



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

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Comment Period Begins: May 22, 2012**  
**Comment Period Ends: June 22, 2012**  
**File Number: NAE-2011-297**  
**In Reply Refer To: Kevin R. Kotelly, P.E.**  
**Phone: (978) 318-8703**  
**E-mail: kevin.r.kotelly@usace.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

## **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 construction of four (4) utility structures in order to expand an existing electric substation and construct a new electric transmission line on East Main Street (Route 30) in Westborough, Massachusetts. A proposed 115kV electric transmission supply line will be constructed 50 feet northeast and parallel to an existing supply line. The new transmission line will require four (4) new structures within wetlands, one of which will replace an existing structure. Structures will be of varying type and will range in height from 65 to 80 feet above grade. Permanent wetland impacts from the direct placement of the four electric structures will be approximately 0.01 acres.

To facilitate temporary access within wetlands during construction, swamp mats will be placed within wetlands and across an 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 0.43 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 50 foot width northeast of the centerline of the proposed transmission line structures along the entire length of the project. 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 0.94 acres.

Total wetland impacts from permanent, temporary, and secondary impacts will be approximately 1.38 acres. The project purpose is to address electricity reliability issues in the Westborough/Southborough, Massachusetts, area.

The work is described on the enclosed plans entitled, "Proposed New Supply Line E-157," on four sheets, and dated, April, 2012.

**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.

Land preservation is proposed as mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts. The Mitigation Area consists of 12.3 acres over four parcels of land located immediately adjacent to the existing New England Power Company transmission corridor. The four parcels will be transferred to the Westborough Community Land Trust under a memorandum of understanding that will require that the land be preserved in perpetuity for conservation purposes. The Corps of Engineers is reviewing the proposed Mitigation Plan and will make the final plan a condition of our permit decision.

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK**

This work is proposed in unnamed wetlands at 188 East Main Street (Route 30), Westborough, Massachusetts 01581. The site coordinates are: Latitude 42°17'30.1" N, Longitude -71°35'57.1" W.

**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

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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 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 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.

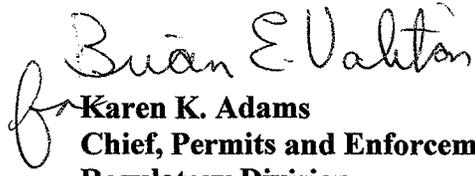
In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Kotelly at (978) 318-8703, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling 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.

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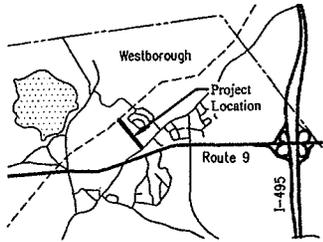
The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in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

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

  
for **Karen K. 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

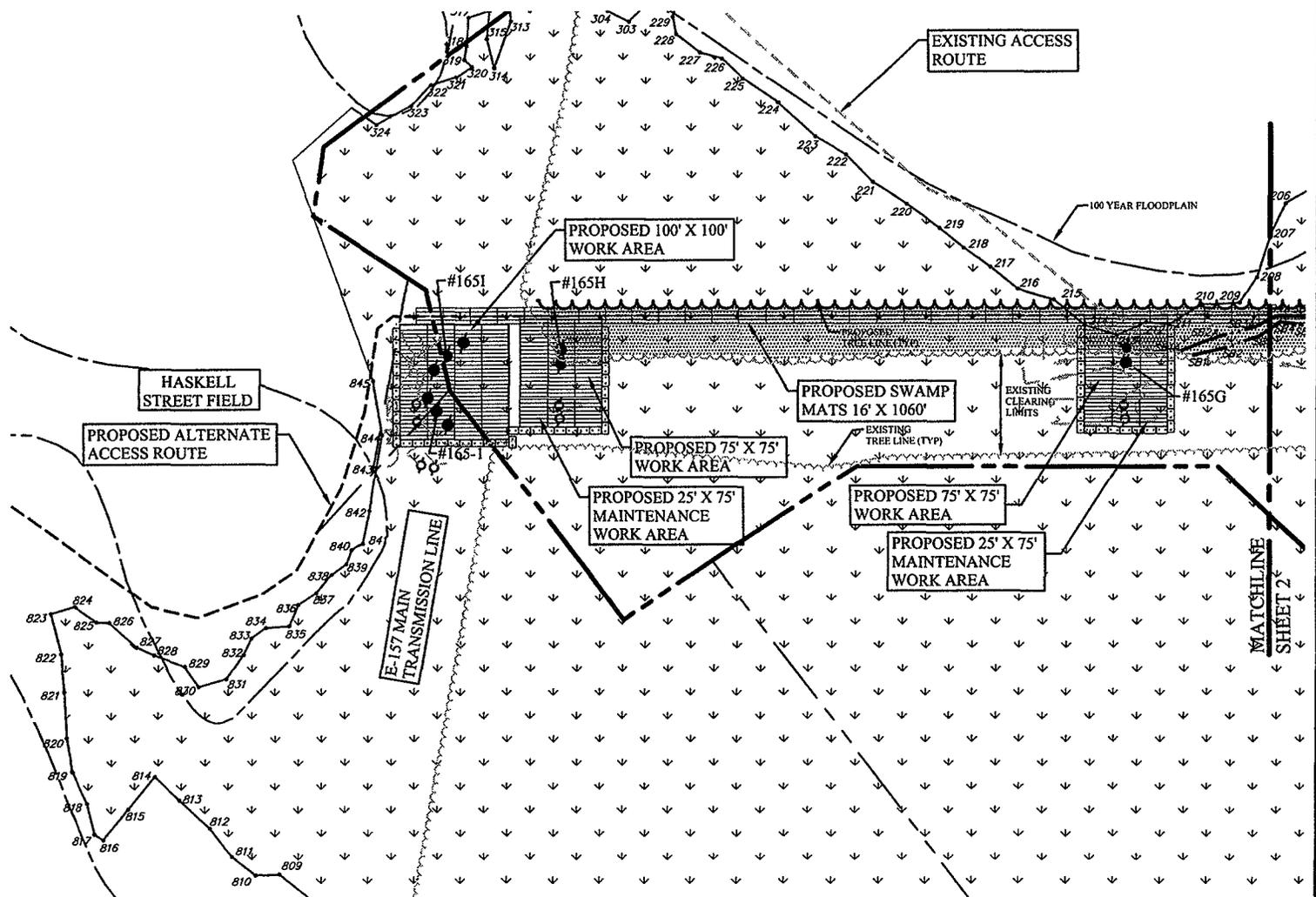


Locus  
Scale: 1"=2 Miles

- Legend**
- Edge of Right-of-Way
  - Existing Electrical Structures
  - Proposed Electrical Structure
  - - - 834 Field Delineated Wetland Edge
  - · - · - Intermittent Stream
  - · - · - Erosion Control
  - ▾ Bordering Vegetated Wetland
  - ▨ Extent of Proposed Tree Clearing
  - Proposed Access
  - ▨ Swamp Mat - Wetland Access and Equipment Work Area
  - Equipment Work Area (Upland)

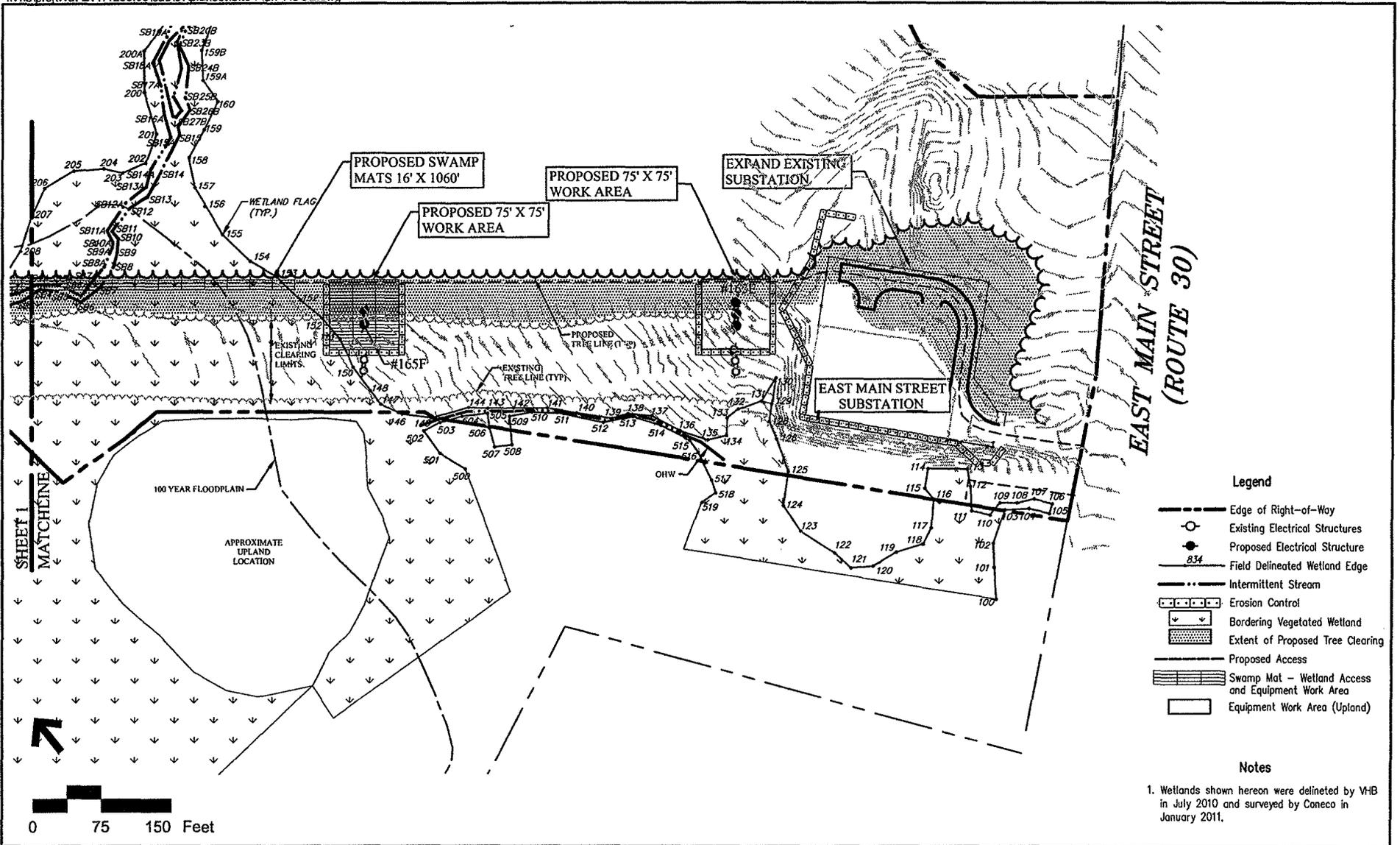
**Notes**

1. Wetlands shown hereon were delineated by VHB in July 2010 and surveyed by Coneco in January 2011.



MATCHLINE SHEET 2

 <b>VHB</b> Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Transportation Land Development Environmental Services 101 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 9151 Watertown, MA 02471 617 924-1770 - FAX 617 924-2286	<h2 style="margin: 0;">PROPOSED NEW SUPPLY LINE E-157</h2>		DATE April, 2012
	AT: East Main Street Substation & Supply Line E-157 IN: Westborough Worcester County Commonwealth of Massachusetts		APPLICATION BY: New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid	SHEET      OF 1              3

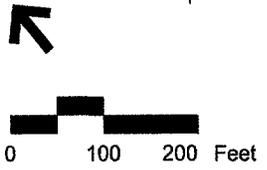
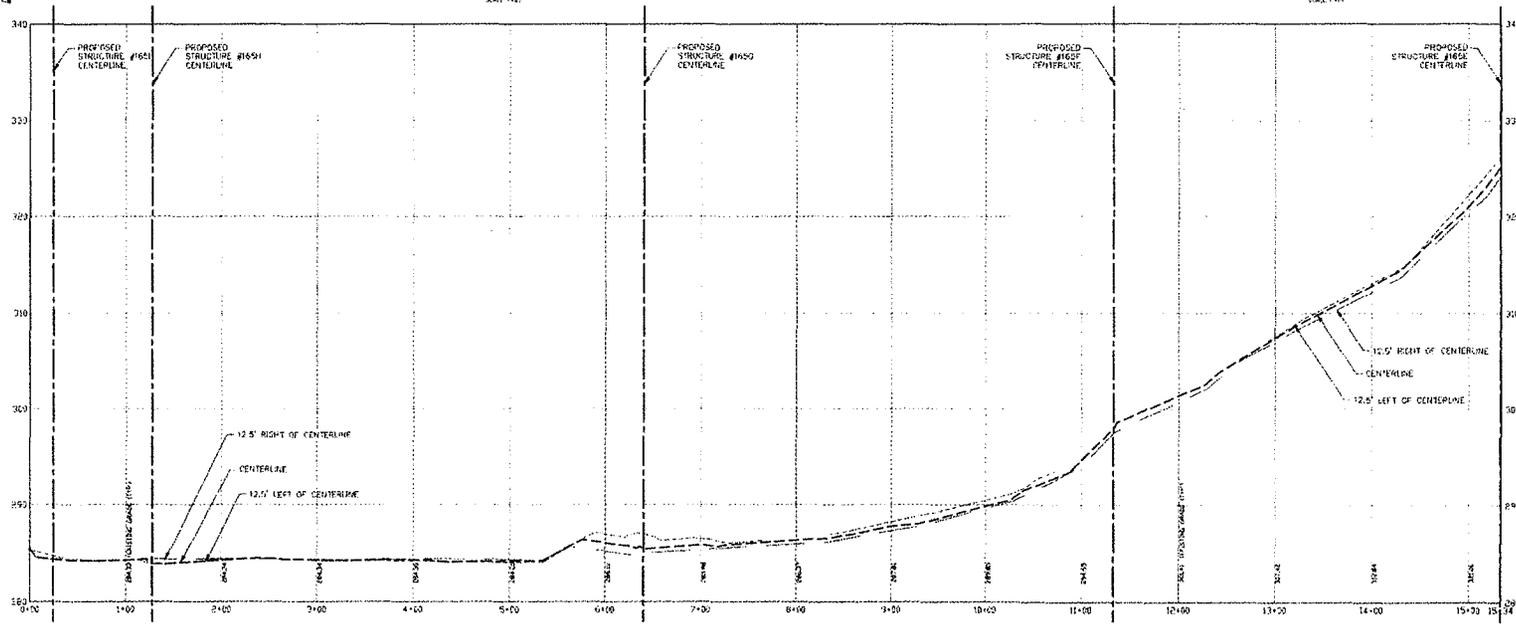
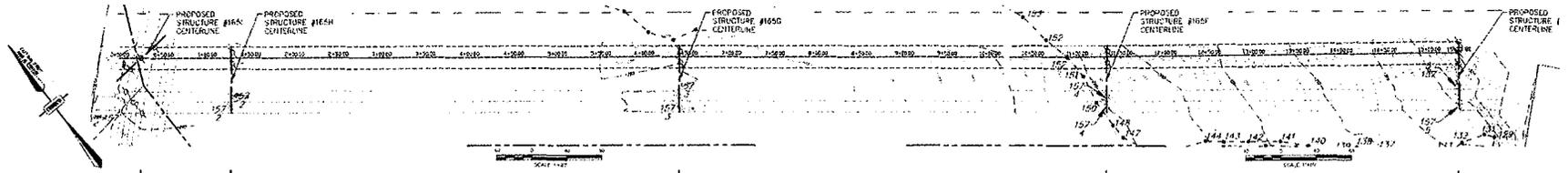


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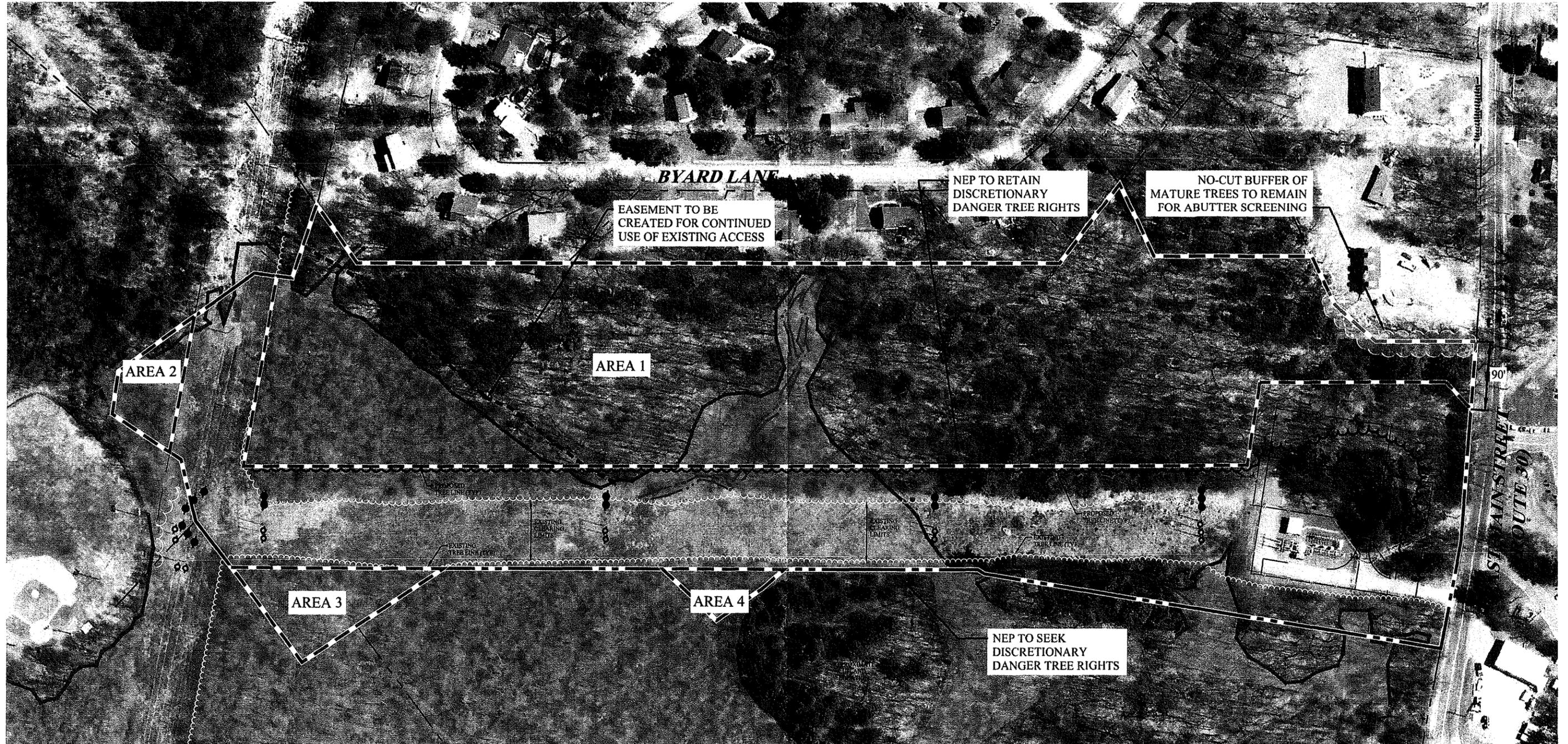
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 <p><b>Transportation Land Development Environmental Services</b></p> <p>101 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 9151 Watertown, MA 02471 617 924-1770 - FAX 617 924-2286</p> <p><i>Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.</i></p>	<p><b>PROPOSED NEW SUPPLY LINE E-157</b></p>		<p>DATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April, 2012</p>
	<p>AT: East Main Street Substation &amp; Supply Line E-157 IN: Westborough Worcester County Commonwealth of Massachusetts</p>	<p>APPLICATION BY:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New England Power Co. d/b/a National Grid</p>	<p>SHEET OF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 3</p>



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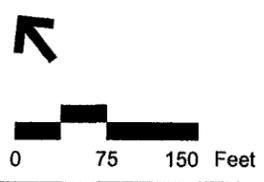
**Conservation Area Summary**

Location	Size *
AREA 1	11.34 ac
AREA 2	0.29 ac
AREA 3	0.51 ac
AREA 4	0.16 ac
TOTAL:	12.30 ac

\* Subject to compliance with local zoning requirements

**Legend**

- Edge of Right-of-Way
- Existing Electrical Structures
- Proposed Electrical Structure
- Field Delineated Wetland Edge
- Intermittent Stream
- Existing Access Route
- Bordering Vegetated Wetland
- Proposed Conservation Area



Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Figure 5.1  
Proposed Wetland Mitigation Area  
East Main Street Substation Expansion  
& Supply Line Project  
Westborough, Massachusetts