 project. In addition to the nine construction alternatives, Transportation Systems Management Alternatives, Multi-Modal Alternatives, and the No-Build Alternative were also discussed and considered. After preliminary evaluation, as identified in the NCDOT/FHWA DEIS, five preliminary construction alternatives segments were eliminated from further study.

The remaining four alternative segments were carried forward for more detailed study in the DEIS. In 1993, the Eastern Alternative was selected by NCDOT/FHWA as the Preferred Alternative based upon the analysis presented in the DEIS, verbal and written comments from the public, and various federal, state and local agencies and officials. The NCDOT/FHWA EA for R-3303 identifies and discusses three construction alternatives. In addition to the three construction alternatives, Transportation Systems Management Alternatives, Multi-Modal Alternatives, and the No-Build Alternative were also discussed and considered. Alternative 1 was selected by NCDOT/FHWA as the Preferred Alternative based upon the analysis presented in the EA, verbal and written comments from the public, and various federal, state and local agencies and officials.

The NCDOT/FHWA DEIS, FEIS (R-2231), EA (R-3303) and the proposed mitigation plans are available for review at the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office of the Wilmington District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina, or at the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch, Transportation Building, 1 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and geometric deficiencies on the US 220 corridor (R2231) and to provide a direct connection between existing NC 73 and the new US 220 (R-3303).

#### **Project Description:**

The project being considered for authorization is a four-lane, median divided facility with full access control on new location. The project will be approximately 19 miles in length beginning at the intersection of the existing US 220 four-lane roadway south of Ellerbe at SR 1448, in Richmond County, traveling north passing on the east side of Norman and rejoins existing US 220 at the four-lane, median divided facility near the intersection of existing US 220 and US 220A, at Emery, south of Candor in Montgomery County. All alternatives for R-2231 propose interchanges at existing US 220 south of Ellerbe, SR 1452, SR 1458, NC 73, SR 1321, SR 1524, and US 220 north of Emery. A connector road (R-3303) known as the NC 73 Extension will also be a part of the project. The connector will be a new two-lane roadway with exclusive turning lanes at various intersections, beginning at the existing intersection of US 220 and NC 73, extending east and connecting with the new four-lane R-2231 facility north of SR 1452 in Richmond County.

The project is located in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin (Hydrologic Unit 03040104 and 03040201) and the Lumber River Basin (Hydrologic Unit 03040203). Waters of the United States, including wetlands will be impacted by the proposed project. Major streams that may be impacted by the proposed project are Little Mountain Creek, Jobs Creek, Big Mountain Creek, Silver Creek, Drowning Creek and Naked Creek. There are 19 proposed stream crossings associated with the proposed project (see Table 1). Wetland types potentially impacted by the proposed project are 29.5 acres of palustrine forested wetlands and 0.3 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Impacts to Aquatic Features from Proposed Project**

Feature	R-2231 (Sections)				R-3303	
	A	B	CA	CB		
Number of Streams	7	4	1	5	2	
Streams (feet)	2335	1854	351	2693	367	
Ponds (acres)	0	12.36	0	0	0	
Palustrine Bottomland Forest Wetlands (acres)	Riverine	7.98	5.68	1.87	6.02	0
	Non-riverine	0	2.38	0	0	0
Palustrine Headwater Forest Wetlands (acres)	Riverine	0	0	0	0	1.32
	Non-riverine	4.28	0	0	0	0
Palustrine Emergent Wetlands (acres)	Riverine	0.28	0	0	0	0
	Non-riverine	0	0	0	0	0
Total Wetland (acres)	Riverine	8.26	5.68	1.87	6.02	1.32
	Non-riverine	4.28	2.38	0	0	0

Note: Areas and lengths are based on Preliminary Design

Construction of the proposed project will permanently impact 29.8 acres of jurisdiction wetlands and 7600 linear feet of stream. NCDOT is proposing to provide the necessary compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable wetland and stream impacts associated with this project in the forms and amounts shown in Table 2.

**Table 2. Proposed Compensatory Mitigation**

Form	Type	Amount
On-site wetland Restoration	Non-riverine	2.45 acres
Off-site wetland Restoration	Riverine	55.38 acres
On-site Stream Relocation	Stream	1378 linear feet
Off-site Stream Restoration	Stream	6183 linear feet
Off-site Stream Enhancement	Stream	6966 linear feet

The State of North Carolina will review this public notice to determine the need for the applicant to obtain any required State authorizations. No Department of the Army (DA) permit will be issued until the coordinated State viewpoint on the proposal has been received and

reviewed by this agency, nor will a Department of the Army permit be issued until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality has determined the applicability of a Water Quality Certification as required by PL 92-500.

This application is being considered pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Any person may request, in writing within the comment period specified in the 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.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein. There are no known archaeological or historic sites or properties that are located within the vicinity of the project that are listed or are eligible for listing in the NRHP. The NCDOT during field surveys identified eleven potential archaeological sites within the proposed project area. All sites were determined not to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, which the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred on September 30, 1996. Consultation of the National Register and review of the above referenced NEPA documents constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of any other resources.

NCDOT has conducted surveys along the proposed project corridors to identify suitable, or critical habitat for species listed as Federally endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973. NCDOT has subsequently determined that the proposed project would have no effect on listed species known to occur within Montgomery and Richmond Counties. The District Engineer, based on available information, is not aware that the proposed activity will affect species, or their critical habitat, designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts that the proposed activity may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal must 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 and flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shore 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. For activities involving the placement of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States,

a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

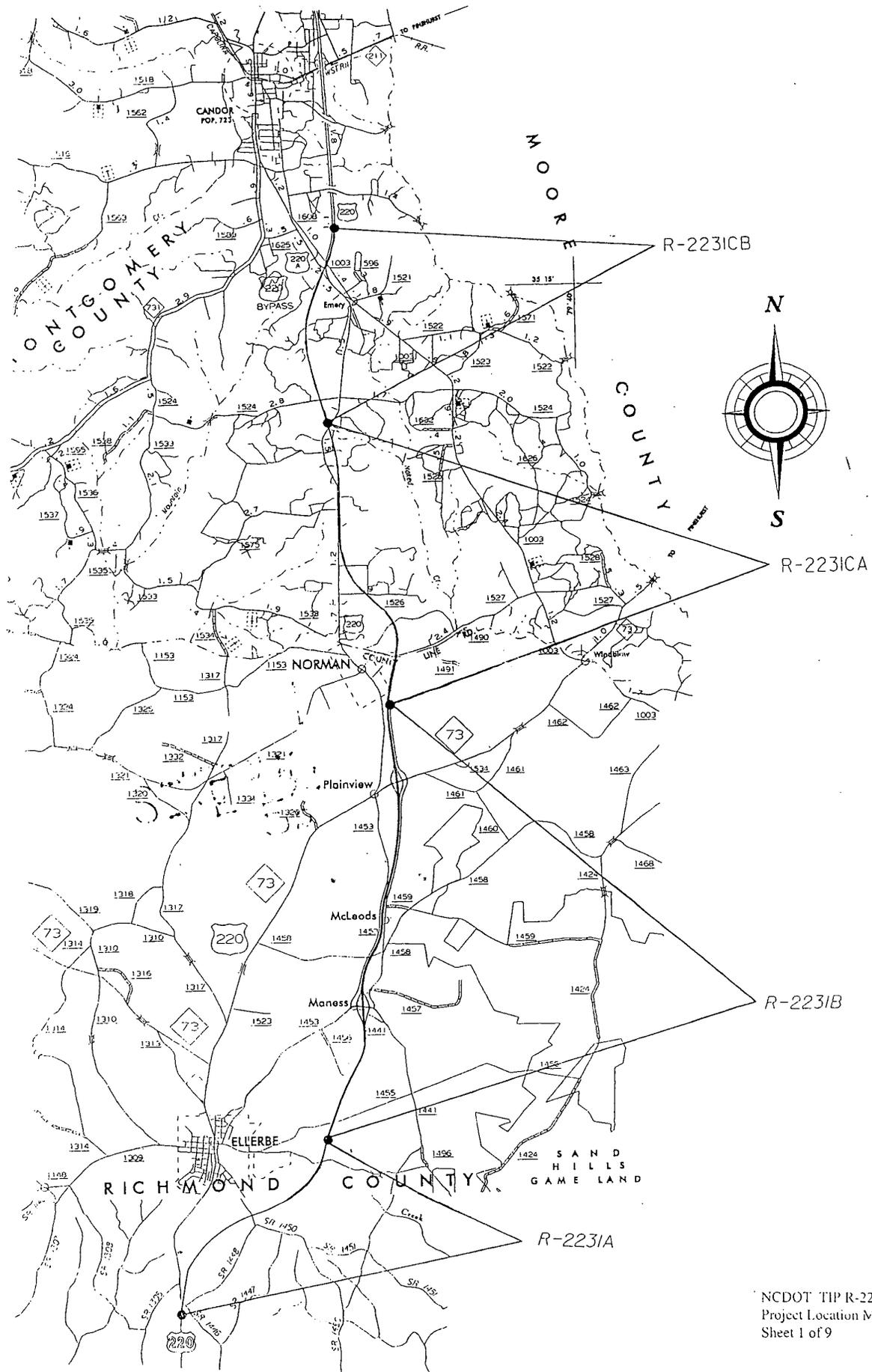
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

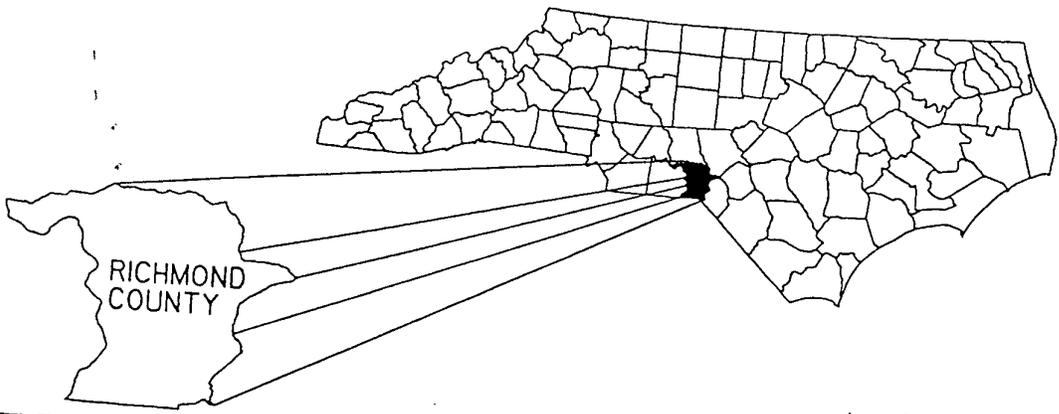
Generally, the decision whether to issue this Department of the Army (DA) permit will not be made until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The NCDWQ considers whether or not the proposed activity will comply with Sections 301, 302, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act. The application and this public notice for the Department of the Army (DA) permit serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification.

Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the offices of the Environmental Operations Section, North Carolina Division of Environmental Management (NCDEM), Salisbury Street, Archdale Building, Raleigh, North Carolina. Copies of such materials will be furnished to any person requesting copies upon payment of reproduction costs.

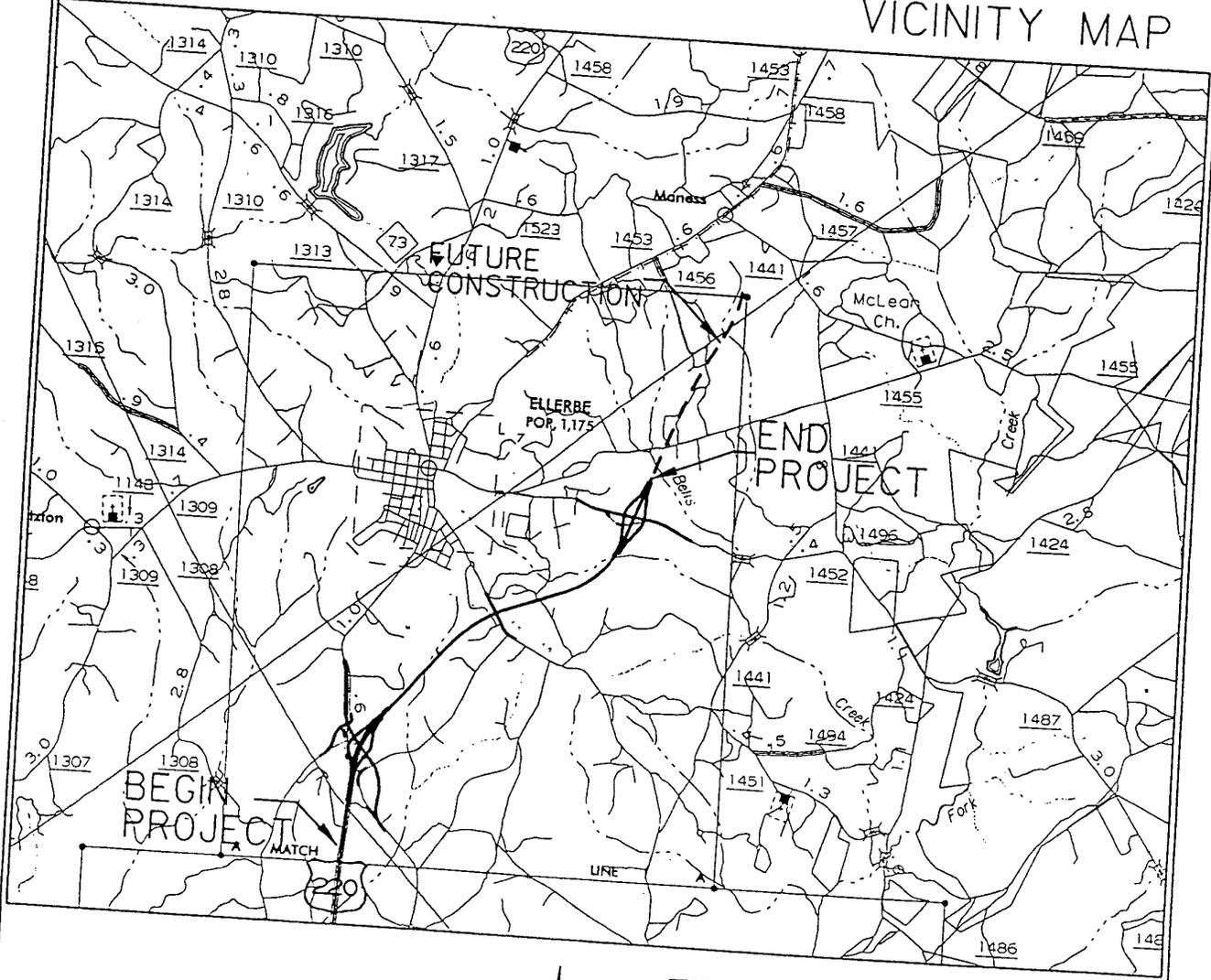
All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for Clean Water Act certification should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality, (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650, Attention: Mr. John Dorney.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received in this office, Attention: Mr. Richard K. Spencer, until 4:30 p.m., April 14, 2003.

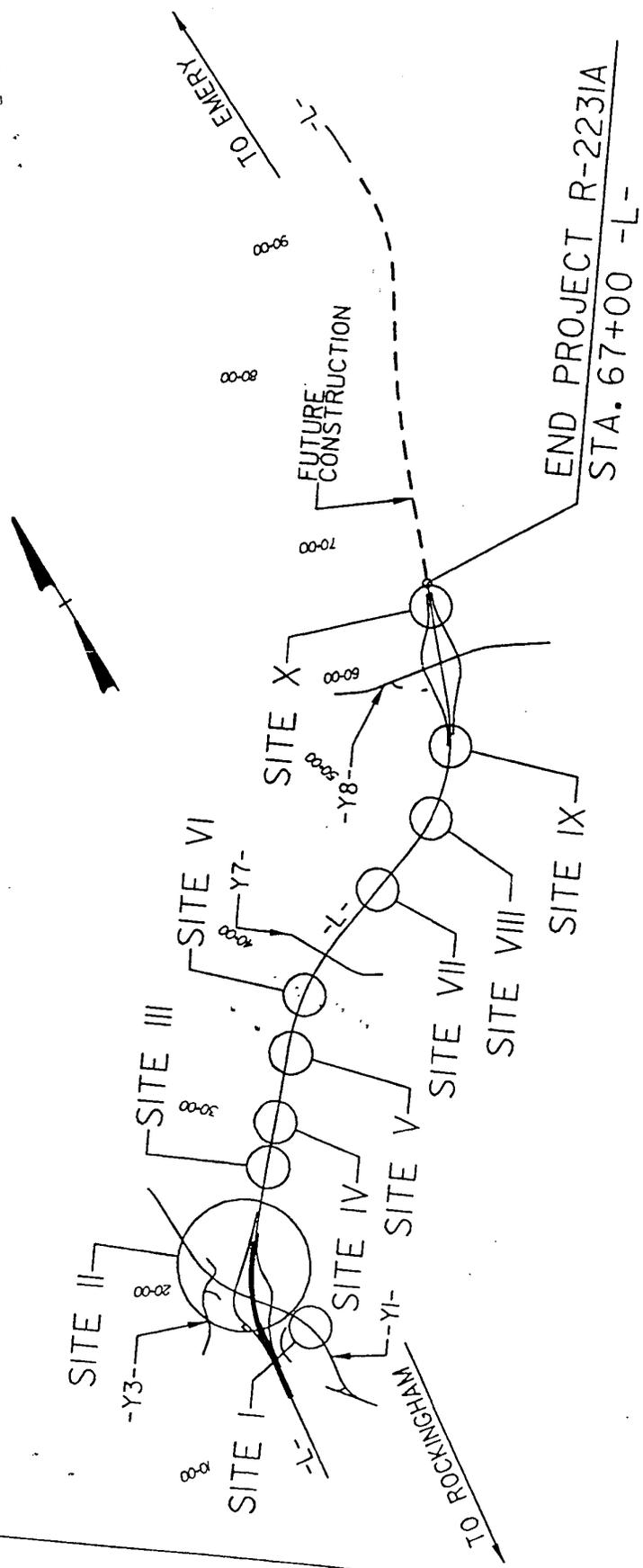




VICINITY MAP



N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND COUNTY  
 PROJECT R-2231A  
 PROPOSED  
 US 220 FROM SOUTH OF SR 1448  
 TO SOUTH OF SR 1441  
 REV. 9-02



N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND COUNTY

PROJECT R-2231A

PROPOSED  
 US 220 FROM SOUTH OS SR 1448  
 TO SOUTH OF SR 1441

REV. 9-02

SHEET 3 OF 30

**WETLAND PERMIT IMPACT SUMMARY**

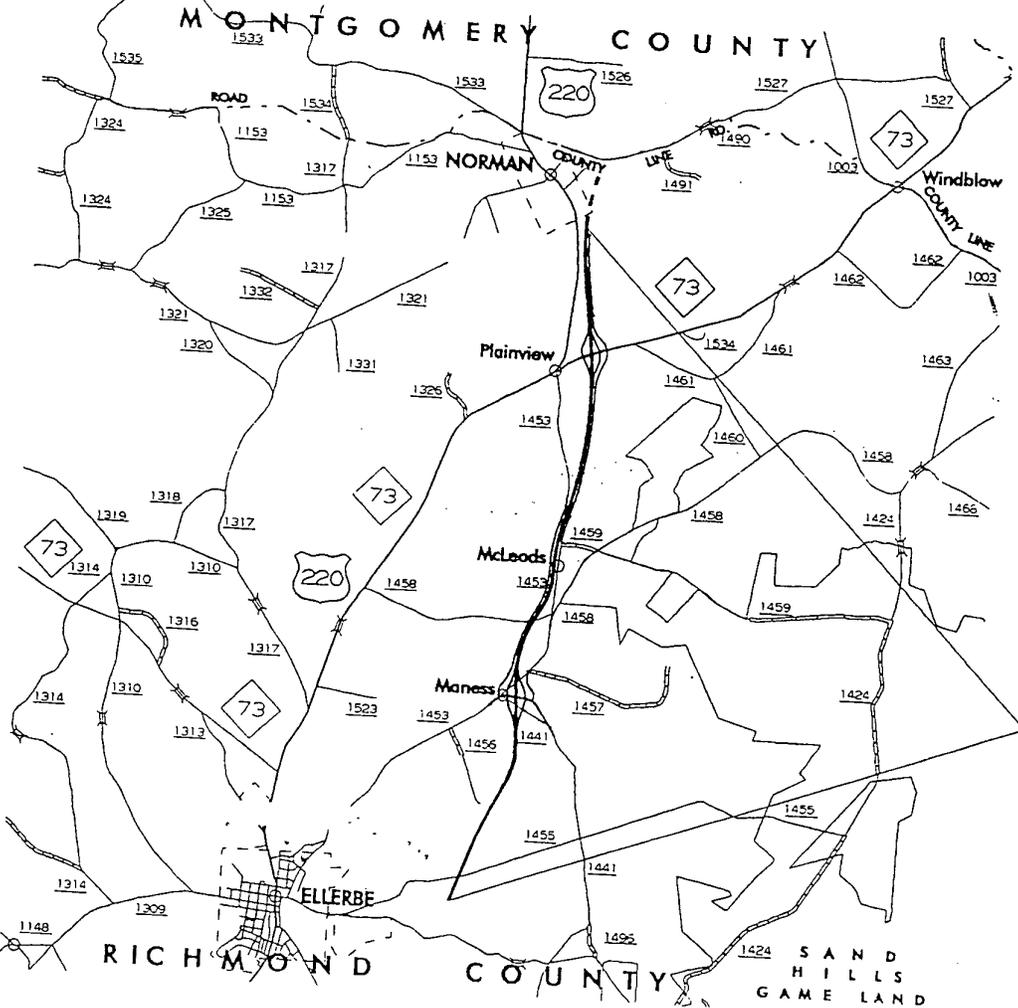
Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	WETLAND IMPACTS				SURFACE WATER IMPACTS							
			Fill In Wetlands (ha)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (ha)	Excavation In Wetlands (ha)	Mechanized Clearing (Method III) (ha)	Fill In SW (Natural) (ha)	Fill In SW (Pond) (ha)	Temp. Fill In SW (ha)	Existing Channel Impacted (m)	Natural Stream Design (m)			
I	16+58.9-L-		0.155			0.022								
IIA	19+00-L-		0.924											
IIB	21+08.7-L-		0.528		0.004	0.038								
IIC	22+80-L-				0.065	0.004		0.038					192.16	
III	27+00-L-		0.225		0.658	0.051		0.015						
IV	30+44.5-L-		0.608			0.064		0.019					61.92	
V	34+58.9-L-		0.173			0.02							97.52	
VI	38+56.2-L-		0.717			0.067								
VII	46+75-L-		0.469			0.05		0.018					71.2	
VIII	52+31.4-L-		0.103			0.011		0.016					93.88	
IX	57+00-L-	2 @ 2.7m x 2.1m RCBC						0.016					80.84	
X	65+72-L-							0.023					114.08	
<b>TOTALS:</b>			3.902	0	0.727	0.327	0.145	0	0	0	0	711.60	0	0

**NCDOT**  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND COUNTY  
 PROJECT: R-2231A  
 US 220 BYPASS SOUTH OF SR 1448  
 TO SOUTH OF SR 1441  
 10/16/02  
 SHEET 29 OF 30

**WETLAND PERMIT IMPACT SUMMARY**

Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	WETLAND IMPACTS					SURFACE WATER IMPACTS							
			Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Excavation In Wetlands (ac)	Mechanized Clearing (Method III) (ac)	Fill In SW (Natural) (ac)	Fill In SW (Pond) (ac)	Temp. Fill In SW (ac)	Existing Channel Impacted (ft)	Natural Stream Design (ft)				
I	16+58.9 -L-		0.38												
IIA	19+00 -L-						0.05								
IIB	21+08.7 -L-		2.28												
IIC	22+80 -L-		1.30												
III	27+00 -L-				0.01		0.09	0.09							
IV	30+44.5 -L-		0.56		0.16		0.01							630.4	
V	34+58.9 -L-		1.50		1.63		0.13	0.04						203.1	
VI	38+56.2 -L-		0.43				0.16	0.05						319.9	
VII	46+75 -L-		1.77				0.05								
VIII	52+31.4 -L-		1.16				0.17								
IX	57+00 -L-	2 @ 9' x 8' RCBC	0.25				0.12	0.04						233.5	
X	65+72 -L-						0.03	0.04	0.04					308.0	
TOTALS:			9.63	0	1.80	0.81	0.36	0	0	0	0	0	2334.4	0	

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND COUNTY  
 PROJECT: R-2231A  
 US 220 BYPASS  
 10/16/02  
 SHEET 30 OF 30



VICINITY MAP

N. C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND COUNTY  
 PROJECT: 8.T550802 (R-2231B)  
 US 220 BYPASS

9/02

SHEET 1 OF 43

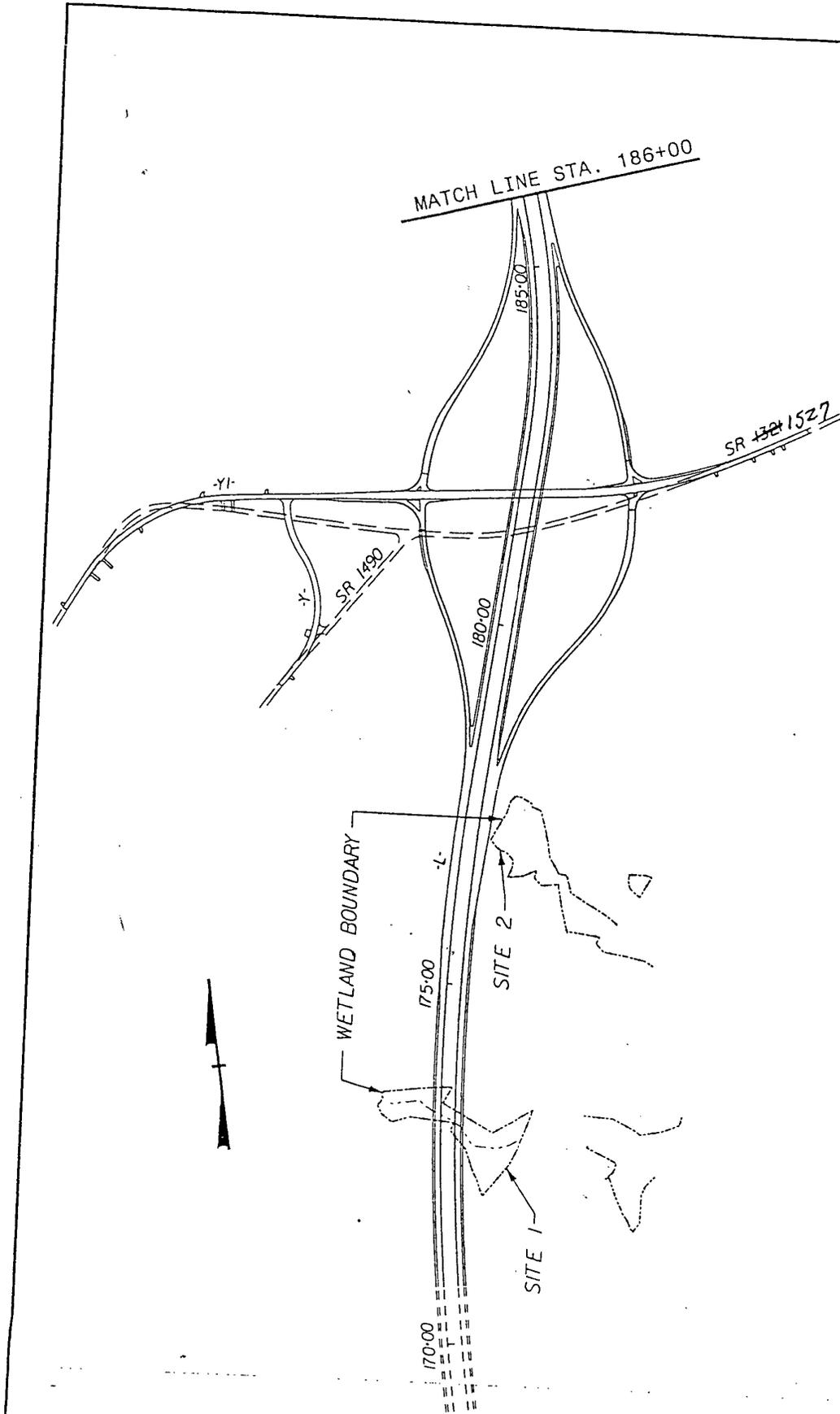












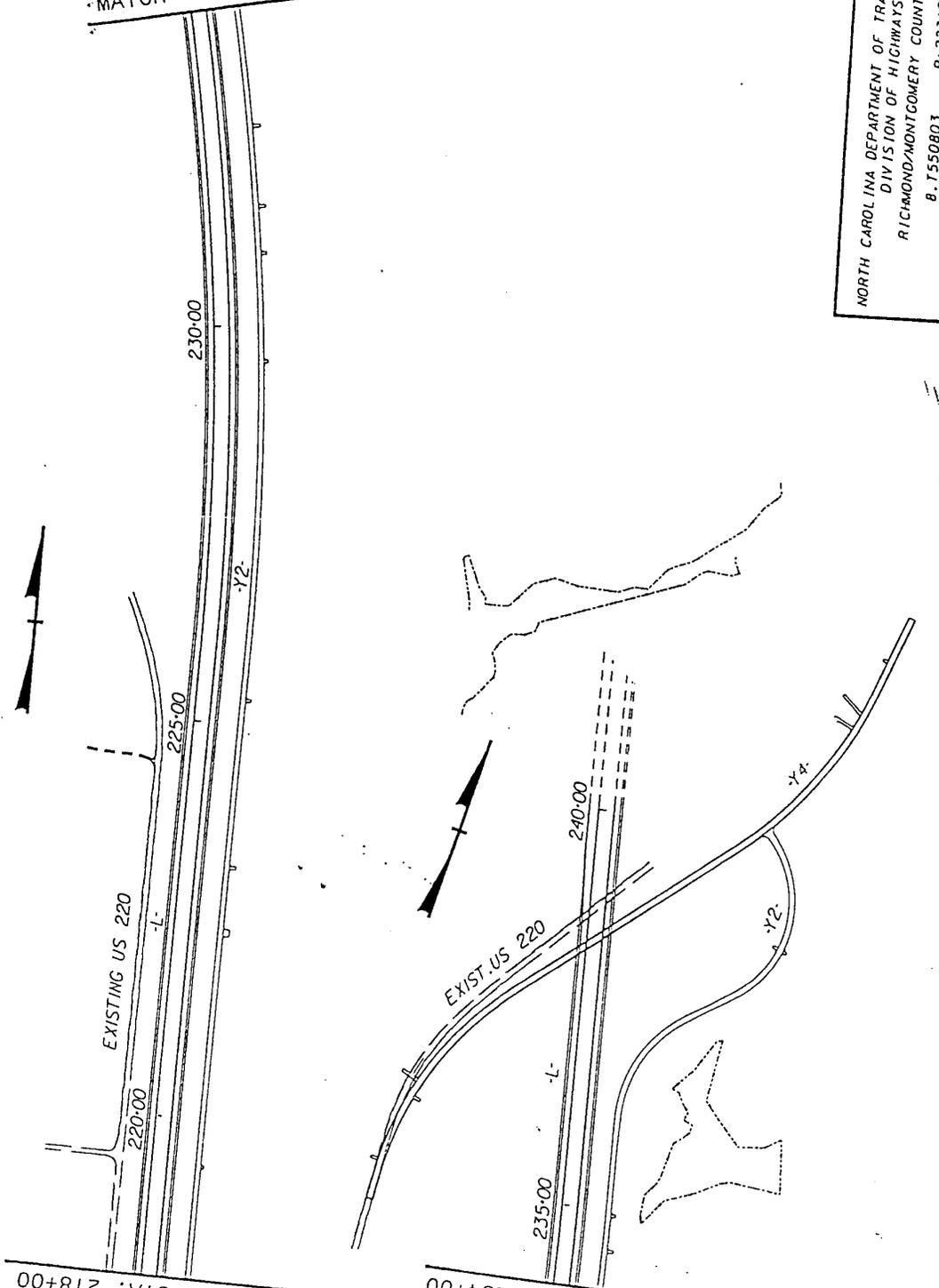
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND/MONTGOMERY COUNTIES  
 B. 1550803 R. 2231CA  
 US 220 BYPASS FROM NORTH OF NC 73  
 TO SOUTH OF SR 1524  
 9/02  
 SHEET 3 OF 14



MATCH LINE STA. 234+00

MATCH LINE STA. 218+00

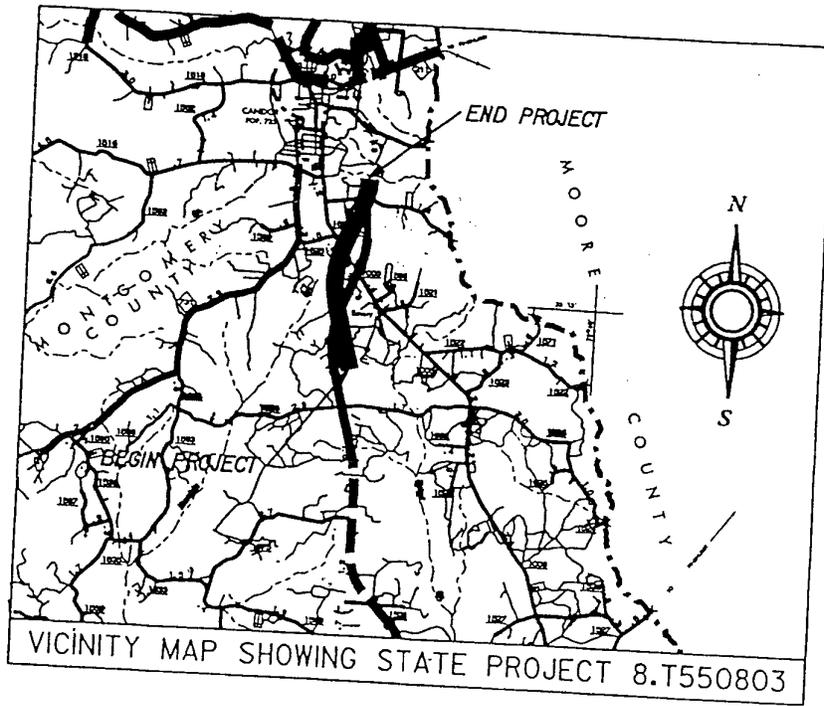
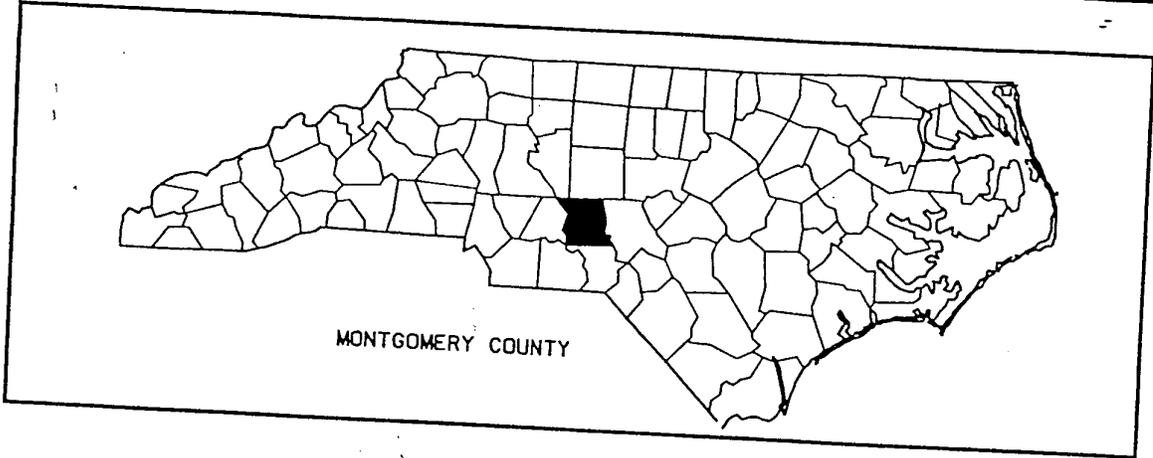
MATCH LINE STA. 234+00



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND/MONTGOMERY COUNTIES  
 B. 1550803 R. 2231CA  
 US 220 BYPASS FROM NORTH OF NC 73  
 TO SOUTH OF SR 1524

9/02

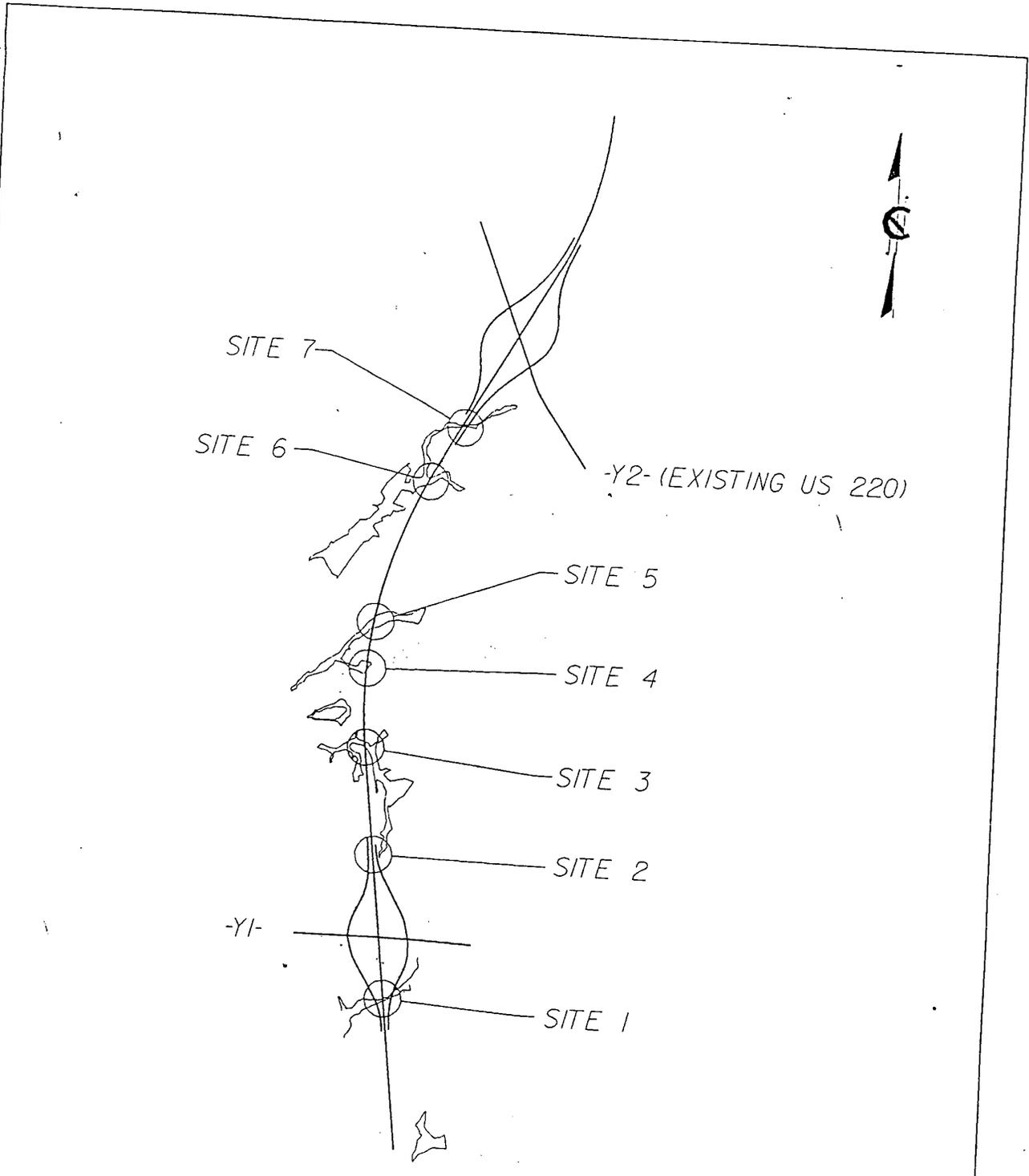
SHEET 5 of 14



# VICINITY MAPS

N. C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
PROJECT: 8.T550803 (R-2231CB)

US 220 BYPASS



SITE MAP

N. C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
PROJECT: 8.T550803 (R-2251CB)

US 220 BYPASS



**WETLAND PERMIT IMPACT SUMMARY**

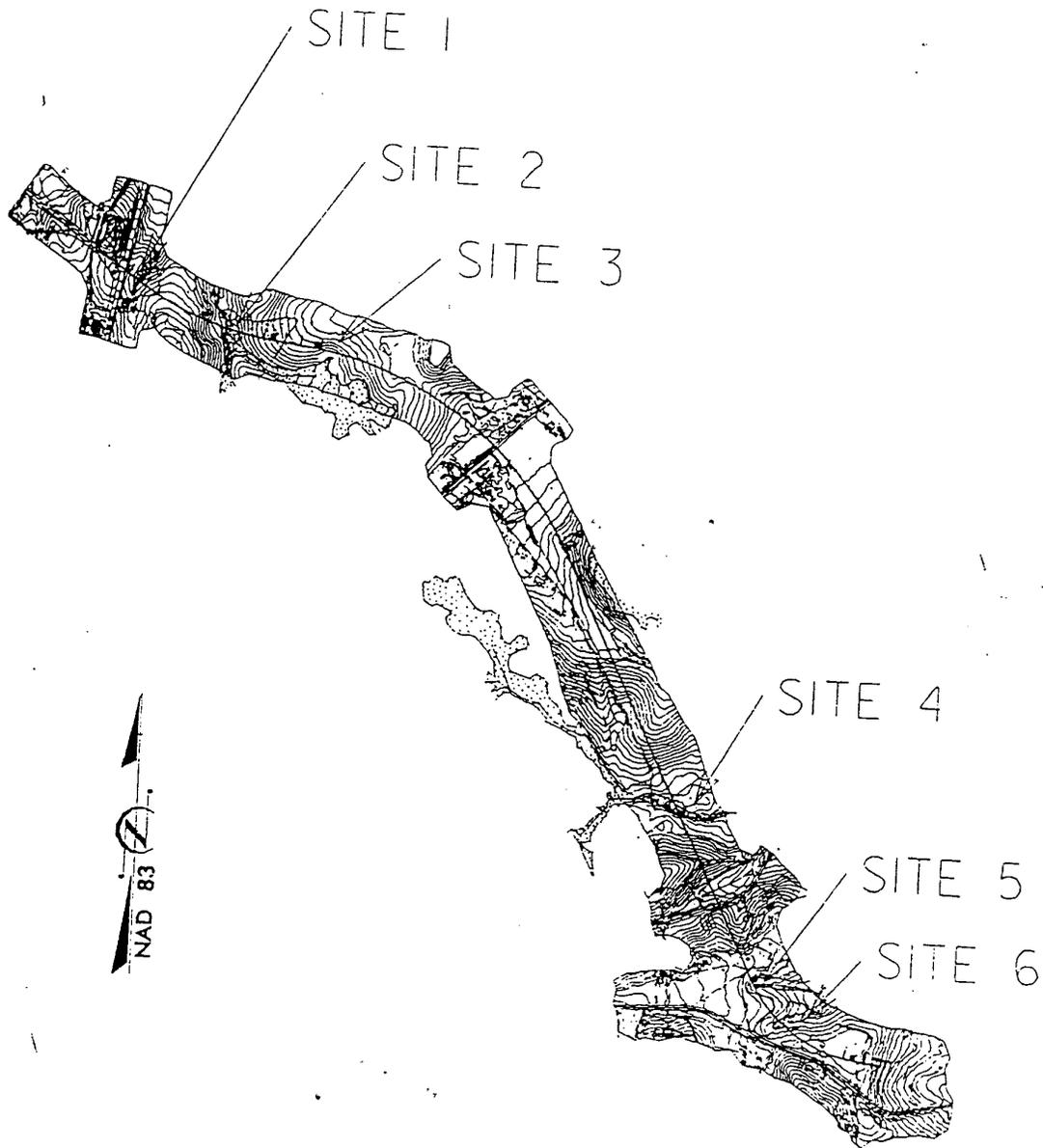
Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	WETLAND IMPACTS				SURFACE WATER IMPACTS				Natural Stream Design (FT)	
			Fill In Wetlands (Ac)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (Ac)	Excavation In Wetlands (Ac)	Mechanized Clearing (Method III) (Ac)	Fill In SW (Natural) (Ac)	Fill In SW (Pond) (Ac)	Temp. Fill In SW (Ac)	Existing Channel Impacted (FT)		
1	242+80 -L-	1050 rcp	0.51		0.0086	0.04	0.052				564.3	
2	249+60-249+80-L-	N/A	0.03			0.015						
3	253+00-255+60-L-	1 @ 2.1m X 1.5m RCBC	1.84		0.04075	0.25	0.067				754.6	423.2
4	258+40-259+10-L-	450 rcp	0.63			0.017						
5	260+20-261+60-L-	1500 rcp	1.29		0.00099	0.074	0.072				478.9	
6	267+80-268+80-L-	1500 rcp	0.89		0.0183	0.116	0.062				574.1	252.6
7	271+20-271+80-L-	1350 rcp	0.22			0.027	0.025				321.5	
TOTALS:			5.41	0	0.069	0.54	0.278	0	0	2693.4	675.8	

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
PROJECT 8.t550803 (R-223)CB

US 220 BYPASS

SHEET 35 OF 35

Rev.10/28/2002



SITE MAP

NCDOT  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
RICHMOND COUNTY  
PROJECT: 8.1581201 (R-5505)  
NC 73 EXT FROM  
EXISTING NC 73 / US 220  
TO SR 1452  
SHEET 2 OF 12 08/26/02

**WETLAND PERMIT IMPACT SUMMARY**

Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	WETLAND IMPACTS						SURFACE WATER IMPACTS						
			Fill In Wetlands (ha)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (ha)	Excavation In Wetlands (ha)	Mechanized Clearing (Method III) (ha)	Fill In SW (Natural) (ha)	Fill In SW (Pond) (ha)	Temp. Fill In SW (ha)	Existing Channel Impacted (m)	Natural Stream Design (m)				
1	11+50 -L-		0.071			0.011									
2	14+30 to 14+80 -L-		0.182			0.030		0.007							
3	17+50 -L-					0.004									
4	34+40 to 35+00 -L-		0.117			0.024		0.004					50		
5	40+35 -L-		0.006			0.002									
6	41+40 to 41075 -L-		0.086												62
<b>TOTALS:</b>			0.462	0	0	0.071	0.011	0	0	0	0	0	112		0

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND COUNTY  
 PROJECT: 8.1581201 (R-3303)  
 NC73 EXT FROM NC73/US220 TO SR1452  
 SHEET 11 OF 12 Revised 10/19/02  
 R/26/02

**WETLAND PERMIT IMPACT SUMMARY**

Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	WETLAND IMPACTS					SURFACE WATER IMPACTS					Natural Stream Design (ft)	
			Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Excavation In Wetlands (ac)	Mechanized Clearing (Method III) (ac)	Fill In SW (Natural) (ac)	Fill In SW (Pond) (ac)	Temp. Fill In SW (ac)	Existing Channel Impacted (ft)				
1	11+50 -L-		0.18			0.03								
2	14+30 to 14+80 -L-		0.45			0.07								
3	17+50 -L-					0.01								
4	34+40 to 35+00 -L-		0.29			0.06								
5	40+35 -L-		0.01			0.00								
6	41+40 to 41075 -L-		0.21											
<b>TOTALS:</b>			1.14	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	367.36	0.00	

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS  
 RICHMOND COUNTY  
 PROJECT: 8.1581201 (R-3303)  
 NC73 EXT FROM NC73/US220 TO SR1452  
 SHEET 12 of 12 Revised 10/19/02 8/26