



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: June 26, 2012
Comment Period Ends: July 26, 2012
File Number: 2009-585
In Reply Refer To: Ted Lento
Phone: (978) 318-8863
E-mail: ted.lento@us.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below.

APPLICANT

New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, MA 02451

ACTIVITY

The work includes the discharge of fill material below the ordinary high water line of waters of the United States, including wetlands, for the installation of seven (7) utility structures in conjunction with the construction of a new 115 kV transmission line in Millbury and Auburn, Massachusetts. The Z-126 Transmission Line Project will be installed on an existing 250' wide Right-of-Way (ROW) adjacent to the existing A-127/B-128 115 kV transmission lines resulting in permanent wetland impacts of approximately 140 square feet from the direct placement of the seven electric structures.

To facilitate temporary access within wetlands during construction, swamp mats will be placed within wetlands and across an unnamed intermittent stream for access to new structure locations, equipment staging, and conductor stringing areas. Swamp mats consist of heavy timbers or planking joined to form stable platforms that are placed over the surface of wetlands. Wetland areas covered by swamp mats will be restored in placed at the end of construction. Temporary wetland impacts from the placement of swamp mats will be approximately 2.44 acres.

In order to build the new transmission line and to provide adequate safety clearance for new electrical conductors, it will be necessary to clear trees along a 40 foot width between mile 1.10 to mile 6.88 of the existing ROW. In wetland areas where this is necessary, there will be a permanent conversion of forested wetlands to scrub-shrub and emergent vegetation wetlands. Secondary wetland impacts from wetland conversion due to tree clearing will be approximately 3.53 acres of forested wetland that will be converted to either scrub/shrub or emergent wetlands. Total wetland impacts from permanent, temporary, and secondary impacts will be approximately 5.97 acres.

The purpose of the proposed 115kV Z-126 line is to improve the reliability of the electric transmission system in the region.

The work is described on the enclosed plans entitled "Z-126 Transmission Line Project" on thirteen sheets, and dated May 2012.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

The new transmission line will extend approximately 6.9 miles between the existing Millbury No. 2 substation located on Grafton Street in Millbury and an existing switch tower near Elmwood Street in Auburn near the Leicester town line. The Project Site ROW originates at the NEPCO Millbury No. 2 substation and runs northwesterly towards the town border with Auburn and follows an east-west direction through the north-central section of Auburn. Of the Project's total length, approximately 3.37 miles is located in Millbury and approximately 3.52 miles is located in Auburn. The site coordinates are: Latitude: Begin N42° 11' 30.3" End N42° 13' 29.9"
Longitude: Begin W71° 44' 34.3" End W 71° 51' 43.3"

MITIGATION

Avoidance of wetland resource areas will be achieved as much as possible by careful placement of utility structures and consideration of access to those structures. Factors that dictate the placement of structures on the utility corridor include the location and configuration of wetlands, required conductor span lengths between utility structures, and appropriate locations for swamp mats to minimize temporary construction impacts to wetland resources.

In situations where avoidance is not possible, structures will be located as close to the wetland boundary as possible to minimize impacts associated with access through wetland areas to structure locations. However, options to minimize access-related impacts are limited as access is required along the entire length of the project to remove trees for the lateral expansion of the utility corridor. Wetland impacts will be mitigated off site by means of preservation of 29 acres of land adjacent to the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary located in Worcester, Massachusetts approximately 1.5 miles north of the Project. The Corps of Engineers is reviewing the proposed Mitigation Plan and will make the final plan a condition of our permit decision.

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 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.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

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 project site. 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 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 determination.

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 Ted Lento at (978) 318-8863 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

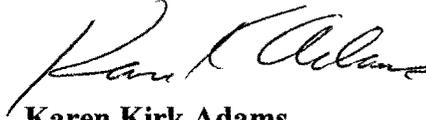
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining 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

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the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

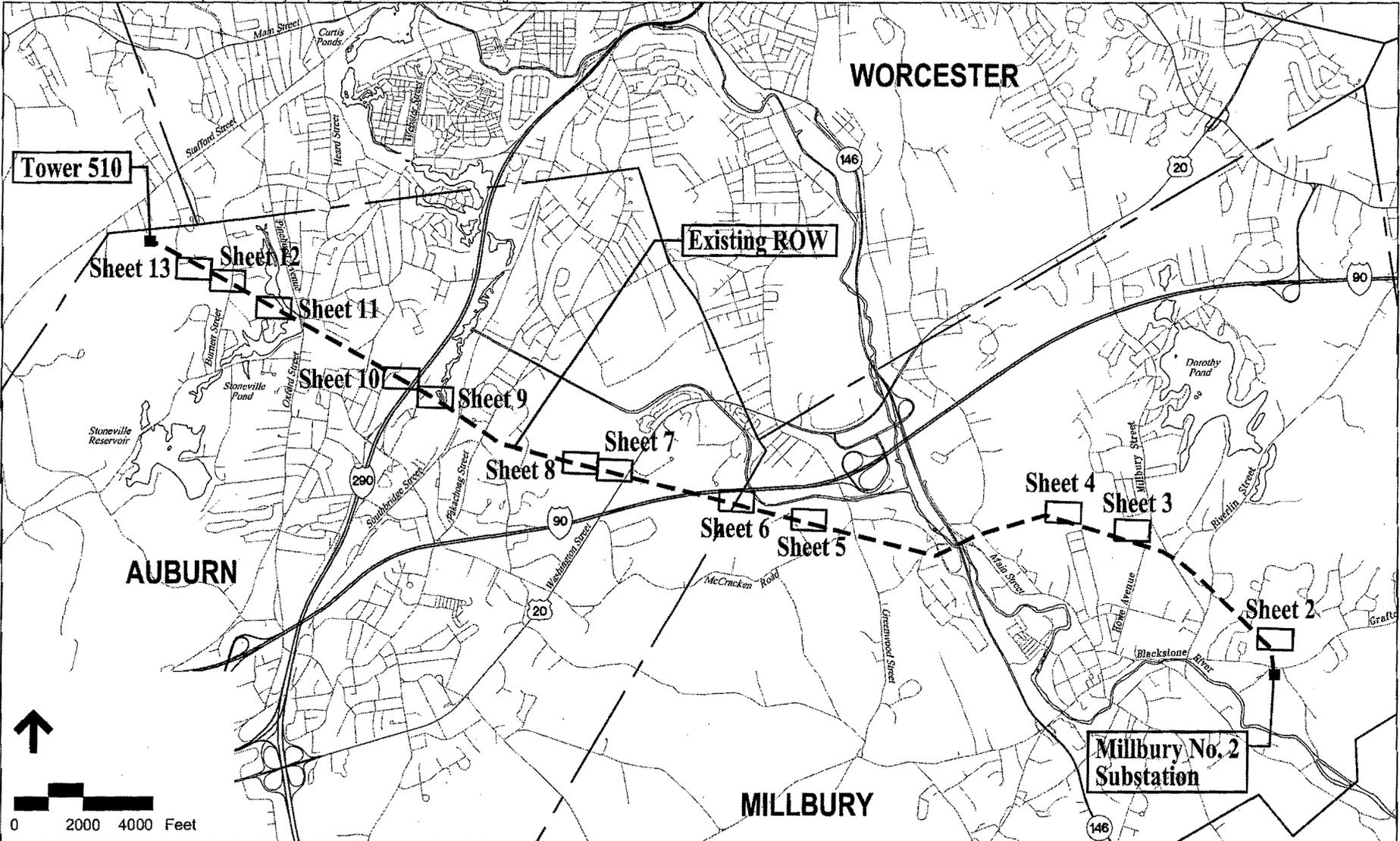
THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.



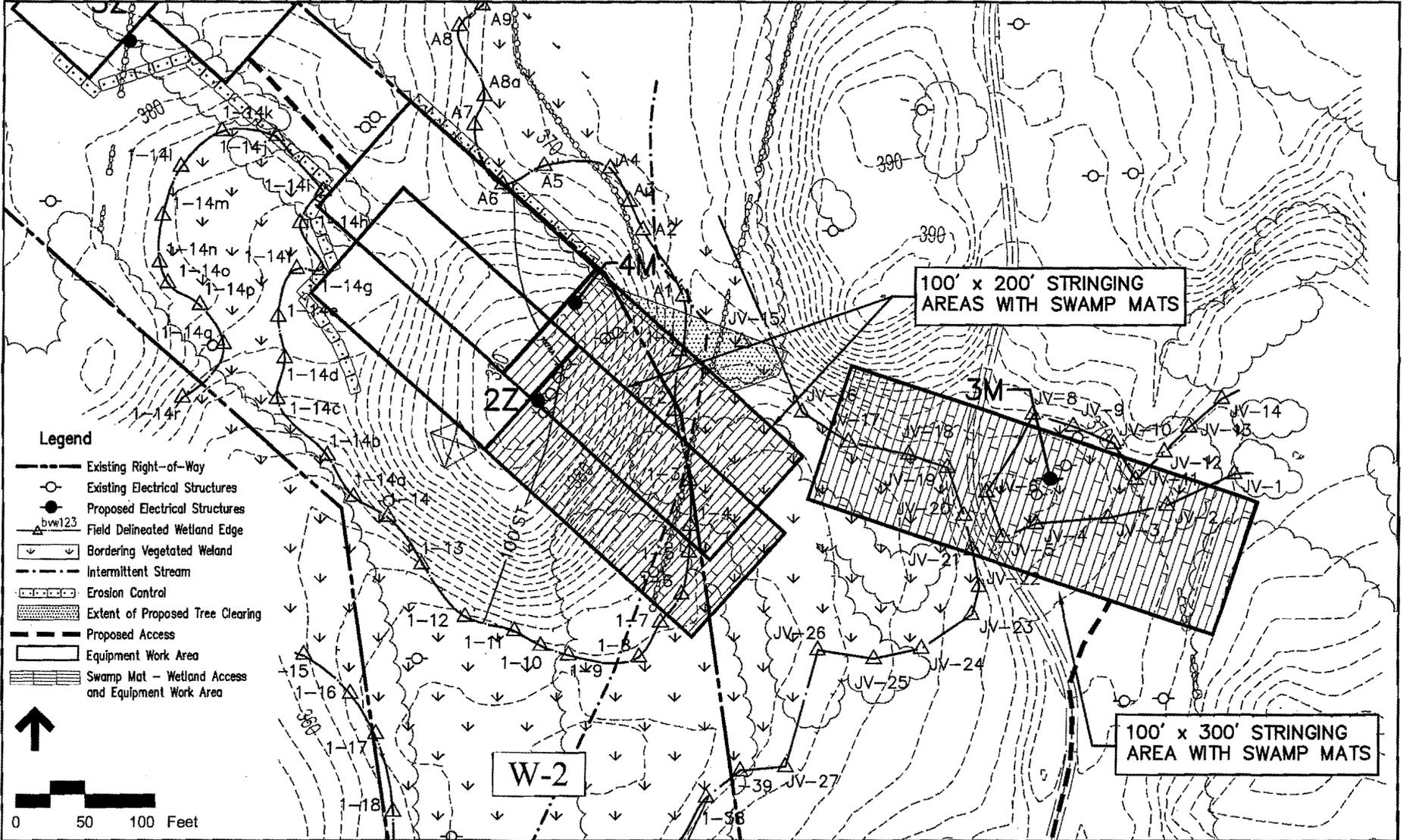
Karen Kirk Adams
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at 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.

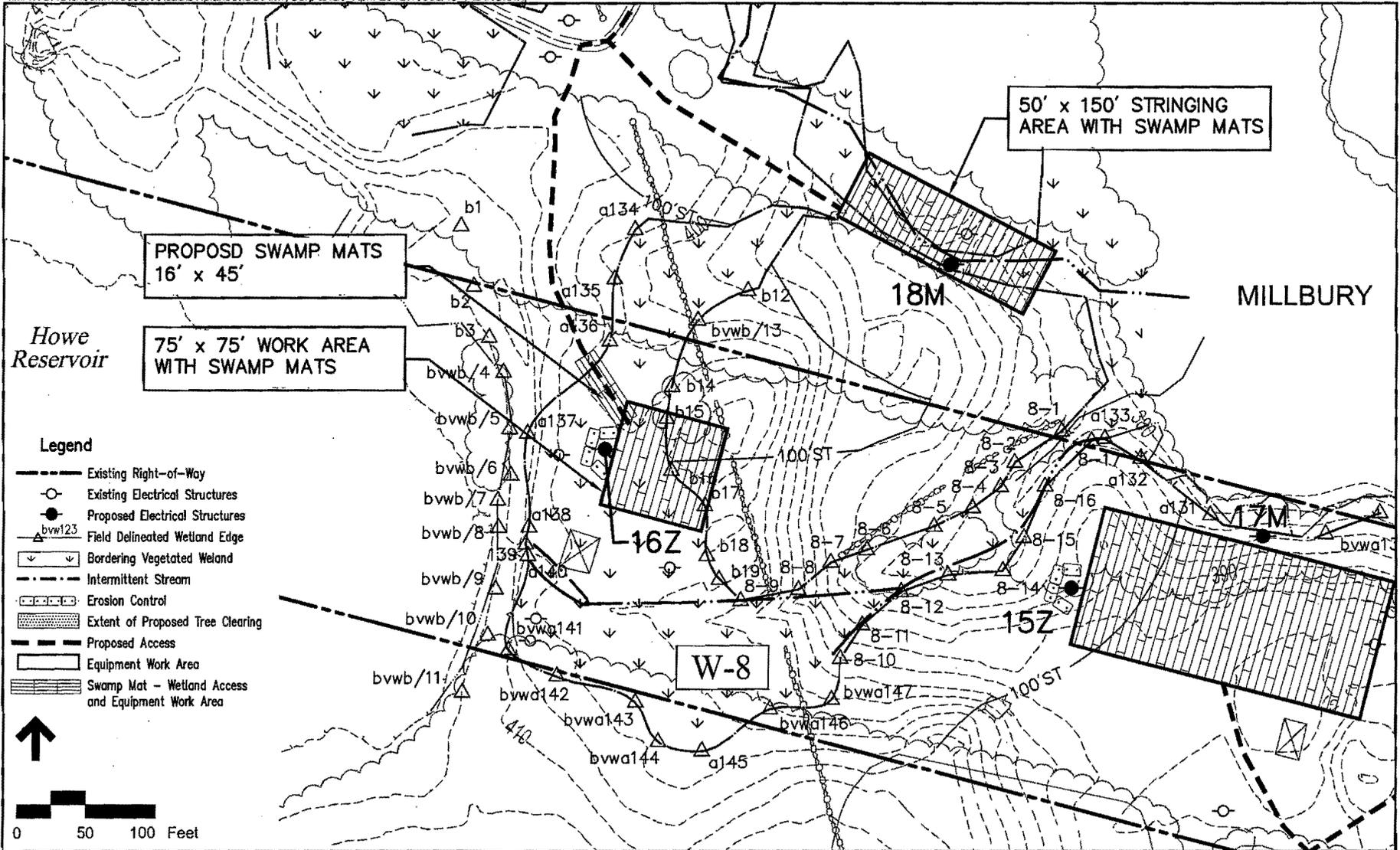
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ADDRESS: _____



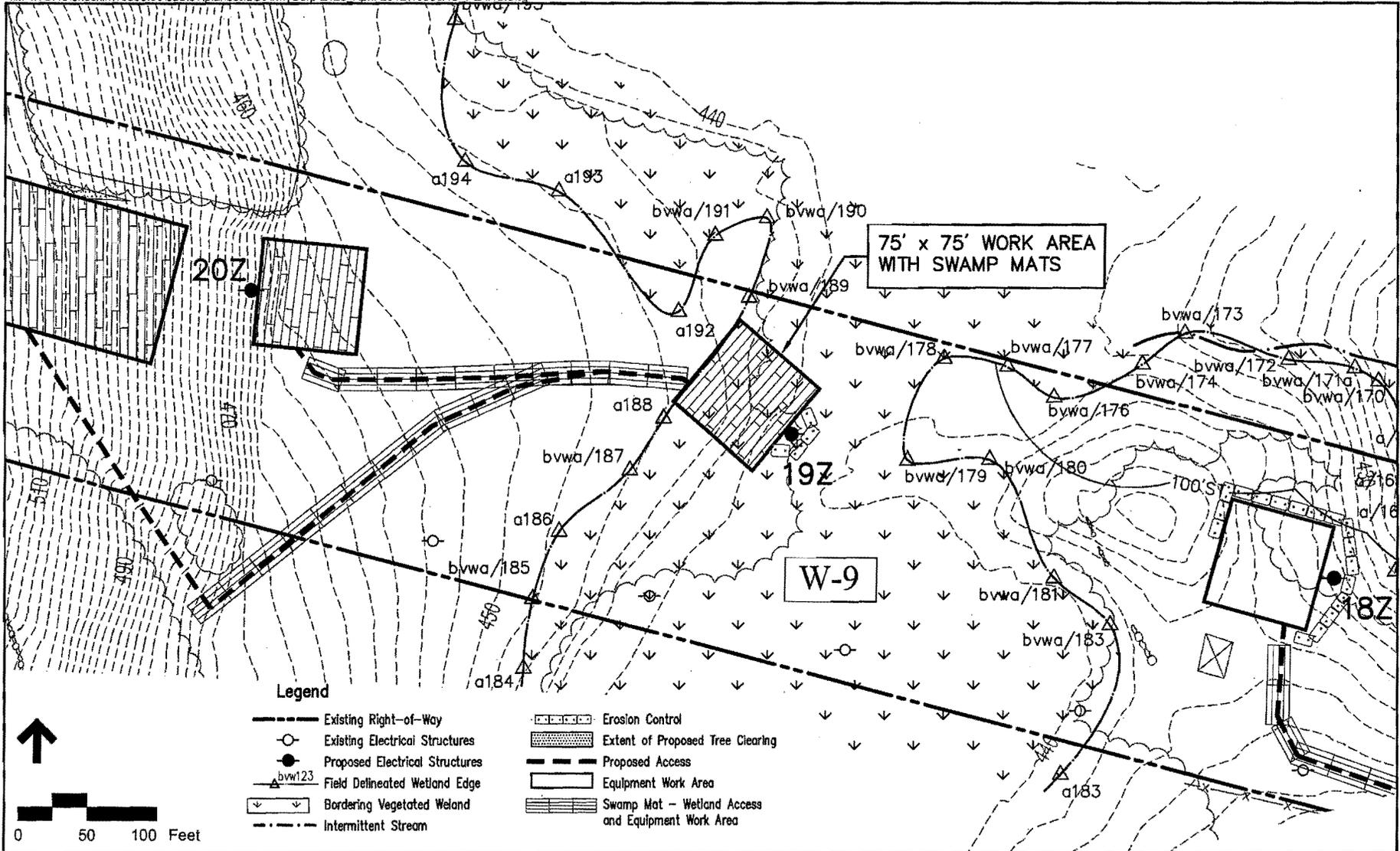
 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Key Plan		DATE May, 2012
	AT: Towns of Auburn and Millbury IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET 1 OF 13	



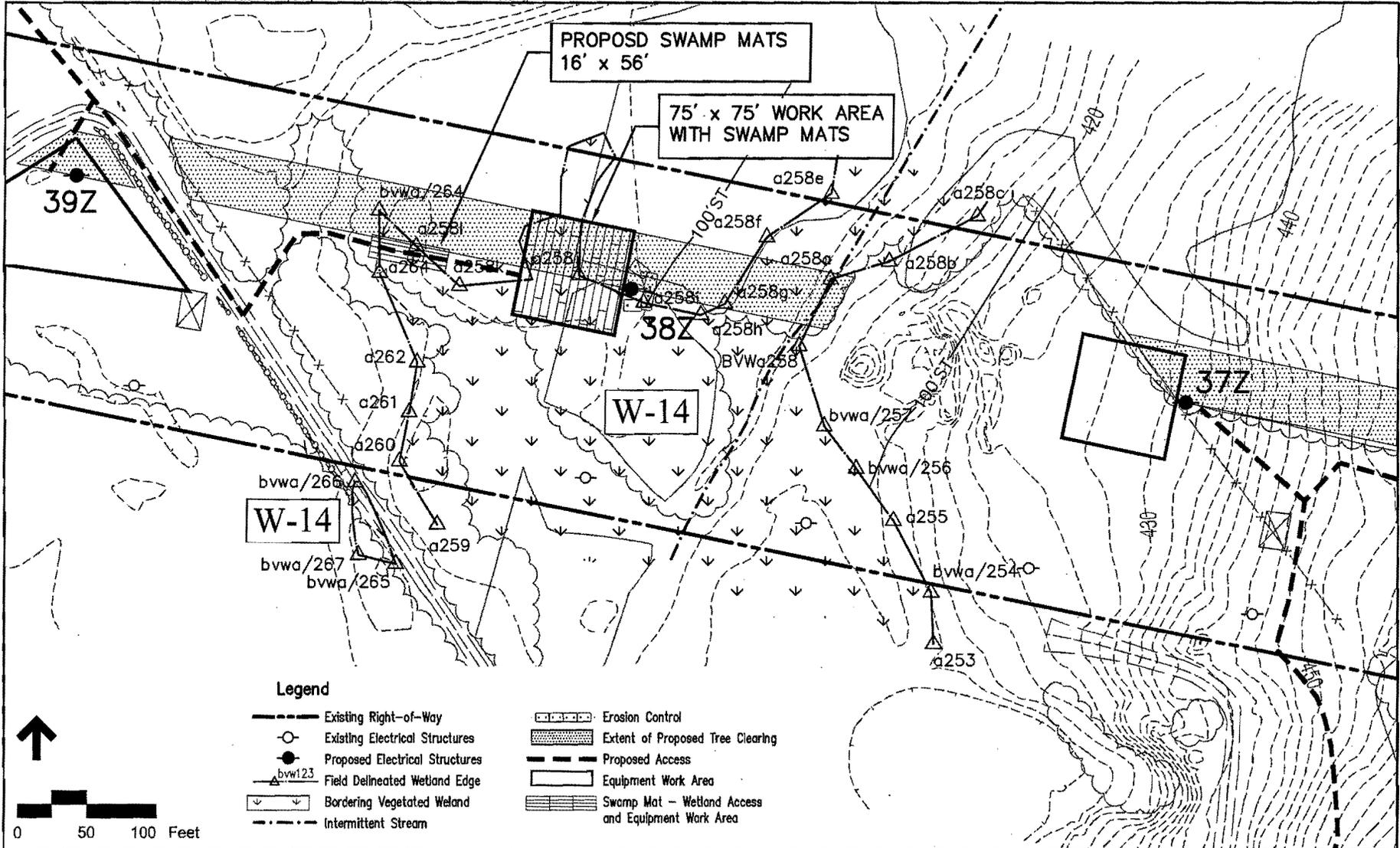
 <p>Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.</p>	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland W-2		DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Millbury IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET OF 2 13	



 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland W-8		DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Millbury IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET OF 3 13	

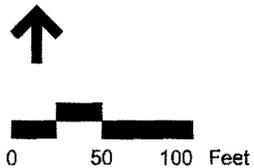


 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland W-9		DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Millbury IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET OF 4 13	

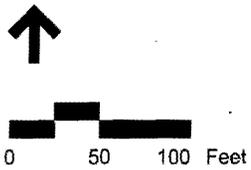
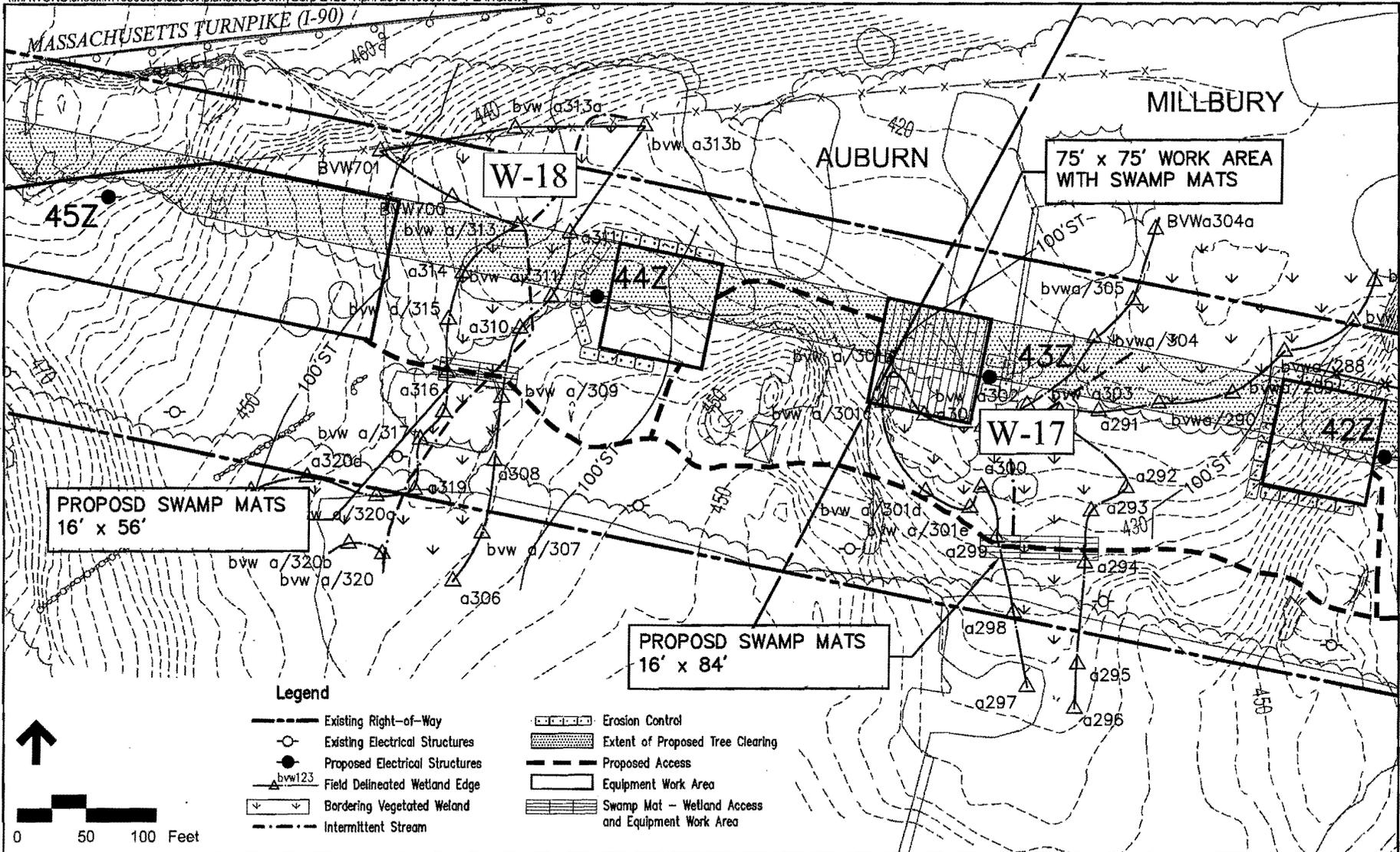


Legend

- Existing Right-of-Way
- Existing Electrical Structures
- Proposed Electrical Structures
- Field Delineated Wetland Edge
- Bordering Vegetated Wetland
- Intermittent Stream
- Erosion Control
- Extent of Proposed Tree Clearing
- Proposed Access
- Equipment Work Area
- Swamp Mat - Wetland Access and Equipment Work Area



 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	<h3>Z-126 Transmission Line Project</h3> <h4>Wetland W-14</h4>	DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Millbury IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET OF 5 13



Legend

- Existing Right-of-Way
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- Proposed Electrical Structures
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- Bordering Vegetated Wetland
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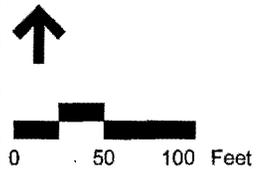
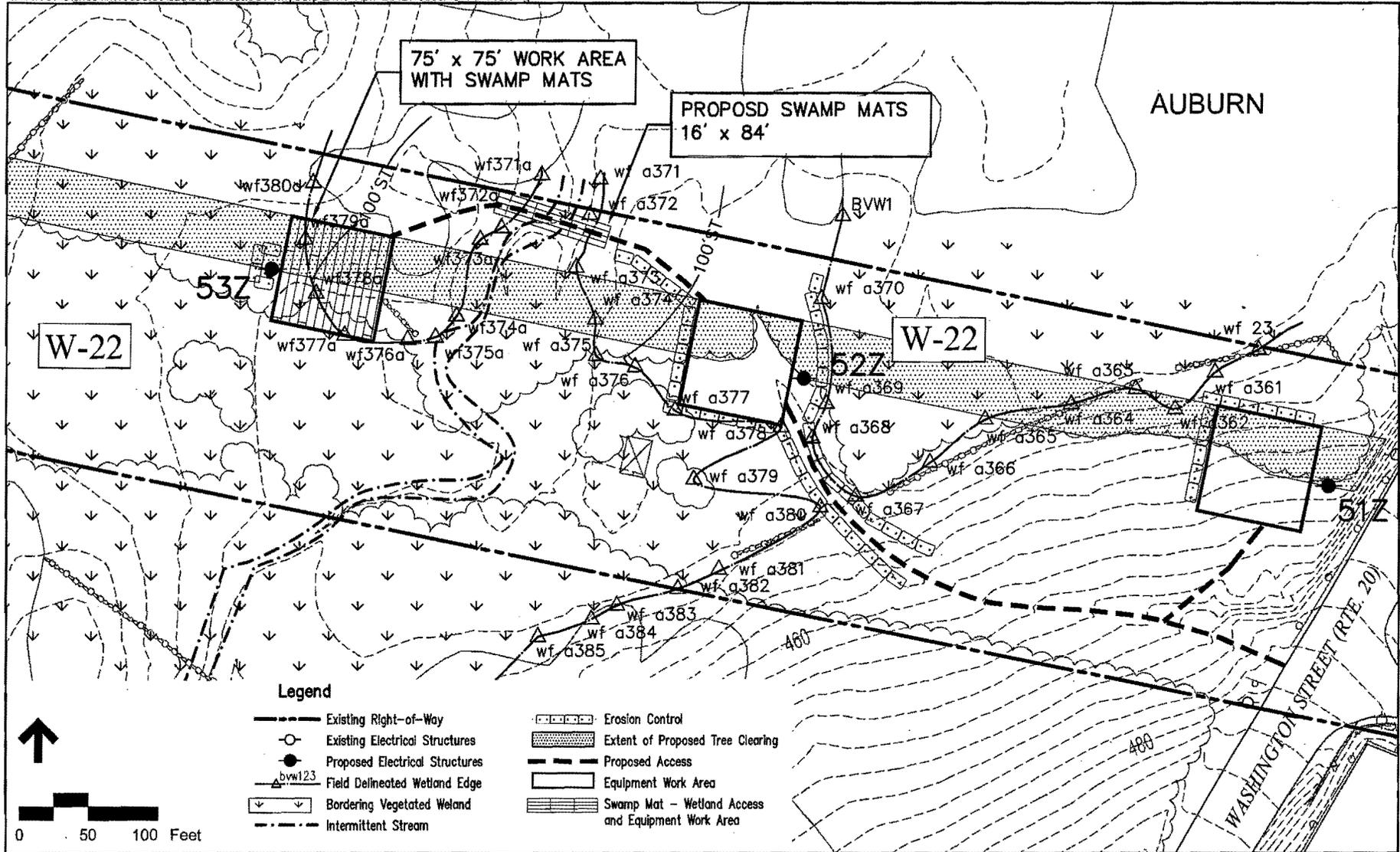
Transportation
Land Development
Environmental Services
Union Station, Suite 219
2 Washington Square
Worcester, Massachusetts 01604
508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276

**Z-126 Transmission Line Project
Wetlands W-17 & W-18**

AT: Towns of Auburn and Millbury
IN: Worcester County
State of Massachusetts

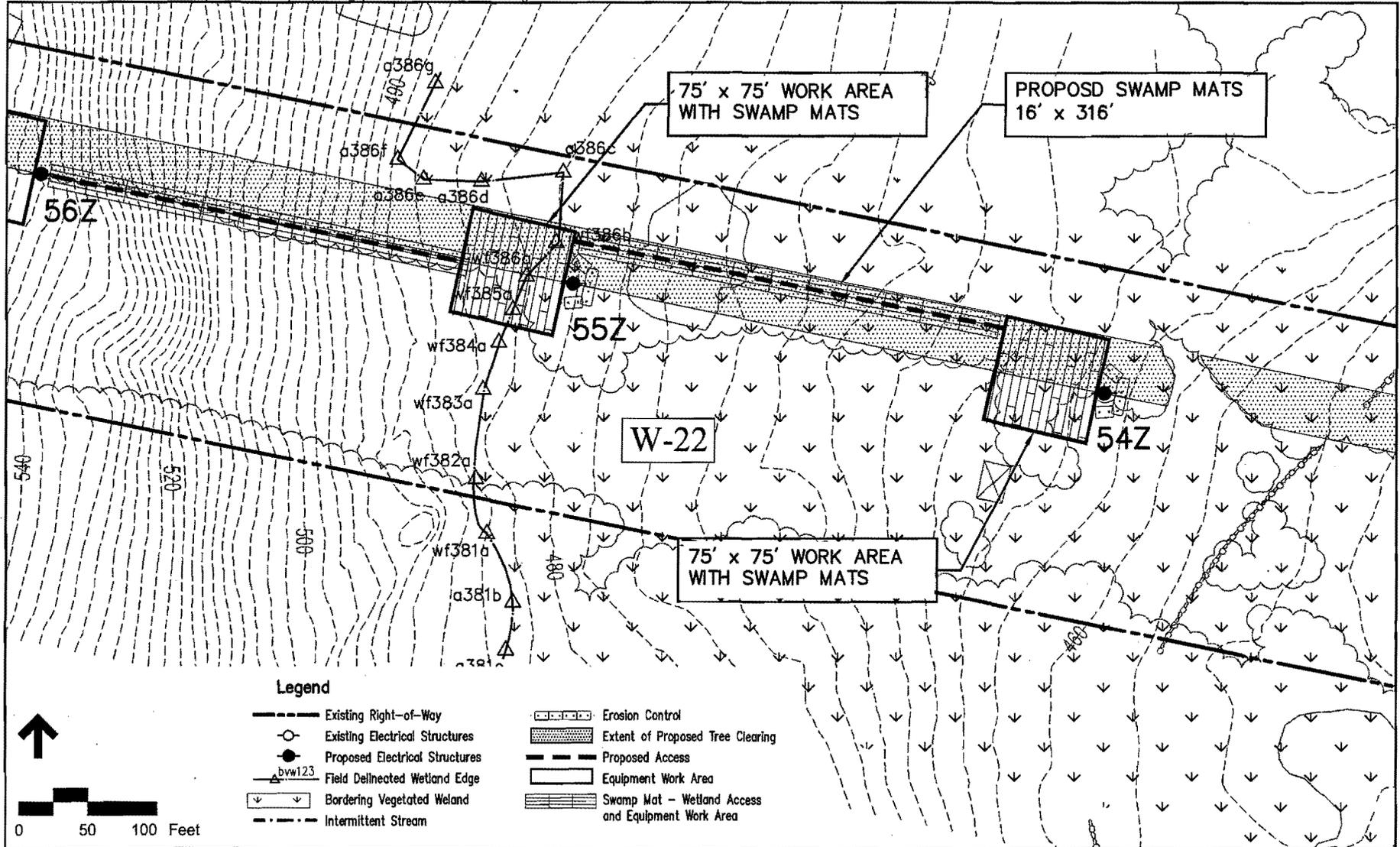
APPLICATION BY:
New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid
40 Sylvan Drive
Waltham, MA 02451

DATE	May, 2012
SHEET	OF
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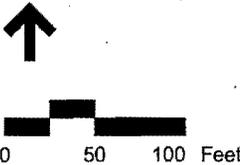
- Legend**
- Existing Right-of-Way
 - Existing Electrical Structures
 - Proposed Electrical Structures
 - △ bw123 Field Delineated Wetland Edge
 - ▽ Bordering Vegetated Wetland
 - - - Intermittent Stream
 - Erosion Control
 - ▨ Extent of Proposed Tree Clearing
 - Proposed Access
 - Equipment Work Area
 - ▨ Swamp Mat - Wetland Access and Equipment Work Area

 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland W-22	DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Auburn IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET OF 7 13

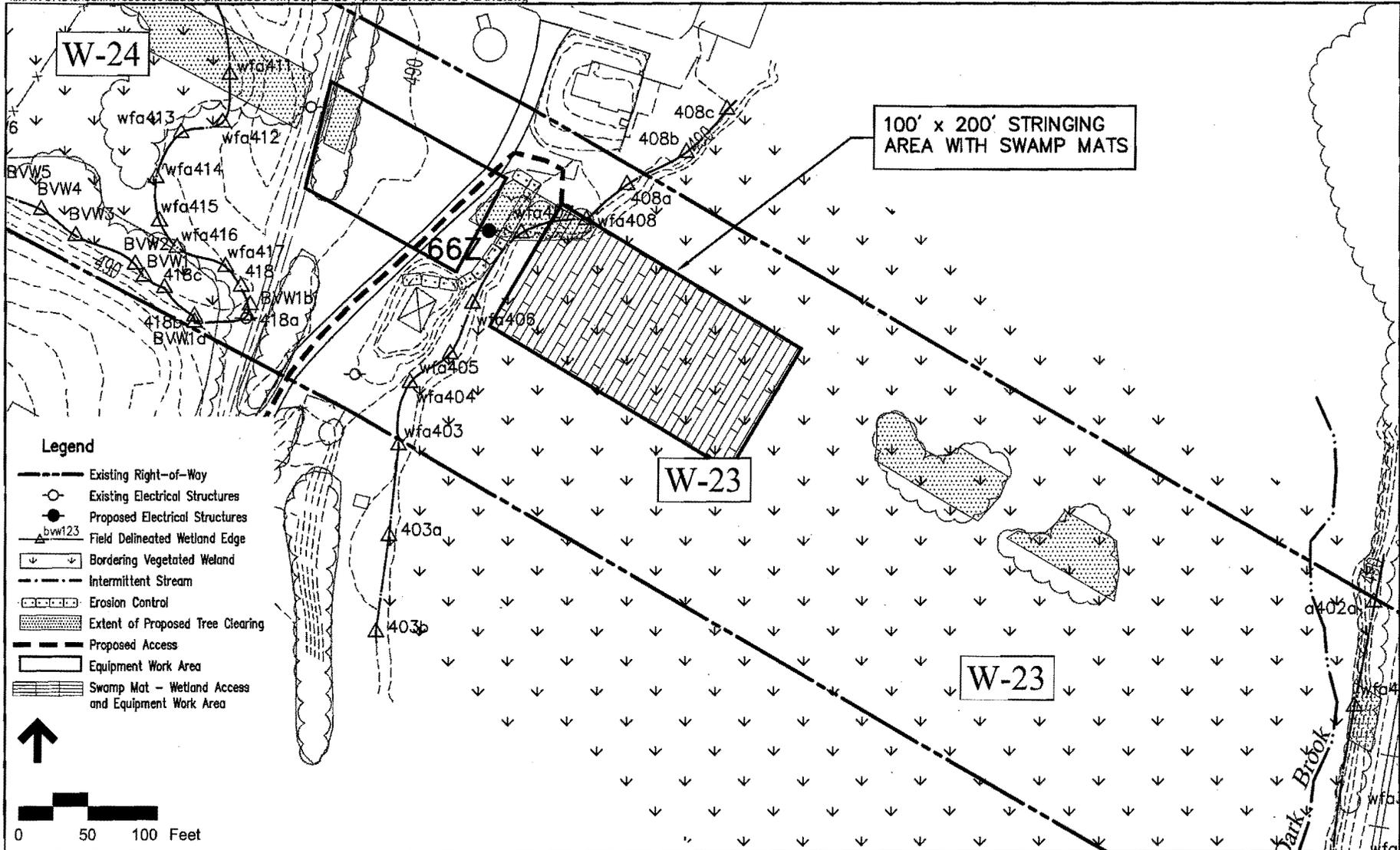


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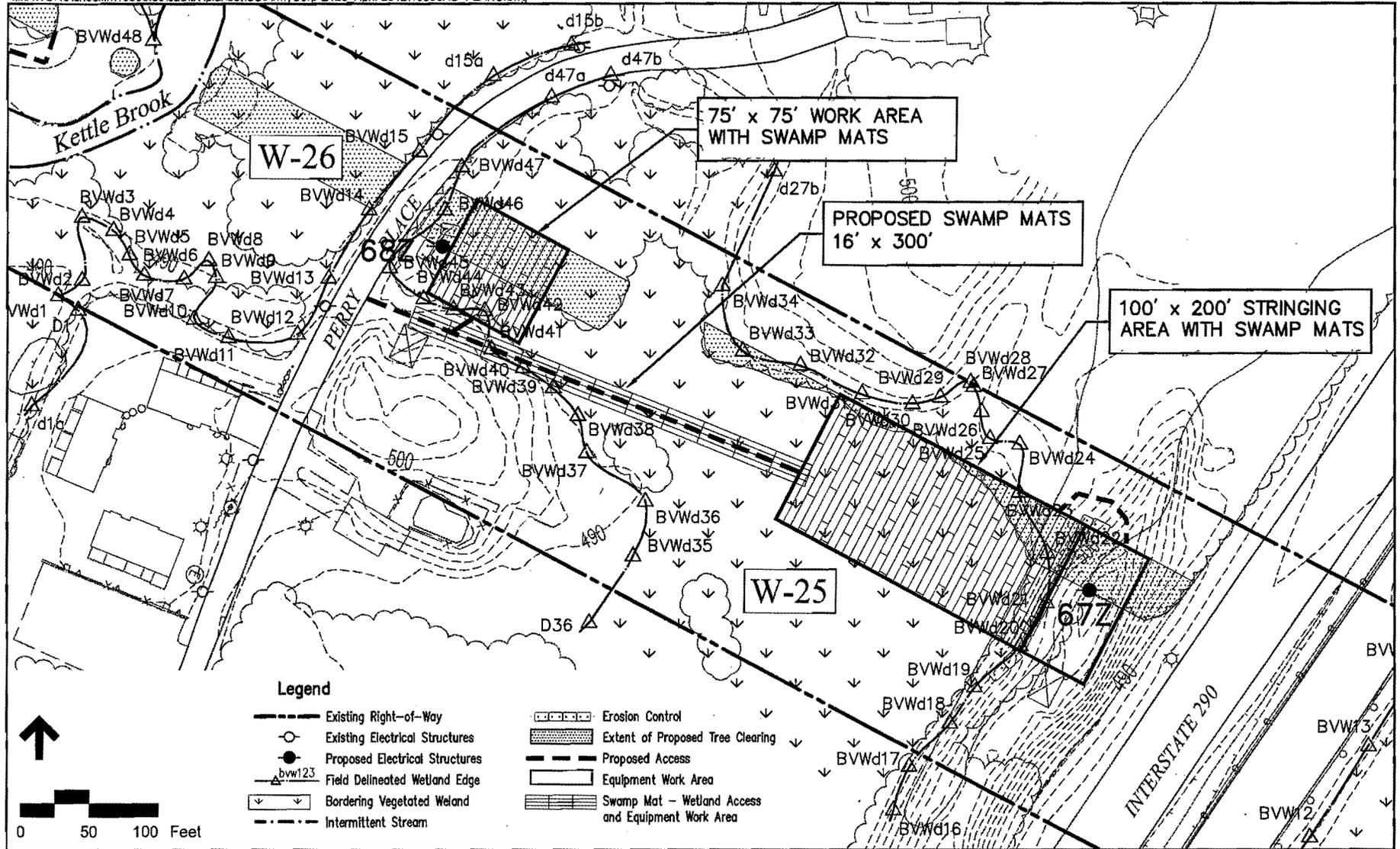
- Existing Right-of-Way
- Existing Electrical Structures
- Proposed Electrical Structures
- ▲_{bw123} Field Delineated Wetland Edge
- ▽ Bordering Vegetated Wetland
- · - · - Intermittent Stream
- ▨ Erosion Control
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- Proposed Access
- Equipment Work Area
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 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland 22 (Borings 54Z & 55Z)	DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Auburn IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET 8 OF 13

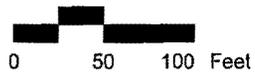


 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland W-23		DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Auburn IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET OF 9 13	



Legend

- Existing Right-of-Way
- Existing Electrical Structures
- Proposed Electrical Structures
- Field Delineated Wetland Edge
- Bordering Vegetated Wetland
- Intermittent Stream
- Erosion Control
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- Proposed Access
- Equipment Work Area
- Swamp Mat - Wetland Access and Equipment Work Area



Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

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Worcester, Massachusetts 01604
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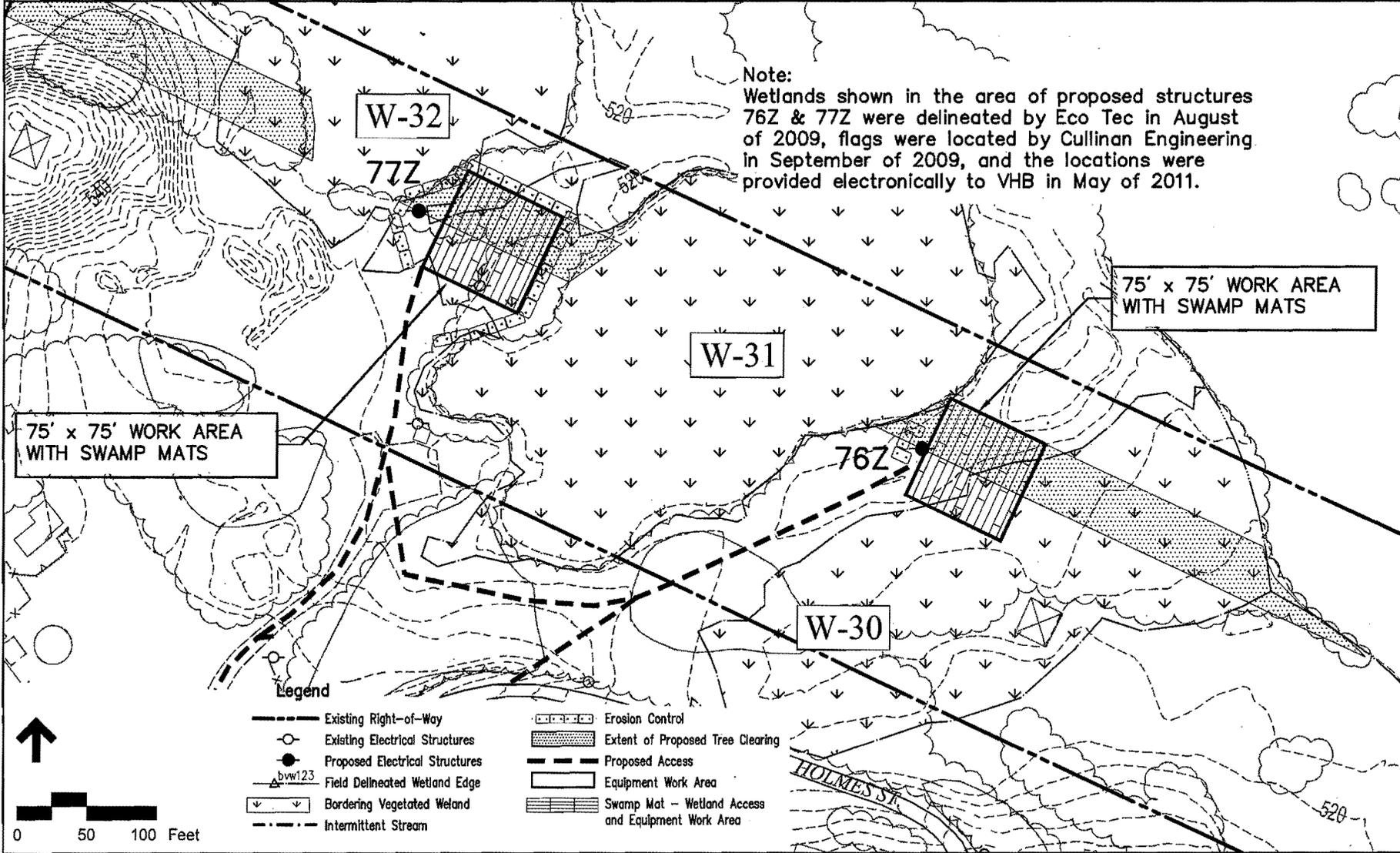
Z-126 Transmission Line Project
Wetland W-25

AT: Town of Auburn
IN: Worcester County
State of Massachusetts

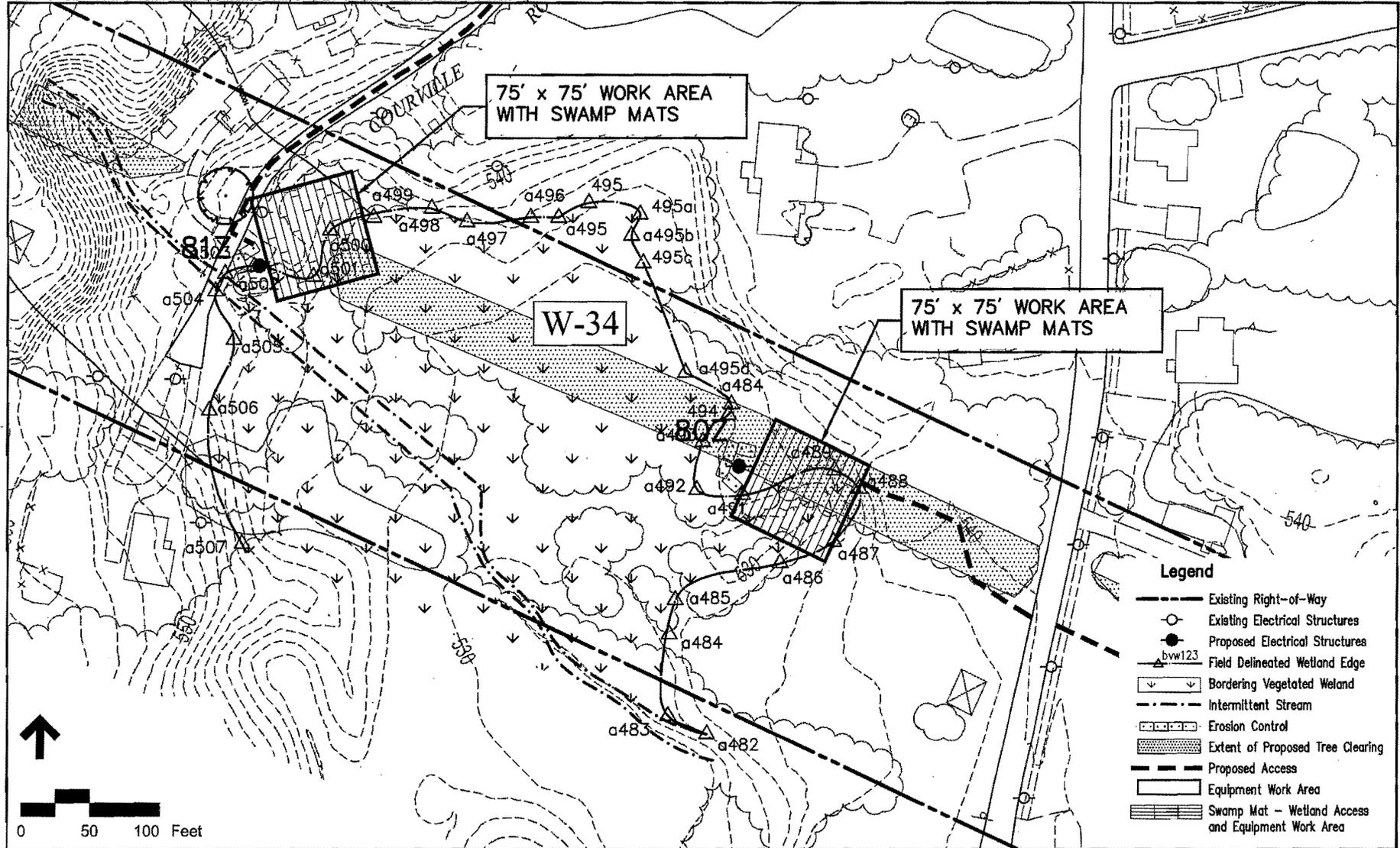
APPLICATION BY:
New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid
40 Sylvan Drive
Waltham, MA 02451

DATE
May, 2012

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 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. Transportation Land Development Environmental Services Union Station, Suite 219 2 Washington Square Worcester, Massachusetts 01604 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276	Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland W-30, W-31 & W-32		DATE May, 2012
	AT: Town of Auburn IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451	SHEET 11



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Worcester, Massachusetts 01604
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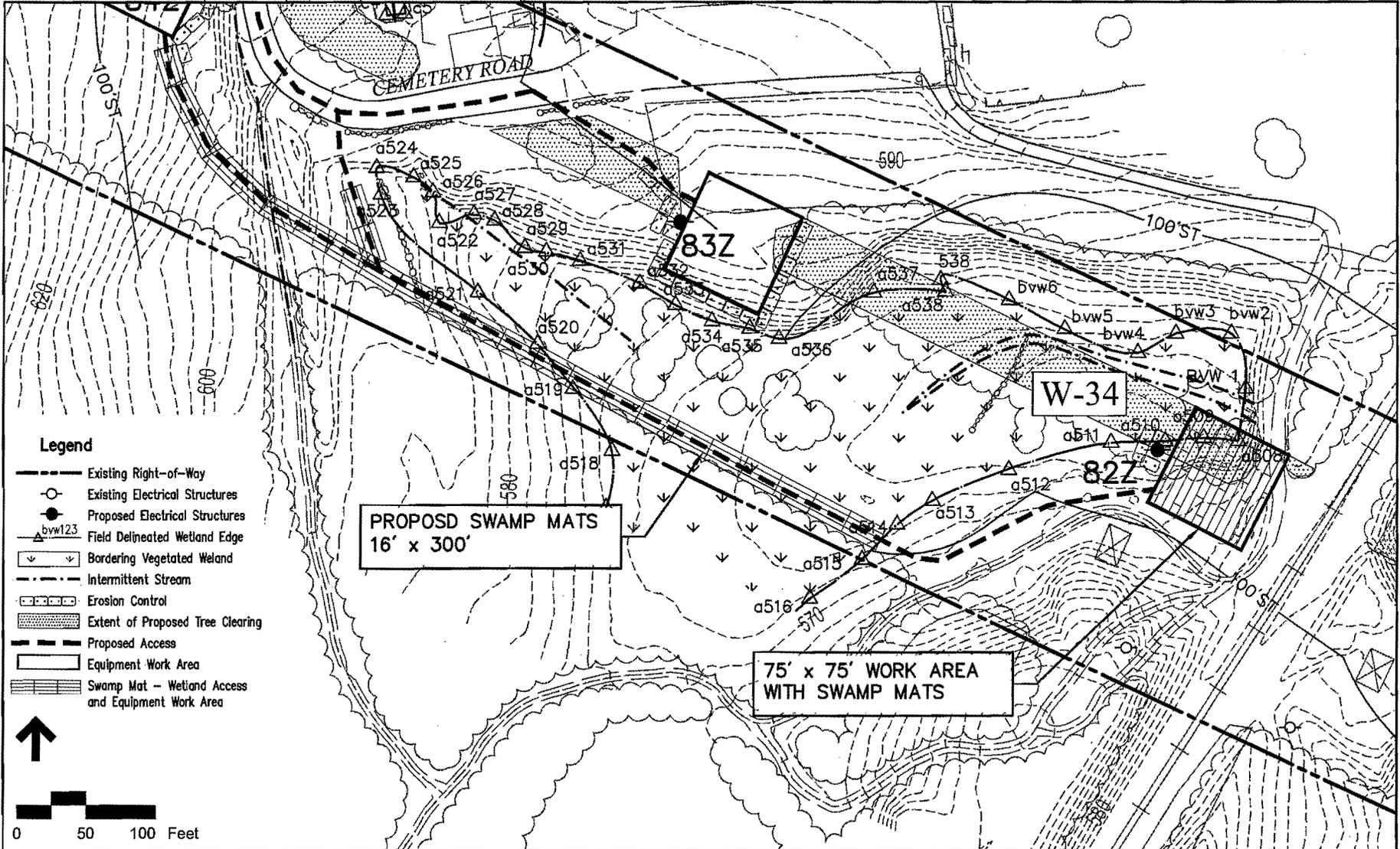
Z-126 Transmission Line Project Wetland W-34

AT: Town of Auburn
IN: Worcester County
State of Massachusetts

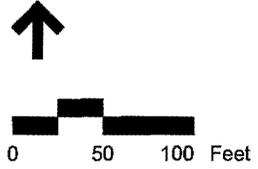
APPLICATION BY:
New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid
40 Sylvan Drive
Waltham, MA 02451

DATE
May, 2012

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- Legend**
- Existing Right-of-Way
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 - ▲ bvw123 Field Delineated Wetland Edge
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 508.752.1001 - FAX 508.752.1276

Z-126 Transmission Line Project
 Wetland W-34

AT: Town of Auburn	APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid
IN: Worcester County State of Massachusetts	40 Sylvan Drive Waltham, MA 02451

DATE	May, 2012
SHEET	OF
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