

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS POST OFFICE BOX 867 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-0867

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

CESWL-RO March 6, 2008

APPLICATION NO. 2007-00314

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE CORPS OF ENGINEERS - STATE OF ARKANSAS (25-Day Comment Period) (Comment Expiration Date – March 31, 2008)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the <u>Public Involvement</u> section for details on submitting comments.

<u>Point of Contact</u>. If additional information is desired, please contact the project manager, Cynthia Blansett, telephone number: (501) 324-5296, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Office, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, e-mail address: mailto:Cynthia.W.Blansett@usace.army.mil

<u>Project Information.</u> Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

Harry Willard, General Manager Tri County Water Distribution District PO Box 4030 Russellville, Arkansas 72811

has requested authorization for the placement of dredged and fill material in waters of the United States associated with the construction of a water supply dam and reservoir on Big Shoal Creek to serve Logan, Yell, and Pope Counties. The proposed project would include one dam and impoundment, one water treatment plant, one water storage plant, and approximately 32.8 miles of transmission and distribution waterlines in Logan, Yell, and Pope Counties. The initial project would provide 2 million gallons per day (MGD) of water supply and water treatment facilities with capacity for expansion to 9 MGD. The proposed project is located in section 13, T. 7 N., R. 24 W., near the community of Midway at the intersection of Highways 22 and 109, in Logan County, Arkansas.

Major streams that would be crossed include the Arkansas River, Big Shoal Creek, Prairie Branch, Little Shoal Creek, Mill Creek, Delaware Creek, Stinnett Creek, Little Hayes Creek, Hayes Creek, Jones Creek, Whig Creek, Tanyard Branch, Galla Creek, Pee Dee Creek, South Fork Pee Dee Creek, East Fork Cane Creek, West Fork Cane Creek, and Hickerson Hollow

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Creek. An existing waterline attached to the Highway 7 Bridge is planned for use in crossing the Arkansas River pending negotiating an agreement with the City of Dardanelle. Jones Creek would be crossed in one location, by attaching the water main to the existing Highway 22 Bridge. All other stream crossings would be trenched.

The purpose of the project is to meet the counties' projected need for additional water supply and associated treatment facilities.

Tri County Water was established in 1983 to be a regional supplier of water in Pope, Yell, and Logan Counties. Tri County Water currently provides potable water to 6,753 customers in Pope County, 420 customers in Yell County and is authorized to provide water service in Logan County. These three counties have realized significant growth over the past decade mainly attributed to the expanding poultry industry. In most cases the agricultural demand is 50% of the potable water demand with most of this usage being consumed in the poultry industry.

Crafton Tull Sparks, on behalf of Tri County Water, published a Preliminary Engineering Report, dated June 2007. The report evaluated five alternatives: raising the lake level at the city of Paris; constructing an intake structure on the Arkansas River; constructing an impoundment in northern Pope County; constructing a dam and a new reservoir on Big Shoal Creek; and the no action alternative. Tri County Water has chosen to pursue a new reservoir on Big Shoal Creek.

Big Shoal Creek is an intermittent stream that flows into Shoal Creek which flows into Lake Dardanelle, part of the Arkansas River. Approximately 6,000 linear feet of the stream would be impacted. The proposed dam across the creek would create a 472-acre impoundment area. The height of the dam would be 120 feet. Approximately 620,000 cubic yards of soil would be used in the construction of the dam. The inundated area, including a 300-foot buffer zone, would total 1,600 acres. The drainage basin area would be 27,067 acres. The terrain is hilly and consists of mostly hardwoods. Approximately 80% of the area is on U.S. Forest Service land. Minimal relocations would be required, consisting of a dirt road, utility line, and a few houses.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets.

Water Quality Certification. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period and a public hearing, if held, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. Evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>. The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted; and it has been determined that there are no properties currently listed in the Register, or eligible for inclusion

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therein, which would be affected by the proposed work. A Corps staff archeologist also will review topographic maps and data on reported sites in the area. If it is determined that further review is not warranted, these reviews will constitute the full extent of cultural resources investigation by this office unless we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this notice or by other means, of the existence of specific structures or sites which might be affected by the proposed work.

<u>Endangered Species</u>. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

<u>Flood Plain</u>. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate flood plain officials in accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Flood Plain Management.

<u>Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines</u>. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 230.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before March 31, 2008. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of

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Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

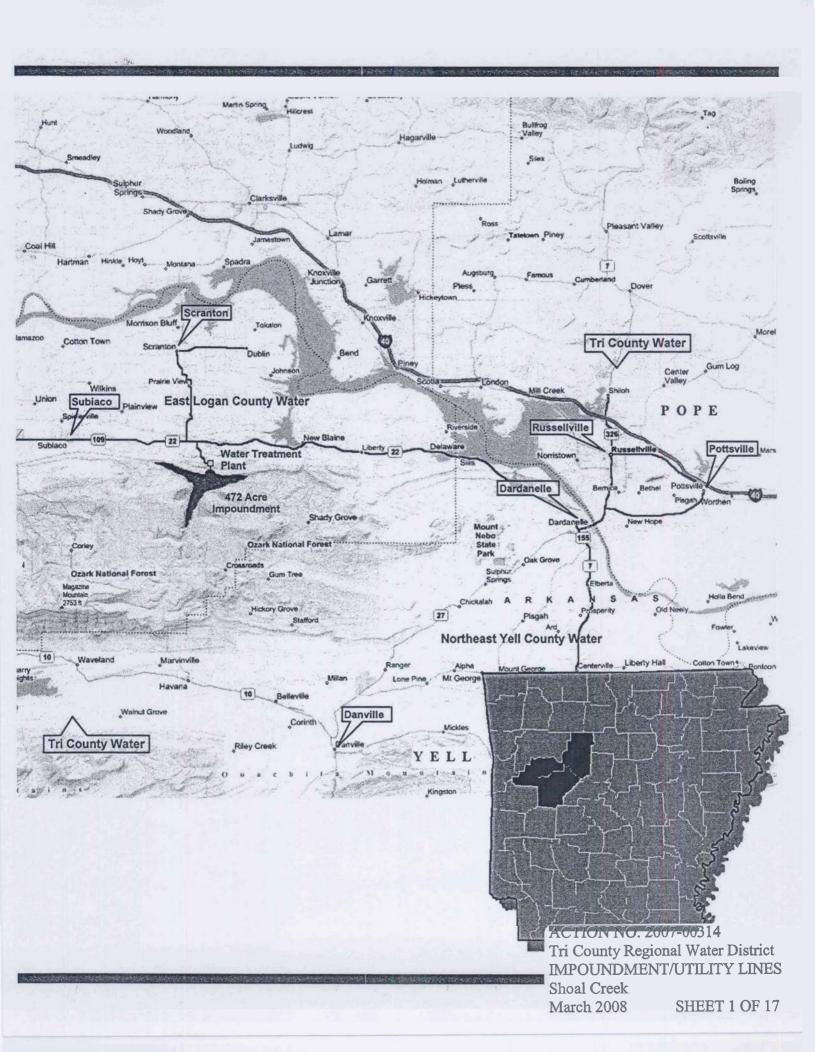
NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and also includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

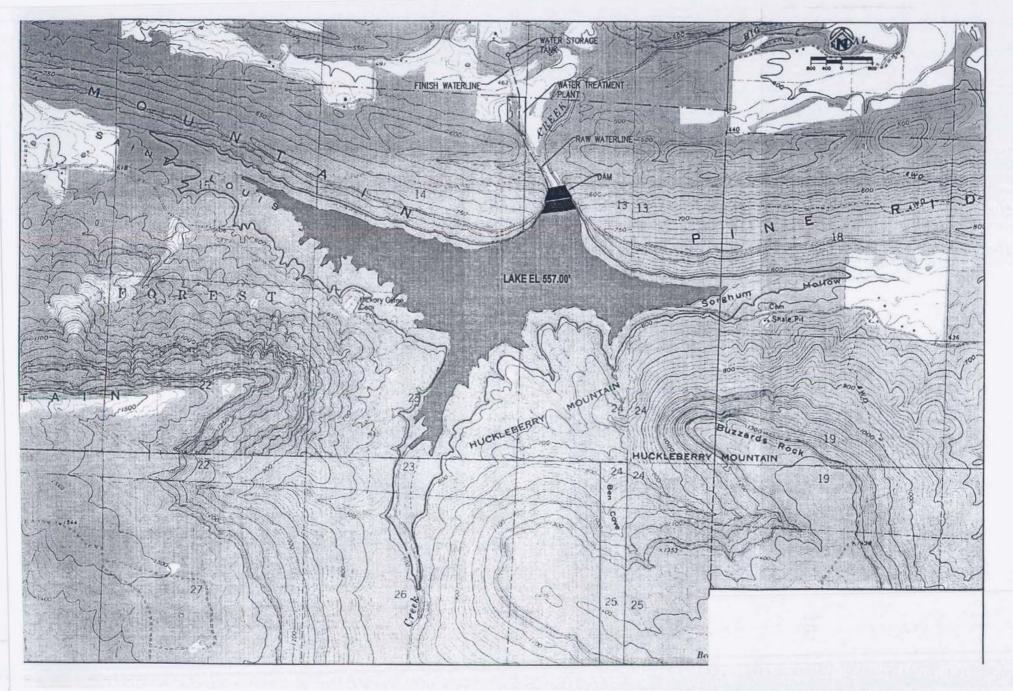
Enclosures

Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

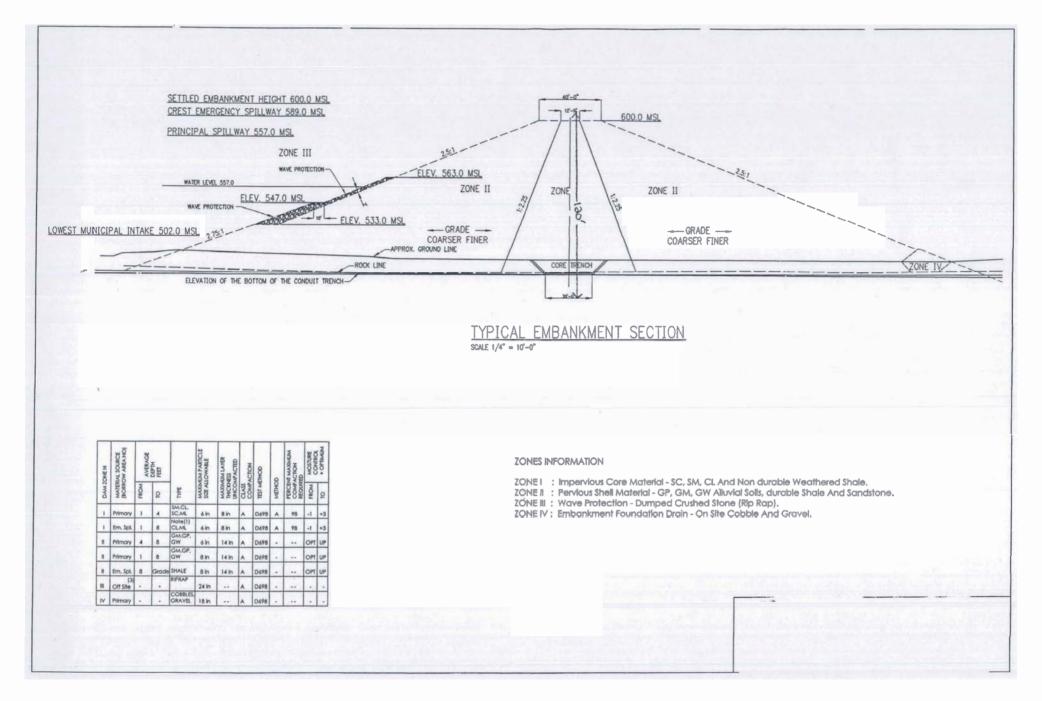
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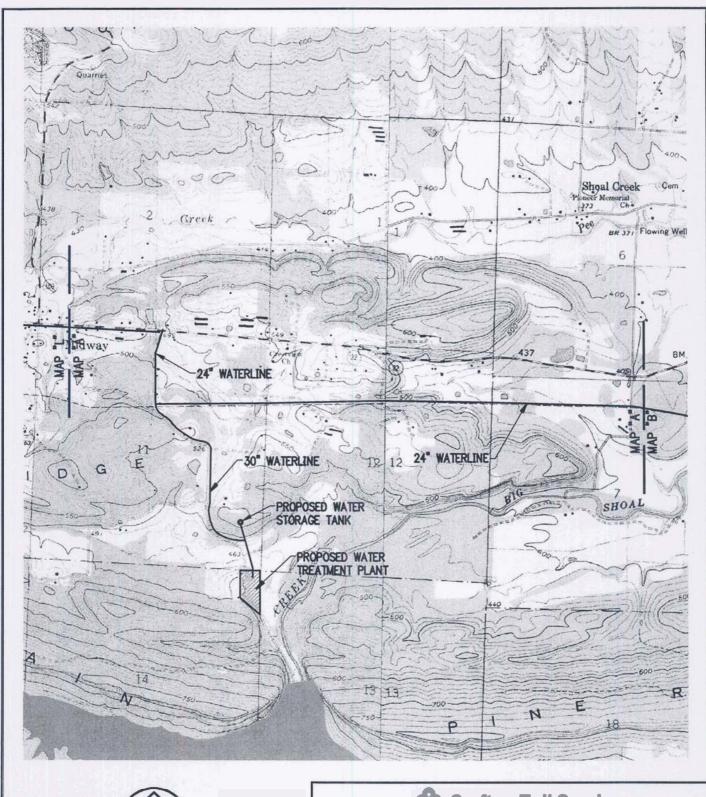




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Tri County Regional Water District
IMPOUNDMENT/UTILITY LINES
Shoal Creek
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Shoal Creek
March 2008 SHEET 3 OF 17





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Crafton Tull Sparks

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Shoal Creek Transmission & Distribution System

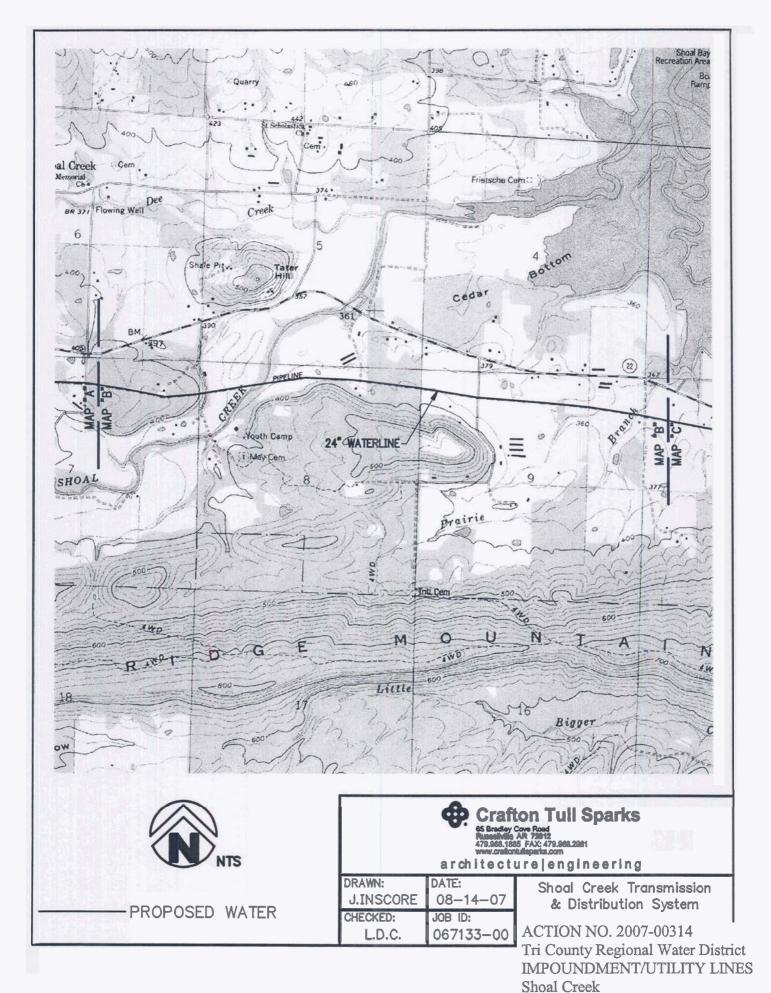
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Tri County Regional Water District

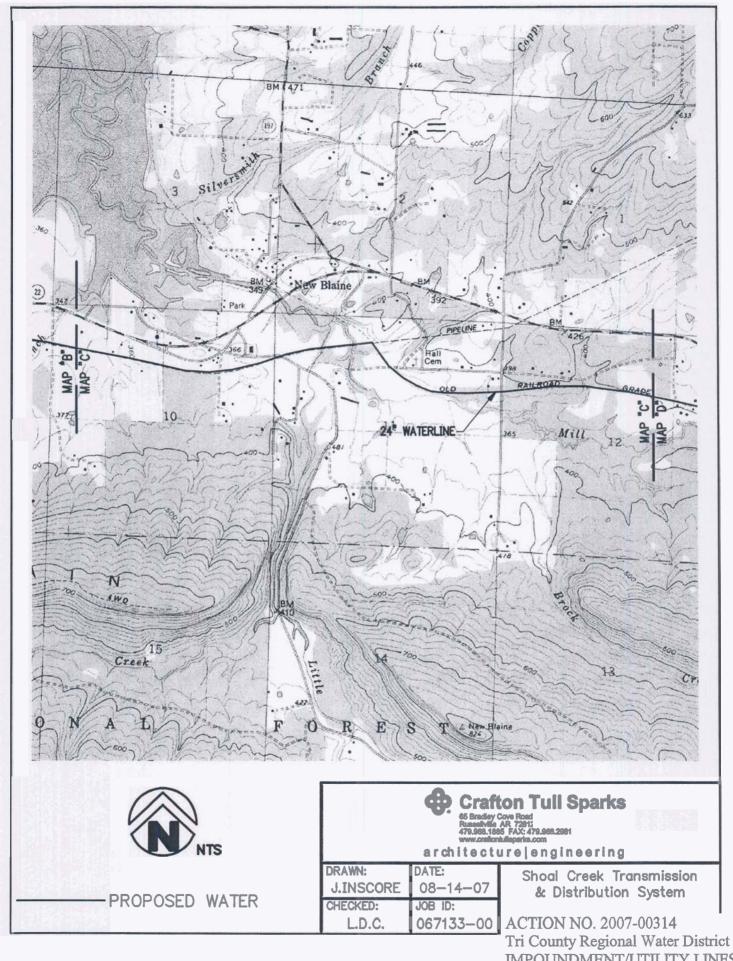
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Shoal Creek March 2008

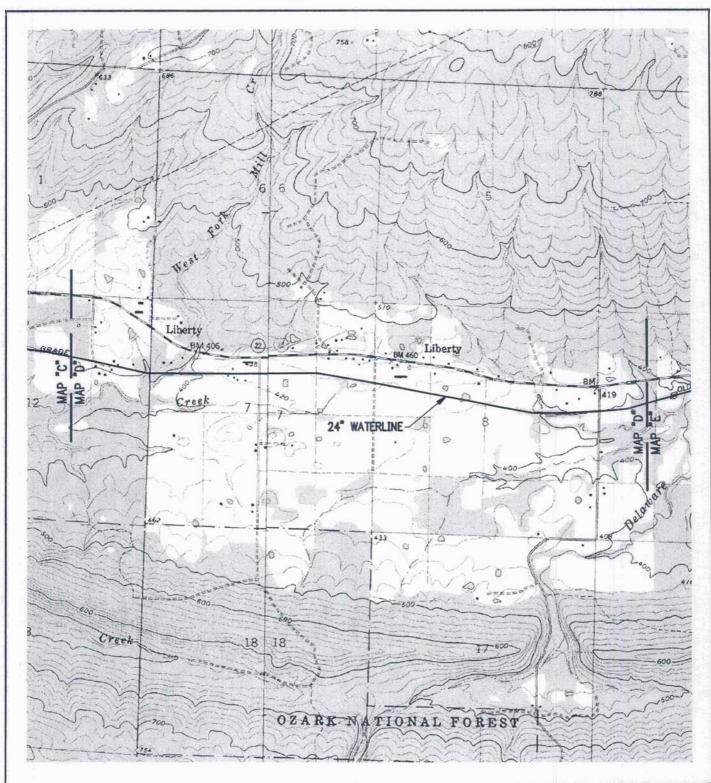
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IMPOUNDMENT/UTILITY LINES Shoal Creek March 2008 SHEET 6 OF 17





Crafton Tull Sparks 65 Bradley Cove Road

65 Bradley Cove Road Russelville AR 479,988,1885 FAX: 479,968,2981 www.craftontulisper(ss.com

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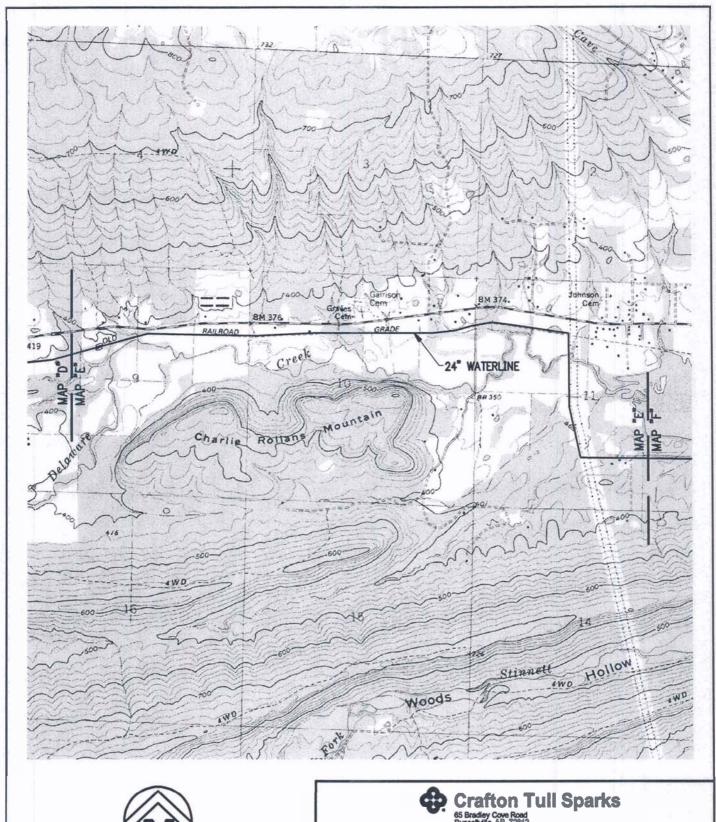
Shoal Creek Transmission & Distribution System

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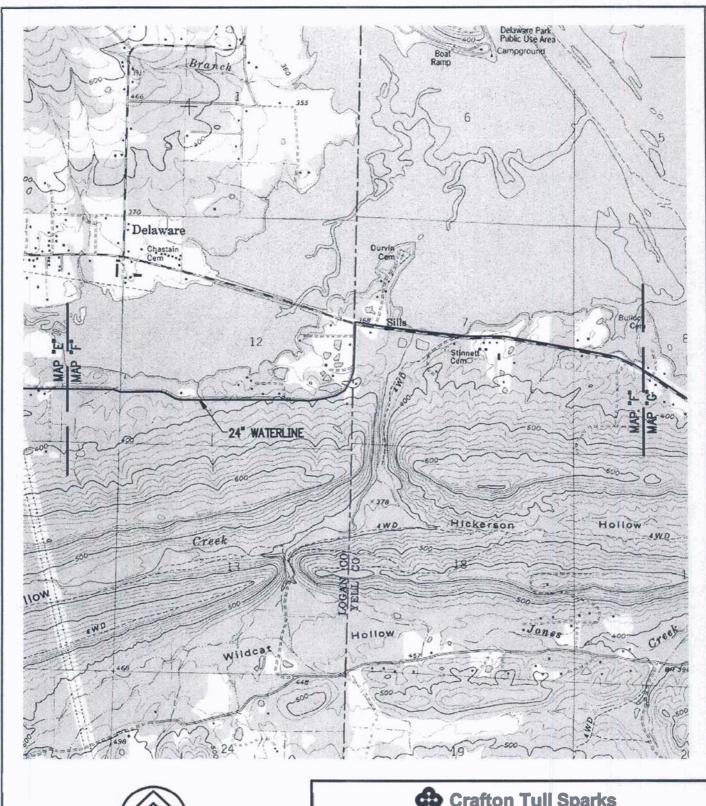
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Shoal Creek Transmission & Distribution System

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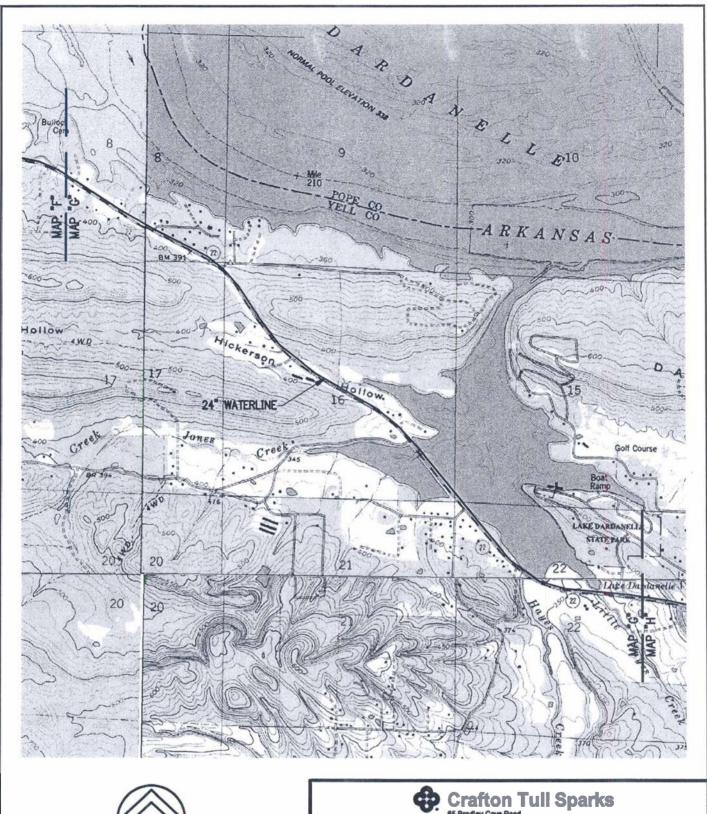
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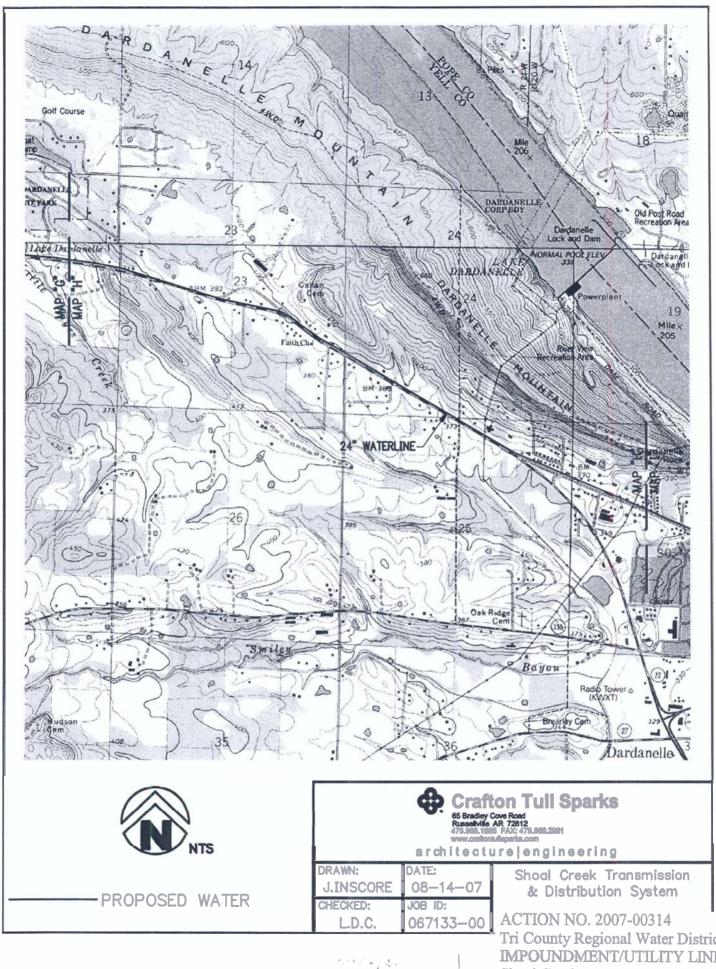
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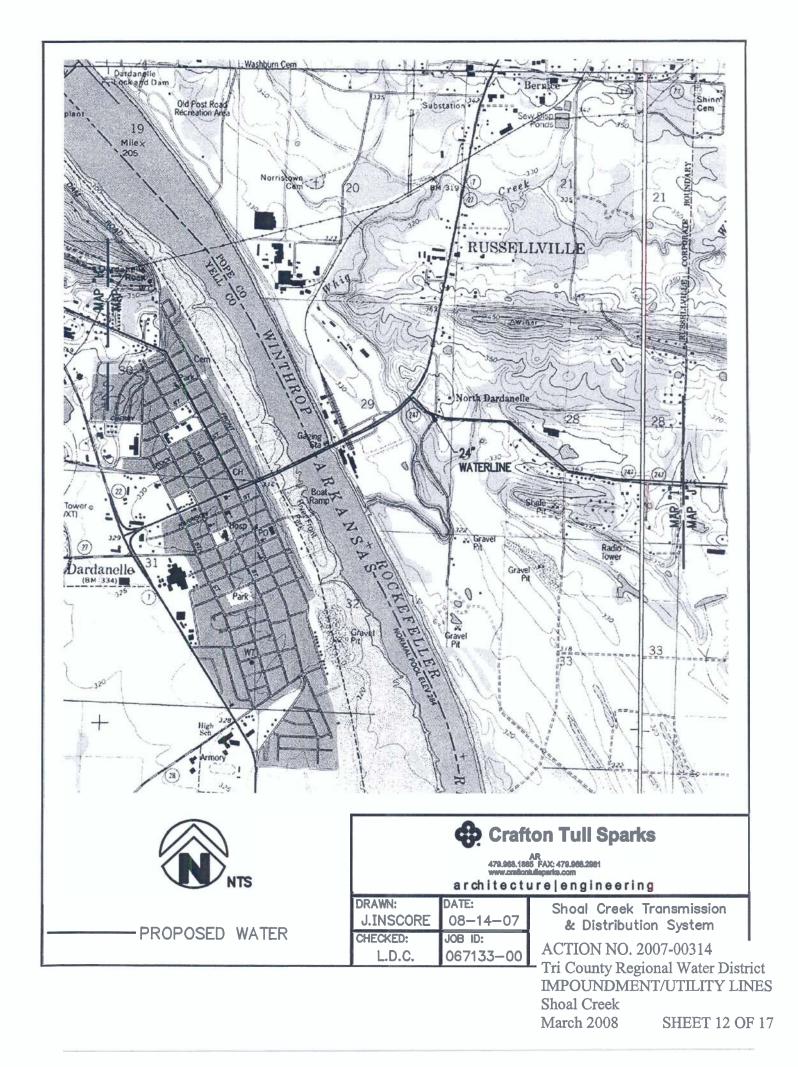
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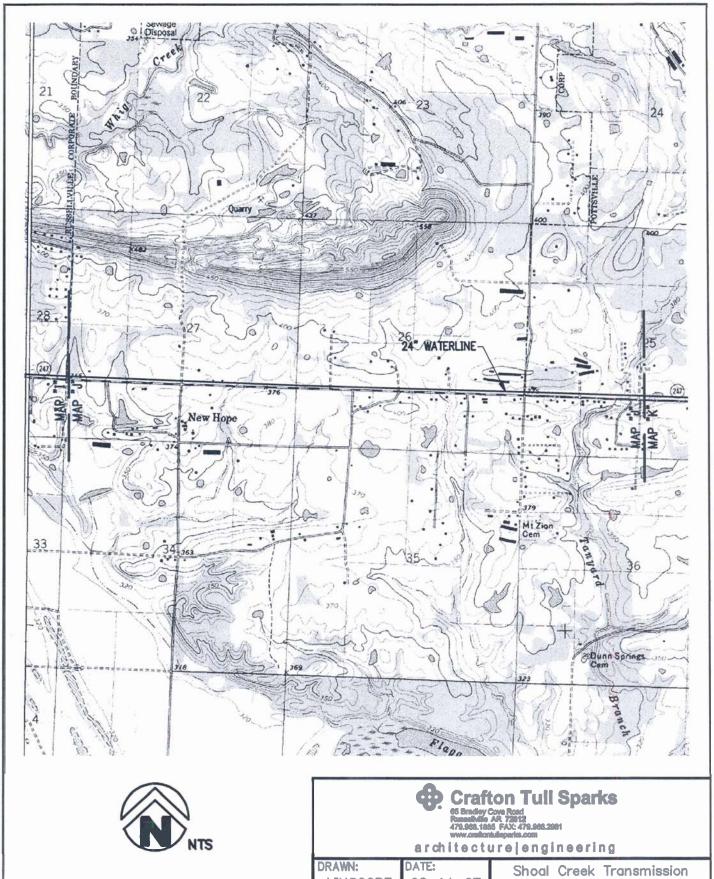
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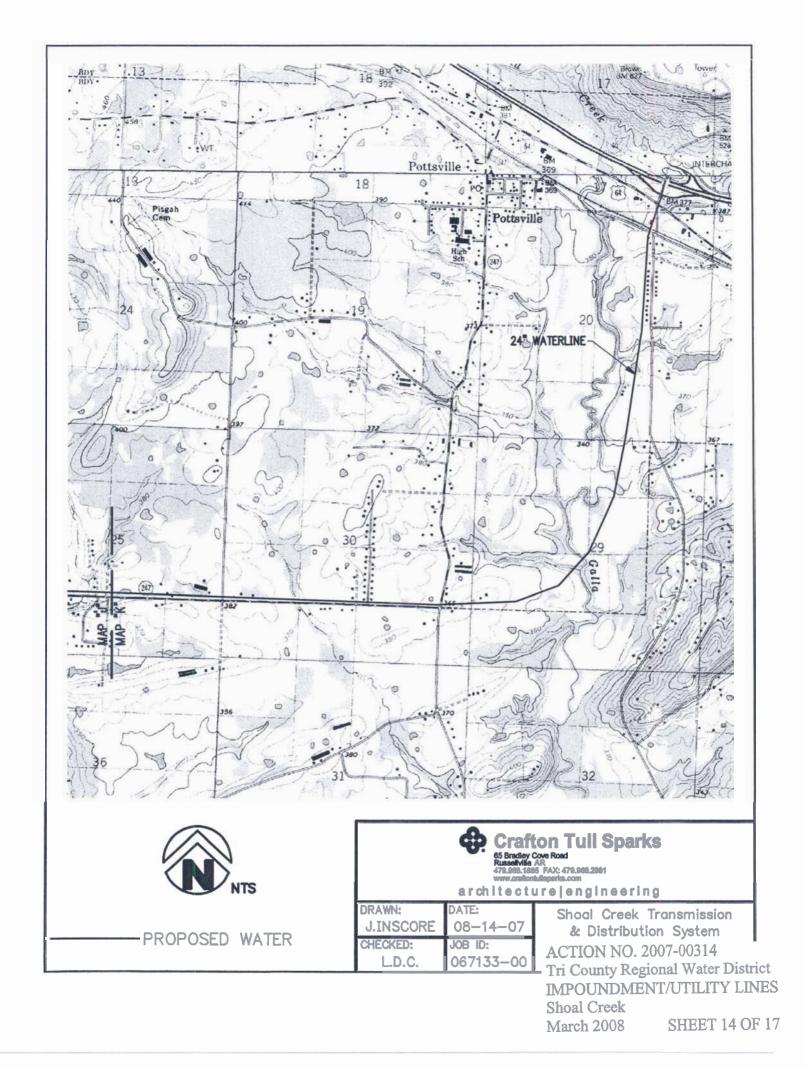
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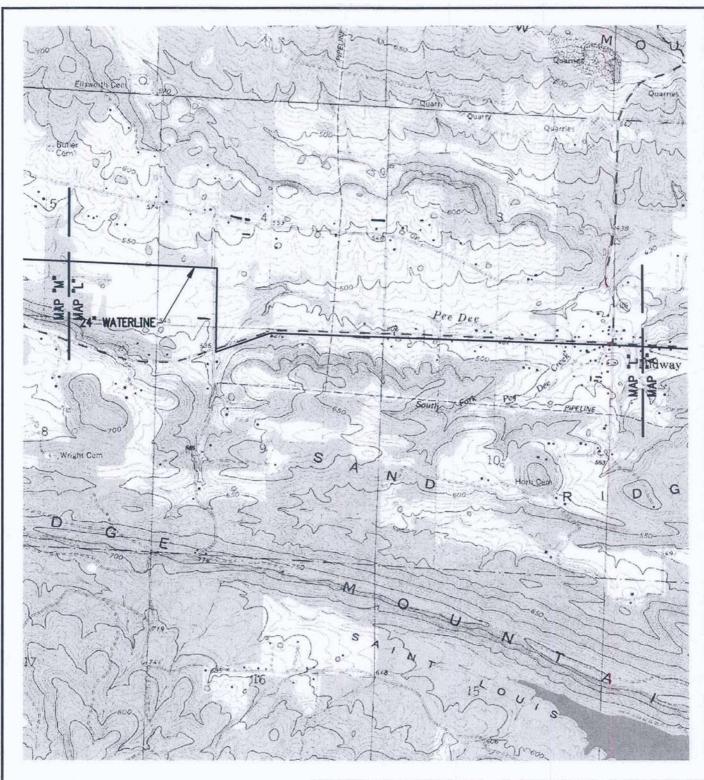
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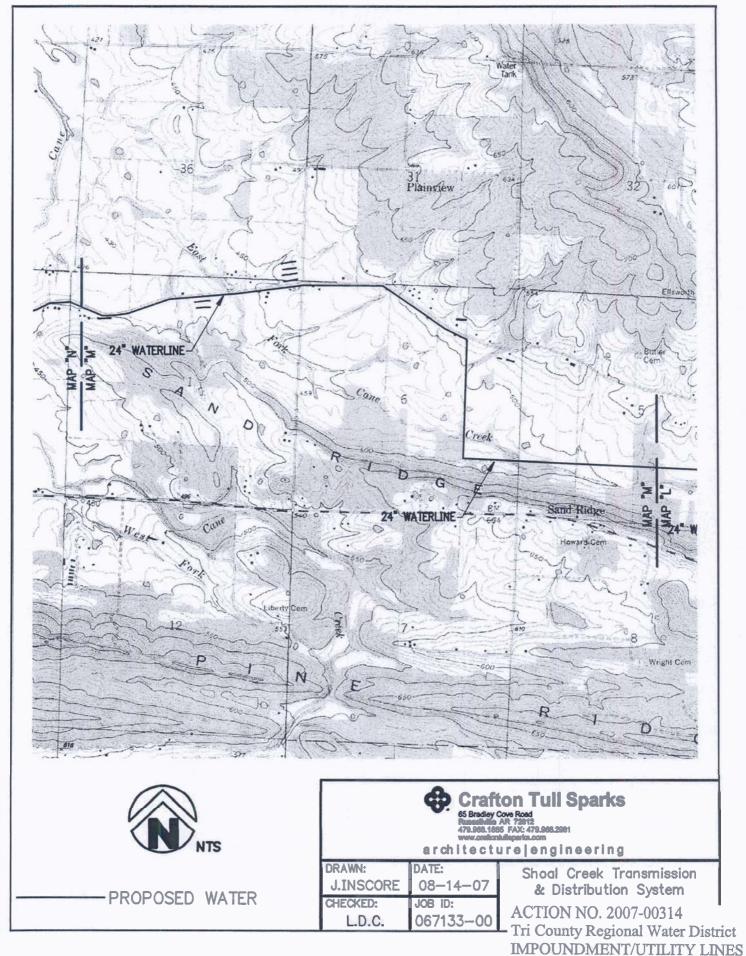
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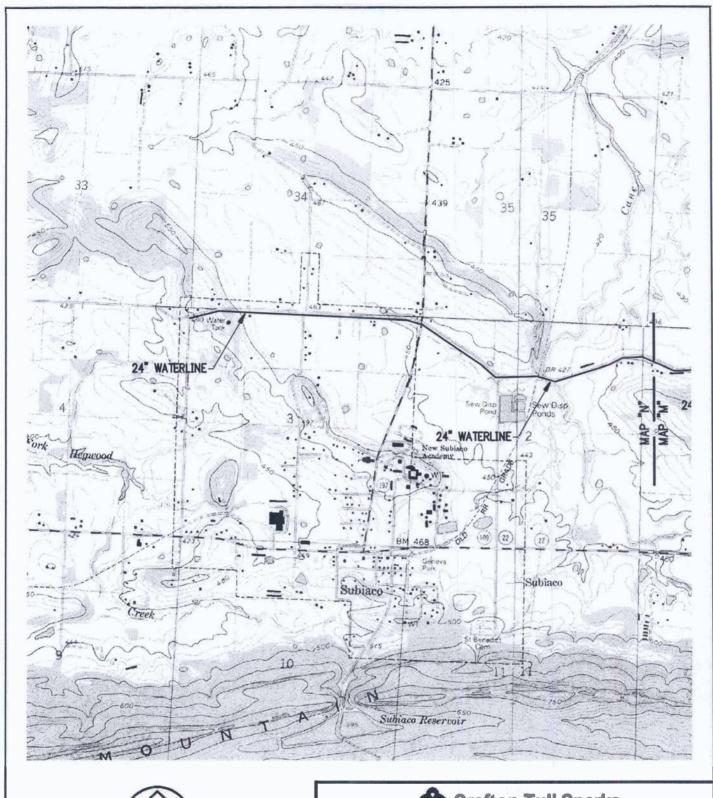
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Shoal Creek March 2008

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