

# PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District

696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Date: January 2, 2008

Comment Period Ends: February 4, 2008

File Number: NAE-2007-2707 In Reply Refer To: Cori M. Rose

Or by e-mail: cori.m.rose@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to **conduct work in waters of the United States** as described below. The Corps is soliciting comments on both the project itself and the range of issues to be addressed in the environmental documentation.

APPLICANT: Town of Wallingford Department of Public Utilities, 377 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 725, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492.

**ACTIVITY:** Discharge of temporary fill and/or grading below ordinary high water (1.8 acre area) and in wetlands (0.08 acre area), and the discharge of permanent fill below ordinary high water (0.14 acre area) for the construction of three watercourse bypass channels and multiple haul roads to allow the removal of up to 117,000 cubic yards of silt and sand from the Mackenzie Reservoir Water Supply System. A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

**PROPOSED COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** In order to compensate or otherwise offset the impact of temporary and permanent fill in wetlands and waters, the applicant proposes to conduct 0.35 acre of wetland rehabilitation within an existing degraded herbaceous wetland by reducing the elevation of the wetland surface between 6 and 12 inches in order to improve seasonal hydrology, and establishing this area as a wet meadow with a periphery of scattered shrubs. Additional mitigation measures proposed include structural fish habitat improvement consisting of five boulder clusters in the West Reservoir.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: This work is proposed within the North, East and West Reservoirs of the Mackenzie Reservoir water supply system and waters of Muddy River and Scard Brook. The water supply system area is located at the intersection of Northford Road, Whirlwind Hill Road and Scard Road in Wallingford, Connecticut. The proposed location can be found on the USGS Wallingford quadrangle sheet at UTM coordinates 18 4590066 N and 685806 E.

## **AUTHORITY**

Permits are required pursuant to:
Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
X Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered,

## CENAE-R FILE NO. NAE-2007-1702

including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production 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 need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.
- e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the proposed project site during the construction and subsequent operation/use period sought by the applicant. We have undertaken a Biological Assessment (BA) of the potential for interactions and adverse impacts to those listed species. It is our determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect any Federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. By this Public Notice, we are requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency concur with our BA determination.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management

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Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cori M. Rose at (978) 318-8306 (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil">http://www.nae.usace.army.mil</a>.

## THIS NOTICE IS **NOT** AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Diane M. Ray	
Diane M. Ray	
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Brancl	h
Regulatory Division	

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at <a href="mailto:bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil">bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil</a>. You may also check here ( ) and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME:			
ADDRESS:			

**PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE:** The applicant proposes to perform maintenance sediment removal from the 53.8 acre Mackenzie Reservoir constructed in 1943 and that is currently used by the Town of Wallingford for supply of public drinking water. In order to accomplish the proposed project, the water level of the reservoir system will be drawn down from an elevation of 195 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) to 183 feet NGVD, exposing approximately 33.75 acres of lake bottom. Approximately 12 feet of water will remain over a 20 acre area within the western lobe of the reservoir with a storage volume of 27 million gallons. Partial dewatering will allow the excavation activities to occur "in the dry" and still allow adequate short term water supply.

Approximately 1.08 acre of temporary fill and/or grading will occur below ordinary high water (OHW), This work is for the construction of three temporary watercourse diversion bypass channels and earthen berms along the edge of the reservoir to facilitate the unrestricted passage of the two-year frequency flow. These temporary bypass channels will convey the flows that enter the water supply system from the unnamed tributary to the North Reservoir, Scard Brook and the Muddy River. A total of 0.86 acre of fill will be placed for construction of haul roads and the installation of two culverts. These roads will facilitate the excavation and removal of 117,000 cy of accumulated sediment, mainly from the east and north lobes of the reservoir. A portion of the haul road will remain after construction resulting in the permanent discharge of fill over a 0.14 acre area. The excavated material will be dewatered in place and then stockpiled offsite in an upland agricultural area before removal and permanent disposal at an approved upland location.

The applicant proposes to utilize a variety of stormwater management measures and sediment and erosion controls such as dewatering sumps and erosion and sediment barriers during construction and operation of the temporary bypass channels and during the excavation activity. Water that enters the dewatered portion of the reservoir is proposed to undergo filtering prior to discharge into the bypass channels. A Flood Contingency Plan has been prepared and the proposed activity is required to obtain a General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters form the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

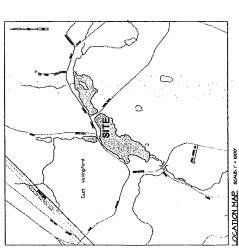
The objective of the proposed activity is to deepen the reservoir bottom (the North Reservoir will be deepened by 4 feet for a post-construction depth of 7 feet and the East Reservoir will be deepened by 6 feet for a post-construction depth of 11 feet) and remove excessive aquatic vegetation, thereby improving the water quality and preventing the migration of sediment from the north and east reservoir to the western reservoir and restoring the as-built storage capacity of the drinking water supply system.

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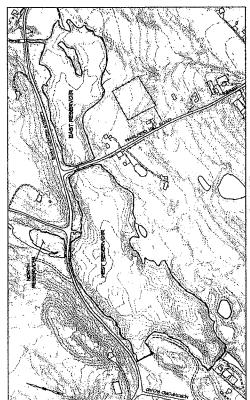
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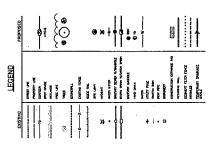
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SEPTEMBER, 2007



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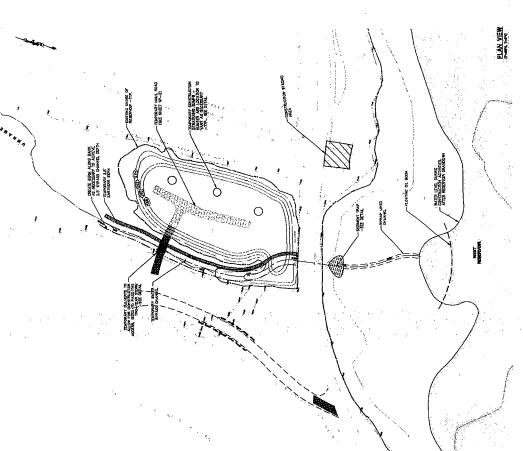
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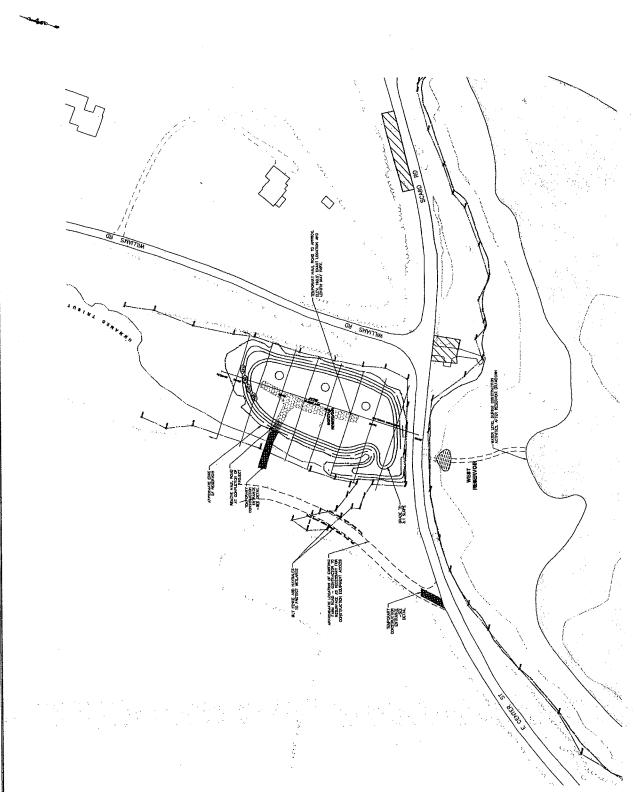
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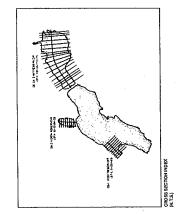
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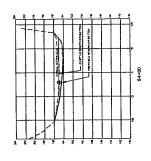


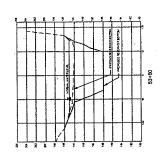


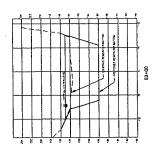
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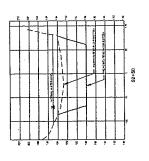
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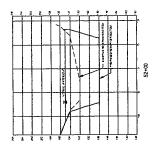


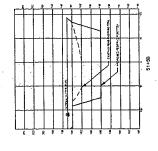


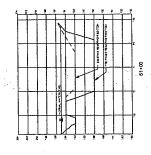


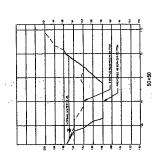


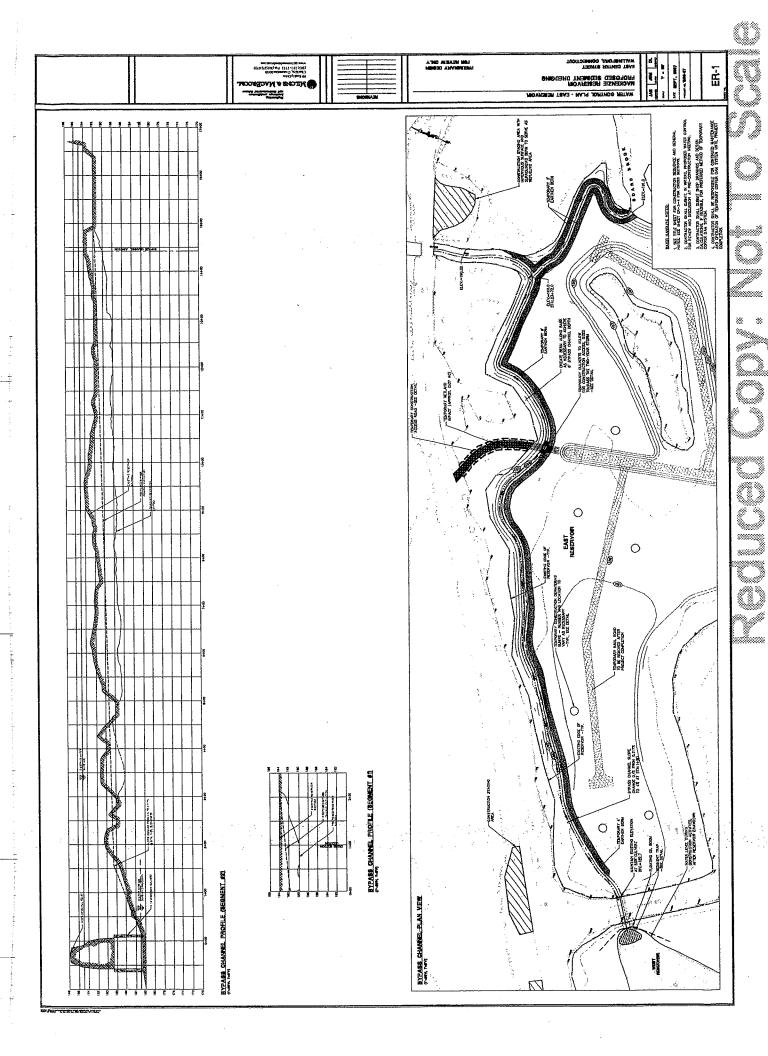








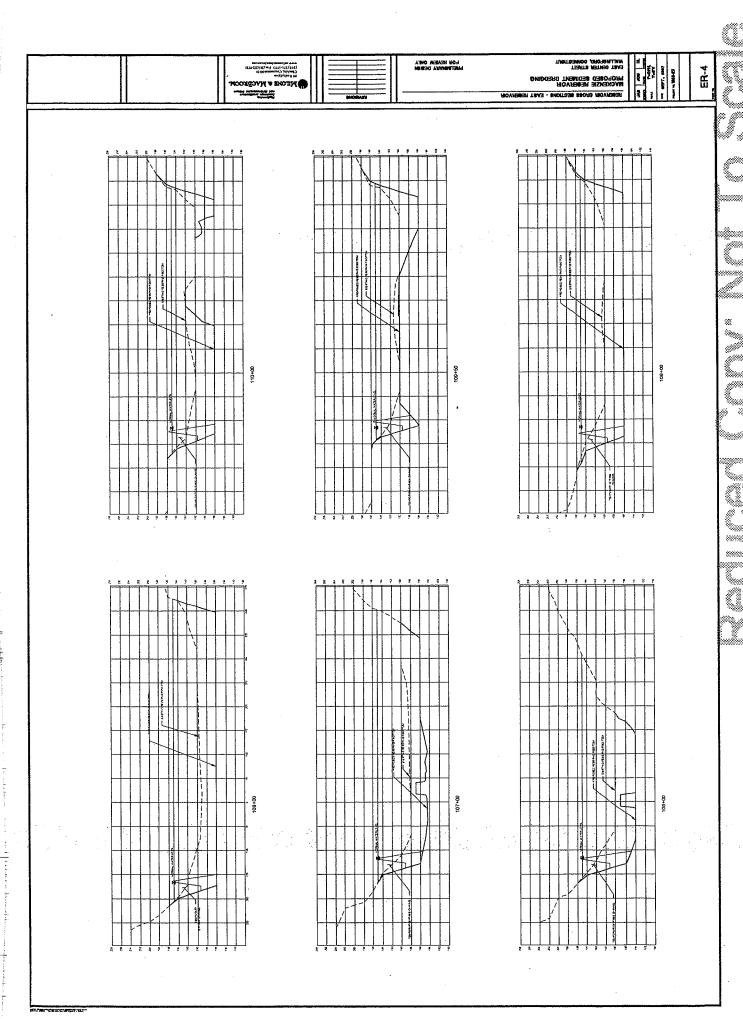


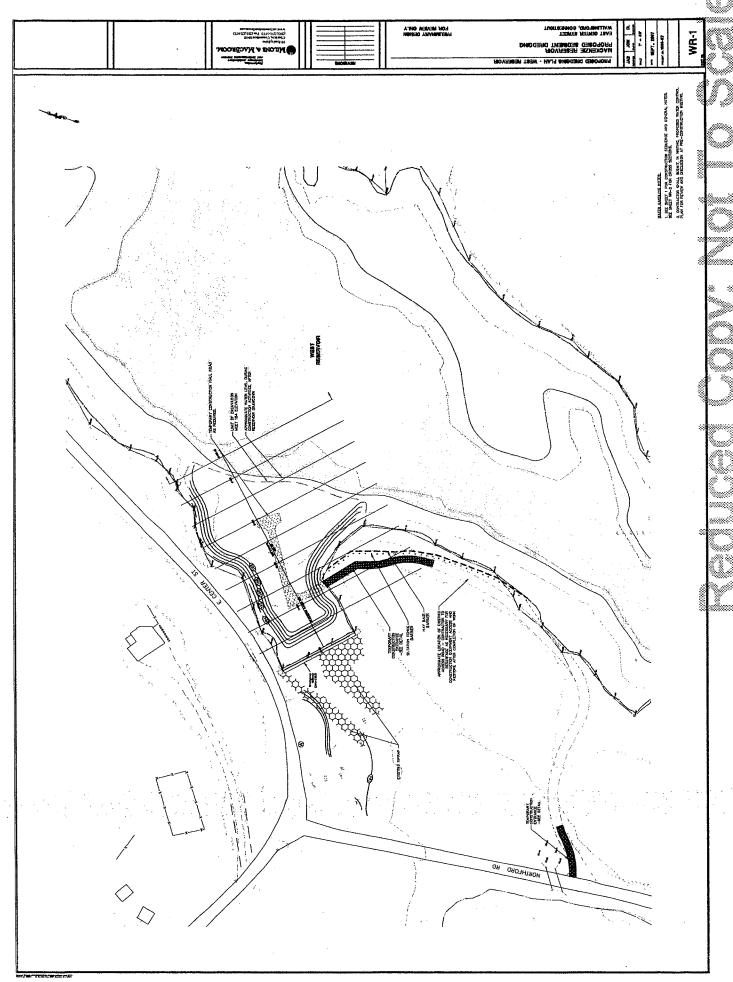


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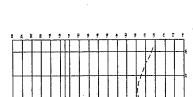
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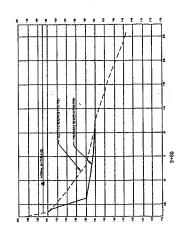
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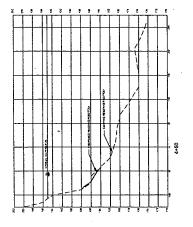
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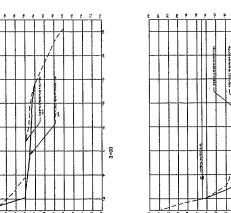


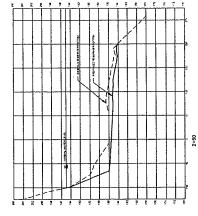


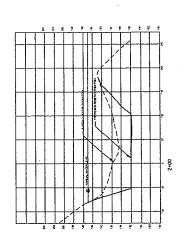


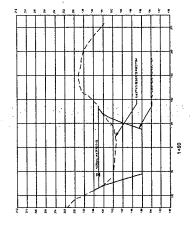


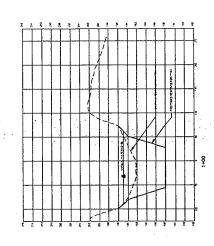


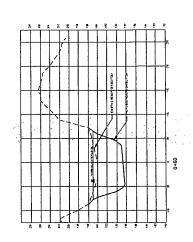


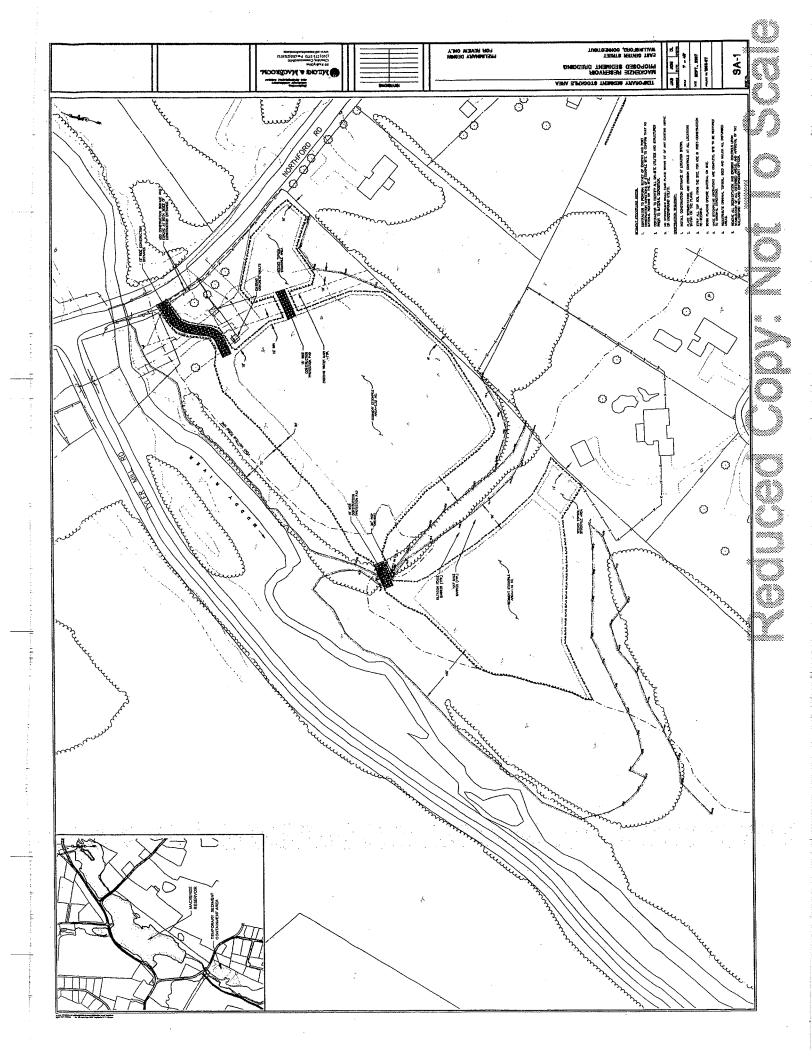






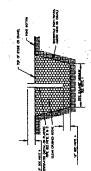






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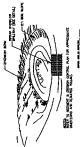


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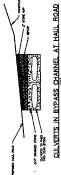
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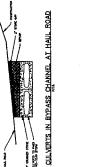
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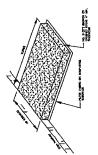
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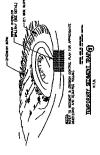
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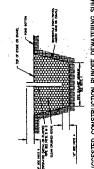
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