



LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

PERMIT APPLICATION

Permit # 1410 (Assigned by Department)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Scenic Rivers program is authorized by LRS title 56, Chapter 8 Part II. This law requires permits authorizing activities in or affecting rivers that have been designated by the Louisiana Legislature as Natural and Scenic. Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Information in this application is made a matter of public record through issuance of a public notice. Disclosure of the information requested is voluntary, however, the data requested necessary in order to communicate with the applicant and to evaluate the permit application. If necessary information is not provided, the permit application cannot be processed nor can a permit be issued.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Table with 2 columns: Applicant Information (Name: James Roberts, Address: 600 Travis Street, Houston, Phone: 713-243-3032, Email: J.Roberts@momentummidstream.com) and Agent Information (Name: Paul LeBlanc, Address: 1651 Lobdell Avenue, Baton Rouge, Phone: 225-245-9856, Email: pleblanc@swca.com). Includes handwritten 'Blackjack Pipeline, LLC'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Brief summary of the description and purpose of the proposed activity (details to be attached as a separate document) Proposed 38.6 miles of 24 inch-diameter pipeline, one launcher site, one receiver site, two mainline valve sites, and supporting access roads within Beauregard and Calcasieu Parishes, Louisiana ("project"), within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New Orleans, District. The project purpose is to transport natural gas from a proposed tie-in location at the NG3 Gillis Station. Is any portion of the activity complete? YES or NO (If yes, indicate month and year of completion)

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Table with 2 columns: Stream Name (NA Hickory Branch), Address (NA), City, State, Zip (Louisiana), Parish (Calcasieu), Sec/Township/Range (Section 9, Township 8 South, Range 9 West), Latitude/Longitude (30.380958, -93.296449)

ADJACENT LANDOWNERS

Table with 2 columns: Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers of Adjacent Landowners. List: 1. Dann M. Thomasson, Et Al, Carolyn Dartez 337-855-7521, 2. Summit Forest USA, LLC, 3. Crosby Land & Resources, LLC. Includes handwritten 'Hickory branch'.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Must be a separate document. See the attached instruction sheet for completing the assessment.

CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION ACCURACY

Application is hereby made for a Scenic River Permit to authorize the activities described herein. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in this application and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities, or I am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

Paul LeBlanc

Signature

2/11/2026

Date

**JEFF LANDRY  
GOVERNOR**



**TYLER M. BOSWORTH  
SECRETARY**

PO BOX 98000 | BATON ROUGE LA | 70898

Dear Scenic River Permit Applicant:

Please review and concur on the following statement regarding the issuance of permits by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This agreement must be signed and returned before a Scenic River Permit can be issued.

"I have been advised and do understand that by applying for and accepting a Scenic Rivers permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I am being allowed to engage in an activity which would otherwise be prohibited by law or for which a permit is required. I understand that the permit is not a license and confers no property right upon me. I specifically agree to abide by all State and Federal fish and wildlife laws and regulations, and all State and Federal laws and regulations which relate to this permit or the permitted activity, and by all other terms and conditions of this permit. I understand that the permit for which I am applying may be suspended, annulled, withdrawn or revoked and that I may be assessed civil penalties, all in accordance with the provision of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, and that I may be denied future permits as a consequence of my failure to fully and completely comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, as well as other laws and regulations pertinent thereto. If served with or notified of a cease and desist order signed by the Scenic Rivers Administrator, I agree to immediately and without delay cease all activities and operations which relate to the permitted activity or which are impacting the Scenic River, until such time as the matter can be resolved in an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. I understand and agree that any permit issued to me by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the nature of a privilege which is being voluntarily extended to me by the Department and the failure on my part to cooperate with the Department can result in the loss of the privilege conferred and the denial of future requests for permits. By accepting this permit, I evidence my agreement to be bound by all conditions and stipulations set forth herein."

*Paul LeBlanc*

Authorized Signature

2/11/2026

Date

REV 5/23/25

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
BLACKJACK 24-INCH PIPELINE  
HICKORY BRANCH CROSSING  
CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA**

## **1.0 Introduction**

Blackjack Pipeline, LLC (Applicant) proposes to construct approximately 38.6 miles of 24 inch-diameter pipeline (Blackjack Pipeline) to transport natural gas from a proposed tie-in location at the NG3 Gillis Station, located approximately 6.5 miles northeast of Gillis, Louisiana in Beauregard Parish to the project terminus at Lake Charles Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal in Westlake, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. Installation of this pipeline would require crossing Hickory Branch.

This document was prepared to evaluate the impacts associated with installing the pipeline crossing at Hickory Branch via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The evaluation is part of the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System Use Permit Application in conjunction with the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act.

## **2.0 Project Description**

The purpose of the project is to transport natural gas from Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, to Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The proposed 24-inch pipeline will cross Hickory Branch via HDD at approximately Latitude 30° 22' 48.723" North and Longitude -93° 17' 51.813" West, located approximately 2.1 miles northeast of the intersection of Holbrook Park Road and an access road owned and operated by Cameron Interstate Pipeline, within Section 9, Township 8 South, Range 9 West, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The HDD bore is projected to daylight on the north bank of Hickory Branch at approximately Latitude 30° 22' 59.826" North and Longitude -93° 17' 32.834" West (Figure 1). The proposed crossing location is within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District.

The crossing will be installed by HDD. To prevent impacts to Hickory Branch during pipeline installation, The Applicant is proposing an approximately 2,005 foot-long (0.38 miles) HDD path to cross beneath the river (Figure 2). See Appendix A for project maps and drawings.

The HDD entrance will be on the southwest side of Hickory Branch, with an HDD workspace area placed in undeveloped land consisting of scrub-scrub habitat. The HDD exit will be on the northeast side of Hickory Branch, with an HDD workspace placed in undeveloped forested land. Existing access roads and ROW will be used to access the proposed pipeline ROW to reach the HDD workspace sites. No access roads connect to the river, ending a minimum of 615-feet from the riverbanks.

## **3.0 Permitting Requirements**

Prior to initiating installation of the pipeline, The Applicant will obtain the following permits:

- Nationwide Permit 12: Pre-construction Notification
  - Section 10 Navigable Waterways – USACE New Orleans District

increased clearing of undisturbed areas, and/or encroachment on residential and commercially developed properties.

- The no-action alternative consists of The Applicant not constructing the pipeline to connect existing natural gas facilities located throughout southwestern Louisiana for distribution through the Gulf coast. Based on the current and anticipated demand for natural gas, the no-action alternative was not considered a viable alternative.
- The Applicant considered alternative methods for delivering the required supply to the intended markets other than constructing a pipeline. The only alternative method to transport the projected volume of natural gas to a compressor station would be liquified natural gas (LNG) barges. LNG barges are preferred for shipping to international markets where land transport is not possible. As there is no water route connecting the existing facilities that The Applicant proposes to tie into, shipping the natural gas by LNG barge is not viable.

The proposed alignment was selected as the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative because it consolidates the crossing within an area already influenced by an existing maintained pipeline corridor, minimizes new disturbance, and allows the pipeline to be installed using HDD, thereby avoiding direct impacts to the stream channel, banks, and riparian habitat. The HDD method will place the pipeline beneath Hickory Branch with no in-stream work, no dredging or fill, and only temporary, upland-based construction areas located outside of the ordinary high-water mark. As a result, the proposed route minimizes both temporary and permanent impacts to Hickory Branch while meeting the project purpose and need.

## 7.0 Environmental Assessment

### 7.1 Existing Land Use

Hickory Branch was classified as a Scenic River in 2004. Hickory Branch occupies a predominately rural setting. The river supports outdoor recreation activities including wading, boating, paddling, fishing, hunting, and birding. There are 12 known road crossings of Hickory Branch, including U.S. Highway 110 and Highway 12. The majority of road crossings are logging roads constructed prior to the river entering the Scenic Rivers program. Several maintained ROWs follow or cross Hickory Branch, including the Cameron Interstate Pipeline and Gillis Hub Pipeline. Commercial silviculture is the primary land use adjacent to Hickory Branch.

Land use at the pipeline crossing of the Hickory Branch is consistent from one bank to the other. The proposed 24-inch pipeline ROW will be located adjacent to an existing maintained pipeline corridor on the northeast side where herbaceous vegetation is allowed to grow in the ROW; however, maintenance does not include removal of vegetation along the banks of the Hickory Branch. The proposed ROW will include forested and scrub-shrub lands adjacent to the existing pipeline corridor. The areas adjacent to the proposed HDD entry and exit workspaces are scrub-shrub to the southwest and forested to the northeast. The forested areas on each side of the river are dominated by mature American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*). The understory is dominated by Chinese tallowtree (*Triadica sebifera*).

Hickory Branch is located within the Calcasieu River Basin which drains approximately 4,105 square miles of land. Ecological systems adjacent to the proposed Blackjack Pipeline and the Hickory Branch crossing location consist of upland riparian area, a previously cleared ROW that supports herbaceous vegetation, and pine scrub-shrub. The area has typical wildlife and vegetation of a forested wetland and upland riverbank (described in Section 7.9). The Hickory Branch is a significant driver of the ecological systems present at the proposed crossing.

**The HDD workspace locations will be placed primarily within the adjoining silvicultural property so impacts to the ecological systems near the proposed pipeline crossing location will be minimal.**

### 7.6 Fish and Wildlife in the Area

The riparian area along Hickory Branch offers habitat that may support a number of animal and birds species, such as white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), rabbits (*Sylvilagus spp.*), numerous species of neotropical migrant birds, resident wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), black-bellied whistling ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), egrets and herons from the Family *Ardeidae* and larger avian species such as bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Species of Conservation Concern known to occur in Hickory Branch or adjacent habitat include Bachman's sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*), Calcasieu painted crawfish (*Orconectes blacki*), coastal plain lobelia (*Lobelia flaccidifolia*), and hispid pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus hispidus*).

Freshwater fish species in Hickory Branch include largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), crappie (*Pomoxis spp.*), bluegill and other various species of sunfish (*Lepomis spp.*), multiple species of catfish (*Ictalurus spp.*), gar (*Lepisosteus spp.*, *Atractosteus spatula*), minnows and shiners.

**No work will be performed within the banks of the river and no construction activities will occur between HDD entry and exit workspaces, so the project is not expected to have significant long-term impacts on fish or local wildlife.**

### 7.7 Historical/Archaeological Sites

Hickory Branch and the surrounding area were occupied by several Native American tribes prior to European settlement. During the colonial period, the area was occupied by the Attakapas Tribe, followed by the Coushatta Tribe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Coushatta Tribe was federally recognized in 1972, and many tribe members now reside near Hickory Branch in the towns of Elton and Kinder.

The proposed project is not expected to impact cultural resources at the crossing. A cultural field survey was completed and no historical/archaeological sites were identified at the location of the river crossing. Four previous archaeological surveys have been conducted adjacent to the Hickory Branch crossing in 2005, 2012, 2021, and 2024, none of which identified cultural resources directly adjacent to the crossing. According to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's cultural resources database, the nearest archaeological site to the Hickory Branch crossing is the Hayes

waters will be utilized from other waterbodies, meaning no water will be taken directly from the Hickory Branch for hydrostatic testing events.

**By utilizing HDD methods, no construction work will be done in or near the banks of the Hickory Branch, as well as no water taken from the river for hydrostatic testing, so pipeline installation activities are not expected to have any impact on water quality or quantity of the river.**

### *7.11 Economic Impact of the Project*

Based on 2020 data, the oil and natural gas industry generates approximately 25% of Louisiana's economy. In Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), the oil and natural gas industry generated \$4.4 billion in earnings and created over 50,000 jobs in the southwest and northwest regions of the state. A total of \$3.48 billion in state taxes, licenses, and fees were paid by the oil and natural gas industry in FY24.

**The proposed pipeline installation will have direct beneficial effects on the local economy by creating jobs, increasing revenue, and contributing taxes, licenses, and fees. The construction will indirectly increase revenue at local business utilized by construction crews.**

## **8.0 Spill Response Plan**

To minimize the risk of spills or releases to the environment during HDD operations, The Applicant and its contractors will employ appropriate protective procedures such as double containment, employee training, overflow protection, and other measures as part of activities involving the use, storage, or handling of petroleum products or other hazardous materials at the project location.

Containers of hazardous materials and petroleum products will be stored to prevent releases to the environment. This requires selecting locations and methods to minimize exposure to rainfall, surface water, and the ground. Enclosures, shelters, and secondary containment will be used where appropriate. Containment pans will be placed under equipment where there is the potential for a leak or discharge. In the event that secondary containment is used in an area that is exposed to rainfall, designated personnel will inspect the primary container for signs of leakage and inspect the containment system by visual observation for color, foam, outfall staining, visible sheens, and dry weather flow. A proper spill kit contains the appropriate supplies for materials that may be spilled. Spill kits of appropriate size for application will be provided where there is an elevated risk of spills. Supplies will be easily accessible when required, and considerations will be made for both the type and quantity of potentially spilled materials / chemicals.

The Project has been designed to meet or exceed safety standards set forth in 49 CFR § 192 and The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) B31.8 regarding valve location and spacing. The nearest shut-in valve will be placed approximately 2.1 miles southwest (MLV-01). Additionally, the line segment proposed to be constructed beneath Hickory Branch will feature heavy wall pipe to ensure line integrity. In the event of a release during pipeline operations, the following protocol will be enacted to address any release issues at the Hickory Branch crossing:

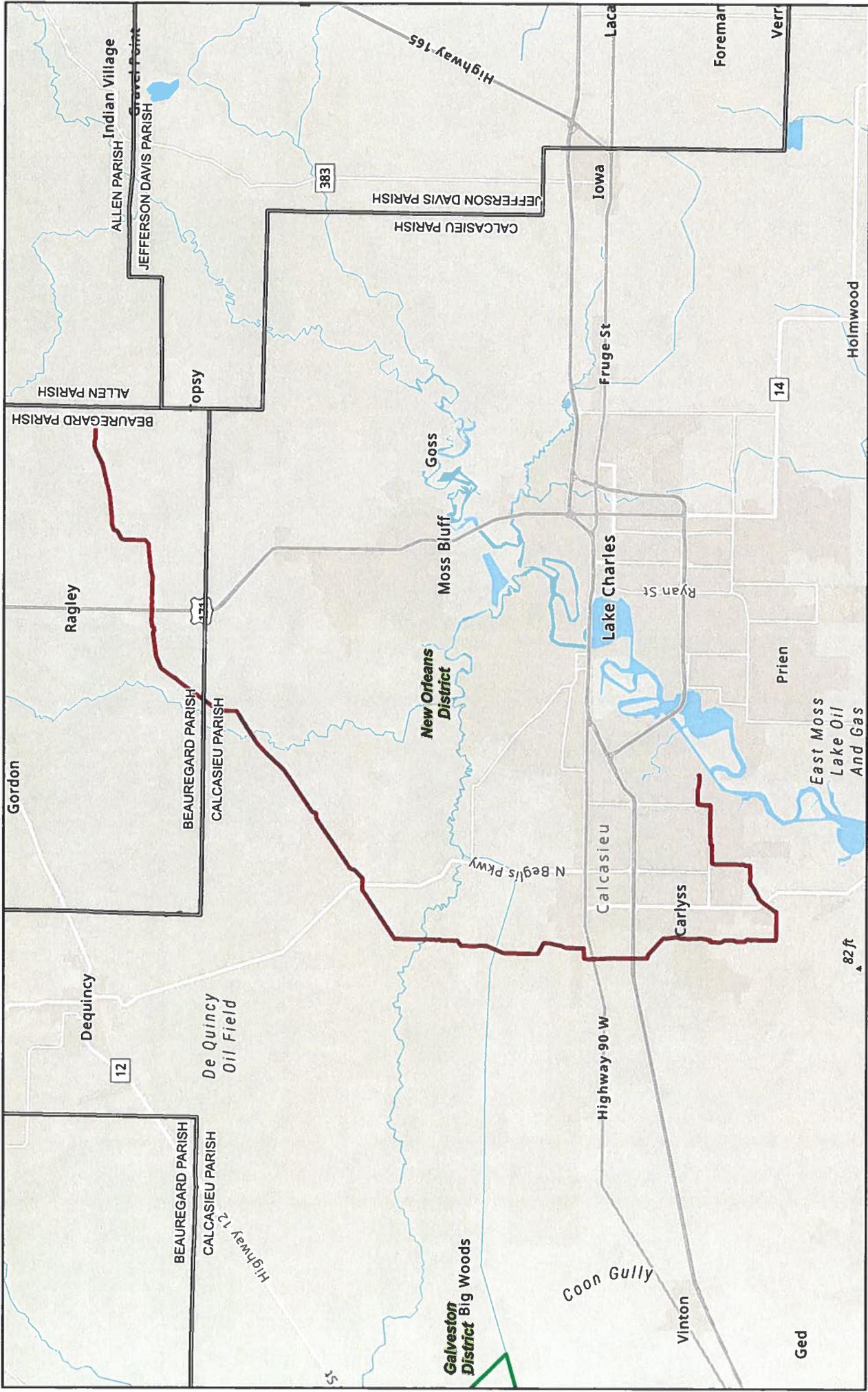
## **10.0 Photographs of Project Location**



**Photo 1: Facing north, view upstream of the Hickory Branch.**



**Photo 3: Facing northwest, northern bank of Hickory Branch.**



**MOMENTUM BLACKJACK PIPELINE**  
**Figure A-1: Project**  
**Location Map**

- Proposed Alignment
- Parish Boundary
- USACE Regulatory Boundary

Beauregard and Calcasieu Parishes, LA  
 USGS 7.5' Quadrangle:  
 Gordon, LA, 30093-D3  
 Gayline, LA, 30093-D2  
 Brimstone, LA, 30093-C4  
 Buhler, LA, 30093-C3  
 Sulphur, LA, 30093-B4  
 Westlake, LA, 30093-B3  
 NAD 1983 StatePlane Louisiana South  
 FIPS 1702 Feet  
 30.3028°N 93.272°W

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,  
 accessed January 2026  
 Updated: 1/15/2026  
 Project No. 104560  
 Layout: 100660\_EC\_1\_Visuality

0 10,000 20,000 Feet  
 0 2,500 5,000 Meters

N

1:250,000

**SWCA**

