



# State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

## Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

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### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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#### CITY OF LA PORTE

#### EAST WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND WELLFIELD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

#### SRF PROJECT DW 10 14 45 01

**DATE:** May 24, 2011

**TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE:** June 23, 2011

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for a loan to finance all or part of the drinking 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.

#### II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The SRF Drinking 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 4-4-11, 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 deadline 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:

**Amy Henninger**  
**Senior Environmental Manager**  
**State Revolving Fund -- IGCN 1275**  
**100 N. Senate Ave.**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**  
317-232-6566

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# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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## I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name and Address:	East Water Treatment Plant and Wellfield Improvements City of La Porte 801 Michigan Avenue La Porte, IN 46350
SRF Project Number:	DW 10 14 45 01
Authorized Representative:	Ms. Kathleen Chroback Mayor

## II. PROJECT LOCATION

La Porte City is located in La Porte County, Indiana. The East Treatment Plant and Wellfield project is located in Township 37 North, Range 2 West, Section 30 in the Springville USGS quadrangle.

The existing and proposed future service areas are identified in Figure 1-1.

## III. PROJECT NEED AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

La Porte owns and maintains a water treatment and distribution system. The proposed project will address deficiencies in the treatment and distribution systems.

The existing East Street Water Plant was originally constructed in 1968 with improvements constructed in 1996 and is rated to treat 6 mgd. The existing wells have been decreasing in capacity over the years and there is very little spare capacity remaining to treat maximum day flows. Three new wells are needed to meet future flow requirements and increase system reliability. The aerators are original to the facility, have outlived their useful life, and are in need of replacement. The Water Department is concerned about the hazards of chlorine gas and desires that an on-site hypochlorite generation system be installed to replace the gaseous chlorine. The existing detention basin does not have the means for cleaning and is cleaned annually with the solids being transported to a landfill. A new solids removal pumping system is proposed to allow for the more frequent removal of solids and disposal at the WWTP. A standby generator is also proposed for the East Street Water Plant.

#### IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing East Water Treatment Plant currently provides treatment of groundwater through oxidation and physical removal of iron and manganese. The proposed project at the East WTP is the construction of three new supply wells to meet maximum day needs and increase system reliability, replacement of the existing gaseous chlorination system with an on-site hypochlorite generation system, replacement of two existing aerators, and the installation of an emergency standby generator. Additional 8" and 16" diameter water supply piping, including valves and appurtenances is needed in conjunction with the new wellfield to transport the water from the wells to the WTP. Upgrades to the electric power service are needed to serve the new wellfield, and upgrades to the SCADA control system are needed to incorporate the new wells, stand-by generator, and chlorine system modifications.

#### V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

##### A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

<u>System Improvements</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
East WTP Improvements	\$ 1,565,000
Contingencies (10%)	156,500
<i>Construction Subtotal</i>	<i>1,721,500</i>
<i>Non-Construction Subtotal</i>	<i>310,300</i>
<b>Total Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>\$ 2,031,800</b>

- B. La Porte will finance the project with a 20-year loan from the SRF program at an interest rate to be determined at the time of 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

- A. **East WTP** (Figure 1-4): Alternatives considered for the East WTP include no action, optimal operation of the existing facilities, replacement of the existing facilities, and rehabilitation/upgrade of the existing facilities. The no action alternative will not address the needs of the facility as previously described, nor will optimal operation of the existing facilities. Replacement is not cost effective. Upgrading the facilities is the recommended alternative.

##### B. Selected Alternative:

The proposed project at the East WTP is the construction of three new supply wells, replacement of the existing gaseous chlorination system with an on-site hypochlorite generation system, replacement of two existing aerators, and the installation of an emergency standby generator.

## VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

### A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

**Undisturbed Land:** The project will affect land suitable to contain archaeological materials. The Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology has specified areas of avoidance in correspondence dated May 10, 2011 (Figure 6).

**Structural Resources** (Figure 5-1C): The project will not affect historic sites. If any visual or audible impacts to historic sites occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify historic properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the State or National registers. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

**Prime Farmland:** The project will not impact prime farmland soils.

**Wetlands** (Figure 5-2C): Wetlands will not be impacted by the proposed project.

**Surface Waters** (Figure 5-4C): Surface waters will not be impacted by the proposed project. The project will not adversely affect the Exceptional Use streams, or Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams.

**100-Year Floodplains** (Figure 5-4C): This construction will not take place in the 100 year floodway/floodplain.

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

**Air Quality:** Construction activities may generate some short-term impacts, such as noise, fumes, and dust. Construction activities should not impact ozone, airborne pollutants or other current or future air quality concerns.

**Plant/Animals/Habitat:** The construction and operation of the project are not expected to negatively impact state or federal-listed endangered species or their habitat. Minor impacts to woody shrub areas are expected.

**Open Space and Recreational Opportunities:** The proposed project's construction and operation will neither create nor destroy open space and recreational opportunities.

The construction and operation of the proposed project will not impact National Natural Landmarks or the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone.

## **B. Indirect Impacts**

La Porte's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *The City of La Porte will ensure, through local zoning laws or other means, that future development, as well as future drinking water utility projects connecting to SRF-funded facilities, will not adversely impact wetlands, archaeological/historical/structural resources, or other sensitive environmental resources. The City of La Porte will require new development and treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and other environmental review authorities.*

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

This document acts as the first notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the IDNR Environmental Unit. The IDNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology is reviewing the project.

In correspondence dated May 10, 2011 the Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology states: *In terms of archaeological resources, we concur with the recommendations of the archaeological report in that no further archaeological investigations are necessary.*

## **VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES**

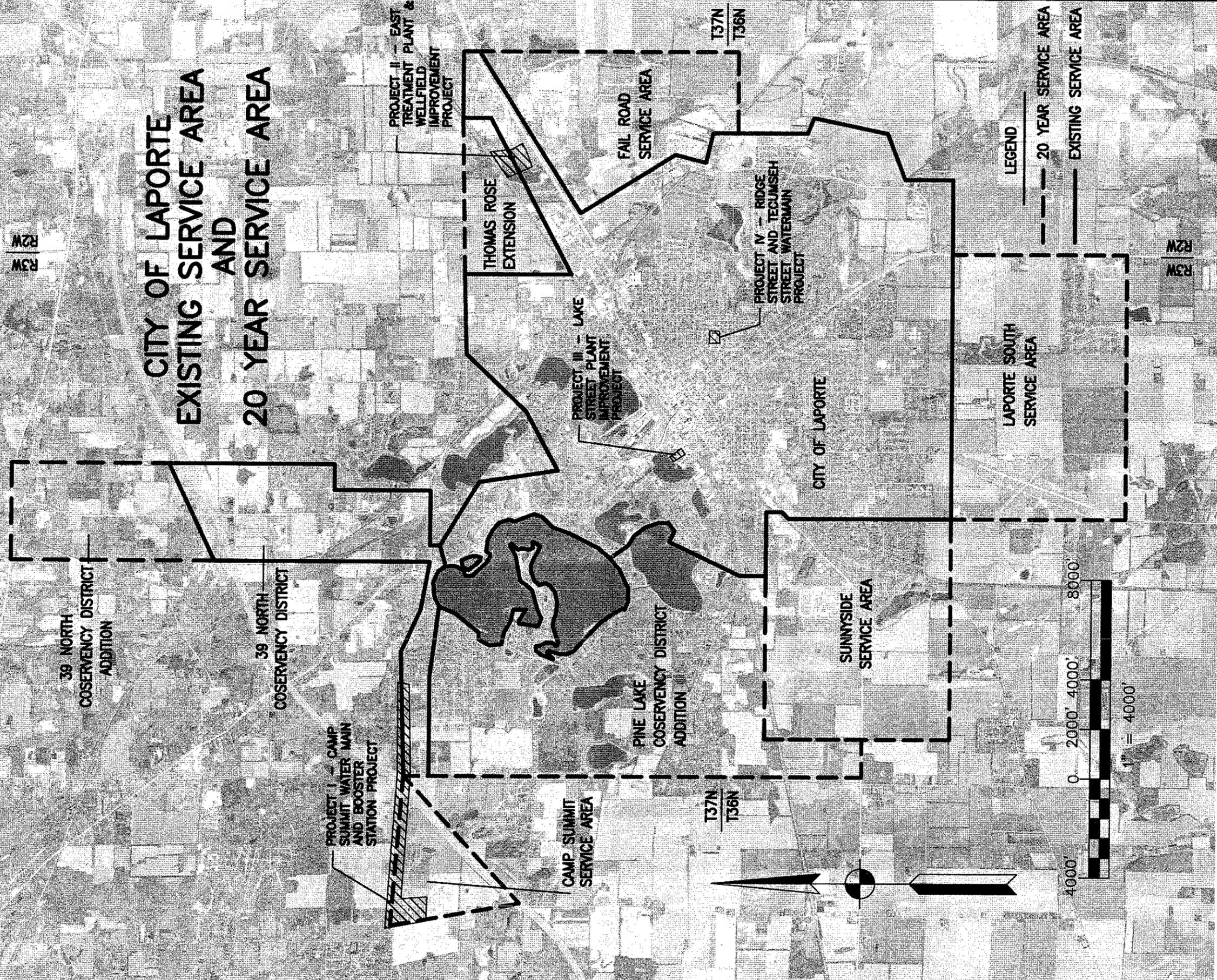
La Porte's PER states: *Construction will identify and avoid areas with unstable slopes. A site grading and management plan will be developed to identify areas of disturbance, areas of cut and fill, slope during and after grading, existing vegetation, and measures to protect slope, drainage ways, and existing vegetation in the project area. An erosion control plan and revegetation plan will be developed to delineate measures to minimize soil loss and reduce sedimentation to protect water quality. Construction will minimize the amount of land disturbed as much as possible. Construction will use existing roads, disturbed areas, and borrow pits when possible. Construction will minimize vegetation removal. Construction will be staged to limit the exposed area at any one time. Runoff control features will be designed to minimize soil erosion. Construction will use appropriate structures at culvert outlets to prevent erosion. Construction will provide temporary stabilization of disturbed areas that are not actively under construction. Construction will apply erosion controls (e.g., jute netting, silt fences, and check dams) to prevent/minimize soil erosion from vehicular traffic and during construction activities. Construction will maintain vegetative cover within road rights-of-way (ROWs) to prevent erosion. Construction will include cleaning and maintaining catch basins, drainage ditches, and culverts regularly. During all phases of the project, equipment and vehicles will be kept within the limits of initially disturbed areas.*

In correspondence dated May 10, 2011 the Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology states: *If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during the construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (IC 14-21-1-27 and 29) required that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two business days... Be advised that adherence to IC 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations.*

## **IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

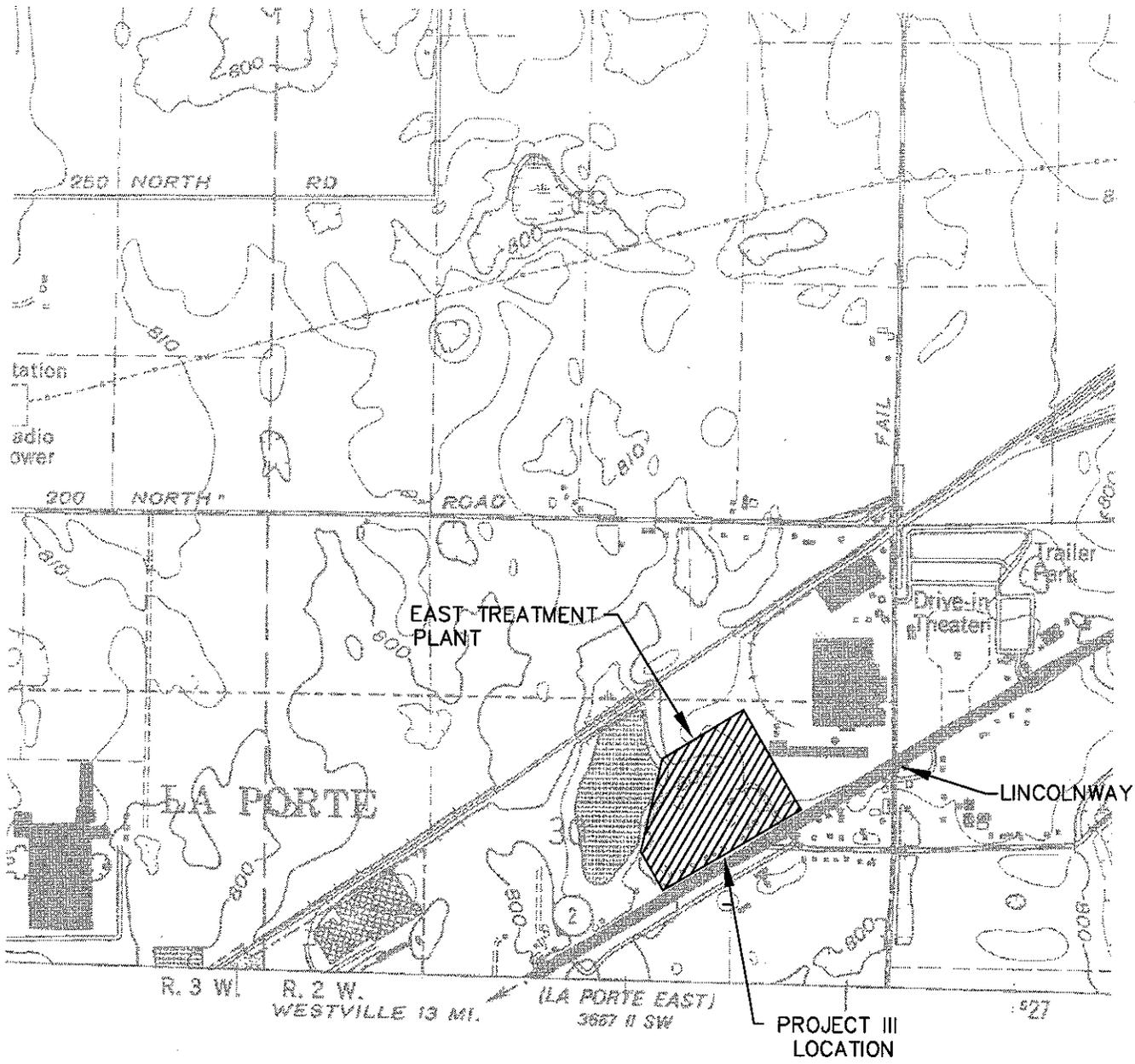
A properly advertised public hearing was held at 7:00 pm on Monday, May 10, 2010 at the City Hall to discuss the Preliminary Engineering Report, provide input in the preparation of this report, and solicit citizens' views and concerns regarding the proposed project. A copy of the Preliminary Engineering Report was available for public review for ten days prior to the public hearing. There were no written comments received from the public during the 5-day period after the public hearing.

# CITY OF LAPORTE EXISTING SERVICE AREA AND 20 YEAR SERVICE AREA



SHEET	Designed: JPP	Customer: LAPORTE WATER DEPARTMENT
1-1	Drawn: BAW	Project Name: 2010 SRF PER FIGURE 1-1
OF	Checked: JPP	Project Number: 10-518
Drawing Title: LAPORTE WATER DEPARTMENT	Date & Time: 04/26/10 - 13:44	
Sub Title: SERVICE DISTRICTS		
Drawing Filename: X:\Projects\LAPORTE\Waterdep\10-518\DWG\FIGURES_RECOVER000_RECOVER.DWG\FIG 1.1		
Horizontal Scale: 1" = 4000'	Vertical Scale: NONE	

**engineering, inc.**  
 2421 173<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hammond, Indiana. 46323  
 Phone: (219) 844 8680 Fax: (219) 844 7754  
 Your Vision • Our Focus

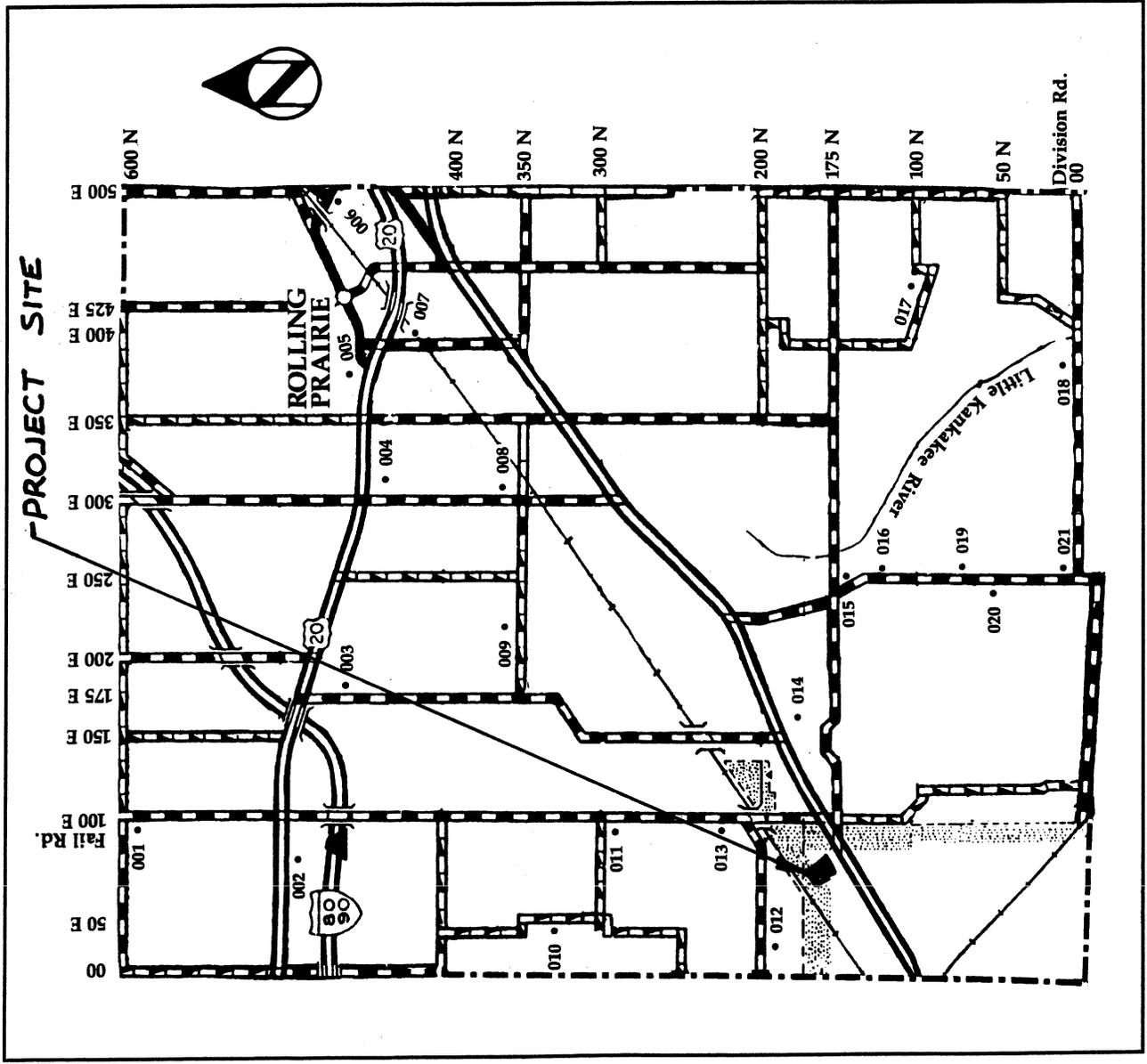


**PROJECT III - EAST TREATMENT PLANT AND WELL FIELD**  
 LOCATED IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, SECTION 30, IN  
 LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA AS SHOWN ON THE "SPRINGVILLE  
 QUADRANGLE" USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

SHEET <h1 style="margin: 0;">1-4</h1> OF            OF	Designed: JPP	Customer:	LAPORTE WATER DEPARTMENT
	Drawn: CWT	Project Name:	PROJECT - III - EAST TREATMENT PLANT
	Checked: JPP	Project Number:	10-518
		Date & Time:	04/26/10--09:40
Drawing Title: PROJECT LOCATION MAP		 <b>engineering, inc.</b> 2421 173 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Hammond, Indiana. 46323 Phone: (219) 844 8880 Fax: (219) 844 7754 Your Vision • Our Focus	
Sub Title: FIGURE 1-4			
Drawing Filename: X:\PROJECTS\LAPORTEWATERDEP\10-518\DWGS\QUAD_FIGURES.DWG			
Horizontal Scale: 1"=1300'			

# Kankakee Township (40001-021)

## FIGURE 5-1C



Kankakee Township was organized in 1832 and was one of La Porte County's three original townships. The township's topography is varied; there are areas of marshland, prairie, rolling hills and timber. The source of the Little Kankakee River is also found in Kankakee Township.

The first settler came to the area in 1830. By 1832, a Presbyterian congregation had established Kankakee Township's first church. However, it was not until the end of the Black Hawk War and the construction of the Michigan Road through the township in 1834 that Kankakee Township began to develop.

The township's first town was Byron, laid out in 1837. By 1841 it had a hotel, school, a blacksmith shop, post office and a general store. An addition to the town was planned in 1849 and Byron soon developed into a bustling community. However, the town's prosperity was short lived. In 1852, the Northern Indiana Railroad bypassed the town and soon Byron had virtually disappeared from the landscape.

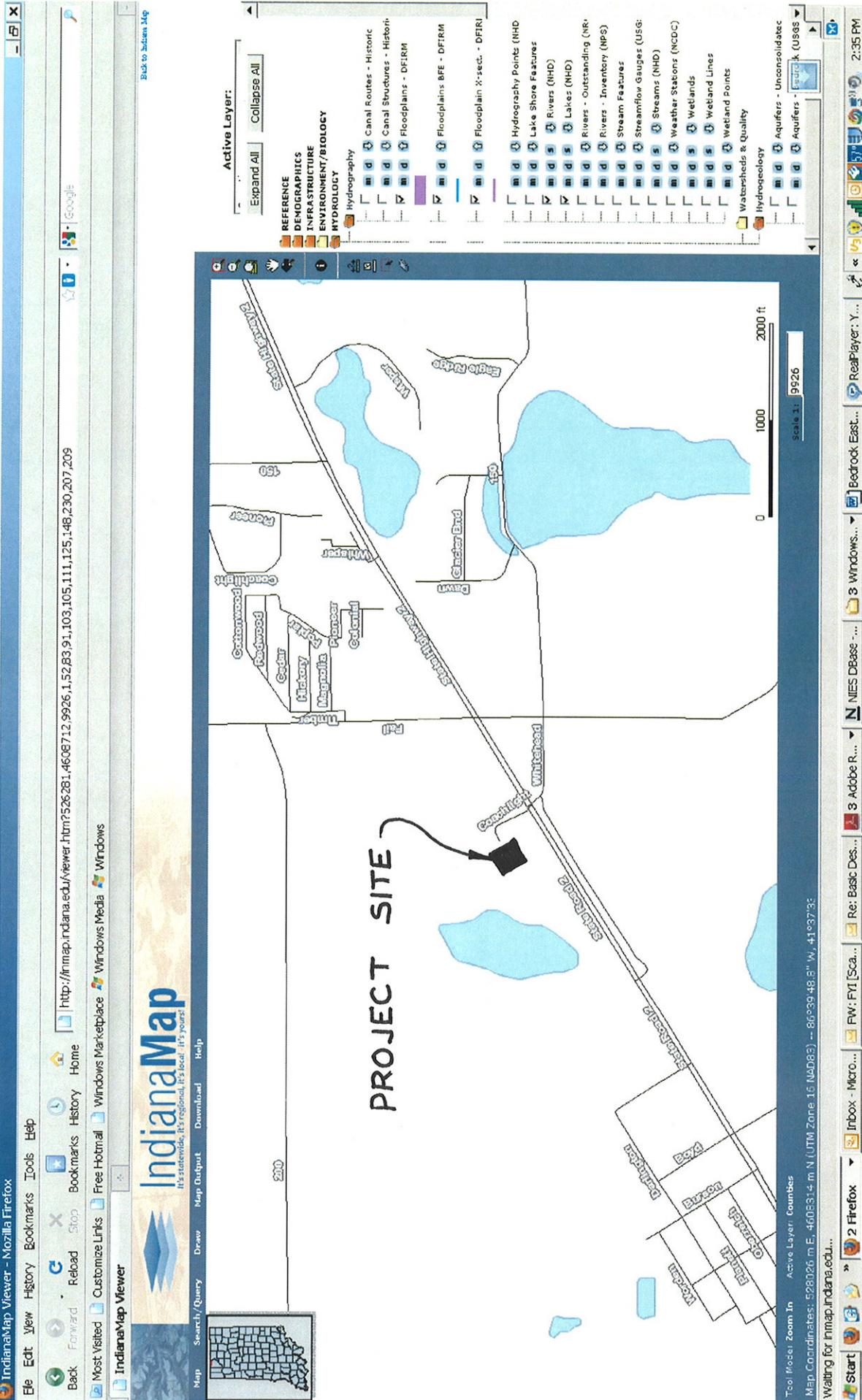
Although the railroad brought an end to Byron, the Northern Indiana Railroad was responsible for the founding of Rolling Prairie. A plat was recorded in 1853 and the town was named Nauvoo. Soon after, the name was changed to Portland; however, because there was another Portland in Indiana, the settlement became known as Rolling Prairie.

The township's early settlement is reflected in its extant architecture. The Federal style is represented by a house (40002) on U.S. 20 built about 1845. The Abram Bush House (40013) and a house (40009) on 350 N are good examples of Greek Revival houses with Italianate details. The Italianate style is well represented by houses (40008, 40020) on 300 E, built in 1865, and 250 E, built about 1870.

FIGURE 5-2C: WETLAND MAP OF EAST WATER PLANT - SITE III



FIGURE 5-4C: FLOODPLAIN MAP OF EAST WATER PLANT - SITE III



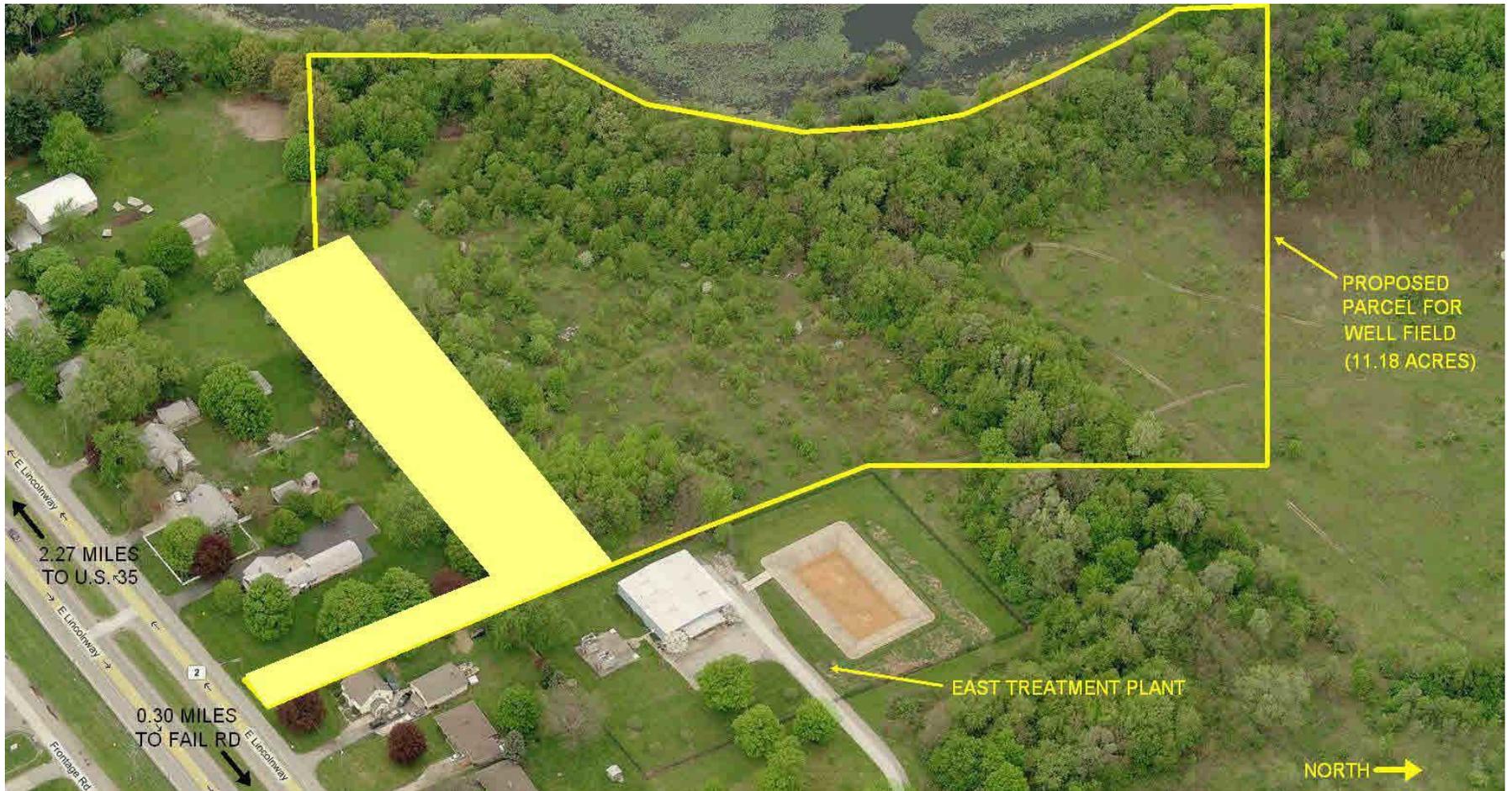


Figure 6

Yellow area shows general avoidance area per DHPA