



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

**Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant  
Program**

**City of Hawkinsville, Georgia Tier 2 Site Specific Environmental Assessment  
NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-29**

*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 the 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.<sup>1</sup>

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](mailto:PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov) and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-29 in your response.

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

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## I. Project Description/Proposed Action

<b>Project Title</b>	City of Hawkinsville
<b>Project Location</b>	Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia
<b>Project Description/Proposed Action:</b>	
<p>The proposed action includes the replacement of 5.83 miles of bare steel pipeline with 4.85 miles (25,608 linear feet) of polyethylene (PE) piping, leaving 2,780 linear feet of main lines retired without services being restored. The vulnerable pipeline installed the 1950's is located within the City of Hawkinsville's (Hawkinsville) existing right-of-ways (ROW) and proposed work would not require new ROW or easements.</p> <p>The 25,608 linear feet of replacement gas lines would be installed at a depth of 48 inches below grade. Construction methods include horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and cut and cover (trenching). The project has been divided into two segments. The Broad Street segment includes Broad Street from Mashburn Street to Red Devil Drive, Forest Hill Circle, Markel Street, Martin Street, Barto Street, Wood Street, Ryan Street, Mitchell Street. This segment also includes connected side streets. The South Jackson Street segment includes Broad Street from Jackson Street to Georgia Alternate Highway 341, Jackson Street, South Houston Street, Liberty Street, North and South Mill Village Streets, and connected side streets.</p> <p>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, Hawkinsville would utilize the HDD construction method for most of the new pipe installation, which would have similar impacts to installing pipes using the insertion construction method. Hawkinsville would also utilize a limited amount of open trenching, which generally involves greater soil disturbance and use of heavy equipment and related impacts than the insertion method.</p>	

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

Hawkinsville would abandon the existing pipes 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 CFR 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. By complying with PHMSA requirements for purging and sealing abandoned pipelines, Hawkinsville would ensure that the abandoned pipelines pose no risk to safety in their abandoned state.

**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, Hawkinsville would continue to use bare steel pipes, 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 the City of Hawkinsville, with updated material would not be seen in the near term. 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 pipe replacement were to happen at some point in the future, environmental mitigation measures during such a replacement would be unknown. Furthermore, existing economic losses, and increased risk associated with prolonged gas leaks would continue.

**Need for the Project:**

Since December 2019, Hawkinsville has operated under a consent order from the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) to replace or retire two miles of bare steel pipes per year. This is necessary due to the high rate of leaks experienced from these current mains. The completion of this project would create a safer, more modern, and more reliable natural gas distribution system.

The project is needed to ensure the safe, reliable operation and delivery of energy to the community, replacing leak prone bare steel and reduce the likelihood of future leaks. 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 our environment and reducing climate impacts by remediating aged and failing pipelines and pipe prone to leakage.

**Description of the Environmental Setting of the Project Area:**

The affected environment is located in the City of Hawkinsville in Palaski County. The project is expected to occur within previously disturbed, public ROW. The project area consists mostly of an urban environment and areas on each side of the ROW consist of developed residential and commercial areas, as well as some undeveloped land.

## II. Resource Review

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	
Question	Information and Justification
Is the project located in an area designated by the EPA as non-attainment or maintenance status for one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?	No, based on a review of the EPA Greenbook. <sup>2</sup>
Will the construction activities produce emissions that exceed de minimis thresholds (tons per year) described in the initial Tier 2 EA worksheet?	N/A
Will mitigation measures be used to capture blowdown <sup>3</sup> ?	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?	No.
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.	No. The existing system operates at 15 pounds per square inch (PSI). Based on the size of the existing pipe, it is estimated that 0.76 thousand cubic feet (MCF) of methane would be vented during construction. <sup>4</sup>
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 estimated to be 12,373 kg/year. Replacement would result in a leak rate of approximately 140 kg/year or a reduction of approximately 244,647 kg over a 20-year timeframe.
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>The project area is located within the City of Hawkinsville in Pulaski County, Georgia which is designated by the EPA as in attainment for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The existing pipelines within the project area consist of leak prone steel, that were installed during the 1950s.</p> <p><b>No Action:</b></p> <p>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 legacy bare steel leak prone 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 12,373 kg of methane would be released each year from the existing pipelines within the project area. This amounts to 247,460 kg of methane over a 20-year time frame. See Appendix B, Air Quality, for estimated methane leak rate calculations.</p>	

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-national-area-and-county-level-multi-pollutant-information>

<sup>3</sup> Blowdown refers to the venting of natural gas in current facilities, in order to begin rehabilitation, repair, or replacement activities.

<sup>4</sup> 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.



**Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action alternative consists of replacing 5.83 miles of bare steel pipe with 4.85 miles of PE pipe, which would result in minor air quality impacts associated with construction activities, including 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. 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 15 pounds per square inch (PSI) and a 1.5 inch diameter pipeline, PHMSA estimates 0.76 MCF of methane (23 kg) would be vented into the atmosphere during construction. See Appendix B, Air Quality for the methane blowdown 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 12,210 kg in the first year (when considering the methane that would be released from blowdown that would occur during construction) and would reduce 12,233 kg of methane per year thereafter. The total reduction in methane emissions resulting from the conversion protected steel pipeline would be approximately 244,643 kg over a 20-year span post construction. See Appendix B, Air Quality for the methane reduction calculations. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that the proposed project would provide 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 Hawkinsville 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, as necessary;
- Minimizing the area of soil disturbance to those necessary for construction;
- Minimizing construction site traffic by the use of 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	Yes, according to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI),

the project temporarily or permanently impact wetlands or waterways?	and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps.
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.
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.
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, construction activities are anticipated to exceed soil disturbance thresholds and a 402 permit may be required prior to construction. An erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan would be developed.
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.	Yes, the project does take place within a special flood hazard area (SFHA).
Will the proposed project activities potentially occur within a coastal zone <sup>5</sup> or affect any coastal use or natural resource of the coastal zone, requiring a Consistency Determination and Certification?	No.
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>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 Hawkinsville, there are water resources identified in the project area. One tributary, Mile Creek, and adjacent freshwater forested/shrub wetlands are located approximately 0.05-mile southwest of the intersection of South Jackson Street and County Road. The project area is also adjacent to the Ocmulgee River from Broad Street to McDuffie Street. NWI maps also identify freshwater forested/shrub wetlands associated with the Ocmulgee River in the project area on the east side of Jackson Street near the terminus of Houston Street. A map of aquatic resources can be found in Appendix C, Water Resources.</p> <p>PHMSA also reviewed FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer to identify any SFHA in the project area. The FIRMette map indicates the project includes areas designated as Zone AE. Areas designated as Zone AE are special flood hazard areas and these areas correspond to the one percent annual chance of flooding (100-year floodplain). Special flood hazard areas, Zone AE, includes the project area adjacent to the project area east of Houston Street and in the project area from Carruthers Street to Mansfield Drive. See Appendix C, Water Resources.</p> <p><b>No Action:</b></p> <p>Under the No Action alternative, the existing pipeline would remain in the current location and normal maintenance activities would continue without any impact anticipated to water resources. Depending on the</p>	

<sup>5</sup> 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.)

location of the activities, the work could be in close proximity to an aquatic resource where Hawkinsville would need to take precautions to avoid adverse impacts to these sensitive areas. Additionally, if work was to occur in an area identified as a SFHA, prior coordination with the local Floodplain Manager may be required.

**Proposed Action:**

The proposed Action Alternative includes replacing 5.83 miles (30,782 linear feet) of existing pipelines with 4.85 miles (25,608 linear feet) miles of new PE pipelines. Freshwater forested/shrub wetlands occur adjacent to Mile Creek and near the Ocmulgee River on the east side of Jackson Street near the terminus of Houston Street. Where work would be conducted in the project area at Mile Creek and near the Ocmulgee River, pipelines would be installed by directional boring. The contractor would set up approximately 100 feet back from the tributary and associated wetlands on either side and no direct impacts would occur. Because the pipeline in these areas would be installed by directional boring methods, the aquatic resources identified in these areas would not be impacted by the project.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires a permit before new construction or development begins within any SFHA to ensure that project development projects meet the requirements of the NFIP program and the local community's floodplain management ordinances. The proposed pipeline replacement is not considered new construction or development as pipes would be installed in existing, previously impacted ROW and all areas would be restored to their existing contours and condition. These activities would not affect the flood-holding capacity of the 100-year floodplain or cause any adverse impacts to the SFHA. There would be temporary impacts from trenching and excavation; however, all areas would be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions and there would be no permanent impacts. To ensure compliance with local floodplain ordinances, Hawkinsville should coordinate with the City of Hawkinsville Floodplain Administrator to inquire and obtain all necessary permits, prior to beginning work.

Based on information provided by Hawkinsville and a review of available information, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no permanent impacts to water resources located within the project. The pipeline placement and abandonment of the existing pipeline is not anticipated to cause any reasonably foreseeable indirect effects or cumulative effects to water resources. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment is that there will be no adverse impacts to water resources.

**Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Hawkinsville 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 Hawkinsville shall coordinate with the local floodplain administrator to obtain any necessary permits for conducting work in special flood hazard areas, prior to the commencement of work.

The City of Hawkinsville shall avoid any direct impacts to wetlands and open water resources by using directional bore methods, maintaining appropriate distances from the edge of any aquatic resources for entrance and exit pits and tie-ins.

**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.	No.
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, see mitigation measures below.
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.
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>PHMSA reviewed EPA's NEPAAssist website to identify any brownfields properties, hazardous waste sites, and superfund sites. There are five resource conservation and recovery act (RCRA) sites which include businesses that are identified as handlers of generators, or other combustible materials. There were no superfund or Brownfield sites identified near the project area. See Appendix D, Hazardous Materials.</p> <p>PHMSA obtained a custom soil report for the project area from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey which indicates that a majority of the project area is comprised of soils classified as the Dothan loamy sand. The majority of these soils are well drained soils where the depth to the water table is found somewhere between 39 to 55 inches.</p> <p><b>No Action:</b></p> <p>Under the No Action alternative, the bare steel 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<sup>6</sup>) 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.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <p>Under the Proposed Action alternative, Hawkinsville would replace 5.38 miles of main piping with 4.85 miles of new PE pipes that would be installed within the existing ROW. The existing gas line would be abandoned, in accordance with PHMSA requirements, and would be purged of natural gas and sealed on each end. The new gas lines would be installed at a depth of 48 inches below grade and would be installed by either directional drilling or trenching methods. All disturbed areas would be re-seeded or paved (as appropriate) and restored to</p>	

<sup>6</sup> Insert Gas Main Flexible Liners <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/insertgasmainflexibleliners.pdf>

preexisting conditions.

The soils mapped in the area are mostly well drained, and therefore, the potential for encountering groundwater is unlikely. However, if trenching and/or directional drilling work should intercept groundwater, Hawkinsville would use appropriate dewatering methods, as necessary. There are no brownfield or superfund sites identified in the area where work would occur that could be potentially impacted by the Proposed Action alternative. While there are identified sites that contain, store or dispose of hazardous materials, these are not within the construction areas, as work is limited to existing ROW and would not be impacted by the proposed project. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that there would be no adverse impacts to groundwater associated with the project. Additionally, PHMSA has not identified any indirect or cumulative effects to groundwater or hazardous materials.

**Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Hawkinsville shall ensure a vacuum truck is present during all boring and directional drilling activities to contain drilling fluids.

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

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, Hawkinsville would use standard best management practices including control of erosion, silt fencing, and return of all soils to pre-construction conditions.
Will the project require unique impacts related to soils?	No.
<b>Conclusion:</b>  PHMSA obtained a custom soil report for the project area from NRCS's Web Soil Survey which indicates that the project area is comprised of various soil types, mostly consisting of loamy sands. The majority of these soils are well drained soils where the depth to the water table is found somewhere between 39 and 55 inches. It is noted that the project area is an urban residential area where ground disturbance activities have already occurred and there are limited areas 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. See Appendix E, Soil Map.  <b>No Action:</b>  Under the No Action alternative, the bare steel 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:**

Hawkinsville would install 4.85 miles of PE pipelines within the existing ROW at a depth of 48 inches below grade by either HDD or trenching construction methods. All disturbed areas would be re-seeded or paved (as appropriate) and restored to pre-existing conditions. 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 Hawkinsville would restore all areas to pre-construction conditions.

**Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Hawkinsville 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? <sup>7</sup> If no, no further analysis is required.	Yes, based on review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) and NOAA Fisheries website. <sup>[1]</sup> Additionally, Georgia resources were inventoried to identify potential state listed species.
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.
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>PHMSA requested an official species list through the USFWS's IPaC website to obtain a list of species under USFWS' jurisdiction. See Appendix F, Biological Resources: Threatened and Endangered Species. The following were identified as potentially occurring within the geographic area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> (proposed endangered)</li><li>• Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> (experimental population, non-essential)</li><li>• Eastern Indigo Snake <i>Drymarchon couperi</i> (threatened)</li><li>• Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> (candidate species)</li><li>• Canby's Dropwort <i>Oxypolis canbyi</i> (endangered)</li><li>• Fringed Campion <i>Silene polypetala</i> (endangered)</li><li>• Ocmulgee Skullcap <i>Scutellaria Ocmulgee</i> (proposed threatened)</li><li>• Relict Trillium <i>Trillium reliquum</i> (endangered)</li></ul>	

<sup>7</sup> <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>, [https://georgiabiodiversity.org/portal/table/all/ga\\_protected/13235/](https://georgiabiodiversity.org/portal/table/all/ga_protected/13235/) and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species-directory/threatened-endangered>

Additionally, the list of Georgia state protected species from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources was reviewed to assist in identifying potential species protected by the State and under the jurisdiction of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. A list of state protected species can be found in Appendix F, Biological Resources.

**No Action:**

Under the No Action alternative, existing conditions would remain, and normal maintenance activities would occur. The project area is in a urban area with limited biological resources present within the previously disturbed ROW. 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 contained within existing ROW where the areas of disturbance would be within existing transportation corridors. Because these areas are 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), the immediate project area has limited biological resources present. The new pipes would be installed by either directional drilling or trenching.

**Eastern Indigo Snake:** The eastern indigo snake inhabits pine flatwoods, hardwood forests, moist hammocks, and areas that surround cypress swamps. Project activities would occur within disturbed ROW. Impacts would be limited to bore pits occurring within disturbed ROW, which do not include forested habitats or cypress swamps.

**Canby's Dropwort:** Canby's dropwort inhabits a variety of coastal plain communities, including pond cypress savannas, the shallows and edges of cypress/pond pine ponds, sloughs, and wet pine savannas. Project activities would occur within disturbed ROW. Impacts would be limited to bore pits occurring within disturbed ROW, which do not include coastal plain habitats.

**Fringed Campion:** The fringed campion inhabits well-drained, sandy-loam soils of deciduous woods, usually hillsides. Further, this species is usually found in mature hardwood or hardwood pine forests on river-bluffs, small stream terraces, moist slopes and well shaded ridge crests. Project activities would occur within disturbed ROW. Impacts would be limited to bore pits occurring within disturbed ROW, which do not include forest habitats.

**Relict Trillium:** The relict trillium occurs in rich, mixed-deciduous forests on slopes, bluffs, stream-flats, and floodplains. Project activities would occur within disturbed ROW. Impacts would be limited to bore pits occurring within disturbed ROW, which do not include forest habitats.

**Whooping Crane:** The whooping crane can be found in coastal areas with considerable inland bodies of water such as a lake, river, wetland, or marsh. Project activities would occur within disturbed ROW. Impacts would be limited to bore pits occurring within disturbed ROW. While there are water bodies adjacent to the project area, a majority of the pipe in these areas would be installed by directional boring methods.

**Tricolored Bat:** During the winter, tricolored bats are found in caves and mines, although in the southern United States, where caves are sparse, tricolored bats are often found roosting in road-associated culverts. During the spring, summer and fall, tricolored bats are found in forested habitats where they roost in trees, primarily

among leaves.

Ocmulgee Skullcap: Ocmulgee skullcap is a rare herbaceous perennial plant found only in the Savannah River (GA & SC) and Ocmulgee River (GA) watersheds.

Monarch Butterfly: Monarch butterflies are found wherever suitable feeding, breeding, and overwintering habitat exists. As caterpillars, monarchs feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed. As adults, monarchs feed on nectar from a wide range of blooming native plants but can only lay eggs on milkweed plants. Milkweed acts as a host plant and without it, the larvae would not be able to develop.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) PHMSA's assessment is that the project would have no effect to federally threatened or endangered species. Under Section 7(a)(4) of the ESA, Federal agencies must confer with the USFWS if their action would jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species. The tricolored bat and Ocmulgee skullcap are proposed for listing and the project is unlikely to jeopardize these species' existence. For the purposes of consultation, non-essential experimental populations (including the whooping crane) are treated as proposed species on private land (no section 7(a)(2) requirements, but Federal agencies must not jeopardize their existence (section 7(a)(4))). The project is unlikely to jeopardize the existence of the whooping crane. As a candidate species the Monarch Butterfly receives no statutory protection under the ESA. 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 no impacts to habitat or species would occur.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Hawkinsville is responsible for abiding by all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

<b>Cultural Resources</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Information and Justification</b>
Does the project include any ground disturbing activities, modifications to buildings or structures, or construction or installation of any new aboveground components?	Yes, the project includes ground disturbing activities. No modifications to buildings or structures or new aboveground components are required.
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. <sup>8</sup>	Yes, a portion of the project will take place within a historical district.  Hawkinsville Commercial and Industrial Historic District (District)
Does the project or any part of the project take place on tribal lands or land where a tribal cultural interest may exist? <sup>9</sup>	No.

<sup>8</sup> Many SHPOs have an [online system](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm) 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](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm) at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm> can also be accessed online.

<sup>9</sup> The SHPO may have information on areas of tribal interest, or a good source is the [HUD TDAT website](https://egis.hud.gov/TDAT/) at <https://egis.hud.gov/TDAT/>.



Are there any nearby properties or resources that either appear to be or are documented to have been constructed more than 45 years ago? <sup>10</sup> 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.	Yes.  Yes, 98 buildings appear to be designed and constructed in a similar manner and time.
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.	Yes, the project includes work within the existing disturbed ROW.
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.	No.
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>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 project to encompass the existing ROW, which includes the limits of disturbance, staging areas, and any resources that may be particularly susceptible to any potential vibration effects. (See Appendix G, Cultural Resources)</p> <p><b>No Action:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <p>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 Georgia Historic Preservation Division. 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.</p> <p>PHMSA's assessment is that the Proposed Project would not alter any of the characteristics or contributing features of the District that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP. Project work is limited to the replacement of existing pipelines. The Undertaking will not result in lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the District. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of the District. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, PHMSA has determined the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on</p>	

<sup>10</sup> Local tax and property records or historic maps may indicate dates of construction.

historic properties.

A letter was sent on March 28, 2024, to the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized tribes with a potential interest in the project area, and all 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 E, 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 Hawkinsville 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 Hawkinsville 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 is to remain within the road's existing right-of-way, 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.	No.
Will any construction activities occur within the	No.

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.	
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the land;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>PHMSA conducted a review of the project area to identify potential properties that qualify as Section 4(f). No properties were identified within the project area as potential 4(f) properties.</p> <p><b>No Action:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <p>Under the Proposed Action alternative, construction activities would not occur within or adjacent to 4(f) properties. Therefore, there would be no use of Section 4(f) resources.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b></p> <p>There are no 4(f) resources identified in the project area and therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.</p>	

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.
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,	No.

and how would changes affect the public?	
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?	No.
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>The project is located in the City of Hawkinsville, which is an urbanized area consisting of commercial and residential areas.</p> <p><b>No Action:</b></p> <p>Under the No Action alternative, the bare steel pipes would remain in their current location and no changes to land use would occur. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <p>Hawkinsville is proposing to replace pipeline infrastructure within the existing ROW and would not include adding pipeline to serve new areas. 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. Consideration of emergency response vehicles, travel restrictions, and other impacts to local transportation are anticipated to be temporary and would only last for the duration of construction. Minor disruptions to on-street parking may occur, but access to existing residences would not be restricted. Hawkinsville would coordinate with the appropriate local and state agencies regarding interruptions to traffic. Normal traffic flow would be maintained to the extent possible and traffic control measures would be utilized to assist traffic negotiating through construction areas, as needed. Hawkinsville would notify emergency services of the scheduled work and traffic implications of the work that would be conducted and would use various methods of communication to notify any potentially impacted residents, business owners, and the general public. 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 there would be no impact to land use.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b>	

The City of Hawkinsville shall maintain traffic flows to the extent possible and use traffic control measures to assist traffic negotiating through construction areas, as needed.

The City of Hawkinsville shall coordinate with state and local agencies regarding detours and/or routing adjustments during construction and will notify any potentially impacted residents and/or business owners.

The City of Hawkinsville shall have a traffic control plan in place, prior to construction, and coordinate with the appropriate agency well in advance of any impacted emergency services or essential agency functions.

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. No high-noise or high-vibration machinery would be used for construction. The City of Hawkinsville would conduct public outreach to notify residents of when construction work is expected near their homes. Further, the contractor would adhere to all local noise ordinances to minimize impacts on surrounding residential properties.
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.	Yes. Section 11-3 (7) of the Hawkinsville code of ordinances, which limits construction work to between 7am and 10pm.
Will construction activities require large bulldozers, hoe ram, or other vibratory equipment within 20 ft of a structure?	No.
<b>Conclusion:</b>  The project is located in the City of Hawkinsville. The ambient noise in the project area consists of a combination of environmental noise from road traffic, construction, industry, the built environment, population density and other sources. There are several sensitive noise receptors (residences, schools, etc.) located adjacent to the streets where work would occur.  <b>No Action:</b>  Under the No Action alternative, the project would not move forward and the pipelines along the designated streets in the project area would not be replaced at this time. 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:**

Pipeline would be installed mainly by directional bore methods where drill rigs, excavators, reamers, and similar equipment would be used to install pipeline by horizontal directional drilling. Excavators, dump trucks, skid steers, rollers, pavers, and other similar construction equipment would also be used in some areas to excavate trenches and entrance/exit pits, lay pipe, compact soils and re-pave affected areas. Hawkinsville would adhere to the City of Hawkinsville Code of Ordinances Section 11-3 (7) which states:

*"The erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair of any building in any residential district or section, the excavation of streets and highways in any residential district or section, other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., except in the cases of urgent necessity and then only with a permit from the code enforcement officer, which permit may be granted for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days while the emergency continues. If the code enforcement officer determines that the public health and safety will not be impaired by the erection, demolition, alteration or repair of any building or the excavation of streets and highways within the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., and if he further determines that loss or inconvenience would result to any party in interest, the code enforcement officer may grant permission for such work to be done within the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., upon application being made at the time the permit for work is awarded or during the progress of the work."*

Individual pieces of equipment may generate noise levels of 80 to 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Sensitive noise receptors are likely to experience temporary noise; however, PHMSA's assessment is that the noise impacts would be minor and temporary and no adverse vibration impacts would result from the proposed work.

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 within the City of Hawkinsville. Rural areas often have paving, drainage improvement, and other construction or maintenance projects on going which could occur within or near the project area which would contribute to increased noise. These construction and maintenance projects could occur at the same time as the Proposed Action alternative and would contribute to an increase in cumulative noise effects during construction. However, adhering to state and local noise ordinances would ensure the project does not cause cumulatively more than minor adverse noise or vibration impacts.

**Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Hawkinsville shall adhere to City of Hawkinsville Code of Ordinances Section 11-3 (7).

Environmental Justice	
Question	Information and Justification
Using the EPA EJScreen or census data <sup>11</sup> , 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.	Based on review of socioeconomic data using EPAs EJScreen tool, the population residing within the general project area for City of Hawkinsville contains 52% low income and 62% minority populations.
Will the project displace existing residents or workers from their homes and communities? If so, what is the expected duration?	No

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045222>

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. Very minimal service disruptions are expected to occur as residents are transitioned from an old line to a new line. Residents would be notified well in advance of these outages by door hangers placed by the contractor. Hawkinsville would also communicate via social media and through advertisements in the local newspaper.
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?	No
<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>Executive Order (E.O.) 14096—"Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All" was enacted on April 21, 2023. E.O. 14096 on environmental justice does not rescind E.O. 12898 – "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," which has been in effect since February 11, 1994 and is currently implemented through DOT Order 5610.2C. This implementation will continue until further guidance is provided regarding the implementation of the new E.O. 14096 on environmental justice.</p> <p>PHMSA reviewed socioeconomic data using the EPAs EJScreen and found the population residing within the project area in Hawkinsville contains 52% low income and 62% minority populations. The percentage of these populations is above the Pulaski County average of 36 % low income and 45 % minority populations. See Appendix H Environmental Justice, for socioeconomic data.</p> <p><b>No Action:</b></p> <p>Under the No Action alternative, existing and planned pipeline activities, including construction and maintenance activities, would continue unchanged. Hawkinsville 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 activities 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.</p> <p><b>Proposed Action:</b></p> <p>The Proposed Action alternative would result in an overall reduction in GHG emissions. Construction activities would result in minor temporary air quality impacts, including the intentional venting of existing distribution lines prior to replacement. Noise impacts associated with construction are anticipated to be minor Traffic impacts would be temporary and only minor disruptions or delays would occur. However, removal of leak prone pipe would reduce leaks and the potential for incidents, resulting in an increase in pipeline safety across the system while also improving 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.</p>	

**Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Hawkinsville shall notify residents in advance of outages by door hangers, social media and advertisements in the local newspaper.

Safety	
Question	Information and Justification
Has a risk profile been developed to describe the condition of the current infrastructure and potential safety concerns?	Yes, as described in the Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP).
Has a public awareness program been developed and implemented that follows the guidance provided by the American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162?	No, a public awareness program has not yet been implemented but would be included as part of this project.
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 contractor would be required to follow all standard construction safety methods and procedures.
Has an assessment of the project been performed to analyze the risk and benefits of implementation?	Yes.
<b>Conclusion:</b> <p>The proposed project would replace existing bare steel pipes. 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. This is reflected in Hawkinsville's DIMP plan. 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.</p> <b>No Action:</b> <p>Under the No Action alternative, the bare steel 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 leak-prone pipes are replaced.</p> <b>Proposed Action:</b> <p>The proposed project is necessary to replace leak prone pipes. The project would reduce the risk profile of</p>	



existing pipeline systems prone to methane leakage and would also benefit disadvantaged 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 CFR 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. These requirements for purging and sealing abandoned pipelines would ensure that the abandoned pipelines are properly purged and cleaned and pose no risk to safety in their abandoned state. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is this replacement project would improve the overall safety of Hawkinsville's infrastructure.

### **Safety**

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Hawkinsville 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.

The City of Hawkinsville shall develop a public awareness program consistent with guidance provided by the American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162.

The City of Hawkinsville shall use standard construction safety methods and procedures; and conduct regular safety audits of crews performing work in the field and subsequent follow-up reporting and/or training, as required.

### 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<sup>12</sup>. 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](mailto:PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov) and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-29 in your response.

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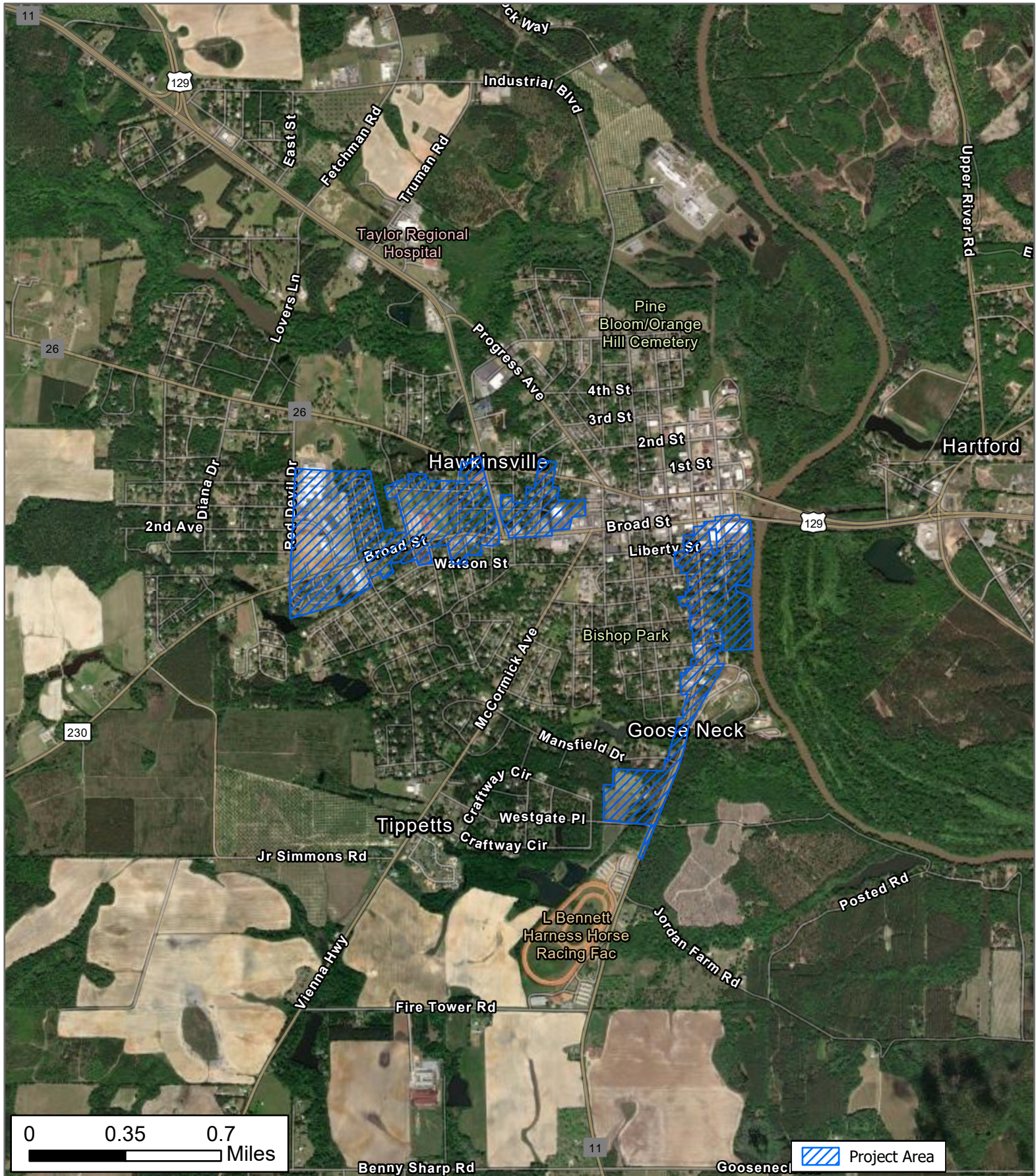
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document/PHMSA-2022-0123-0002/comment>

## Appendix A

### Project Map



# Project Area Map



Name: Hawkinsville, Georgia Gas Line Replacement

Scale: 30,000

Total Acreage: 318

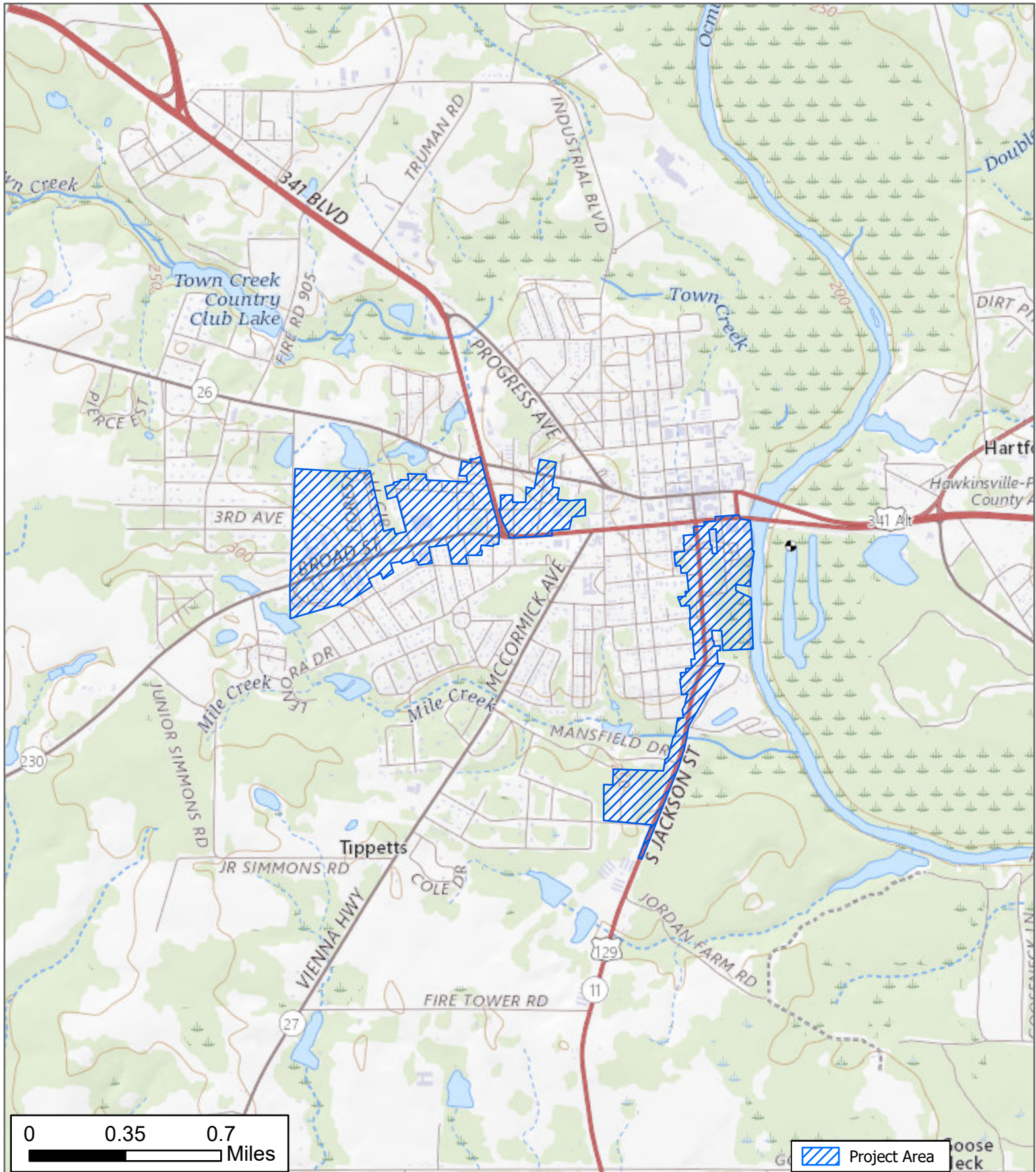
Pulaski County, GA

N

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



# Project Area Map



Name: Hawkinsville, Georgia Gas Line Replacement

Scale: 30,000

Total Acreage: 318

Pulaski County, GA

N



**Service Layer Credits:** 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.



# Project Area Map



Name: Hawkinsville, Georgia Gas Line Replacement

Scale: 12,000

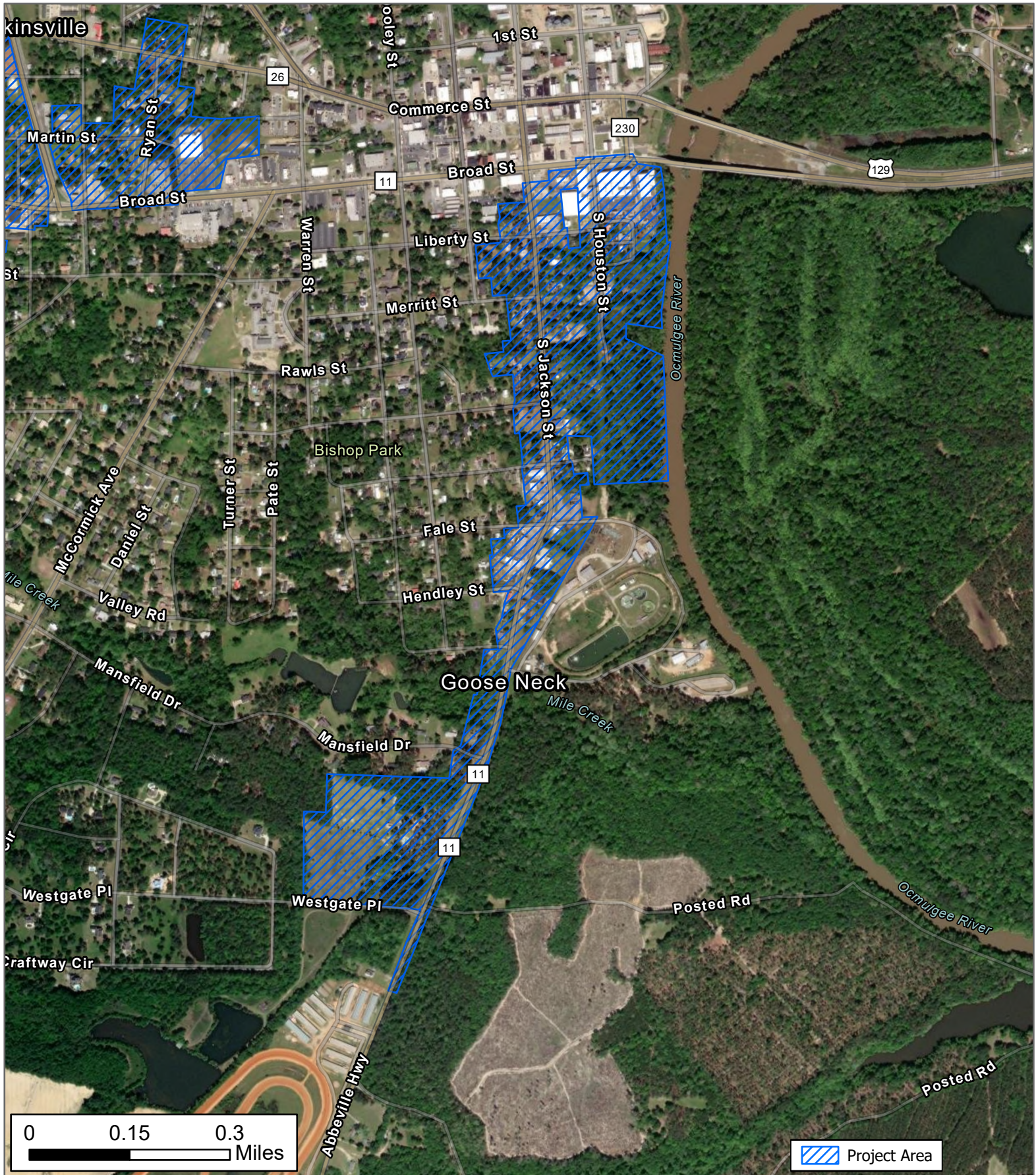
Total Acreage: 200

Pulaski County, GA

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



# Project Area Map



Name: Hawkinsville, Georgia Gas Line Replacement

Scale: 12,000

Total Acreage: 118

Pulaski County, GA

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



## Appendix B

### Air Quality



## Methane Leak Rate pre/post Construction

*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)
Plastic	190.9	0	0
Unprotected steel	2,122.30	5.83	12,373
Protected steel	77.90	0	0
Total Methane Leak Rate			12,373

*Table 3. Proposed Action Leak Rate*

Pipeline Material Type	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)	Miles	New Methane Leak Rate (kg/year)
Plastic	28.8	4.85	140
Year 1 Methane Reduction			12,210
Annual Methane Reduction			12,233
20-year Methane Reduction			244,643

## Methane Blowdown Estimate

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

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

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

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

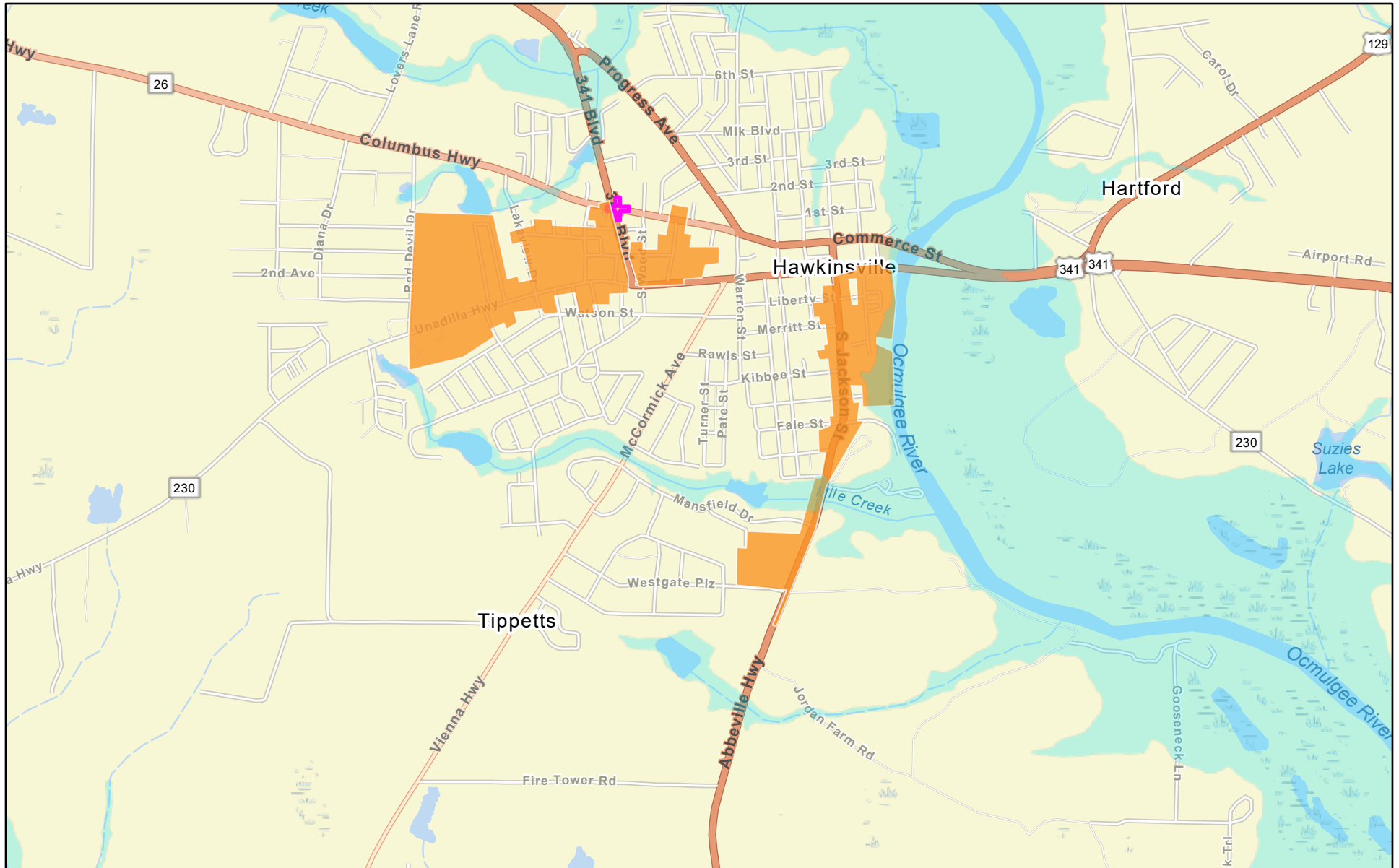
*Table 1 Proposed Action - Methane Blowdown*

<b>Inside Diameter = in</b>	1.5
<b>Blowdown Pressure</b>	15
<b>Length of Blowdown = ft</b>	30,782
<b>Blowdown MCF</b>	0.76
<b>Total</b>	0.76 MCF (23 kg)

## Appendix C

### Water Resources

# City of Hawkinsville - Water Resources- Floodplains



February 24, 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

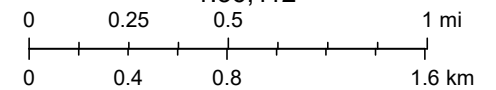
Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee

Area with Risk Due to Levee

project area

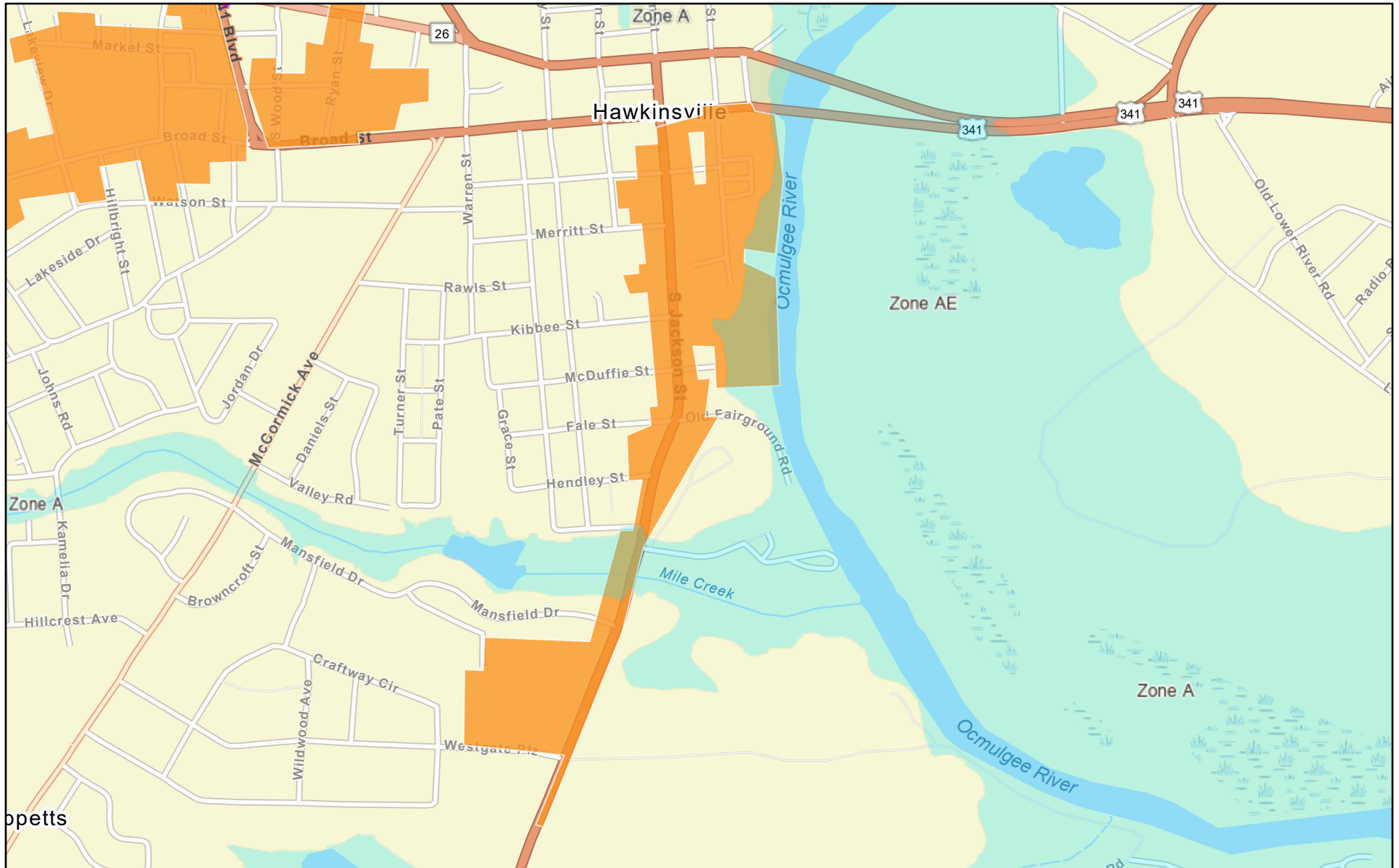
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Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

# City of Hawkinsville - Water Resources- Floodplains



February 24, 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

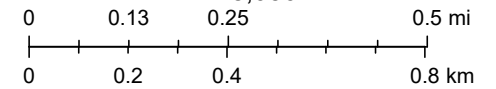
Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee

Area with Risk Due to Levee

project area

Search Result (point)

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Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau,

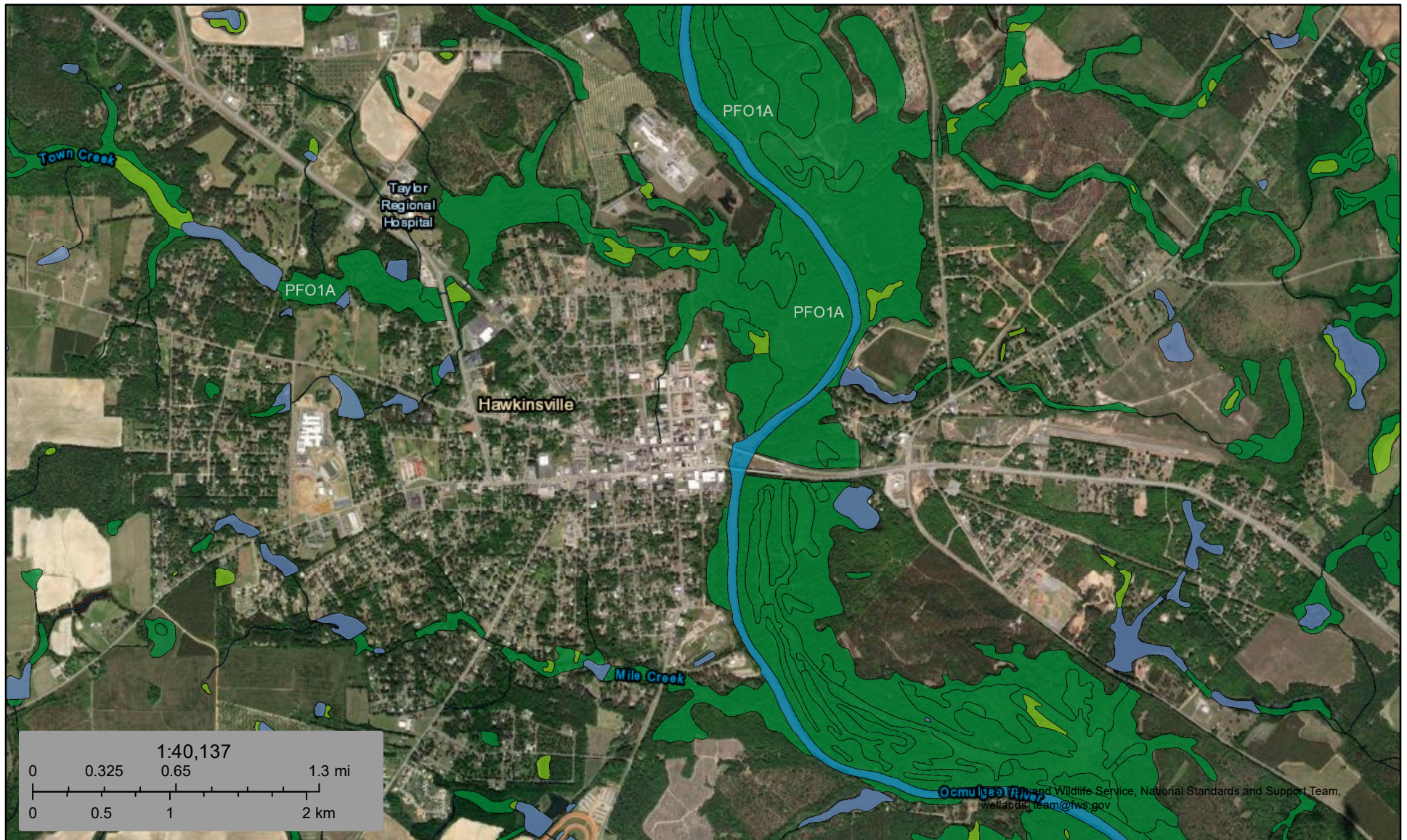




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service


# National Wetlands Inventory

## City of Hawkinsville-Wetlands



February 24, 2024

### Wetlands

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

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

## City of Hawkinsville- Wetlands



February 24, 2024

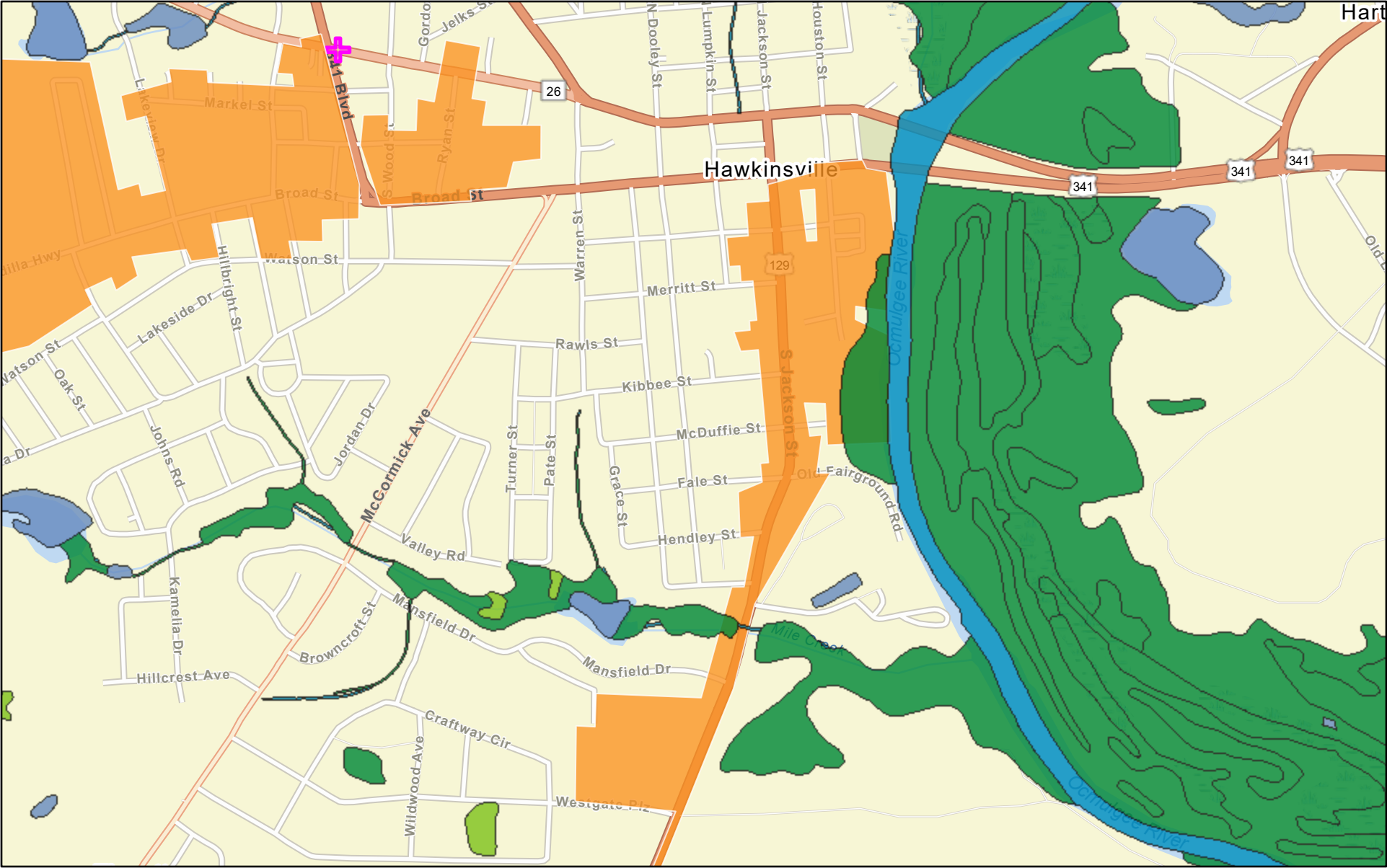
### Wetlands

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

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.



# City of Hawkinsville - Water Resources



March 22, 2024

- Wetlands
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
  - Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
  - Estuarine and Marine Wetland
  - Freshwater Emergent Wetland
  - Freshwater Pond
  - Lake
  - Other
- project area
- Search Result (point)

1:18,056

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 mi

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 km

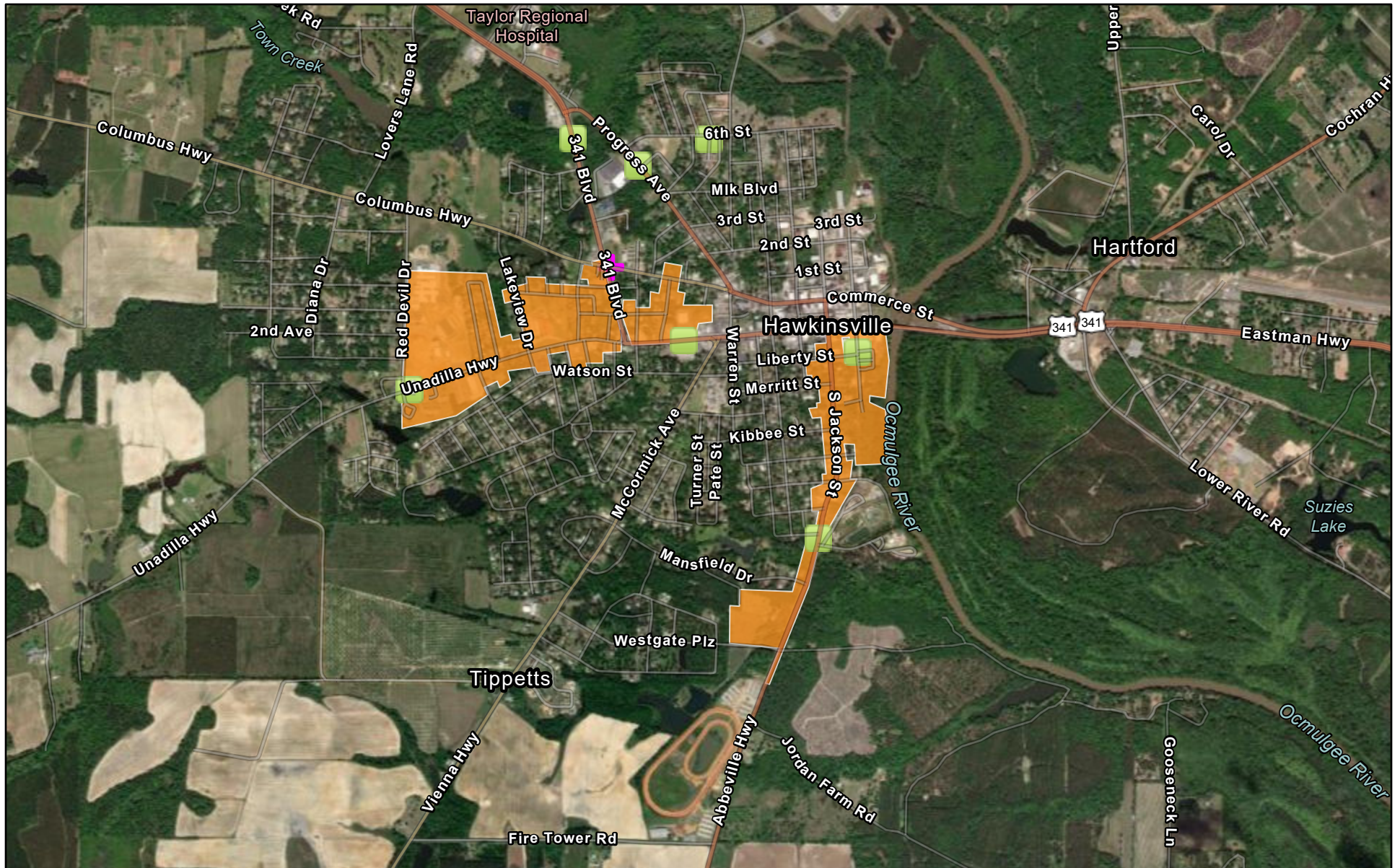
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Standards and Support Team, wetlands\_team@fws.gov, Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri, TomTom,







## Appendix D

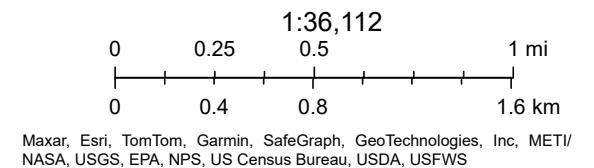
### Hazardous Materials

# City of Hawkinsville-Hazardous Materials



February 25, 2024

-  Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)
-  project area
-  Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)
-  Search Result (point)



## Appendix E: Soil Map



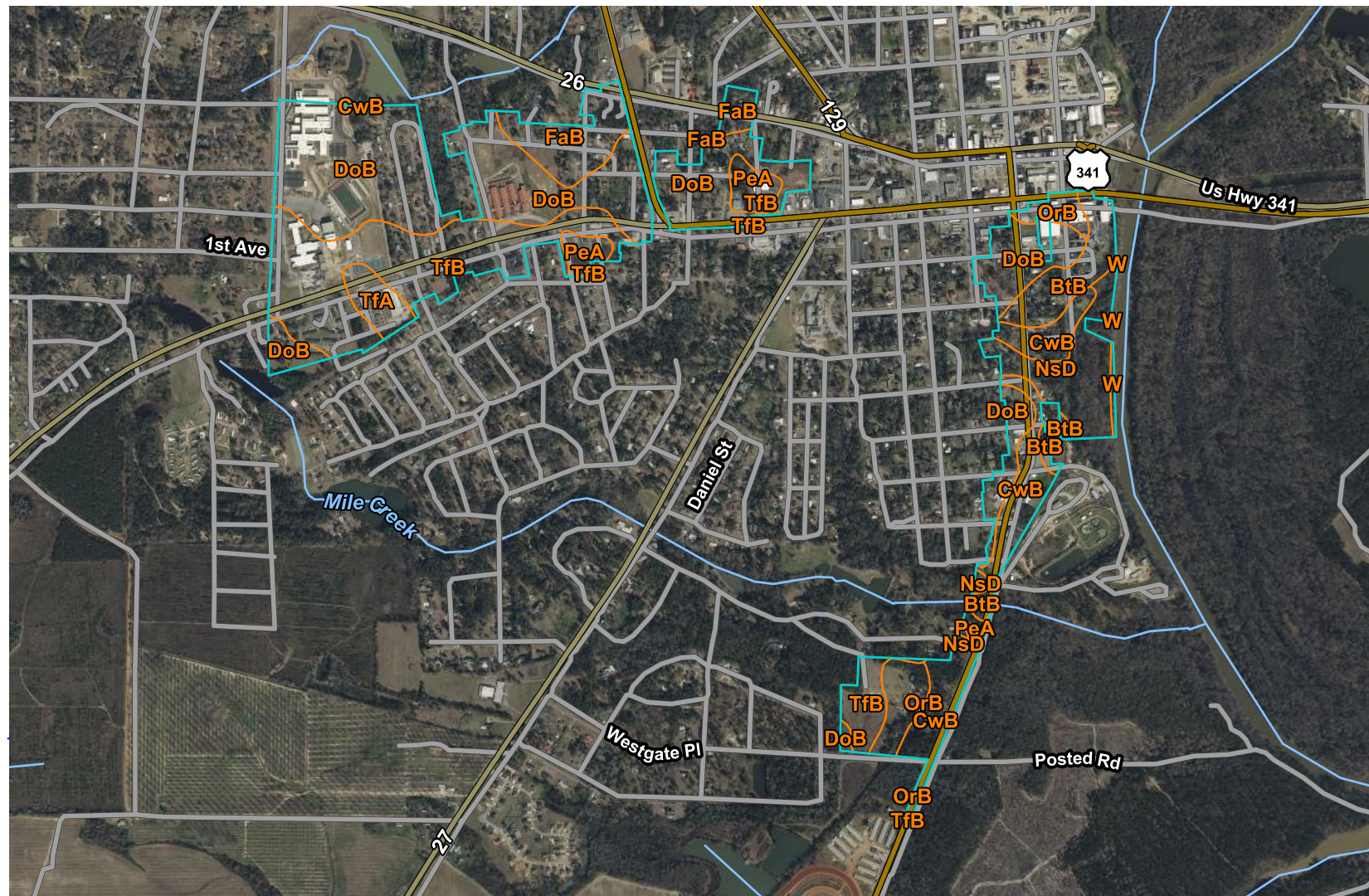
# Soil Map—Pulaski County, Georgia (APE)

83° 30' 3" W

83° 27' 16" W

32° 17' 15" N

32° 17' 15" N



32° 15' 43" N

32° 15' 43" N

83° 30' 3" W

83° 27' 16" W



Map Scale: 1:20,100 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

0 250 500 1000 1500 Meters

0 500 1000 2000 3000 Feet

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84



Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey  
National Cooperative Soil Survey

2/25/2024  
Page 1 of 3

## 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 1:20,000.

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: Pulaski and Wilcox Counties, Georgia

Survey Area Data: Version 16, Aug 29, 2023

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

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Feb 14, 2023—Mar 15, 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
BtB	Blanton sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	18.0	5.7%
CwB	Cowarts-Nankin-Ailey complex, 2 to 5 percent slopes	31.6	9.9%
DoB	Dothan loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	127.4	40.0%
FaB	Faceville sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes	20.4	6.4%
NsD	Nankin-Cowarts-Susquehanna complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes	21.6	6.8%
OrB	Orangeburg loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	13.5	4.2%
PeA	Pelham loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	11.0	3.5%
TfA	Tifton loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	7.3	2.3%
TfB	Tifton loamy sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes	66.5	20.9%
W	Water	0.9	0.3%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>318.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Appendix F

### Biological Resources



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601-2523  
Phone: (706) 460-7161 Fax: (706) 613-6059



In Reply Refer To:

February 25, 2024

Project Code: 2024-0053911

Project Name: City of Hawkinsville Gas Pipeline Replacement

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:

Thank you for requesting information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We provide the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may occur within your project area and to recommend conservation measures to consider in your project design if you determine those species or designated critical habitats may be affected by your proposed project.

### **FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT**

Attached is a list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in your project area. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, project proponent, or their designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional guidance to inform your effect determination, please contact the Service.



If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent document that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's [Section 7 Consultation Library](#) and [Habitat Conservation Plans Library](#) Collections.

**Action Area.** The scope of federally listed species compliance not only includes direct effects, but also any indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The action area is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

ESA Section 7 consultation (and related tools such as the EDGES and/or Determination Keys) apply to projects being permitted or funded by a Federal agency. However, please note that a lead federal agency may consider an action area that excludes portions of the project footprint. In these cases, further coordination with our office may be required to ensure compliance with the ESA. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to coordinate with the lead federal agency to understand the action and action area being reviewed as part of ESA Section 7 consultation.

**How to Submit a Project Review Package.** If your action may affect any federally listed species and you would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package. A step-by-step guide is available below and supplemental guidance is available at the Georgia Ecological Services [Project Planning and Review](https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review) page (<https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review>).

Requests for threatened and endangered species project reviews must be submitted to our office using the process described below. (If you are not emailing us to submit a project for review, your email will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.) This is a three-step process. All steps must be completed to ensure your project is reviewed by a biologist in our office and you receive a timely response. In brief the steps are:

**Step 1.** Request an official species list for your project through IPaC (Done!)

**Step 2.** Complete applicable Determination Keys

**Step 3.** Send your complete project review package to **GAES\_Assistance@FWS.gov** for review if no DKey is applicable or all aspects of the project are not addressed by DKeys, i.e. a species returned by IPaC does not have a DKey to address impacts to it. A complete project review package should include:

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. The description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, such as the purpose of the action; duration and timing of the action; location (latitude and longitude); specific activities involving disturbance to land, water, and air, and how they will be carried out; current description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action; and maps, drawings, or similar schematics of the action. Include ALL project areas as one single submission and do not separate into smaller components/submissions.
2. An updated Official Species List and Determination Key (DKey) results
3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (e.g., management plans related to stormwater, vegetation, erosion and sediment plans). Visit the [Georgia Conservation Planning Toolbox](https://www.fws.gov/story/conservation-tools-georgia) (<https://www.fws.gov/story/conservation-tools-georgia>) for information about conservation measures.
6. In the email subject line, use the following format to include the Project Code from your IPaC species list and the county in which the project is located (Example: Project Code: 2023-0049730 Gwinnett Co.). For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.

The Georgia Ecological Services Field Office will send a response email within approximately 30 days of receipt with technical assistance or further recommendations for specific species.

## **WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS**

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's [NWI program website](https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory) (<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>) integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for

permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the Service's [Migratory Birds Program](https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds) (https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged.

We recommend review of Birds of Conservation Concern to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies birds that are potentially threatened by disturbance and construction. It can be found at the Service's [Migratory Birds Conservation Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents) (https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents).

Information related to best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's [Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds) (https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds).

## **BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES**

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was delisted under the ESA on August 9, 2007. Both the bald eagle and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are still protected under the MBTA and BGEPA. The BGEPA affords both eagles protection in addition to that provided by the MBTA, in particular, by making it unlawful to “disturb” eagles. Under the BGEPA, the Service may issue limited permits to incidentally “take” eagles (e.g., injury, interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior nest abandonment). For information on bald and golden eagle management guidelines, we recommend you review information provided at the Service's [Bald and Golden Eagle Management Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management) (https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management).

## **NATIVE BATS**

If your species list includes Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) and the project is expected to impact forested habitat that is appropriate for maternity colonies of these species, forest clearing should occur outside of the period when bats may be present. Federally listed bats could be actively present in forested landscapes from April 1 to October 15 of any year and have non-volant pups from May 15 to July 31 in any year. Non-volant pups are incapable of flight and are vulnerable to disturbance during that time.

Indiana, northern long-eared, and gray (*M. grisescens*) bats are all known to utilize bridges and culverts in Georgia. If your project includes maintenance, construction, or any other modification or demolition to transportation structures, a qualified individual should complete a survey of these structures for bats and submit your findings via the Georgia Bats in Bridges cell phone application, free on Apple and Android devices. Please include these findings in any biological

assessment(s) or other documentation that is submitted to our office for technical assistance or consultation.

Additional information can be found at Georgia Ecological Services' [Conservation Planning Toolbox](#) and [Bat Conservation in Georgia](#) pages.

## **MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

On December 20, 2020, the Service determined that listing the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded at this time by higher priority listing actions. With this finding, the monarch butterfly becomes a candidate for listing. The Service will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.

As it is a candidate for listing, the Service welcomes conservation measures for this species. Recommended, and voluntary, conservation measures for projects in Georgia can be found at our [Monarch Conservation in Georgia](https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia) (<https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia>) page.

## **EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE**

Our office has published guidance documents to assist project proponents in avoiding and minimizing potential impact to the eastern indigo snake. The [Visual Encounter Survey Protocol for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(\*Drymarchon couperi\*\) in Georgia](#) is recommended for project proponents or their designees to evaluate the possible presence of the Eastern indigo snake at a proposed project site. The [Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(\*Drymarchon couperi\*\)](#) include educational materials and training that can help protect the species by making staff working on a project site aware of their presence and traits. In Georgia, indigo snakes are closely associated with the state-listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), a reptile that excavates extensive underground burrows that provide the snake shelter from winter cold and summer desiccation.

## **SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

The [Recommended Practices for the Responsible Siting and Design of Solar Development in Georgia](#) were published in September 2023 and are intended to provide voluntary guidance to support consideration of natural resources during the development of photovoltaic solar in Georgia. Furthermore, the Georgia Low Impact Solar Siting Tool (LISST) is available as a [web application](#) and as a map layer in IPaC (Find it in the “Layers” Box > “Environmental Data”) to provide project managers with the data to identify areas that may be preferred for low-impact development. The tool seeks to support the acceleration of large-scale solar development in areas with less impact to the environment.

## **STATE AGENCY COORDINATION**

Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the State Wildlife Action Plan (<https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan>), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal (<https://>

georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern), Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS portal (<https://www.gnahrgis.org/gnahrgis/index.do>) pages.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov) and reference the project county and your Service Project Tracking Number.

This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services' general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

## 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:

**Georgia Ecological Services Field Office**

355 East Hancock Avenue

Room 320

Athens, GA 30601-2523

(706) 460-7161

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0053911

Project Name: City of Hawkinsville Gas Pipeline Replacement

Project Type: Distribution Line - Maintenance/Modification - Below Ground

Project Description: Replacement of aging natural gas pipelines within existing ROW

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.2812425,-83.48561454848438,14z>



Counties: Pulaski County, Georgia

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 8 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<sup>1</sup>, 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.

- 
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
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	Proposed Endangered

## BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</a>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

## REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Indigo Snake <i>Drymarchon couperi</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646</a>	Threatened

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Canby's Dropwort <i>Oxypolis canbyi</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7738">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7738</a>	Endangered
Fringed Campion <i>Silene polypetala</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3738">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3738</a>	Endangered
Ocmulgee Skullcap <i>Scutellaria ocmulgee</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6796">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6796</a>	Proposed Threatened
Relict Trillium <i>Trillium reliquum</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8489">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8489</a>	Endangered

## 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.

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, 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 NO BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> 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
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius paulus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587</a>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Brown-headed Nuthatch <i>Sitta pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9427</a>	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15
Coastal (waynes) Black-throated Green Warbler <i>Setophaga virens waynei</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11879">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11879</a>	Breeds May 1 to Aug 15
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398</a>	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

## 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 (■)

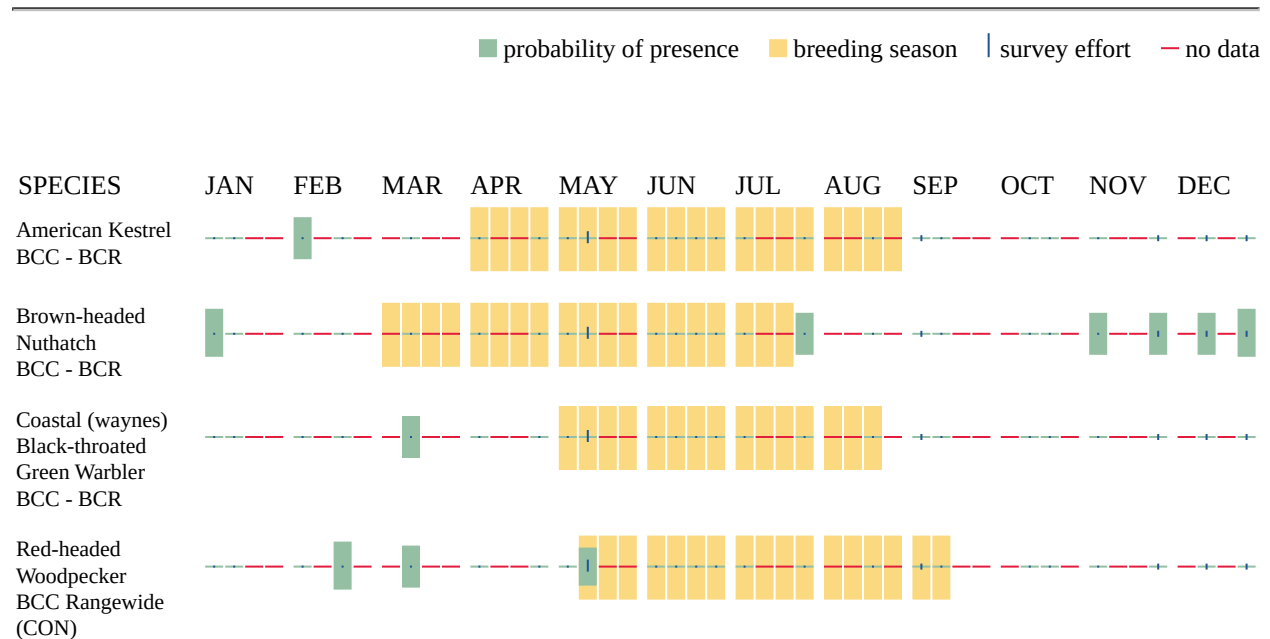
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

### 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-incident-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>

## WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

### FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFO1A

### FRESHWATER POND

- PUBHh

### RIVERINE

- R5UBH
- R2UBH

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Department of Transportation

Name: Jason Holloman

Address: 220 Binney Street

City: Cambridge

State: MA

Zip: 02142

Email: jason.holloman@dot.gov

Phone: 6174943048

## **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lead Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Georgia State Protect Species List-Pulaski County			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Group	Georgia Habitat Summary
Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus	Atlantic Sturgeon	Animal	Estuaries; lower end of large rivers in deep pools with soft substrates; spawn as far inland as Macon, GA on the Ocmulgee
Corynorhinus rafinesquii	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	Animal	Pine forests; hardwood forests; caves; abandoned buildings; bridges; bottomland hardwood forests and cypress-gum swamps
Elanoides forficatus	Swallow-tailed Kite	Animal	River swamps; marshes, open pine and bottomland forest with super canopy pines.
Etheostoma parvipinne	Goldstripe Darter	Animal	Small sluggish streams and spring seepage areas in vegetated habitat
Geomys pinetis	Southeastern Pocket Gopher	Animal	Sandy well-drained soils in open pine woodlands with grassy or herbaceous groundcover; fields and grassy roadsides
Heterodon simus	Southern Hognose Snake	Animal	Sandhills; fallow fields; longleaf pine-turkey oak
Marshallia ramosa	Pineland Barbara Buttons	Plant	Altamaha Grit outcrops; open forests over ultramafic rock
Moxostoma robustum	Robust Redhorse	Animal	Medium to large rivers, shallow riffles to deep flowing water; moderately swift current
Salix floridana	Florida Willow	Plant	Spring runs; seepy, sphagnous wetlands with Eleocharis tortilis, Itea, Alnus, Orontium, Arnoglossum sulcatum
Sarracenia flava	Yellow Flytrap	Plant	Wet savannas, pitcherplant bogs
Scutellaria ocmulgee	Ocmulgee Skullcap	Plant	Mesic hardwood forests; bluff forests
Sideroxylon thornei	Swamp Buckthorn	Plant	Forested limesink depressions; calcareous swamps

## **Appendix G**

### **Cultural Resources**

March 28, 2024

Christopher Nunn  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Georgia Historic Preservation Division  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30329

**Section 106 Consultation:** PHMSA Upgrade of Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure in City of Hawkinsville (HP-230816-007)

**Grant Recipient:** City of Hawkinsville

**Project Location:** Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia

Dear Christopher Nunn:

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 Hawkinsville for the replacement of pipeline (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 4.85 miles of unprotected steel pipe installed in the 1950s with modern polyethylene (PE) pipe as well as the abandonment in place of 0.98 miles of steel pipe without replacement. All work will be completed in minimally to modestly developed locations in the City of Hawkinsville that include a mixture of paved roadways and sidewalks and open roadside grassy areas as well as residential, commercial, and light industrial properties. Project location maps are enclosed in **Attachment A** and photographs representing the general character of the project area are included in **Attachment B**.

The Undertaking has been organized into two (2) segments generally located along Broad Street and South Jackson Street. All replacement lines will be installed at a depth of 4 feet (ft) below grade by means of horizontal direct drilling (HDD). All new replacement pipe will be installed in existing right of way (ROW). If the existing pipe is located in an unpaved portion of the ROW, the replacement pipeline will be installed on the same side of the ROW as the existing pipe, its precise location to be determined in the field based on the location of existing buried utilities. If the existing pipe is located in a paved portion of the ROW, the replacement pipeline will be installed outside the paved portion of the ROW on the side of the ROW with the fewest existing utilities and structures to avoid. No new ROW or utility easements will be required. It is anticipated that the horizontal extent of ground disturbance associated with the HDD pipeline installation will measure approximately 2 ft by 4 ft and will be limited to the locations of required entry and exit pits.



The anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 4 ft below grade. Existing pipe will be capped, purged, and abandoned in place.

As part of the Undertaking, any service lines that have not already been replaced with PE pipe will be disconnected, abandoned in place, and replaced with a new PE service line by means of HDD. The new PE service line will run from the replacement pipeline in the existing ROW to the existing meter set. The only associated ground disturbance will be located at the site of the replacement pipeline and the meter set. The required excavation at each tie-in location within the existing ROW will measure approximately 3 ft by 3 ft. The required excavation at the location of the existing meter sets will measure approximately 3 ft by 2 ft. The maximum depth of excavation for the tie-ins will be 4 ft below grade and the maximum depth of excavation at the meter sets would be approximately 2 ft below grade.

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown.

### **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 determined that the APE for this Undertaking to encompass:

- Those portions of the existing ROW that encompass the Broad Street and South Jackson Street segments, which are 50 ft wide; and
- All parcels fronting on those portions of the existing ROW that encompass the Broad Street and South Jackson Street segments.

The APE is anticipated to extend downward no more than 4 ft below grade. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual, vibrational, or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE encompasses paved public roadways and sidewalks and private parking lots, adjacent grassy areas, and various residential, commercial, and light industrial properties. The APE is depicted on maps included 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 publicly available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS (GNAHRGIS) database. SOI-qualified individuals likewise 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 and assessed the archaeological sensitivity of the area.

### ***Historic Architecture***

The northern edge of the South Jackson Street segment of the APE overlaps the southern edge of the Hawkinsville Commercial and Industrial Historic District as mapped. The Hawkinsville Commercial and Industrial Historic District was listed in the NRHP on 12/13/2004 under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Commerce, Industry, Community Planning and Development, and Politics/Government with a period of significance between c.1830-1954. The district includes 98 contributing and 40 noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, and objects. However, no buildings or structures are located within the apparent area of overlap between the APE and the district, which is limited to the Broad Street roadway ROW between Houston Street and GA-230 East/US-341.

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines and service lines within the existing ROW and utility easements, the identification effort for additional above-ground historic properties focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to any limited effects of the

Undertaking and could experience diminished integrity. A review of the APE found no potentially significant above-ground resources that have the potential to be affected by the Undertaking, which will not include any physical changes to buildings or lasting visual or audible impacts to their surroundings.

### ***Archaeology***

GNAHRGIS was examined to identify the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted archaeological surveys within the APE (**Attachment A**). As a result of the site file search, no archaeological sites were identified, but one archaeological survey (Gale 2012) was located within the APE (**Table 1**). This survey was conducted by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) archaeologists for a proposed bridge replacement over State Route 26.

*Table 1. Previously Conducted Archaeological Surveys within a Quarter of a Mile of the APE*

<b>Report</b>	<b>Citation</b>	<b>Report Number</b>
Archaeological Assessment of Project GIP-341(32), Pulaski County, GDOT Interdepartment Correspondence	Paglione 1992	8317
<i>Bridge Replacements along SR 26 at the Ocmulgee River, GDOT Archaeological Assessment In-House Survey Report</i>	<i>Gale 2012</i>	<i>7608</i>
Phase I Archeological Survey of the Proposed Pulaski Telecommunications Facility in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County. Georgia	McCarley 2019	12667

*\*Italicized entries are within the APE*

A quarter of a mile search radius was also examined for previously recorded archaeological sites and surveys. In addition to the single survey conducted within the APE, two additional archaeological surveys and one archaeological site were identified within a quarter of a mile (**Table 1**). A 1992 survey was conducted by GDOT archaeologists for a proposed widening and reconstruction of State Route 11 and identified no archaeological sites. In 2019, a survey was conducted for a proposed telecommunications facility and identified no archaeological sites. Site 9PU115 was originally identified during Gale's 2012 survey of the bridge replacement along State Route 26 and is located approximately 475 feet east of the APE. It is classified as a redeposited multi-component site containing material from the Late Archaic, Middle Woodland, and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century historic periods, and Gale recommended it not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

An examination of Web Soil Survey data within the APE reveals eight soil classes including Blanton, Cowarts-Kankin-Ailey, Dothan, Faceville, Nankin-Cowarts-Susquehanna, Orangeburg, Pelham, and Tifon soils (**Table 2**). Well drained and moderately well drained soils can be indicative of human habitation during both the pre-contact and historic periods. Nearly all soils within the APE are well draining soil types. Typically slopes greater than 15 percent are not suitable for human occupation, and all soil types within the APE have below 15 percent slope. Several small drainages are present within a quarter of a mile of the APE. Hawkinsville is bordered to the north by Town Creek and to the south by Mile Creek, both of which drain into the Ocmulgee River that abuts the eastern edge of the APE. The Ocmulgee River itself has cultural significance dating back thousands of years, particularly to the Muscogee Nation, whose settlements were found along the river including what is now the National Historic Landmark, Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park.

*Table 2. Soil Types within the APE*

<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Drainage Class</b>	<b>Slope</b>	<b>Percent of APE</b>
Blanton sand	Well drained	0-5%	5.70%
Cowarts-Nankin-Ailey complex	Well drained	2-5%	9.90%

Soil Type	Drainage Class	Slope	Percent of APE
Dothan loamy sand	Well drained	2-5%	40.00%
Faceville sandy loam	Well drained	2-5%	6.40%
Nankin-Cowarts-Susquehanna complex	Well drained	8-15%	6.80%
Orangeburg loamy sand	Well drained	2-5%	4.20%
Pelham loamy sand	Poorly drained	0-2%	3.50%
Tifton loamy sand	Well drained	0-2%	23.10%
Water			<1

Historic topographic maps, the Find a Grave online database, and GDOT's Georgia Cemetery Locator data were examined to identify the presence of any historic cemeteries within the APE. Only one known cemetery, the Saint Lukes Episcopal Church Cemetery, was identified within a quarter of a mile of the APE. The cemetery is a columbarium for two individuals. No other information was provided, and no other cemeteries were identified.

According to a 2018 Georgia Department of Transportation railroad historic context study other cultural resources within the APE include two defunct historic railroads, the Hawkinsville and Florida Southern Railroad and an unnamed short line railroad. Neither railway exists today, and no obvious track lines appear in modern aerial imagery or street-level photography.

Historic topographic maps from 1956 and 1973 and historic aerial photographs from 1957 and 1973 were examined for archaeological resource potential within the APE. 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 the town center of Hawkinsville and its immediate surroundings. The 1956 topographic map shows Hawkinsville as a developed town with a centralized business district and residences on the periphery. Within the APE, three churches and dozens of buildings are shown along the main corridors of the APE, Broad Street/Unadilla Highway and South Jackson Street, and other secondary roads. The 1973 topographic map shows the establishment of two schools and a hospital near downtown Hawkinsville. Only one of the schools is located within the APE. Both topographic maps present Hawkinsville as highly developed with building and road construction at least since the 1950s. Aerial imagery from 1957 reflects the topographic map from 1956, showing a well-developed downtown center with light vegetation and landscaping. Agricultural fields surround the town to the north, west, and south. Imagery from 1973 shows those agricultural fields becoming more developed with houses and at least two schools.

Background research revealed one archaeological survey within the APE. No known archaeological sites, cemeteries, or other archaeological resources are known to exist within the APE. The survey intersecting the APE identified one archaeological site, 9PU115, which is located outside the APE on the east side of the Ocmulgee River from the town of Hawkinsville. Examination of soils and topography within the APE reveals soils suitable for human habitation, as soils are well drained and access to the Ocmulgee River provides an abundance of resources for both precontact and historic human populations. The APE is located on a bluff above the Ocmulgee River and has been subject to decades of development in the form of road construction, factory and industrial site development, and the construction of commercial buildings and residences. A small handful of schools, churches, and fairgrounds are also located within or adjacent to the APE. While only a small portion of the APE has been surveyed for archaeological resources, the survey occurred in a similar setting to the APE. The one site found during the survey was identified in a wooded and grassed area adjacent to the Ocmulgee River, and no sites were identified in the developed parts of Hawkinsville. Historic and modern buildings, road and sidewalk construction, and installation of underground utilities have likely disturbed any archaeological deposits that may be present within the ROW. HDD will minimize disturbance of the soil, and no equipment will be employed that causes excessive

ground vibration. While there is a low to moderate potential for archaeological deposits within the APE, the Undertaking will occur within or near previous road construction and utility installation corridors in the existing ROW in areas that lack soil integrity. Due to the limited scope of work for the proposed project and the likelihood of disturbance within the APE, an archaeological survey is not recommended at this time.

### **Determination of Effect**

Based on the preceding identification and evaluation, PHMSA had determined that there are historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE: the NRHP-listed Hawkinsville Commercial and Industrial Historic District. However, no buildings or structures are located within the apparent area of overlap between the APE and the district, which is limited to the Broad Street roadway ROW between Houston Street and GA-230 East/US-341.

The Undertaking will not alter any of the character-defining features of the Hawkinsville Commercial and Industrial Historic District that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP under Criteria A and/or C or diminish its integrity. The work associated with the Undertaking consists of the installation and replacement of pipelines and service lines within existing ROWs and utility easements. No alterations to existing buildings are anticipated and the work will have no lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to the Historic District or its contributing features. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of the district. Furthermore, the work associated with the Undertaking is restricted to areas that demonstrate a low probability for intact significant archaeological resources.

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.

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, incorporation of conditions, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties identified within the APE.

### **Consulting Party Outreach**

PHMSA identified parties that may be interested in the Project 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 C**) 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 concern about the Project'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-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation

### **Request for Section 106 Concurrence**

Based on the information presented above, PHMSA has determined that the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to properties that are either in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. 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 Brian M. Albright, Section 106 specialist, at [PHMSASection106@dot.gov](mailto:PHMSASection106@dot.gov) or 856-381-6233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" and last name "Fuller" clearly distinguishable.

Matt Fuller  
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF /ba

cc: Jason Holloman, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center  
Damond Smith, PHMSA Grant Specialist  
Sara Myers, City of Hawkinsville  
Laura García-Culler, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Georgia Historical Society

Enclosures:

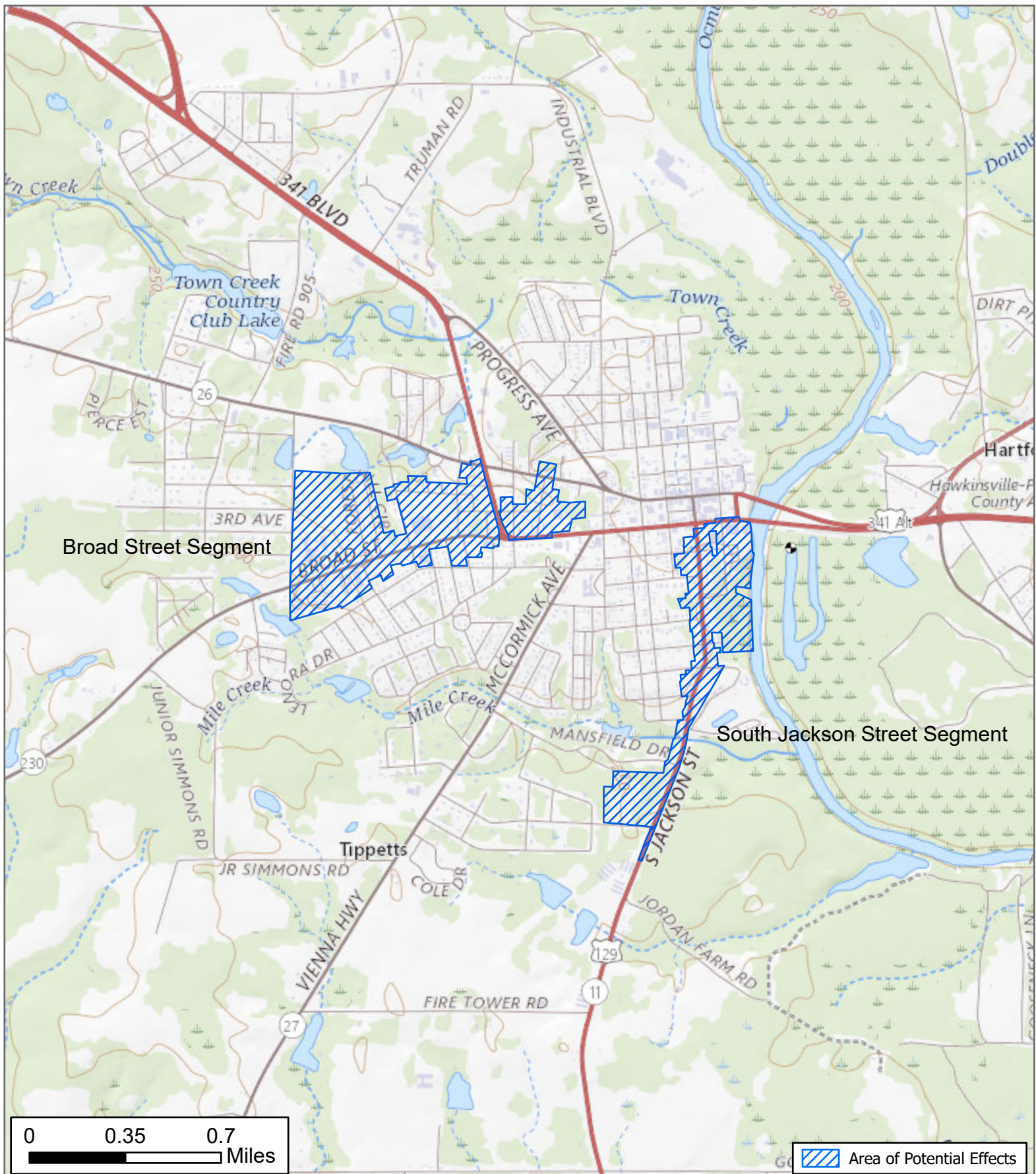
Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps  
Attachment B: Project Area Photographs  
Attachment C: Consulting Party Response Form

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Project Location and APE Maps**



# Project Area



Name: Hawkinsville, Georgia Gas Line Replacement

Scale: 30,000

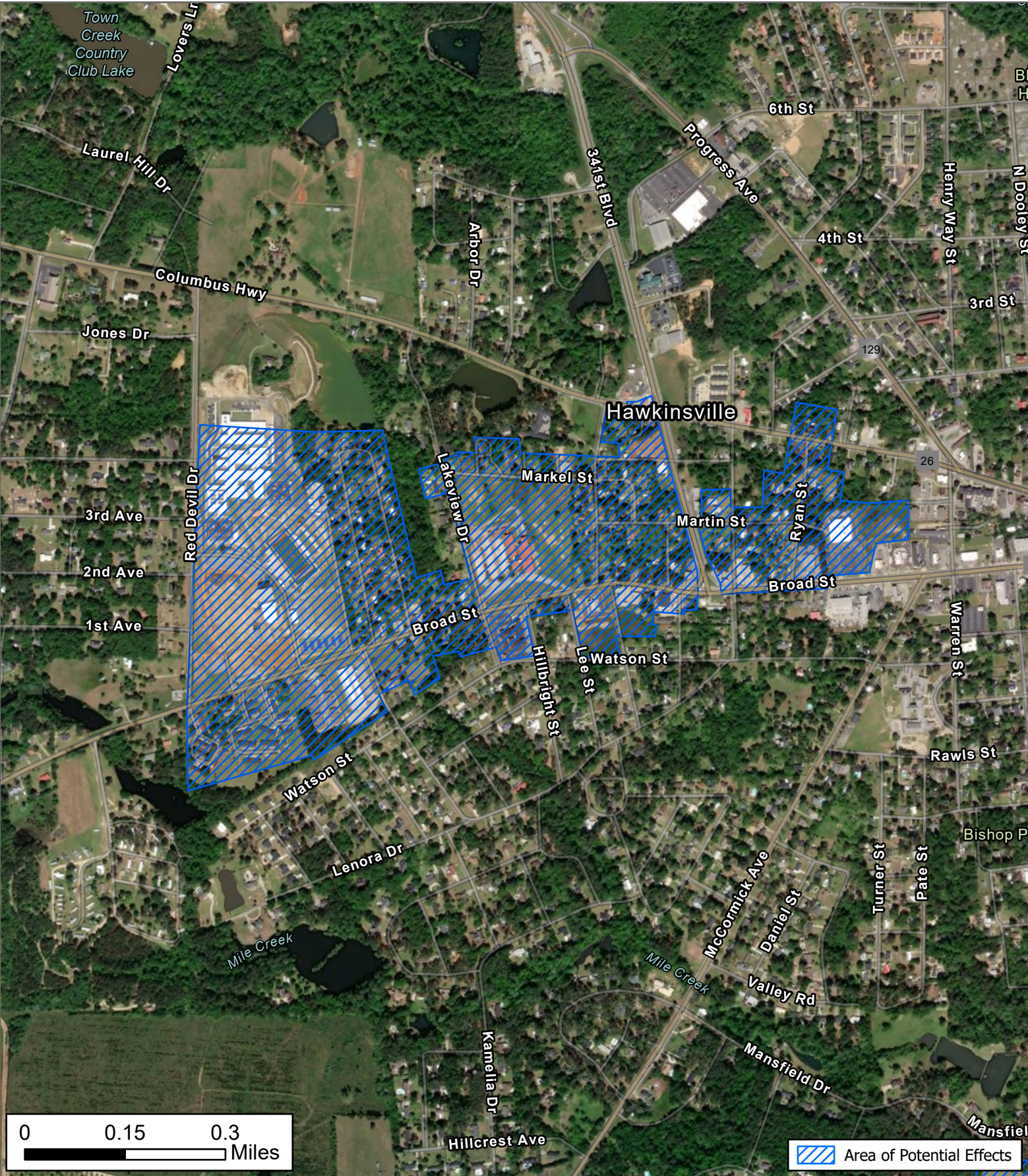
Total Acreage: 318

Pulaski County, GA

**Service Layer Credits:** 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.



# APE Map - Broad Street Segment

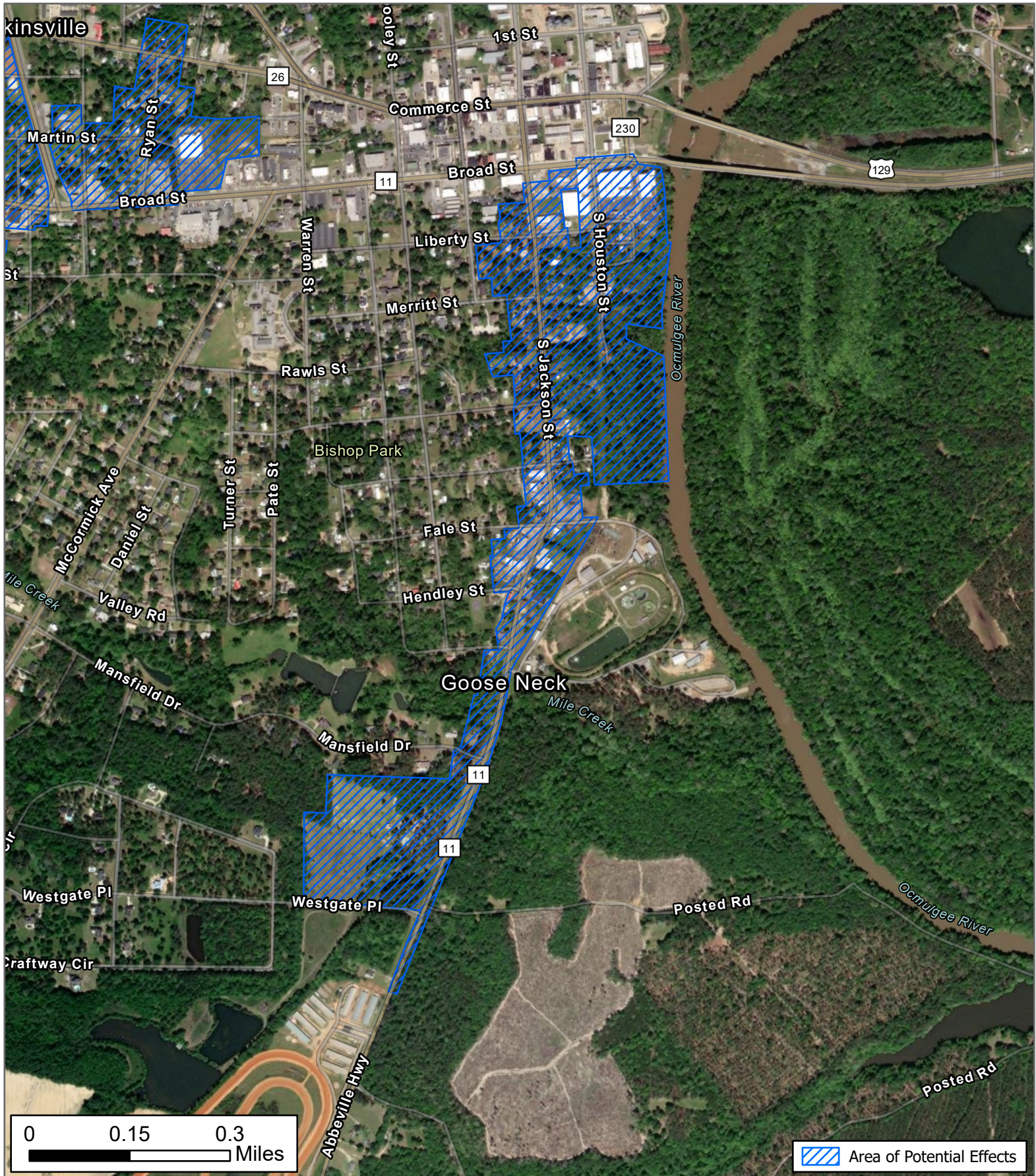


Name: Hawkinsville, Georgia Gas Line Replacement  
Scale: 12,000  
Total Acreage: 200  
Pulaski County, GA

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



# APE Map - South Jackson Street Segment



Name: Hawkinsville, Georgia Gas Line Replacement

Scale: 12,000

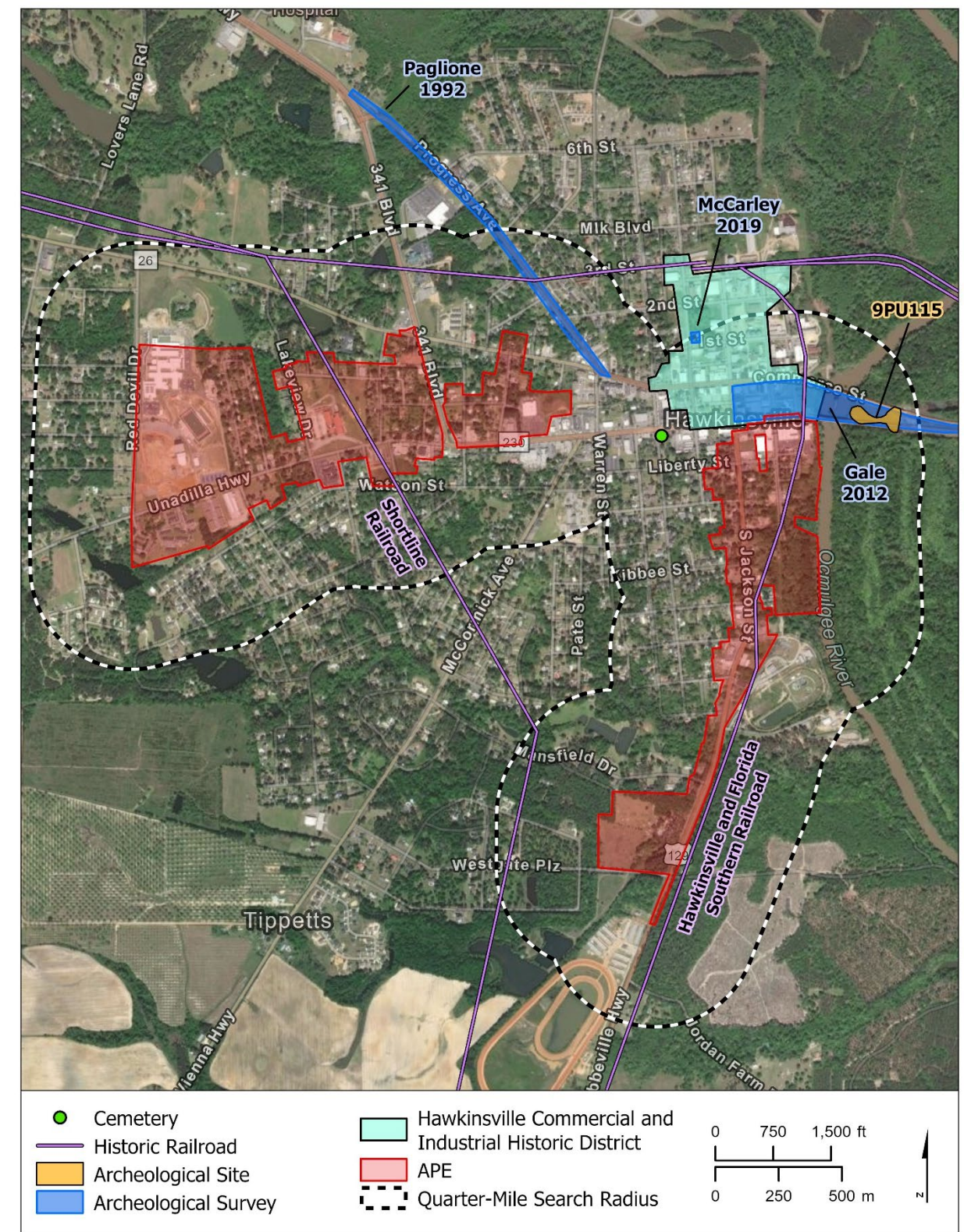
Total Acreage: 118

Pulaski County, GA

N

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





**ATTACHMENT B**

**Project Area Photographs**



**Broad Street Segment**





















## South Jackson Street Segment













**ATTACHMENT C**

**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:** Brian M. Albright  
USDOT Volpe Center  
220 Binney Street, Cambridge, MA  
E-mail: PHMSASection106@dot.gov

## 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.

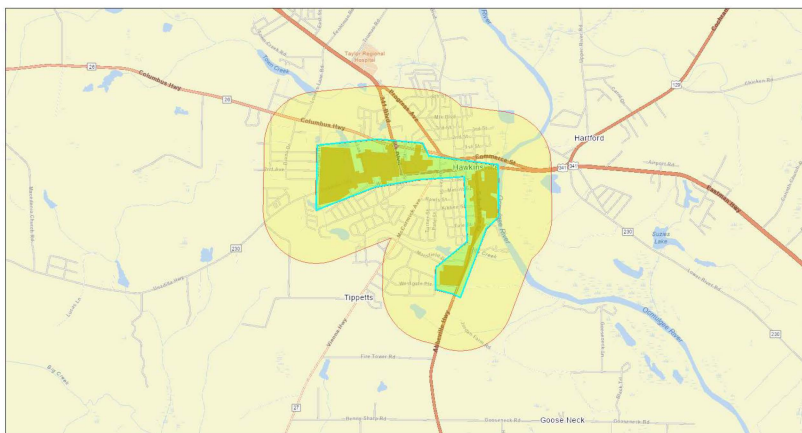
## Hawkinsville, GA

.5 miles Ring around the Area

Population: 3,152

Area in square miles: 4.89

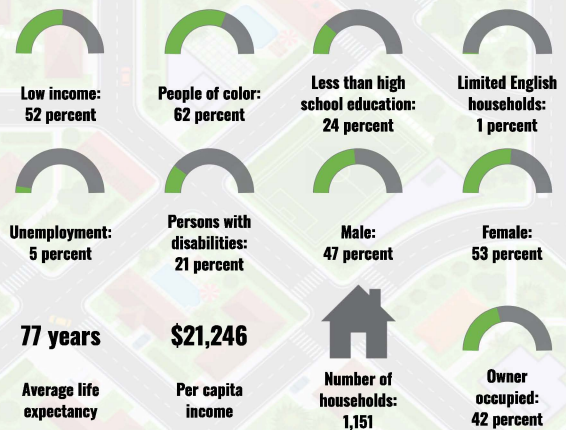
A3 Landscape



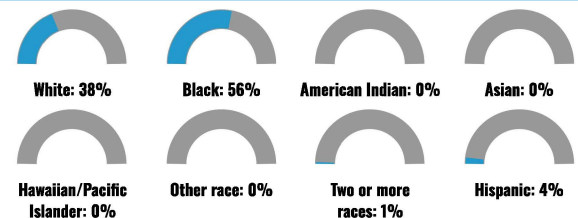
March 10, 2024  
Project 1  
project area  
Search Result (point)

1:36,112  
0 0.38 0.76 1.5 mi  
0 0.5 1 2 km  
Data: Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, GeoEye, GeoTechnologies, Inc., Mapbox, Microsoft, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION



### BREAKDOWN BY RACE



### BREAKDOWN BY AGE



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	99%
Other Asian and Pacific Island	1%
Total Non-English	1%

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.



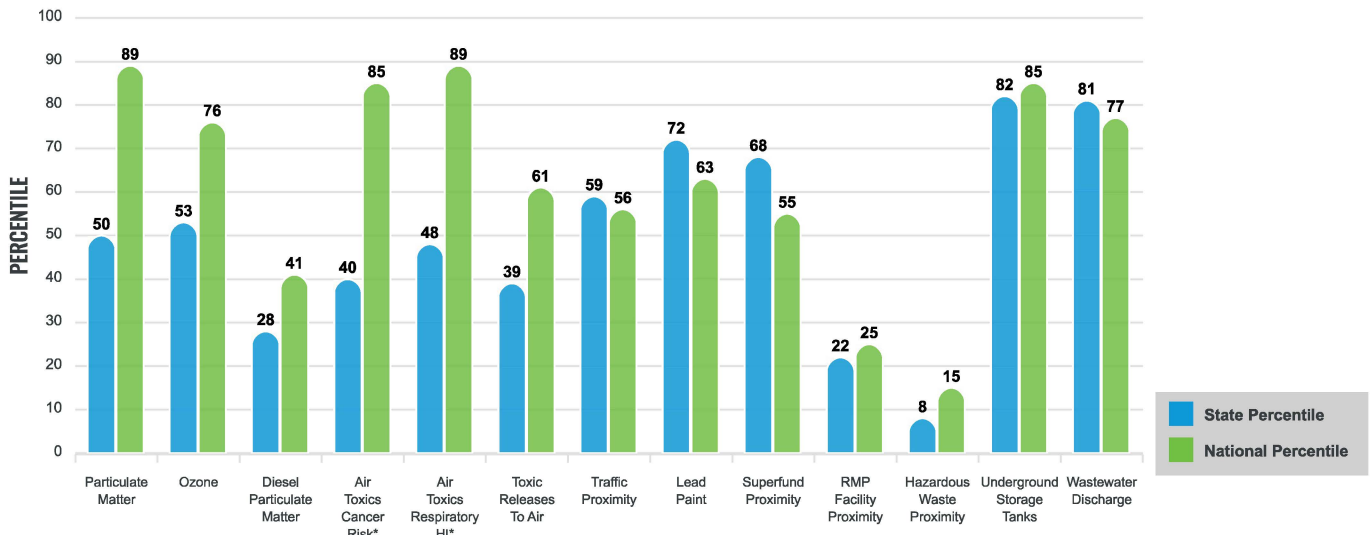
# Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

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.

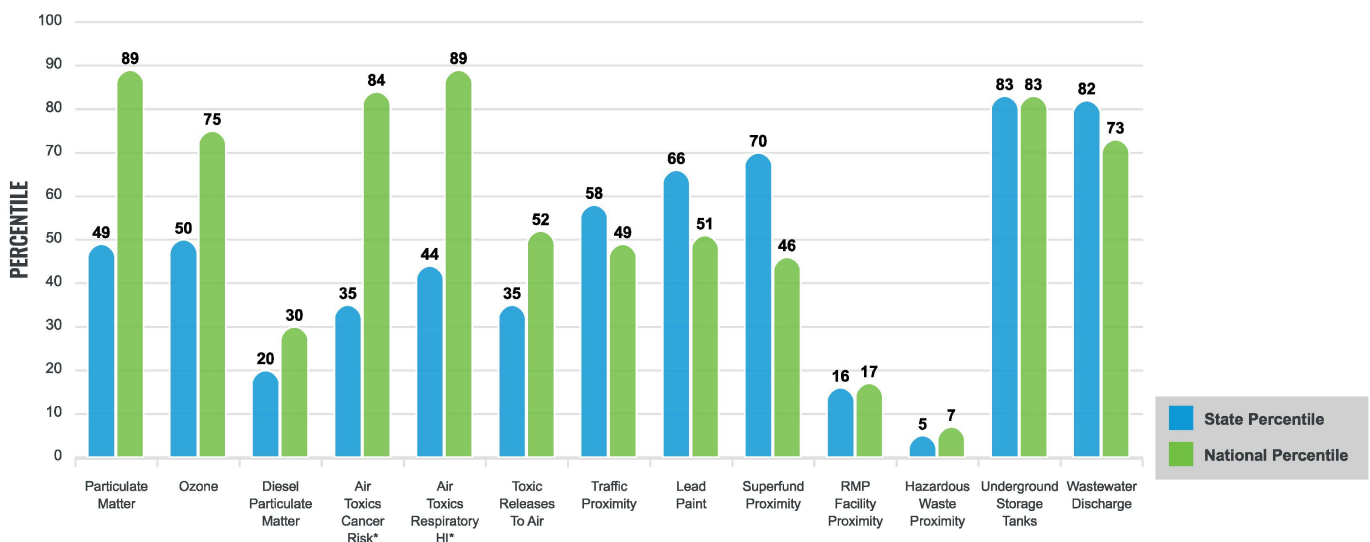
### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



## 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 .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
<b>POLLUTION AND SOURCES</b>					
Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	9.35	9.61	28	8.08	80
Ozone (ppb)	60.9	64	28	61.6	49
Diesel Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.0968	0.277	12	0.261	15
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	30	35	2	25	52
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.44	6	0.31	70
Toxic Releases to Air	160	1,600	18	4,600	29
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	25	110	37	210	27
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.11	0.14	62	0.3	37
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.026	0.066	46	0.13	24
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.045	0.38	9	0.43	8
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.029	0.45	3	1.9	4
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	4	2.3	79	3.9	73
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.0016	0.18	73	22	52
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>					
Demographic Index	57%	41%	73	35%	80
Supplemental Demographic Index	20%	15%	74	14%	78
People of Color	62%	48%	64	39%	74
Low Income	52%	34%	77	31%	82
Unemployment Rate	5%	6%	62	6%	61
Limited English Speaking Households	1%	3%	72	5%	60
Less Than High School Education	24%	12%	85	12%	86
Under Age 5	12%	6%	88	6%	90
Over Age 64	20%	15%	72	17%	65
Low Life Expectancy	20%	21%	42	20%	60

\*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 .....	0
Water Dischargers .....	12
Air Pollution .....	11
Brownfields .....	0
Toxic Release Inventory .....	0

## Other community features within defined area:

Schools .....	3
Hospitals .....	0
Places of Worship .....	11

## Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment .....	No
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 .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	20%	21%	42	20%	60
Heart Disease	8.5	6.1	89	6.1	89
Asthma	10.5	10	67	10	69
Cancer	7.1	5.5	90	6.1	72
Persons with Disabilities	17.8%	13.1%	79	13.4%	78

CLIMATE INDICATORS					
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	5%	9%	35	12%	40
Wildfire Risk	0%	4%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS					
INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	38%	15%	91	14%	94
Lack of Health Insurance	9%	13%	29	9%	62
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Report for .5 miles Ring around the Area



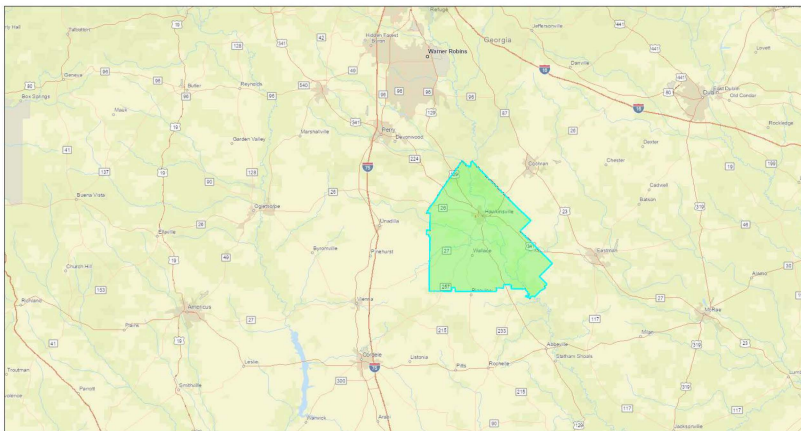
# EJScreen Community Report

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

## Pulaski County, GA

County: Pulaski  
Population: 10,001  
Area in square miles: 251.21

A3 Landscape



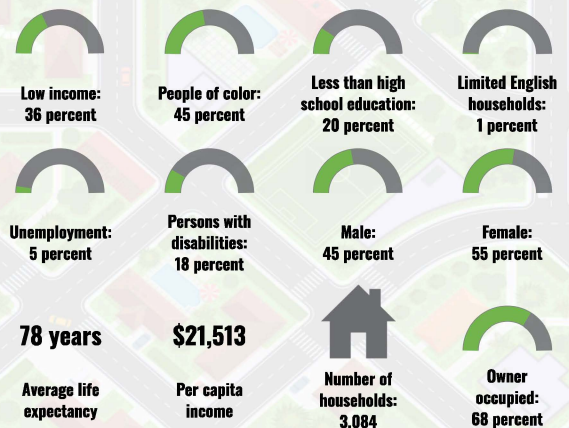
March 10, 2024  
Project 1  
project area

1:577,791  
0 5 10 20 mi  
0 5 10 20 km  
Data: TomTom, Garmin, SateGraph, FDO, METRISIA,  
USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS

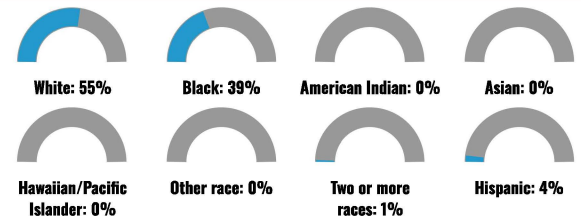
### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	97%
Spanish	2%
Total Non-English	3%

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION



### BREAKDOWN BY RACE



### BREAKDOWN BY AGE



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



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.

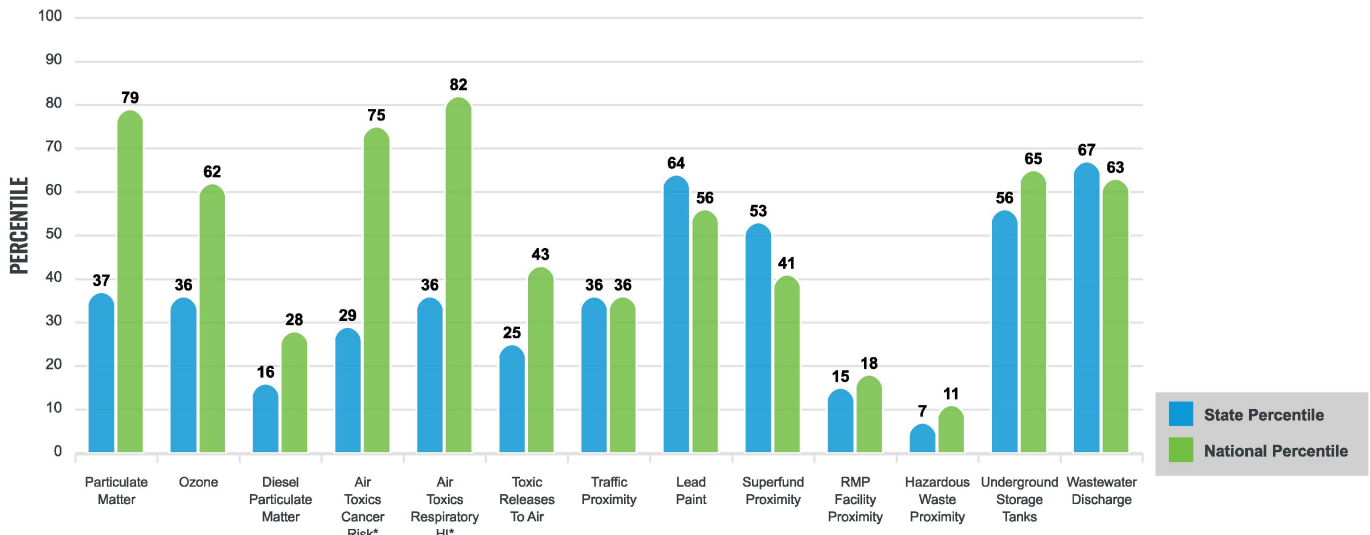
# Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

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.

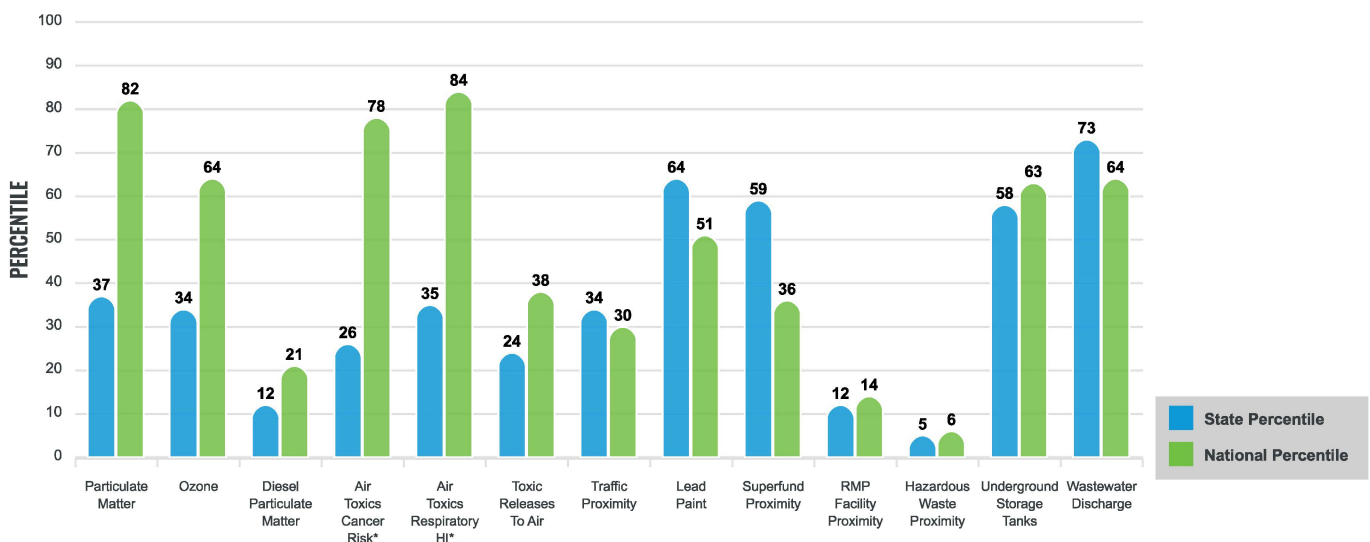
### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



## 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 County: Pulaski



# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
<b>POLLUTION AND SOURCES</b>					
Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	9.33	9.61	27	8.08	80
Ozone (ppb)	60.7	64	24	61.6	46
Diesel Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.0909	0.277	10	0.261	13
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	30	35	2	25	52
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.44	6	0.31	70
Toxic Releases to Air	130	1,600	16	4,600	26
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	13	110	23	210	19
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.16	0.14	70	0.3	44
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.026	0.066	45	0.13	24
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.046	0.38	9	0.43	9
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.031	0.45	5	1.9	4
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	1.5	2.3	57	3.9	54
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.0023	0.18	76	22	55
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>					
Demographic Index	38%	41%	50	35%	62
Supplemental Demographic Index	16%	15%	57	14%	64
People of Color	45%	48%	49	39%	62
Low Income	36%	34%	57	31%	64
Unemployment Rate	5%	6%	58	6%	57
Limited English Speaking Households	1%	3%	72	5%	60
Less Than High School Education	20%	12%	77	12%	80
Under Age 5	6%	6%	61	6%	63
Over Age 64	21%	15%	75	17%	69
Low Life Expectancy	22%	21%	62	20%	76

\*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 .....	0
Water Dischargers .....	46
Air Pollution .....	17
Brownfields .....	0
Toxic Release Inventory .....	1

## Other community features within defined area:

Schools .....	3
Hospitals .....	1
Places of Worship .....	40

## Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment .....	No
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: Pulaski

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

## HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	22%	21%	62	20%	76
Heart Disease	7.7	6.1	75	6.1	78
Asthma	10.9	10	76	10	77
Cancer	6.5	5.5	78	6.1	57
Persons with Disabilities	19.9%	13.1%	86	13.4%	85

## CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	8%	9%	63	12%	56
Wildfire Risk	0%	4%	84	14%	78

## CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	31%	15%	85	14%	89
Lack of Health Insurance	9%	13%	31	9%	64
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 County: Pulaski