



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: January 30, 2018
Comment Period Ends: March 1, 2018
File Number: NAE-2016-1163
In Reply Refer To: Paul Sneeringer
Phone: (978) 318-8491
E-mail: paul.j.sneeringer@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from Eversource Energy, 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts. This work is proposed within Boston Harbor between the Massport - Conley Marine Terminal Facility off of Farragut Road in South Boston, Massachusetts and the MWRA – Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facility on Tafts Avenue in Winthrop, Massachusetts. The site coordinates are: Latitude 42.3393 °N, Longitude -71.0119 °W (South Boston); and Latitude 42.3510 °N, Longitude -70.9635 °W (Winthrop). The purpose for this project is to install a replacement 115kV electric Harbor Electric Energy Company (HEEC) cable between the South Boston K Street Substation and the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. The removal and/or abandonment of the existing HEEC cable will be addressed as part of a separate action.

Eversource Energy's proposed submarine cable route is approximately **2.73** mile in length. For 2.10 miles of the crossing, the applicant proposes to install the electric cable using a hydroplow. As part of the hydroplow installation the electric cable will be buried a minimum of 6 feet below the sea floor. The proposed hydroplow cable route includes direct impacts to at least **365** linear feet of eelgrass beds. Eversource Energy proposes to complete a pre-pass survey of the hydroplow cable route in 2018 to detect any sub-surface obstructions. More extensive construction methods will be used if obstructions preclude a hydroplow installation of the replacement HEEC electric cable. This alternative work may require an additional public notice.

The applicant proposes to horizontally directional drill (HDD) to install a conduit for the electric cable along the westernmost 3,000 linear feet of this crossing. Eversource Energy will be required to install this conduit below the -75 foot mean lower low water (MLLW) elevation under the Boston Harbor Main Shipping Channel Federal Navigation Project (FNP) and associated buffer areas. Eversource Energy plans to also use HDD to access onto Deer Island (approximately 500 linear feet). Divers will hand excavate small areas of seafloor at the transitions between the HDD and the hydroplow cable installation segments.

The work is shown on the attached plans entitled "EVERSOURCE, 115KV LINE, HEEC CABLE PROJECT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS," on nine sheets, and dated "08/31/17" and revised "01/17/18" and five associated undated detail plans.

Through the development of this project, Eversource Energy has attempted to avoid and to minimize permanent impacts to waters of the United States through the use of HDD and construction techniques and by proposing a hydroplow cable route that minimizes impacts to existing utilities, general navigation, and natural resources (eelgrass beds, etc.). The Corps continues to work with the applicant to develop an eelgrass mitigation plan which will adequately compensate for unavoidable eelgrass impacts associated with this project.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

XX Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

XX 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 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.

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.

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.

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This project will have an adverse effect on 1-2 acres of EFH. This habitat consists mainly of soft bottom (sandy/silty mud) sub-tidal areas with some localized eelgrass beds. Disruption of these habitat areas may adversely affect species that use these waters and substrate. The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that site-specific impacts may be substantial. Accordingly, the Corps will submit an expanded EFH assessment to National Marine Fisheries Service, who in turn will provide conservation recommendations to the Corps. The Corps will coordinate with the applicant regarding implementation of these recommendations. The EFH consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision.

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 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 (ESA) 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 NMFS 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:

- (XX) Permit, license or assent from State.
- (XX) Permit from local wetland agency or conservation commission.
- (XX) 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 **Paul Sneeringer** at (978) 318-8491, (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.

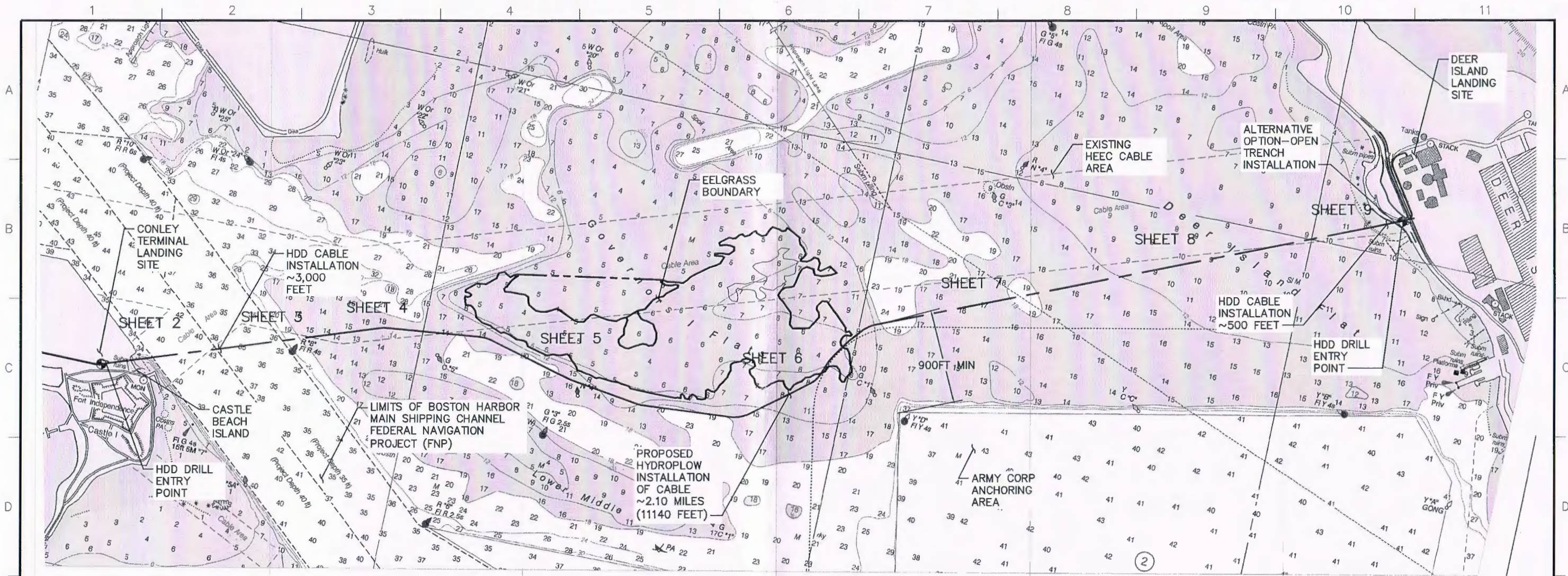
THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.



Barbara Newman
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

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: _____



PLAN VIEW

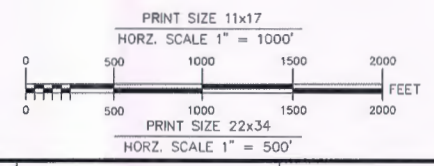
MAP SOURCE:
2013 ORTHOPHOGRAPHY, MASSGIS

- REFERENCES:
- VICINITY MAP & KEY SHEETS
 - CONLEY TERMINAL - CASTLE ISLAND LANDING - PLAN & PROFILE
 - SUBMARINE ROUTE - PLAN & PROFILE
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 - DEER ISLAND LANDING - PLAN & PROFILE

SITE INFORMATION:
CONLEY TERMINAL TO DEER ISLAND
BOSTON HARBOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

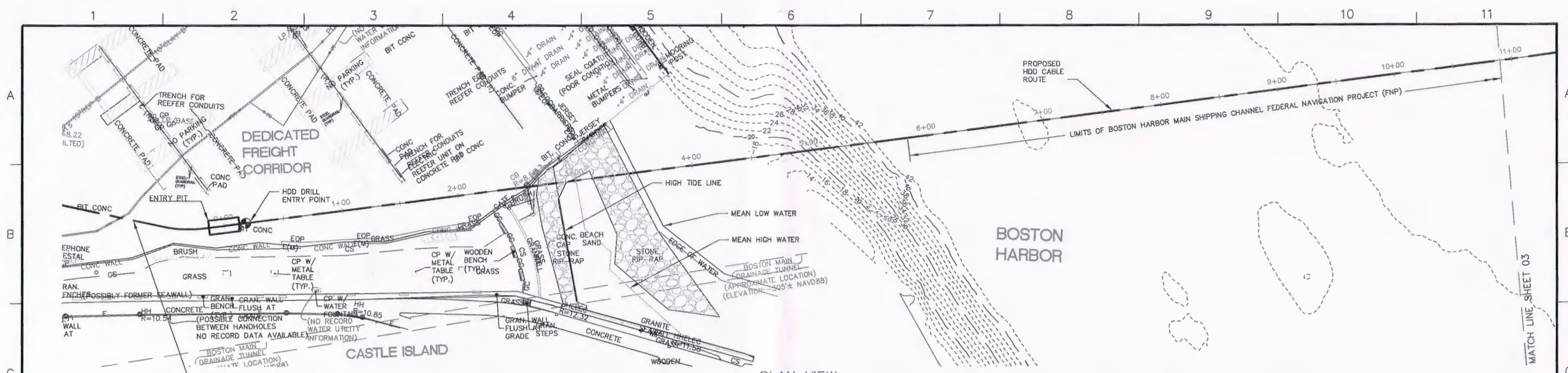
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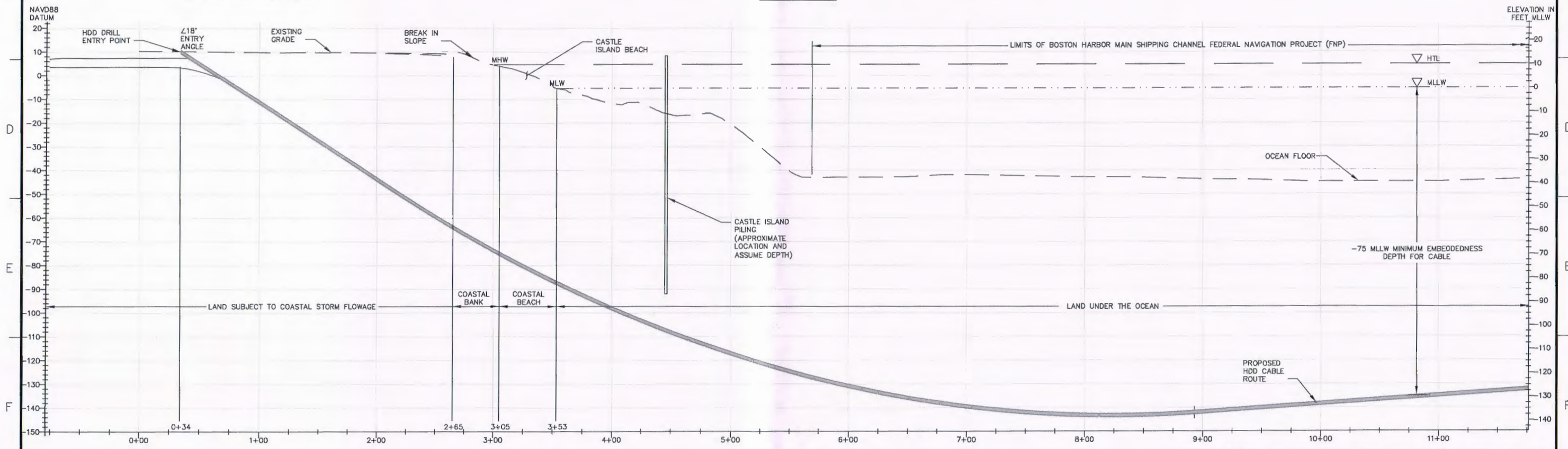


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C	ISSUED FOR PERMIT		01/03/18	
B	ISSUED FOR PERMIT		11/13/17	
REVISION				
EVERSOURCE				
115KV LINE				
HEEC CABLE PROJECT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS				
CONLEY TERMINAL TO DEER ISLAND				
GENERAL VICINITY MAP & KEY PLAN				SHEET 1 OF 9
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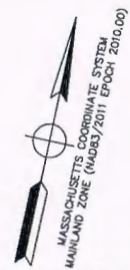


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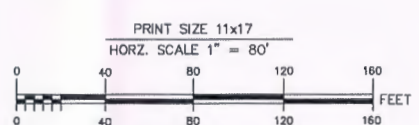
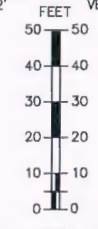
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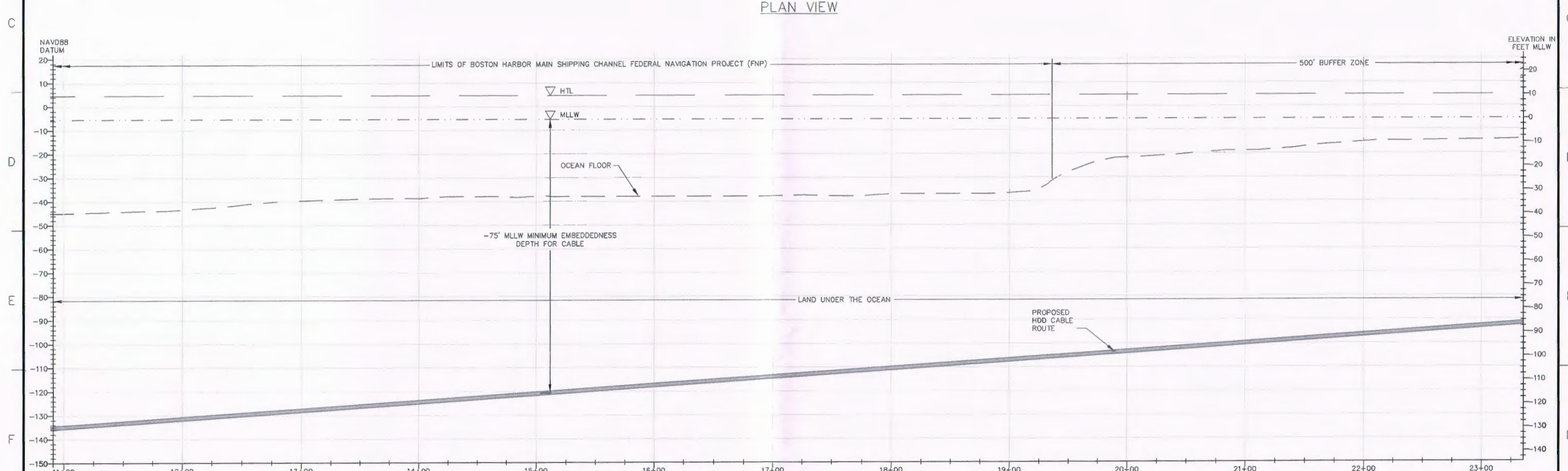
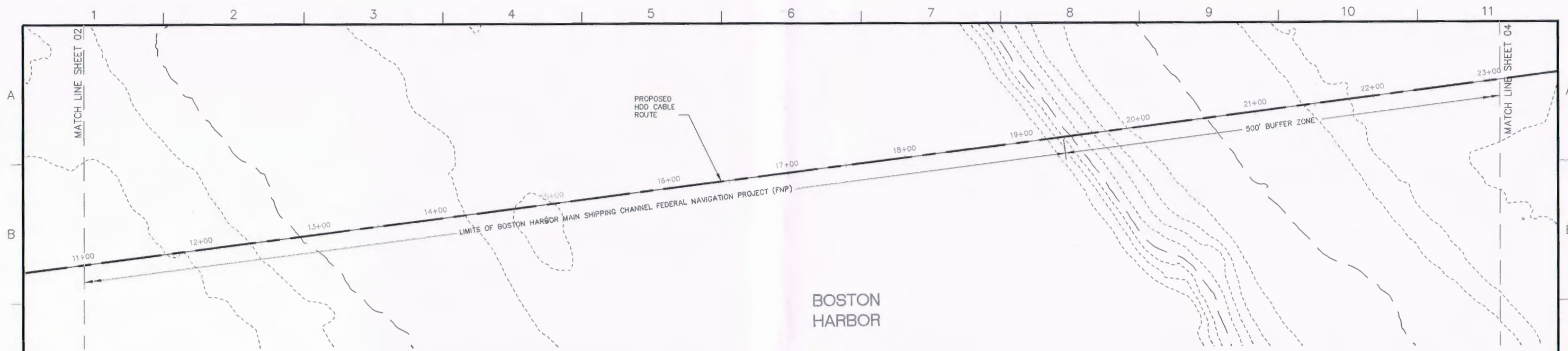


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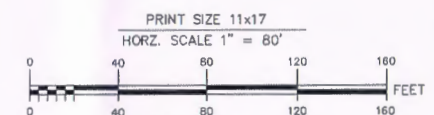
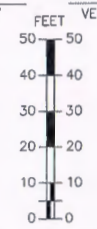
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HEEC CABLE PROJECT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS						
CONLEY TERMINAL TO DEER ISLAND						
CONLEY TERMINAL-CASTLE ISLAND LANDING-PLAN&PROFILE SHEET 2 OF 9						
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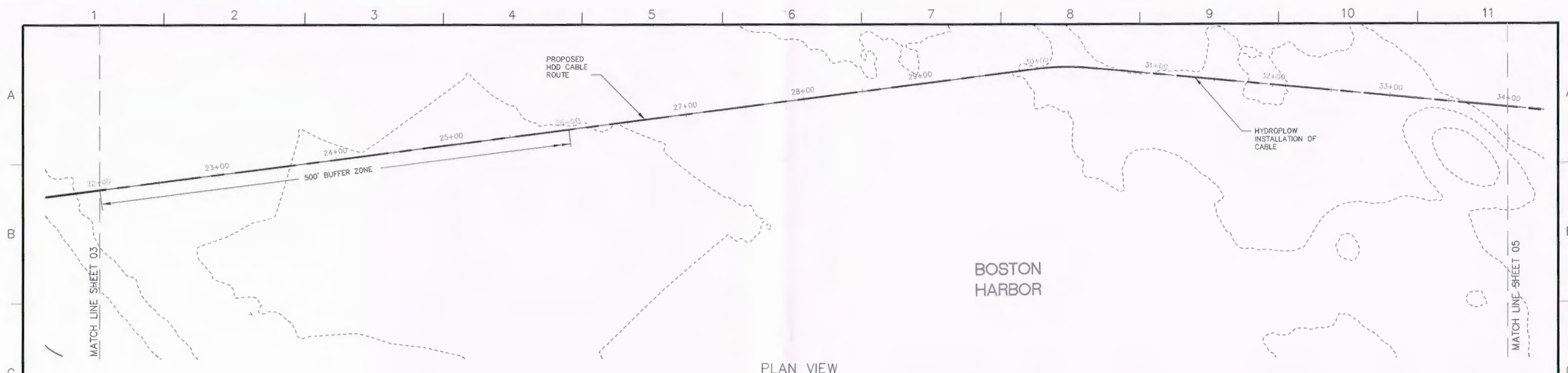


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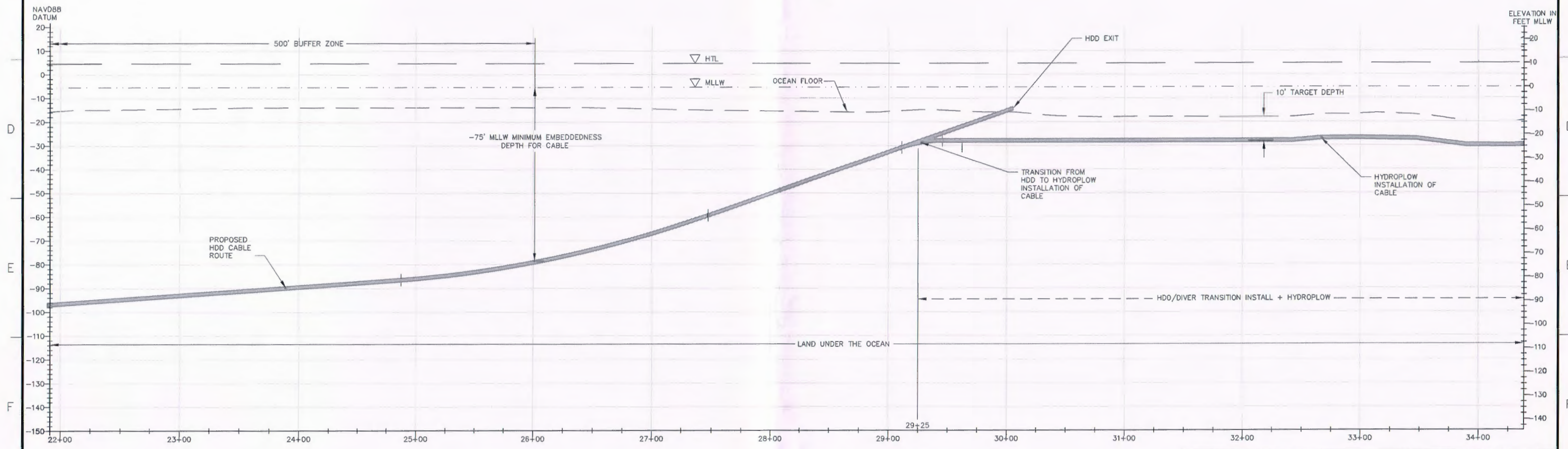
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EVERSOURCE				
115kV LINE				
HEEC CABLE PROJECT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS				
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SUBMARINE ROUTE - PLAN & PROFILE				SHEET 3 OF 9
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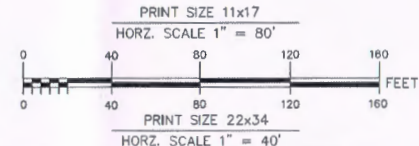
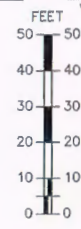


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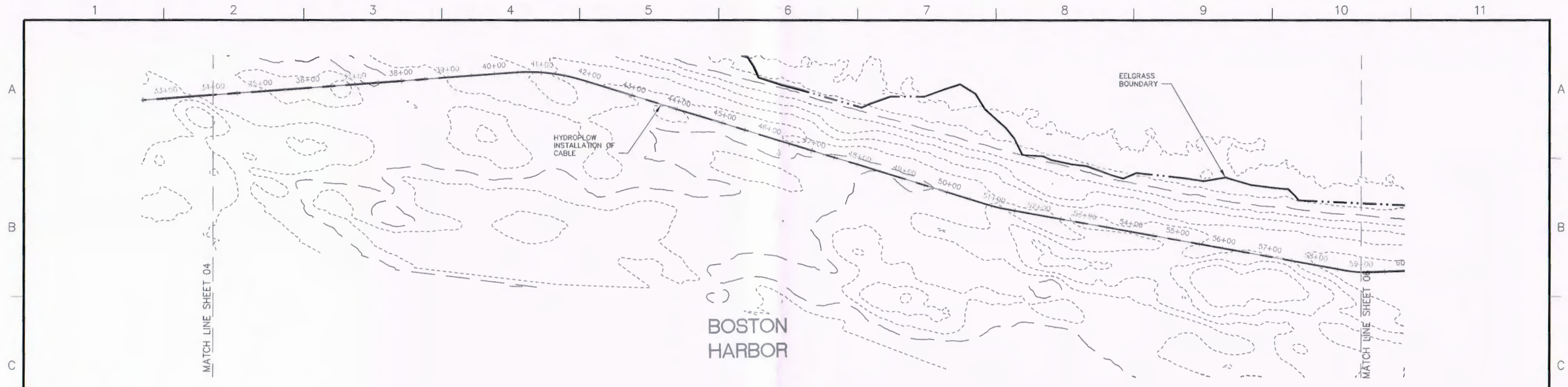


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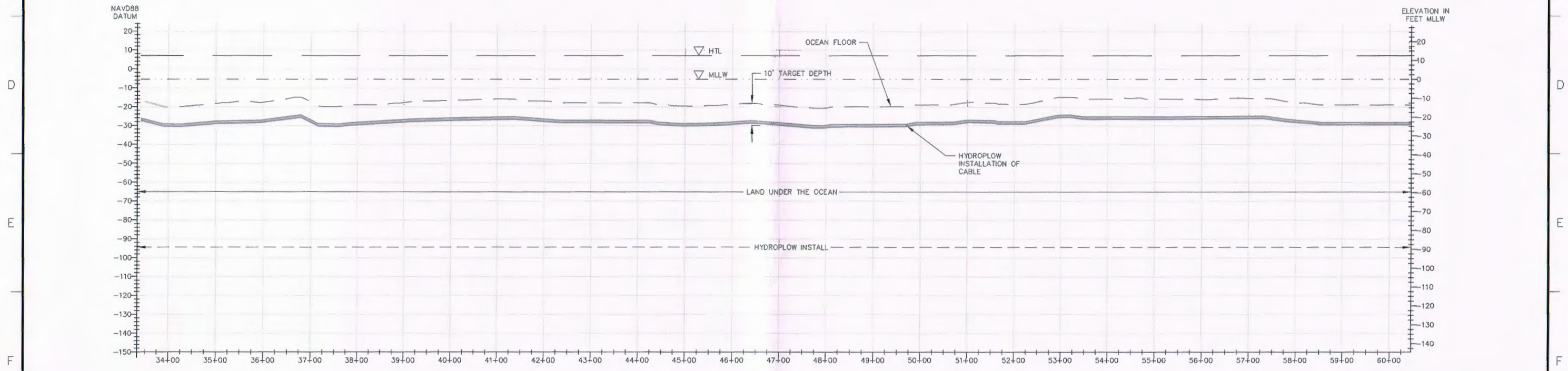
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SUBMARINE ROUTE - PLAN & PROFILE				SHEET 4 OF 9	
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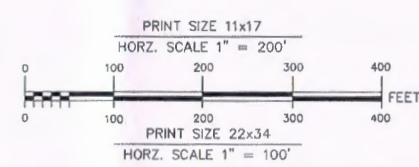
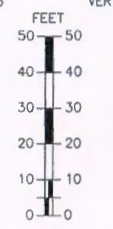


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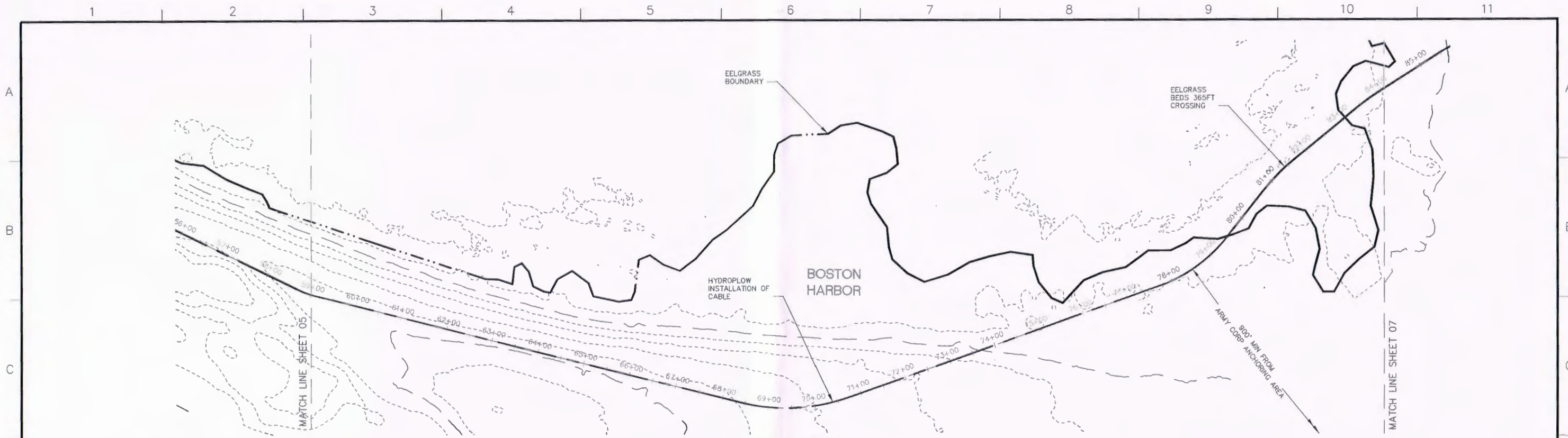
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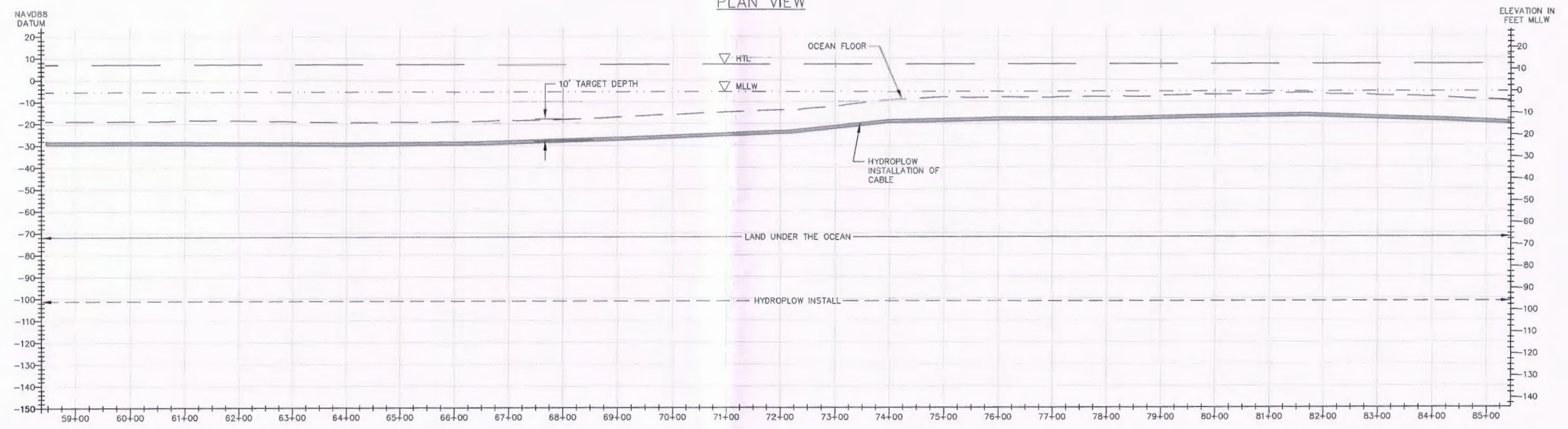
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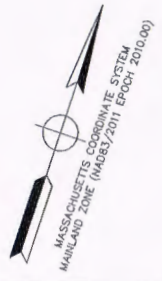


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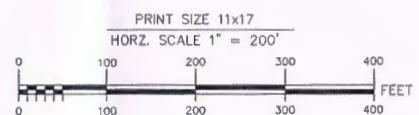
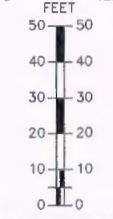
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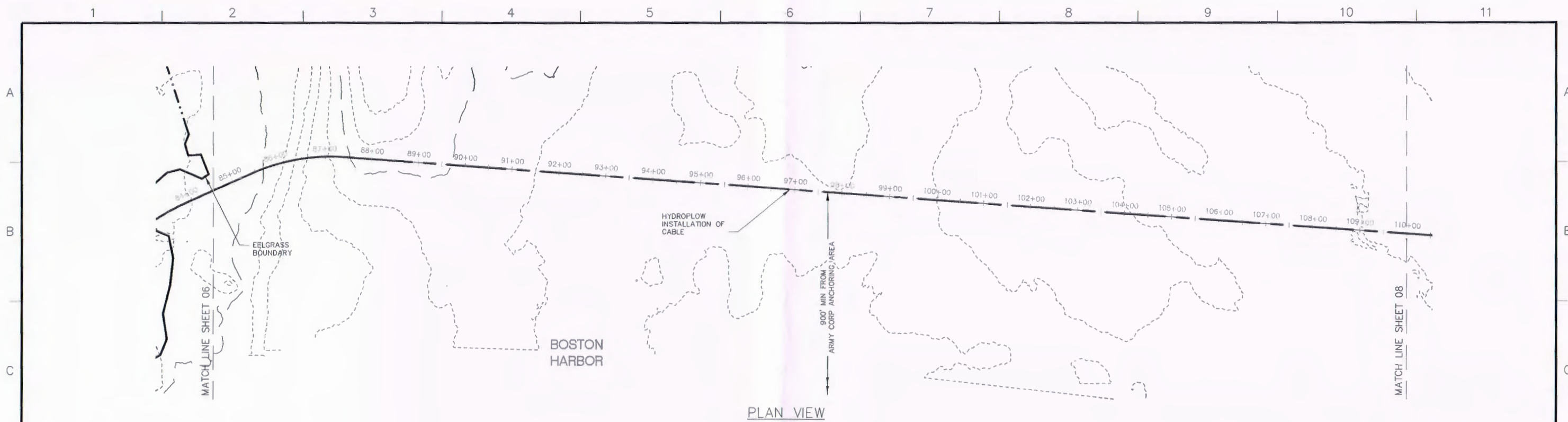
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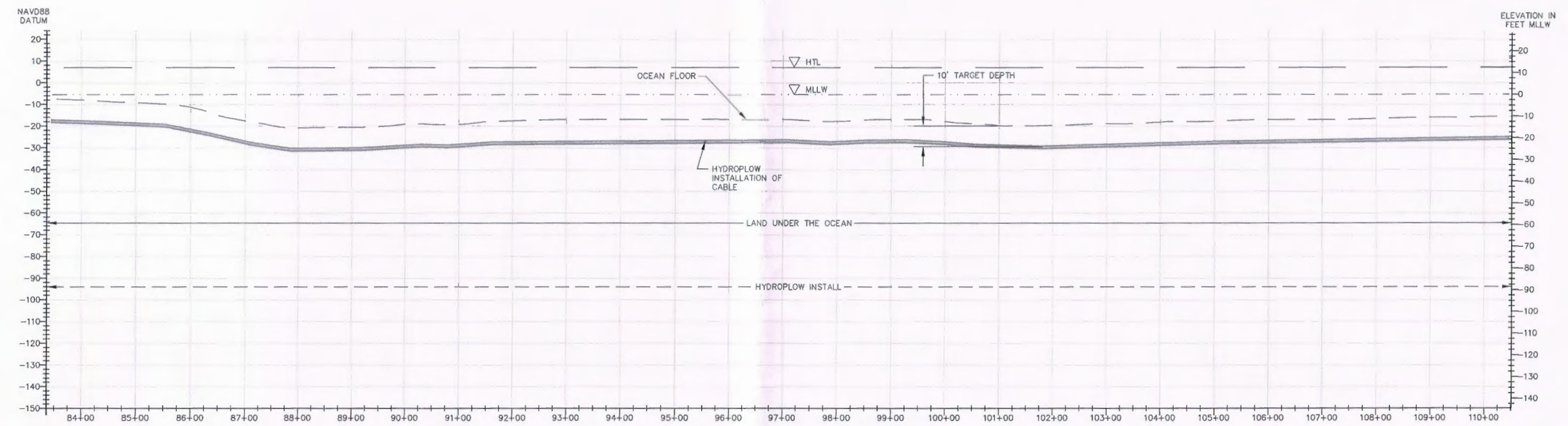
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REVISION	

EVERSOURCE	
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CONLEY TERMINAL TO DEER ISLAND	
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SHEET 6 OF 9	
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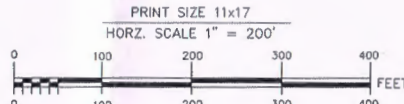


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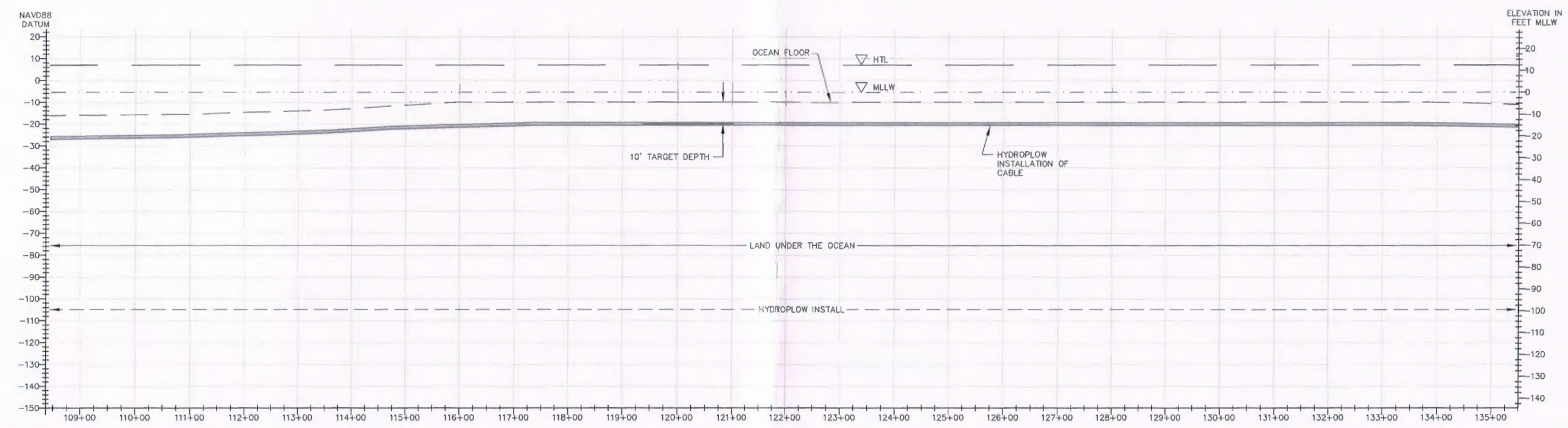
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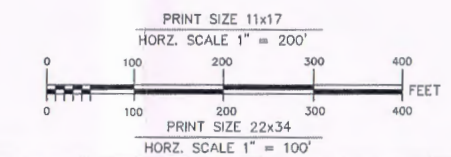
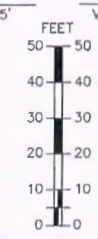
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115kV LINE	
HEEC CABLE PROJECT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	
CONLEY TERMINAL TO DEER ISLAND	
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SHEET 7 OF 9	
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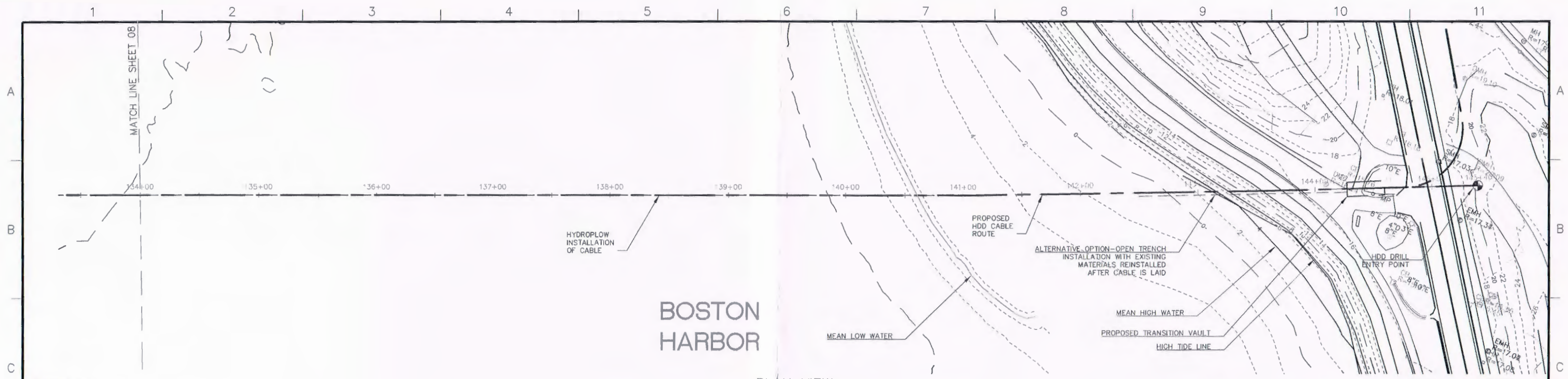


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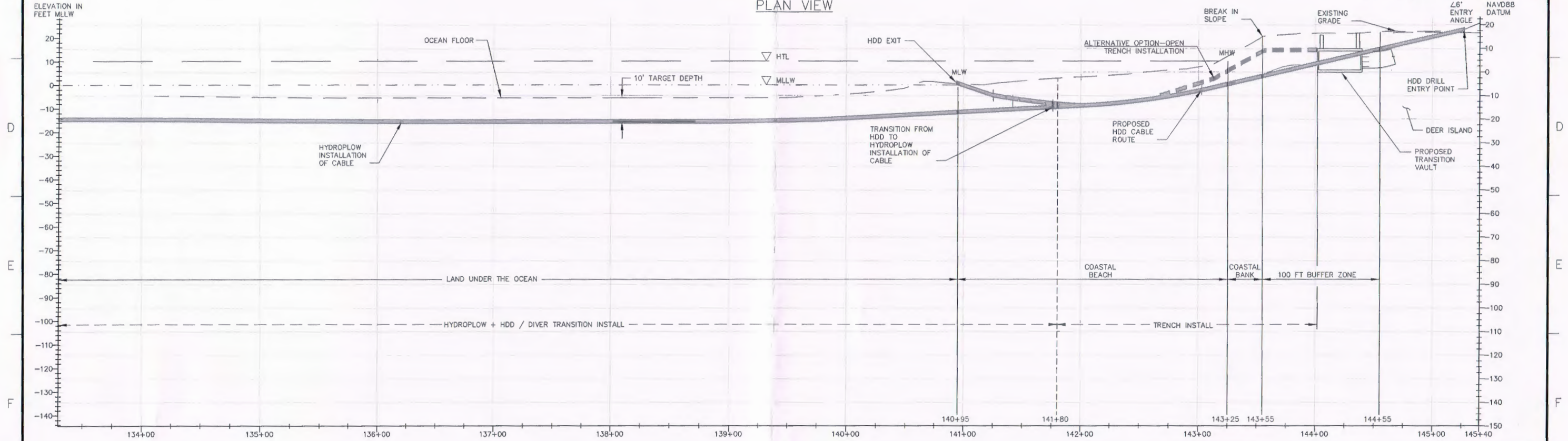
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EVERSOURCE	
115kV LINE	
HEEC CABLE PROJECT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	
CONLEY TERMINAL TO DEER ISLAND	
SUBMARINE ROUTE - PLAN & PROFILE	
SHEET 8 OF 9	
SCALE: unless noted H: 1"=100' V: 1"=5'	DATE DRAWN CH'K D. APPR. 08/31/17 CBA SX NPA
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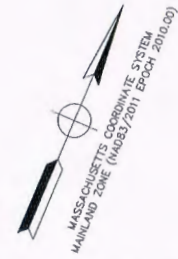


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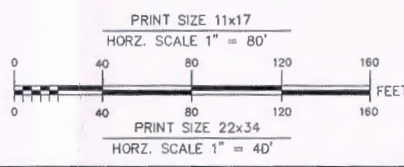
PROFILE VIEW

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C	ISSUED FOR PERMIT			01/03/18	
B	ISSUED FOR PERMIT			11/13/17	

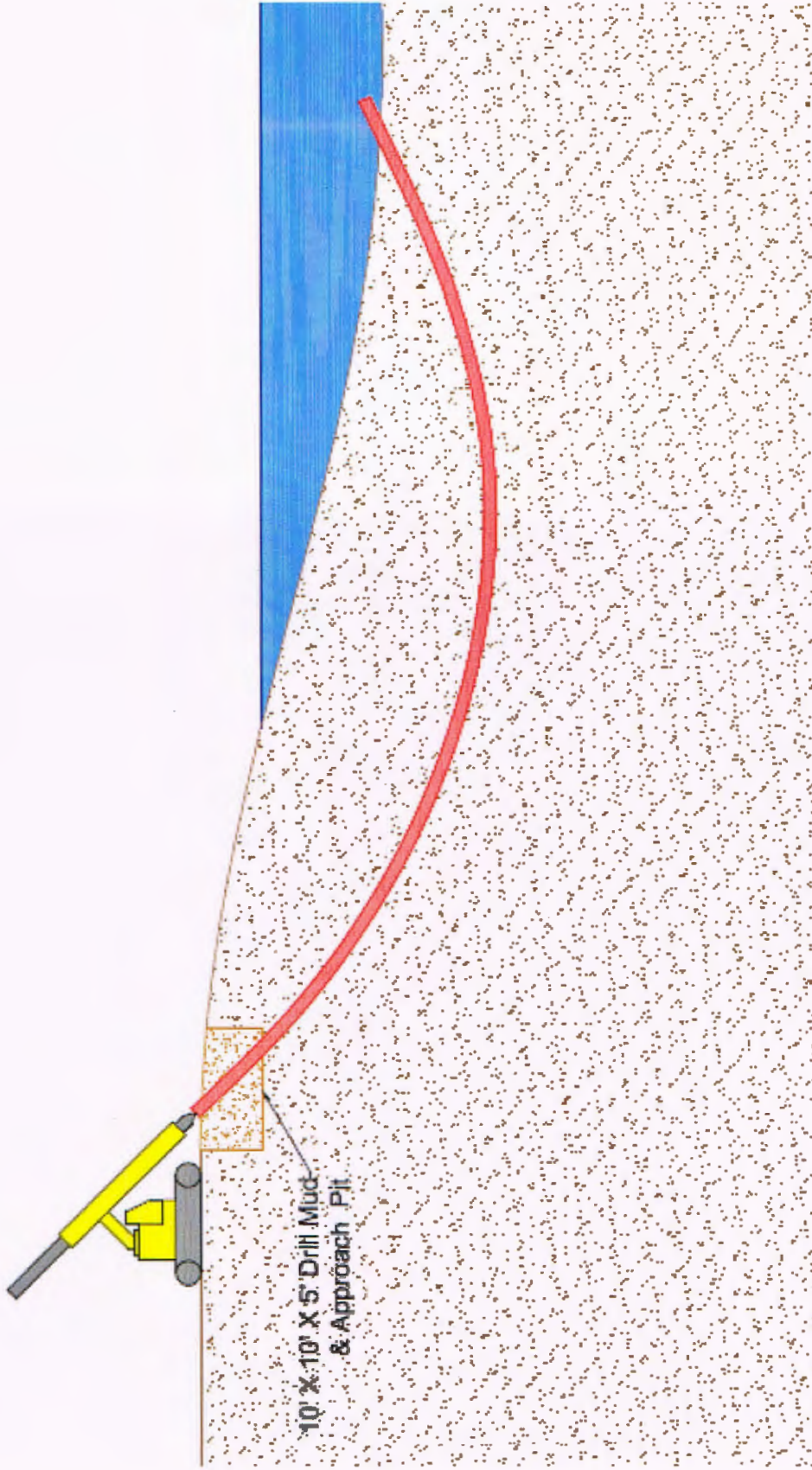
EVERSOURCE

115kV LINE
HEEC CABLE PROJECT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
CONLEY TERMINAL TO DEER ISLAND
DEER ISLAND LANDING - PLAN & PROFILE SHEET 9 OF 9

SCALE: unless noted H: 1"=40' V: 1"=2'	DATE 08/31/17	DRAWN CBA	CHK'D. SX	APPR. NPA	DRAWING NO. -	REV. D
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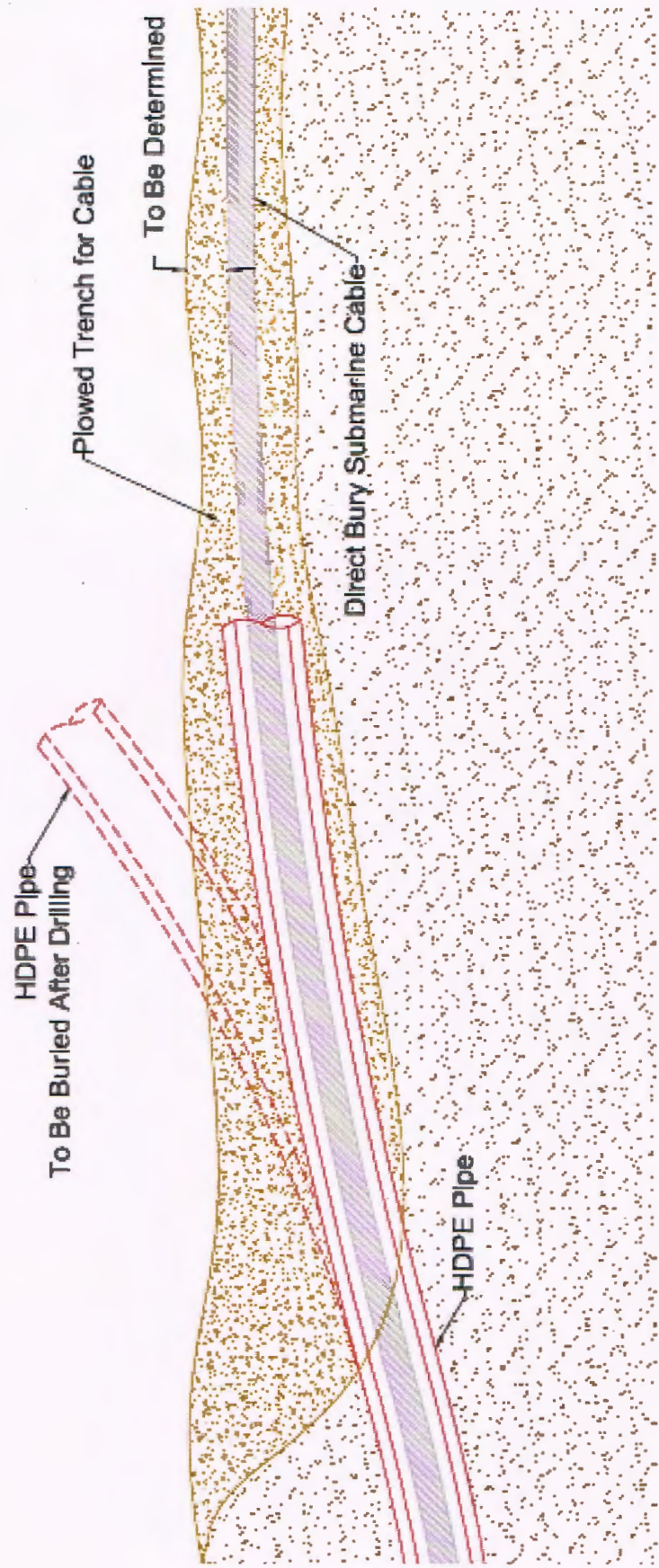
New HEEC Cable Boston, MA



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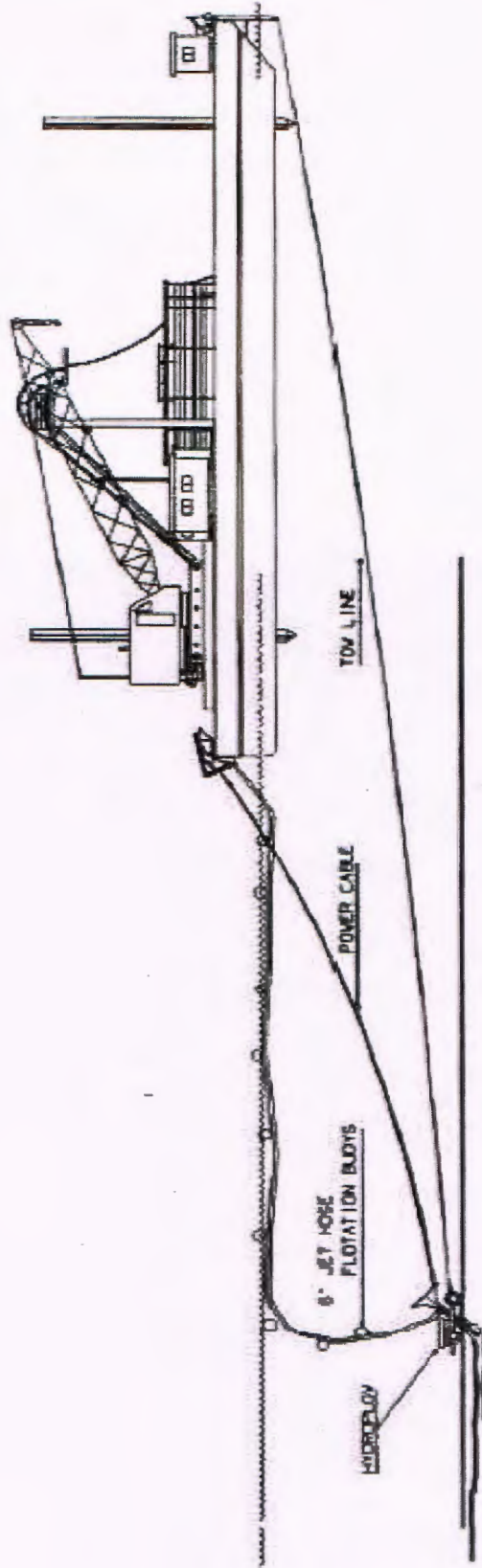
Figure 2-2
Land-Based Directional Drill Setup and Trajectory



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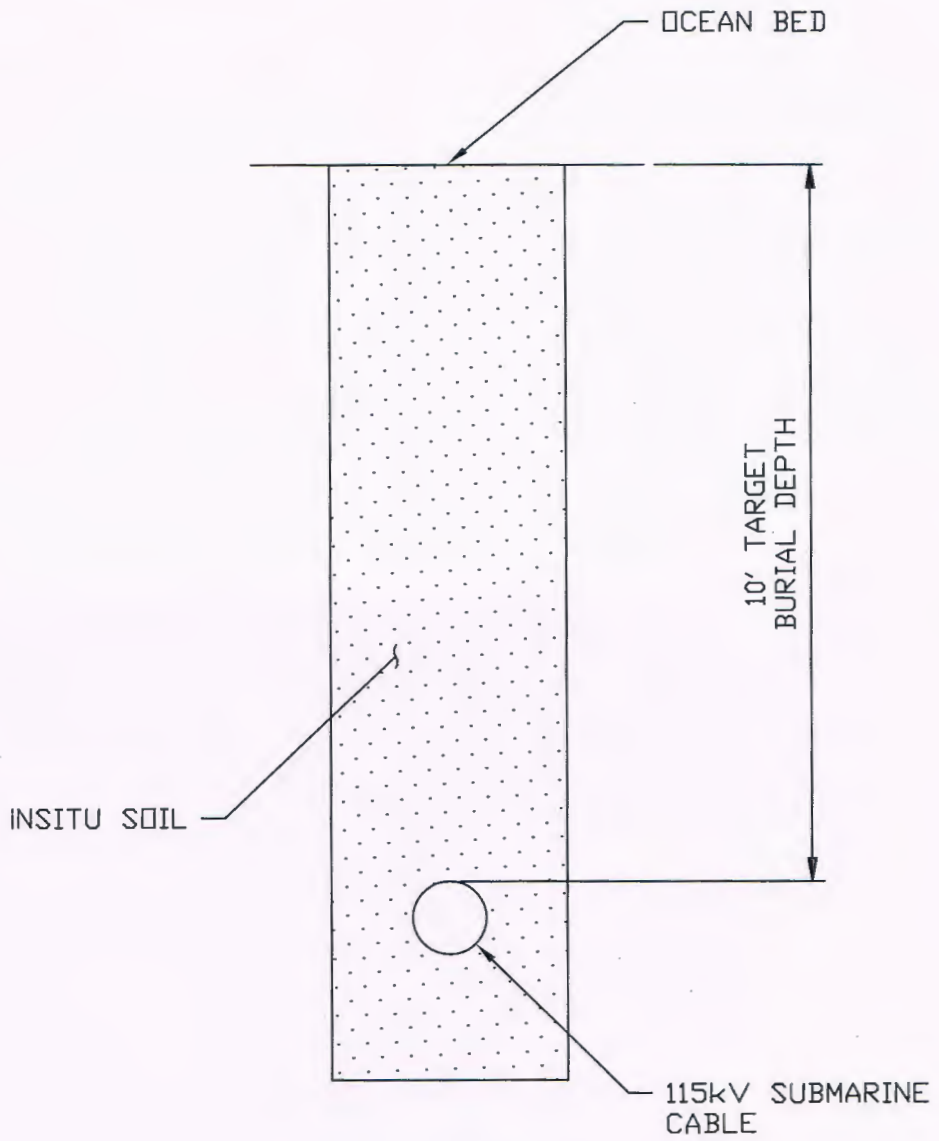
Figure 2-3
Transition from Directional Drill Conduit to Plowed



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Figure 2-4
Schematic of Hydroplow Installation Technique



TYPICAL HYDROFLOW
CROSS-SECTION

ACAD 1=1
A1ASL024 A2

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DESIGNER	SX	DRAWN	RMB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHECKED	-	DATE	12/28/17	NO	DATE	REVISIONS AND RECORD OF ISSUE	DRN	DES	CHK	PDE	APP			
HEEC CABLE PROJECT							PROJECT	DRAWING NUMBER		REV				
							196467	SK-1		-				
TYPICAL HYDROFLOW CROSS-SECTION							CODE							
							AREA							