



# **State Revolving Fund Loan Programs**

## **Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source**

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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#### **CITY OF SEYMOUR**

#### **Wastewater Collection System Improvement Projects**

#### **SRF PROJECT WW 23 36 36 03**

**DATE: February 27, 2024**

**TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: March 29, 2024**

#### **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 (FNSI)**

The SRF Wastewater 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/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the target approval date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new FNSI 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 effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

**April Douglas**  
**Environmental Review Coordinator**  
**State Revolving Fund**  
**100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**  
**317-234-7294**  
**[adouglas@ifa.in.gov](mailto:adouglas@ifa.in.gov)**

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# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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## I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Wastewater Collection System Improvement Projects  
City of Seymour  
301-309 N. Chestnut Street  
Seymour, Indiana, 47274

SRF Project Number: **WW 23 36 36 03**

Authorized Representative: Mayor Matthew Nicholson

## II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Jackson County, Jackson township, Seymour 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 6 North, Range 5 East and Section 14. See **Figures 1 through 3**.

## III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The Snyder Acres project will extend sewer service to the currently unsewered Snyder Acres subdivision, as required per the City's Annexation Agreement. Many of the on-site sewage systems within the proposed project area are failing or are not in compliance with current codes, and soils and lot sizes are an obstacle to septic system repair or replacement. Multiple complaints investigated by the Jackson County Health Department regarding sewage smells around the Von Fange Ditch area have been traced back to homes within the project area via dye testing. The proposed project will correct the environmental, health, and safety concerns caused by failing on-site sewage systems in the area.

The Lake Leslie force main and Pebblebrook Lift Station have reached their end of life. The Lake Leslie improvements and Pebblebrook improvements will address aging infrastructure while also recapturing capacity in the Tipton Street interceptor and eliminating multiple pumping scenarios within the collection system. Additionally, the new infrastructure will be rerouted along alignments through undeveloped areas within the City's planning buffer to accommodate long-term growth.

## IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Collection System Improvements include:

- Snyder Acres Improvements – Installation of a new gravity collection system, approximately 3,200 LF of 8-inch sewer, along with a new pump station and approximately 600 LF of associated 4-inch force main to serve the Snyder Acres subdivision, see **Figure 1**;
- Lake Leslie Improvements – Pump upgrades and installation of a new 4-inch force main, approximately 2,900 LF, and a new 12-inch gravity sewer, approximately 3,600 LF, associated with the existing Lake Leslie pump station, see **Figure 2**; and
- Pebblebrook Improvements – Conversion of the existing Pebblebrook Lift Station to a flow through manhole and installation of a new 12-inch gravity sewer, approximately 6,500 LF, see **Figure 3**.

## V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$5,880,000. The City of Seymour will 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

### Snyde Acres Improvements

**Snyde Acres No Action Alternative:** Under this alternative, no sanitary sewer would be installed to serve the homes in Snyde Acres and septic tanks would continue to be used to handle on-site domestic wastewater. The cost of this alternative would be \$0.00. This alternative is neither feasible, environmentally sound, nor economical. Continued lack of sanitary sewer in the area would be in violation of the City's Annexation Agreement and would result in continued discharge of untreated wastewater to local waterways.

**Snyde Acres Low Pressure Sewer System Alternative:** Under this alternative, each home would be served with an individual grinder pump station, discharging to a low pressure sewer system installed within existing right-of-way. The construction cost for this alternative would be approximately \$925,000, with annual operating and maintenance costs of approximately \$20,000. This alternative would meet the purpose and need of the project with similar environmental impacts in comparison to the selected alternative. This alternative was not preferred due to the higher operation and maintenance costs in comparison to the selected alternative.

**Snyde Acres Gravity Sewer System Alternative (Selected Alternative):** Under this alternative, each home would be served by a gravity sewer system and one lift station installed within existing right-of-way. The construction cost for this alternative would be approximately \$1,720,000, with annual operating and maintenance costs of approximately \$10,000. This alternative would meet the purpose and need of the project with similar environmental impacts in comparison to the selected alternative. This alternative was selected as the preferred alternative due to reduced the operation and maintenance costs associated with a gravity collection system.

### Lake Leslie Improvements

**Lake Leslie No Action Alternative:** Under this alternative, the existing Lake Leslie forcemain would continue to operate as is. The cost of this alternative would be \$0.00. This alternative is neither practical nor desired as the City would risk failure of existing infrastructure that has meet its useful life and would not be able to accommodate growth within the City's planning buffer zone.

**Lake Leslie Improvements Alternative (Selected Alternative):** Under this alternative, the Lake Leslie force main will be replaced. The force main will be rerouted and include a gravity section. This will accomplish several goals of the City: replace failing infrastructure, eliminate an interstate utility crossing, reduce multiple pumping of wastewater, and provide service in areas planned for future growth. The construction cost for this alternative would be approximately \$1,400,000. This is the selected alternative to address the failing Lake Leslie forcemain.

### Pebblebrook Improvements

**Pebblebrook No Action Alternative:** Under this alternative, the existing Pebblebrook lift station and forcemain would continue to operate as is. The cost of this alternative would be \$0.00. This alternative is neither practical nor desired as the City would risk failure of existing infrastructure that

has meet its useful life and would not be able to accommodate growth within the City's planning buffer zone.

**Pebblebrook Improvements Alternative (Selected Alternative):** Under this alternative, the Pebblebrook lift station will be converted to a flow-through manhole and the force main replaced with a gravity sewer. The sewer will be rerouted. This will accomplish several goals of the City: replace failing infrastructure, reduce multiple pumping of wastewater, and provide service in areas planned for future growth. The construction cost for this alternative would be approximately \$2,000,000. This is the selected alternative to address the Pebblebrook-related needs.

## VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

### A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

**Disturbed/Undisturbed Land:** All areas have been previously disturbed by previous construction activity or subject to an archaeological survey.

**Structural Resources (Figures 4 and 5):** 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:** 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. Heddy Run (Figure 6) and the UNT to Sandy Branch (Figure 7) will be crossed using a trenchless construction installation method.

**Wetlands (Figures 6 and 7):** The proposed project will not impact wetlands.

**Floodplain (Figures 8 and 9):** Above grade construction will not occur in the floodplain. The proposed improvements to be located within the floodplain will be installed at grade or underground. Bolt down manhole lids are proposed to mitigate impacts and protect the infrastructure from flooding. The project will not impact the existing floodplain levels.

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

**Plants and Animals:** The proposed project scope will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat. Initial coordination with USFWS through IPaC indicated the probable presence of the following, threatened, endangered, or candidate species within the project area: Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Whooping Crane, Monarch Butterfly, Salamander Mussel. IPaC coordination also noted the presence of the Federally-protected bald and/or golden eagle within the project area. No critical habitat for these species was identified. 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 not 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 city's PER states: *The City, through the authority of its council, planning commission, or other means, will ensure that future development, as well as future collection system or treatment works projects connecting to State Revolving Fund (SRF)-funded facilities will not adversely affect wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes, archaeological, historical, structural resources or other sensitive environmental resources. The City will require new development and treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and other environmental review authorities.*

## **C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities**

Correspondence was sent to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology on February 12, 2024. As of the publication of this report, SRF hasn't received a response.

This is the first correspondence to the the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

In correspondence dated March 20, 2023, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated:

*The proposed Wastewater Collection System Improvements project in the City of Seymour, Jackson County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received March 15, 2023, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

## **VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES**

City of Seymour's PER states: *Work will be conducted within existing rights of way and within open fields. There is no anticipated tree clearing activity required to complete the projects as described. Trenchless methods will be utilized where necessary to avoid wetland and waterway impacts. No long-term negative erosion, situation, air quality, or odor impacts are expected from this project. Short-term erosion and situation impacts will be controlled and monitored by the contractor during the installation and construction of the proposed improvements.*

## **IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A properly noticed public hearing was held on March 27, 2023 at 7pm at the Seymour City Hall to discuss the PER. No written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.

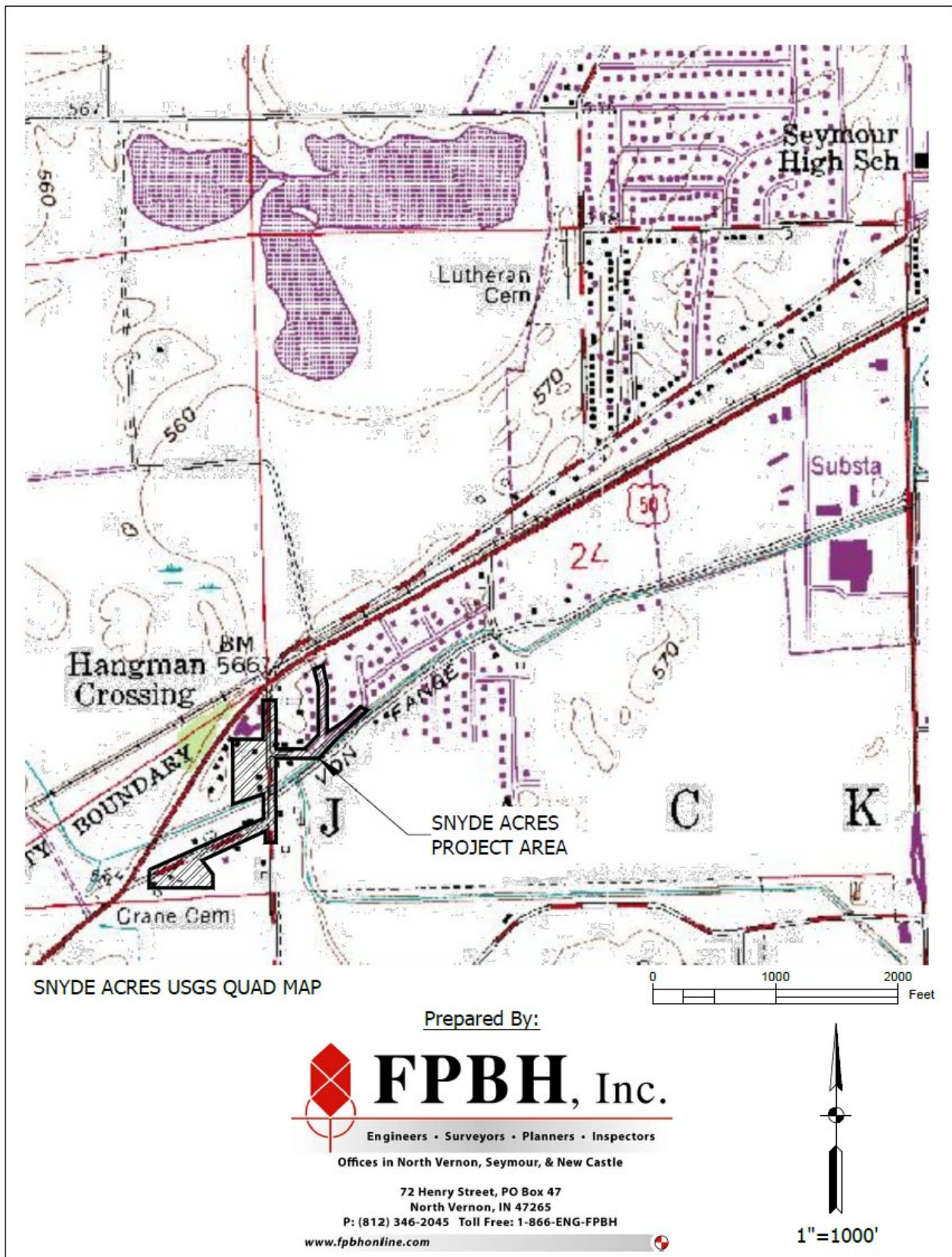


Figure 1



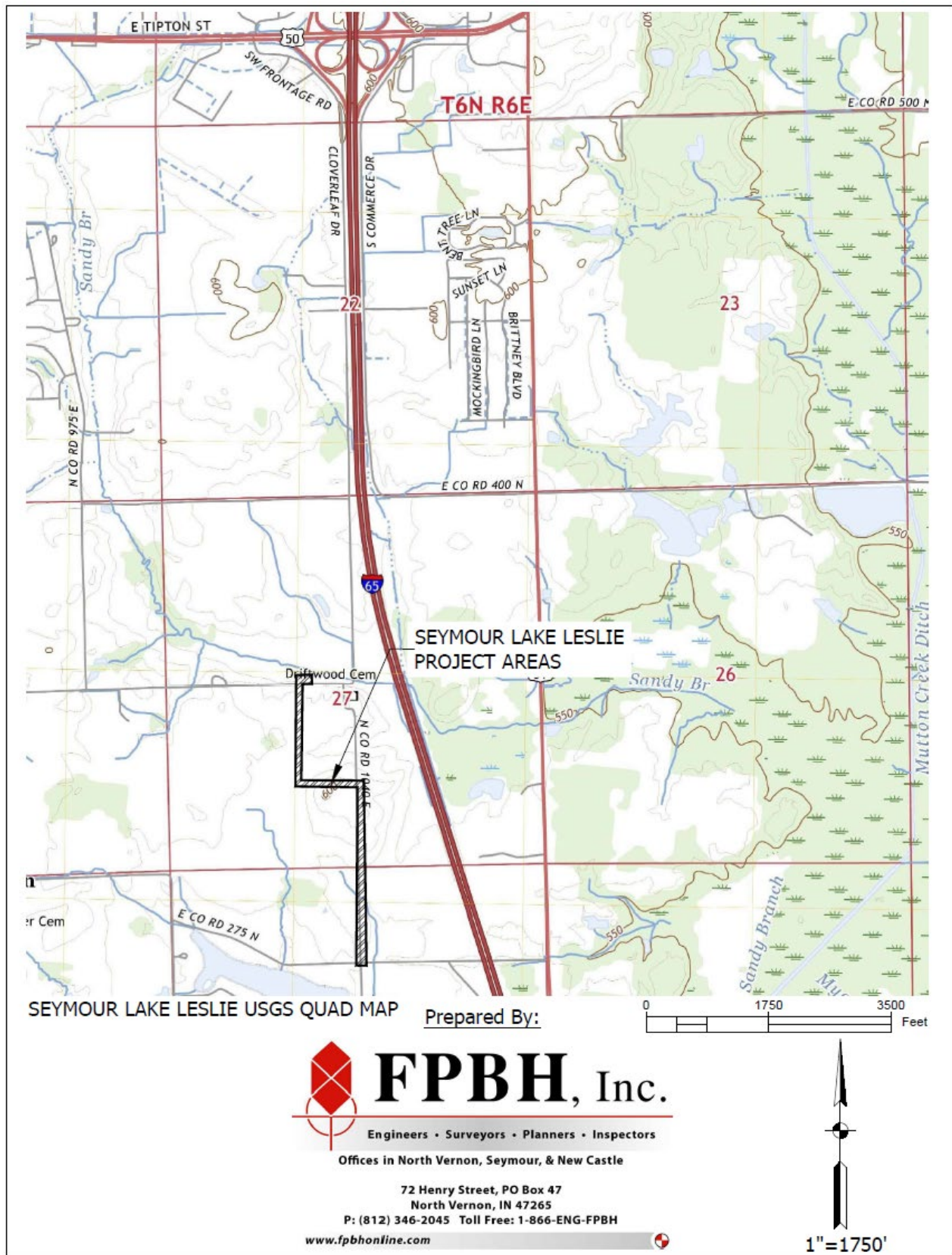


Figure 2

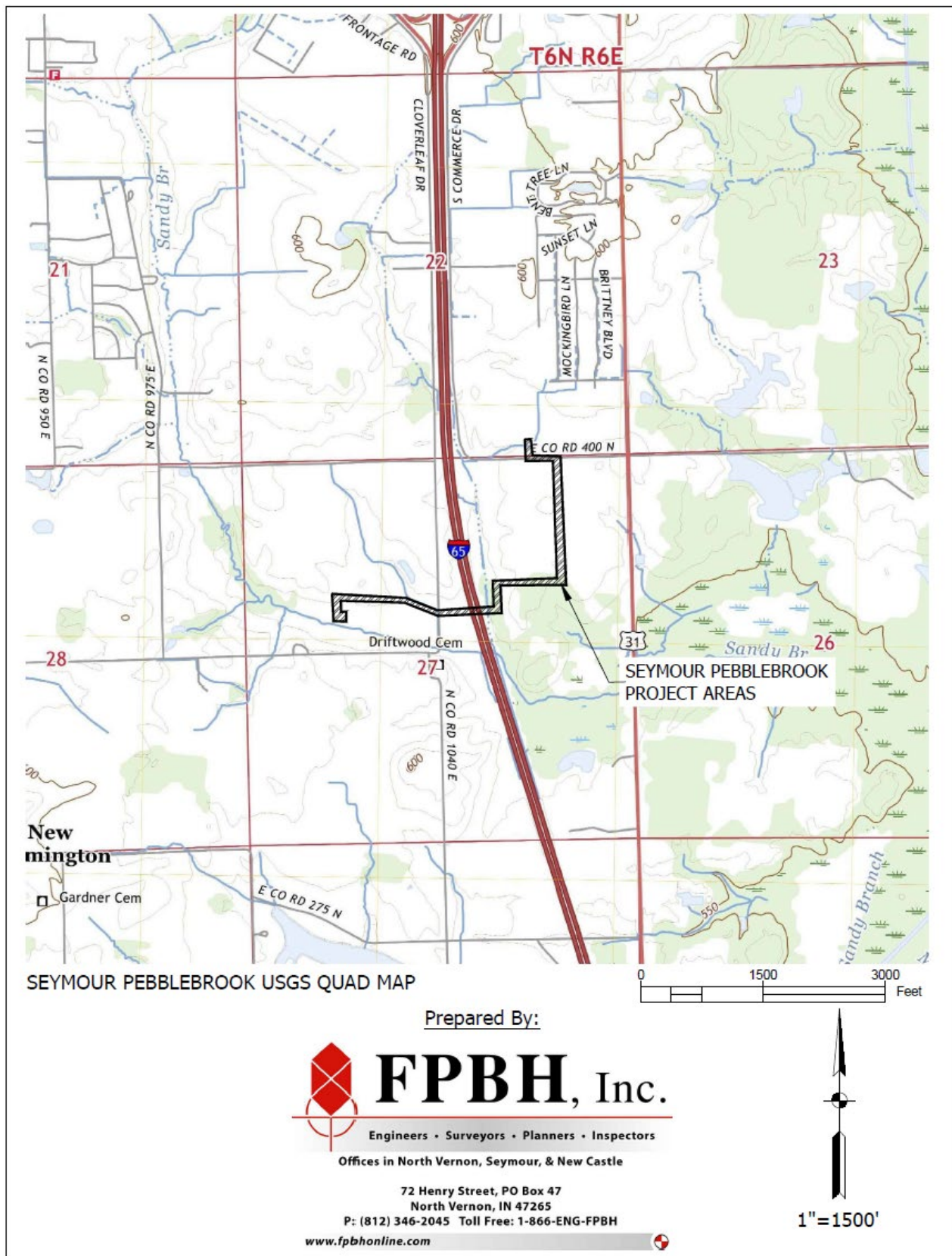


Figure 3



## Historic Buildings, Bridges, and Cemeteries Map

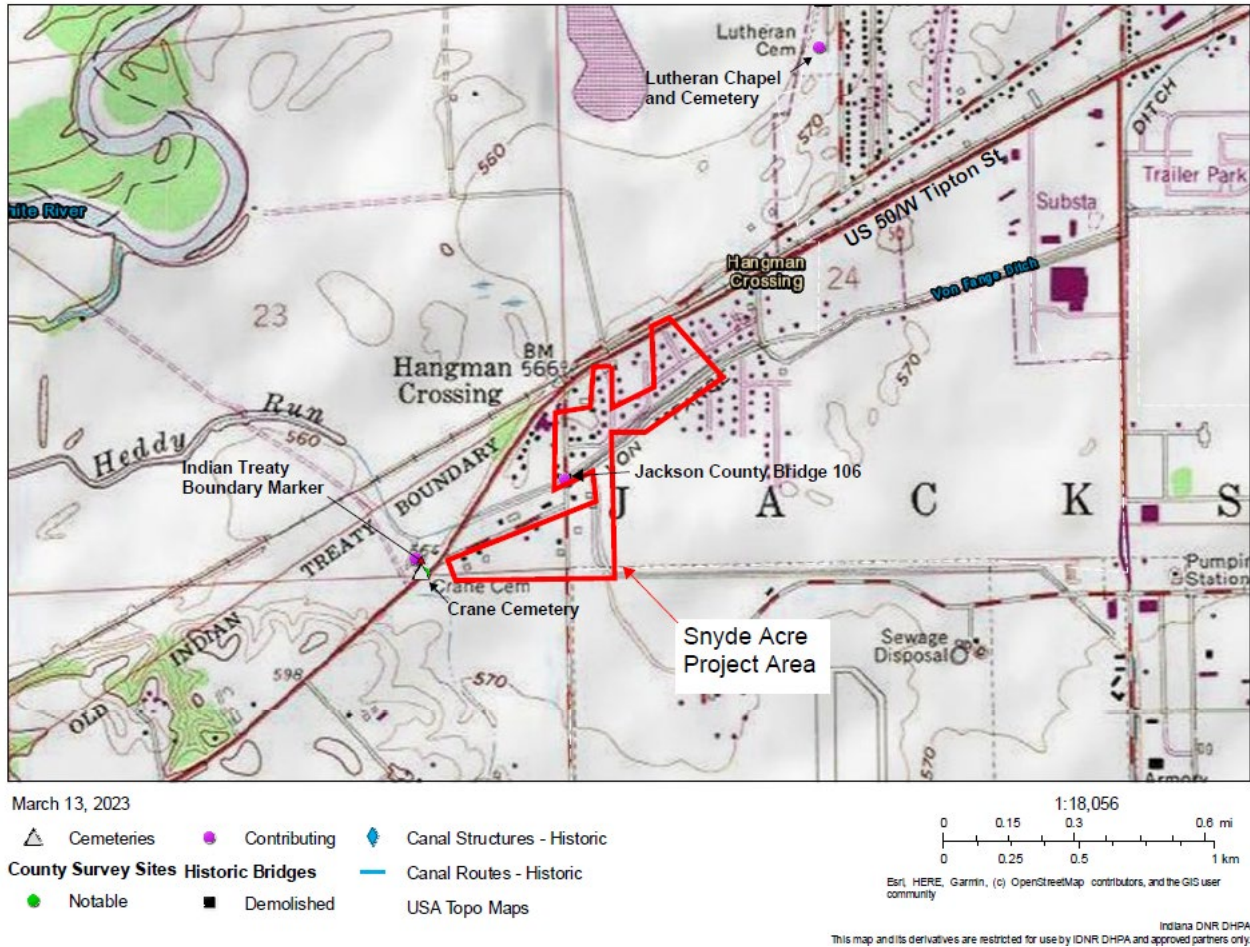
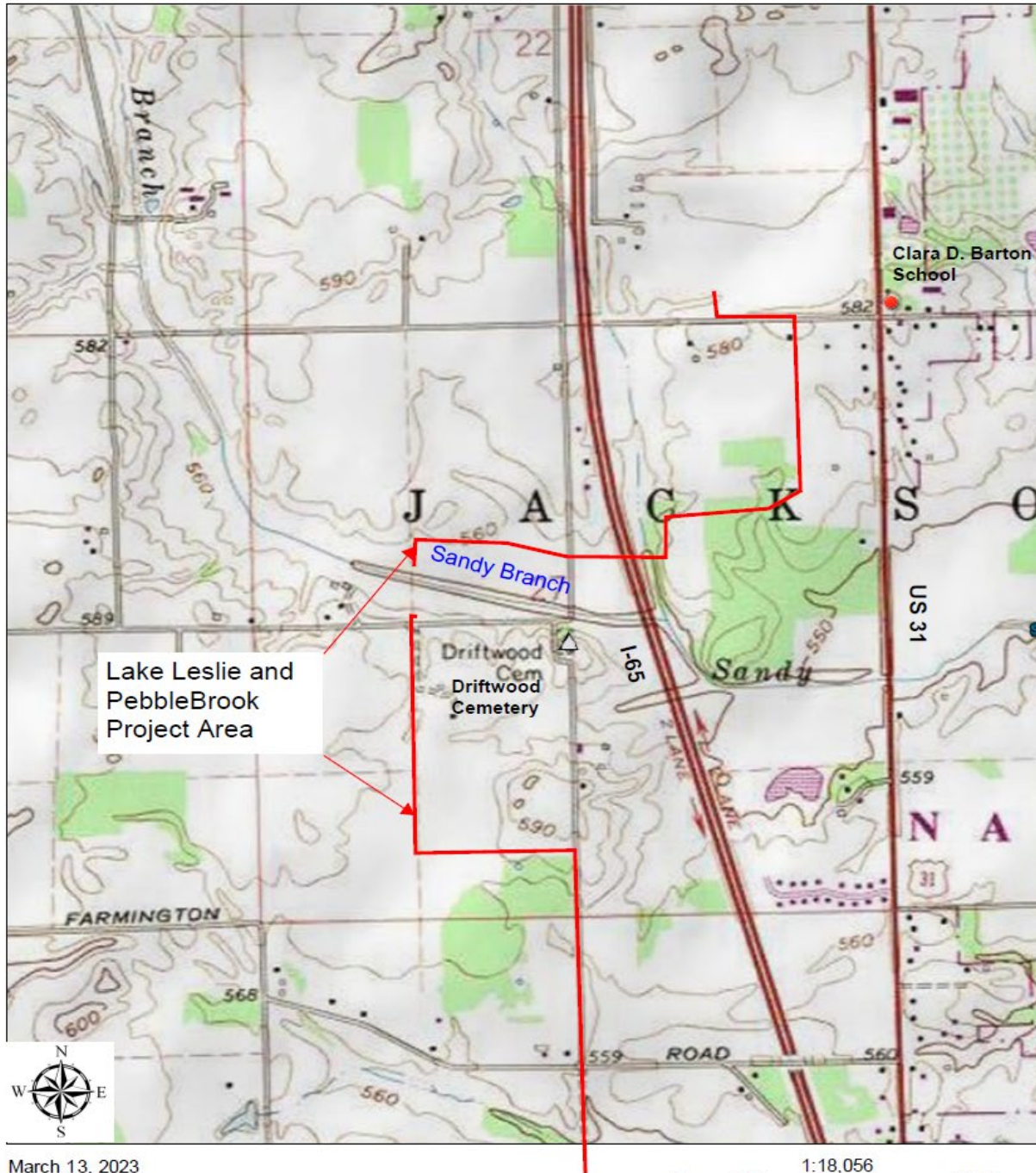


Figure 4

## Historic Buildings, Bridges, and Cemeteries Map



March 13, 2023

- Cemeteries
- Canal Routes - Historic
- County Survey Sites
- Outstanding
- Contributing
- Canal Structures - Historic

USA Topo Maps

1:18,056  
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 mi  
0 0.25 0.5 1 km

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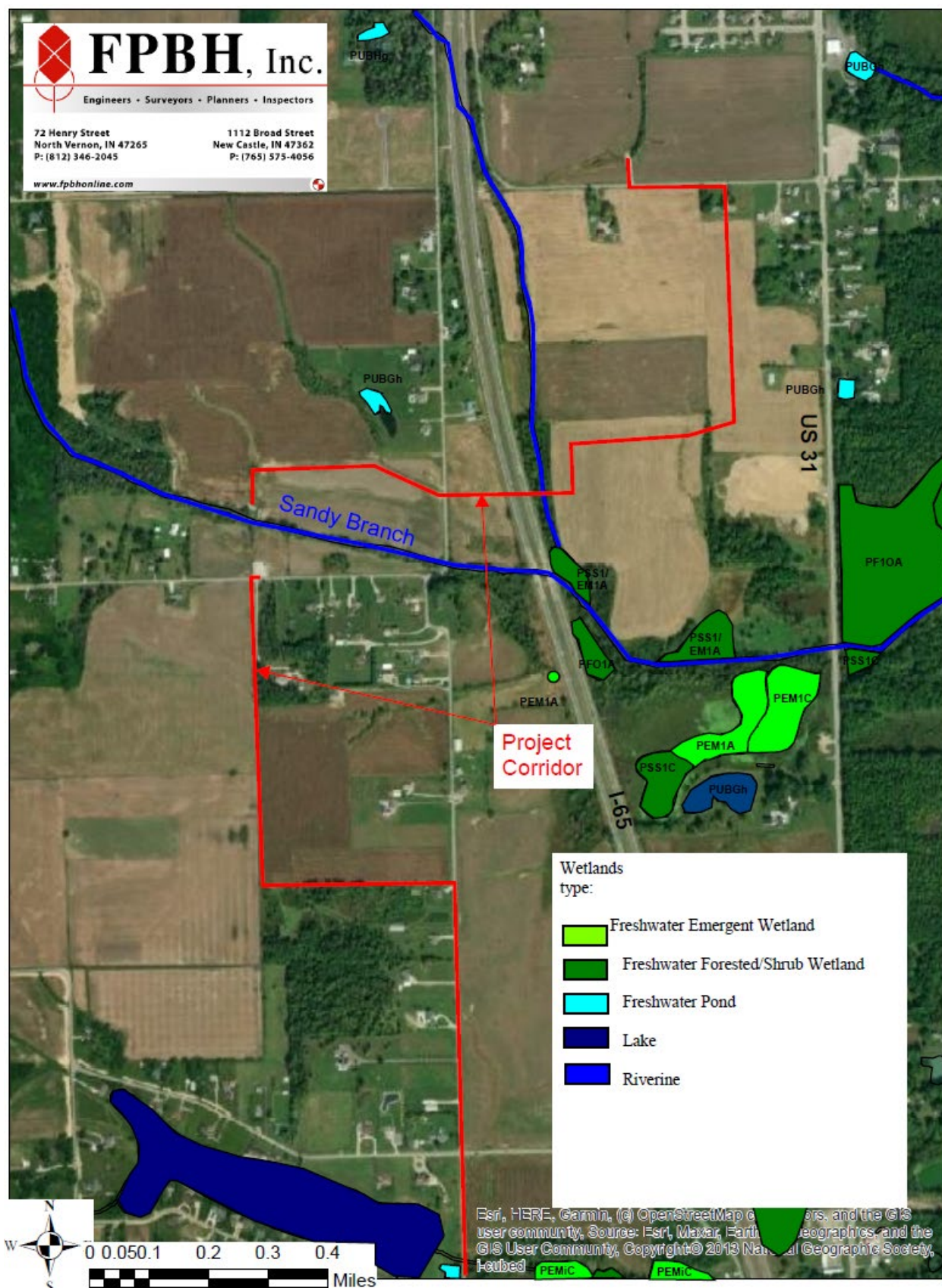
Figure 5





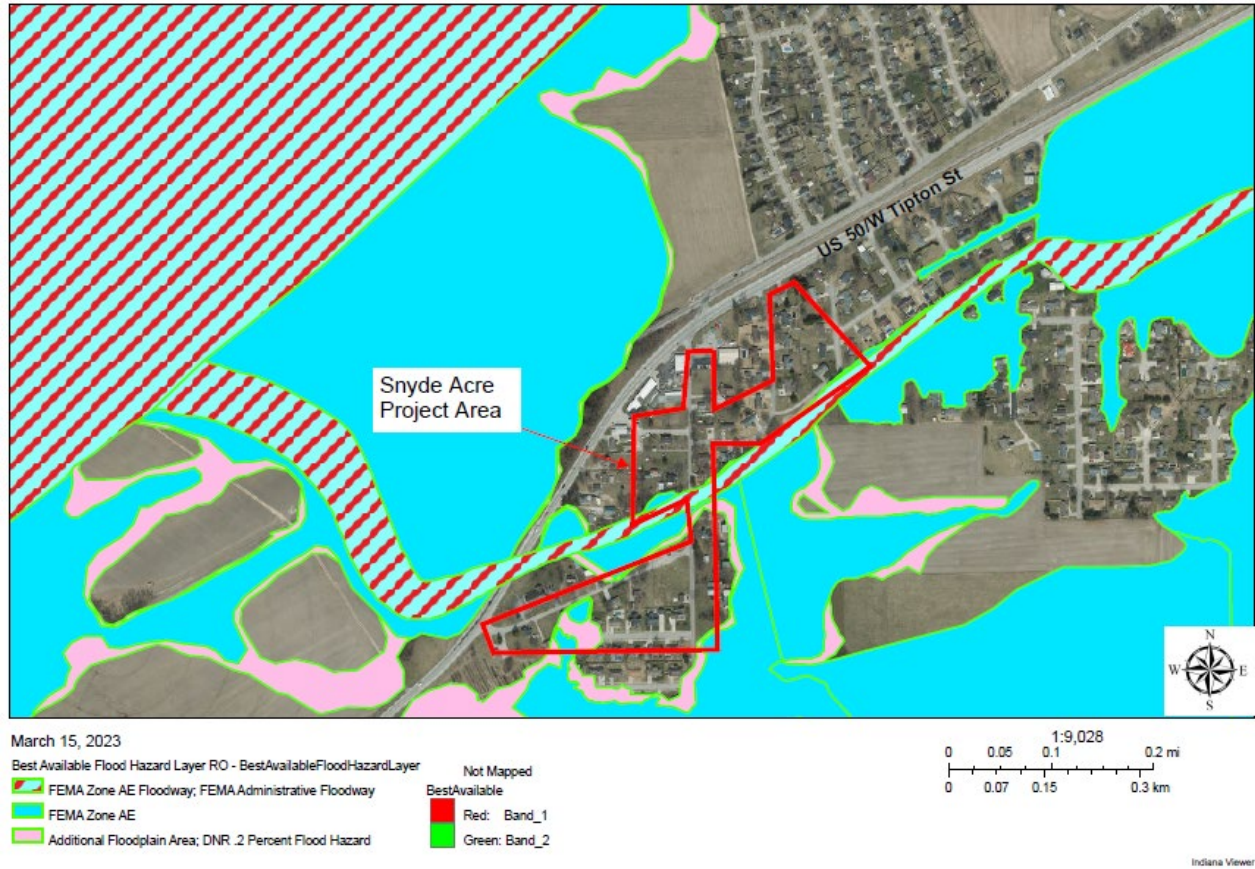
**Figure 6**





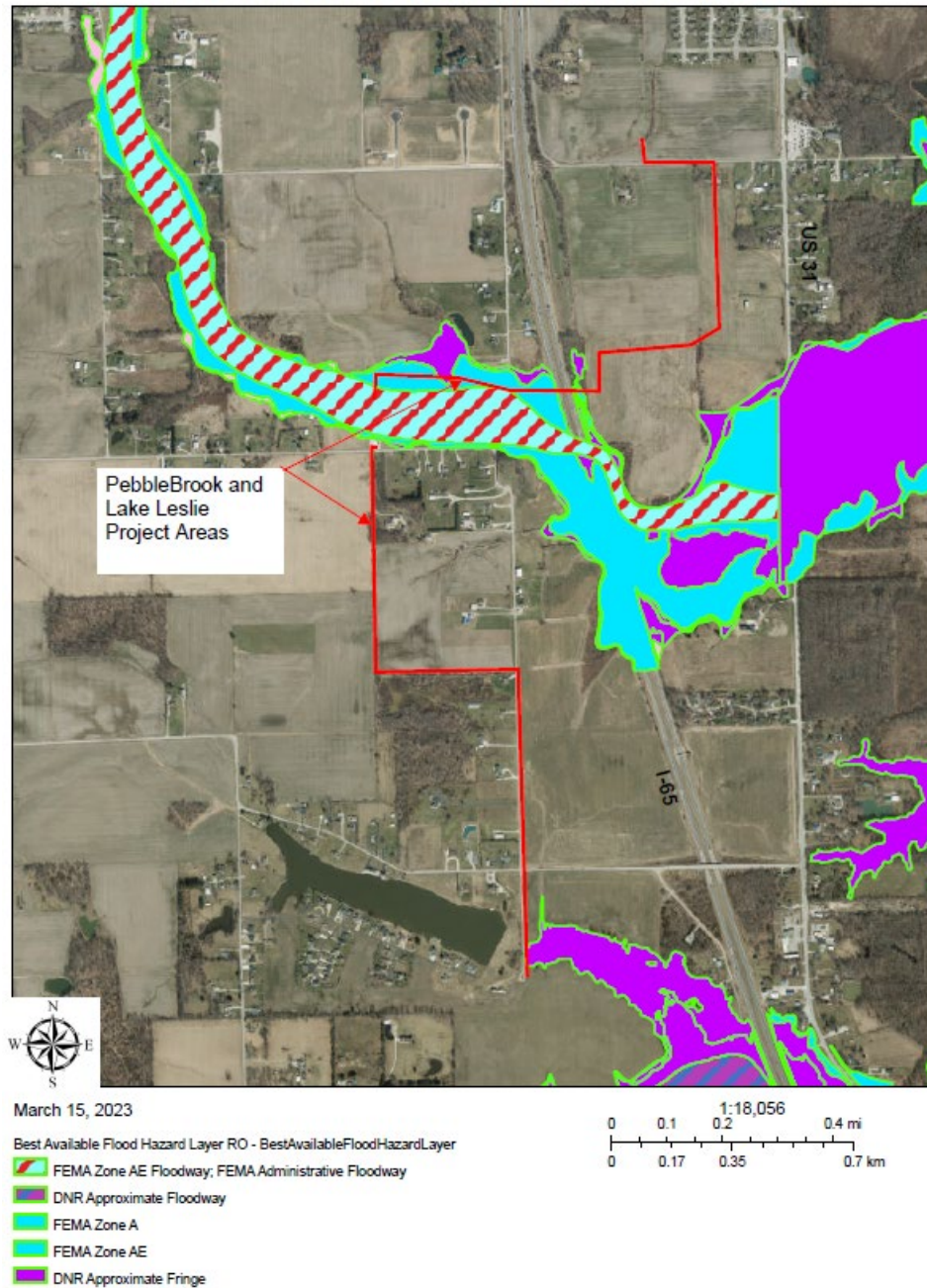


## Snyde Acres Flood Hazard Boundaries



**Figure 8**

## Lake Leslie Pebblebrook Flood Hazard Boundaries



**Figure 9**