

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**<sup>R</sup>  
New England District  
Vermont Project Office  
11 Lincoln Street, Room 210  
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Comment Period Begins:** MARCH 29, 2016  
**Comment Period Ends:** APRIL 29, 2016  
**File Number:** NAE-2014-1674  
**In Reply Refer To:** Michael S. Adams  
**Phone:** (802) 872-2893  
**E-mail:** Michael.s.adams@usace.army.mil

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

**APPLICANTS:**      **Vermont Transco, LLC**  
ATTN: Timothy Follensbee, II  
366 Pinnacle Ridge Road  
Rutland, Vermont 05701

**New York Power Authority**  
ATTN John Kahabka  
123 Main Street  
White Plains, New York 10601

**ACTIVITY:** Place fill and perform work in Lake Champlain in conjunction with the installation of four new subaqueous 115 kV transmission lines between Plattsburgh, New York and Grand Isle, Vermont (a distance of 1.8 miles). A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

## **WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK:**

This work is proposed in Lake Champlain between Plattsburgh, New York and Grand Isle Vermont (west end of project - Latitude 44.702230° N; Longitude 73.381808° W; east end of project - Latitude 44.695967° N; Longitude 73.352831° 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 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:

- 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.

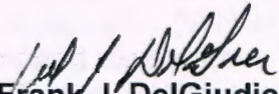


In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Michael S. Adams (978) 318-8484 or (802) 872-2893.

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.**

  
**Frank J. DelGiudice**  
**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](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: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



## PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE

The work will involve the replacement of seven existing cables on the PV-20 electrical transmission line in Lake Champlain between Plattsburgh, New York and Grand Isle Vermont with four new subaqueous 115 kV transmission cables. The cables will be installed in the transition areas between aquatic and terrestrial portions of the project by using horizontal directional drilling (HDD). Temporary 11' x 25' gravity cells will be installed on the lake bottom at the aquatic transitions to minimize turbidity and to confine drilling fluids or cutting material that may escape from the drill holes. In depths less than 100 feet the cables will be installed in a trench about 4 feet below the lake using a jet plow towed by a barge. In depths greater than 100 feet the cable will be laid on the lake bottom without burial or protection. In 2015 and 2016, separate permits were issued for high voltage direct current (DC) electric transmission lines running perpendicular to the proposed line in the lake. If the DC lines have been installed, the proposed cables will be laid over the DC lines with protective articulating concrete mats placed over the cables. A total of approximately 6,400 sq. ft. (0.15 acres) of lake bottom will be impacted by the concrete mats if they become necessary. The work will temporarily impact about 108,076 sq. ft. (2.48 acre) of lake bottom. The construction of a new Cumberland Head Transition Station and the new Grand Isle Terminal Station will not impact waters of the United States.

After the new cables are installed and commissioned into service the seven existing cables will be removed from the lake. This work will involve the removal of rock riprap placed to protect the existing cables and excavation of trenches to expose the cables. This work will extend a maximum of 250' beyond ordinary high water (OHW). The excavated material will be sidecast onto the lake bottom, the cables will be removed and the lake bottom will be restored to pre-construction contours with the excavated material. This work will temporarily impact about 26,000 sq. ft. (0.6 acre) of lake bottom. Within deeper portions of the lake the cables will be removed using a barge and hoisting system that will lift the cables off the lake bottom and onto the barge deck for disposal. Demolition of the existing stations and re-grading the areas to open grassed fields will not impact waters of the United States.

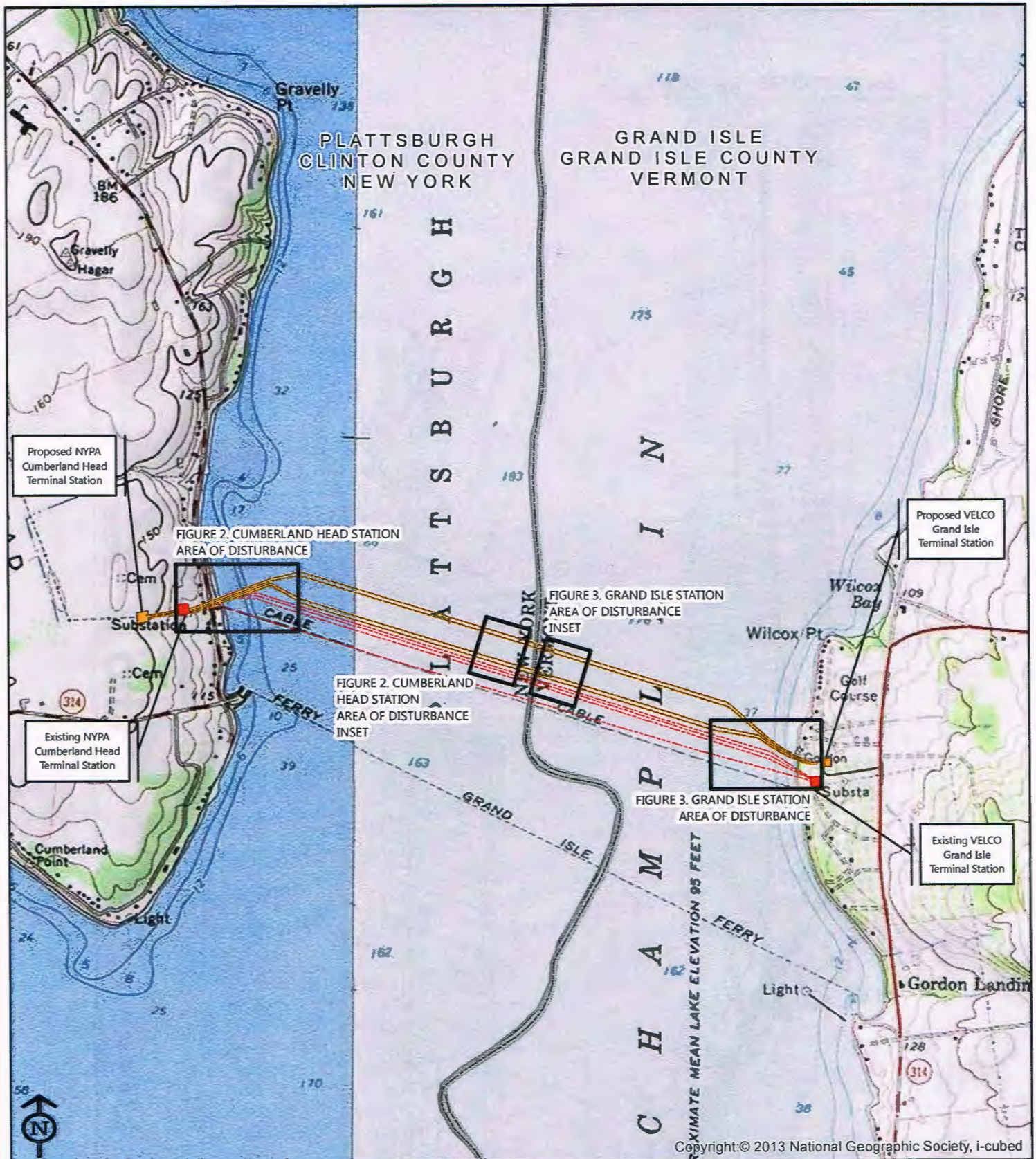
The purpose of the project is to replace deficient cables with new cables to maintain an electric transmission interconnection between New York and Vermont.

The work is described on the enclosed plans, in eleven sheets, entitled "PV-20 Submarine Cable Replacement Project" (dated "November 11, 2015", revised "January 29, 2016"), "PV-20 CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT" (dated "01/20/16") and "PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT" (dated "01/20/16").

## ALTERNATIVES/MITIGATION

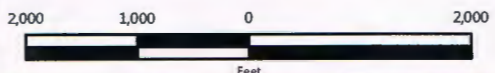
The project involves the replacement of seven existing oil-filled electrical transmission cables with four new oil-free cables on the PV-20 line in Lake Champlain. The new cables will be just north of the existing cables. There are no less environmentally damaging practicable off-site alternative alignments to using Lake Champlain. The "no-build" alternative does not allow the applicants to achieve the project purpose of replacing deficient transmission cables connecting New York and Vermont. Impacts of the project have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The Corps has determined that compensatory mitigation is not necessary.





- Legend**
- Existing Cables (Approx.)
  - Proposed Replacement Cable Locations (Approx.)
  - Proposed Terminal Station
  - Existing Terminal Station
  - State Boundary

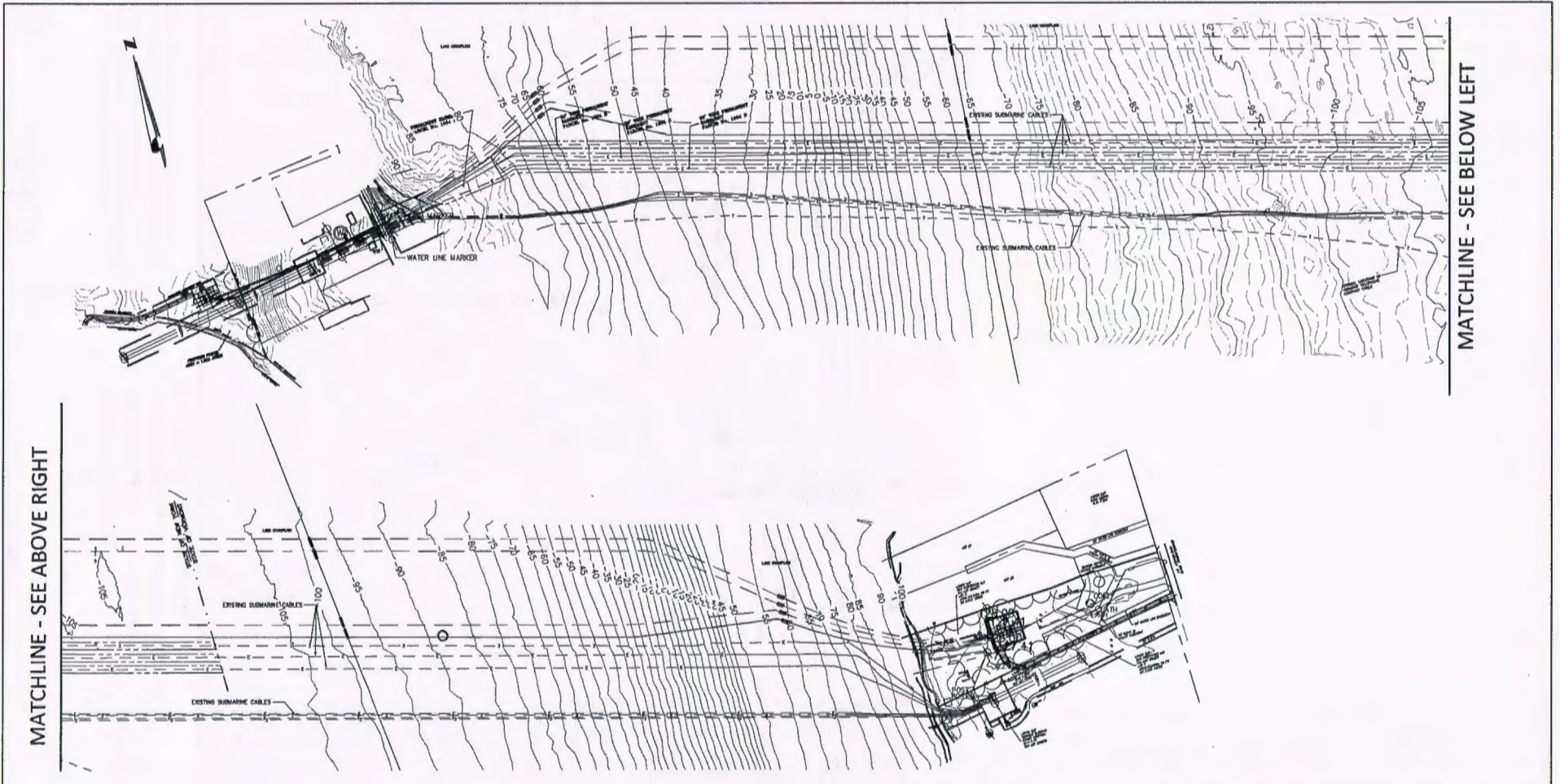
**Figure 1. VELCO and NYPA  
PV-20 Submarine Cable Replacement Project  
Grand Isle, VT and Plattsburgh, NY  
Impact Exhibit Index Map**  
November 11, 2015  
Revised: January 29, 2016



Sources: USGS Topo Quads from ESRI (2015); State and Town Boundaries from VCGI (2010); Approximate Replacement Cable Locations, Existing and Proposed Terminal Station Locations from CHA (2015); Approximate Existing Cable Locations Digitized from Plans Provided by CHA (2015).

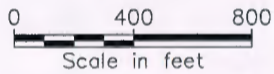






MATCHLINE - SEE ABOVE RIGHT

MATCHLINE - SEE BELOW LEFT

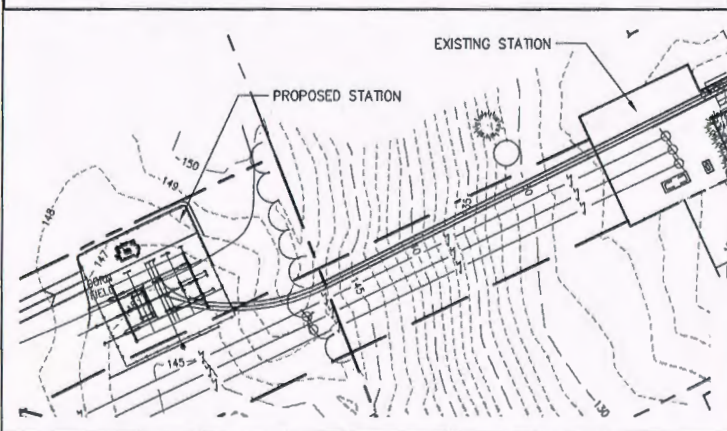
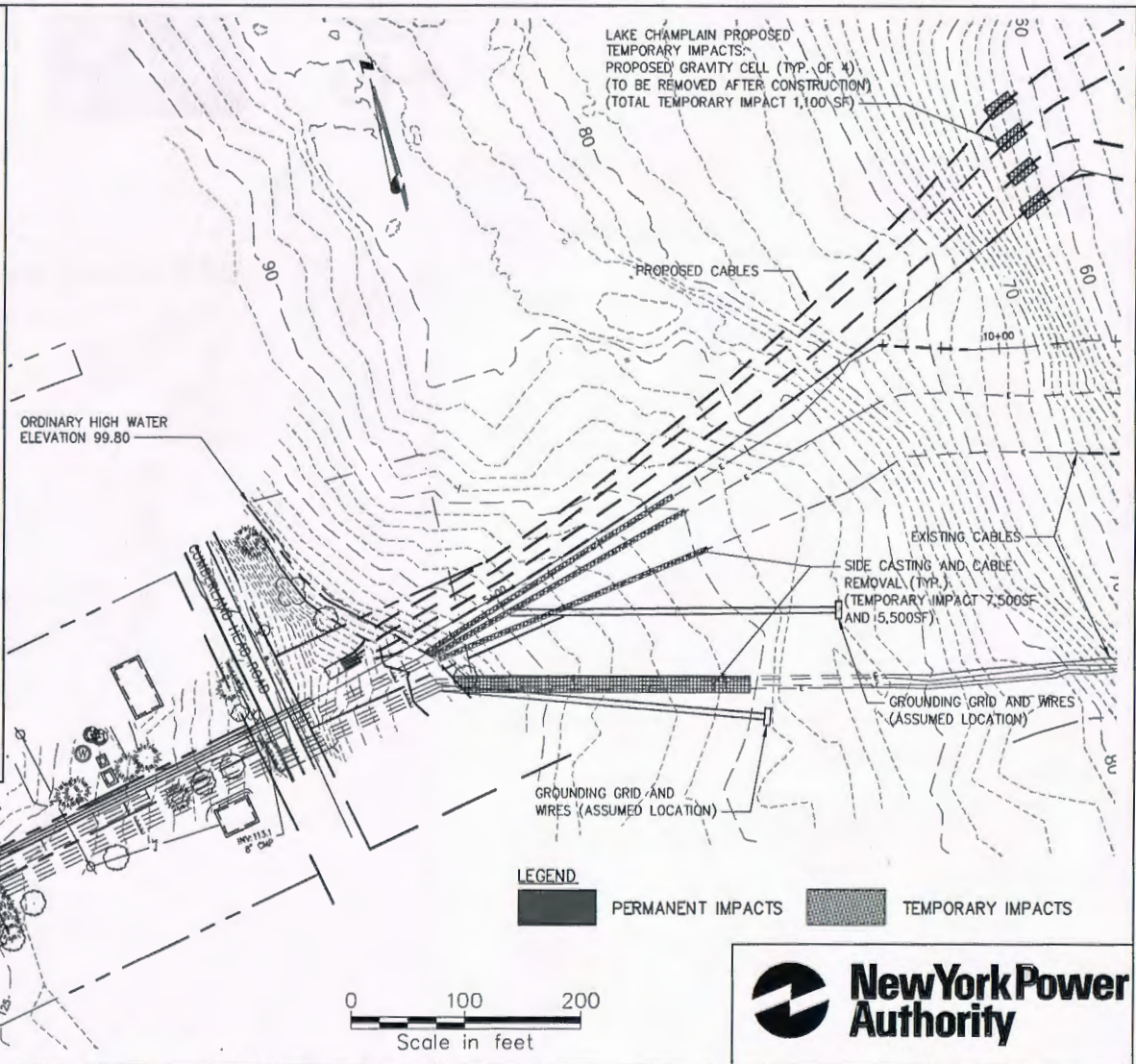
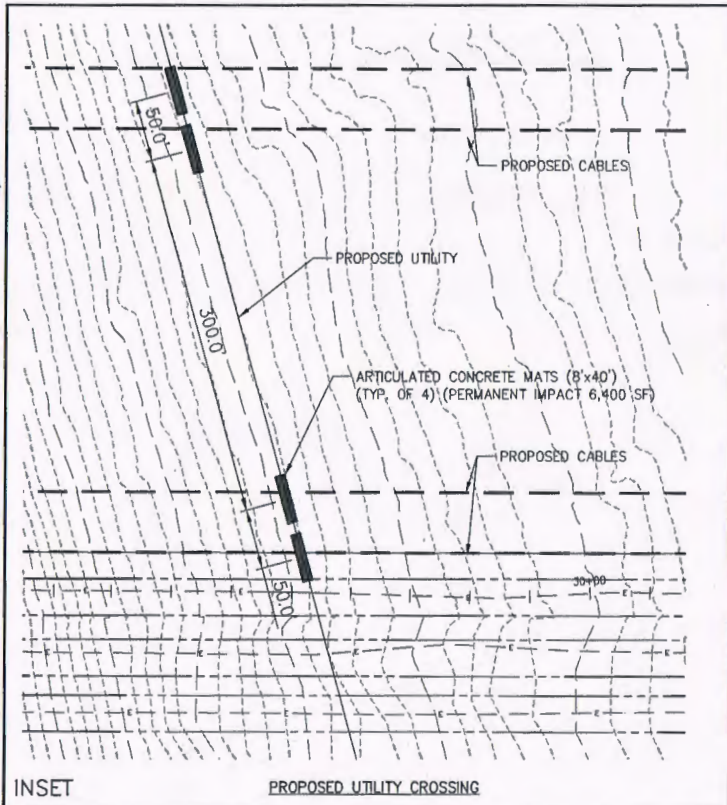


OVERVIEW  
PV-20 CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
NYPA / VT TRANSCO

PROJECT NO.  
27406  
DATE: 01/20/16  
FIGURE C-020



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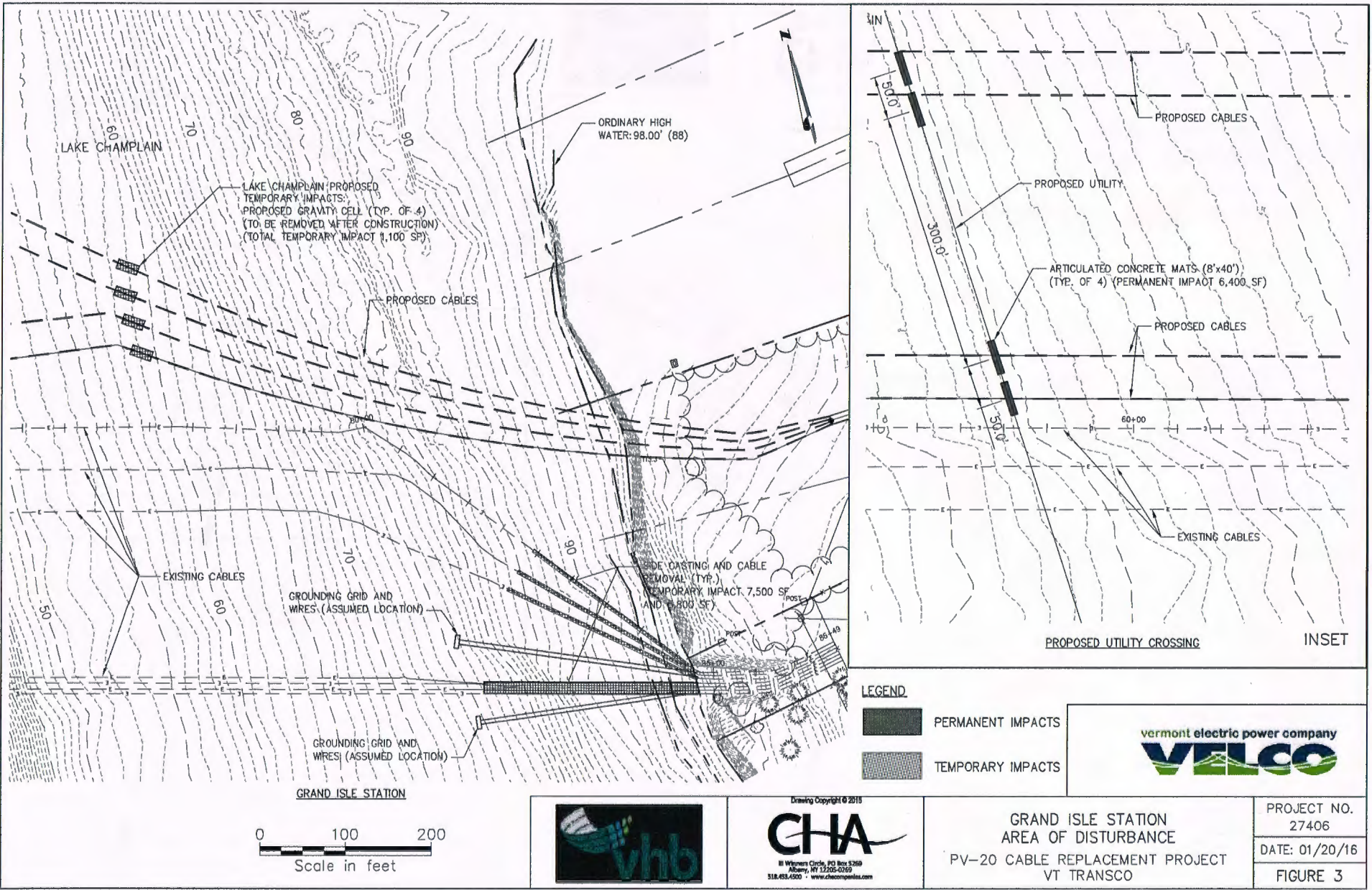
CUMBERLAND HEAD STATION  
AREA OF DISTURBANCE  
PV-20 CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
VT TRANSCO

PROJECT NO. 27406
DATE: 01/20/16
FIGURE 2

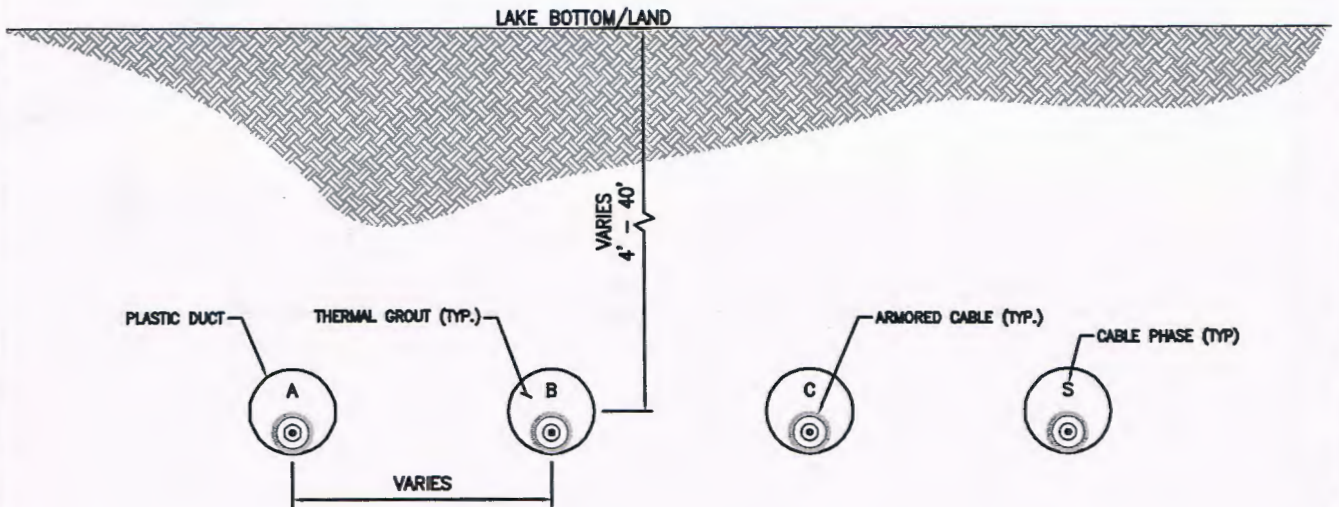




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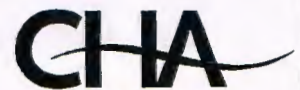


Transition From Shore To Lake Cable Arrangement  
 SELECT DETAILS  
 PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
 NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY/VT TRANSCO

PROJECT NO.  
27406

DATE: 01/20/16

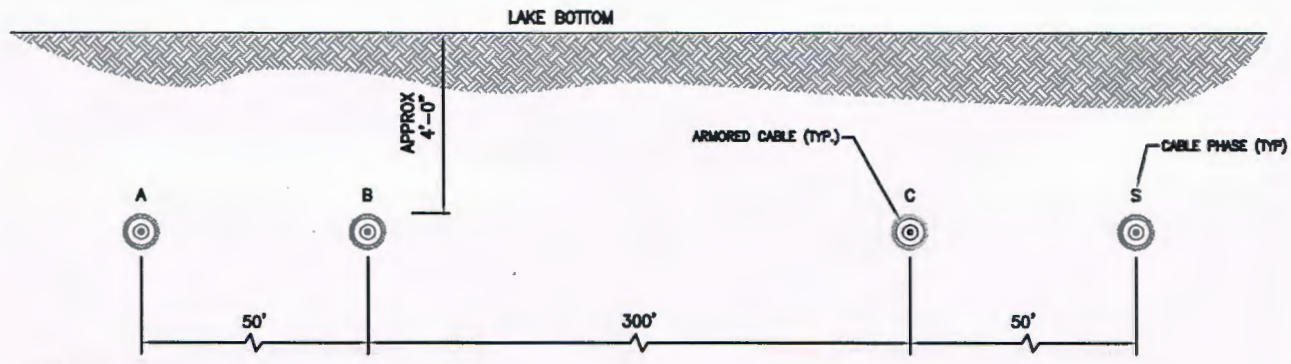
FIGURE DT-3



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Approximate 4' Burial Depth - Lake Bottom Arrangement  
 SELECT DETAILS  
 PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
 NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY/VT TRANSCO

PROJECT NO.  
27406

DATE: 01/20/16

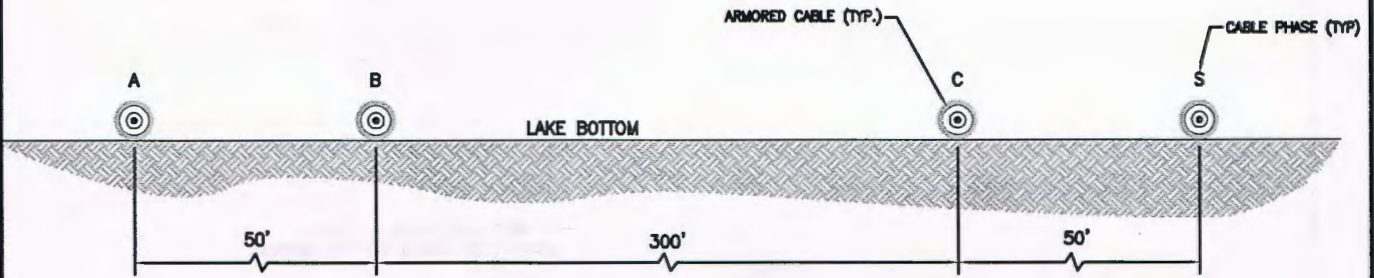
FIGURE DT-4



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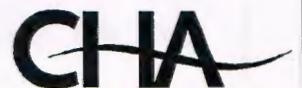
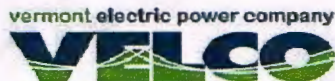
Lake Bottom Cable Arrangement  
 SELECT DETAILS  
 PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
 NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY/VT TRANSCO

PROJECT NO.  
27406

DATE: 01/20/16

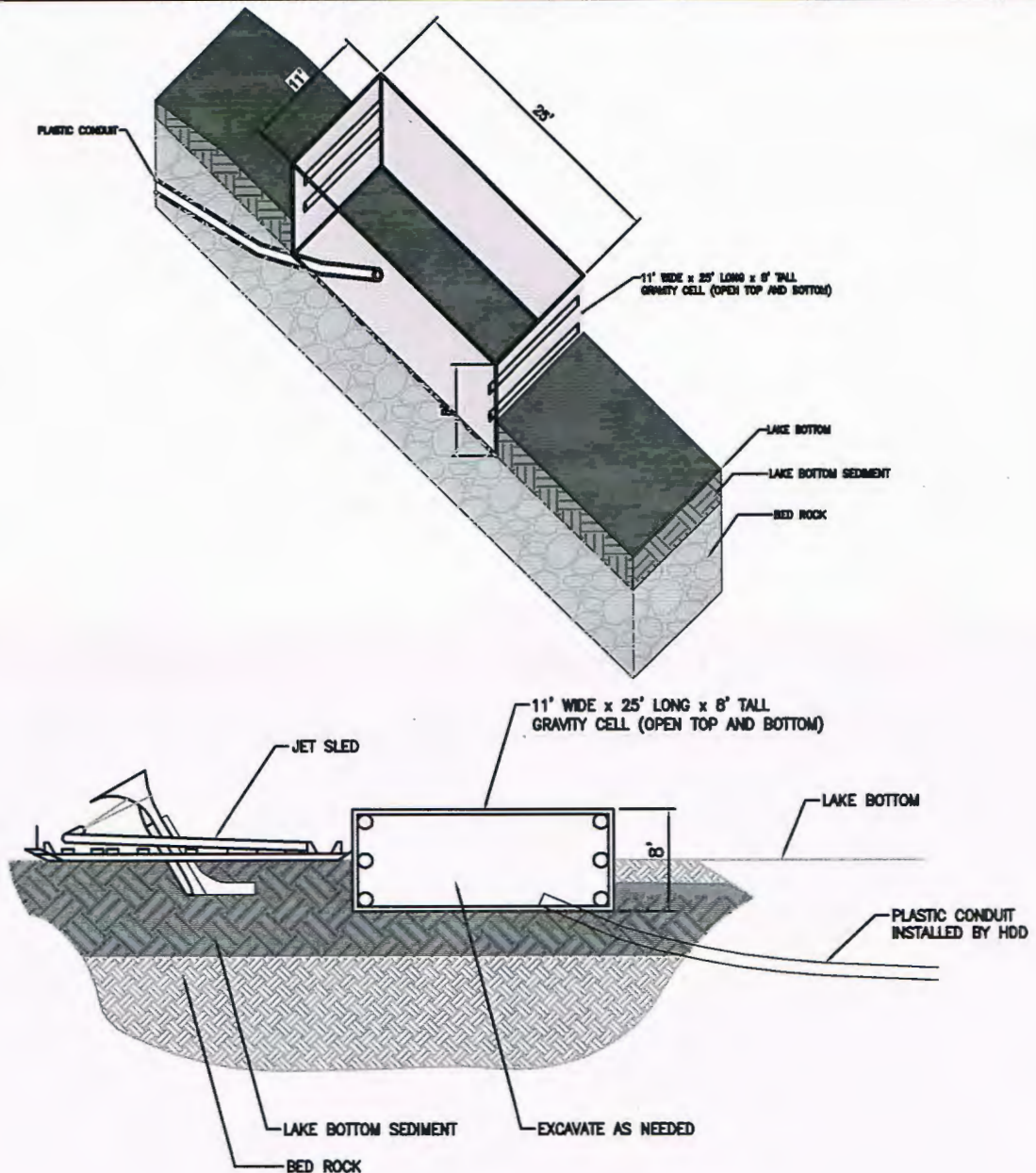
FIGURE DT-5

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**TYPICAL TRANSITION JET SLED INSTALLATION**  
SCALE: N.T.S.

Typical Transition Jet Sled Installation  
SELECT DETAILS  
PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY/VT TRANSCO

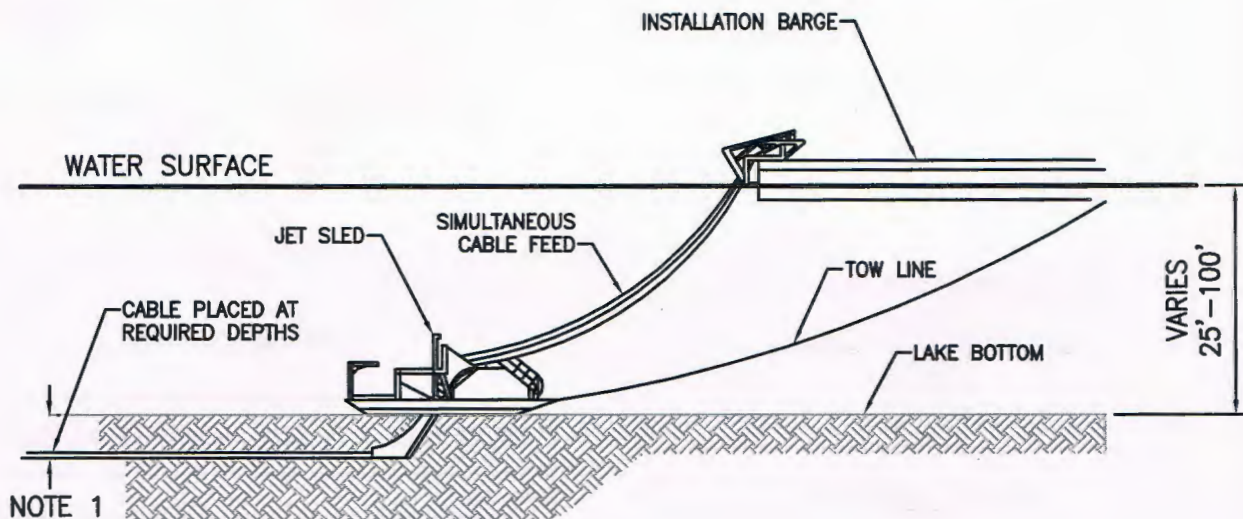
PROJECT NO.  
27406

DATE: 01/20/16

FIGURE DT-6

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**NOTES:**

1. BURIAL DEPTH SHALL BE 4'-0" UNDER LAKE BOTTOM WITH WATER DEPTH OF LESS THAN 100 FT.

**Typical Jet Sled Installation**

**SELECT DETAILS**

**PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY/VT TRANSCO**

**PROJECT NO.  
27406**

**DATE: 01/20/16**

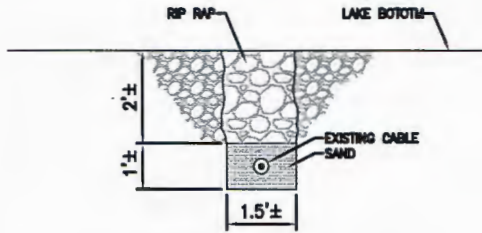
**FIGURE DT-7**

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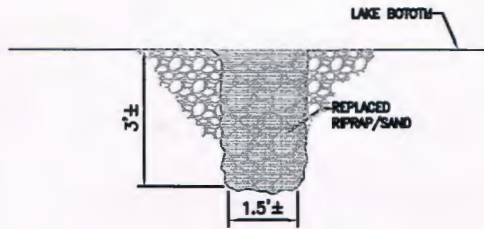


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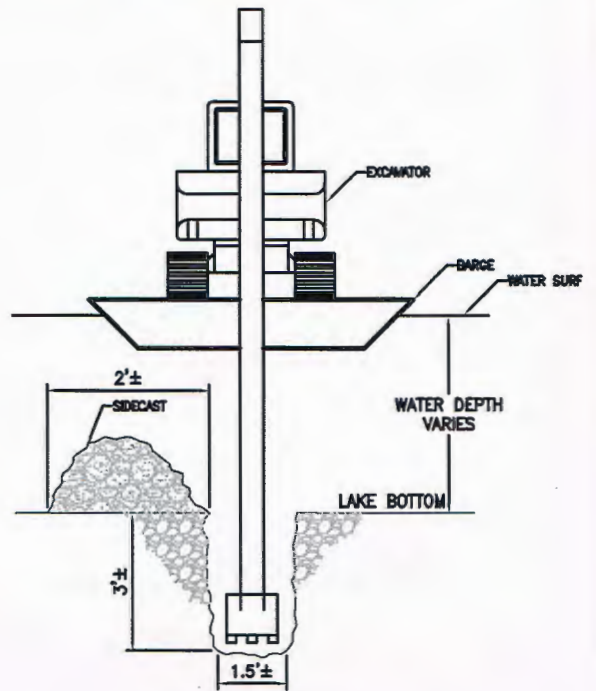




**1 - EXISTING CABLE CONDITION**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



**3 - FINAL CONDITION**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



**2 - MATERIAL REMOVAL**  
SCALE: N.T.S.

**ESTIMATE OF TYPE AND AMOUNT OF MATERIAL**

NEW YORK			
TYPE	EXISTING CONDITION (CY)	MATERIAL REMOVED (CY)	FINAL CONDITION (CY)
RIPRAP	203.70	203.70	0
SAND	101.85	101.85	0
RIPRAP/SAND	0	0	305.55
VERMONT			
TYPE	EXISTING CONDITION (CY)	MATERIAL REMOVED (CY)	FINAL CONDITION (CY)
RIPRAP	203.70	203.70	0
SAND	101.85	101.85	0
RIPRAP/SAND	0	0	305.55

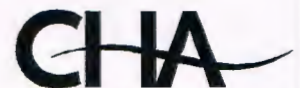
**TYPICAL CABLE REMOVAL  
SELECT DETAILS  
PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY/VT TRANSCO**

PROJECT NO.  
27406

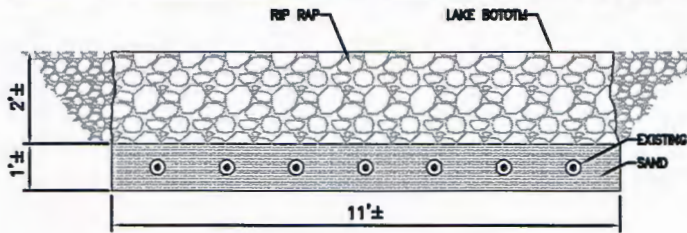
DATE: 01/20/16

FIGURE DT-8

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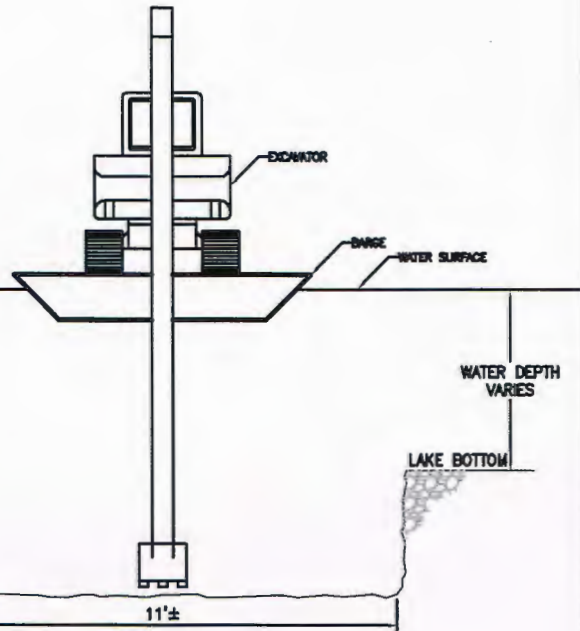
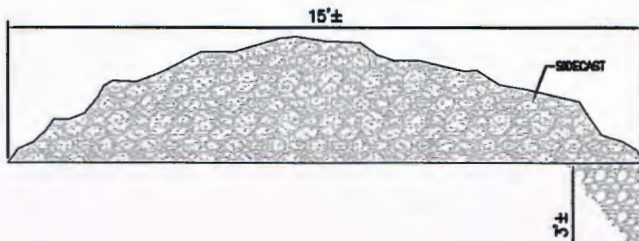


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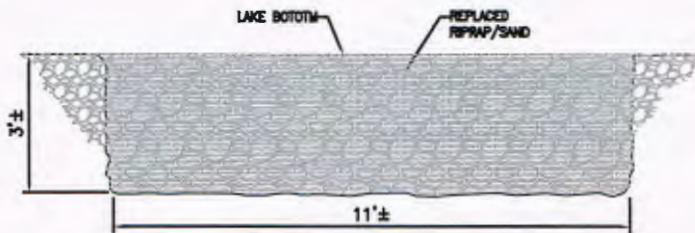
**1 - CABLE GROUP CONDITION**

SCALE: N.T.S.



**2 - MATERIAL REMOVAL**

SCALE: N.T.S.



**3 - FINAL CONDITION**

SCALE: N.T.S.

ESTIMATE OF TYPE AND AMOUNT OF MATERIAL			
<b>NEW YORK</b>			
TYPE	EXISTING CONDITION (CY)	MATERIAL REMOVED (CY)	FINAL CONDITION (CY)
RIPRAP	203.70	203.70	0
SAND	101.85	101.85	0
RIPRAP/SAND	0	0	305.55
<b>VERMONT</b>			
TYPE	EXISTING CONDITION (CY)	MATERIAL REMOVED (CY)	FINAL CONDITION (CY)
RIPRAP	203.70	203.70	0
SAND	101.85	101.85	0
RIPRAP/SAND	0	0	305.55

**TYPICAL CABLE GROUP REMOVAL**

**SELECT DETAILS**

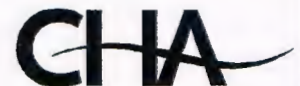
**PV-20 SUBMARINE CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
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FIGURE DT-9

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