

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107
and
THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N SAC-1992-24122

March 3, 2021

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

Mr. James Whittaker
Haile Gold Mine, Inc.
6911 Snowy Owl Rd
Kershaw, South Carolina 29067

for a permit modification to expand an existing gold mining operation in

Haile Gold Mine Creek and other tributaries to the Little Lynches River

at a location near the intersection of U.S. Route 601 and Snowy Owl Road, Kershaw, Lancaster County, South Carolina (Latitude: 34.5942°, Longitude: -80.5415°), Kershaw USGS Quadrangle.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

April 23, 2021

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

April 23, 2021

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of directly filling 86.22 acres of wetlands and open water from expanding the existing mining operations at Haile Gold Mine and would also directly affect 13,124.08 linear feet of streams. In detail, the proposed modification consists of increasing the mine plan area by approximately 832 acres to expand surface mining pits and associated facilities, initiate underground mining at the Horseshoe deposit, optimize mill operations and

increase ore processing rates, and improve water treatment and storage capabilities. The applicant has proposed to mitigate for impacts to wetlands and/or waters of the United States by a permittee-responsible mitigation plan that identifies three separate sites along Flat Creek in the Lynches River watershed for preservation and enhancement/restoration of outstanding aquatic resources. The project purpose is to expand gold producing operations from mineralized gold-bearing zones on the Haile property.

The Corps is also announcing the initiation of a public comment period on a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that assesses the impacts of the proposed permit modification for the Haile Gold Mine. The Draft SEIS is available for review online at <http://hailegoldmineseis.com/>. Hard copies are available for review at the Kershaw County Library – Camden branch [address: 1304 Broad St, Camden, SC 29020 phone: (803) 425-1508] and the Kershaw Depot [address: 106 N. Cleveland Street, Kershaw, SC 29067, phone: (803) 475-3201]. There are COVID measures in place at the library and Kershaw Depot for public safety; for any questions or if you prefer to make an appointment to review the Draft SEIS, please call ahead.

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at:
<http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices> .

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 0.0 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has made no determination of effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any Federally listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(f)(1)), and has initially determined that historic properties, are present; moreover, these historic properties may be affected by the undertaking. This public notice serves to notify the State Historic Preservation Office that the Corps plans to initiate Section 106 consultation on these historic properties. Individuals or groups who would like to be consulting parties for the purposes of the NHPA should make such a request to the Corps in writing within 30 days of this public notice. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties.

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

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 a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit modification will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project 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 and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps 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 activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. 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 activity. **Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:**

REGULATORY DIVISION
SAC-1992-24122

March 3, 2021

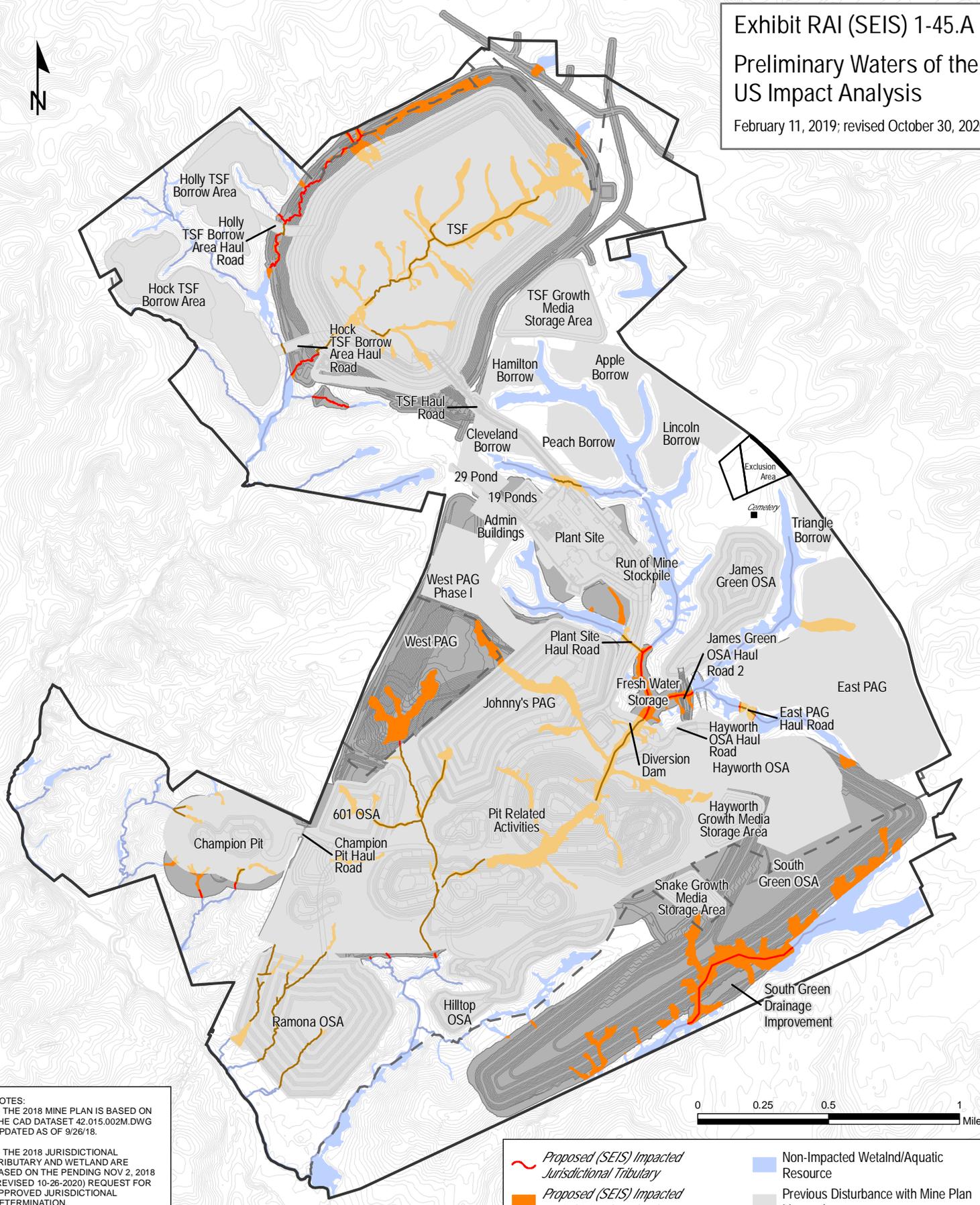
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107**

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Shawn Boone, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8158, toll free at 1-866-329-8187, or by email at Shawn.A.Boone@usace.army.mil.

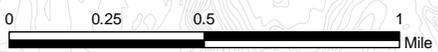
Exhibit RAI (SEIS) 1-45.A

Preliminary Waters of the US Impact Analysis

February 11, 2019; revised October 30, 2020



NOTES:
 1) THE 2018 MINE PLAN IS BASED ON THE CAD DATASET 42.015.002M.DWG UPDATED AS OF 9/26/18.
 2) THE 2018 JURISDICTIONAL TRIBUTARY AND WETLAND ARE BASED ON THE PENDING NOV 2, 2018 (REVISED 10-26-2020) REQUEST FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION.



- Proposed (SEIS) Impacted Jurisdictional Tributary
- Proposed (SEIS) Impacted Jurisdictional Wetland
- Previously Impacted Stream Reach
- Previously Impacted Aquatic Resource
- Non-Impacted Stream Reach/Jurisdictional Tributary
- Non-Impacted Wetland/Aquatic Resource
- Previous Disturbance with Mine Plan Linework
- Proposed (SEIS) Incremental Disturbance Area with Mine Plan Linework
- Proposed (SEIS) Permit Boundary
- Current (FEIS) Permit Boundary



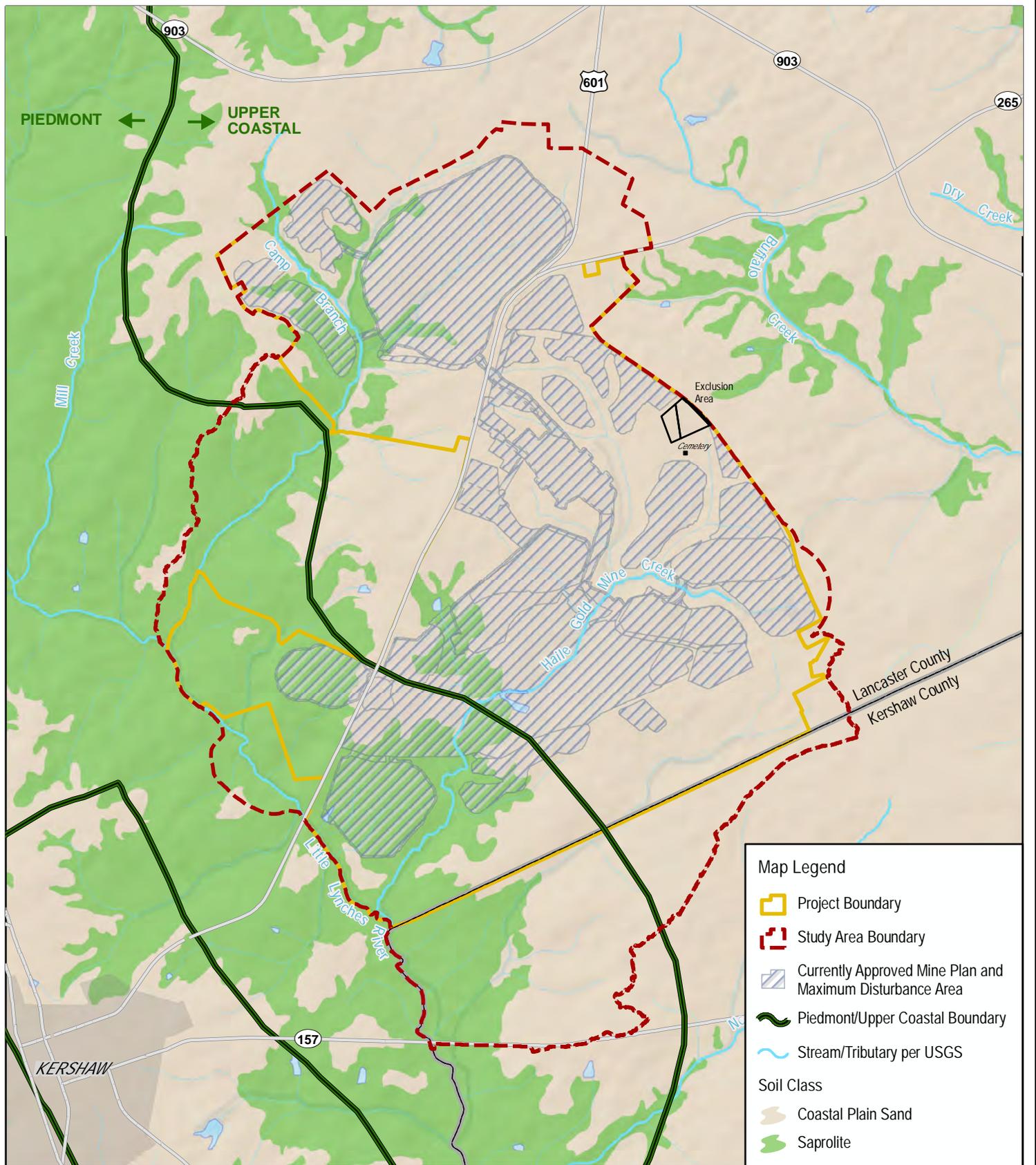
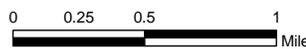


Exhibit RAI (SEIS) 1-42.B
 (Replacement for FEIS Figure 3.6-3)

Ecoregions and Surficial
 Geology in the Study Area



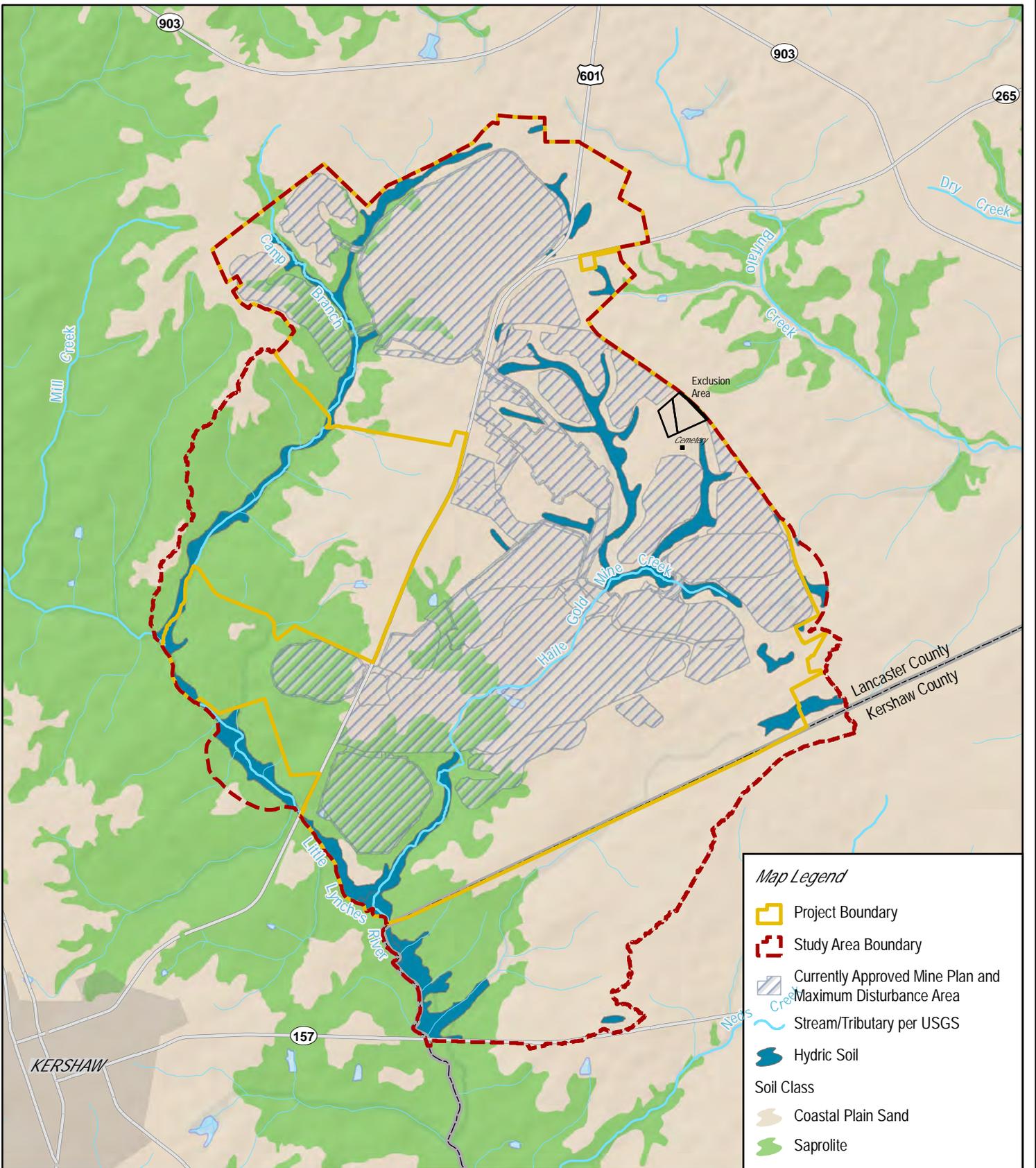
Sources: USGS NHD, 2019; SCDNR; NRCS, SSURGO dataset, 2019

Map Legend

- Project Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Currently Approved Mine Plan and Maximum Disturbance Area
- Piedmont/Upper Coastal Boundary
- Stream/Tributary per USGS
- Soil Class
 - Coastal Plain Sand
 - Saprolite

Date: February 11, 2019
 Revised: October 30, 2020
 Datum/Projection: NAD27/State Plane SC, North



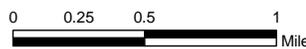


Map Legend

- Project Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Currently Approved Mine Plan and Maximum Disturbance Area
- Stream/Tributary per USGS
- Hydric Soil
- Soil Class
 - Coastal Plain Sand
 - Saprolite

Exhibit RAI (SEIS) 1-42.C
(Replacement for FEIS Figure 3.6-4)

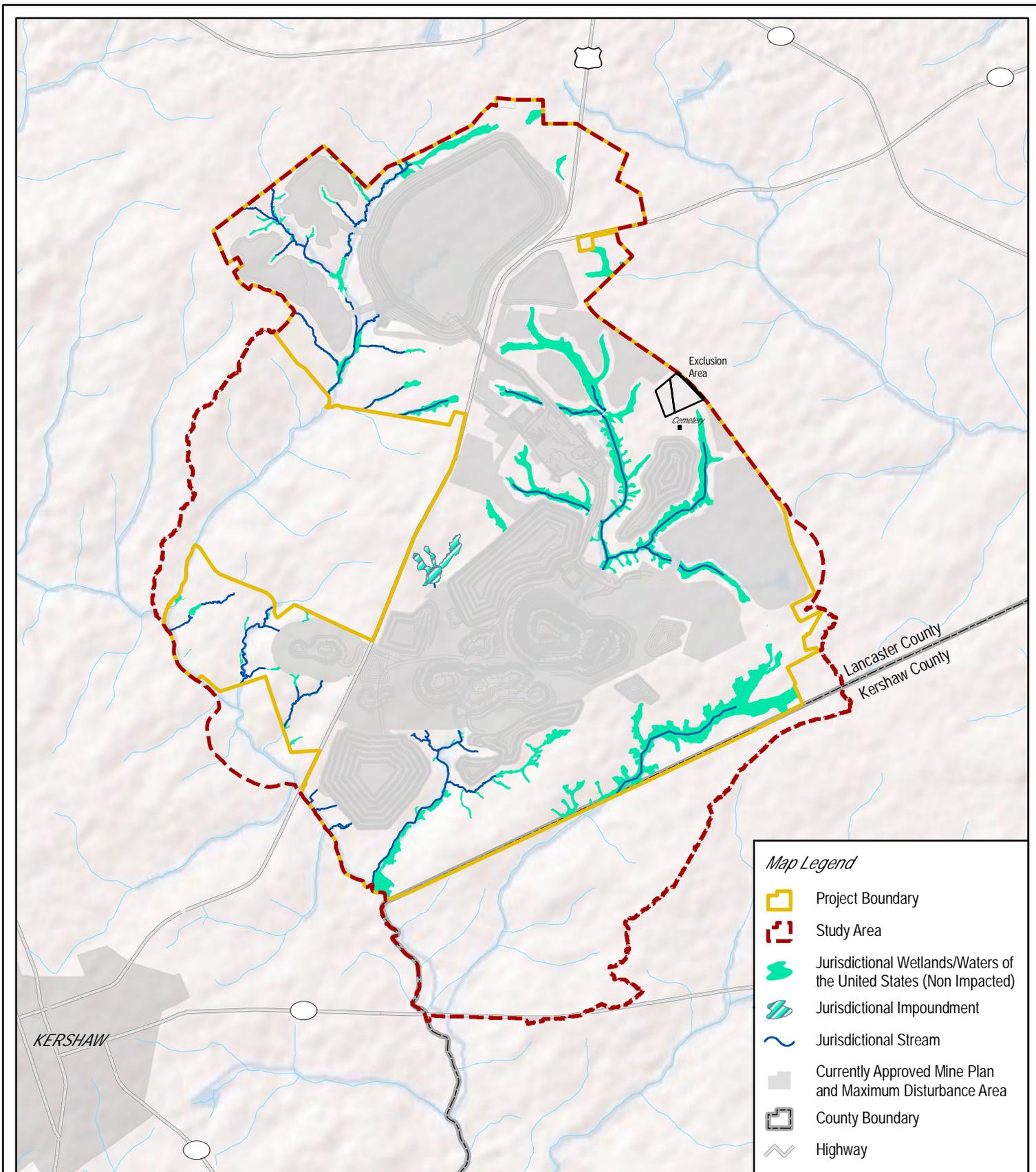
Hydric Soils and Surficial
Geology in the Study Area



Sources: USGS NHD, 2019; SCDNR; NRCS, SSURGO dataset, 2019

Date: February 11, 2019
Revised: October 30, 2020
Datum/Projection: NAD27/State Plane SC, North





Map Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Study Area
-  Jurisdictional Wetlands/Waters of the United States (Non Impacted)
-  Jurisdictional Impoundment
-  Jurisdictional Stream
-  Currently Approved Mine Plan and Maximum Disturbance Area
-  County Boundary
-  Highway

Exhibit RAI (SEIS) 1-42.D
(Replacement for FEIS Figure 3.6-5)

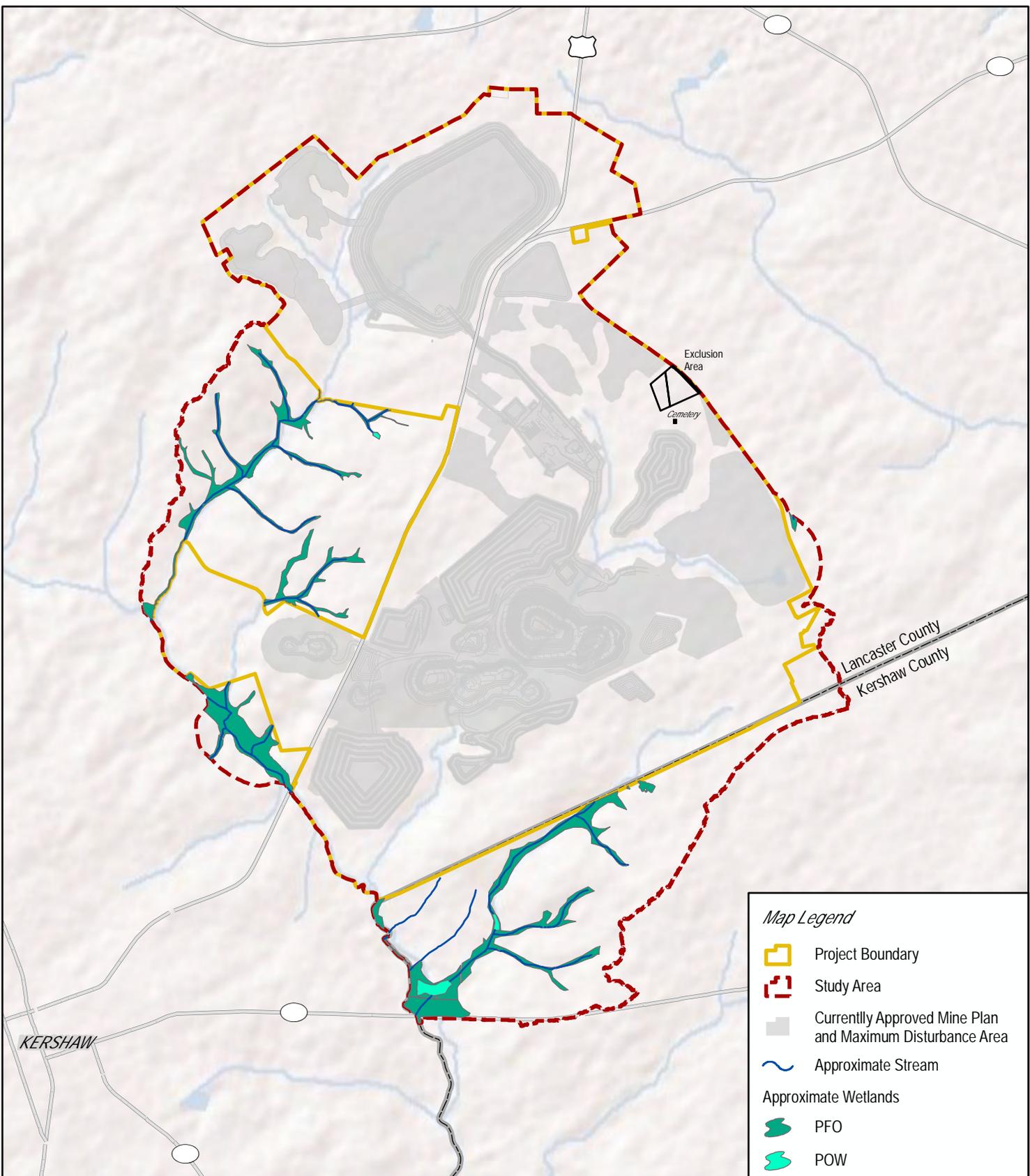
Jurisdictional Wetlands &
Other Waters of the United States
Inside the Project Boundary



Sources: USGS NHD, 2019; SCDNR: NRCS, SSURGO dataset, 2019

Date: February 11, 2019
Revised: October 30, 2020
Datum/Projection: NAD27/State Plane SC, North





Map Legend

- Project Boundary
- Study Area
- Currently Approved Mine Plan and Maximum Disturbance Area
- Approximate Stream

Approximate Wetlands

- PFO
- POW

Exhibit RAI (SEIS) 1-42.E
 (Replacement for FEIS Figure 3.6-6)

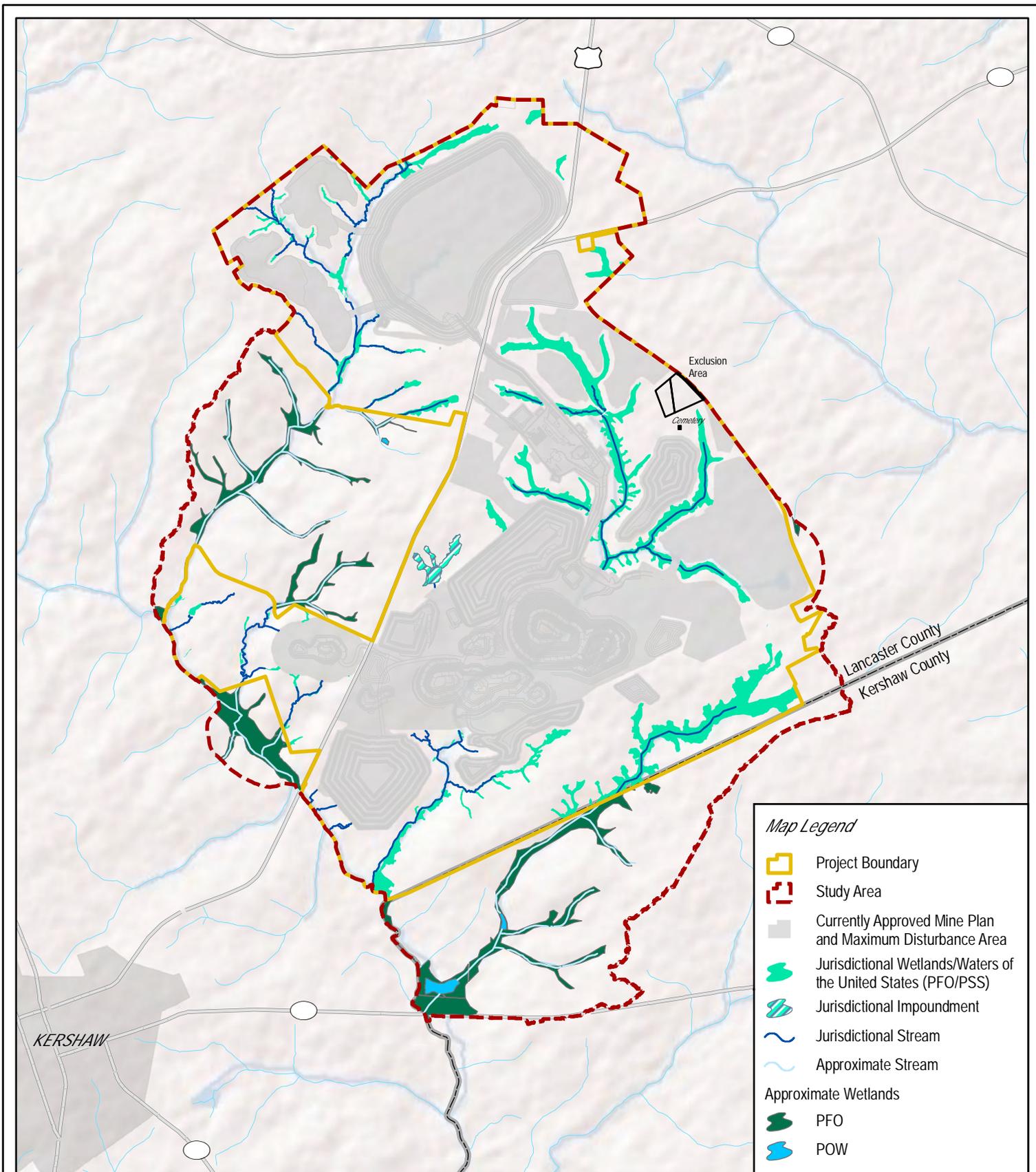
Approximate Jurisdictional Wetlands &
 Other Waters of the United States
 Outside the Project Boundary



Date: February 11, 2019
 Revised: October 30, 2020
 Datum/Projection: NAD27/State Plane SC, North

Sources: USGS NHD, 2019; SCDNR; NRCS, SSURGO dataset, 2019





Map Legend

- Project Boundary
- Study Area
- Currently Approved Mine Plan and Maximum Disturbance Area
- Jurisdictional Wetlands/Waters of the United States (PFO/PSS)
- Jurisdictional Impoundment
- Jurisdictional Stream
- Approximate Stream
- Approximate Wetlands**
- PFO
- POW

Exhibit RAI (SEIS) 1-42F



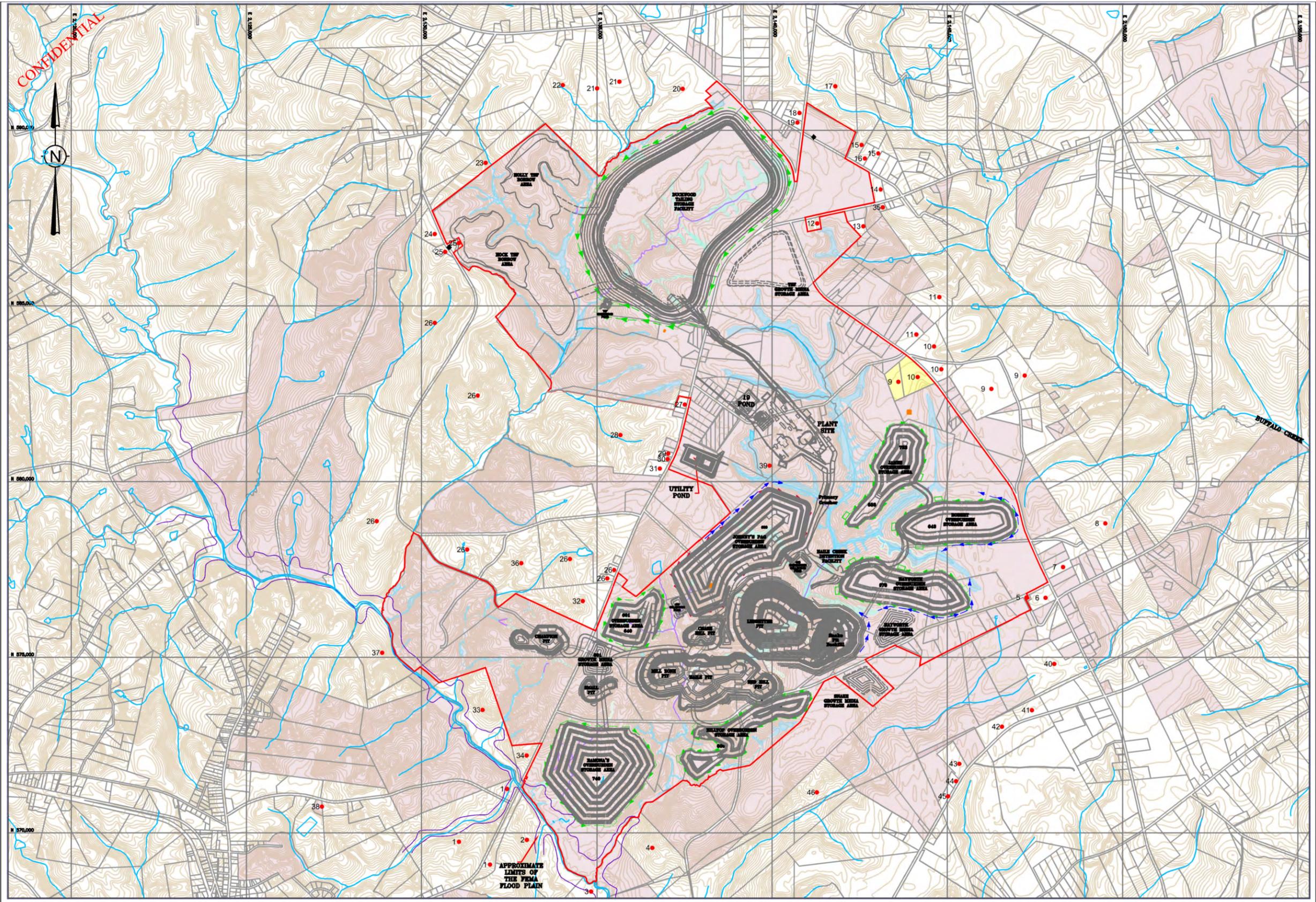
Date: February 11, 2019
 Revised: October 30, 2020
 Datum/Projection: NAD27/State Plane SC, North

All Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters of the United States within the Study Area

Sources: USGS NHD, 2019; SCDNR; NRCS, SSURGO dataset, 2019



CONFIDENTIAL



Notes:
This map depicts parcel lines and structures based on public records and good faith review of aerial photography.

County parcel boundaries may not line up with the surveyed Project Boundary

Reference:
Topographic information used is combined data given to AMEC from Hale Gold Mine, Inc. and USGS data. UTM NAD 27.
Wetlands and Streamline information within the project boundary provided by Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc. 10/12/12. Streamline information outside of the project boundary are referenced from USGS Maps.



- LEGEND:**
- EXISTING GROUND SURFACE CONTOUR EL. FEET
 - PROPOSED REGRADE CONTOUR EL. FEET
 - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION DAYLIGHT LINE
 - PROPOSED CONTOURS
 - EXISTING ROADS
 - PROPOSED ROADS
 - EXISTING DRAINAGES
 - PROJECT BOUNDARY
 - APPROXIMATE LIMITS OF 100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN
 - CEMETERY SITE
 - SURVEY CONTROL POINT
 - SOUTH PIT (MILL, HAILE, RED HILL) AND CHASE HILL BACKFILLED PIT LIMITS
 - CLEAN WATER DIVERSIONS CHANNELS
 - RUNOFF COLLECTION CHANNELS
 - PAG DIVERSION CHANNELS
 - SEDIMENT COLLECTION BASINS
 - IMPACTED STREAMS
 - IMPACTED WETLANDS
 - NON-IMPACTED WETLANDS
 - HAILE FEE SIMPLE OWNED - NOT INCLUDED IN HAILE EIS/PERMIT BOUNDARY
 - HAILE OWNED
 - CONTROLLED BY EXPLORATION LEASE AGREEMENT

OCEANAGOLD HAILE OPERATION
LANCASTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

CLOSEST NEIGHBORS

	DESIGNED BY	BD	CHECKED BY	DT
	DRAWN BY	BD	APPROVED BY	DT
	DATE REVISED	01/24/2019		