



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TOWN OF HELMSBURG WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION SRF PROJECT WW 23 60 07 00

DATE: April 30, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE BY: May 30, 2026

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the Clean Water project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA, which can also be viewed in color at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/>.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

The SRF Clean Water Program has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-3, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FONSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the target approval date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FONSI; if appropriate, a new FONSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be affected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FONSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
publiccomments@ifa.in.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
Town of Helmsburg
4856 Helmsburg Rd
Nashville, IN 47448

SRF Project Number: **WW 23 60 07 00**

Authorized Representative: Kyle Myers, Helmsburg Regional Sewer District Board

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Brown County, Jackson Township, Morgantown 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 10N, Range 2E, and Section 34. See **Exhibits 1 and 2**

III. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Helmsburg Regional Sewer District (RSD) owns and operates a 24,000 gallon per day package wastewater treatment plant that services 64 customers. The existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has exceeded its useful life, and much of the equipment is in poor condition. Additionally, the current plant is a steel package plant and deterioration of the metal poses safety and compliance concerns.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the construction of a new WWTP adjacent to and west of the existing modular (“packaged”) WWTP. The existing WWTP will be demolished, and its site returned to a grade matching the surrounding contours. New infrastructure includes sludge handling and electric building, blower, lift station, screening structure, AeroMod structure, post aeration, and an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection unit.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$10,000,000. The Town intends to finance the project with a loan from the Clean Water SRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: The “No Action” alternative would result in the WWTP continuing to fail. This alternative is not practical, environmentally sound or economical.

Alternative 2 - 0.1 MGD AeroMod Extended Aeration Treatment Unit: This alternative would demolish the existing WWTP and the site returned to match the grade of surrounding contours. The proposed 0.01 MGD WWTP would be constructed to the west of the existing WWTP and be compromised of sludge handling system within the sludge handling blower, an electric building, lift

station, screening structure, AeroMod structure, post aeration, and an UV disinfection unit.

Alternative 3 -0.015 MGD AeroMod Extended Aeration Treatment Unit: This alternative would demolish the existing WWTP and the site returned to match the grade of surrounding contours. The proposed 0.015 MGD WWTP would be constructed to the west of the existing WWTP and be comprised of sludge handling, blower, an electric building, lift station, screening structure, AeroMod structure, post aeration, and UV disinfection unit. **This is the recommended alternative** due to lower project cost and overall lower life cycle cost.

Alternative 4 -Regionalization: This alternative would regionalize Helmsburg with Brown County Regional Sewer District. This alternative was dismissed due to an expired inter-local agreement.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed/Undisturbed Land: Work related to the construction of the new WWTP will occur in mainly undisturbed land. Undisturbed land was subject to an archeological investigation. There is disturbed land at the existing WWTP site where demolition and site restoration is proposed.

Structural Resources: Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "*no historic properties affected.*"

Surface Waters (Exhibit 5): The project will not adversely affect outstanding state resource waters listed in 327 IAC 2-1.3-3(d), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2), or Salmonid Streams listed in (327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3) or streams on the Outstanding River List for Indiana. The project is near Beanblossom Creek and Lick Creek.

The WWTP's existing NPDES-permitted outfall, which discharges into Beanblossom Creek, will not be altered as part of this project.

Mitigation measures to lessen and compensate for stream impacts cited in comment letters or permits from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and/or Indiana Department of Environmental Management will be implemented.

Wetlands (Exhibits 3 and 4): The project will impact approximately 0.06 acre of emergent wetland. Mitigation measures to lessen and compensate for wetland impacts cited in comment letters or permits from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and/or Indiana Department of Environmental Management will be implemented.

Floodplain (Exhibit 7): While the new WWTP is located just outside of the floodway, several floodway impacts will occur. The existing WWTP located within the floodway will be removed and restored to match surrounding grade. Two manholes within the floodway and connecting pipe, and a stone driveway will also impact the floodway. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters or permits by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources will be implemented.

Groundwater: The project will not impact a drinking water supply or sole source aquifer.

Plants and Animals: The proposed project items will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.

Prime Farmland: The project will convert prime farmland.

Air Quality: Construction activities may generate some noise, fumes and dust, but should not significantly affect air quality.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The project will neither create nor destroy open space or recreational opportunities.

Lake Michigan Coastal Program: The project will not affect the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone.

National Natural Landmarks: Construction and operation of the proposed project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The Helmsburg's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *The RSD, through local zoning laws, the authority of its council or planning commission, or other means, will ensure that future development and utility projects connecting to SRF-funded facilities will not adversely affect wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes, archaeological / historical / structural resources, or other sensitive environmental resources. The RSD will require new development and utility projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the USFWS, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated January 28, 2026, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology stated:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-10, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108), and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") is conducting an analysis of the materials dated and received by the Indiana SHPO on January 21, 2026, for the above indicated project in Helmsburg, Jackson Township, Brown County, Indiana.

Thank you for providing the archaeology reconnaissance report (Paisley, 1/19/2026; AR-07-00253). A review of the report indicates that the project area does not have the potential to contain archaeological resources, and no further investigation appears necessary. In regard to buildings and structures, we have identified the following property within the probable area of potential effects, and we believe that it may meet the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places:

*Masonic Lodge Number 527, Helmsburg Rd., Site #013-430-07018
However, based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project.*

If any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and

29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to 36 C.F.R. 800.

In correspondence dated November 24, 2025, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service stated:

The USFWS concluded that the proposed project impacts, project code 2026-0007707, would have a “not likely to adversely affect” determination on the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), and the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The USFWS proposed the following conservation measures:

Indiana bat

For bridge construction projects:

- All bridge or culvert construction will occur during the inactive season for Indiana bat (October 1 through March 31).
- Bridge/culvert construction activities will not permanently alter potential bat roosting spaces (existing joints/cracks/crevices).

For projects involving drilling or boring in karst:

- Prior to drilling or boring, the project proponent will implement appropriate preliminary evaluations to ensure that karst voids or other voids are unlikely to be encountered.
- The project proponent will contact the Service if potentially suitable Indiana bat hibernacula or roosting habitat is encountered during drilling or boring.

For projects including tree cutting/trimming and/or pesticide application:

- Tree cutting/trimming and/or pesticide/herbicide application will not impact potential Indiana bat roost trees (trees ≥ 5 inches in diameter [at breast height] with cracks, crevices and/or exfoliating bark).
- Tree cutting/trimming will not clear ≥ 5 acres of forest or fragment a connective corridor between two or more forest patches.
- Any cutting/trimming of potential roost trees for Indiana bat (trees ≥ 5 inches in diameter [at breast height] with cracks, crevices and/or exfoliating bark) will be limited to the inactive season for Indiana bat: October 1 through March 31 OR November 15 through March 31 if the project is within the vicinity of a hibernaculum.

For projects installing new or replacing existing permanent lights:

- When installing new or replacing existing permanent lights, you will use downward-facing, full cut-off lens lights (with same intensity or less for replacement lighting); or for those transportation agencies using the BUG system developed by the Illuminating Engineering Society, the goal is to be as close to 0 for all three ratings with a priority of "uplight" of 0 and "backlight" as low as practicable. You will direct temporary lighting away from suitable Indiana bat habitat during the active season (April through September).

For prescribed burns:

- The fire prescription will include an average flame length of < 8 feet.
- Prescribed burning will occur when temperatures are above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The prescribed fire will avoid the Indiana bat non-volant pup season (May 15 - July 31).

Gray Bat

For bridge construction projects:

- All bridge or culvert construction will occur during the inactive season for gray bat (October 1 through March 31).
- Bridge/culvert construction activities will not permanently alter potential bat roosting spaces

(existing joints/cracks/crevices).

For projects involving drilling or boring in karst:

- *Prior to drilling or boring, the project proponent will implement appropriate preliminary evaluations to ensure that karst voids or other voids are unlikely to be encountered.*
- *The project proponent will contact the Service if potentially suitable gray bat hibernacula or roosting habitat is encountered during drilling or boring.*

For projects installing new or replacing existing permanent lights:

- *When installing new or replacing existing permanent lights, you will use downward-facing, full cut-off lens lights (with same intensity or less for replacement lighting); or for those transportation agencies using the BUG system developed by the Illuminating Engineering Society, the goal is to be as close to 0 for all three ratings with a priority of "uplight" of 0 and "backlight" as low as practicable. You will direct temporary lighting away from suitable gray bat habitat during the active season (April through September).*

For projects impacting streams and/or water quality:

- *The project proponent will implement best management practices associated with applicable federal and/or state permits during construction to minimize sedimentation in streams. For examples of sediment/erosion control BMPs, refer to the Indiana Department of Transportation Storm Water Management Field Guide (2018).*

The Department of Natural Resources Division of Water issued a Letter of Authorization on November 4, 2025, with permit number CT-5443-0. This permit is attached to this document.

In correspondence dated November 21, 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated:

The proposed Helmsburg RSD wastewater treatment plant project in Brown County, Indiana as referred to in your letter received on October 27, 2025, will cause a conversion of prime farmland.

The attached packet of information is for your use competing Parts VI and VII of the AD-1006. After completion, the federal funding agency needs to forward one copy to NRCS for our records.

Parts VI and VII were sent to NRCS on December 10, 2025.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

Helmsburg's PER states:

The following measures are recommended to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts:

1. *Implement appropriate temporary erosion control measures (straw bale barriers, silt fencing, etc.) to prevent soil runoff leaving the construction site.*
2. *Protect disturbed slopes with sod or erosion control blankets upon sewer line installation.*
3. *Minimize fugitive dust from construction activities by wetting the construction area periodically and constructing wind barriers or treating it with chemical stabilizers if necessary.*
4. *Any soil tracking from construction equipment will be removed from the streets daily.*
5. *Implement all applicable water pollution control measures specified in the Indiana Department of Transportation Standard Specifications (latest version). Appropriate measures will be taken to prevent siltation of nearby surface and underground water resources with dewatering flows or construction related runoff.*
6. *Maintain all equipment to manufacture specifications to minimize construction noise, and where appropriate utilize temporary noise barriers to reduce noise levels.*

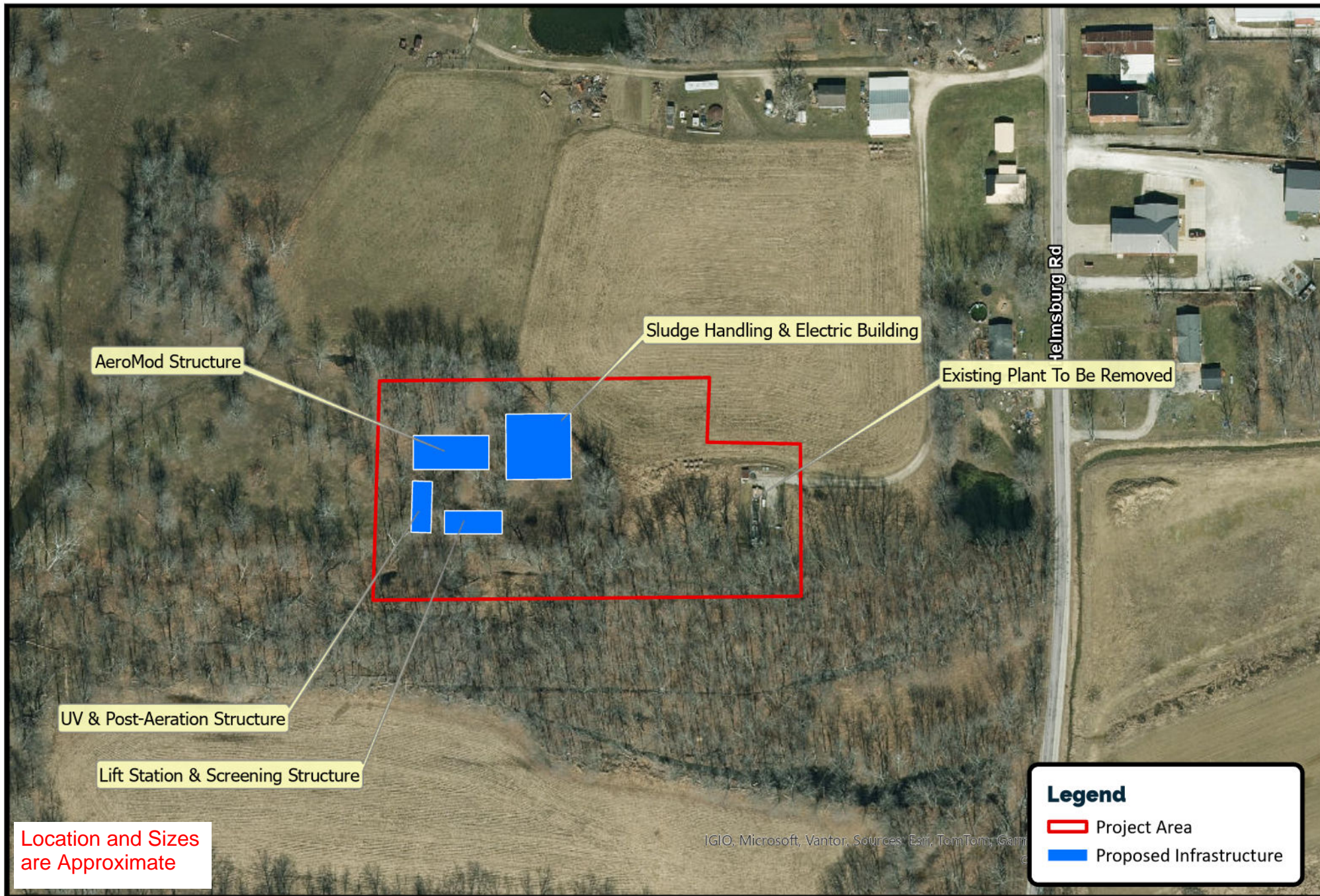
7. *The open burning of debris (i.e., trees and shrubs) shall not be allowed unless a permit is obtained from the Indiana State Air Pollution Control Division for such activities.*

Regarding specific mitigation measures to eliminate or minimize environmental impacts, the proposed WWTP will have permanent lighting which faces in, towards the facility – to maximize lighting at the facility and minimize light pollution to the surrounding area(s).

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on January 28, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Brown County Community Church located at 2370 Main Street, Helmsburg, IN 47036. to discuss the PER. Several questions were asked by the public at the hearing. Responses and discussions happened at that time. No written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.

Date: 10/27/2025, 10:29 AM User Name: Chelsea Modlin
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Location and Sizes
are Approximate

IGIO, Microsoft, Vantor. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin

Legend

- Project Area
- Proposed Infrastructure

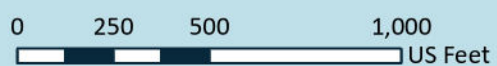
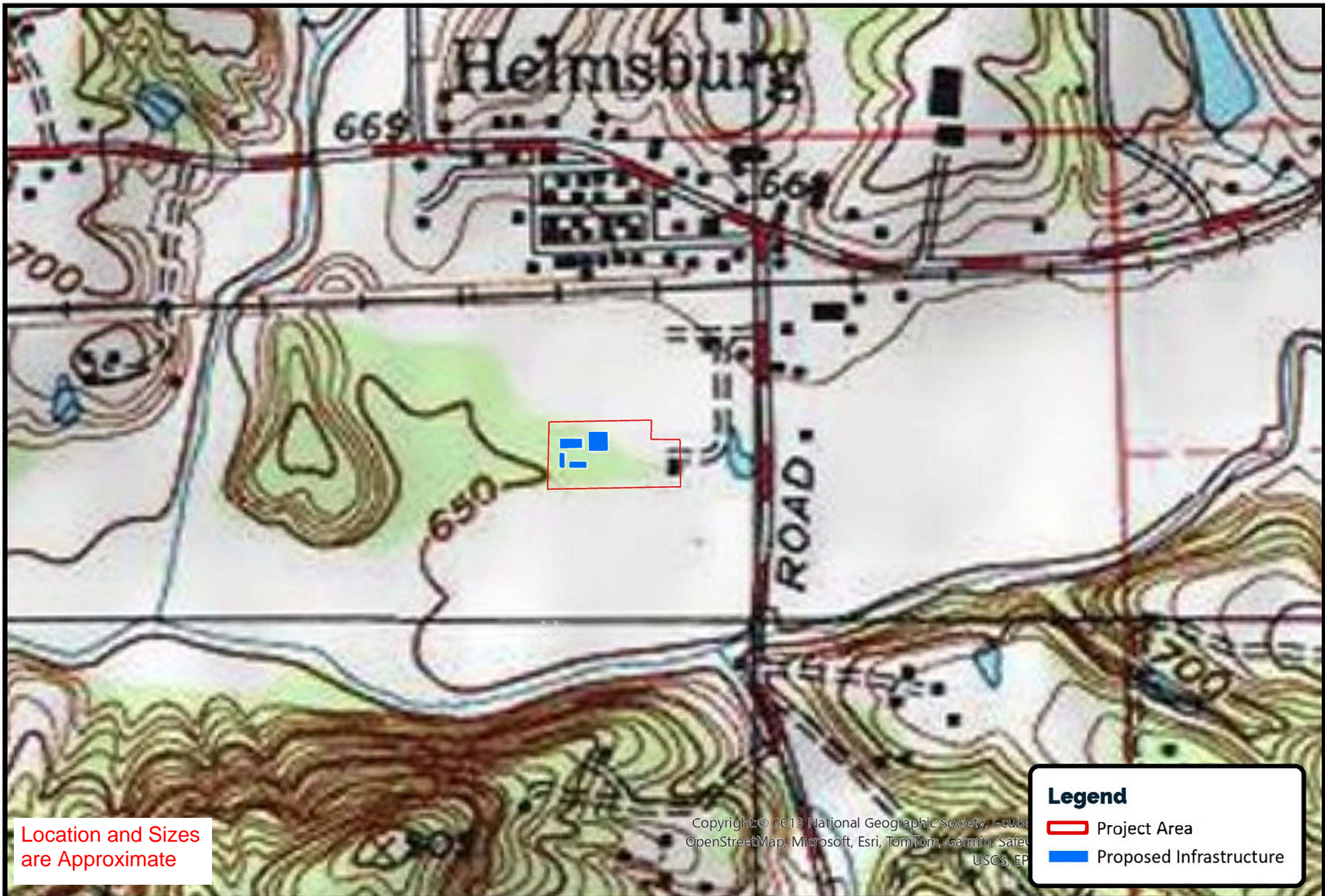


Exhibit 1 Aerial Map Helmsburg, Indiana





Location and Sizes are Approximate

Exhibit 2
24K USGS Map
Helmsburg, Indiana



0 250 500 1,000
US Feet



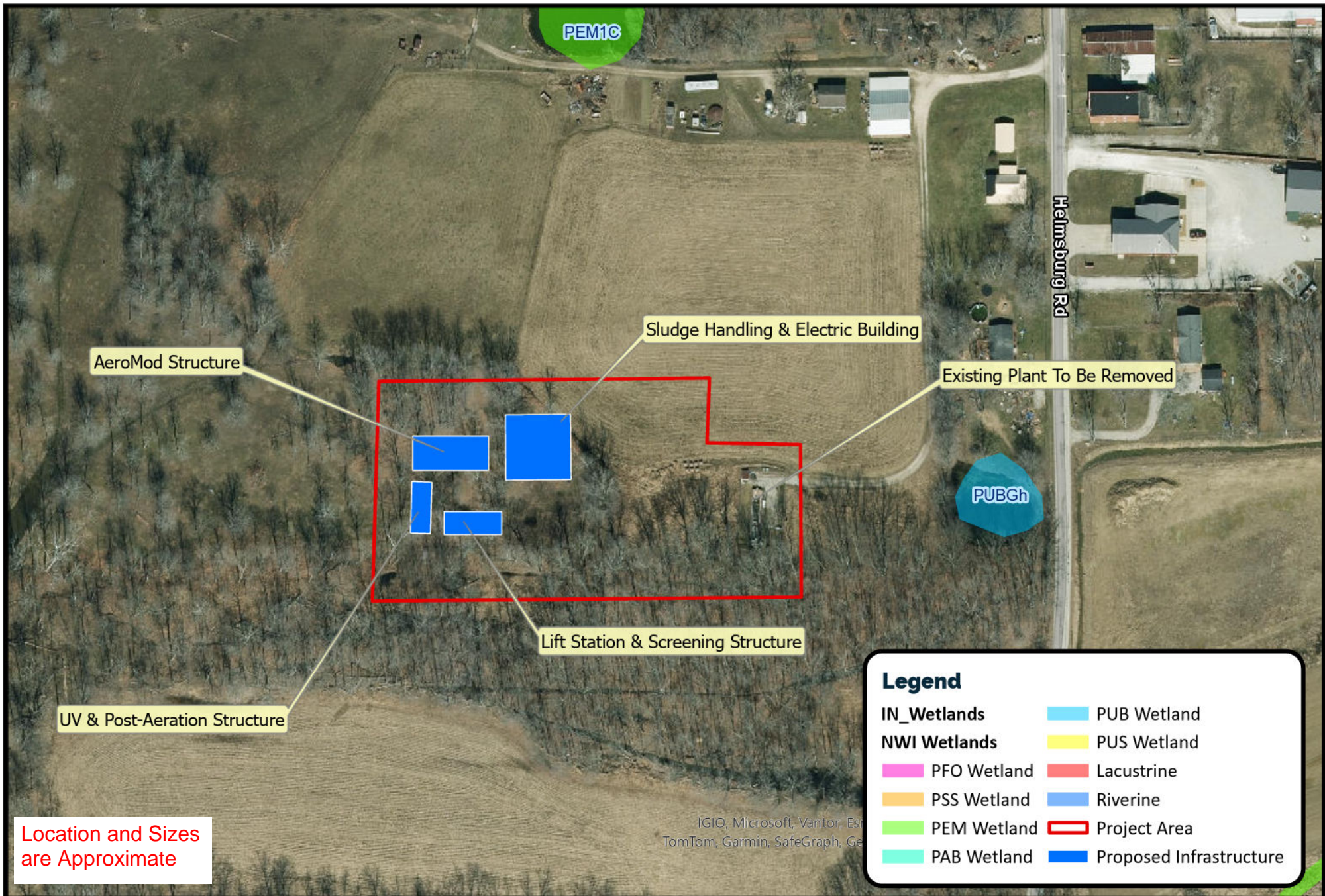


Exhibit 3 NWI-Wetlands Helmsburg, Indiana





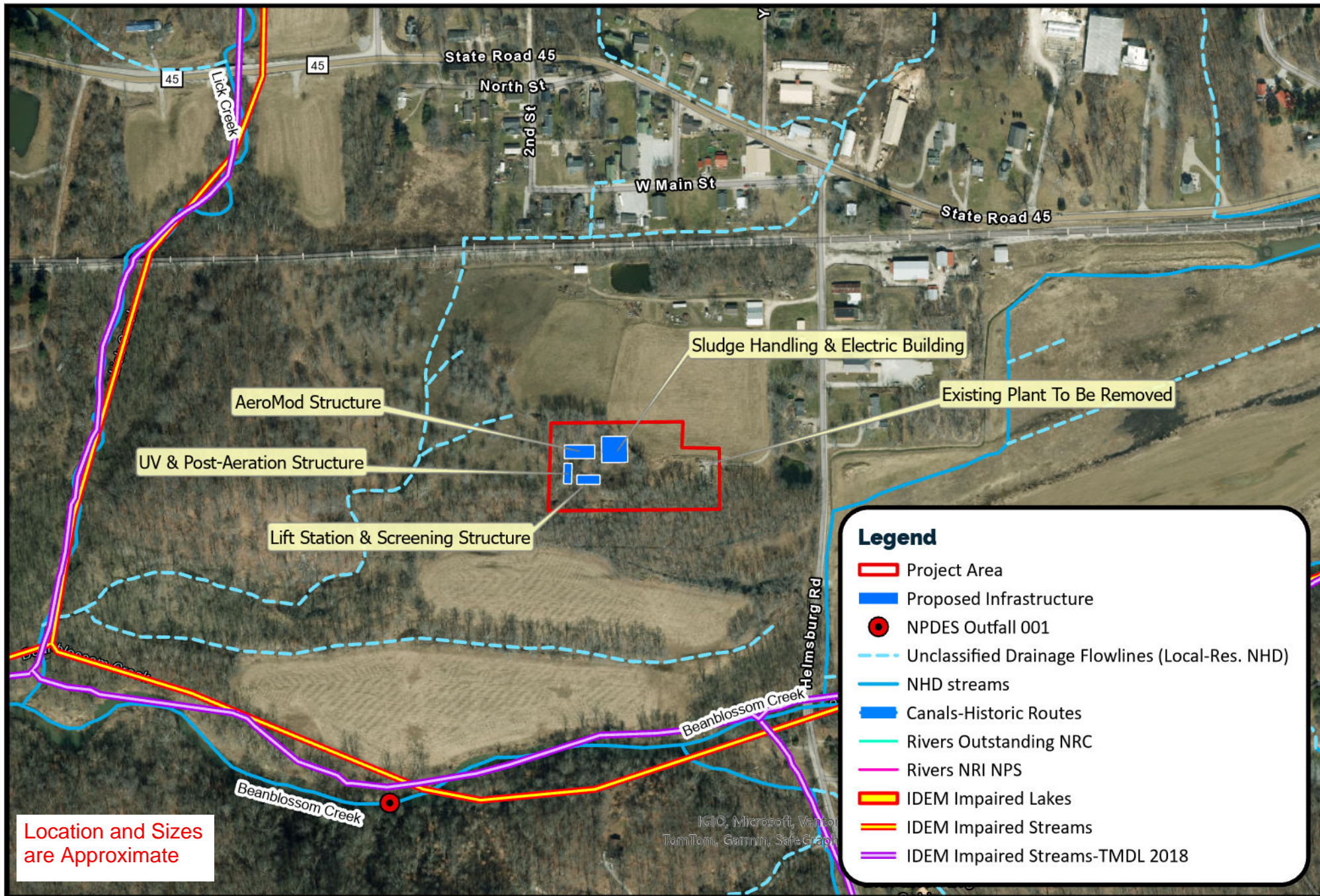
February 4, 2026

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.

Date: 10/24/2025, 10:46 AM User Name: Chelsea Modlin
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Location and Sizes are Approximate

Legend

- Project Area
- Proposed Infrastructure
- NPDES Outfall 001
- Unclassified Drainage Flowlines (Local-Res. NHD)
- NHD streams
- Canals-Historic Routes
- Rivers Outstanding NRC
- Rivers NRI NPS
- IDEM Impaired Lakes
- IDEM Impaired Streams
- IDEM Impaired Streams-TMDL 2018

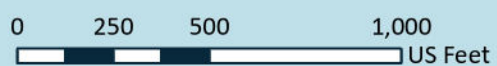


Exhibit 5 Surface Waters Helmsburg, Indiana



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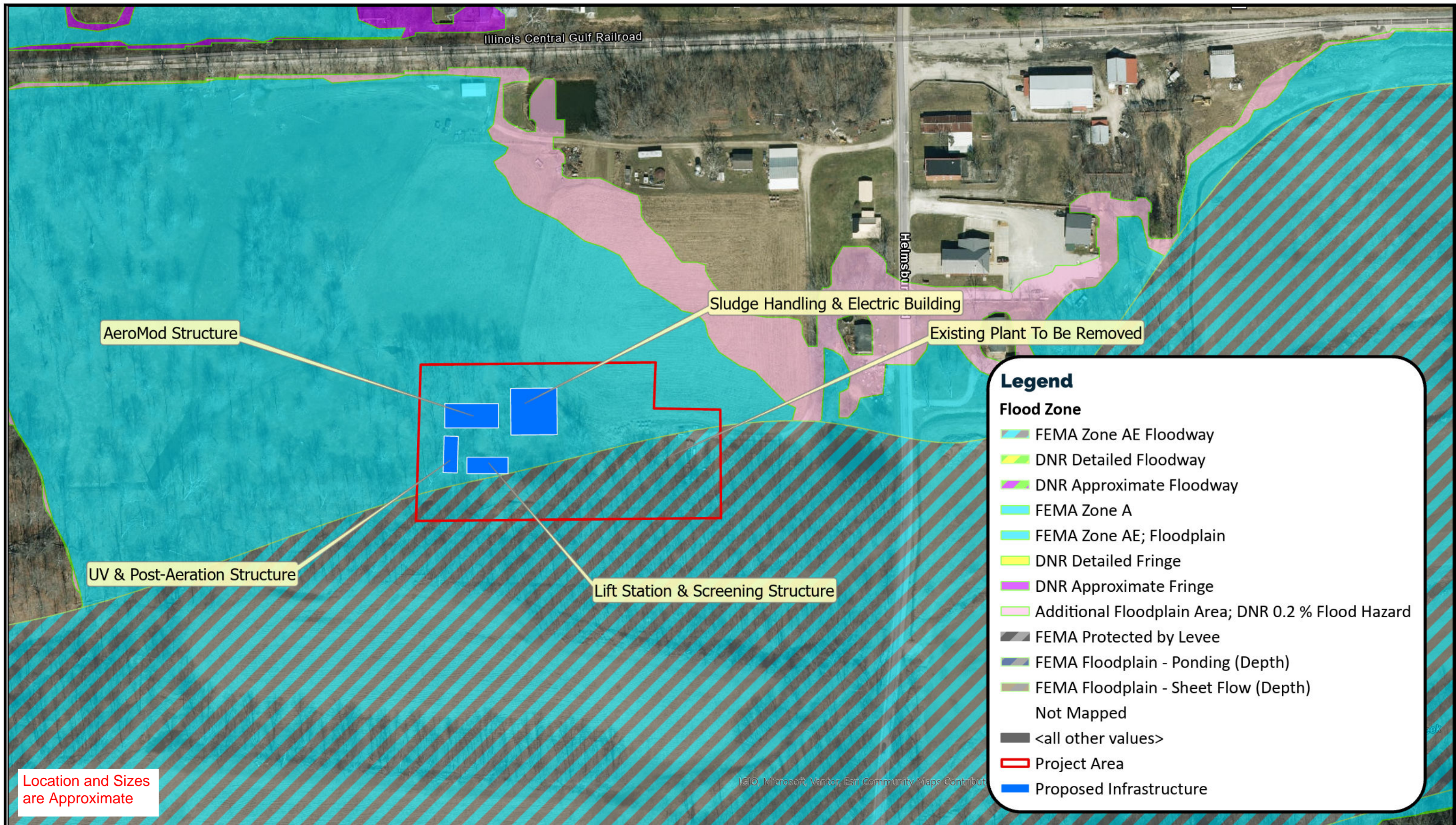


Exhibit 7

Floodway and Floodplain Map Helmsburg, Indiana

0 100 200 400
US Feet





**State of Indiana
Department of Natural Resources**



LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

Issue Date: 11/4/2025

File #: CT-5443-0

Waterbody: Beanblossom Creek

County: Brown

Requestor: Lochmueller Group, David Duncan, 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715

Request: As part of the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant in Helmsburg located just outside the floodway, several floodway impacts will occur. The existing wastewater treatment package plant located within the floodway will be removed and restored to match surrounding grade. Two manholes within the floodway and connecting pipe runs will be constructed impacting the floodway. A small area (0.007 acres) of the floodway will be impacted for the construction of a stone driveway. No tree removal within the floodway is expected.

Location: Approximately 400' downstream from the Helmsburg Road stream crossing along the northern boundary of the floodway near Nashville

RESPONSE

This is in response to your request regarding the proposed project listed above.

The Department's staff has determined that if the project is followed as described in the submitted information, the impacts, in conjunction with previously approved or currently proposed projects, will be negligible to the efficiency or capacity of the floodway and will not be unreasonably detrimental to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources. Therefore, the project is approved. Please be aware that the below conditions must be met in order for your project to be in compliance.

AUTHORIZATION CONDITIONS

- 1) Except for the material used as backfill as shown on the plans submitted for the permit application, place all excavated material landward of the floodway*.
- 2) Do not leave felled trees, brush, or other debris in the floodway*.
- 3) Upon completion of the project, remove all construction debris from the floodway*.
- 4) * Note: For regulatory purposes, the floodway is defined on the attached Floodway Map.
- 5) Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of turf grasses (low-endophyte, friendly endophyte, and endophyte free tall fescue are acceptable but all other varieties of tall fescue are excluded) as soon as possible upon completion.
- 6) Do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana Bat or Northern Long-eared Bat roosting (3 inches or greater diameter-at-breast height, living or dead, with loose hanging bark, or with cracks, crevices, or cavities) from April 1 through September 30.
- 7) Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the waterbody or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- 8) If erosion control blankets are used, they shall be heavy-duty, biodegradable, and net free or use loose-woven / Leno-woven netting to minimize the entrapment and snaring of small-bodied wildlife such as snakes and turtles (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.

A copy of this Letter must be displayed at the construction site.

RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

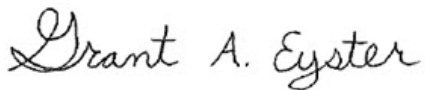
A party may appeal this Department of Natural Resources Action through the administrative review procedures found in the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act, IC 4-21.5. If an appeal is filed, the final agency determination will be made following a legal proceeding conducted before an Administrative Law Judge. The Department of Natural Resources will be represented by legal counsel at all stages of administrative review.

In order to obtain an administrative review, a written petition must be filed within 18 days of the Mail Date of the Action. The petition must contain specific reasons for the appeal and indicate the portion or portions of the project to which the appeal pertains. The petition can be submitted online by selecting the appropriate File a Petition for Review tile at: in.gov/oalp/file-a-petition-for-review/, or by mail at: Office of Administrative Law Proceedings, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Suite N802, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Point of Contact: Grant Eyster, Division of Water

This information in this document was prepared by the staff name listed as the Point of Contact. If you have any questions, contact that staff person at the Division of Water by email at water_inquiry@dnr.in.gov or by telephone at 317-232-4160 and select 1 during the recorded menu narrative to leave a voicemail.

Issued By:



Grant Eyster, Division of Water

Attachments: Floodplain Map CT-5443.pdf

Copies Provided To:

Lochmueller Group, David Duncan, 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715

Interested Parties:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, PO Box 59, Louisville, KY 40201

Kayla Robertson, 201 Locust Lane PO Box 401, Nashville, IN 47448

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement District 6 Headquarters PO Box 282, Nineveh, IN 46164

Brown County SWCD, PO Box 302, Nashville, IN 47448

Brown County Drainage Board, 201 Locust Lane, Nashville, IN 47448

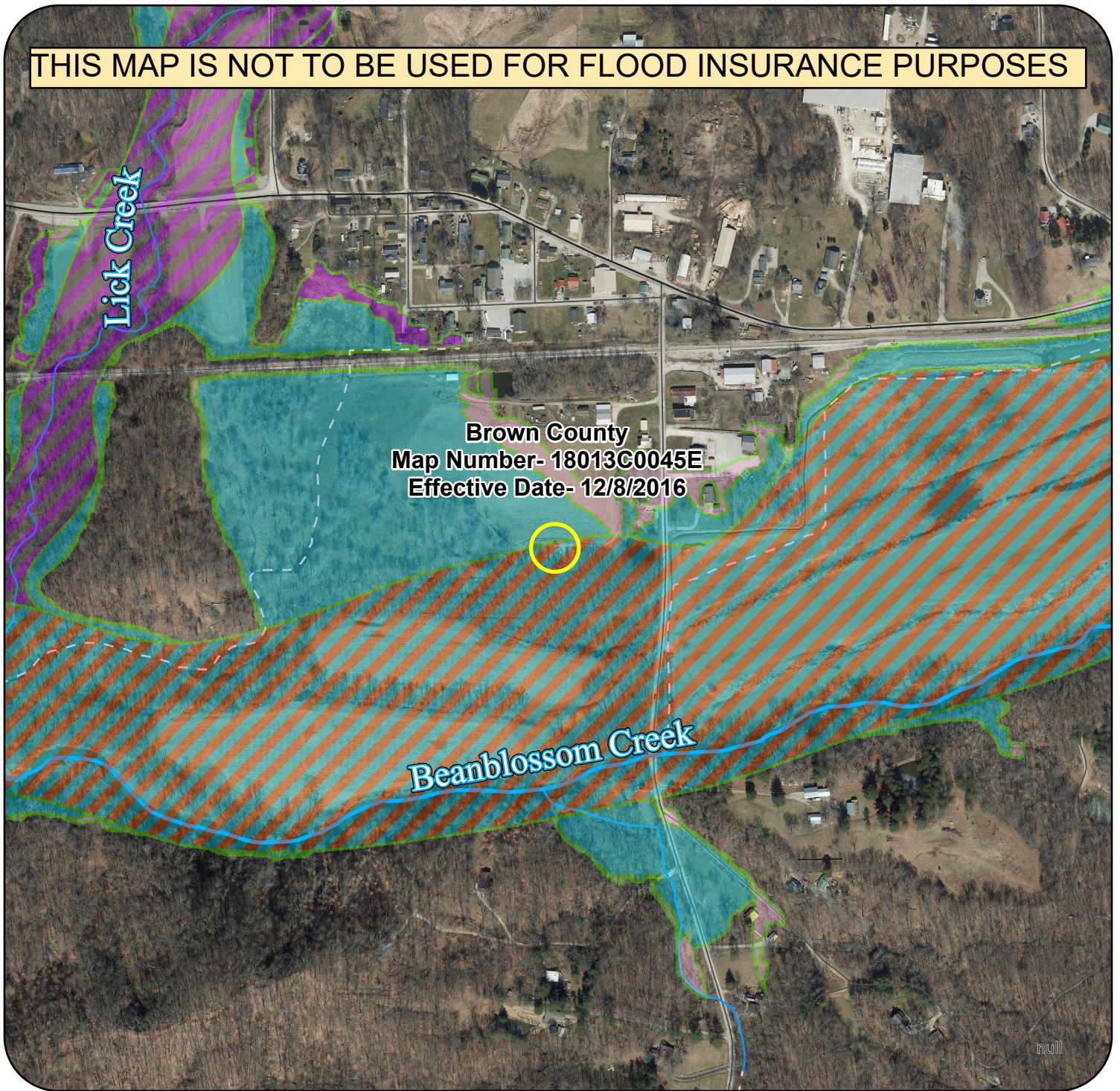
Helmsburg Regional Sewer District, Brian Webb, PO Box 147, Helmsburg, IN 47435

ADDITIONAL PERMITTING AGENCIES:

This is not a waiver of any local ordinance or other state or federal law and does not relieve the permittee of any liability for the effects which the project may have upon the safety of the life or property of others.

This does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility of obtaining permits, approvals, easements, etc. under other regulatory programs administered by, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, County Drainage Board, Indiana Department of Environmental Management and local, city, or county floodplain management, planning or zoning commissions.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR FLOOD INSURANCE PURPOSES



The floodway and fringe were derived from the best available data from DNR Division of Water

While this map is provided for information, the FIRMs as published by FEMA are the authoritative documents for the National Flood Insurance Program.

Copies of those maps can be found at <http://msc.fema.gov>

Map Source: Best Available Data from DNR Division of Water (Not for Flood Insurance purposes)

File Number: CT-5443

Note

This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the effective date



MAP SCALE: 1" = 500'

Legend

- FEMA Zone AE Floodway; FEMA Administrative Floodway
- DNR Approximate Floodway
- FEMA Zone AE
- DNR Approximate Fringe
- Additional Floodplain Area; DNR .2 Percent Flood Hazard
- Not Mapped
- Community Boundaries FIRM Panels

