US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Wilmington District

408-SAW-2025-0002

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PERMISSION
TO MODIFY A
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408

TITLE: Bladen County, White Oak Dike Rehabilitation Project, Bladen County, North Carolina.

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT PERIOD:
Begins: April 23, 2025
Expires: May 8, 2025

Interested parties are hereby notified that a request has been received for Department of the Army Section 408 (Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; 33 U.S.C. 408; hereinafter Section 408) approval to repair and rehabilitate the levee to its original design and condition by removing trees and vegetation from the levee and filling in removed areas with sandy soil material, replacing unsuitable soils with suitable material, and culvert repair within and around the White Oak Levee, which is a federal project subject to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 USC 408 (Section 408), as described below. Written comments are being solicited from anyone having an interest in the requested alteration. Comments received will become part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) administrative record and will be considered in determining whether to approve the request. Comments supporting, opposing, or identifying concerns that should be considered by the USACE in its decision process are welcome. Comments providing substantive information and/or a rationale for the commenter's position are the most helpful. Comments regarding the proposed work should reference the USACE public notice number (408-SAW-2025-0002) and must reach the USACE via email no later than **May 8, 2025,** to become part of the public record and be considered in the USACE's decision. Please send comments to the Wilmington District Section 408 Coordinator at: ronnie.d.smith@usace.army.mil.

REQUESTER: Bladen County

LOCATION: The proposed action is located along the existing White Oak Levee, from N.C. Highway 53, west of the Town of Kelly, to an area south of the intersection of Buckle Road and Canetuck Road, in Bladen and Pender Counties, North Carolina. (from 34.484996, -78.366193 to 34.384493, -78.197628).

PROPOSED ACTION: The requester proposes to repair and rehabilitate the White Oak levee to its original design and condition by removing trees and vegetation from the levee and filling in removed areas with sandy soil material, replacing unsuitable soils with suitable material, and culvert repair. Proposed work will take place in four phases over the next 6 years.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY: This request will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 408. A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations. An approval under

Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to grant the requested permission for federal project modification under Section 408 will be based on several factors and 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. Review of the request for modification will be reviewedby a USACE technical review team and will consider, but not necessarily be limited to, the following factors:

1. Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The review team will determine ifthe proposed alteration would limit the ability of the projects to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project's conditions, purposes, or outputs. The decision whether to approve a request for modification would be based on a determination of no impairments.

2. Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. Proposed alterations will be reviewed by the District to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest.

SUMMARY: It should be noted that materials submitted as part of Section 408 requests become part of the public record and will be available to the general public under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under the FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the USACE Wilmington District's Office of Counsel.

Interested parties wishing to comment on the proposed action must do so in writing no later than **May 8, 2024**. It is presumed that all parties viewing this notice will wish to respond; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning there is no objection to the proposed action as described.

Ronnie Smith

Ronnie Smith
Wilmington District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

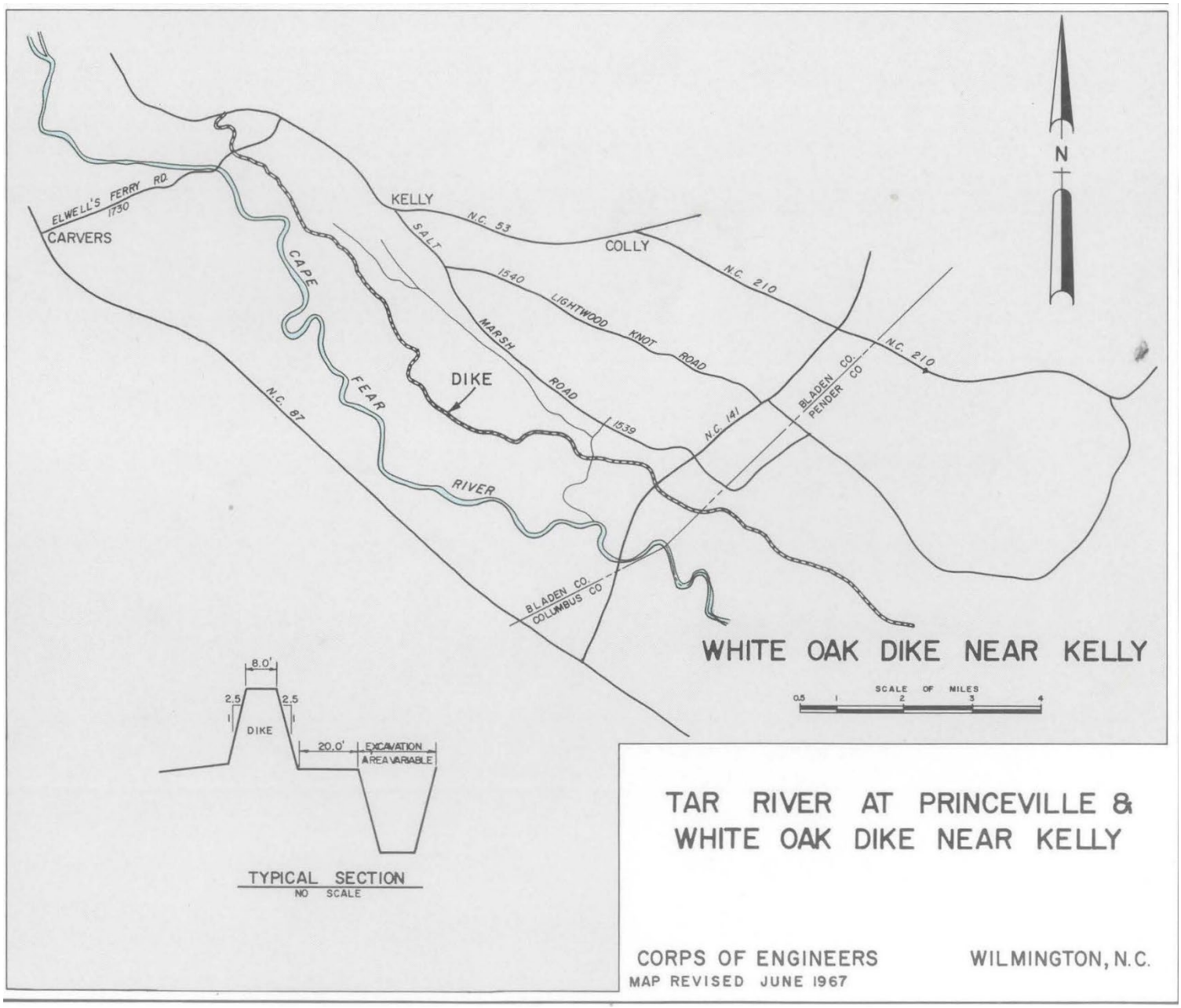


Figure 1: Vicinity Map and Federal Project Map

40 YEARS of CATLIN

220 Old Dairy Road
Wilmington, NC 28405
(910) 452-5861

www.CatlinUSA.com

April 14, 2025

COL Robert J. Clark
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28403

Re: White Oak Dike
White Oak Dike
CATLIN Project No. 219090.02

Dear COL Clark,

CATLIN Engineers and Scientists (CATLIN) is requesting permission to alter White Oak Dike by repairing and rehabilitating the dike and all supporting features. A description of the work to be performed on the dike and supporting features is included in Appendix A. The project is not located on Federally owned property. The project is located on property owned by individual landowners with an easement obtained by the Lyons Swamp Levee District. A letter of no objection by the Lyon Swamp Levee District is included in Appendix B.

As the requestor, CATLIN is not applying for credit under Section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as amended, or approved under section 204(f) of WORDA 1986.

Please find enclosed project plans and specifications for the requested alteration.

If you have any questions on our request to alter the White Oak Dike, please contact Ben Lackey at 910-452-5861 or at ben.lackey@catlinusa.com.

Respectfully,

Ben D. Lackey Jr
Project Manager

White Oak Information

The White Oak Dike Flood Control Project (WODFCP) was a previously federally authorized and non-federally operated and maintained flood damage reduction project located in Bladen and Pender Counties, North Carolina. The project site is located on the east side of the Cape Fear River, near the town of Kelly. The WODFCP was originally authorized by Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 as amended by Public Law 685, 84th Congress to provide flood protection to an area north, and to the east, of the levee, including the town of Kelly ,NC, the White Oak Canal drainage area, and parts of the Lyon Swamp and Buckle Creek drainage areas.

The Lyon Swamp Drainage and Levee District is the local sponsor for the WODFCP and is responsible for continued operation, maintenance, repair and rehabilitation needs on the White Oak Levee. They will secure all the funding necessary for levee rectification work.

The WODFCP site consists of approximately 14.5 miles of earthen dike from a location approximately 3 miles northwest of Kelly, to a location approximately 3.6 miles below the Bladen-Pender County line. The project vicinity is presented on the plan sheets attached.

White Oak Scope of Work

The purpose of this effort is to rehabilitate and repair the levee system, ensuring compliance with federal and local flood control standards; enhancing the durability and longevity of the flood control infrastructure; and mitigating potential flood risks to the surrounding communities. It should be noted that the project is not intended to improve the levee by raising it above the original 1962 design standards. The 1962 construction drawings show that the levee side slopes were constructed to 2.5H:1V with a crest width of 8 feet, and that the levee was constructed with locally excavated materials. There are four public roads crossing the White Oak Levee: Highway 11, Buckle Road, White Oak Road, and Elwell Ferry Road and nine (9) culverts through the levee.

The following list provides details for rehabilitation and repair:

- Provide maintenance specifications for the levee for the full length of the project and all culverts to ensure proper functionality.
- Develop detailed plans to assess and adjust the elevation of the levee crest at road crossings (Highway 11, Buckle Road, White Oak Road, and Elwell Ferry Road) to match the road crown elevation.
- Marine Innovative Readiness Training (ITR) Units will perform the clearing and dike earthwork for the first four phases of the levee repair. The culvert repair/replacement will not be included in Phase I.
- The dike will be built back to its original condition.

- The top crest width will be a minimum of 8’ wide.
- The side slopes will be 2.5H:1V.
- The top of the dike elevation will be determined by the 1962 original plans
- All trees greater than 2” in diameter will be removed from the sides, crest, and within the 15 feet vegetation-free zone on each side of the toe of the levee.
- Holes where stumps have been removed will be backfilled with sandy soil and compacted to 95 % standard compaction.
- Soil borrow material will be taken from the easement adjacent to the levee or from an offsite borrow area.
- The dike sections will be filled to its original area with sandy soil and SP-SM, SP-SC, SM, and SC soils will be used as backfill in the dike section.
- In segments of the project where the natural ground is higher than the top of the levee, a 12’ wide path will be cleared to allow for access along the full length of the levee crest.
- All 9 culverts will be repaired or replaced as required to make them functional.
- Deteriorated headwalls will be repaired or replaced, ensuring proper tieback systems and erosion protection (e.g., rip rap stone) at river side pipe intakes and outlets.
- Portions of the dike which were repaired but not compacted properly will be deconstructed and the sections will be rebuilt with specified compaction and soil material quality. The sections of the dike requiring repair are as follow:
    - Station 131+00 to 132+00
    - Station 150+62 to 151+55
    - Station 447+00 to 148+00
    - Station 523+55 to 524+30
    - Station 725+45 to 726+00
- At the paved road crossings where the levee has been removed, sandbags will be used to limit floodwater flow through the breach.
- All disturbed areas will be seeded at the completion of the soil fill placement.
- NEPA compliance and the Endangered Species Act will be observed as applicable.
- There are no known archaeological areas in the project easement. It is likely any areas would have been determined during previous construction.

White Oak Sequence of Events

The project is divided into 4 phases. The intent is that the phase will be worked sequentially; however, the phases are independent of each other and can be worked in any order or simultaneously. The work within each phase will be in accordance with the following construction sequence.

- Prior to beginning construction, the haul routes, borrow locations and disposal areas are to be established by the owner and contractor.

- Install erosion control measures for the phase and area of the dike repair that is being done, this includes what is required for the haul routes, all borrow areas and the proposed disposal sites.

- Begin cutting and removing trees and undergrowth on the dike, side slopes and within the area indicated as clear zone.

- Grub all cleared areas of roots. Excavate and remove tree root balls of tree roots that grubbing could not remove and fill the excavation void back to grade in accordance with the specifications assuring compaction standards are met.

- Begin placing fill material and mass grading dike to reestablish dike crest elevations. Fill is to be placed, compacted and tested in accordance with specifications.

- Areas of completed dike reconstructed are to be stabilized and seeded in accordance with seeding schedule and specifications. No more than 1/4 mile of dike is to be left as bare earth and un-stabilized at any time.

- A schedule for replacing the existing culverts has not been determined. The reconstruction of the dike is to proceed with the existing culverts in place. Should the schedule be determined prior to reaching an existing culvert, that culvert is to be removed and replaced in accordance with the plans. If the dike has already been reconstructed with the existing culverts left in place, then the contractor will need to remove and replace those culverts, and the dike repaired in accordance with the plans. Additional erosion control measures and coffer dams may be required at certain culvert locations. The contractor should plan accordingly if dewater is necessary.

- Once the reconstructed dike and cleared areas are stabilized with well-established grass, and with the erosion control inspector approval, the erosion control measures can be removed.

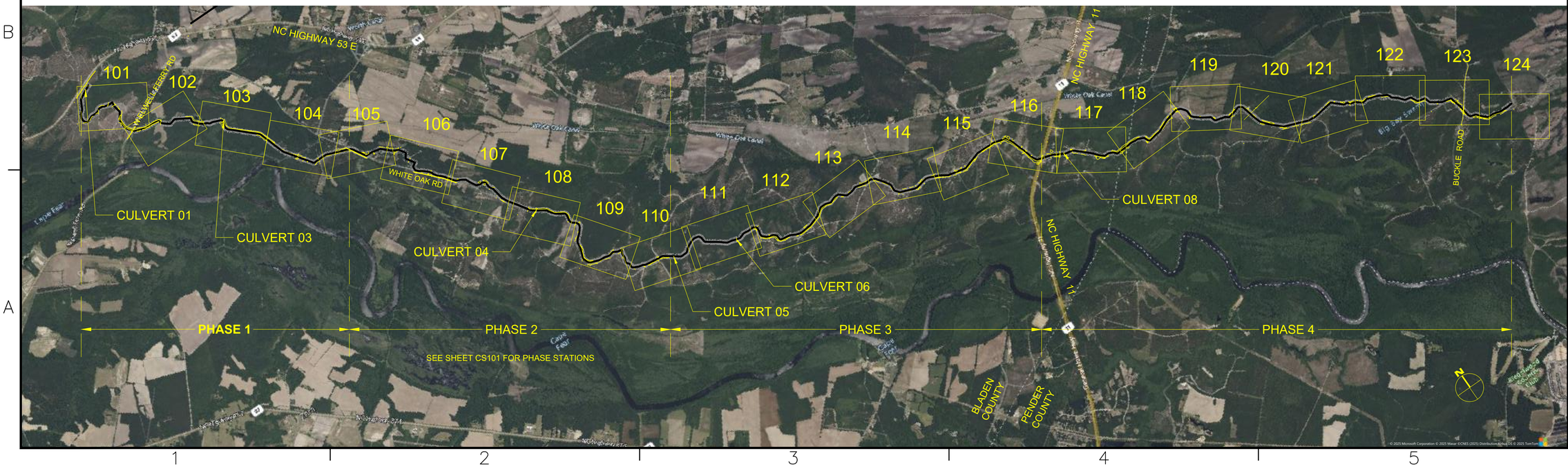
Appendix B: Plan Drawings Cover Sheet

WHITE OAK LEVEE REPAIR

WHITE OAK DIKE

BLADEN AND PENDER COUNTIES

INDEX OF SHEETS



REVISIONS

DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED

PROGRESS PRINT
DRAFT
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

CATLIN
Engineers and Scientists
220 Old Dairy Road
Wilmington, NC 28405
CATLINUSA.COM
Corporate Licensure No. for Engineering Services C-0585

WHITE OAK LEVEE REPAIR
WHITE OAK DIKE
BLADEN AND PENDER COUNTIES

COVER SHEET

DESIGNED BY:	JAR
DRAWN BY:	ALW
CHECKED BY:	AKN
APPROVED BY:	BDL
DATE:	APRIL 2025
PROJECT NO:	219090.02
SCALE:	NOT TO SCALE

C-001