

# Information for File # MVP-2015-02352-DJM

**Applicant:** Saputo Cheese USA, Inc.

**Corps Contact:** Dan Munson

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**Primary County:** Barron

**Location:** Section 12, Township 33N, Range 14W

**Information Complete On:** September 8, 2015

**Posting Expires On:** October 8, 2015

**Authorization Type:** LOP-06-WI

This application is being reviewed in accordance with current practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If an approved jurisdictional determination is completed as part of the review process for this application, a copy will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at the following link:

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:** Saputo Cheese USA, Incorporated has applied for a Department of the Army permit to discharge fill material into approximately 1.85 acres of wetlands adjacent to an unnamed tributary to the Hay River in conjunction with the expansion of an existing cheese plant facility for the purpose of upgrading and replacing an existing blue cheese portion of the facility that is near the end of its production life. The project as proposed would include the construction of an additional 265,000 square feet of building space with loading docks, milk intake, employee parking, and complete site circulation.

**NAME, AREA, AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO IMPACT:** Approximately 1.85 acres of fresh (wet) meadow wetlands adjacent to an unnamed tributary to the Hay River would be permanently filled as a result of the proposed cheese facility expansion. The subject wetlands are of low quality and completely dominated by reed canary grass and invasive plant species. Currently, the site is surrounded by agricultural areas with some residential and commercial properties nearby. Compensation for the lost values and functions of wetlands would be offset through the purchase of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources In-Lieu-Fee credits.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The applicant considered 4 alternatives including no development, the relocation of the entire facility, and two alternatives involving expansion of the existing facility.

Alternative 1 included no new development, which was not selected as the preferred alternative because the project purpose of increasing blue cheese production to meet increasing nationwide demand would not be met. Without the expansion, creation of a positive economic impact would not occur in the local area or within the greater northwest Wisconsin area.

Alternative 2 included the complete relocation of the entire expansion project site. This alternative was not selected as the preferred alternative for a variety of reasons including local knowledge of the blue cheese making process of existing employees as the existing plant location, an existing waste water treatment facility at the existing plant location, acreage available for expansion on existing plant property, existing plant is adjacent to the County Incinerator, which provides steam to run the existing plant, and the existing plant contains the whey processing facility.

Alternative 3 included the expansion of the existing plant to the north, but was not selected as this alternative would include an additional discharge of fill material into approximately 0.88 acre of wetlands for the construction of loading docks, access roads for site circulation, silo and equipment relocation, all in addition to the construction of storm water management plan to avoid cutting off natural drainage patterns on site. This alternative would require storm water to be piped under the building, which would create an additional large expense.

Alternative 4 (preferred alternative) included the expansion of the existing site to the west. This alternative allows for efficient site circulation, maintains important existing infrastructure, and reduces wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable while still meeting the project purpose.

**Drawings:**

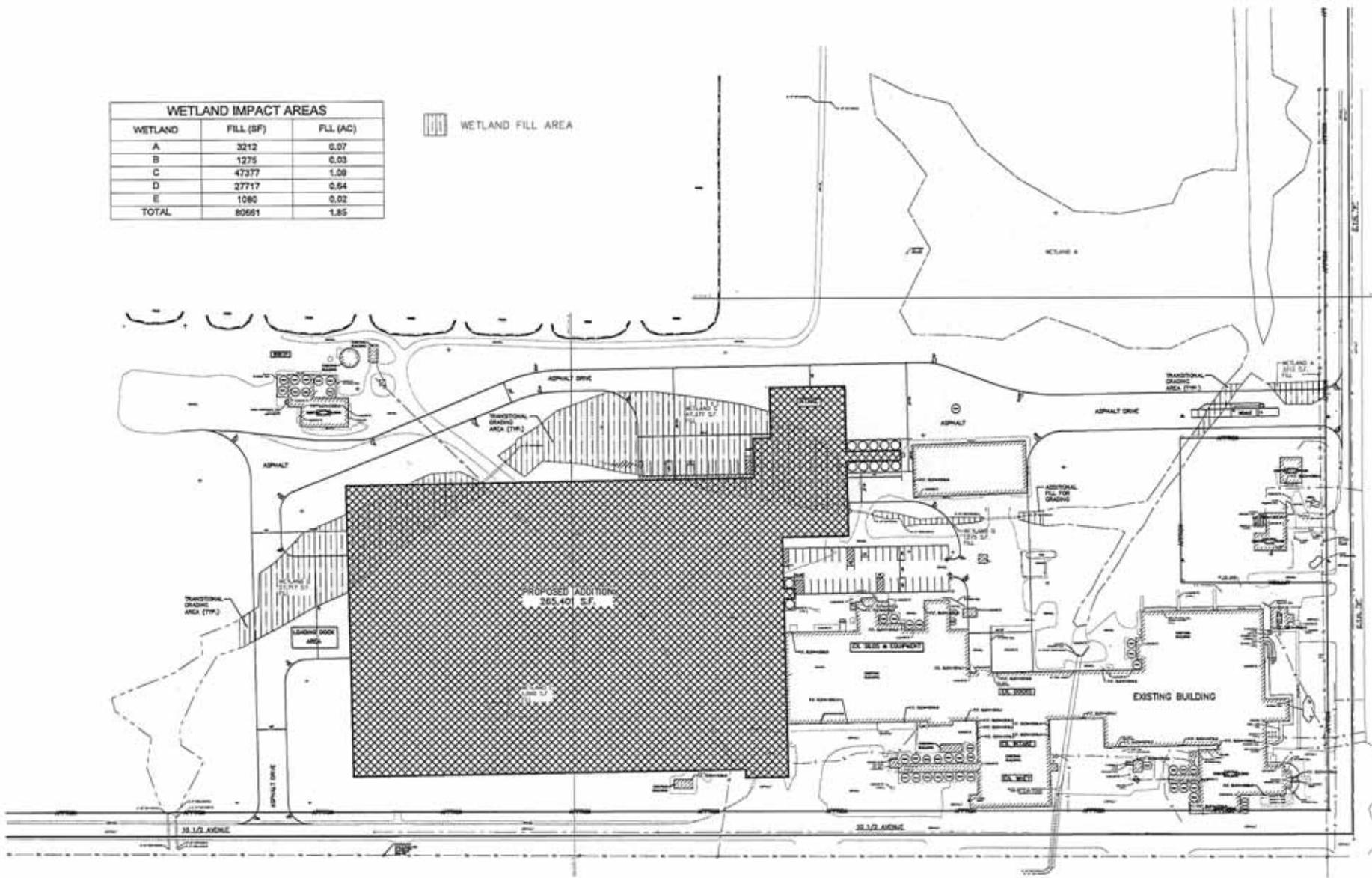
See attached drawings/maps labeled MVP-2015-02352-DJM, Page 1 of 4 through page 4 of 4.





WETLAND IMPACT AREAS		
WETLAND	FILL (SF)	FILL (AC)
A	3212	0.07
B	1279	0.03
C	47377	1.09
D	27717	0.64
E	1080	0.02
TOTAL	80661	1.85

 WETLAND FILL AREA



 NORTH  
WETLAND FILL OPTION 4

PRELIMINARY DRAWING - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

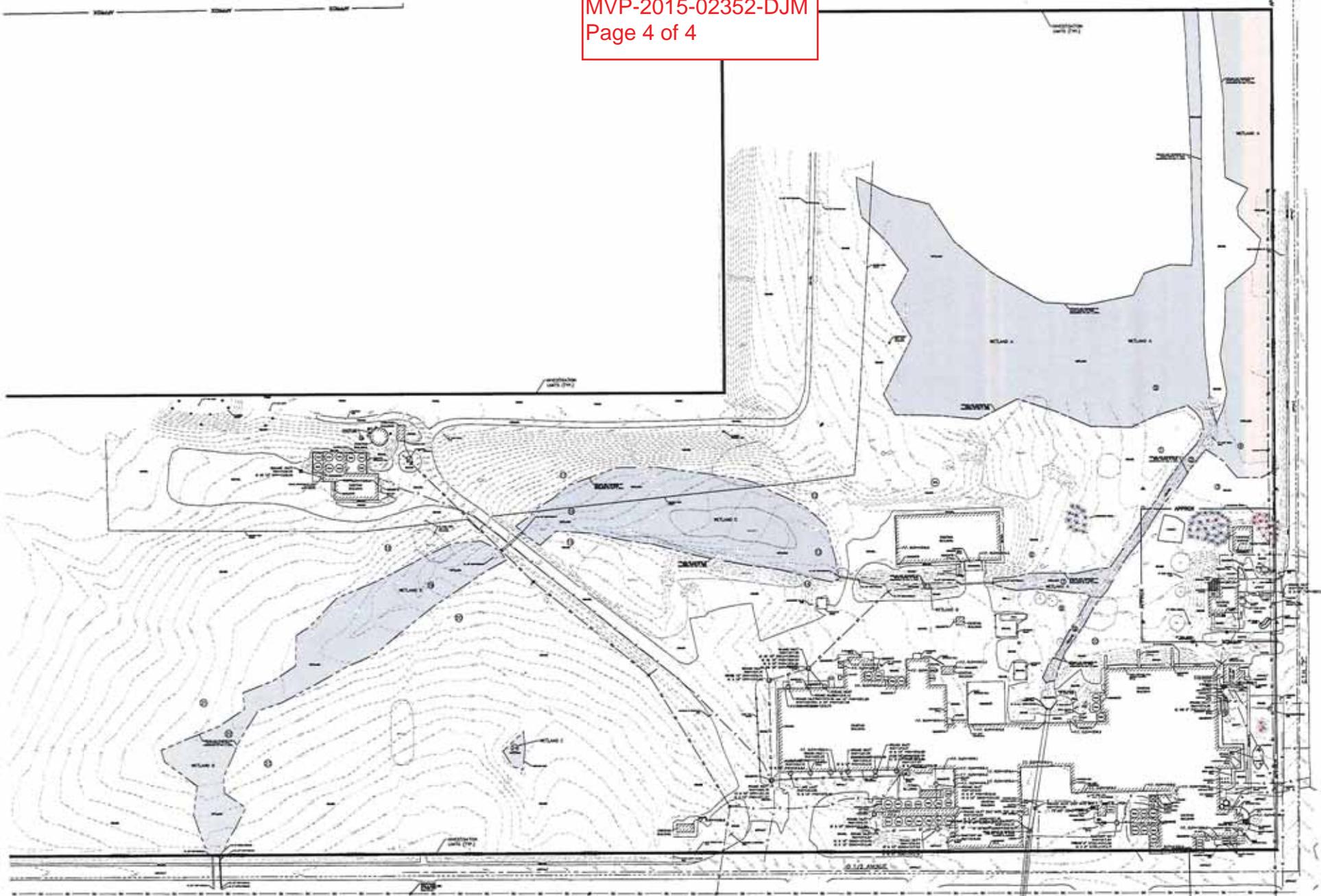


FIGURE 1 - WETLAND LOCATION MAP  
① - SAMPLE DATA POINT

PRELIMINARY DRAWING - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION