



Photograph Plate 4 - Nearby Research Activities

Appendix B
Floodplain and Wetland
8-Step Planning Documentation

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**LSU AgCenter Hill Farm Research Station
Change of Location/Alternate Project
FEMA Disaster 1603-DR-LA
AI Database # 1598**

Executive Order 11988 - FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
Executive Order 11990 - WETLAND PROTECTION

8-STEP DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Date: 6/25/2012

Prepared By: John D. Renne' (CTR), CFM, Floodplain Specialist

Project: Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, in southeast Louisiana as a Category 3 storm. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 120 miles per hour and were accompanied by strong and damaging storm surge well above normal high tide. President Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. The State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) requested through the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) that FEMA provide disaster assistance through the provision of federal grant funding pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to fund projects to repair, restore and replace facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

FP&C was deemed eligible by FEMA for federal disaster public assistance as an eligible applicant serving the needs of the general public. Before Hurricane Katrina, the Citrus Research Station in Port Sulphur Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish provided facilities for research on citrus, mainly Satsuma and mandarin oranges, with some limited work on commercial vegetables, other fruits, and termites. The facility and its contents were damaged as a result of the declared event and FEMA has deemed them eligible for repair and/or replacement. The station has now been renamed the Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) to better reflect the post-storm expanded research emphasis planned.

The damaged CARS is located at 22193 Highway 23 in the town of Port Sulphur in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The Station's initial focus was citrus research; however, it is now investigating coastal plants and the role these plants have in the state's fight against coastal erosion. Station researchers are investigating plant varieties such as smooth cordgrass and are trying to select and breed those plants

that have the most beneficial characteristics and traits that will help protect or restore areas of the state that have experienced land loss. Facilities at the CARS included residential buildings, greenhouses, pump houses, a chemical storage building, a shop/storage building, an office, sheds, ponds, and other appurtenant facilities (LSU AgCenter, 2011).

FP&C determined that reconstruction of the facility to its predisaster configuration in its existing location would not best meet the needs of the community. Therefore, FP&C requested approval and federal grant funds for a change of location alternate project to replace the eligible facilities with new facilities providing similar and new functions at a new location at the existing Louisiana State University (LSU) Hill Farm Research Station (LSU ARS) in Claiborne Parish approximately 325 miles to the northwest of the damaged facility.

The proposed action and its effects were reviewed in relation to the floodplain and have been determined to be outside the Special Flood Hazard Area, i.e., the 1 % annual chance flood zone. Therefore, only step one of the 8-step planning and public participation process is required.

STEP 1

Determine whether the proposed actions are located in a wetland and/or the 100-year floodplain (500-year floodplain for critical actions [44 CFR 9.4]), or whether they have the potential to affect or be affected by a floodplain or a wetland (see 44 CFR 9.7).

The project is located in relation to floodplains as mapped by:

Latitude: 32.75153 **Longitude:** -93.05320

Effective FIRM Panel: 22 0362 0110 A, January 1, 1992

Flood Zone: Zone C, Areas of Minimal Flood

Base Flood Elevation: NA

The project is located in a wetland as identified by:

A request for a Jurisdictional Determination for the proposed demolition sites and for construction of a new poultry litter barn and fence located at the Hill Farm Research Station was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District. Based upon the information provide, the Army has determined that a Department of Army Section 404 Permit will not be required for any work on the subject properties, since there are no jurisdictional wetlands or other waters of the United States located on the sites. A copy of the basis of this determination has been included in Appendix E, Agency Correspondence.

Appendix C

Public Notice

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**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AT AN ALTERNATE LOCATION OF THE
LSU AGCENTER COASTAL AREA RESEARCH STATION
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed relocation and reconstruction of the Hurricane Katrina damaged Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) facilities formerly located at 22193 Highway 23, Port Sulphur, LA 70083 (Plaquemines Parish - latitude 29.57991/longitude - 89.82103). The LSU AgCenter will replace the functions and capacity of the eligible facility at the existing LSU Hill Farm Research Station in Claiborne Parish approximately 40 miles northeast of Shreveport, Louisiana - latitude 32.75153/longitude -93.05320). The proposed action includes construction of a 2,400-square foot poultry litter barn, repair of site fences, and demolition of three structures (Buildings 10706, 10709, and 10710, See Section 3 for Site Locations).

The LSU AgCenter seeks federal grant funds for this action eligible under a Presidential Disaster Declaration, signed on August 29, 2005 (FEMA-1603-DR-LA). Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA has been prepared to evaluate the action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. This Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

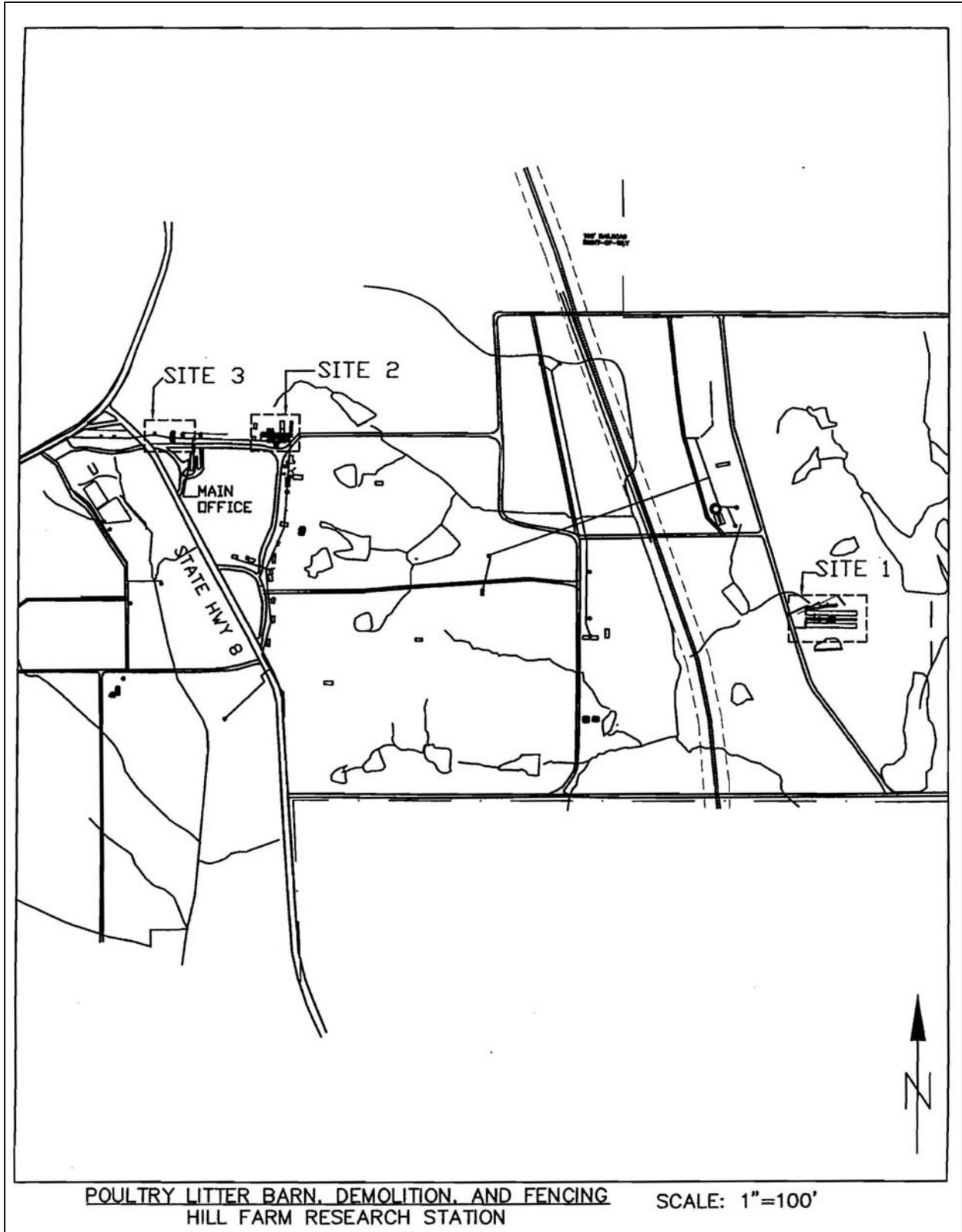
The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available for review at the Claiborne Parish Public Library located at 909 Edgewood Drive, Homer, LA 71040, from August 2, 2012 through August 16, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday; and 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday. Additionally, a public notice regarding the proposed action will be published in the Haynesville News newspaper for one (1) day: August 2, 2012. The comment period will be fifteen (15) days, beginning on August 2, 2012 and concluding August 16, 2012. Written comments on the Draft EA or related matters can be faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office at (504) 762-2323; mailed to FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office, EHP - LSU CARS ARS EA, 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114; or e-mailed to FEMA-NOMA@fema.dhs.gov. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm>.

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. However, if FEMA receives new information that results in a change from no adverse effects then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments. However, if there are no changes, this Draft EA will become the Final EA.

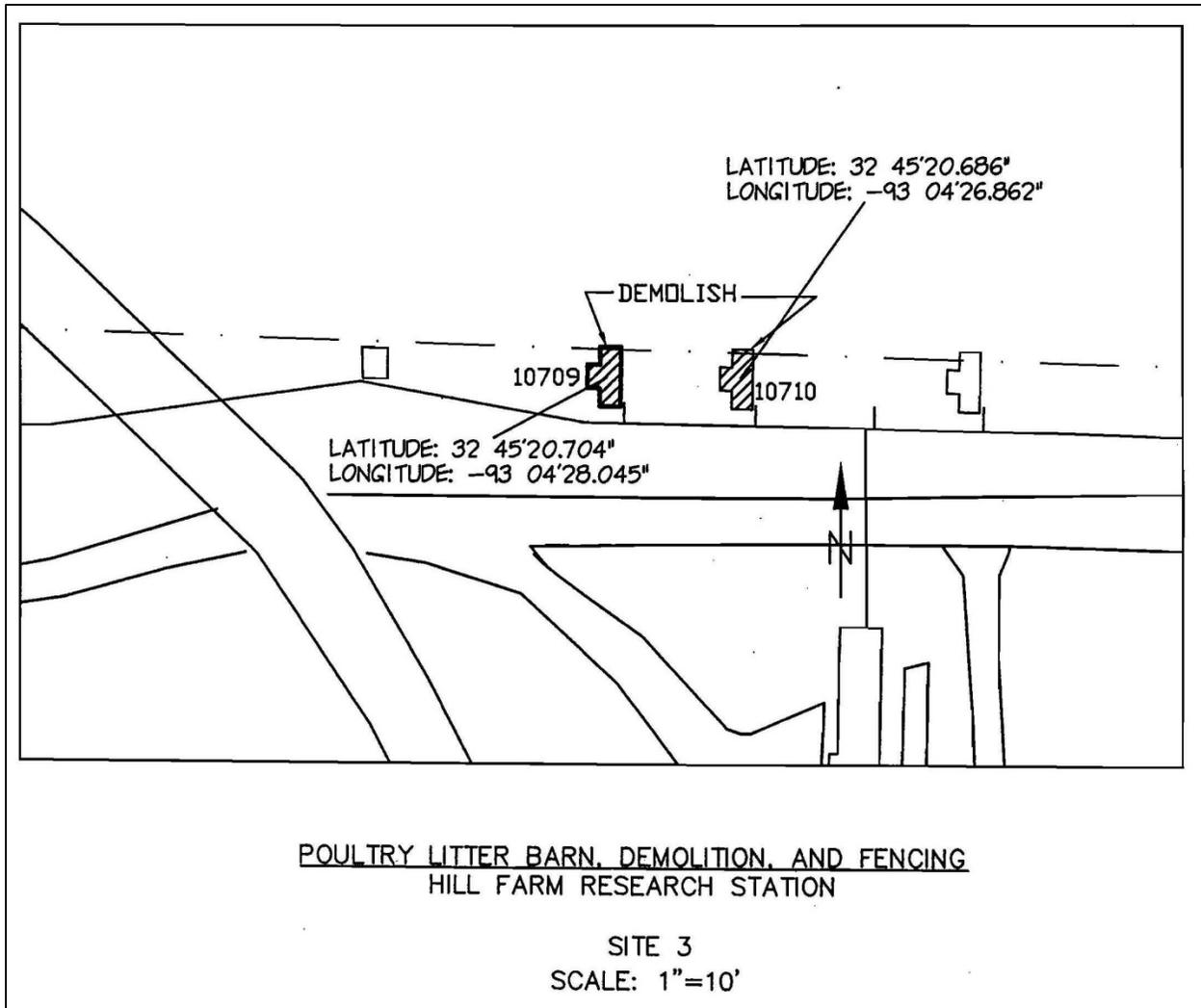
If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

Appendix D
Site Construction Plans

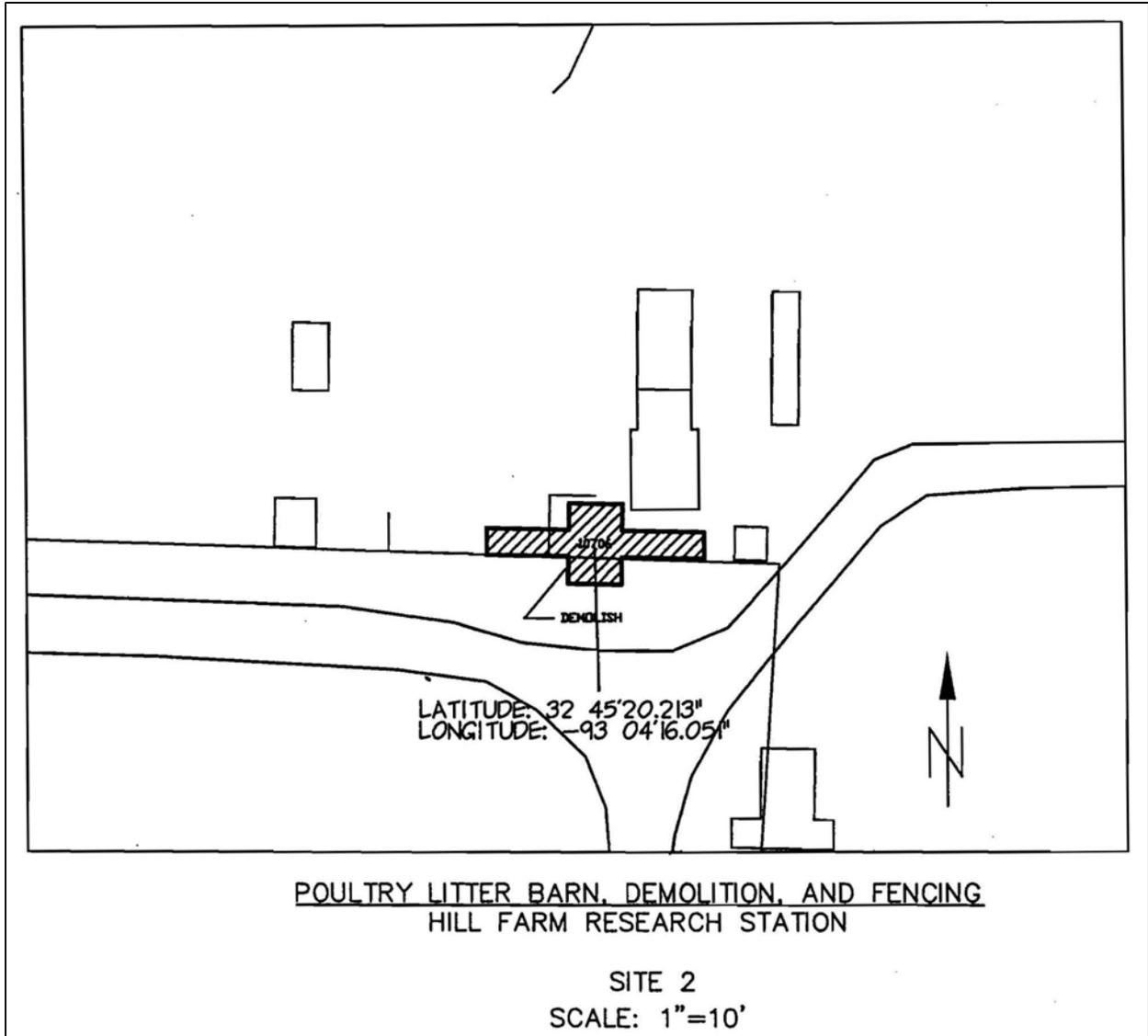
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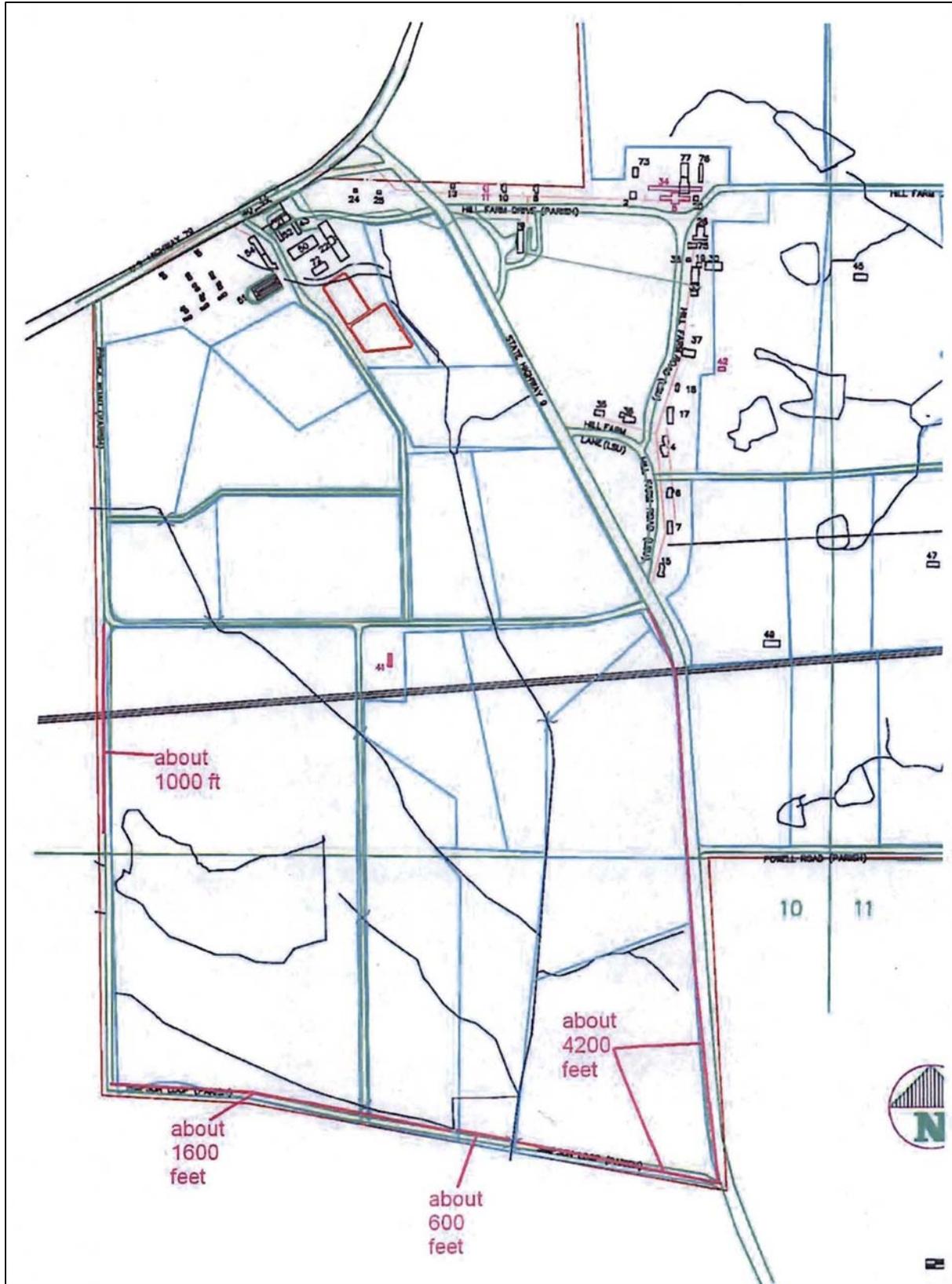
Plan Plate 1 - Site Layout Plan



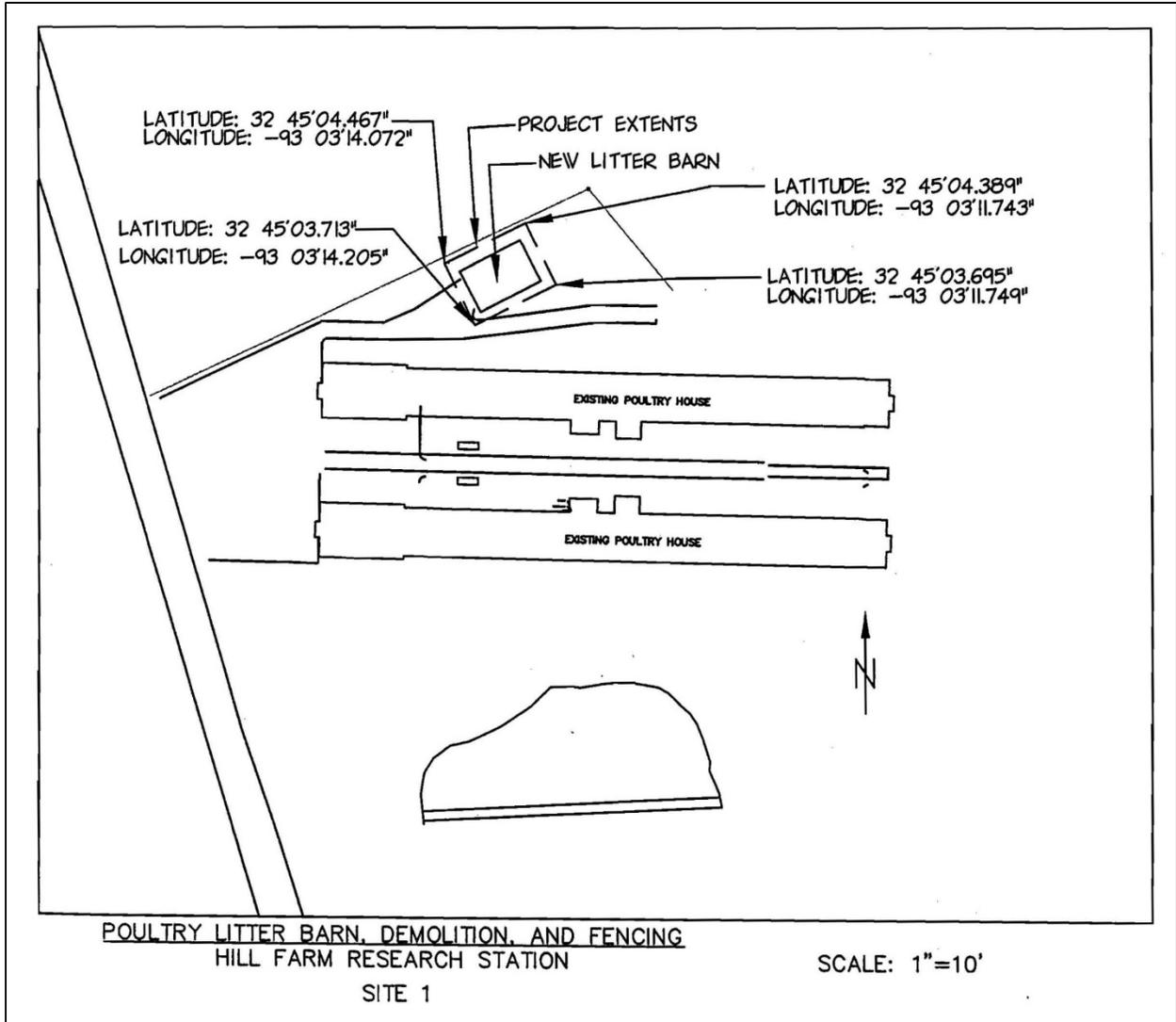
Plan Plate 2 - Buildings 10709 and 10710 Demolition



Plan Plate 3 - Building 10706 Demolition



Plan Plate 4 - Fence Plan



Plan Plate 5 - Poultry Litter Barn Plan

Appendix E
Agency Correspondence

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