

15-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: September 8, 2020
Comment Period Ends: September 23, 2020
File Number: NAE-2015-01853
In Reply Refer To: Ms. Diane M. Ray
Phone: (978) 318-8831
E-mail: diane.m.ray@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from Quonset Development Corporation, 95 Cripe Street, North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852. This work is proposed in the West Quonset Channel in Narragansett Bay, off property located at 165 Dillabur Avenue, North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The site coordinates are: Latitude 41.584495
Longitude -71.417733

The work involves blasting of approximately 9,188 cubic yards of rock/ledge from an approximately 95,000 square foot area within the channel to -16' mean low water with a 2' over dredge to achieve -18' mean low water authorized dredge depths. The rock/ledge was encountered during dredging within the area which was previously authorized by this office.

The resulting material will be removed and disposed of at the Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site, along with the previously authorized dredged material.

A draft blasting plan has been submitted and is being coordinated with the appropriate state and Federal agencies for their review and comment.

The work is shown on the enclosed plans entitled “**Electric Boat West Quonset Channel, Quonset Business Park, North Kingstown, RI 02852, Narragansett Bay, Washington Country, By: Quonset Development Corporation**”, on 3 sheets, and dated “08/31/2020”.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- 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, 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

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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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (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 proposed activity. The Corps will consider all comments received 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.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Essential Fish Habitat describes waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.

The blasting portion of this project will impact an approximately 95,000 square foot area within the channel. The dredging in this area was previously approved and coordinated with NMFS for EFH. The impacts resulting from the proposed blasting of this area is the focus of consultation at this time. The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

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).

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The Corps has reviewed the application for the potential impact on Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and their designated critical habitat pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. It is our preliminary 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 a listed species or their critical habitat. We are coordinating with the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on listed species under their jurisdiction and the ESA consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

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 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:

- Permit, license or assent from State.
- Permit from local wetland agency or conservation commission.
- Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

COMMENTS

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. Diane M. Ray at (978) 318-8831, (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.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.


for **Robert J. DeSista**
Chief, Policy & Technical Support Branch
Regulatory Division

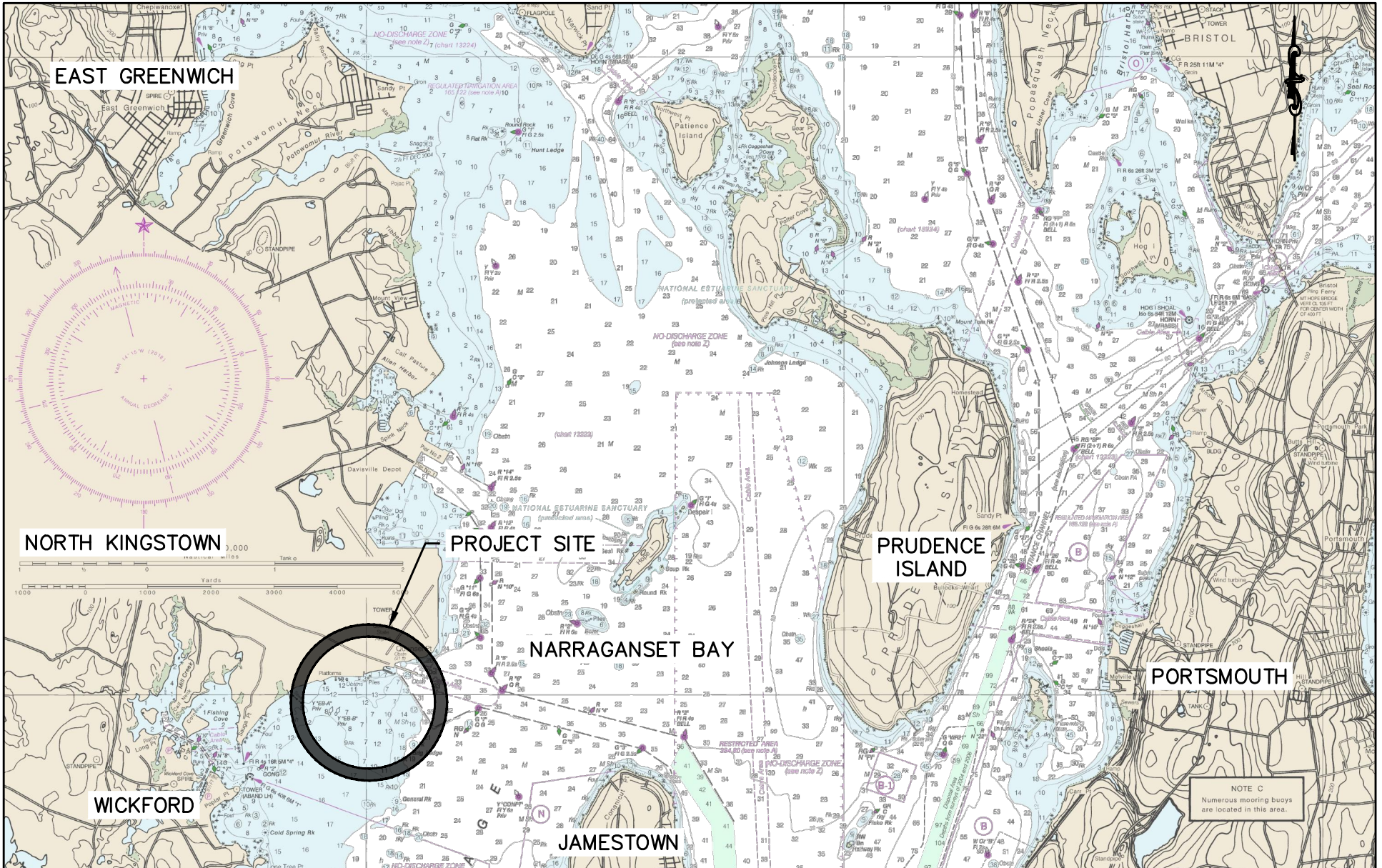
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If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

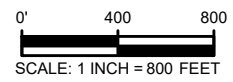


**PURPOSE: MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT
DREDGING OF THE EB WEST QUONSET CHANNEL**

DATUM:
 MHW = +3.81' (MLW)
 MLW = +0.00' (MLW)
 MLLW = -0.15' (MLW)

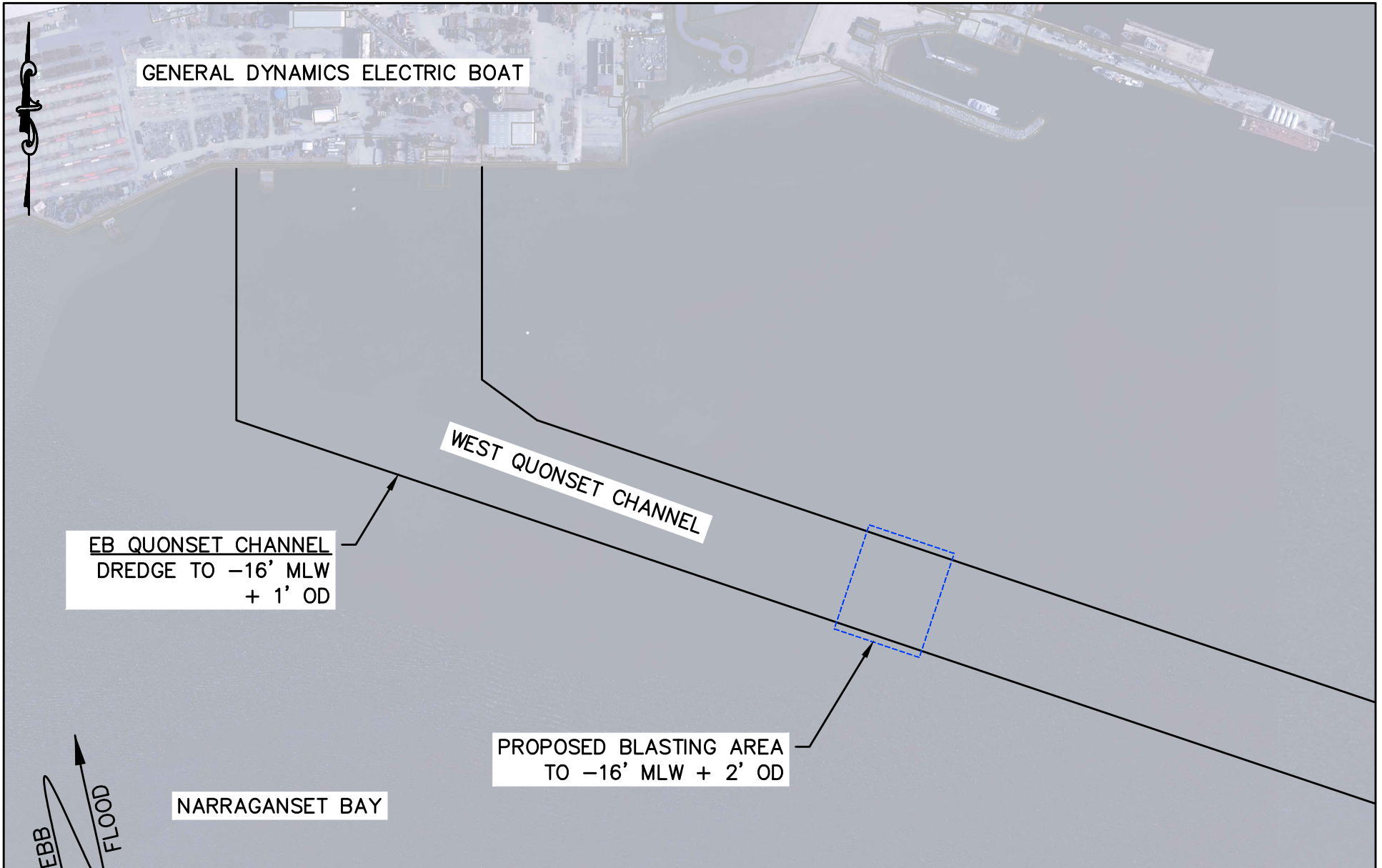
**FOTH INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT, LCC.
15 CREEK RD, MARION, MA, 02738**

LOCUS MAP



ELECTRIC BOAT WEST QUONSET CHANNEL

**QUONSET BUSINESS PARK
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852
NARRAGANSETT BAY, WASHINGTON COUNTY
BY: QUONSET DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION
DATE: 08/31/2020**



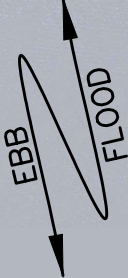
GENERAL DYNAMICS ELECTRIC BOAT

WEST QUONSET CHANNEL

EB QUONSET CHANNEL
DREDGE TO -16' MLW
+ 1' OD

PROPOSED BLASTING AREA
TO -16' MLW + 2' OD

NARRAGANSETT BAY

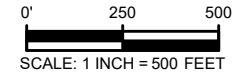


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SITE PLAN

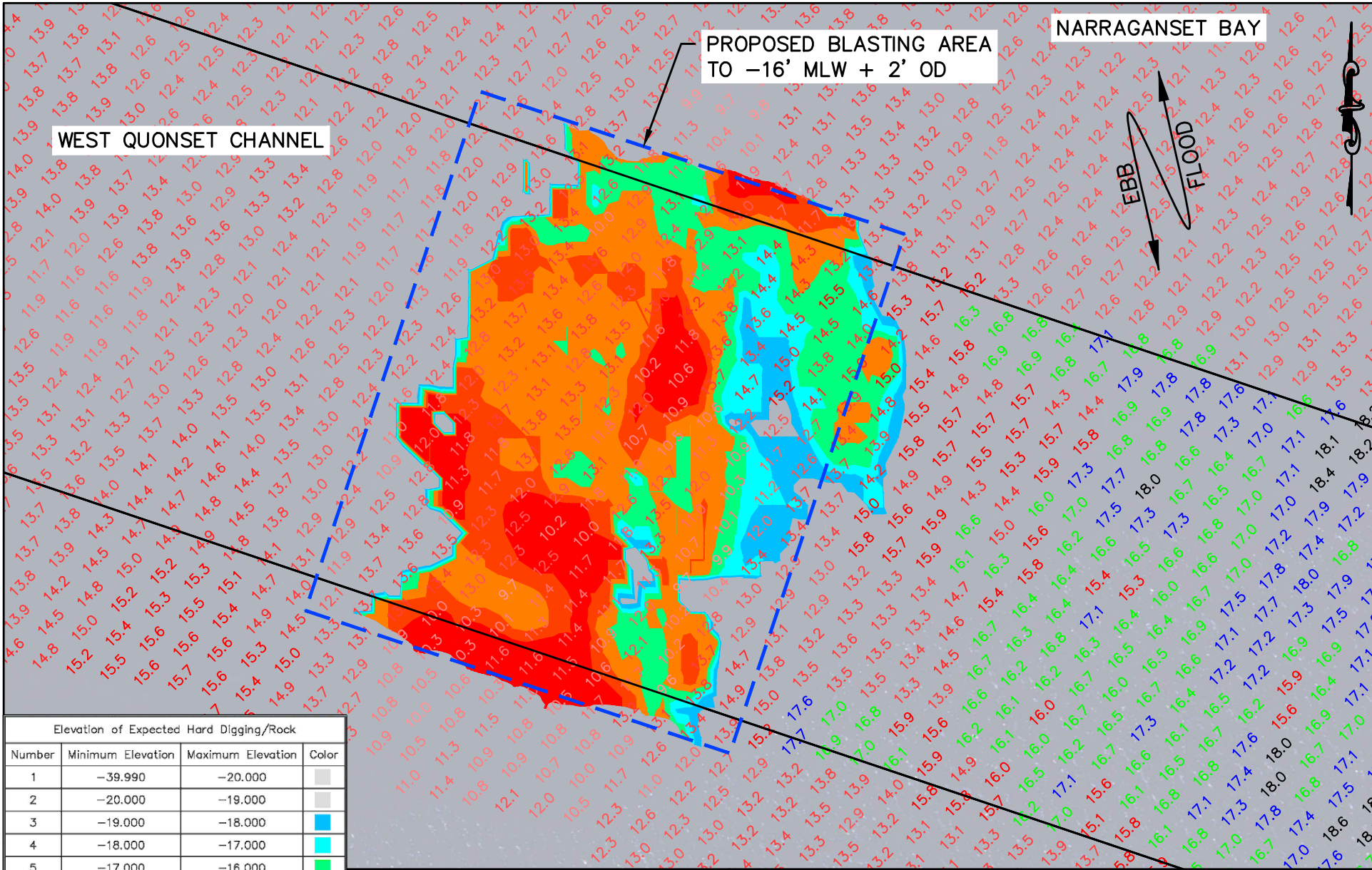


ELECTRIC BOAT WEST QUONSET CHANNEL

QUONSET BUSINESS PARK
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852
NARRAGANSETT BAY, WASHINGTON COUNTY
BY: QUONSET DEVELOPMENT
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SHEET 2 OF 3



WEST QUONSET CHANNEL

PROPOSED BLASTING AREA
TO -16' MLW + 2' OD

NARRAGANSETT BAY



Elevation of Expected Hard Digging/Rock			
Number	Minimum Elevation	Maximum Elevation	Color
1	-39.990	-20.000	Grey
2	-20.000	-19.000	Light Grey
3	-19.000	-18.000	Blue
4	-18.000	-17.000	Cyan
5	-17.000	-16.000	Green
6	-16.000	-15.000	Orange
7	-15.000	-14.000	Red-Orange
8	-14.000	-11.520	Red

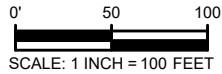
*ELEVATIONS TO HARD DIGGING/ROCK DERIVED FROM ARC RESISTIVITY DATA, ELEVATIONS BELOW -18' NOT ANALYZED, BELOW DREDGE DEPTH

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BLASTING AREA



ELECTRIC BOAT WEST QUONSET CHANNEL

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SHEET 3 OF 3