U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program
City of Donaldsonville, Louisiana Tier 2 Site Specific Environmental Assessment
NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-30

PHMSA Approval:

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Overview:

The purpose of this Tier 2 Site Specific Environmental Assessment (Tier 2) is to: (1) document the proposed action (the Project) and the need for the action; (2) identify existing conditions; (3) assess the social, economic, and environmental effects using appropriate tools and agency coordination to comply with local, state, and federal environmental laws, regulations, and ordinances; (4) document applicable mitigation commitments that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential effects; and (5) seek comments from the public. This Tier 2 analysis informs Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) assessment as to whether the Project is consistent with the impacts described in the Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program.[1]

As part of this Tier 2, PHMSA is soliciting public comments through a public comment period. This Tier 2 is available on PHMSA's website where comments can be submitted to the contact noted below. PHMSA will accept public comments for 30 days on this Tier 2. PHMSA will consider comments received and incorporate them in the decision-making process. Consultation with appropriate agencies on related processes, regulations, and permits is ongoing. Please submit all comments to: PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-30 in your response.

At the conclusion of the EA process, PHMSA will either issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact," further supplement this Tier 2 with additional analysis, mitigation measures or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

I. Project Description/Proposed Action

Project Title	City of Donaldsonville Natural Gas System Improvements
Project Location	City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Project Description/Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action consists of replacing all cast iron gas mains, sized 2 inches to 4 inches in diameter, within Donaldsonville, Louisiana. The replacement pipeline would be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and would include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It would be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Proposed Action also includes the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which would be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines would be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers would also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The project would not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work would be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines would involve mainly horizontal directional drilling (HDD) methods of construction, with limited cut and cover (trenching) for tie-in pits. The Tier 1 EA described that the majority of site-specific projects would utilize the insertion method of pipe replacement. As described in this document, the City of Donaldsonville would utilize mainly HDD construction methods with limited open trenching, which would result in similar impacts, when compared to the insertion method. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections would be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas

[1] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/11/09/2022-24378/pipeline-safety-notice-of-availability-of-the-tier-1-nationwide-environmental-assessment-for-the

meters would be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline would be abandoned in place after utility services have been moved to the new pipeline. Abandonment of the existing pipeline (versus excavation and removal) would minimize ground disturbance and facilitate the replacement process in a more efficient manner. PHMSA has specific requirements for gas and hazardous liquid pipeline abandonment, found in 49 CRF 192.727 and 195.402(c)(10). These requirements include disconnecting pipelines from all sources and supplies of gas, purging all combustibles and sealing the facilities left in place.

Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. The replacement system, once the existing cast iron pipes in the City of Donaldsonville' entire natural gas distribution system have been replaced, would have an operating pressure that is raised to 65 PSI.

No Action:

The No Action alternative, as required under NEPA, serves as a baseline, and is used to compare impacts resulting from the Proposed Action. Under the No Action alternative, PHMSA would not fund this pipeline replacement project. Additionally, PHMSA would not be able to reduce the inventory of methane leaks and reduce safety risks by replacing pipe prone to leakage. Under this alternative, the City of Donaldsonville would continue to use cast iron pipeline material, and conduct repairs or replacements in the future using non-federal sources of funding, and potentially on an emergency basis, when a pipeline fails. Impacts and benefits associated with replacing the leak prone pipeline within Donaldsonville, Louisiana with updated material would not be undertaken and the safety risks and methane leaks would persist. The replacement pipeline activities would either not be taken or they would be undertaken at a later, uncertain date. Even if pipeline replacement were to happen at some point in the future, environmental mitigation during such a replacement would be unknown. Furthermore, existing economic losses, and increased risk associated with prolonged gas leaks would continue.

Need for Project:

The existing natural gas distribution system pipe is comprised of cast iron pipes over 90 years old. There are many leaks in this old system and replacement/repair parts are difficult to obtain. Therefore, the project is needed to ensure the safe, reliable operation and delivery of energy to the community. The overall needs addressed by this project would include (1) improving upon the safe delivery of energy by reducing the likelihood of incidents, as well as methane leaks; (2) avoiding economic losses caused by pipeline failures; and (3) protecting the environment by reducing climate impacts by remediating aged and failing pipelines and pipe prone to leakage.

Description of the Environmental Setting of the Project Area:

The setting of the project would be within the City of Donaldsonville, which is comprised of residential and commercial areas, adjacent to the Mississippi River and the Bayou Lafourche.

II. Resource Review

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Is the project located in an area designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as non-attainment or maintenance status for one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?	Yes, based on a review of the EPA Greenbook,[2] the project area is in a maintenance area for ozone.
Will the construction activities produce emissions that exceed de minimis thresholds (tons per year) described in the initial Tier 2 EA worksheet?	No.
Will mitigation measures be used to capture blowdown[3]?	No.
Does the system have the capability to reduce pressure on the segments to be replaced? If yes, what is the lowest psi your system can reach prior to venting?	The system currently operates at a reduced pressure of 23 PSI.
Will project proponent commit to reducing pressure on the line to this psi prior to venting? Please calculate venting emissions based on this commitment and also provide comparison figure of venting emissions volume without pressure reduction/drawdown using calculation methods identified in the initial Tier 2 EA worksheet.	The existing system currently operates at 23 PSI. Based on the size of the existing pipes, 6.26 thousand cubic feet (MCF) or 192 kg of methane would be vented during construction.
Estimate the current leak rate per mile based on the type of pipeline material. Based on mileage of replacement and new pipeline material, estimate the total reduction of methane.	The existing leak rate is 38,158 kg/year. Replacement would result in a leak rate of 239 kg/year or a reduction of 37,919 kg/yr. [4]

Conclusion:

The project is in Ascension Parish, which is in a National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) maintenance area for ozone. Ozone is one of the six common air pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act.[5] The EPA calls these "criteria air pollutants" because their levels in outdoor air need to be limited based on health criteria.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative existing and planned pipeline activities, including construction and maintenance activities, would continue unchanged. The project proponent would continue to use cast iron pipe material. The total methane emissions for the pipelines within the project area were extrapolated over 20 years to represent the continuation of methane release under the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, PHMSA estimates that 38,158 kg of methane would be released each year from the existing pipelines within the project

[2] https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-national-area-and-county-level-multi-pollutant-information

[3] Blowdown refers to the venting of natural gas in current facilities, in order to begin rehabilitation, repair, or replacement activities.

[4] Leak rates are based on Pre-1990 Installation emission factors found in *Table 1 Average methane emission factors for natural gas pipelines (adopted from EPA GHG Inventory, Annex 3.6, Table 3.62)* in the November 9, 2022, PHMSA: Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment, Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Analysis.

[5] https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ground-level-ozone-basics

area. This amounts to 763,168 kg of methane over a 20-year time frame. See Appendix B, Air Quality, for the methane leak rate calculations.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action alternative would result in minor air quality impacts associated with exhaust emissions from construction activities and the intentional venting of methane contained in the existing pipelines prior to replacement. Pipeline blowdowns are typically necessary to ensure that construction and maintenance work can be conducted safely on depressurized natural gas facilities and pipelines. PHMSA calculated construction emissions using information from EPA's MOVES model[6] to determine if the project would exceed EPA's thresholds for NAAQS.[7] Due to the relatively minor scope of the proposed action, impacts to local air quality resulting from construction activities such as dust and exhaust from construction equipment, would be temporary and considered *de minimis*. Thus, the Proposed Action alternative does not require a General Conformity Analysis under Section 176(c)(4) of the Clean Air Act for the proposed project sites.

Venting methane is required when service is switched from the existing line to the newly constructed line, but the volume of vented gas can depend on the ability to reduce pressure on the pipe segment or other mitigation actions. Therefore, some methane would be vented into the atmosphere during construction. Based on the current operating pressure of 23 PSI and a pipe diameter that varies from 2 – 4 inches, PHMSA estimates 6.26 MCF of methane (or 192 kg) would be vented into the atmosphere during construction.

See Appendix B, Air Quality, for the emissions calculations and methane venting calculations.

As described in the Tier 1 EA, methane leaks from natural gas distribution pipelines increase with age and are considerably higher for cast iron and steel pipelines, as compared with plastic. Replacing leak prone pipe with newer, more durable materials would reduce leaks and methane emissions. Based on the current leak rate of the existing pipe within the project area, this project would reduce overall emissions by approximately 37,727 kg of methane in the first year (when considering the methane that would be released from blowdown that would occur during construction) and would reduce approximately 37,919 kg of methane per year thereafter. This amounts to a reduction of approximately 758,195 kg of methane over a 20-year time frame. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that the proposed project would have a net benefit to air quality from the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and that no indirect or cumulative impacts would result from the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville shall implement the following mitigation measures:

- Efficient use of on-road and non-road vehicles, by minimizing speeds and vehicles;
- Minimizing excavation to the greatest extent practical;
- Use of cleaner, newer, non-road equipment as practicable;
- Minimizing all vehicle idling and at minimum, conforming with local idling regulations;
- Ensuring that all vehicles and equipment are in proper operating condition;
- On-road and non-road engines must meet EPA exhaust emission standards (40 CFR Parts 85, 86, and 89);
- Covering open-bodied trucks while transporting materials;
- Watering, or use of other approved dust suppressants, at construction sites and on unpaved roadways,

[6] MOVES and Mobile Source Emissions Research | US EPA
[7] https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-tables

as necessary;
- Minimizing the area of soil disturbance to those necessary for construction;
- Minimizing construction site traffic by using offsite parking and shuttle buses, as necessary.

Water Resources	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Are there water resources within the project area, such as wetlands, streams, rivers, or floodplains? If so, would the project temporarily or permanently impact wetlands or waterways?	Yes, according to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps, the Mississippi River and the Bayou Lafourche are adjacent to the project. No waterways would be directly impacted by the project.
Under the Clean Water Act, is a Section 401 State certification potentially required? If yes, describe anticipated permit and how project proponent will ensure permit compliance.	No, it is not anticipated that a 401 permit would be required.
Under the Clean Water Act, is a USACE Section 404 Permit required for the discharge of dredge and fill material? If yes, describe anticipated permit and how project proponent will ensure permit compliance.	No. There will be no discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States.
Under the Clean Water Act, is an EPA or State Section 402 permit required for the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States? Is a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required?	Yes, the contractor will have to file a Notice of Intent (LA form ID CSW-G) showing the City of Donaldsonville as a joint permitee with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LADEQ). A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and a Section 402 Permit will be required under Louisiana's general construction permit.
Will work activities take place within a FEMA designated floodplain? If so, describe any permanent or temporary impacts and the required coordination efforts with state or local floodplain regulatory agencies.	No
Will the proposed project activities potentially occur within a coastal zone[8] or affect any coastal use or natural resource of the coastal zone, requiring a Consistency Determination and Certification?	The City of Donaldsonville is not within Louisiana's Coastal Zone boundary.[9]
Conclusion: PHMSA reviewed NWI maps to assist in identifying aquatic features including wetlands, streams, and other water resources in or near the project area. Based on a review of the NWI maps, topographic maps, and information provided by the City of Donaldsonville, the Bayou Lafourche is located along the project's western boundary and the Mississippi River is located to the north of the project area. There are no other water resources	

[8] The term "coastal zone" means the coastal waters (including the lands therein and thereunder) and the adjacent shorelands (including the waters therein and thereunder), strongly influenced by each other and in proximity to the shorelines of the several coastal states, and includes islands, transitional and intertidal areas, salt marshes, wetlands, and beaches.)
[9] https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OCM/CoastalZoneBoundary/CZB2012/maps/Outreach_Map.pdf

identified in the project area. PHMSA also reviewed FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer to identify any special flood hazard areas in the project area. FEMA's map indicates the project area is mostly comprised of flood Zone X and is noted to have a reduced flood risk due to a levee. The Bayou Lafourche is identified as Zone A, and the Mississippi River is designated as Zone AE. Areas designated as Zone X are outside of any designated special flood hazard areas. Areas designated as Zone AE and A are special flood hazard areas and correspond to the one percent annual chance of flooding (100-year floodplain). The City of Donaldsonville is outside of Louisiana's Coastal Zone Boundary.

See Appendix C, Water Resources.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the existing pipeline will remain in the current location and normal maintenance activities would continue, and the City of Donaldsonville would respond to emergency pipeline failures if and when they occur. Depending on the location of the maintenance or emergency activities, work in the western portion of the project area could be in close proximity to the Bayou Lafourche where the City of Donaldsonville would need to take precautions to avoid adverse impacts to these sensitive areas. Additionally, if work was to encroach into a special flood hazard area, prior coordination with the local Floodplain Manager may be required.

Proposed Action:

The proposed Action Alternative includes replacing approximately 8.3 miles of existing pipelines. The new gas lines would be installed by HDD methods, within three feet and parallel to the existing gas lines all within existing ROW. HDD is a trenchless method of installing underground pipelines and provides a way to avoid impacting sensitive areas, such as wetlands, existing utilities, structures, etc. by boring relatively shallow arcs along a specific path underground using a surface drill rig. Appropriate pre-construction surveys and planning activities would identify a prescribed bore path for the drill. For this project, the City of Donaldsonville would excavate small areas, approximately 25 square feet, to allow for pipe connections between HDD bores. Directional boring work normally includes excavated pits that collect the drilling fluids that are pumped to the cutting head or the drill to create and lubricate the passage of the new pipe. The fluids in the pits can be collected and disposed of or reclaimed. There would be no direct impacts to the Mississippi River or the Bayou Lafourche during construction from HDD construction or from excavated pits for tie-ins. All excavation associated with construction would take place 100 ft from the edge of the Bayou Lafourche, outside of potential wetland habitat, within the maintained ROW. The City of Donaldsonville would have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for the work and would ensure that the appropriate permits are obtained, prior to the commencement of land disturbance activities. The existing pipelines would be purged of natural gas, sealed on each end, and abandoned in their current location. All work would take place outside of any designated special flood hazard areas.

Based on information provided by the project proponent and a review of available information, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no temporary or permanent impacts to water resources. The new pipeline placement and abandonment of the existing pipeline is not anticipated to cause any reasonably foreseeable indirect effects or cumulative effects to water resources as none are in the footprint of the proposed work. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that there would be no adverse impacts to water resources.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville shall avoid staging in wetlands or floodplains and all preconstruction contours shall be restored with natural areas reseeded or repaved as soon as practical. Best Management Practices shall be used during construction to control sediment and erosion and prevent pollutants from entering adjacent waterways.

The City of Donaldsonville shall avoid any direct impacts to Bayou Lafourche by using directional bore methods, maintaining at least a 100-foot buffer from the edge of the waterway for entrance and exit pits and tie-ins.

The City of Donaldsonville shall develop and implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan and obtain the appropriate NPDES permit prior to commencing land disturbance activities.

The City of Donaldsonville shall restore all construction areas to pre-construction contours.

Groundwater and Hazardous Materials/Waste	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Does the project have potential to encounter and impact groundwater? If yes, describe potential impacts from construction activities.	The existing cast iron gas mains are approximately 3 feet deep, which is the depth that tie-ins to existing pipes would be made. Tie-ins between segments of HDD bored pipe would also be made at this depth.
Will the project require boring or directional drilling that may require pits containing mud and inadvertent return fluids? If yes, describe measures that will be taken during construction activities to prevent impacts to groundwater resources.	Yes, directional drilling construction methods would be utilized. Erosion control measures would be implemented to mitigate runoff and would be included in a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.
Will the project potentially involve a site(s) contaminated by hazardous waste? Is there any indication that the pipeline was ever used to convey coal gas? If yes, PHMSA will work with the project proponent for required studies.	No.
Does the project have the potential to encounter or disturb lead pipes or asbestos?	No.

Conclusion:

PHMSA reviewed EPA's EnviroAtlas[10] to identify any brownfield properties, hazardous waste sites, and superfund sites. There were numerous hazardous waste sites identified in the project area. Hazardous waste information is identified in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information (RCRAInfo), which is a national program that includes an inventory of all generators, transporters, treaters, storers, and disposers of hazardous waste that are required to provide information about their activities to state environmental agencies.[11] It is noted that the presence of a hazardous waste site does not indicate an identified environmental concern. There are no brownfield or superfund sites in the project area.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil

[10] https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/
[11] RCRAInfo Overview | US EPA

Survey[12] the project area is mainly comprised of somewhat poorly drained soils where the depth to the water table is found between 18-48 inches.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, pipes would remain in their current location and ongoing and routine maintenance activities would occur. Pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. While there are no adverse impacts to groundwater anticipated by the No Action alternative, increased methane emissions are likely to occur if the leak prone pipes remain (EPA, PRO Fact Sheet No. 402[13]) and the risk of failure is higher among these types of pipes. Therefore, under the no action alternative, PHMSA anticipates an increased risk for the release of methane, both as leaks and during a pipeline failure, which could then result in ground disturbances from construction activities, potentially impacting groundwater.

Proposed Action:

Under the Proposed Action alternative, new gas lines would be installed with 48 inches of cover, except where tie-ins would occur, which would be at a depth of 36 inches below grade. Service lines would be installed adjacent to the existing service pipes. New pipeline installation would occur by directional boring methods which would minimize soil disturbance. The tie in locations would occur in an excavated area approximately 25 square feet in size. There is the potential for encountering groundwater during excavation activities due to the depth of excavation. Should groundwater be intercepted during construction, dewatering may be required during construction. The City of Donaldsonville would abide by a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to ensure no migration of contaminants or soils occur during construction. All disturbed areas would be re-seeded or paved (as appropriate) and restored to preconstruction conditions.

PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no adverse impacts to groundwater associated with the project. Additionally, there are no hazardous waste, brownfield, or superfund sites within the immediate project area that could be potentially impacted by the Proposed Action alternative. PHMSA has not identified any indirect or cumulative effects to groundwater or hazardous materials.

Mitigation Measures:

In the event of a release of hazardous materials/waste into the environment during construction, the City of Donaldsonville shall notify the appropriate emergency response agencies, potentially impacted residents, and regulatory agencies of the release or exposure.

The City of Donaldsonville shall utilize a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan which would identify appropriate construction and restoration activities to minimize the potential impacts to groundwater. All impacted areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions.

[12] https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

[13] Insert Gas Main Flexible Liners at https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/documents/insertgasmainflexibleliners.pdf#:~:text=Methane%20emissions%20reductions%20come%20from%20lower%20leakage%20rates,pipe%20and%20external%20corrosion%20in%20unprotected%20steel%20piping.

Soils	
Will all bare soils be stabilized using methods using methods identified in the initial Tier 2 EA worksheet? Will additional measures be required?	Yes. All bare soils will be stabilized in accordance with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.
Will the project require unique impacts related to soils?	No.

Conclusion:

PHMSA obtained a custom soil report for the project area from the NRCS's Web Soil Survey, which indicates that the project area is comprised mainly of soils classified as Commerce silt loam and Convent silt loam. These are somewhat poorly drained soils where the depth to the water table is normally found between 18-48 inches. It is noted that the project area is an urban, residential area where ground disturbance activities have already occurred and there are very few areas, if any, that remain in a natural state. Therefore, while the soils report provides valuable information, the soils have been disturbed and likely contain some degree of fill material brought in as a suitable base for construction and transportation infrastructure.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the cast iron pipes would remain in their current location and soils would remain in their current state and condition. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. Some soil disturbance would occur during emergency repairs and the affected areas would be restored upon completion. Under either scenario, no adverse impacts to soils would be anticipated under the No Action alternative.

Proposed Action:

The City of Donaldsonville would replace cast iron pipelines within the existing ROW using HDD methods, with small, excavated areas for pipe connections between HDD bores. All disturbed areas would be re-seeded or paved (as appropriate) and restored to pre-existing conditions. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent any erosion and sedimentation from migrating into adjacent waters. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no adverse impact to soils resulting from the Proposed Action alternative. Additionally, there are no indirect or cumulative impacts anticipated as the City of Donaldson would restore all areas to pre-construction conditions.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville shall utilize best management practices, as appropriate, to control sediment and erosion during construction which may include silt fencing, check dams, and promptly covering all bare areas. All impacted areas shall be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Biological Resources	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Based on review of IPaC and NOAA Fisheries database, are there any federally threatened or endangered species and/or critical habitat potentially occurring within the geographic range of the project area?[14] If no,	Yes, based on review of the USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Additionally, Louisiana state resources were inventoried to identify state listed species.

[14] https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/ and https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species-directory/threatened-endangered

no further analysis is required.	
Will the project impact any areas in or adjacent to habitat for Federally, listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat? If no, provide justification and avoidance measures. If yes, PHMSA will work with the project proponent to conduct necessary consultation with resource agencies.	No.

Conclusion:

The project area is developed and comprised of both commercial and residential areas. PHMSA requested an official species list through the USFWS's IPaC website. The west Indian manatee (Trichechus manatus) and the pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus) are two federally listed threatened or endangered species, potentially occurring within the project boundary based on the project's location. Additionally, the alligator snapping turtle (Macrochelys temminckii) and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus)* were identified as species that could potentially occur in the project area. There is no designated critical habitat within the project area. Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries database was reviewed to assist in identifying potential state protected species occurring in the Ascension Parish.[15] See Appendix D, Biological Resources, for federal and state species lists.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing conditions would remain, and normal maintenance activities would occur. The project area is in an urbanized environment and therefore has very limited biological resources present. Additionally, the project area does not contain suitable habitat for listed species, therefore no impacts to biological resources would occur under the No Action alternative.

Proposed Action:

The project area is in an urbanized environment where the areas of disturbance would occur within the existing ROW. The replacement mains would be installed approximately three feet, adjacent to and paralleling the existing cast iron gas mains. Due to other, existing utilities within the street and highway ROW, the replacement gas mains would be installed adjacent to the existing roadway in grassy areas and, in some cases, under the existing concrete sidewalks. The exact location of the installation would be determined once the existing utilities in the ROW have been surveyed. New pipelines would be installed by HDD methods and minimal surface ground disturbances would occur at the tie in points between gas main segments. Because work would occur within ROW that has been previously impacted (pipeline laid in the ground in close proximity to the location where new pipes would be laid and subsequently paved), and is a maintained transportation corridor, the immediate project area has very limited biological resources present. The two identified federally protected species potentially occurring in the area are aquatic species, whose habitat is in open water. There will be no in-water work associated with this project and best management practices would be used to prevent soil migration or erosion from occurring and impacting adjacent waters. Therefore, in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act,[16] PHMSA's assessment is that the project would have no effect to federally threatened or endangered species. Under Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), federal agencies must confer with the USFWS if their action would jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species. As a candidate species, the monarch butterfly receives no statutory protection under the ESA. The alligator snapping turtle is

[15] https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/rare-species-and-natural-communities-by-parish
[16] 50 CFR § 402.02

proposed for listing and the project is unlikely to jeopardize this species existence. PHMSA's assessment is that the project would have no adverse impacts to state listed species or other biological resources and that there are no indirect or cumulative impacts anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action alternative.
Mitigation Measures: The City of Donaldson is responsible for abiding by all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Cultural Resources	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Does the project include any ground disturbing activities, modifications to buildings or structures, or construction or installation of any new aboveground components?	There will be ground disturbing activities at tie-in points between HDD bore segments and service connections.
Is the project located within a previously identified local, state, or National Register historic district or adjacent to any locally or nationally recognized historic properties? This information can be gathered from the local government and/or State Historic Preservation Office.[17]	The project area includes the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.
Does the project or any part of the project take place on tribal lands or land where a tribal cultural interest may exist?[18]	No.
Are there any nearby properties or resources that either appear to be or are documented to have been constructed more than 45 years ago?[19] Does there appear to be a group of properties of similar age, design, or method of construction? Any designed landscapes such as a park or cemetery? Please provide photographs to show the context of the project area and adjacent properties.	The majority of structures within the project boundary are 45 years old or older. Many of the homes in the Historic District are of the same style and method of construction. There is a park, Louisiana Square, that fronts Railroad Avenue between Nicholls and Opelousas Streets and another park, Crescent Park, between Crescent Park and Mississippi Streets. There are two cemeteries. One is located at the intersection of St. Patrick and Williams Streets and another at the intersection of St. Vincent and Opelousas Streets. The gas main construction would be on the opposite sides of the streets from the parks and cemeteries, so there will be no intrusion of construction activities in these areas.
Has the entire area and depth of construction for the project been previously disturbed by the original installation or other activities? If so, provide any documentation of prior ground disturbances.	The areas adjacent to and including the location of the proposed gas mains has previously been disturbed by installation of the existing water, gas, telephone, storm drains and sanitary sewers. While water and telephone are not as deep as the gas mains, storm drainage and sanitary sewers are deeper than the proposed gas mains.

[17] Many SHPOs have an online system at https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm that can tell you previously identified historic properties in your project area. The National Register list at https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm can also be accessed online.

[18] The SHPO may have information on areas of tribal interest, or a good source is the HUD TDAT website at https://egis.hud.gov/TDAT/.

[19] Local tax and property records or historic maps may indicate dates of construction.

Will project implementation require removal or disturbance of any stone or brick sidewalk, roadway, or landscape materials or other old or unique features? Please provide photos of the project area that include the roadway and sidewalk materials in the project and staging areas.	All of the street pavement is either asphalt or cast in place concrete. Sidewalks are predominately cast in place concrete and the few brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent park are on opposite sides of the street from where the gas mains would be installed because there is no gas service into either park. Staging areas would be selected by the Contractor, which are normally in open unimproved grassy or fenced commercial areas.

Conclusion:

PHMSA must consider the impact of projects for which they provide funding on historic and archeological properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to any potential vibration effects. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. See Appendix G, Cultural Resources, for the APE.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing conditions would remain, and normal maintenance activities would occur. These activities could result in ground disturbance that might affect historic resources. However, no federal funding would be applied and therefore, Section 106 would not be required.

Proposed Action:

PHMSA identified properties based on available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. PHMSA also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP. PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and would not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking would also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store would take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location. Additionally, pipeline replacements would take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work would not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks within the Donaldsonville Historic District or any other contributing resources within the district. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of either property. Furthermore, project work would take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended.

While the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas. A mitigative measure is being added to state that if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA's assessment is that the Undertaking would result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

A letter was sent on February 13, 2024, to the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, federally recognized tribes with a potential interest in the project area, and consulting parties outlining the Section 106 process, including a description of the undertaking, delineation and justification of the APE, identification of historic properties and an evaluation and proposed finding of no adverse effects. PHMSA has requested comments on the Section 106 process, identification of historic properties, and proposed finding within 30 days of receipt of the letter. See Appendix G, Cultural Resources, for additional information.

Mitigation Measures:

If, during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the City of Donaldsonville will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the State Historic Preservation Office and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction.

In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall halt, and the City of Donaldsonville shall immediately contact PHMSA as well as the proper authorities in accordance with applicable state statutes to determine if the discovery is subject to a criminal investigation, of Native American origin, or associated with a potential archaeological resource. At all times human remains must be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. Human remains and associated artifacts will be left in place and not disturbed. No skeletal remains or materials associated with the remains will be photographed, collected, or removed until PHMSA has conducted the appropriate consultation and developed a plan of action. Project activities shall not resume until PHMSA provides further direction.

All work, material, equipment, and staging to remain within the road's existing right-of-way or utility easement or other staging areas as identified in the environmental documentation. If the scope of work changes in any way that may alter the effects to historic properties as described herein, the grant recipient must notify PHMSA, and consultation may be reopened under Section 106.

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. Staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

Section 4(f)	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Are there Section 4(f) properties within or immediately adjacent to the project area? If yes, provide a list of properties or as an attachment.	Yes, Louisiana Square park and Crescent Park.
Will any construction activities occur within the property boundaries of a Section 4(f) property? If so, please detail these activities and indicate if these are temporary or permanent uses of the Section 4(f) property. Further coordination with PHMSA is required for all projects that might impact a Section 4(f) property.	No.

Conclusion:

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Act of 1966 as amended (Section 4(f)) (49 U.S.C. § 303(c)); is a federal law that applies to transportation projects that require funding or other approvals by the USDOT. Section 4(f) prohibits the Secretary of Transportation from approving any program or project which requires the use of any publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or any land from an historic site of national, state, or local significance unless:

- There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the land;
- The program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to such park, recreational area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site, resulting from such use.

There are two potential 4(f) resources identified in the project area. Louisiana Square park is located between Railroad Avenue between Nicholls Street and Opelousas Streets. Crescent Park is located between Crescent Park and Mississippi Streets.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no change to existing pipeline infrastructure pursuant to federal funding provided by the Program. Therefore, there would be no use of Section 4(f) property under the No Action alternative.

Proposed Action:

Under the Proposed Action alternative, construction activities would not impact Louisiana Square park or Crescent park. The pipeline replacement work near these parks would be on the opposite side of the street from the parks and therefore, there would be no impact on the parks. Access to these parks would remain throughout the duration of construction, no staging of equipment and no physical use of the park would occur. In addition, as described in the Noise section of this Tier 2 EA, no adverse impacts associated with construction noise have been identified that could affect the use of this property. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no use of any Section 4(f) resources.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville shall ensure that full public use and access to Louisiana Square and Crescent Park is maintained during construction.

Land Use and Transportation	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Will the full extent of the project boundaries remain within the existing right-of-way or easements? If no, please describe any right-of-way acquisitions or additional easements needed.	Yes. All the new gas mains would be located within existing city and state ROW. Service pipes would be installed adjacent to existing service pipes within the existing area of agreement between the City and property owner for installation of the existing and proposed gas service pipe.
Will the project result in detours, transportation restrictions, or other impacts to normal traffic flow or to existing transportation facilities during construction? Will there be any permanent change to existing transportation facilities? If so, what are the changes, and how would changes affect the public?	In general, traffic closures and detours would not be required for execution of the Project. The project specifications would include provisions for the Contractor to submit a street closure/detour plan a minimum of 5 days prior to the planned closure/detour so that the plan can be reviewed and approved by the appropriate authorities.
Will the project interrupt or impede emergency response services from fire, police, ambulance or any other emergency or safety response providers? If so, describe any coordination that will occur with emergency response providers?	The Contractor would notify all emergency services of the pending closure/detour a minimum of 48 hours before the closure/detour is implemented.

Conclusion:

The project is in the City of Donaldsonville, an area comprised of both commercial and residential areas.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, leak prone pipes would remain in their current location. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. No changes to land use would occur.

Proposed Action:

The new pipeline would be installed within the existing infrastructure ROW and all work would occur along the street/ highway or under sidewalks. Any excavation pits would be backfilled with sand, clean soils, and/or gravel and paved or seeded upon completion. The project is replacing existing pipe and does not involve the installation of new pipeline to serve additional areas. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no permanent change to land use. Additionally, there are no indirect impacts anticipated as land use remains the same and no new areas will be served by the replacement pipeline.

During construction, there may be short-term impacts to adjacent residences, businesses and normal traffic patterns. Potential impacts include an increase in noise, dust, and transportation accessibility, as a result of construction and construction staging. Local and state regulations guide the transport of machinery, equipment, and automobiles around the construction areas. Temporary traffic impacts may occur on the local road network and adjacent pedestrian routes could be altered. The project is not anticipated to result in detours. However, if detours become necessary, the City of Donaldson's contractor would submit a traffic plan to address any detours and/or closures and would be coordinated and approved by the appropriate authorities. Regular flow of traffic

would be maintained to the maximum extent practical. The City of Donaldson, or their designated representative would notify emergency services of the scheduled work. Therefore, because the work consists of the replacement of existing pipeline, would not convert any new areas into a different use and impacts would only occur during construction, PHMSA's assessment is that impacts related to land use are considered minor and temporary.

PHMSA considered the cumulative effects of this action with ongoing and planned transportation related construction projects that could cumulatively impact land use and transportation. All municipalities and businesses must abide by the same requirements and coordinate with state and local agencies on any disruptions to normal traffic patterns. Through this coordination, the overall cumulative effects of multiple projects occurring would be minimized by planning and scheduling efforts with responsible agency oversight. Land use changes are not anticipated as the projects are occurring in an urbanized area that is built out and therefore would not change the existing residential or commercial use.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville shall ensure traffic flows are maintained to the maximum extent possible and should use traffic control measures to assist traffic negotiating through construction areas, as needed.

The City of Donaldsonville, or their appointed representative, shall coordinate with state and local agencies regarding detours and/or routing adjustments to normal traffic patterns and will notify any potentially impacted residents and/or business owners.

The City of Donaldsonville shall ensure an approved traffic control plan is in place, prior to street closures or detours, if required.

Noise and Vibration	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Will the project construction occur for longer than a month at a single project location?	No.
Will the project location be in proximity (less than 50-ft.) to noise sensitive receivers (residences, schools, houses of worship, etc.)? If so, what measures will be taken to reduce noise and vibration impacts to sensitive receptors?	Yes. The project specifications require noise levels for construction activities to be no greater than 55 A weighted decibel (dBA) from the hours of 7 AM to 7 PM and, if after hours work is to be done, noise levels would be limited to 45 dBA from the hours of 7 PM to 7 AM.
Will the project require high-noise and vibration inducing construction methods? If so, please specify.	No.
Will the project comply with state and local ordinances? If so, identify applicable ordinances and limitations on noise/vibration times or sound levels.	There is no Louisiana or local law limiting construction noise; however, the contract specifications have limitations on construction noise as identified above.
Will construction activities require large bulldozers, hoe ram, or other vibratory equipment within 20 ft of a structure?	No.
Conclusion:	

The ambient noise within the project area consists of a combination of environmental noise from road traffic, construction, industry, the built environment, population density and other sources.

No Action:

Under the No Action, the project would not move forward and the pipelines along the designated streets in the project area would not be replaced at this time, and likely would not be replaced all at once. It is likely that these pipelines would be repaired or replaced due to a leak under emergency conditions only in the immediately affected areas. If replacement or repairs occur under emergency conditions, noise from construction equipment would add to that of the current ambient noise and would be of a shorter duration.

Proposed Action:

The pipeline replacement project would result in temporary construction noise impacts; however, no vibration impact should occur. Pipeline would be installed via directional bore methods where drill rigs, excavators, reamers, pavers, and similar equipment would be used to install pipeline. The use of construction equipment would result in temporary noise impacts. There are sensitive noise receptors (residences, houses of worship, etc.) located adjacent to the streets where work would occur. These receptors are likely to experience temporary noise impacts while outdoors in the vicinity of the work. The City of Donaldsonville has committed to requiring project specifications pertaining to noise levels for construction activities to be no greater than 55 dBA from the hours of 7 AM to 7 PM. If after-hours work would occur, noise levels would be limited to 45 dBA from the hours of 7 PM to 7 AM. PHMSA has included this commitment as a mitigative measure to ensure noise remains minimal. Therefore, the level of noise during construction is considered minor and is not anticipated to result in vibration impacts.

PHMSA considered the cumulative effects of this action with ongoing and planned transportation related construction projects that could cumulatively have an impact on the noise and vibration impacts. Other construction and maintenance projects may occur at the same time as the Proposed Action alternative and cause minor cumulative effects to noise during construction.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville will ensure project specifications pertaining to noise levels for construction activities are limited to no greater than 55 dBA from the hours of 7 AM to 7 PM. If after-hours work is necessary, noise levels should be limited to 45 dBA from the hours of 7 PM to 7 AM.

Environmental Justice	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Using the EPA EJScreen[20] or census data[21], is the project located in an area of minority and/or low-income individuals as defined by USDOT Order 5610.2(c)? If so, provide demographic data for minority and/or low-income individuals within ½ mile from the project area as a percentage of the total population.	According to the US Census Bureau's 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates, the City of Donaldsonville is a predominantly Black or African American Community (83.5%) with per capita income of $16,826 and 45.2% of residents living in poverty.

[20] https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/
[21] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045222

Will the project displace existing residents or workers from their homes and communities? If so, what is the expected duration?	No.
Will the project require service disruptions to homes and communities? If so, what is the expected communication and outreach plan to the residents and the duration of the outages?	Yes, there would be disruption of gas service for each customer when the service is changed from the existing service pipe to the new service pipe. Contract Documents require the contractor to place door hangers on affected buildings stating the date of service disruption at least 48 hours prior to the disruption of service.
Are there populations with Limited English Proficiency located in the project area? If so, what measures will be taken to provide communications in other languages?	The majority of residents in the project area have English proficiency. In the event of non-English speaking residents, a translator would be provided as has been done on other projects within the City.

Conclusion:

PHMSA reviewed socioeconomic data using the EPAs EJScreen and found the population residing within the project area contains 66 percent low income and 79 percent minority population. The percentage of these populations is higher than that of Ascension Parish, which contains 22 percent low income and 33 percent minority population. See Appendix F, Environmental Justice, for socioeconomic data.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing and planned pipeline activities, including construction and maintenance activities, would continue unchanged. The City of Donaldsonville would continue to use leak prone pipe material that could lead to safety incidents and service disruptions. Additionally, if a pipeline segment is not repaired or replaced prior to failure, it is likely to be associated with even more emissions under the No Action alternative. Thus, emissions benefits to the community associated with repairing or replacing existing pipelines with updated material would not be achieved and the incident risks and leaks would remain. There may be some degree of air pollution associated with construction activity for maintenance and repairs of existing pipelines under the No Action alternative, either through planned repair or replacement efforts or unplanned, emergency repairs or replacements.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action alternative would result in an overall reduction in GHG emissions. Construction activities would result in minor, temporary air quality impacts. Noise impacts associated with construction are anticipated to be minor. Traffic impacts would be temporary and only minor disruptions or delays would occur to one lane of traffic. If the need for a street closure or detour arises, a traffic plan would be submitted to the appropriate authorities within a minimum of 5 days prior to the planned closure or detour. There would be a temporary disruption of gas service for each customer when the services are moved to the new gas pipelines and customers would be notified by door hangers at least 48 hours prior to the disruption of service. While there would be temporary impacts to customers resulting from the construction activities, the replacement of leak prone pipe would reduce leaks and the potential for incidents, resulting in an increase in pipeline safety across the system and improve operation and reliability. Therefore, consistent with Executive Order 12898 and DOT Order 5610.2(c), PHMSA's assessment is that the project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations, or other underserved and disadvantaged communities. The

project would have an overall beneficial effect on environmental justice populations and would not result in indirect or cumulative impacts.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville shall provide advanced notification of service disruptions to all affected parties, including residents and businesses adjacent to the project area.

Safety	
Question	**Information and Justification**
Has a risk profile been developed to describe the condition of the current infrastructure and potential safety concerns?	Annual leak studies, in accordance with PHMSA guidelines, are performed on the City of Donaldsonville's natural gas infrastructure.
Has a public awareness program been developed and implemented that follows the guidance provided by the American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162?	Yes.
Does the project area include pipes prone to leakage?	Yes.
Will construction safety methods and procedures to protect human health and prevent/minimize hazardous materials releases during construction, including personal protection, workplace monitoring and site-specific health and safety plans, be utilized? If yes, document measures and reference appropriate safety plans.	Yes; the contract specifications require the Contractor to prepare and implement a construction safety program including methods and procedures per State and Federal requirements.
Has an assessment of the project been performed to analyze the risk and benefits of implementation?	Yes. According to the City of Donaldsonville, the existing system has many existing leaks, one which resulted in an explosion resulting in the deaths of residents. The risks of not implementing the project outweigh the risks of proceeding with the project.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would replace the existing cast iron pipeline. Pipelines that are known to leak based on the material include cast iron, bare steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues (PIPES Act of 2020). PHMSA establishes safety regulations for all pipelines (49 CFR Parts 190-199). In 2011, following major natural gas pipeline incidents, DOT and PHMSA issued a Call to Action to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the highest-risk pipeline infrastructure. Among other factors, pipeline age and material are significant risk indicators. Pipelines constructed of cast and wrought iron, as well as bare steel, are among the pipelines that pose the highest risk. PHMSA continues to encourage legacy pipeline repair or replacement to increase the safety of these segments of the gas distribution systems. Pipeline incidents can result in death, injury, property damage, and environmental damage.

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the existing cast iron pipes would remain in their current location state and

condition. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. Safety risks resulting from existing leak prone pipes remaining in place would persist until the existing cast iron pipes are replaced.

Proposed Action:

The proposed project is necessary to replace leak prone pipeline, would reduce the risk profile of the existing pipeline system prone to methane leakage, and would also benefit disadvantaged rural and urban communities with the safe provision of natural gas. The project responds to the need to address the potentially unsafe condition of the natural gas distribution system of pipelines. The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of pipelines would be constructed in accordance with industry best practices and would comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, including those for safety.

The abandonment of the existing pipeline would be conducted in accordance with PHMSA requirements found in 49 CRF 192.727 and 195.402(c)(10). These requirements include disconnecting pipelines from all sources and supplies of gas, purging all combustibles and sealing the facilities left in place. Properly purging and sealing abandoned pipelines would ensure that the abandoned pipelines pose no risk to safety in their abandoned state. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that the replacement project would improve the overall safety of the City of Donaldsonville's infrastructure.

Mitigation Measures:

The City of Donaldsonville shall ensure their DIMP procedures are updated as necessary, the work is constructed in accordance with industry best practices and the project will comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, including those for safety.

III. Public Involvement

On November 9, 2022, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice (87 FR 67748) with a 30-day comment period soliciting comments on the "Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program." During the 30-day comment period, PHMSA received one comment letter from the APGA on various aspects of the program and air quality related analysis in the EA on December 9, 2022. This APGA letter is available for public review at the Docket No: PHMSA-2022-0123[22]. PHMSA reviewed the comment letter and determined the comments were not substantial and did not warrant further analysis. One comment provided by the APGA indicated that the majority of construction methods used for pipe replacements would be replacement by open trenching and that some may want to abandon the existing pipe rather than removing it for replacement. Any departures from methods described in the Tier 1 EA will require additional documentation from the project proponent, as reflected in this Tier 2.

As part of this Tier 2, PHMSA is soliciting public comments through a public comment period. This Tier 2 is available on PHMSA's website where comments can be submitted to the contact noted below. PHMSA will accept public comments for 30 days on this Tier 2. PHMSA will consider comments received and incorporate them in the decision-making process. Consultation with appropriate agencies on related processes, regulations, and permits is ongoing. Please submit all comments to: PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-30 in your response.

[22] https://www.regulations.gov/document/PHMSA-2022-0123-0002/comment

Appendix A

Project Maps

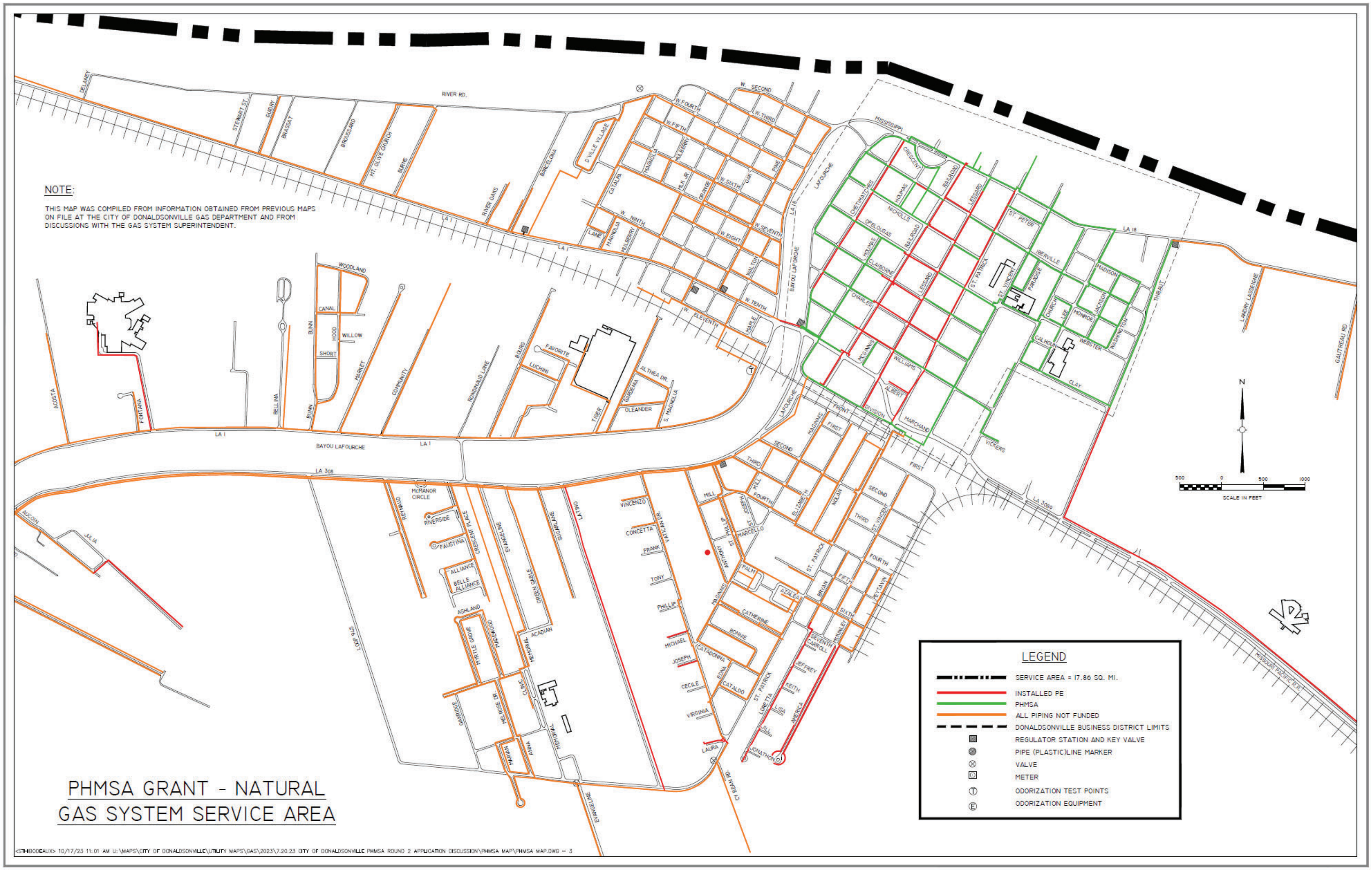
General Project Area Map for the City of Donaldsonville Gas Line Replacement

Name: Donaldsonville, Louisiana Gas Line Replacement
Scale: 12,000
Total Acreage: 204
Ascension Parish, LA

N

Service Layer Credits: Esri Community Maps Contributors, CONANP, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Maxar

Project Map


NOTE:
THIS MAP WAS COMPILED FROM INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM PREVIOUS MAPS ON FILE AT THE CITY OF DONALDSONVILLE GAS DEPARTMENT AND FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GAS SYSTEM SUPERINTENDENT.
LEGEND
SERVICE AREA = 17.86 SQ. MI.
INSTALLED PE
PHMSA
ALL PIPING NOT FUNDED
DONALDSONVILLE BUSINESS DISTRICT LIMITS
REGULATOR STATION AND KEY VALVE
PIPE (PLASTIC)LINE MARKER
VALVE
METER
ODORIZATION TEST POINTS
ODORIZATION EQUIPMENT
SCALE IN FEET
PHMSA GRANT - NATURAL GAS SYSTEM SERVICE AREA

Appendix B

Air Quality Calculations

Table 1. Average methane emission factors for natural gas pipelines (adapted from EPA GHG Inventory, Annex 3.6, Table 3.6-2)

Pipeline Material	Pre-1990 Installation (kg/mile)	1990-2020 Installation (kg/mile)	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)
Cast Iron	4,597.40	1,157.30	2,877.35
Unprotected steel	2,122.30	861.3	1,491.80
Protected steel	59.1	96.7	77.90
Plastic	190.9	28.8	109.85

Table 2. No Action Leak Rate

Pipeline Material Type	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)	Miles	Current Methane Leak Rate (kg/year)
Cast Iron	4,597.40	8.3	38,158
Unprotected steel	2,122.30	0	0
Protected steel	59.1	0	0
Plastic	190.9		0
Total Annual Methane Leak Rate			38,158
20-year Methane Emissions			763,168

Table 3. Proposed Action Leak Rate

Pipeline Material Type	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)	Miles	New Methane Leak Rate (kg/year)
Plastic	28.8	8.3	239
Year 1 Methane Reduction			37,727
Annual Methane Reduction			37,919
20-year Methane Reduction			758,388

Equation 1 was used to estimate blowdown emissions in MCF, assuming a pipeline diameter (d) and pressure (P) described in Table 3.

$$E_{blowdown} = V \times \frac{P_{pipe} + P_{atm}}{P_{atm}} \qquad (1)$$

Where the pipeline volume (V) is calculated by multiplying the cross-sectional area of the pipe by the length of pipeline (L):

$$V = \pi \times \frac{d^2}{4} \times L \qquad (2)$$

Table 4. Proposed Action - Methane Blowdown

Inputs		
Diameter (inches)	2	4
Blowdown Pressure	23	23
Length of Blowdown (feet)	21075	22720
Blowdown (MCF)	1.18	5.08
Total MCF		6.3
Total kg		192

Table 5. Proposed Action- Estimated total project emissions.

	Total Emissions (kg)	Emissions (short tons)
CO	201.37	0.22
NOx	335.59	0.37
VOC	25.80	0.03

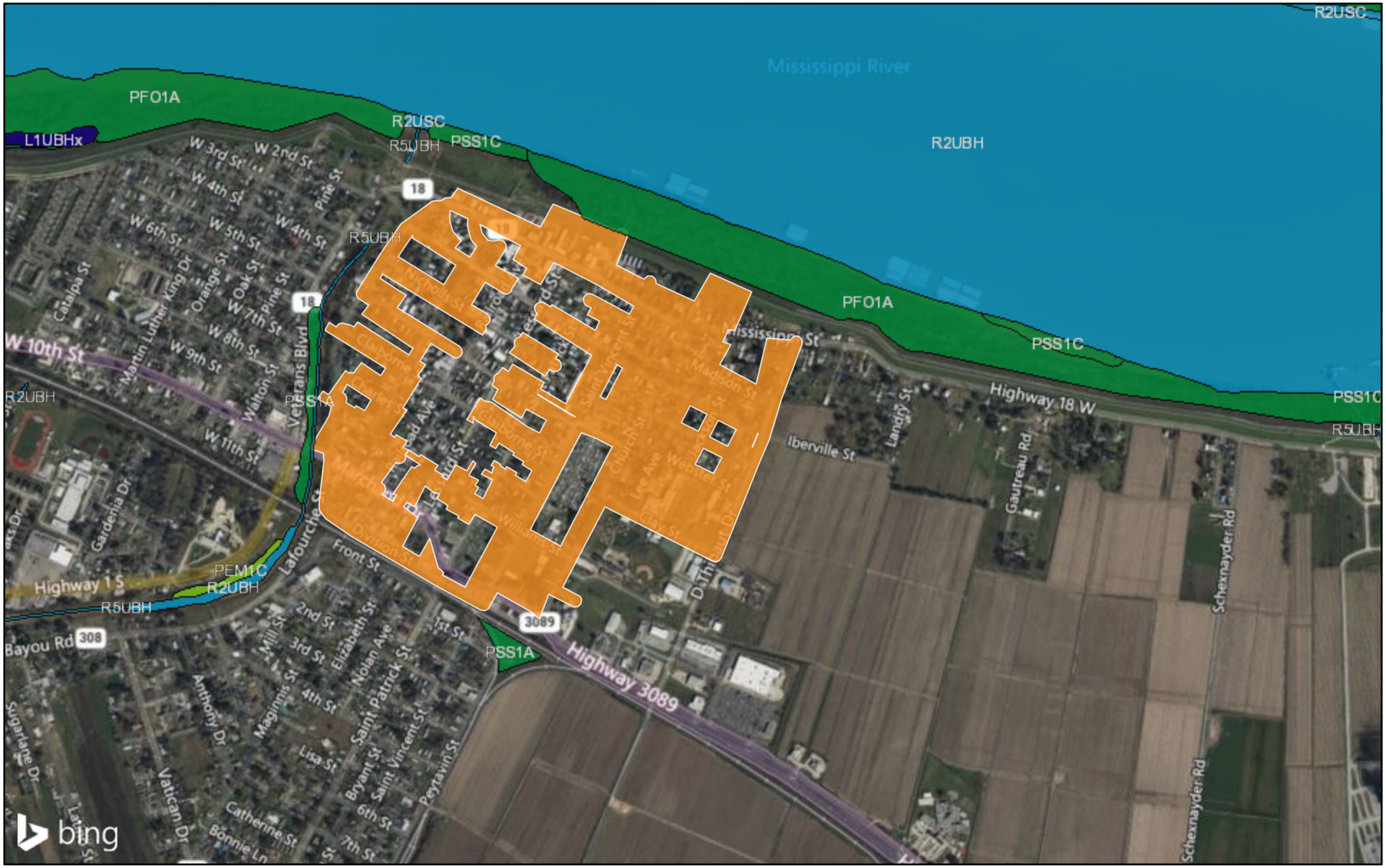
Table 7. EPA's De Minimis Tables

40 CFR 93.153(b)(2)- For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section the following rated apply in maintenance areas. https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-tables	
	Tons/year
Ozone (NOx), SO_2 or NO_2:	
All maintenance areas	100
Ozone (VOC's)	
Maintenance areas inside an ozone transport region	50
Maintenance areas outside an ozone transport region	100
Carbon monoxide: All maintenance areas	100
$PM_{2.5}$ (direct emissions, SO_2, NOx, VOC, and Ammonia)	100
All Maintenance areas	100
Pb: All maintenance areas	25

Appendix C

Water Resources

City of Donaldsonville Pipeline Replacement; NEPAssist Wetlands/Waters



January 31, 2024

Wetlands

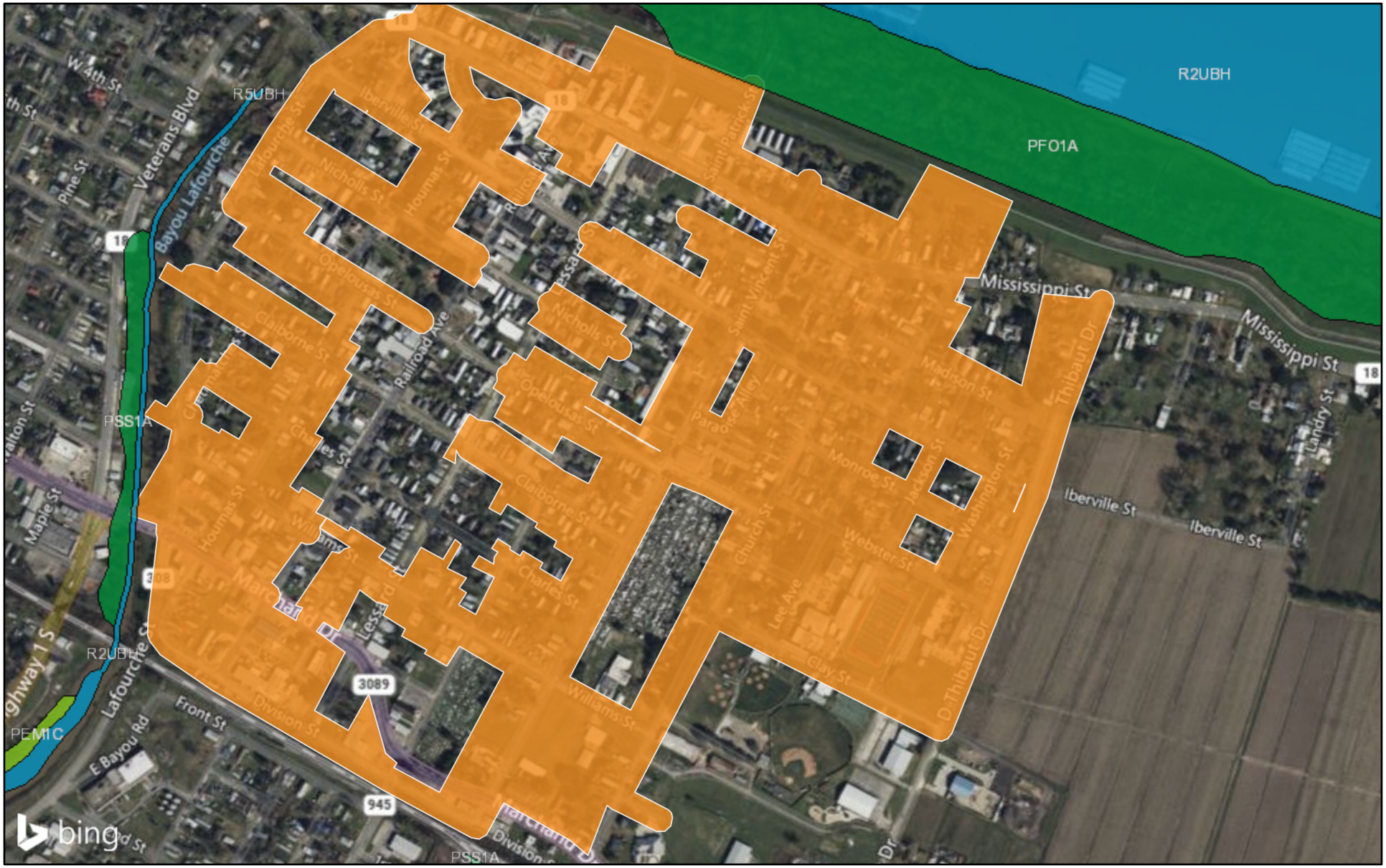
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- project area

1:18,056

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 mi

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 km

City of Donaldsonville Pipeline Replacement; NEPAssist Wetlands/Waters



January 31, 2024

Wetlands

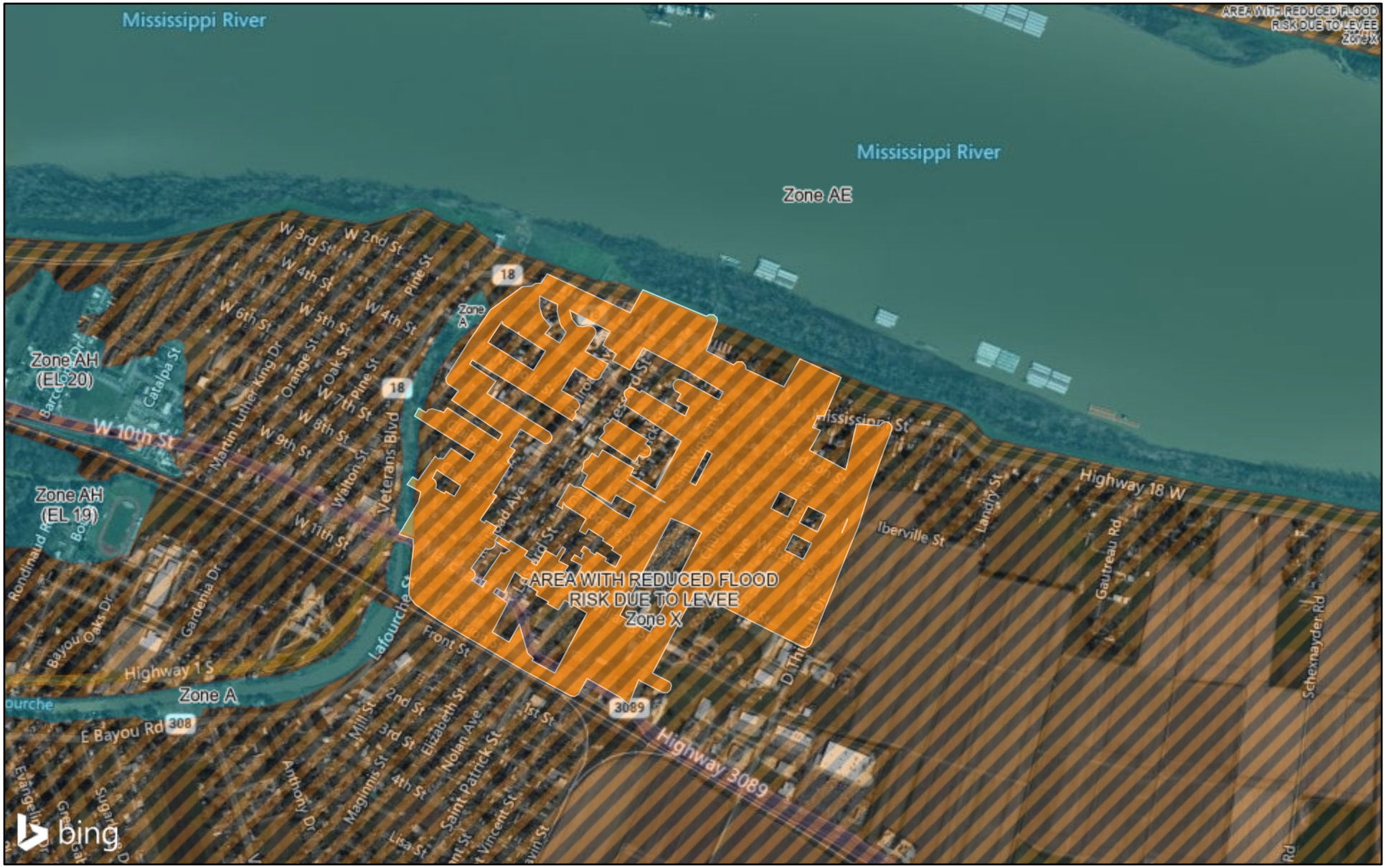
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- project area

1:9,028

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

City of Donaldsonville Pipeline Replacement; NEPAssist FEMA Flood



January 31, 2024

Flood Hazard Zones

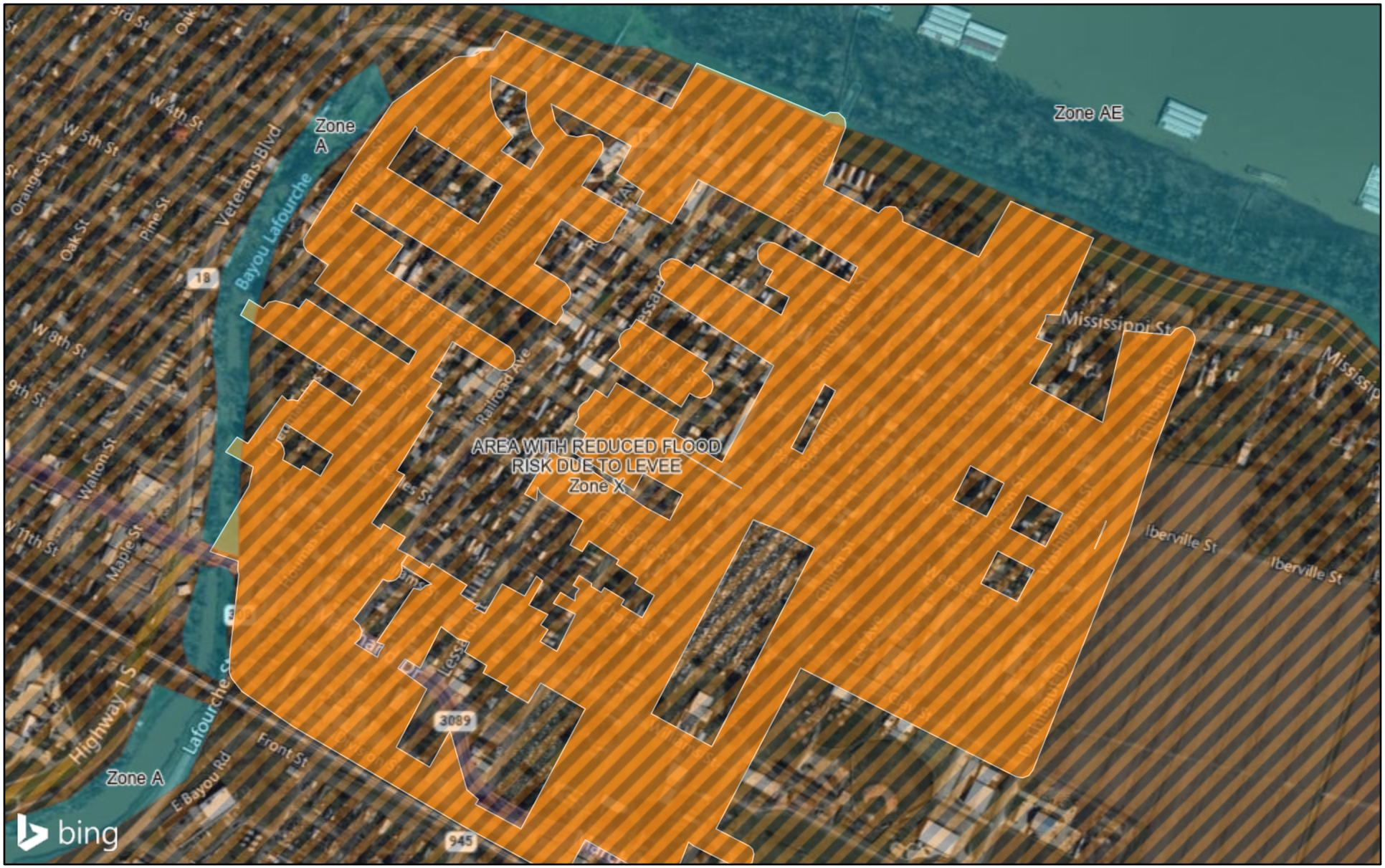
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- Special Floodway
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
- Area with Risk Due to Levee
- project area

1:18,056

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 mi

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 km

City of Donaldsonville Pipeline Replacement; NEPAssist FEMA Flood



January 31, 2024

Flood Hazard Zones

- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- Special Floodway
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
- Area with Risk Due to Levee
- project area

1:9,028

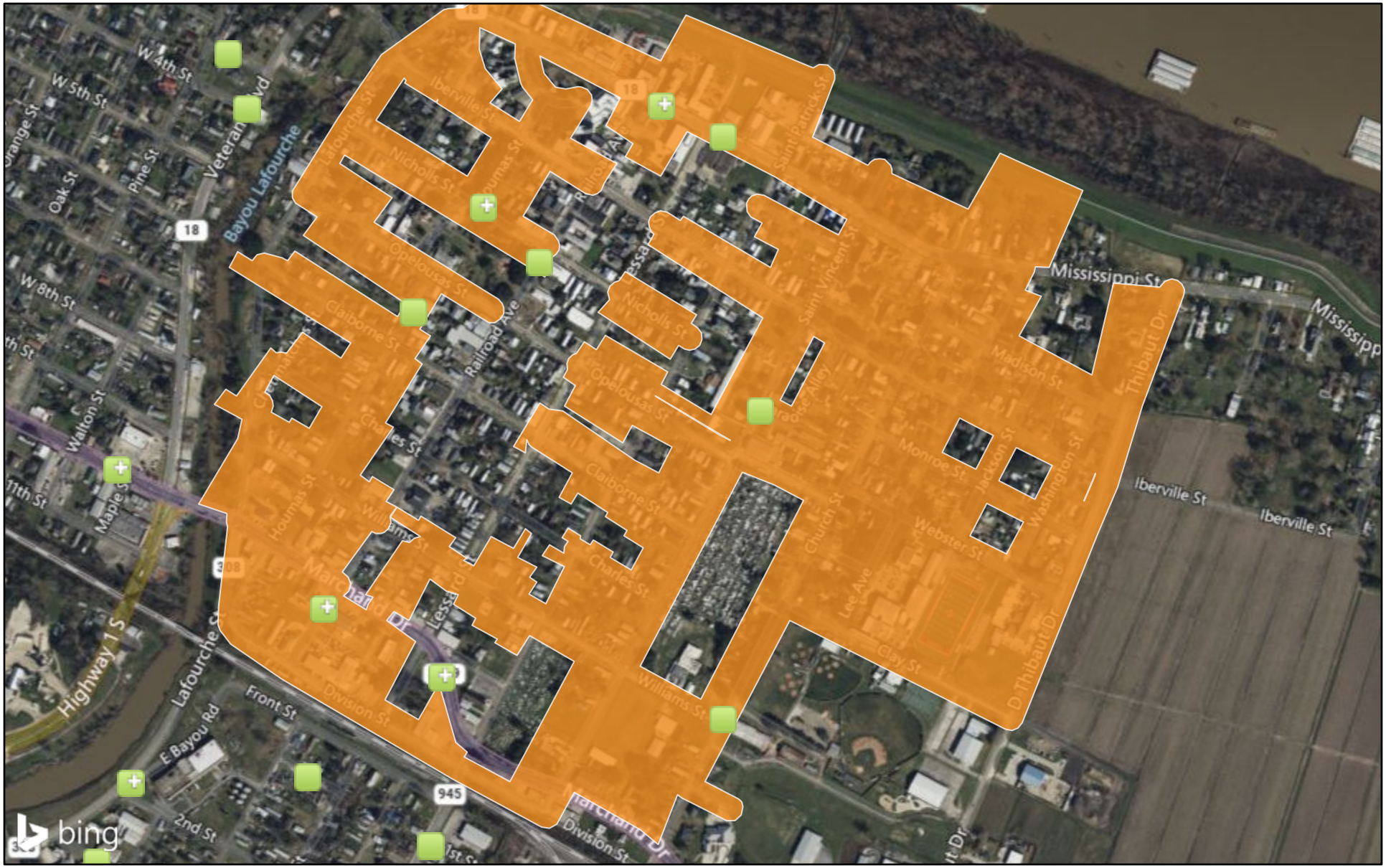
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

Appendix D

Hazardous Materials

City of Donaldsonville Pipeline Replacement; NEPAssist EPA Facilities



January 31, 2024

Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)

project area

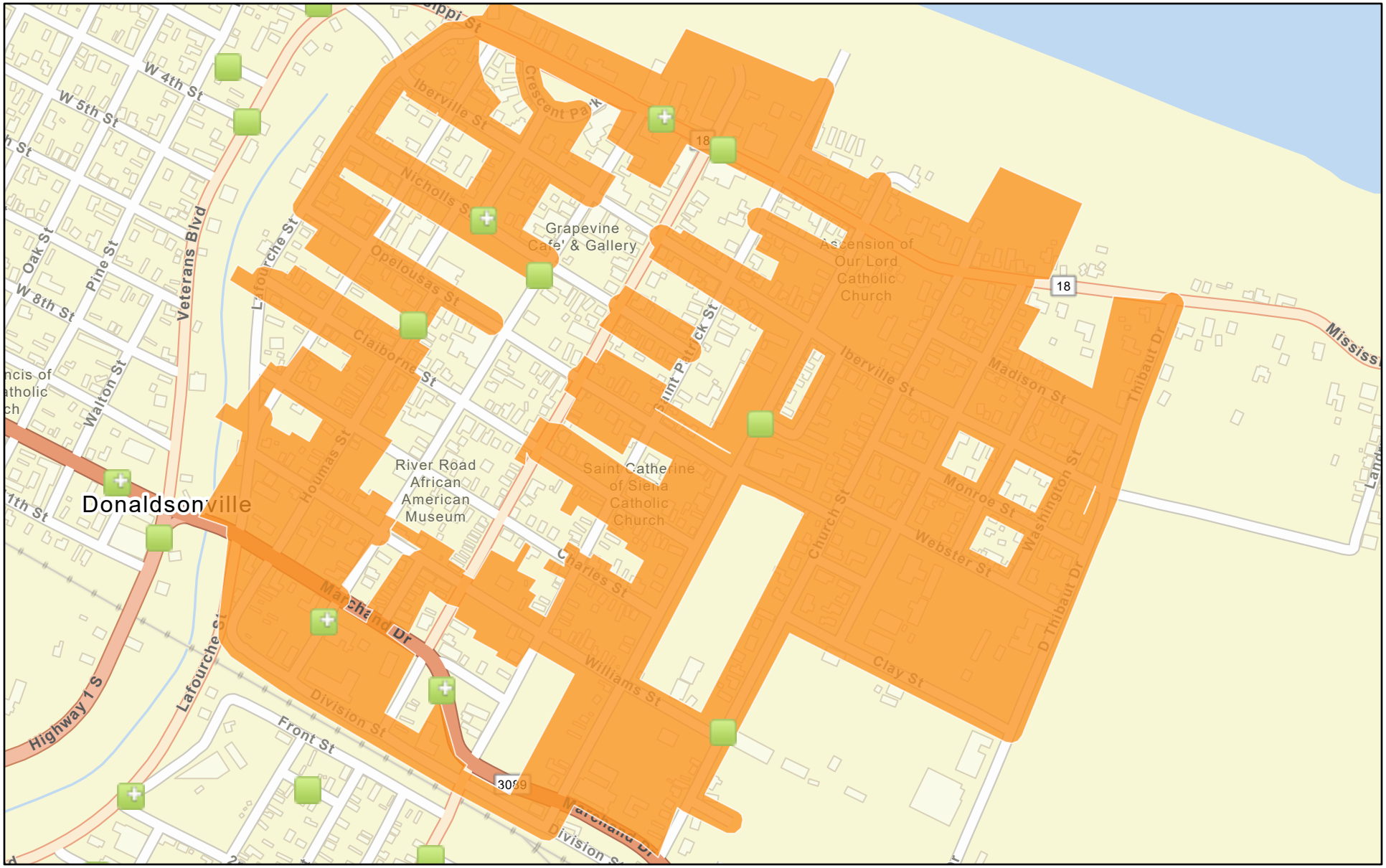
Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)

1:9,028

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

City of Donaldson Pipeline Replacement; NEPAssist EPA Facilities



January 31, 2024

Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)

project area

Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)

1:9,028

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

Appendix E

Soils Report

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Donaldsonville

January 31, 2024

Preface

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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Contents

How Soil Surveys Are Made

Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil

scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and

identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

Custom Soil Resource Report
Soil Map

Map Scale: 1:10,500 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

N

Meters: 0 150 300 600 900

Feet: 0 500 1000 2000 3000

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 15N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Ascension Parish, Louisiana
Survey Area Data: Version 21, Sep 6, 2023

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Feb 12, 2023—Feb 18, 2023

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Cm	Commerce silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	163.3	80.1%
Co	Commerce silty clay loam	13.8	6.8%
Cs	Convent silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	22.5	11.0%
CV	Convent silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	0.0	0.0%
Lp	Levees-Borrow pits complex, 0 to 25 percent slopes	3.8	1.9%
W	Water	0.4	0.2%
Totals for Area of Interest		**203.8**	**100.0%**

Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it

was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Cm—Commerce silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 2rp05
Elevation: 20 to 120 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 51 to 60 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 52 to 77 degrees F
Frost-free period: 215 to 295 days
Farmland classification: All areas are prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Commerce and similar soils: 77 percent
Minor components: 23 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Commerce

Setting

Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Silty alluvium

Typical profile

Ap - 0 to 7 inches: silt loam
Bw - 7 to 22 inches: silty clay loam
Bg - 22 to 63 inches: silt loam
Bssg - 63 to 80 inches: clay

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 1 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat poorly drained
Runoff class: Low
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.60 in/hr)
Depth to water table: About 18 to 48 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 3 percent
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline (0.0 to 1.2 mmhos/cm)
Sodium adsorption ratio, maximum: 1.0
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very high (about 12.6 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 2w
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: F131AY213AR - St. Francis - Recent Moderately Wet Natural Levee and Meander Scroll Forest, F131AY405LA - Tensas Basin - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods, F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods

Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Bruin

Percent of map unit: 10 percent
Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Ecological site: F131AY213AR - St. Francis - Recent Moderately Wet Natural Levee and Meander Scroll Forest, F131AY504LA - Delta Plain - Natural Levees and Ridge Hardwoods, F131AY406LA - Tensas Basin - Natural Levees and Ridge Hardwoods
Hydric soil rating: No

Sharkey

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Backswamps
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear, convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Ecological site: F131AY402LA - Tensas Basin - Poorly Drained Backswamp, F131AY502LA - Delta Plain - Poorly Drained Backswamp, F131AY201AR - St. Francis - Wet Clayey Backswamp Flat
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Tensas

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Convex
Ecological site: F131AY211AR - St. Francis - Old Wet Natural Levee and Meander Scroll Forest, F131AY405LA - Tensas Basin - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods, F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods

Newellton

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Convex, concave
Across-slope shape: Linear
Ecological site: F131AY405LA - Tensas Basin - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods, F131AY203AR - St. Francis - Wet Transitional Backswamp Forest

Co—Commerce silty clay loam

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 131sv
Elevation: 0 to 120 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 52 to 70 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 59 to 79 degrees F
Frost-free period: 258 to 321 days
Farmland classification: All areas are prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Commerce and similar soils: 90 percent
Minor components: 10 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Commerce

Setting

Landform: Natural levees
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Silty alluvium

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 10 inches: silty clay loam
H2 - 10 to 38 inches: silt loam
H3 - 38 to 60 inches: stratified very fine sandy loam to silty clay

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 1 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat poorly drained
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high (0.20 to 0.60 in/hr)
Depth to water table: About 18 to 48 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very high (about 12.4 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 2w
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Sharkey

Percent of map unit: 10 percent
Landform: Depressions
Ecological site: F131AY502LA - Delta Plain - Poorly Drained Backswamp
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Cs—Convent silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 2tpc8
Elevation: 10 to 150 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 53 to 73 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 79 degrees F
Frost-free period: 248 to 303 days
Farmland classification: All areas are prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Convent and similar soils: 90 percent
Minor components: 10 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Convent

Setting

Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Silty alluvium

Typical profile

A - 0 to 4 inches: silt loam
Bg - 4 to 52 inches: silt loam
Cg - 52 to 80 inches: silt loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 1 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat poorly drained
Runoff class: Negligible
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.60 to 2.00 in/hr)
Depth to water table: About 18 to 48 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 3 percent
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: High (about 10.3 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 2w
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Commerce

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Ecological site: F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods
Hydric soil rating: No

Sharkey

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Backswamps
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Ecological site: F131AY502LA - Delta Plain - Poorly Drained Backswamp
Hydric soil rating: Yes

CV—Convent silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 2tpc9
Elevation: 0 to 150 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 53 to 73 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 57 to 79 degrees F
Frost-free period: 248 to 303 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Convent and similar soils: 85 percent
Minor components: 15 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Convent

Setting

Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Convex

Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Coarse-silty alluvium

Typical profile

A - 0 to 4 inches: silt loam
Bg - 4 to 52 inches: silt loam
Cg - 52 to 80 inches: silt loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 1 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat poorly drained
Runoff class: Negligible
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Moderately high to high (0.60 to 2.00 in/hr)
Depth to water table: About 18 to 48 inches
Frequency of flooding: Frequent
Frequency of ponding: None
Calcium carbonate, maximum content: 3 percent
Maximum salinity: Nonsaline to very slightly saline (0.0 to 2.0 mmhos/cm)
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: High (about 10.3 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 5w
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Minor Components

Commerce

Percent of map unit: 10 percent
Landform: Natural levees
Landform position (three-dimensional): Rise
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Ecological site: F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Sharkey

Percent of map unit: 5 percent
Landform: Flood plains
Landform position (three-dimensional): Talf
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Ecological site: F131AY502LA - Delta Plain - Poorly Drained Backswamp
Hydric soil rating: Yes

Lp—Levees-Borrow pits complex, 0 to 25 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 2qr6g
Elevation: 0 to 450 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 50 to 69 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 59 to 79 degrees F
Frost-free period: 258 to 321 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Arents and similar soils: 60 percent
Aquents and similar soils: 40 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Arents

Setting

Landform: Levees
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium

Properties and qualities

Slope: 5 to 20 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches
Drainage class: Somewhat poorly drained
Runoff class: High
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 6e
Hydrologic Soil Group: A/D
Ecological site: F131AY503LA - Delta Plain - Somewhat Poorly Drained Bottomland Hardwoods
Hydric soil rating: No

Description of Aquents

Setting

Landform: Natural levees
Down-slope shape: Convex
Across-slope shape: Linear

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 1 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches

Drainage class: Very poorly drained
Runoff class: Negligible
Depth to water table: About 0 to 12 inches
Frequency of flooding: Rare
Frequency of ponding: None

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 7w
Hydrologic Soil Group: D
Ecological site: F131AY501LA - Delta Plain - Frequently Flooded Ponded Very Poorly Drained Oxbows and Swales
Hydric soil rating: Yes

W—Water

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: 131tk
Mean annual precipitation: 52 to 70 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 59 to 79 degrees F
Frost-free period: 258 to 321 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Water, large: 100 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

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Appendix F

Biological Resources

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506
Phone: (337) 291-3100 Fax: (337) 291-3139

In Reply Refer To: February 02, 2024
Project Code: 2024-0044414
Project Name: City of Donaldsonville Natural Gas System Improvements

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and candidate species, as well as designated and proposed critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing this list under section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Changes in this species list may occur due to new information from updated surveys, changes in species habitat, new listed species and other factors. Because of these possible changes, feel free to contact our office (337-291-3109) for more information or assistance regarding impacts to federally listed species. The Service recommends visiting the IPaC site or the Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office website (https://www.fws.gov/southeast/lafayette) at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updated species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of Federal trust resources and to determine whether projects may affect Federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)).

Bald eagles have recovered and were removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species as of August 8, 2007. Although no longer listed, please be aware that bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.).

The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute "disturbance", which is prohibited by the BGEPA. A copy of the NBEM Guidelines is available at: https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationalbaldeaglenanagementguidelines.pdf

Those guidelines recommend: (1) maintaining a specified distance between the activity and the nest (buffer area); (2) maintaining natural areas (preferably forested) between the activity and nest trees (landscape buffers); and (3) avoiding certain activities during the breeding season. Onsite personnel should be informed of the possible presence of nesting bald eagles within the project boundary, and should identify, avoid, and immediately report any such nests to this office. If a bald eagle nest occurs or is discovered within or adjacent to the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: https://www.fws.gov/southeast/our-services/eagle-technical-assistance/. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary. The Division of Migratory Birds for the Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov) has the lead role in conducting any necessary consultation.

Activities that involve State-designated scenic streams and/or wetlands are regulated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, respectively. We, therefore, recommend that you contact those agencies to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas.

Activities that would be located within a National Wildlife Refuge are regulated by the refuge staff. We, therefore, recommend that you contact them to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas.

Additional information on Federal trust species in Louisiana can be obtained from the Louisiana Ecological Services website at: https://www.fws.gov/southeast/lafayette

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Marine Mammals

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
200 Dulles Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506
(337) 291-3100

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0044414
Project Name: City of Donaldsonville Natural Gas System Improvements
Project Type: Natural Gas Distribution
Project Description: The proposed pipeline replacement includes replacing 43,795 linear feet of cast iron pipeline in the City of Donaldsonville, LA.
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@30.102168499999998,-90.98276022647242,14z

Counties: Ascension County, Louisiana

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. ***This species is also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and may have additional consultation requirements.*** Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle *Macrochelys temminckii* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658	Proposed Threatened

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Pallid Sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus albus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	Candidate

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

---

1. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
2. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

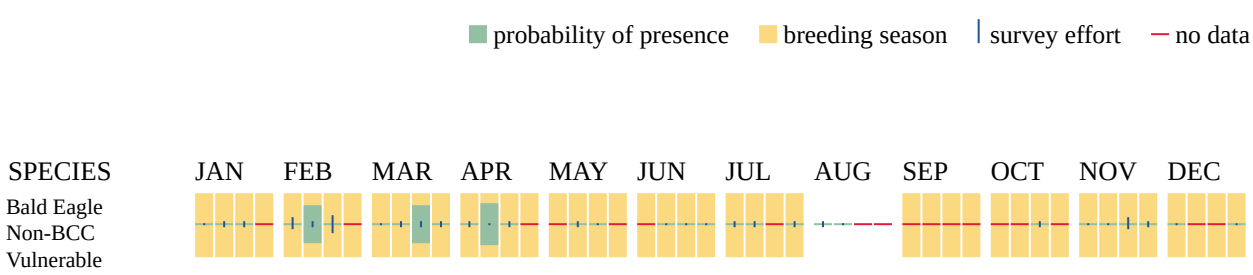
Probability of Presence (▪)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds

- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

---

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9477	Breeds Mar 10 to Oct 15
Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

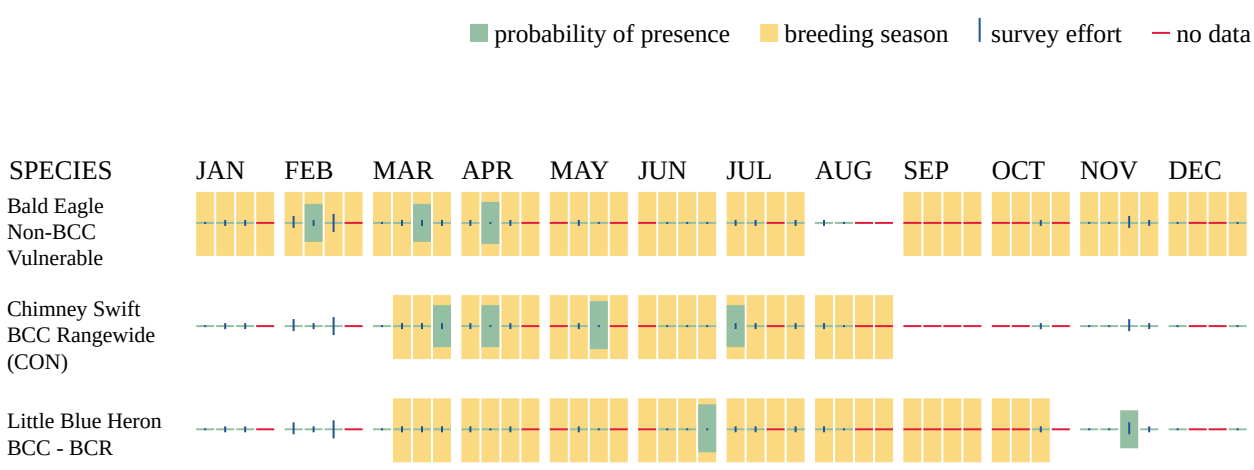
Probability of Presence (■)

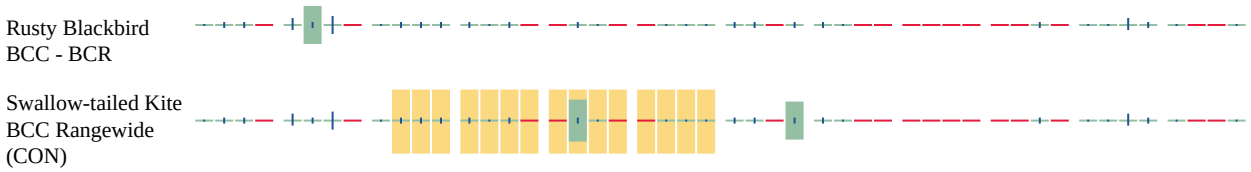
Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

MARINE MAMMALS

Marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Some are also protected under the Endangered Species Act[1] and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora[2].

The responsibilities for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals are shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [responsible for otters, walruses, polar bears, manatees, and dugongs] and NOAA Fisheries[3] [responsible for seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins, and porpoises]. Marine mammals under the responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list; for additional information on those species please visit the Marine Mammals page of the NOAA Fisheries website.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the take of marine mammals and further coordination may be necessary for project evaluation. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office shown.

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1. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.
2. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a treaty to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild.
3. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

NAME

West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Department of Transportation
Name: Elizabeth Williams
Address: 55 Broadway
City: Cambridge
State: MA
Zip: 02142
Email elizabeth.williams1@dot.gov
Phone: 8572599218

Threatened and ndan ered eciesc List Louisiana

Threatened and Endangered Spe ies and Criti al Habitats Under NOAA Fisheries c Jurisdi tion

ecies	Listin tatus	Recovery Plan	Critical Habitat
Green sea turtle	Threatened - North Atlanti Distin t Population Segment (81 FR 20057; April 6, 2016) c	O tober 1991	Proposed Rule (88 FR 46572; July 19, 2023) c 63 FR 46693; September 2, 1998
Kemp's ridley sea turtle c	Endangered (35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970) cc	September 2011 c	None
Leatherback sea turtle c	Endangered (35 FR 8491; June 2, 1970) c	April 1992 c	44 FR 17710; March 23, 1979
Loggerhead sea turtle	Threatened - Northwest Atlanti Ocean Distin t Population Segment (76 FR 58868; September 22, c 2011)	December 2008 cc	79 FR 39856; July 10, 2014 c
Hawksbill sea turtle c	Endangered (35 FR 8491; June 2, 1970) c	December 1993 c	63 FR 46693; September 2, 1998
Gulf sturgeon c	Threatened (56 FR 49653; September 30, 1991) cc	September 1995 c	68 FR 13370; March 19, 2003
Oceanic whitetip shark c	Threatened (83 FR 4153; January 30, 2018) cc	2018 Recovery Outline c	None

Species	Listi St t s	Recovery Pl	riticnl Cl bit t
Giant manta ray	hreatened (83 FR 2916; January 22, 2018)	December 2019 Recovery Outline	None
Sperm whale	Endangered (35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970)	December 2010	None
Rice's whale	Endangered (84 FR 15446, April 15, 2019); Name Change (86 FR 47022; August 23, 2021)	September 2020 Recovery Outline	Proposed Rule (88 FR 47453; July 24, 2023)

Last updated by Southeast Regional Office on September 20, 2023

Rare Species and Natural Communities by Parish

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ELEMENT TYPE	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	PARISH
Alligator Snapping Turtle	Macrochelys temminckii	Reptile	G3	S3	Proposed Threatened	Restricted	Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, La Salle, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Vernon, Washington, West Feliciana, Winn
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bird	G5	S3	Delisted	Delisted	Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson, La Salle, Lafourche, Livington, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union,

Rare Species and Natural Communities by Parish

						Vermilion, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
Correll's False Dragon-head	Physostegia correllii	Plant	G2	S1		Ascension, Cameron, St. Charles, St. James, St. Tammany
Creole Pearly-eye	Lethe creola	Insect	G4	S3		Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Tammany, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
Cypress Swamp	Cypress swamp	Natural Community	G4G5	S4		Ascension, Bienville, Bossier, Catahoula, Evangeline, Franklin, Iberia, Iberville, Rapides, Richland, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, Webster
Cypress-tupelo Swamp	Cypress-tupelo swamp	Natural Community	G3G5	S4		Ascension, Assumption, Bossier, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Iberia, Iberville, Livingston, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, West Feliciana, Winn
Eastern Spotted Skunk	Spilogale putorius	Mammal	G4	S1	Restricted	Ascension, Calcasieu, Cameron, Poute Coupee, St. James, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Feliciana
Four-toed Salamander	Hemidactylium scutatum	Amphibian	G5	S1		Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Tammany

Rare Species and Natural Communities by Parish

Gulf Coast Waterdog	Necturus beyeri	Amphibian	GNR	S3			Allen, Ascension, Beauregard, East Feliciana, Grant, Livingston, Rapides, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Vernon, Washington
Gulf Sturgeon	Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi	Fish	G3T2T3	S1	Threatened	Threatened	Ascension, Livingston, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington
Inflated Heelsplitter	Potamilus inflatus	Mollusk	G1G2Q	S1	Threatened	Threatened	Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, St. Tammany
Little Metalmark	Calephelis virginiensis	Insect	G4	S4			Allen, Ascension, Beauregard, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Natchitoches, Orleans, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Landry, Vernon, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
Pallid Sturgeon	Scaphirhynchus albus	Fish	G2	S1	Endangered	Endangered	Ascension, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Madison, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tensas, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
Snow Melanthera	Melanthera nivea	Plant	G5	S2			Ascension, Avoyelles, Concordia, Iberia, Iberville, La Salle, Rapides, St. Helena, Tensas

Rare Species and Natural Communities by Parish

Southern Creekmussel	Pseudodontoideus subvexus	Mollusk	G3	S1	Ascension, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Livingston, Rapides, Vernon, Winn
Spruce Pine-hardwood Mesic Flatwoods	Spruce pine-hardwood mesic flatwoods	Natural Community	G1G2	S2	Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston
Sweetgum-water Oak Bottomland Forest	Sweetgum-water oak bottomland forest	Natural Community	G4	S4	Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Livingston
Timber Rattlesnake	Crotalus horridus	Reptile	G4	S3S4	Ascension, Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula, East Carroll, Grant, Lafourche, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Vernon, Winn
Waterbird Nesting Colony	Colonial Waterbird Nesting Area	Animal Aggregation	GNR	SNR	Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon,

Rare Species and Natural Communities by Parish

							Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana
West Indian Manatee	Trichechus manatus	Mammal	G2G3	S1N	Threatened	Threatened	Ascension, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

PO Box 98000
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70898800.256.2749225.765.2800CONTACT US

Appendix G

Cultural Resources

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Kristin Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4241

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Kristin Sanders:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106).

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be

approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings

within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
16AN36	Civil War fort (Fort Butler)	Listed	Hays 1997, 1998; Seeber et al. 2021
16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to

minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Consulting Party Outreach

PHMSA identified parties that may be interested in the Undertaking and its effects on historic properties. PHMSA invites the individuals/organizations copied on this letter to participate as Section 106 consulting parties. Invited parties should indicate their willingness to participate as a consulting party and provide comments on the enclosed form (**Attachment D**) within 30 calendar days from the date on this letter. Note that a non-response is considered to be a declination to participate; however, interested parties can request to join consultation at any time in the process. If any invited party expresses concerns about the Undertaking's potential effects to historic properties, PHMSA will consult with the party to resolve those concerns prior to project implementation.

PHMSA will also invite the following federally recognized tribes to participate in consultation by separate letter:

- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Seminole Tribe of Florida

Request for Section 106 Concurrence

Based on the information and conditions presented above, PHMSA finds that the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is submitting this Undertaking to your office for your review and comment. PHMSA requests your concurrence with this determination of effect within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter. Should you need additional information, please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
Ben Wicker, SHK Consulting
Lee E. Melancon, III, Director of Community & Economic Development, Donaldsonville Historic District Commission

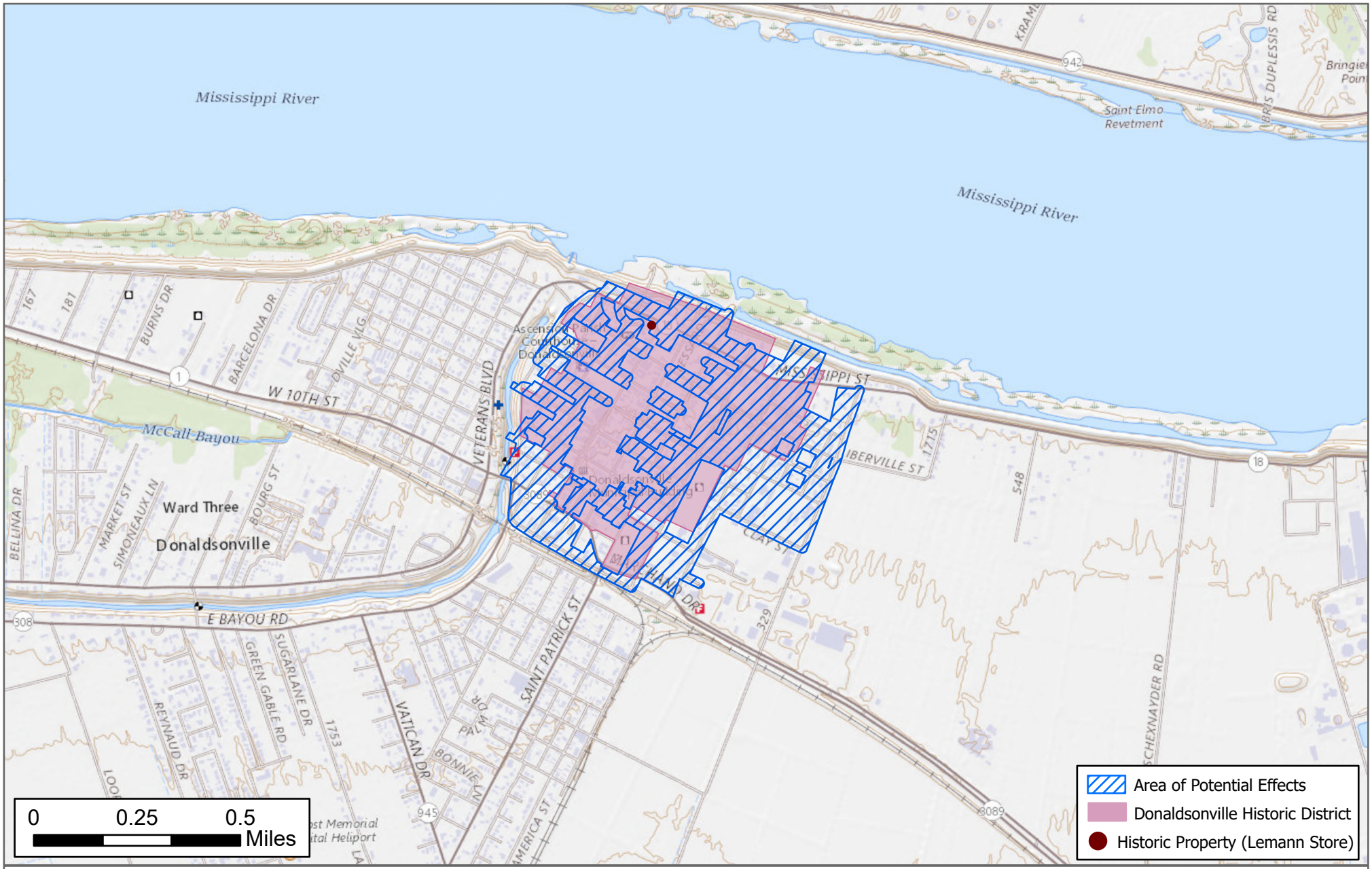
Enclosures:

Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols
Attachment D: Consulting Party Response Form

ATTACHMENT A

Project Location and APE Maps

Area of Potential Effects Map



Name: Donaldsonville, Louisiana Gas Line Replacement
Scale: 20,000
Total Acreage: 204
Ascension Parish, LA

N

Service Layer Credits: Esri Community Maps Contributors, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar, USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed April, 2023.

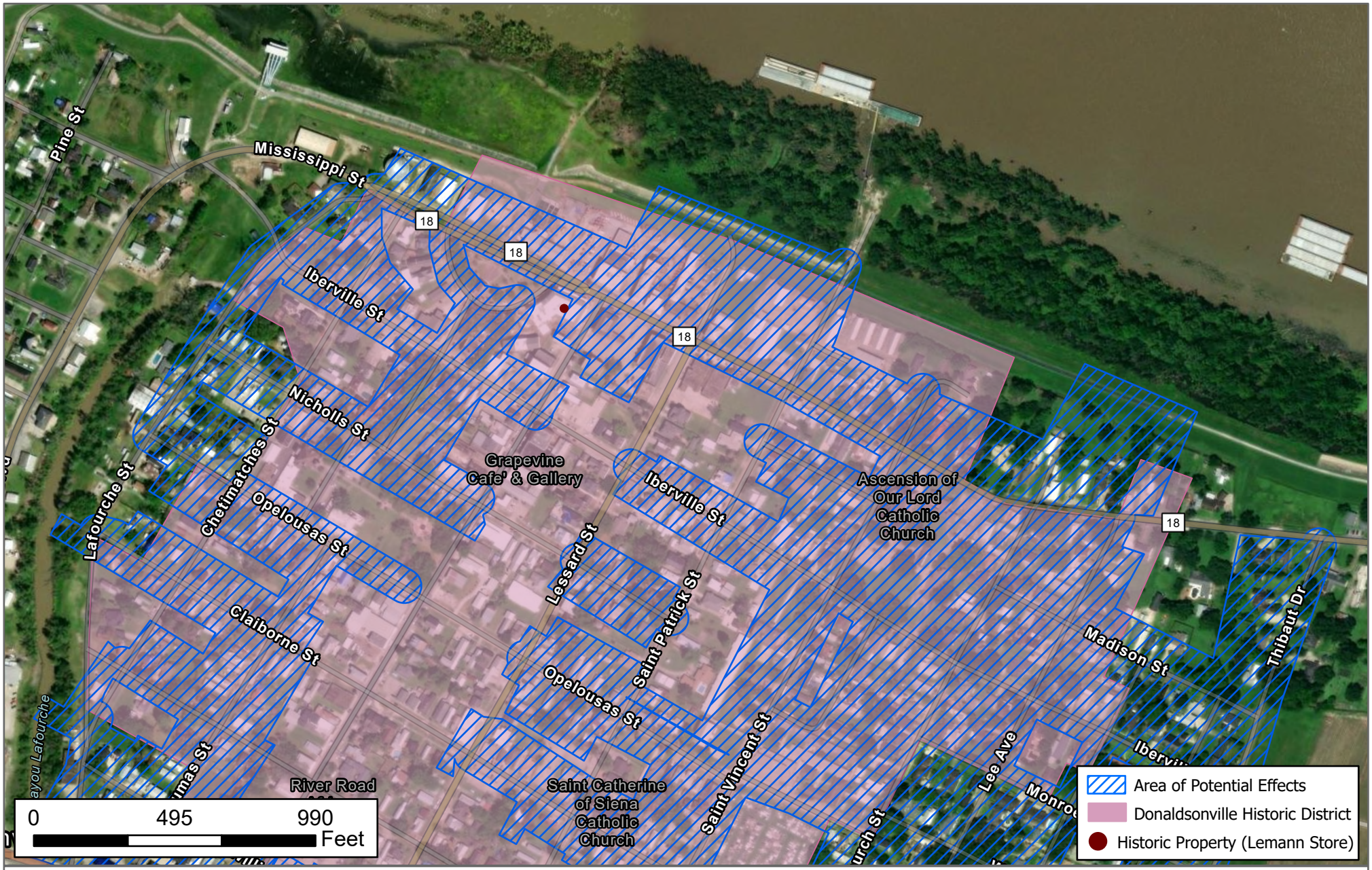
Area of Potential Effects Map

Name: Donaldsonville, Louisiana Gas Line Replacement
Scale: 20,000
Total Acreage: 204
Ascension Parish, LA

N

Service Layer Credits: CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar

Area of Potential Effects Map

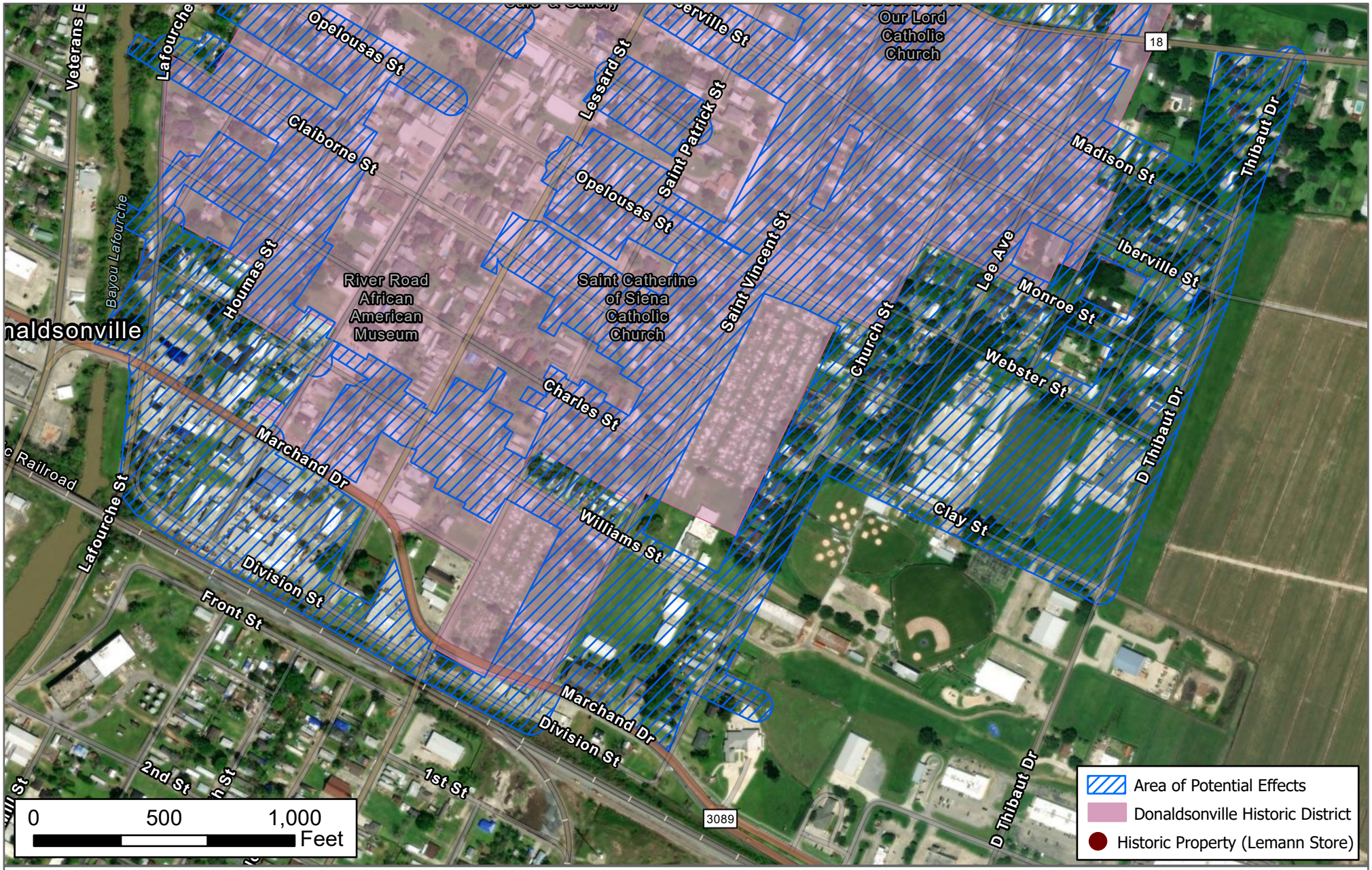


Name: Donaldsonville, Louisiana Gas Line Replacement
Scale: 5,500
Total Acreage: 204
Ascension Parish, LA

N

Service Layer Credits: Esri Community Maps Contributors, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar

Area of Potential Effects Map



Name: Donaldsonville, Louisiana Gas Line Replacement
Scale: 6,000
Total Acreage: 204
Ascension Parish, LA

N

Service Layer Credits: Esri Community Maps Contributors, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar

ATTACHMENT B

Project Area Photographs

Photo 1. APE along Division Street, view facing east.

Photo 2. APE along Division Street, view facing east.

Photo 3. APE along Houmas Street within the Donaldsonville Historic District, view facing north.

Photo 4. APE along Iberville Street within the Donaldsonville Historic District, view facing east.

Photo 5. APE along Iberville Street within the Donaldsonville Historic District, view facing east.

Photo 6. APE along Lee Avenue within the Donaldsonville Historic District, view facing south.

Photo 7. APE along Lee Avenue within the Donaldsonville Historic District, view facing south.

Photo 8. APE along Merchand Drive, view facing east.

Photo 9. APE along Mississippi Street within the Donaldsonville Historic District, view facing east. The Lemann Store is located on the south side of the street (right side of photo).

Photo 10. APE along Mississippi Street within the Donaldsonville Historic District, view facing east.

Photo 11. APE along Thibaut Drive, view facing south.

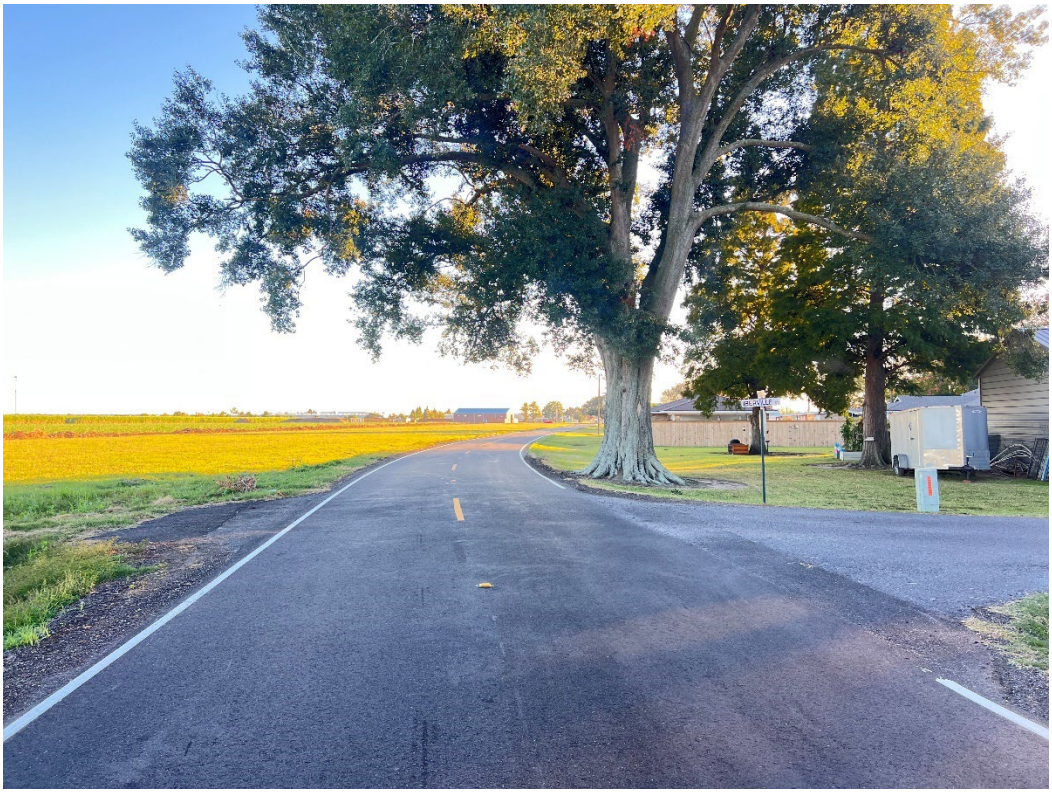


Photo 12. APE along Thibaut Drive, view facing south.

ATTACHMENT C

Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (PHMSA)

UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES PROTOCOLS

A. Unexpected Discoveries, Previously Unidentified Properties, or Unexpected Effects:

In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13, if a previously undiscovered archeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner during construction, the Grant Recipient will implement the following procedures. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic property that was not anticipated. We advise construction personnel to cease construction and for the Grant Recipient to consult with PHMSA to address post-review concerns. Each step within these procedures will be completed within seven (7) days unless otherwise specified:

1. The person or persons encountering such properties or effects shall immediately stop construction in the area of the discovery and notify the Grant Recipient, who will contact PHMSA and the Section 106 point of contact (POC; contact information listed below). Upon notification by the Grant Recipient of a discovery, PHMSA shall immediately notify the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), participating Tribe(s)/Nation(s), and other consulting parties that may have an interest in the discovery, previously unidentified property or unexpected effects, and consult to evaluate the discovery for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and/or the effects of the undertaking on historic properties.
2. The Grant Recipient will take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the property until PHMSA has completed consultation with the SHPO, participating Tribe(s)/Nation(s), and any other consulting parties. They will require the contractor to immediately cease all ground disturbing and/or construction activities within a 100-foot radius buffer zone of the discovery, which PHMSA may reduce or expand based on SHPO standards. For any discovered archeological resources, the Grant Recipient will also halt work in surrounding areas where additional subsurface remains are reasonably expected to be present.
3. The Grant Recipient will ensure that no excavation, operation of heavy machinery, or stockpiling occurs within the buffer zone. The Grant Recipient will secure the buffer zone through the installation of protective fencing. The Grant Recipient will not resume ground disturbing and/or construction activities within the buffer zone until the specified Section 106 process is complete. Work in all other Project areas may continue.
4. Following notification of an unanticipated discovery or effect, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, the Section 106 POC, and consultants as appropriate, will investigate the discovery site and evaluate the resource(s). The Grant Recipient or their consultant will prepare and submit a written document containing a proposed determination of National Register eligibility for the resource and/or, if relevant, an assessment of the Undertaking's effects on historic properties. PHMSA may elect to assume eligibility and/or adverse effects for expediency.
5. If the unanticipated discovery is determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register and/or adverse effects cannot be avoided, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will propose in writing to SHPO and participating Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and consulting parties, treatment measures to resolve adverse effects.
6. If it is necessary to develop treatment measures, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will implement the approved treatment measures. The Grant Recipient will ensure construction-related activities within the buffer zone do not proceed until consultation with SHPO, Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and other consulting parties concludes with: 1) a determination that the resource is not National Register-eligible or there are no new adverse effects; 2) the agreed upon treatment

measures have been implemented; or 3) it has been agreed that the treatment measures can be completed within a specified time period after construction-related activities have resumed.

B. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

If the unanticipated discovery includes what is or suspected to be human remains, the Grant Recipient will implement the following procedures. At all times human remains must be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. Human remains or associated artifacts will be left in place and not disturbed. No skeletal remains or materials associated with the remains will be photographed, collected or removed until appropriate consultation has taken place and a plan of action has been developed. We advise construction personnel to cease construction and for the Grant Recipient to consult with the PHMSA to address post-review concerns. Each step within these procedures will be completed within seven (7) days unless otherwise specified:

1. If marked or unmarked graves, human skeletal remains, or skeletal remains believed to be human are encountered during development, all potential disturbance to the graves, skeletal remains, or associated items (e.g., artifacts, headstones, etc.) must cease and law enforcement be notified in accordance with applicable State statute(s) and to determine if the discovery is subject to a criminal investigation. The Grant Recipient will notify PHMSA and the Section 106 POC within twenty-four (24) hours of the initial discovery.
2. Work in the general area of the discovery will stop immediately and the Grant Recipient will immediately secure and protect the human remains and any associated artifacts in place in such a way that minimizes further exposure or damage from the elements, looting, and/or vandalism. The Grant Recipient will ensure a perimeter with a 100-foot radius buffer zone around the discovery is established where there will be no excavation, operation of heavy machinery, or stockpiling. PHMSA may reduce or expand this buffer zone based on SHPO standards. The Grant Recipient will secure the buffer zone through the installation of protective fencing at minimum. The Grant Recipient will not resume ground disturbing and/or construction activities within the buffer zone until the specified Section 106 process is complete. Work in all other Project areas may continue.
3. If a criminal investigation is not appropriate, the Grant Recipient will ensure compliance with any applicable State and local laws pertaining to human remains, funerary objects, and cemeteries. Discoveries of human remains on Federal or Tribal lands shall be subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 USC §3001-3013, 18 USC § 1170); and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) (14 USC § 470), as applicable. PHSMA, in coordination with the Grant Recipient, will consult with the appropriate Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and consulting parties.
4. In the event the human remains encountered are of Native American origin, PHMSA, in coordination with the Grant Recipient, will consult with the appropriate Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and SHPO to determine treatment measures for the avoidance, recovery or reburial of the remains and any associated artifacts. When applicable, PHMSA and the Grant Recipient will follow the principles within the ACHP's Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects, dated March 1, 2023.
5. If the remains are not of Native American origin, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will consult with the SHPO and participating consulting parties to determine if the discovery is a historic property, take into account the effects on the historic property, and resolve adverse effects, as appropriate.
6. If it is necessary to develop treatment measures, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will implement the approved treatment measures. The Grant Recipient will ensure ground disturbing and construction-related activities within the buffer zone do not proceed until consultation with the SHPO, consulting Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and participating consulting parties

concludes with: 1) a finding that the resource is not National Register-eligible or there are no new adverse effects; 2) the agreed upon treatment measures have been implemented; or 3) it has been agreed that the treatment measures can be completed within a specified time period after construction-related activities have resumed.

7. The Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will also ensure ground disturbing and construction-related activities within the buffer zone do not proceed until the Grant Recipient has complied with all applicable State or local cemetery or burials laws.

Points of contact are as follows:

- PHMSA: Matt Fuller - (217) 707-8169; Matt.Fuller@dot.gov
- Section 106 POC (Volpe): Kathering Giraldo – (857) 320-1359; PHMSA106@dot.gov

ATTACHMENT D

Consulting Party Response Form

Section 106 Consulting Party Response Form

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program

Project Name/Location:

Date: _____

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Please check one of the following:

○ **Yes,** I, or my organization, would like to participate in consultation on the project's potential effects to historic properties. I, or my organization, has a legal or economic relation to the project or affected properties or have a concern with the project's effects on historic properties.

○ **No,** I, or my organization, do(es) not wish to participate as a consulting party for the project.

Do you know of any other potential consulting parties that should be contacted? If so, please list the name, email, or other contact information below.

_____

_____

_____

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

Please return by:

Please return to: Kathering Giraldo
USDOT Volpe Center
220 Binney Street, Cambridge, MA
E-mail: PHMSASection106@dot.gov

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Ricky Sylestine
Chairperson
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Chairperson Sylestine:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
16AN36	Civil War fort (Fort Butler)	Listed	Hays 1997, 1998; Seeber et al. 2021
16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
Bryant Celestine, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Wamblee Smith
Acting Environmental Director
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, OK 73005

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Director Smith:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

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Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
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Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

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**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

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Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Melissa Darden
Chairman
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
155 Chitimacha Loop
Charenton, LA 70523

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Chairman Darden:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
16AN36	Civil War fort (Fort Butler)	Listed	Hays 1997, 1998; Seeber et al. 2021
16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
Kimberly Walden, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Jonathan Cernek
Chairman
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
1940 C.C. Bel Road
Elton, LA 70532

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Chairman Cernek:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
16AN36	Civil War fort (Fort Butler)	Listed	Hays 1997, 1998; Seeber et al. 2021
16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
Kristian Poncho, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Libby Rogers
Tribal Chief
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
1052 Chanaha Hina Street
Trout, LA 71371

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Tribal Chief Rogers:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
16AN36	Civil War fort (Fort Butler)	Listed	Hays 1997, 1998; Seeber et al. 2021
16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
Johnna Flynn, Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Cyrus Ben
Chief
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Chief Ben:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

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Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
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16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

David Hill
Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
1007 East Eufaula Street
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Principal Chief Hill:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
16AN36	Civil War fort (Fort Butler)	Listed	Hays 1997, 1998; Seeber et al. 2021
16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
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Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
Turner Hunt, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 13, 2024

Marcellus Osceola
Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
Grant Recipient: City of Donaldsonville
Project Location: City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Dear Chairman Osceola:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Donaldsonville (City) for the replacement of pipelines (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Project to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Project, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and/or to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

Project Description/Background

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 43,795 linear feet (LF) of cast iron gas mains sized 2 inches, 2 ¼ inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches in diameter within the City. The Undertaking will benefit all gas system customers, including low-income residents, by eliminating natural gas leaks within the project area. Due to the fragility of the existing cast iron pipes, the current system operating pressure is 23 pounds per square inch (PSI), which results in supply problems during wintertime high usage periods. Once all existing cast iron pipes in the City's natural gas distribution system have been replaced, the replacement system will have a system operating pressure of 65 PSI, which will eliminate the wintertime high usage problems.

The replacement pipeline will be medium density polyethylene (MDPE) pipe and will include 21,075 LF of 2-inch pipe and 22,720 LF of 4-inch pipe. It will be installed approximately 3 feet away from the existing pipeline in the grassy areas adjacent to the roadway or underneath sidewalks.

The Undertaking will also include the replacement of existing 1-inch steel service lines, which will be connected to the mains with self-tapping saddle tees, including excess flow valves. The replacement MDPE service lines will be installed adjacent to the existing service lines. Replacement service risers will also be installed at the customer end of the service lines and connected to the existing gas meters. The Undertaking will not involve any gas meter replacements.

All project work will be conducted within the existing City or State-owned right-of-way (ROW) or utility easements. The replacement of pipelines and service lines will involve horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching) methods of construction. The maximum depth of ground disturbance is expected to be no more than 5 feet. Tie-in pits and excavations for the service connections will be approximately 4 feet by 4 feet in width; excavations at connections to the existing gas meters will be approximately 3 feet by 3 feet in width. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in place, which will minimize ground disturbance. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A**. Photographs showing the overall character of the project areas are included in **Attachment B**.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this Undertaking to encompass the existing ROW, which is 60 feet wide, and adjacent properties where service line replacements may take place. The APE encompasses the limits of disturbance and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to potential vibration effects. The APE encompasses most of the City center and extends from 30.10778, -90.98930 at its northwest corner, 30.10385, -90.97891 at its northeast corner, 30.09935, -90.99319 at its southwest corner, and 30.09812, -90.98143 at its southeast corner. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE extends to the depth of proposed ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. The APE is shown on the maps in **Attachment A**.

Identification and Evaluation

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and data received from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. Individuals who meet the SOI Professional Qualification Standards also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Architecture

There are two NRHP-listed above-ground resources within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District (NRHP No. 84001248) and the Lemann Store (NRHP No. 82002753).

The Donaldsonville Historic District, located just south of the Mississippi River, encompasses 635 residential and commercial buildings and structures within 50 blocks of the City. Its period of significance ranges from the mid-nineteenth century to 1934. The district is listed in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of community planning due to its incorporation of formal town planning features beyond the normal speculative grid plan, including a semicircular park and an axial street leading to an open public square. The district is also listed under Criterion C in the area of architecture due to its fine collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings as well as its working-class areas, including neighborhood stores and residential architecture.

The Lemann Store, located at 314 Mississippi Street, is a two-story Italianate commercial building located at the corners of Crescent Park, Mississippi Street, and Railroad Avenue, one block south of the Mississippi River. The building, which was constructed in 1878, is contributing to the Donaldsonville Historic District and is also individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Italianate commercial architecture and as an architectural landmark of the City's central business district.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines within existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements, the identification effort

for additional above-ground resources focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to the effects of this work and could experience diminished integrity as a result of the Undertaking. While the service line replacements will take place leading up to some buildings, no alterations to the buildings are anticipated. Furthermore, the work will not have any lasting visual effects. Although several other buildings within the APE have been previously surveyed, work near these properties will be below-ground and will not have the potential to affect these resources. A review of the APE found no other potentially significant above-ground resources that may be affected by the Undertaking.

Archaeology

Louisiana's archaeological site file database was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within one quarter of a mile of the APE. As a result, three archaeological sites and four surveys were identified (Table 1). All three sites are located outside of the APE, and only two of the surveys intersect with the APE.

Table 1. Archaeological Sites within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Site Number	Type	NRHP	Citation
16AN36	Civil War fort (Fort Butler)	Listed	Hays 1997, 1998; Seeber et al. 2021
16AN130	Historic artifact scatter and foundation	Unknown	Seeber et al. 2021
16AN140	Historic artifact scatter	Not Eligible	Lowman and Beazley 2021

All three archaeological sites date to the historic period. Site 16AN36 is the subsurface remains of Fort Butler, a Civil War-era fort constructed along the Mississippi River immediately northwest but outside of the APE. Site 16AN36 was originally recorded as an archaeological site in the 1990s during a survey by the National Park Service but was revisited during Seeber et al.'s 2021 survey for a proposed pump station. During the Civil War, Donaldsonville was the site of many engagements between the Union and Confederacy. Fort Butler was constructed by the Union in an effort to gain control of the Mississippi River during the war. The other two sites, 16AN130 (unknown) and 16AN140 (not eligible) are also located outside the APE. Site 16AN130 was identified during Seeber et al.'s 2021 proposed pump station survey, and 16AN140 was identified during Lowman and Beazley's 2021 survey for a proposed monopole communication structure. All sites are located adjacent to Bayou Lafourche, and 16AN36 and 16AN130 are located near the Mississippi River.

Four archaeological surveys have been conducted within one quarter of a mile of the APE. Three of the surveys were conducted along Bayou Lafourche along the western side of the APE, and the fourth survey was conducted in the northwest portion of the APE. Only very small portions of the surveys intersect with the APE, and most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed.

Table 2. Archaeological Surveys within One Quarter of a Mile of the APE

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lemann Store Building Project Area, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	*Parrish et al. 2020*	*22-6633*
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 190-Foot (Overall Height) Monopole Telecommunications Structure Facility US-LA-5172 (Ascension) 921 B Lafourche Street, Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Lowman and Beazley 2021	22-6862
Phase I and Expanded Phase I Investigations for the Proposed Pump Station Donaldsonville, Louisiana	*Seeber et al. 2021*	*22-6437*

Report	Citation	Report No.
Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 155-Foot Monopole Telecommunications Structure AT&T Site - Donaldsonville DT (FA# 15422077) 3687 Highway 1 South Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana	Fulkerson and Lowman 2023	22-7236

**Italicized entries are within the APE*

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals four soil types within the APE. These types, along with their drainage class, slope, and APE percentage, are detailed in Table 3. Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods; however, all soils within the APE are somewhat poorly drained soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and only Levees-Borrow pits complex (<2 percent of the APE), varies from 0 to 25 percent slope. Although the APE is comprised mostly of somewhat poorly drained soils which is generally less desirable than well-draining soils for suitability of long-term human occupation, the majority of the APE, if not all, contains very flat floodplain abutting the Mississippi River. Proximity to major waterways such as the Mississippi River generally indicates a strategic and suitable location for short- or long-term habitation for both precontact and historic human activity.

Table 3. Soil Types within the APE

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Commerce silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	80.1
Commerce silty clay loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	6.8
Convent silt loam	Somewhat poorly drained	0-1%	11
Levees-Borrow pits complex	Somewhat poorly drained	0-25%	1.9
Water	NA	NA	<1

Historic topographic maps and historic aerials were examined for archaeological resource sensitivity within the APE. The City's prominent location along the west bank of the Mississippi River reveals it was likely a location of short- and long-term habitation for thousands of years before French settlers colonized the area in the 1750s. The presence of structures on historic maps and aerial photography may indicate the likelihood of historic period archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of these structures. The APE is comprised of residential and commercial areas within the City, roughly corresponding to the Donaldsonville Historic District boundary. The 1892 Donaldsonville historic topographic map shows Donaldsonville as a highly developed town with a grid street system and the location of Port Barrow. The Texas and Pacific Railroad passes just southwest of the city and continues to New Orleans. The 1939 topographic map shows development expanded south of the railroad and beyond the original grid street system. The 1962 topographic map reveals the names and locations of several local landmarks, including the Donaldsonville Fairground, Ascension High School, Lowery High School, the St. Catherine School, and the waterworks south of the levee. The earliest aerial photography in the City is from 1957, when the city has already been well established with residential, commercial and municipal buildings. Buildings are densely situated across the entire APE. Aerial photography from 1961, 1973, and 1983 show development remains steady through the years. No modern large-scale landscape modifications are noted on the landscape.

Background research revealed two archaeological surveys within the APE, both located in the northwestern portion. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. The presence of three historic period archaeological sites within one quarter of a mile of the APE shows a moderate potential for previously

unidentified archaeological sites to exist within the APE. Due to the proximity to the Mississippi River, there is also a moderate potential for deeply buried precontact period sites to exist. While soil types within the APE are not generally recognized as suitable for long-term human habitation, the presence of historic development spanning more than two centuries in the City indicates human adaptation to the environment. Topographic maps and aerial imagery reveal widespread development across the entire APE throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, as discussed in the above *Historic Architecture* section, the Donalsonville Historic District overlaps much of the APE.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of cast iron gas pipeline within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including water, gas, and communication lines, as well as storm water drains and sanitary sewers. Modern aerial imagery indicates the proposed pipeline installation will occur in a well-developed and densely populated area. While most of the APE has not been archaeologically surveyed, due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of road and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

Due to the limited scope of work and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time. While no work will take place within the historic boundary of Fort Butler (16AN36), due to the significance and possible associated deposits of the site, it is recommended that extreme caution is exercised in the portions of the APE nearest the site boundary. Additionally, in the event of unanticipated discoveries, the grantee is required to stop work and notify PHMSA immediately. In turn, PHMSA would consult with SHPO. A document providing details on the protocol and requirements regarding unanticipated discoveries is enclosed in **Attachment C**.

Determination of Effect

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, PHMSA has determined that there are two historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the Donaldsonville Historic District and Lemann Store.

Although these historic properties are located within the APE, the Undertaking is limited to the below-ground replacement of existing pipelines and will not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of these properties that qualify them as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A and/or C in a manner that would diminish their integrity. The Undertaking will also not result in any lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Donaldsonville Historic District or the Lemann Store. The pipeline replacement near the Lemann Store will take place on the opposite (northern) side of Mississippi Street from the building, and no service line replacement work is required at this location (see Photo 9 in **Attachment B**). Additionally, pipeline replacements will take place on the opposite side of the street from the brick sidewalks in Louisiana Square and Crescent Park and along the south side of Mississippi Street, and project work will not physically affect any of the brick sidewalks or any other contributing resources within the Donaldsonville Historic District. The Undertaking does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of any property.

Furthermore, project work will take place within existing, previously disturbed ROW and utility easements, and no archaeological survey is recommended at this time. However, extreme caution should be exercised in the portions of the APE near the NRHP-listed Fort Butler (16AN36). If during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the project sponsor will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic

property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the SHPO and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. See **Attachment C** for further details regarding PHMSA's Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols.

Additionally, while the exact staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown, staging should be confined to paved areas; if staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) must be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect potential archaeological features and artifacts.

Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA finds the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

Request for Information and Comments

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding with the conditions noted above. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Hootman, Section 106 specialist, at PHMSASection106@dot.gov or 857-998-9981.

Sincerely,

Matt Fuller
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ah

cc: Elizabeth Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
Tina Marie Osceola, Jr., Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures:
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs
Attachment C: Unanticipated Discovery Protocols

Appendix H

Environmental Justice

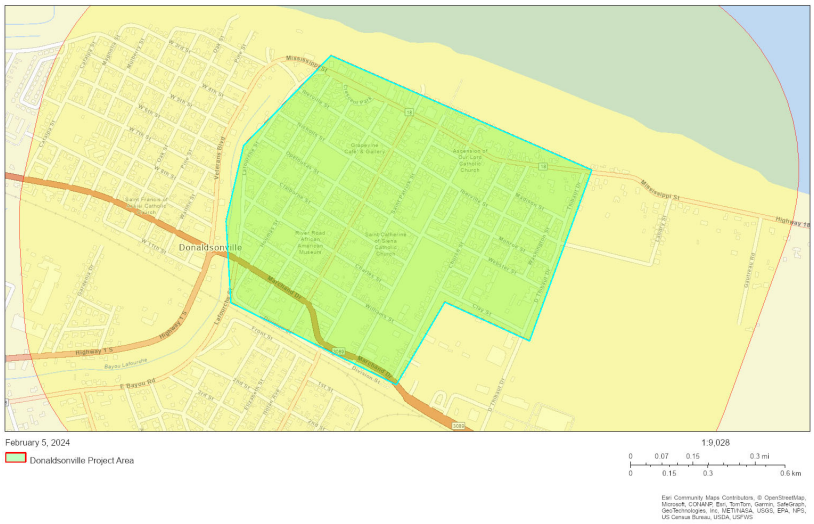
EJScreen Community Report

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Donaldsonville, LA

0.5 miles Ring around the Area
Population: 3,394
Area in square miles: 2.55

A3 Landscape



LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	96%
Spanish	3%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	1%
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	1%
Total Non-English	4%

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

- Low income: 66 percent
- People of color: 79 percent
- Less than high school education: 20 percent
- Limited English households: 0 percent
- Unemployment: 18 percent
- Persons with disabilities: 19 percent
- Male: 42 percent
- Female: 58 percent
- 75 years — Average life expectancy
- $22,372 — Per capita income
- Number of households: 1,241
- Owner occupied: 57 percent

BREAKDOWN BY RACE

- White: 21%
- Black: 77%
- American Indian: 0%
- Asian: 0%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0%
- Other race: 0%
- Two or more races: 1%
- Hispanic: 2%

BREAKDOWN BY AGE

From Ages 1 to 4	15%
From Ages 1 to 18	38%
From Ages 18 and up	62%
From Ages 65 and up	21%

LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN

Speak Spanish	0%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0%
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	0%
Speak Other Languages	0%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017 -2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

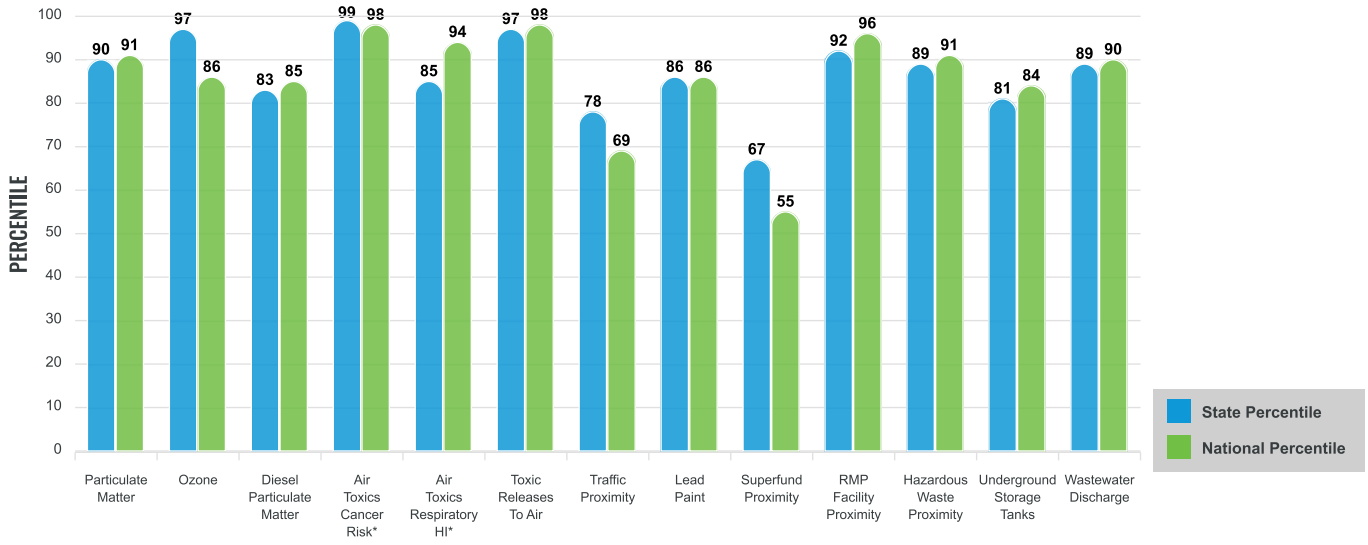
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the EJScreen website.

EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

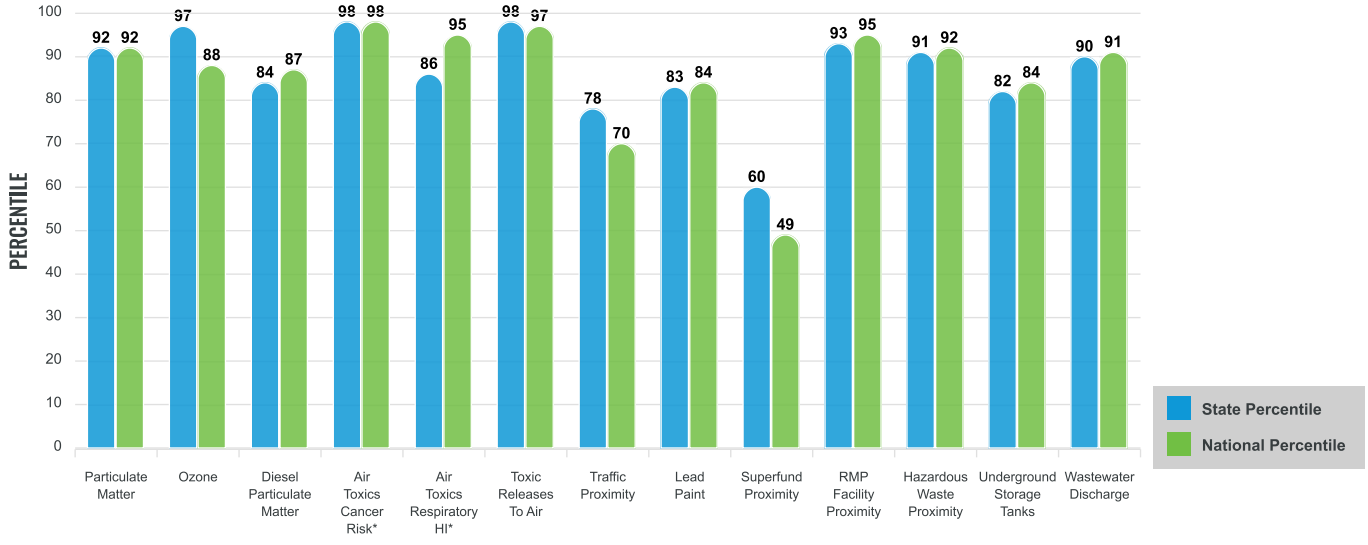
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for 0.5 miles Ring around the Area

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter ($\mu g/m^3$)	8.83	8.62	74	8.08	69
Ozone (ppb)	61.9	59.8	90	61.6	56
Diesel Particulate Matter ($\mu g/m^3$)	0.255	0.247	62	0.261	59
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	60	32	98	25	94
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.38	43	0.31	70
Toxic Releases to Air	66,000	15,000	96	4,600	98
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	40	86	54	210	36
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.36	0.22	78	0.3	63
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.021	0.076	32	0.13	19
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.4	0.62	87	0.43	93
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.8	1.1	76	1.9	71
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km^2)	1.6	2.2	61	3.9	55
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.0078	49	69	22	65
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	73%	41%	85	35%	91
Supplemental Demographic Index	26%	17%	86	14%	91
People of Color	79%	43%	80	39%	83
Low Income	66%	40%	84	31%	92
Unemployment Rate	18%	7%	88	6%	94
Limited English Speaking Households	0%	2%	0	5%	0
Less Than High School Education	20%	15%	72	12%	81
Under Age 5	15%	6%	93	6%	96
Over Age 64	21%	17%	73	17%	72
Low Life Expectancy	23%	22%	61	20%	83

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	1
Water Dischargers	10
Air Pollution	5
Brownfields	0
Toxic Release Inventory	0

Other community features within defined area:

Schools	1
Hospitals	0
Places of Worship	15

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	Yes
Impaired Waters	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Report for 0.5 miles Ring around the Area

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	23%	22%	61	20%	83
Heart Disease	8.3	7	77	6.1	86
Asthma	10.9	9.9	78	10	77
Cancer	5.8	5.9	41	6.1	41
Persons with Disabilities	15.2%	15.9%	48	13.4%	66

CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	9%	25%	26	12%	61
Wildfire Risk	0%	7%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	29%	20%	73	14%	88
Lack of Health Insurance	8%	8%	51	9%	57
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Report for 0.5 miles Ring around the Area

EJScreen Community Report

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Ascension Parish, LA

County: Ascension Parish
Population: 125,289
Area in square miles: 302.70

A3 Landscape

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	94%
Spanish	4%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	1%
Vietnamese	1%
Total Non-English	6%

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Low income: 22 percent
People of color: 33 percent
Less than high school education: 11 percent
Limited English households: 2 percent
Unemployment: 5 percent
Persons with disabilities: 14 percent
Male: 49 percent
Female: 51 percent
76 years
Average life expectancy
$37,035
Per capita income
Number of households: 45,195
Owner occupied: 82 percent

BREAKDOWN BY RACE

White: 67%
Black: 23%
American Indian: 0%
Asian: 1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0%
Other race: 0%
Two or more races: 2%
Hispanic: 6%

BREAKDOWN BY AGE

From Ages 1 to 4	7%
From Ages 1 to 18	27%
From Ages 18 and up	73%
From Ages 65 and up	12%

LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN

Speak Spanish	87%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	5%
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	8%
Speak Other Languages	0%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017 -2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

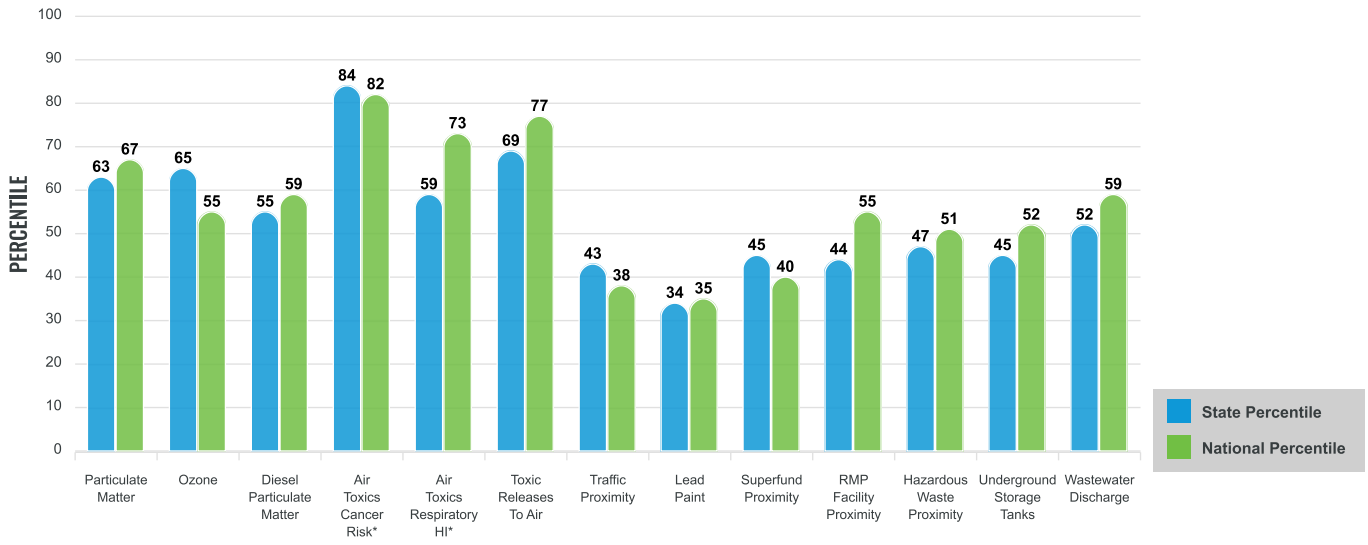
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the EJScreen website.

EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

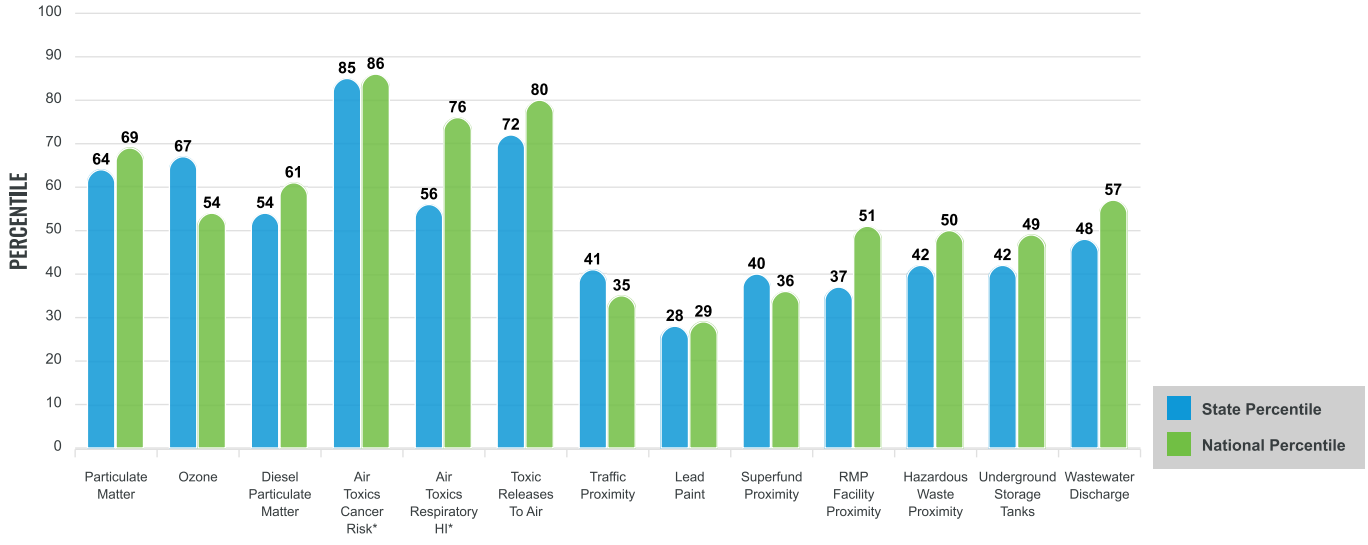
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m^3)	9.1	8.62	79	8.08	75
Ozone (ppb)	61.2	59.8	83	61.6	51
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m^3)	0.259	0.247	63	0.261	60
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	54	32	96	25	94
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.38	43	0.31	70
Toxic Releases to Air	92,000	15,000	97	4,600	99
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	34	86	50	210	32
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.071	0.22	35	0.3	30
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.036	0.076	51	0.13	33
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.32	0.62	57	0.43	69
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.47	1.1	48	1.9	48
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km^2)	1.2	2.2	55	3.9	50
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.11	49	88	22	82
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index	28%	41%	35	35%	47
Supplemental Demographic Index	12%	17%	28	14%	45
People of Color	33%	43%	46	39%	52
Low Income	22%	40%	26	31%	42
Unemployment Rate	5%	7%	54	6%	56
Limited English Speaking Households	2%	2%	80	5%	62
Less Than High School Education	11%	15%	47	12%	62
Under Age 5	7%	6%	64	6%	68
Over Age 64	12%	17%	35	17%	34
Low Life Expectancy	18%	22%	9	20%	32

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund 0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities 25
Water Dischargers 1257
Air Pollution 105
Brownfields 0
Toxic Release Inventory 33

Other community features within defined area:

Schools 31
Hospitals 8
Places of Worship 104

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment ..... Yes
Impaired Waters ..... Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands* ..... No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community ..... Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community ..... Yes

Report for County: Ascension Parish

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	18%	22%	9	20%	32
Heart Disease	5.3	7	15	6.1	35
Asthma	8.7	9.9	20	10	17
Cancer	5.3	5.9	25	6.1	31
Persons with Disabilities	12.8%	15.9%	32	13.4%	52

CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	19%	25%	57	12%	84
Wildfire Risk	0%	7%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	10%	20%	32	14%	47
Lack of Health Insurance	6%	8%	33	9%	43
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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