State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

City of Rensselaer
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT # WW 07 08 37 01

DATE: February 25, 2008

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS: March 26, 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) for a loan to finance all or part of the wastewater 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 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:

Max Henschen
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund -- IGCN 1275
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-8623

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:	City of Rensselaer 124 S. Van Rensselaer Street Rensselaer, IN. 47978
SRF Project Number:	WW 07 08 37 01
Authorized Representative:	Mayor Herbert H. Arihood

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Rensselaer is located in Jasper County. The wastewater treatment plant expansion will occur at the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) site located at 1750 West Daugherty Road. The WWTP is located in the Rensselaer USGS topographic quadrangle T29N, R7W, Section 36; westernmost 475 feet of the existing and proposed effluent lines extend to the west into section 35. The project will also install an outfall line to the Iroquois River parallel to the existing outfall line. Current and future service areas are illustrated on Figure 1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Rensselaer's WWTP was last expanded and upgraded in 1989 to treat an average daily flow of 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd) and a peak hourly flow of 3 mgd. The city's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) completed in 2002 identifies a need to increase the peak flow pumping from the Main Lift Station to the WWTP from the current 3 mgd to 4 mgd. The project will allow additional combined sewer flows to be treated at the plant and therefore, reduce the amount of combined sewer overflow that discharges to the Iroquois River during wet weather.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of the following improvements: installation of a fine mechanical screen and aerated grit chamber, replace all floating aeration equipment and valves in the two aeration basins, replace the partition walls between the aeration basins and the clarifiers, replace the positive displacement blowers, install ultraviolet disinfection, install a 24-inch parallel final effluent sewer and headwall, and construct a vactor truck receiving station. Figure 2 illustrates the WWTP improvements.

V. Estimated Project Costs, Affordability and Funding

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

Construction Costs:		
Treatment Plant Upgrade		$2,754,000
Contingency		276,000
	subtotal	**$3,030,000**
Non-Construction Costs (legal, administrative, etc.)		$1,070,000
	Total Estimated Project Costs	**$4,100,000**

B. Rensselaer will finance the project with a 20-year loan from the State Revolving Loan Fund (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

No Action: The no-action alternative would not address the deficiencies noted in the approved Long Term Control Plan and would not reduce the volume or frequency of combined sewer overflows. This alternative was rejected.

Selected Plan: The proposed project will address the concerns in the Long Term Control Plan and bring the plant into compliance with accepted standards of operation. This is the selected alternative.

VII. Environmental Impacts of the Feasible Alternatives

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Undisturbed Land: The project will not affect land which has not been significantly disturbed by previous construction activity. All work will take place on land occupied by an older WWTP, including previous treatment plant ponds which have been filled in. Some of the proposed work will take place within existing treatment plant facilities.

Structural Resources (Figure 3): The project will not affect historic sites or districts. Audible, atmospheric or visual effects of the project will be temporary. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

Wetlands and Surface Water (Figure 4): The project will install a new final effluent line to a new outfall to the Iroquois River; the new outfall will be next to the existing outfall structure. The Iroquois River is a riverine wetland. Figure 4 illustrates the old treatment ponds, which have been filled in, as wetlands, as well as the existing, much smaller treatment ponds.

There will be some temporary siltation of the receiving stream during the construction of the new outfall structure. This temporary impact will be reduced with proper mitigation control measures. The project will not affect an Exceptional Use Stream, a Water of High Quality, or a Natural, Scenic and Recreational River or Stream.

100-Year Floodplain (Figure 5)**:** No above-grade structures will be sited in the 100-year floodplain.

Groundwater: The project will not negatively affect a sole source aquifer or other groundwater resources.

Plants and Animals: This project will not affect endangered plants or animals. Some trees, in a construction corridor approximately 40 feet wide, will be removed for the installation of the effluent line and headwall at the river's edge. Those trees have grown since the existing effluent line and outfall were installed almost 20 years ago.

Prime Farmland: Construction of the proposed treatment plant improvements will not affect prime/unique farmland.

Air Quality: Air quality will be temporarily impacted by construction activities, including vehicle exhaust and dust.

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

The project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The city's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *The City of Rensselaer will protect sensitive environmental resources, including wetlands, 100-year floodplains, forested areas, and inventoried historic/architectural sites from future growth and development which will use SRF-funded facilities described in the PER. Protection of these resources will be accomplished through appropriate zoning ordinances and proper planning practices.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

This document serves as the first notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the IDNR Environmental Unit, and the IDNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, in correspondence dated August 23, 2007, stated that the proposed project *will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

VIII. Mitigation Measures

The city's PER states:

The construction specifications will require that proper mitigation measures be used to control sedimentation and erosion of the soil from the construction site. The following mitigation measures will be used:

Excavation will be kept to a minimum in order to reduce erosion problems.

Appropriate erosion control measures such as sediment basins, silt fences, staked hay bales, rip-rap, seeding, and mulching will be provided during and after construction, where necessary.

Drainage systems will be stabilized as early as possible to avoid erosion.

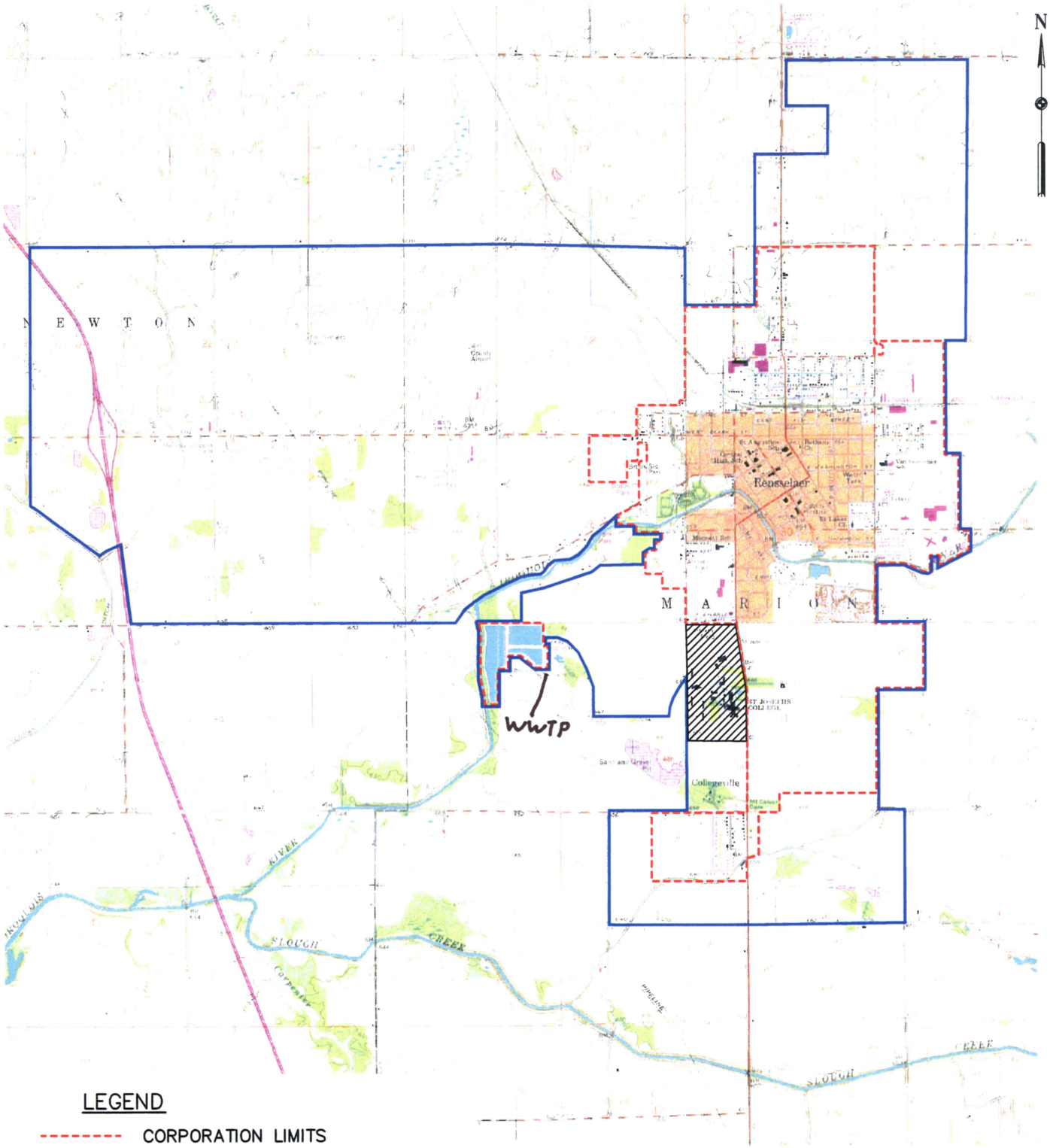
Surface and subsurface drainage patterns will be restored as early as possible.

Areas of exposed soil will be wetted periodically as needed to control dust.

Proper cleanup practices will be required to reduce the creation of dust or other construction debris nuisances.

IX. Public Participation

A properly noticed Public Hearing was held on July 23, 2007 at 4:00 pm at the City Hall to discuss the city's PER. There were no objections to the project. The city did not receive written comments in the five-day period following the hearing.



LEGEND

- CORPORATION LIMITS
- POTENTIAL 20-YEAR SEWER SERVICE AREA
- ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE AREA PRESENTLY SERVED BY SANITARY SEWERS IS OUTSIDE OF CORPORATION LIMITS

NOTE:

THE EXISTING SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA IS THE AREA WITHIN THE CORPORATION LIMITS PLUS THE ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE AREA

0 4000 8000 ft

Scale: 1"=4000'

FIGURE 1
Current and Future Service Areas

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
CITY OF RENSSELAER, IN

JULY 2007

HNTB

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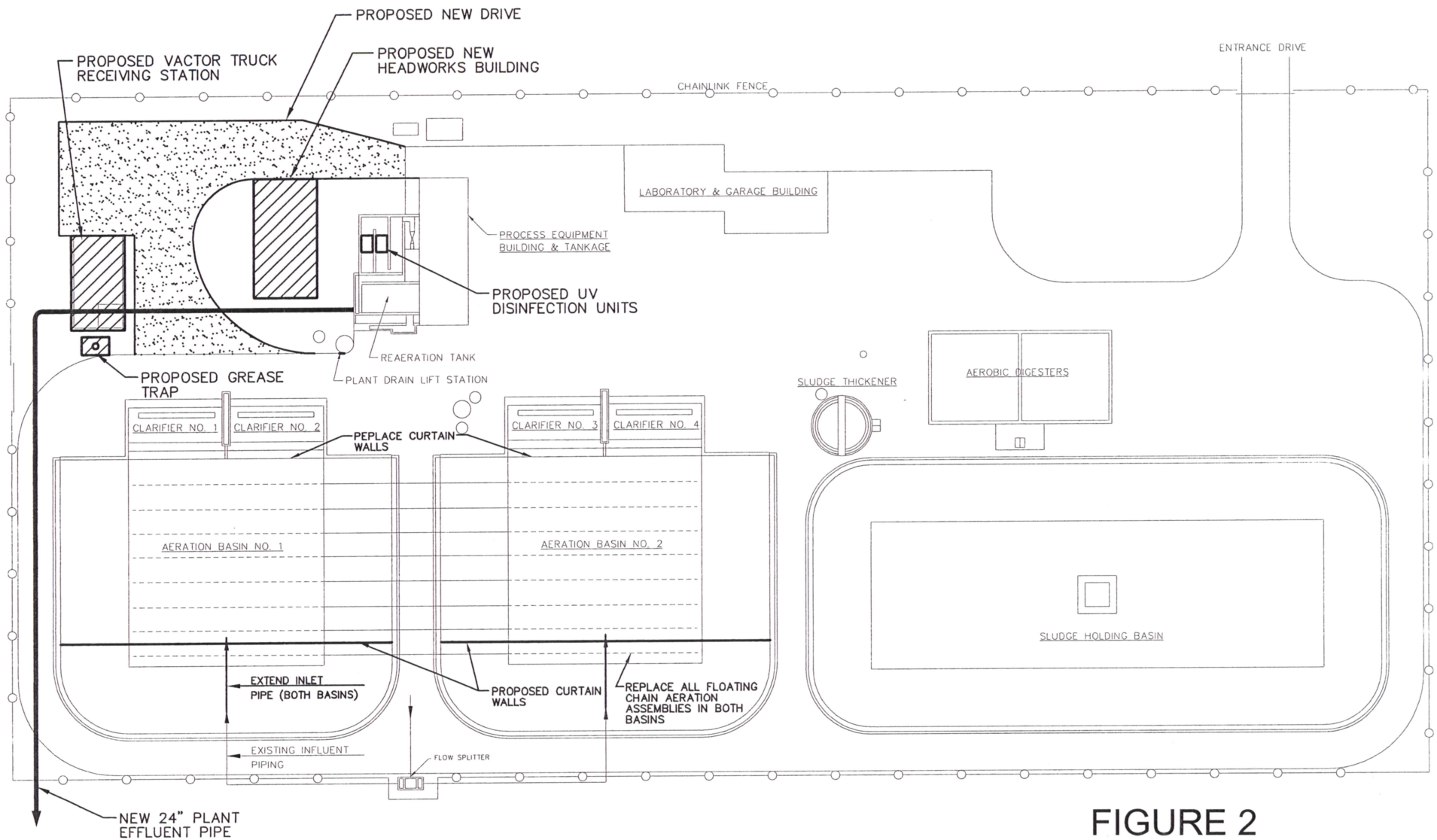

FIGURE 2

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
CITY OF RENSSELAER, IN
JULY 2007

N

0 60 120 ft

Scale: 1"=60'

HNTB

Marion Township (40001-043)

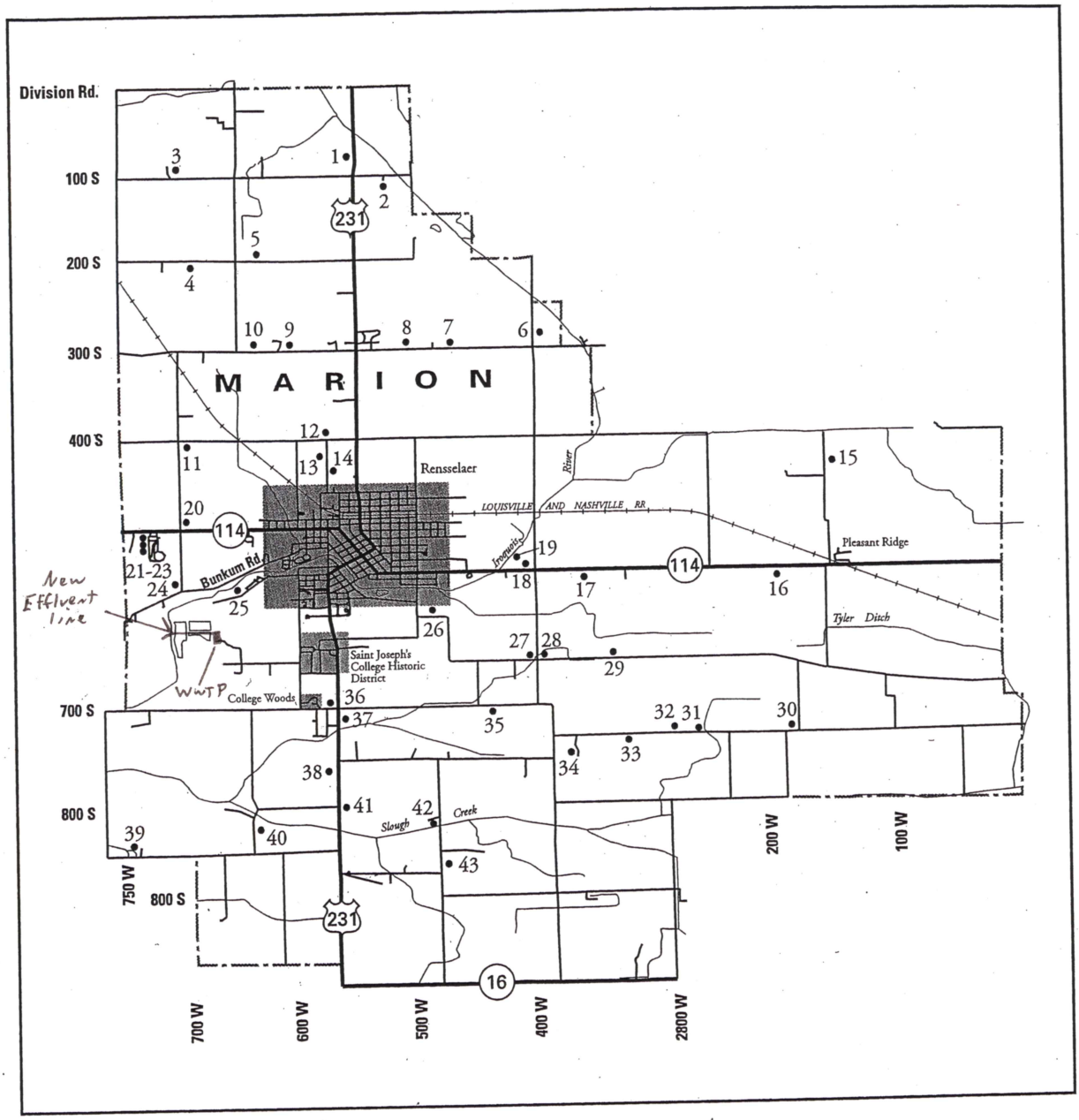

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FIGURE 3
From the Jasper County Interim Report
• # = historic site designation

Scale: 1"=500'

LEGEND

= WETLAND

FIGURE 4

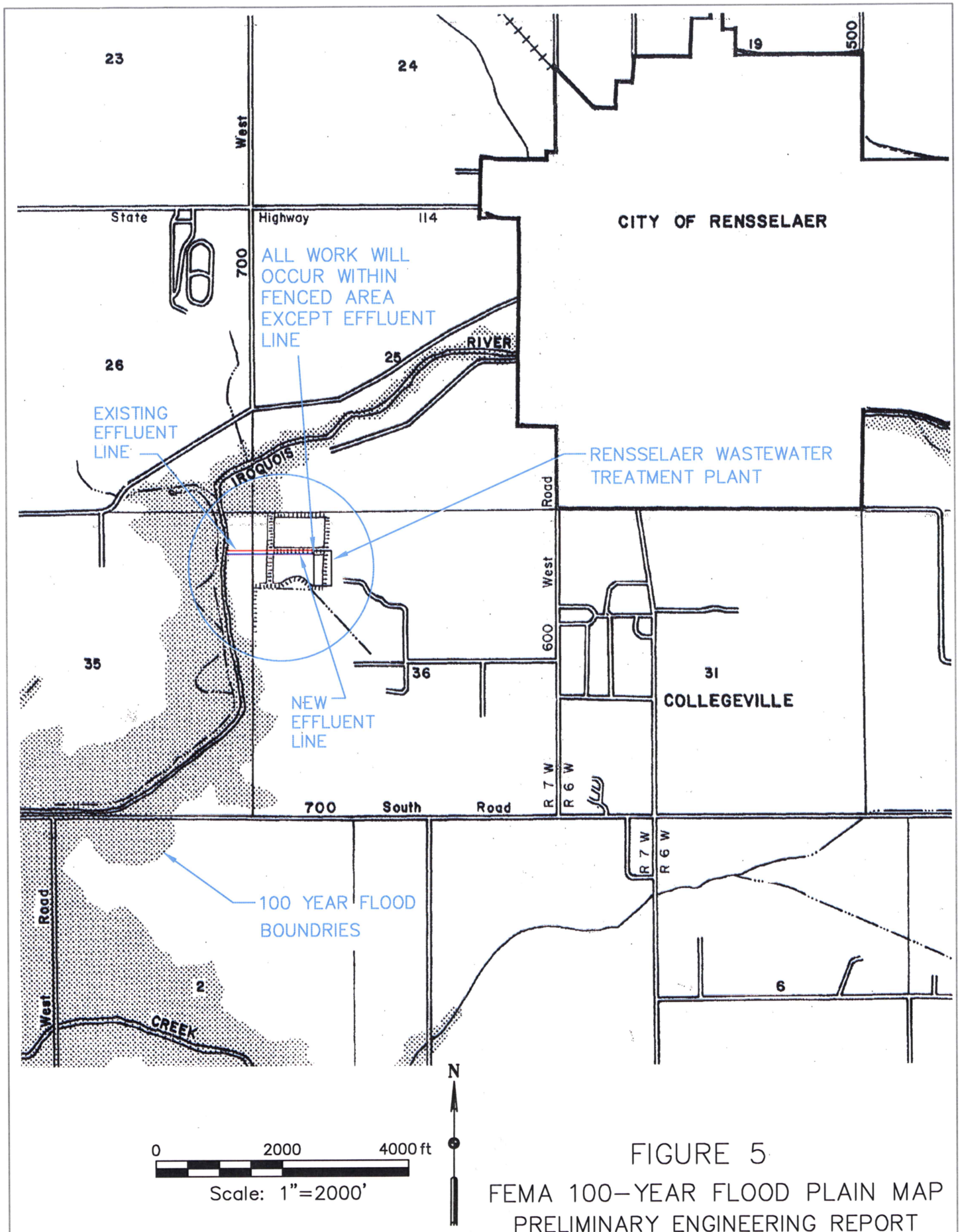
Wetlands in the Project Area

(old, filled-in lagoons are shown as wetlands)

HNTB

CITY OF RENSSELAER, IN

JULY 2007 REVISED JANUARY 2008



HNTB

FIGURE 5

FEMA 100–YEAR FLOOD PLAIN MAP

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

CITY OF RENSSELAER, IN

JULY 2007 REVISED JANUARY 2008