



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

In Reply Refer to
Notice No. below

US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. 2007-323

Date: September 11, 2009

Notice No. 09-45

Closing Date: October 11, 2009

1. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
2. APPLICANT: Ohio American Energy, Inc
34 Kelley Way, Suite 100
Brilliant, Oh 43913
3. AGENT: Enviroscience, Inc.
Attn: Jamie Ingraham Willaman
800 Ridge Rd.
Ambridge, PA 15003
4. LOCATION: The site is located in Wells Township Section 23, 24 and 29 in Jefferson County, on the Steubenville West quadrangle of the 7.5-minute series USGS topographical maps. The site is at approximately 040° 16' 17.77" N; 080° 42' 49.01" W.
5. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes surface and auger mining activities to extract portions of the Pittsburgh No.8 coal seam. Also associated with mining will be the construction of three sediment ponds and placement of hollow and spoil fill. Proposed impacts will be reclaimed and mitigated on-site. The anticipated duration and completion of the project is estimated at five years. In total the project proposes mining to 240.4 acres, 38.1 acres of surface mining and 202.3 acres of auger mining. Aside from the coal extraction areas, site impacts will result from construction of temporary diversion ditches and sediment ponds to facilitate stormwater control (2.2 acres), hollow fill and spoil placement (91.9), and haul road construction (0.45 acres).

In total the proposed mining plan will impact 4,311 linear feet (lf) of the 9,644 lf of jurisdictional stream found on the project site. Impacts to non-jurisdictional streams will total 4,537 lf of the 9,070 lf on site however mitigation for these resource impacts is not required. A total of 1.281 acres of jurisdictional wetland occurs within the permit boundaries, a total of 0.820 acres is proposed to be impacted. A total of 3.480 acres of non-jurisdictional wetland occurs on the site and 3.068 acres is proposed for impacts.

Wetland mitigation will consist of three mitigation areas totaling 3.743 acres. Stream mitigation will reclaim 9,849 lf of streams. Jurisdictional stream channels will be reconstructed

in accordance with the Ohio EPA and Ohio DNR Natural Channel Design Procedure for Reconstructed Small Headwater Streams within Coal Mine Operations in the Western Allegheny Plateau Ecoregion of Ohio November 1999, and associated riparian buffer zones will be planted with native grasses and trees. The post reclamation land uses will be a vegetated landscape graded to approximate original contours and seeded with field, scrub and tree upland species. Drawings of the proposed project are attached to this notice.

6. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A Permit will not be granted until Water Quality Certification is received or waived from:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)
Section 401 Coordinator
PO Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0149
Telephone Number: 614-644-2001
Attn: Ric Queen
Re: Public Notice CELRP-OP-F No. 09-45

7. IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to affect the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. This Public Notice serves as a request to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have 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 activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

8. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted, and it has been determined that there are no properties currently listed on the register which would be directly affected by the proposed work. If we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this notice, or by other means, of specific archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical sites or structures which might be affected by the proposed work, the District Engineer will immediately take the appropriate action necessary pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 - Public Law 89-665 as amended (including Public Law 96-515).

9. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in the paragraph below entitled "RESPONSES," that a public hearing be held to consider this application. The requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

10. EVALUATION: Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. 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.

CELRP-OP-F
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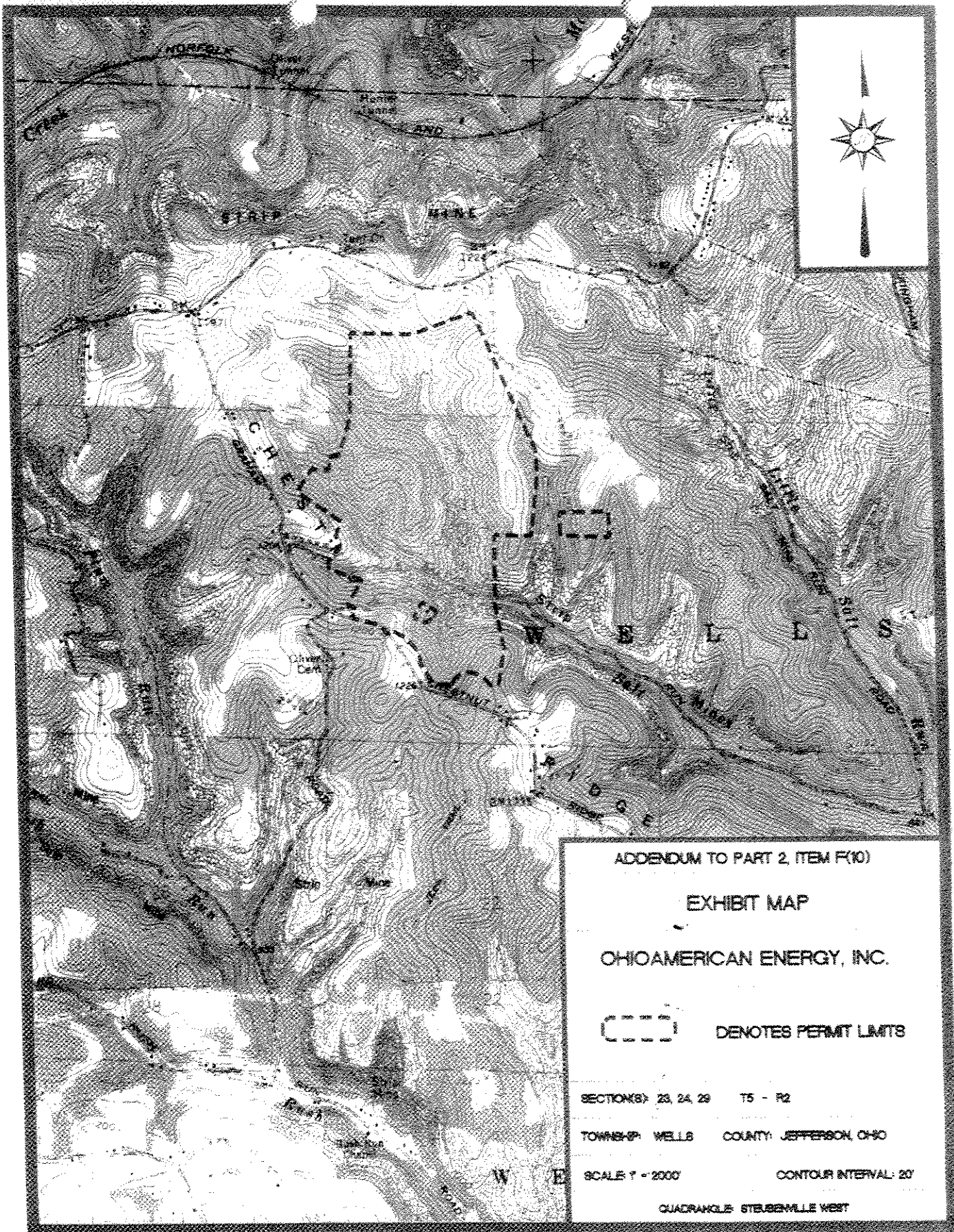
That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposals must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will 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 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 overall public interest of the proposed activity. The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

10. RESPONSES: A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest. Written statements concerning the proposed activity should be received in this office on or before the closing date of this Public Notice in order to become a part of the record and to be considered in the final determination. Any objections which are received during this period may be forwarded to the applicant for possible resolution before the determination is made whether to issue or deny the requested DA Permit. All responses to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, attn Michael Fodse at the above address, by telephoning (412) 395-7575, or by e-mail at Michael.M.Fodse@usace.army.mil. Please refer to CELRP-OP-F 2007-323 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

SIGNED

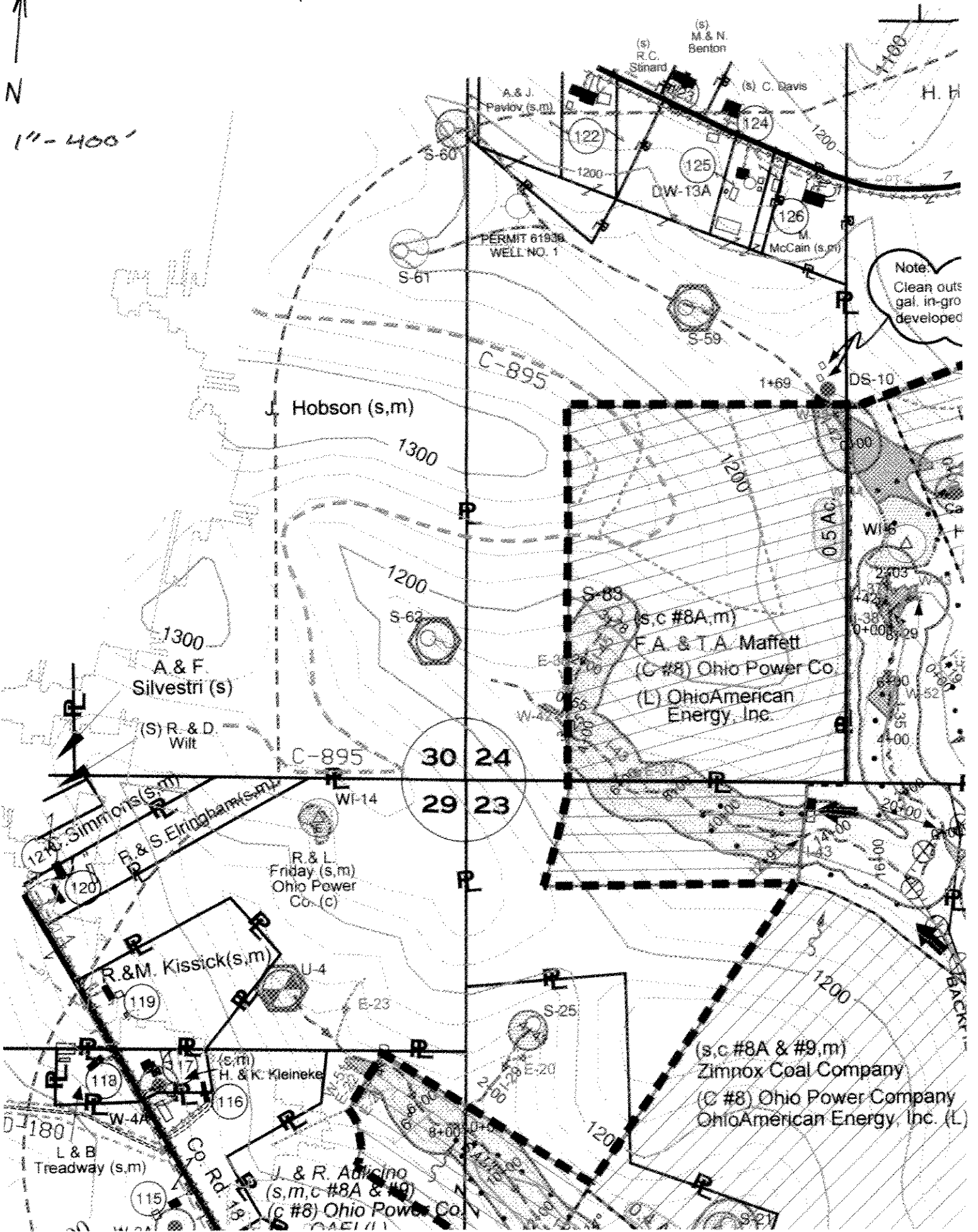
for Scott A. Hans
Chief, Regulatory Branch



PN No. 09-45



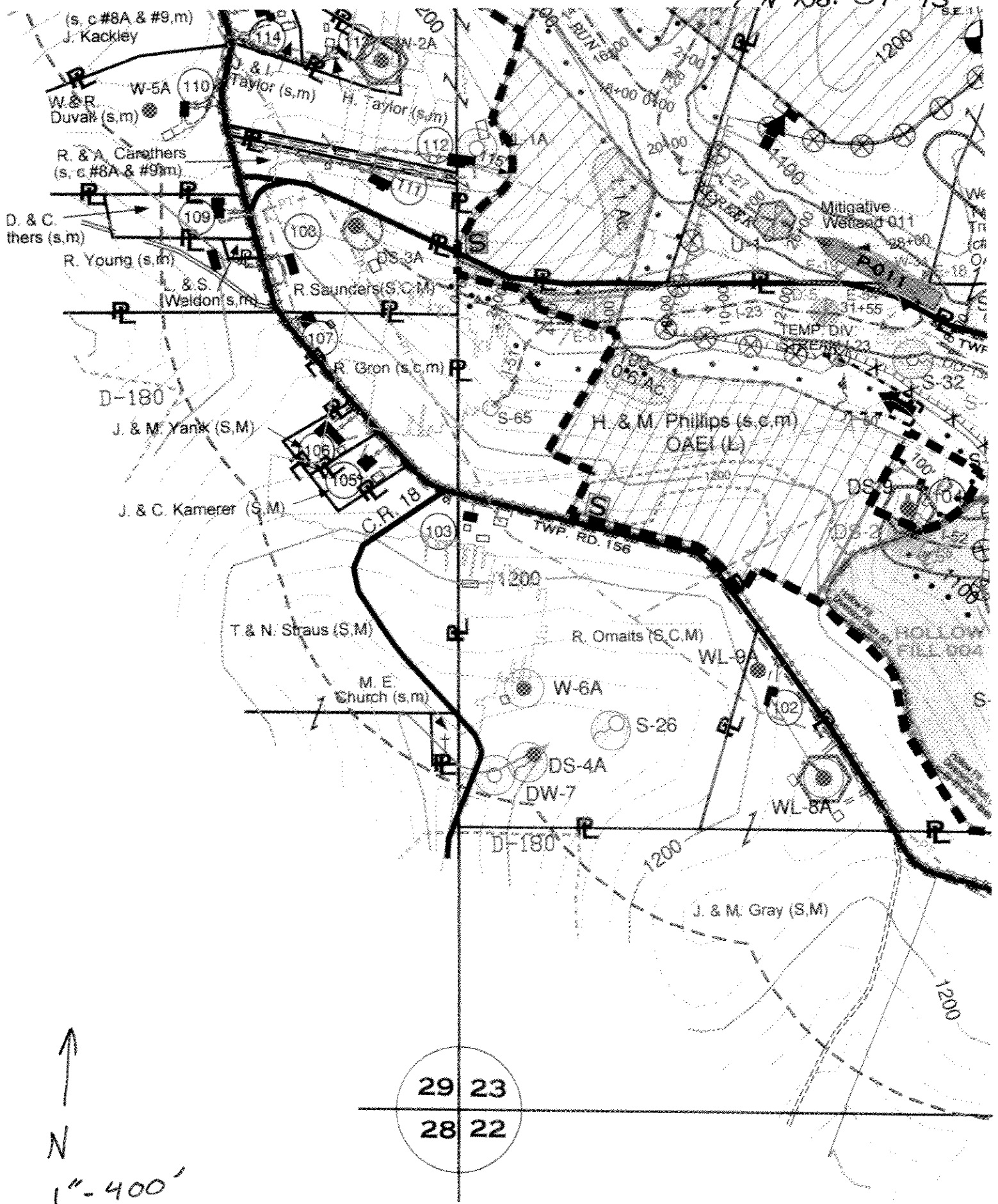
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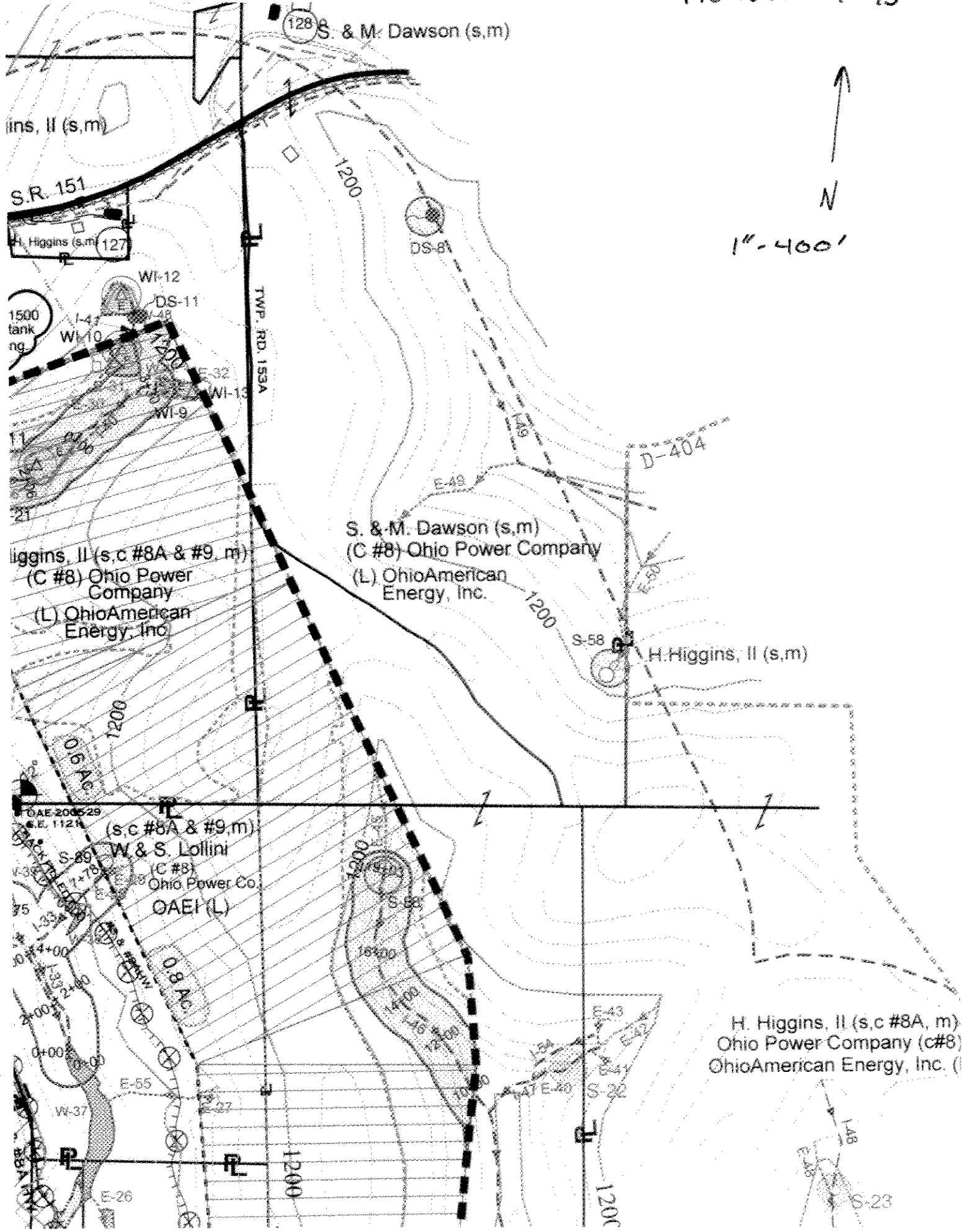


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(C #8) Ohio Power Company
OhioAmerican Energy, Inc. (L)





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H. Higgins, II (s,c #8A, m)
Ohio Power Company (c#8)
OhioAmerican Energy, Inc. (L)

