COMPTON ENGINEERING, P.A.

Consulting Engineers

Bay St. Louis Office:
3036 Longfellow Drive
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
Post Office Box 2795
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521-2795
Phone: 228-467-2770
Fax: 228-467-2720

Pascagoula Office:
1706 Convent Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Post Office Box 686
Pascagoula, MS 39568-0686
Phone: 228-762-3970
Fax: 228-769-9079

October 1, 2002

Mr. Stephen Landry
Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission
P. O. Box 2267
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521

Re: Wetland Delineation of Dredge Disposal Area at the end of the Barge Canal at Port Bienville

Dear Mr. Landry:

At your request I inspected the proposed dredge disposal area located at the end of the barge canal at Port Bienville Industrial Park for the presence of wetlands on the property. The property was delineated according to criteria establish in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual.

The property consists of approximately 4 acres across the road from the end of the barge canal and adjacent to the railroad tracks. The property has been used for some time as a lay-down yard for the railroad and an unloading area for coal and other materials. The surface of the property is paved with crushed limestone and crushed hard coal. The property is essentially devoid of any vegetation with the exception of scattered patches of Bermuda and other grasses and some scattered *Solidago sp.* There are several stacks of rusted rails, crossties, and other metal parts on the property (see photo 1).

The soil was examined by auger to a depth of 18-24 inches for the presence of hydric soil characteristics. The soil is primarily fill material in the upper 12 inches, and at depth the apparent native soil is a sandy, silty clay with a matrix color of 10YR 6/4 with scattered mottles of 10YR 6/8 (see photo 2). No hydric soil was encountered in any of the borings. The soil is very hard packed and no saturation was found.

Based on the absence of hydric soil, the absence of hydrophytic vegetation, and the absence of any hydrology indicators, it is my determination that the area proposed for dredge material disposal is previously disturbed uplands and does not contain any wetlands.

Should you need further information or have any questions, please contact me at (228) 432-2133.

Sincerely,
COMPTON ENGINEERING, P.A.

Stephen Oivanki, P.G.

Photo 1: Dredge disposal site at Port Bienville

Photo 2: Soil color at depth of 18-24 inches below surface