

US Army Corps  
Of Engineers  
Wilmington District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: May 22, 2008  
Comment Deadline: June 22, 2008  
Corps ORM ID #: 2008-01556

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application from **The Martin County Airport Commission** seeking Department of the Army authorization to impact **1.5 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 95 linear feet of jurisdictional waters** associated with **construction of three new taxiways, two corporate hangers, and a new access road, located adjacent to Huskanaw Swamp, just northeast of the existing facility, off Airport Road, west of Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina.** Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at [www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands)

**Applicant:** Martin County Airport Commission  
Attn: Mr. Russell Overman  
305 East Main Street  
Williamston, North Carolina 27892

**AGENT (if applicable):** The LPA Group of North Carolina  
Attn: Edward Smail  
5000 Falls of Neuse Road Suite 304  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

## Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

## Location

The project area is approximately 181 acres containing 1.5 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 95 linear feet of jurisdictional waters associated with Huskanaw Swamp, a tributary to Tranters Creek, approximately 2 miles north of US 13/64, at the intersection of Airport Road and Everetts Road, west of Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina. (35.8625N, 77.1763W)

## **Existing Site Conditions**

The proposed project site consists of an undeveloped forested wetland adjacent to the existing airport, vegetated with trees and shrubs. Vegetation in the project area includes loblolly pine (*pinus taeda*), red maple (*acer rubrum*), sweetgum (*liquidambar styraciflua*), greenbriar (*smilax rotundifolia*), and giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*). Current soil conditions on the site indicate signs of a seasonally high water table, including water stained leaves, drainage patterns, and redoxomorphic features within the top 12 inches of the soil surface.

Habitat with the potential for supporting listed species was identified by reviewing aerial photographs, soils maps, and topographic maps of the property, and confirmed by an onsite inspection of the site. A search of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program database was conducted to determine whether any state or federally listed species have previously been observed within or near the project area (1/2 mile radius). No known record of any threatened or endangered species exists or near the project site.

## **Applicant's Stated Purpose**

The project purpose is to construct additional hanger facilities and provide adequate runway space with access to the existing runway. The existing hanger is not large enough to accommodate for the projected growth of the airport facility. The taxiway/access areas are necessary to provide hangers with an access to the existing airport facilities.

## **Project Description**

The project will result in the discharge of fill material into approximately 1.5 acres of Department of the Army jurisdictional wetlands and 95 linear feet of waters. The proposed fill is necessary to facilitate the construction of three new taxiways and two new hangers with associated parking. Taxiway A would be located parallel to the existing runway and would be approximately 283 feet long by 35 feet wide. Taxiway B and C (325 feet long by 35 feet wide) would be located perpendicular to Taxiway A and parallel the proposed hanger. The proposed project would also include an eight unit T-hanger which would be approximately 210 feet long by 60 feet wide. An apron area of 130 feet by 100 feet will be constructed between Taxiway B and two 50 foot by 50 foot corporate hangers. The parking area would be located adjacent to the corporate hangers and be approximately 210 feet by 45 feet. The access road will be 350 feet long and would connect the parking area and Taxiway B and C. The project will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 will consist of the construction of taxiways and phase 2 will include construction of the hangers, associated parking, and access road.

## **Other Required Authorizations**

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application combined with appropriate application fee at the North Carolina Division of Water Quality central office in Raleigh will constitute initial receipt of an application for a 401 Water Quality Certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, 401 Oversight and Express Permits Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Mr. John Hennessy (NC Department of Transportation projects) or Ms Cyndi Karoly (all other projects) by March 23, 2006.

The applicant has not provided to the Corps, a certification statement that his/her proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved North Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program. Pursuant to 33 CFR 325.2(b)(2), the Corps can not issue a permit for the proposed work until the applicant submits such a certification to the Corps and the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM), and the NCDCM notifies the Corps that it concurs with the applicant's consistency certification.

## **Essential Fish Habitat**

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

## **Cultural Resources**

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical

data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

### **Endangered Species**

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat.

### **Evaluation**

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 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, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), 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. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

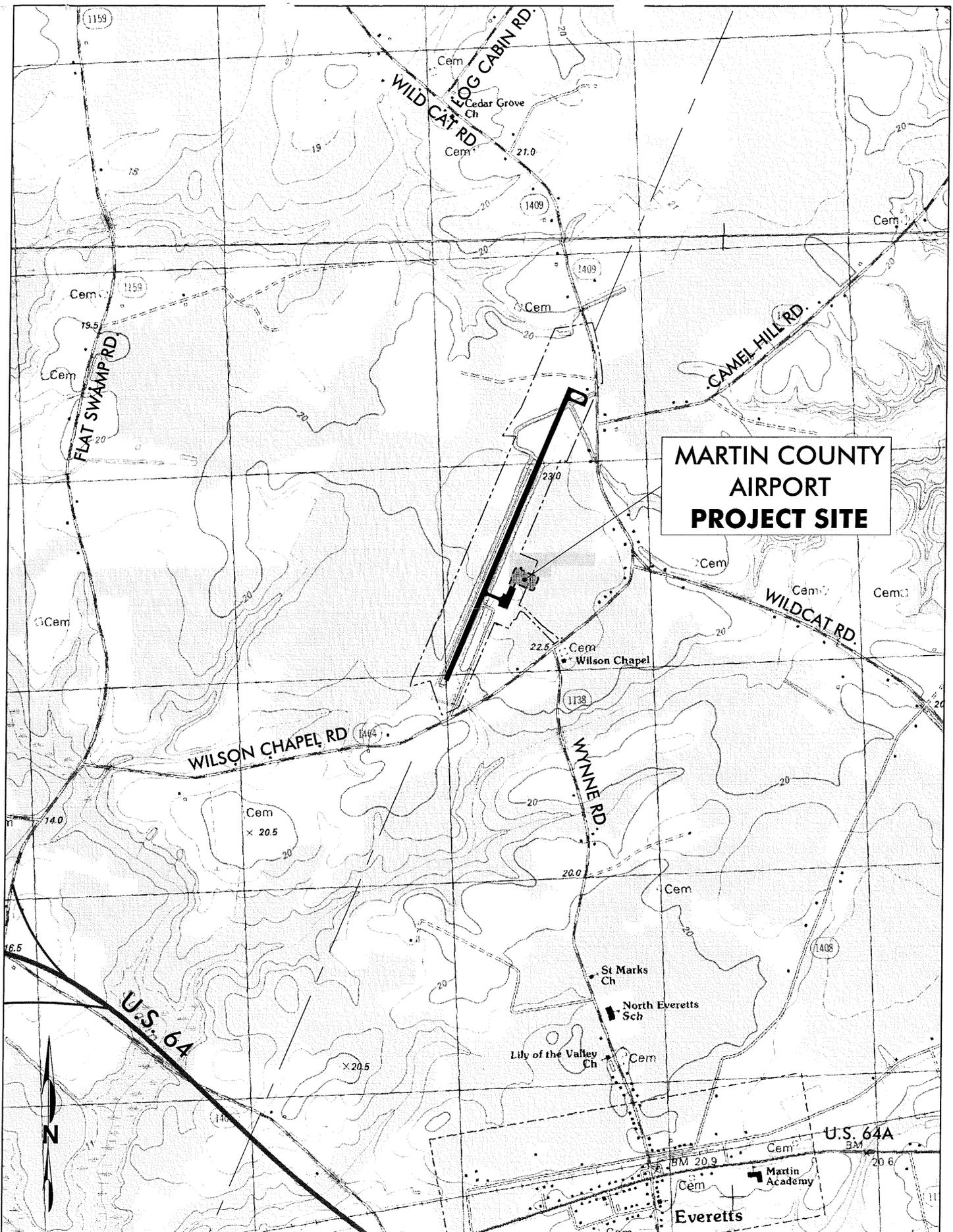
### **Commenting Information**

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials, including any consolidate State Viewpoint or written position of the Governor; 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.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

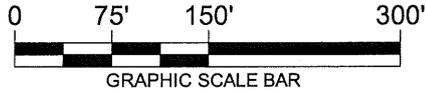
Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, March 24, 2006. Comments should be submitted to Josh Pelletier, Washington Regulatory Field Office, US Army Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box 1000, Washington, North Carolina 27889, or telephone (252) 975-1616 extension 34.



**MARTIN COUNTY  
AIRPORT  
PROJECT SITE**



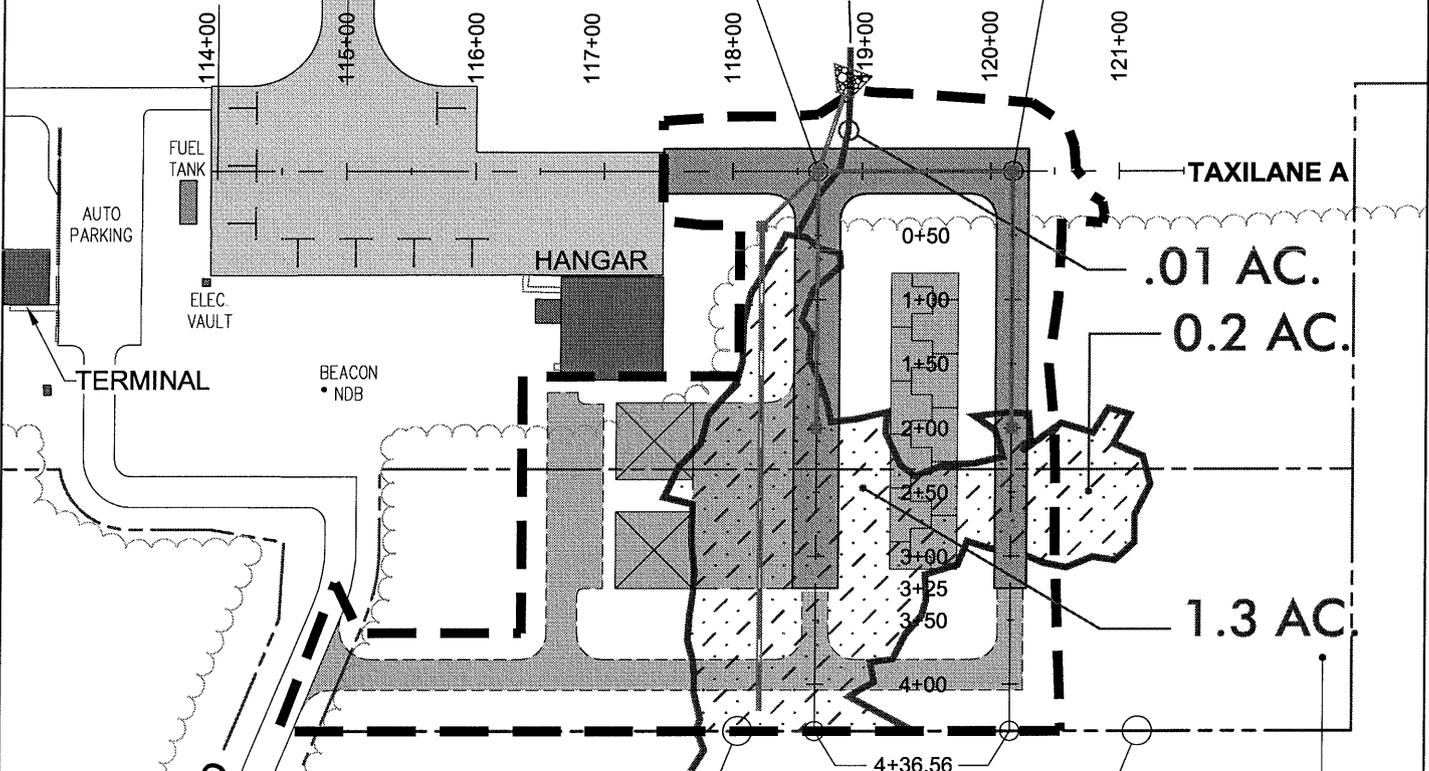
SEGMENTED CIRCLE  
w/ WIND SOCK



### RUNWAY 3-21

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**TAXILANE B STA.0+00**  
N=772962.2023 / E=2539871.9989

**TAXILANE A STA.120+17.50**  
**TAXILANE C STA.0+00**  
N=773101.9869 / E=2539930.4154



TAXILANE A

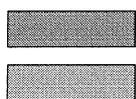
.01 AC.  
0.2 AC.

1.3 AC.

CONSTRUCTION  
LIMITS

LAND  
ACQUISITION  
LIMITS

DANIEL E. CLARK  
ET ALS  
D.B. V-15 PG 362



TAXILANE DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1

HANGAR AND ACCESS DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2