



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New England District

PUBLIC NOTICE

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Date: October 2, 2007
Comment Period Ends: November 2, 2007
File Number: NAE-2007-893
In Reply Refer To: David Keddell
Or by e-mail: david.m.keddell@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to **conduct work in waters of the United States** as described below. The Corps is soliciting comments on both the project itself and the range of issues to be addressed in the environmental documentation.

APPLICANT

National Grid
25 Research Drive
Westboro, MA 01582 Attn: Joshua Holden

ACTIVITY

The work includes the temporary discharge of dredged or fill material while accessing work areas to perform routine maintenance, repair and replacement of their existing power facilities throughout the state of Massachusetts. National Grid operates 2,100 miles of high voltage transmission lines, 17,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines and operates 275 substations within the state of Massachusetts. Typical jurisdictional work activities include:

- Establishing safe work/staging area
- Replacement of pole guys and anchors
- Ground improvements
- Vegetative clearing for access & safe environment
- Maintaining existing access road maintenance
- Repair/replace above and/or below ground infrastructure
- Culvert replacement

All work shall conform to the guidelines found within the National Grid best management practice manual entitled "Operation and Maintenance Plan" dated "June 2005", Volumes 1 & 2, text and figures. The work is described on the enclosed plans entitled "ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE," on 26 sheets, and dated "11/15/05."

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

This work is proposed in various navigable waters and waters of the US throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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.

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). This project will temporarily impact approximately 8,000 acres of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), pollock (*Pollachius virens*), whiting (*Merluccius bilinearis*), offshore hake (*Merluccius albidus*), red hake (*Urophycis chuss*), white hake (*Urophycis tenuis*), redfish (*Sebastes fasciatus*), witch flounder (*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*), winter flounder (*Pleuronectes americanus*), yellowtail flounder (*Pleuronectes ferruginea*), windowpane flounder (*Scopthalmus aquosus*), American plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*), ocean pout (*Macrozoarces americanus*), Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*), Atlantic sea scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*), Atlantic sea herring (*Clupea harengus*), monkfish (*Lophius americanus*), bluefish

(Pomatomus saltatrix), long finned squid (Loligo pealei), short finned squid (Illex illecebrosus), Atlantic butterfish (Peprilus triacanthus), Atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus), summer flounder (Paralichthys dentatus), scup (Stenotomus chrysops), black sea bass (Centropristus striata), surf clam (Spisula solidissima), ocean quahog (Artica islandica), spiny dogfish (Squalus acanthias), tilefish (Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps). This habitat consists of vegetated salt marsh, tidal mudflats and rocky intertidal areas. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect various life stages for the species named above. However, 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.

SECTION 106 COORDINATION

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 fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

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:

- (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 David Keddell at (978) 318-8692, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

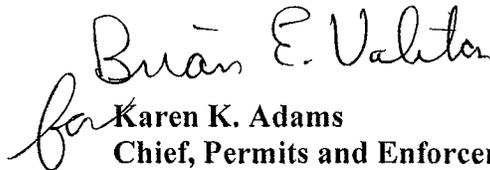
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining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

For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

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FILE NO. NAE-2006-839

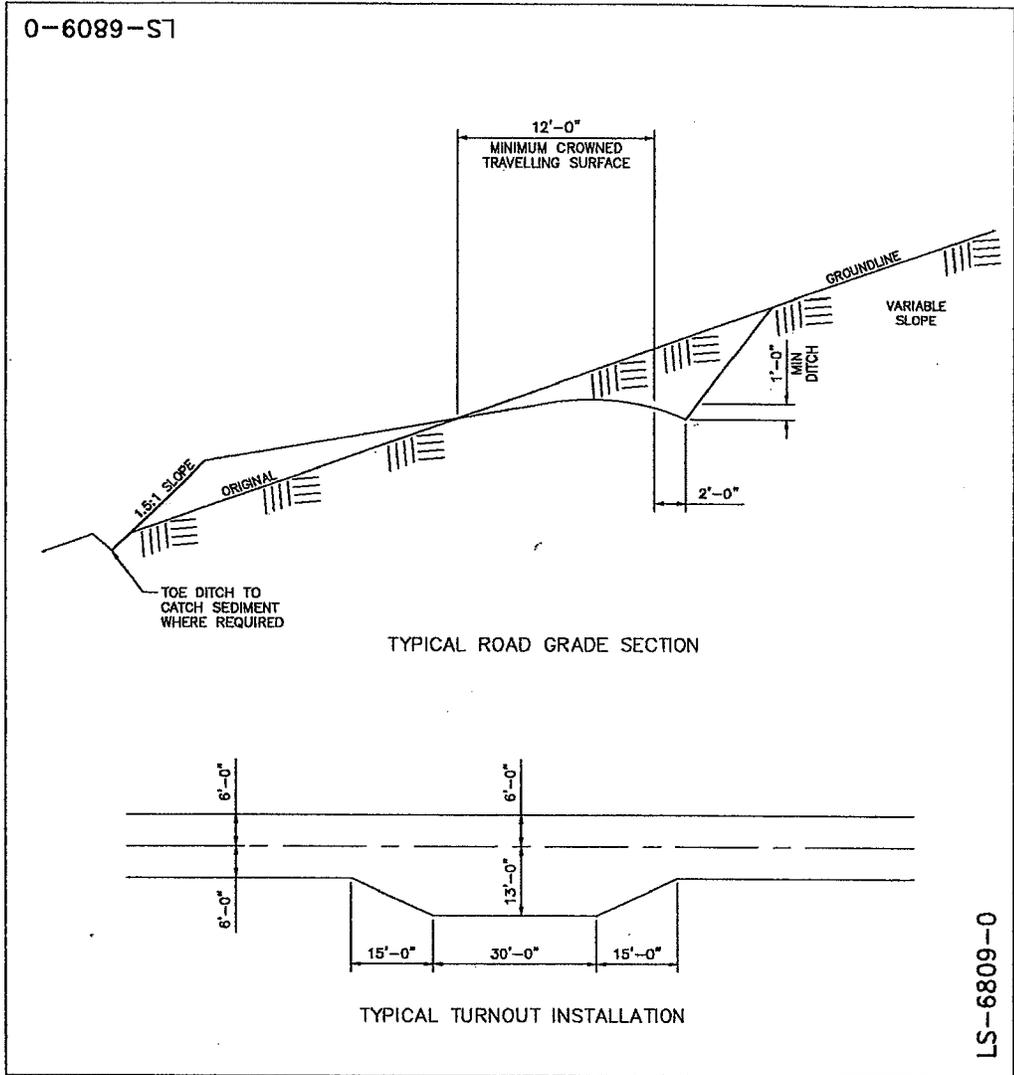
THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.


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. 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: _____

nationalgrid ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE	Doc. No.	EG-303
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	Date	11/1/2006
Natural Resource Protection – ROW Access, Maintenance and Construction Best Management Practices		Reference EP3 – Chapter 3

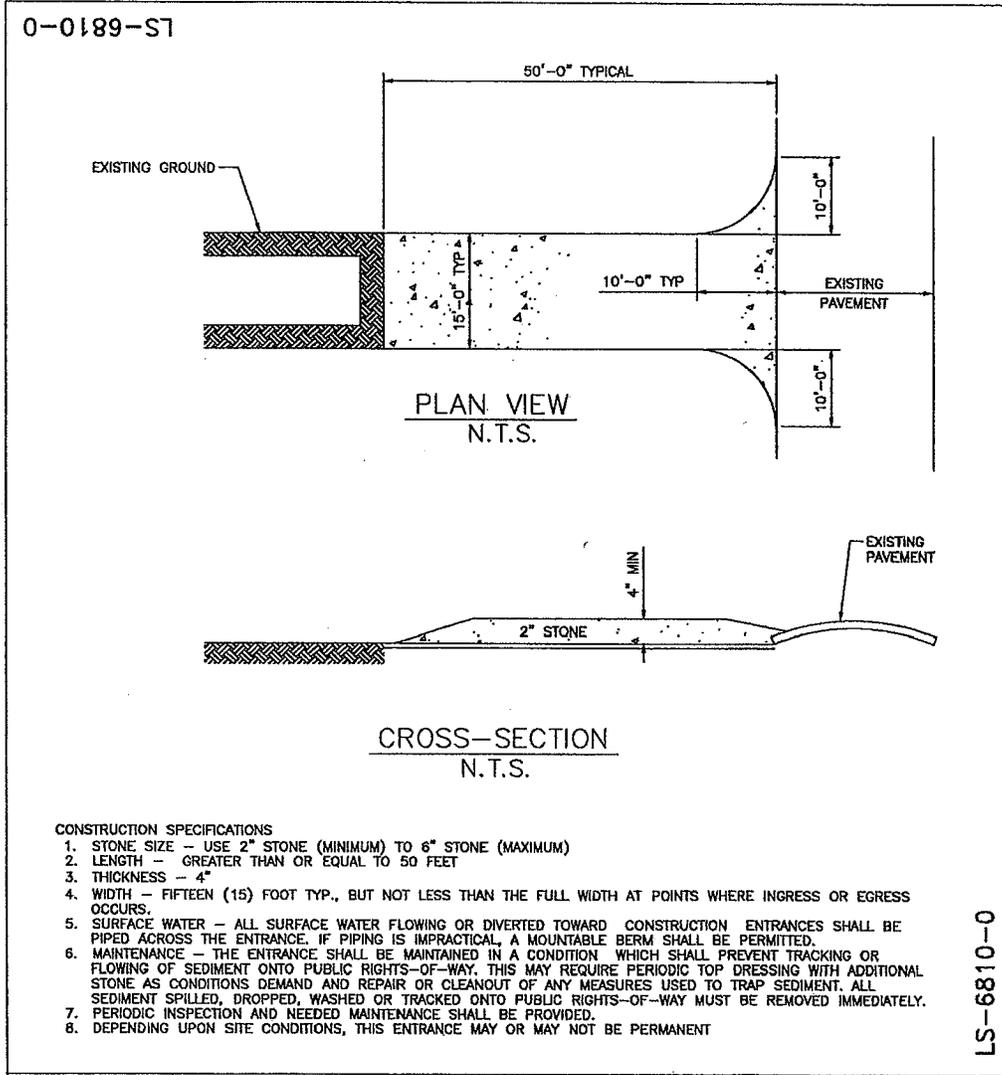


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Natural Resource Protection – ROW Access, Maintenance and Construction Best Management Practices

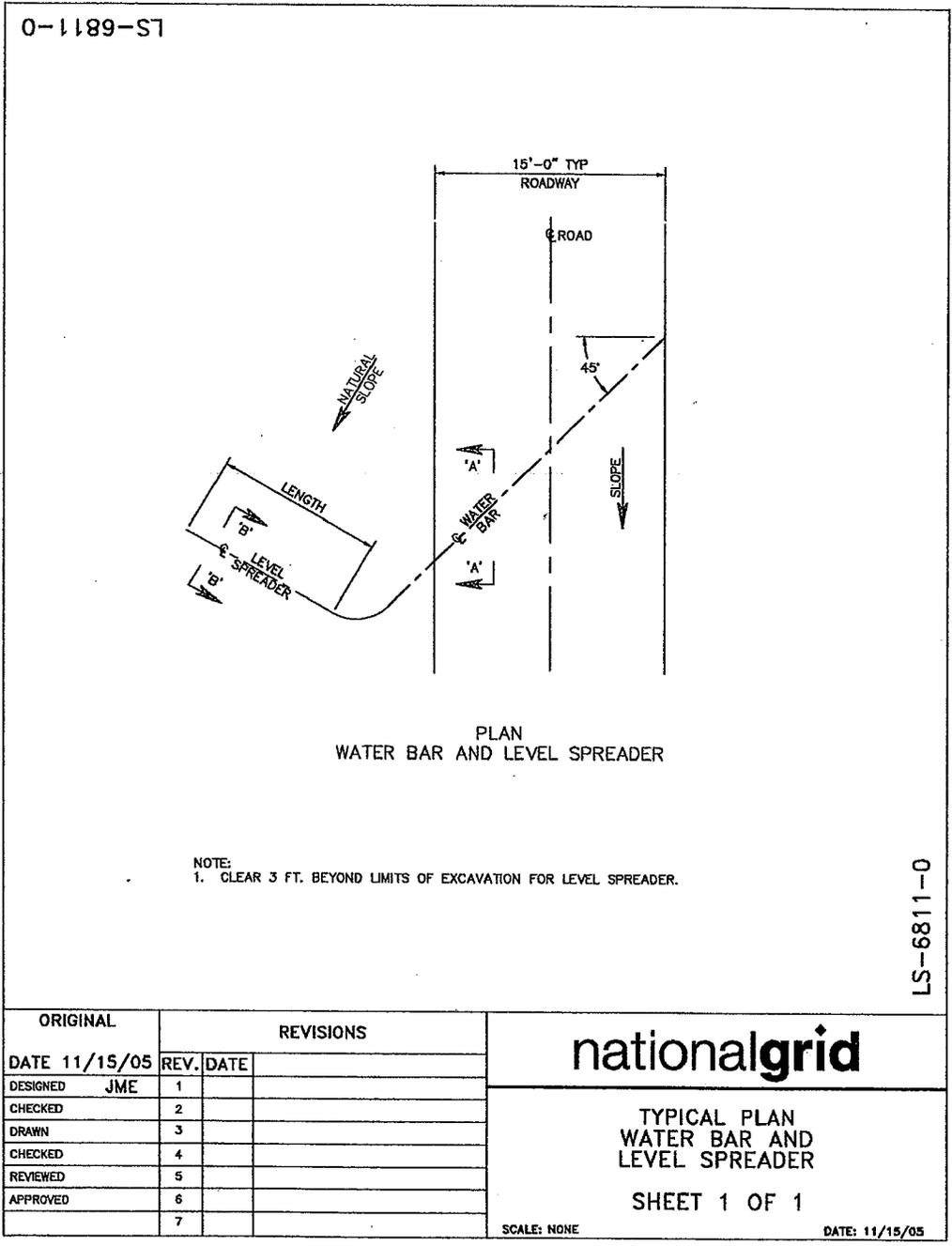


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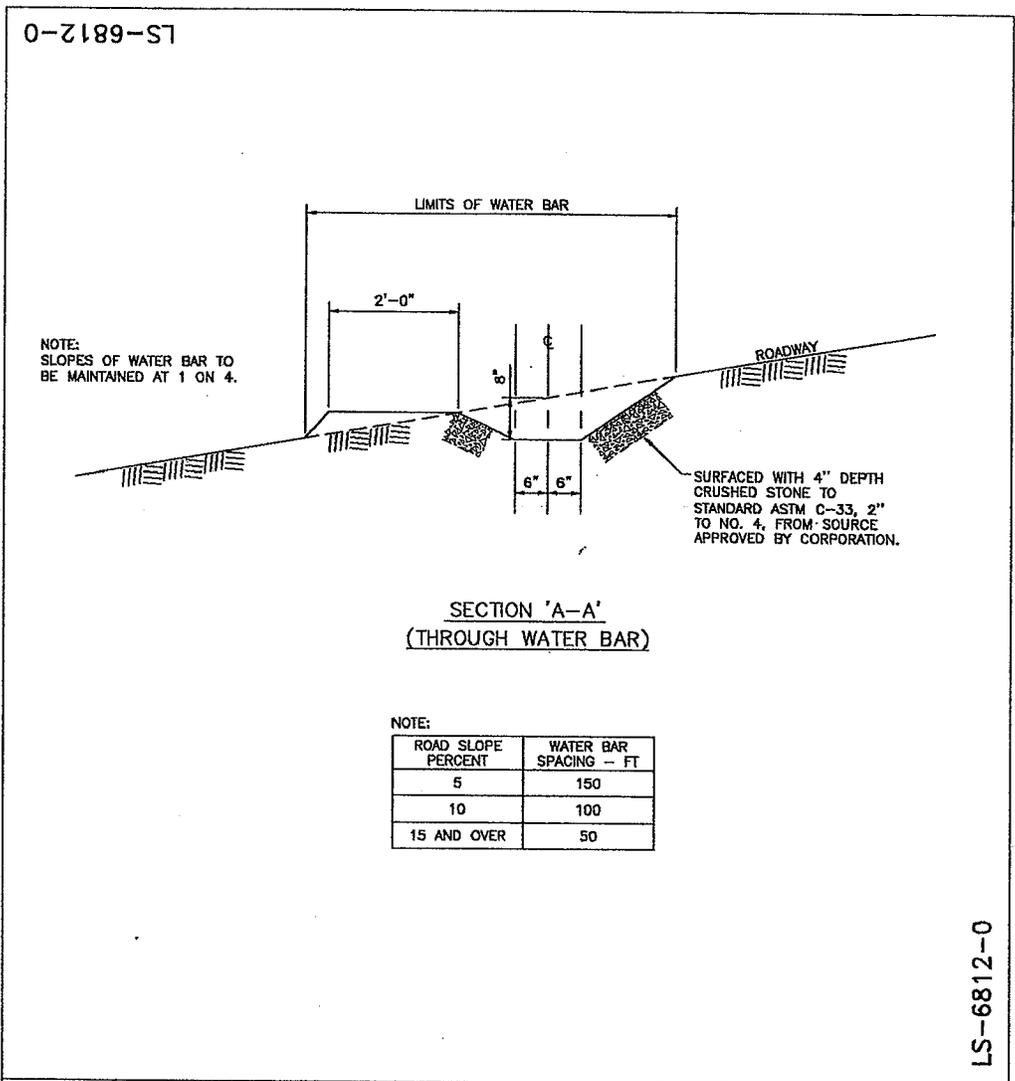
SHEET 1 OF 1

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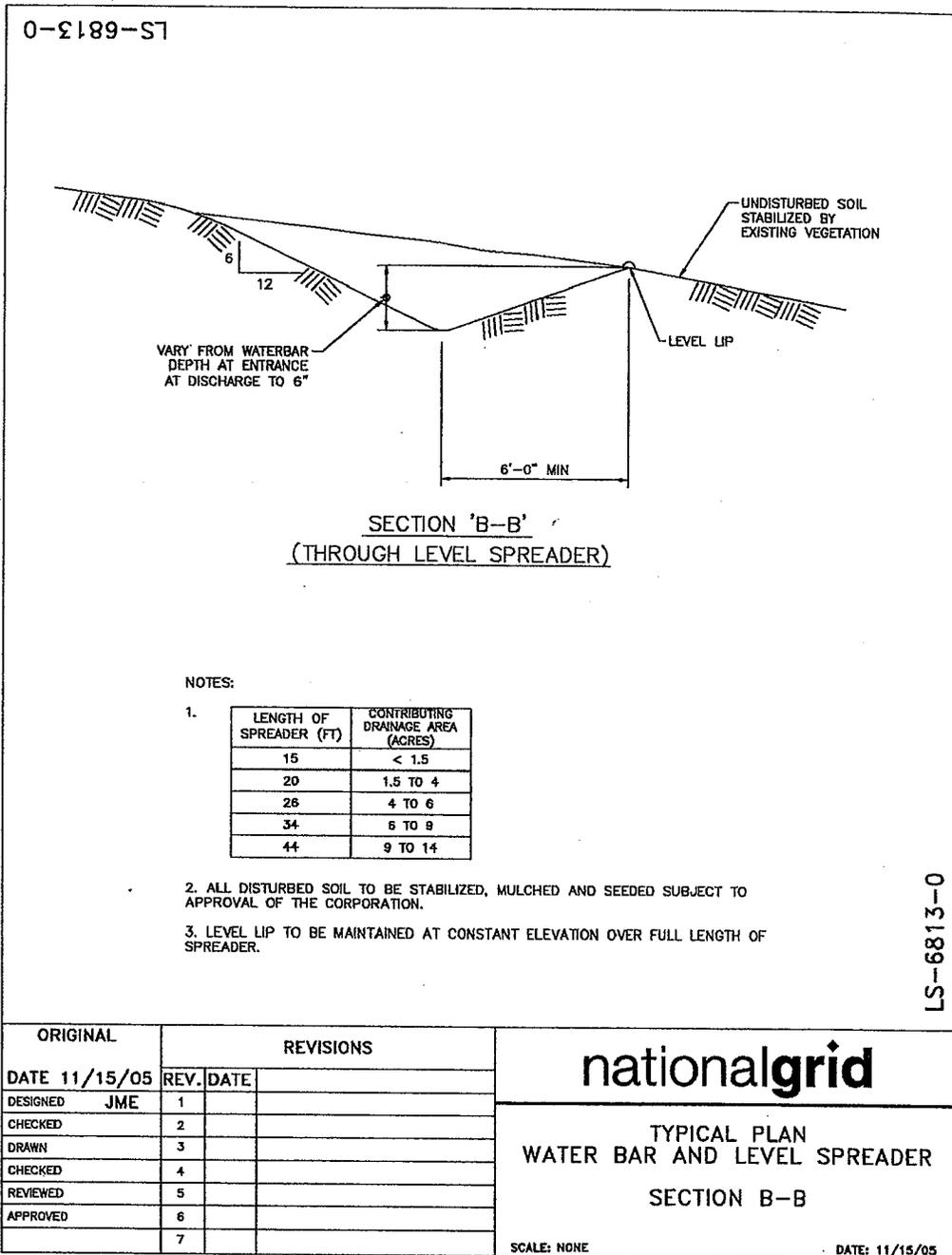
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ORIGINAL	REVISIONS		nationalgrid TYPICAL PLAN WATER BAR AND LEVEL SPREADER SECTION A-A SCALE: NONE DATE: 11/15/05
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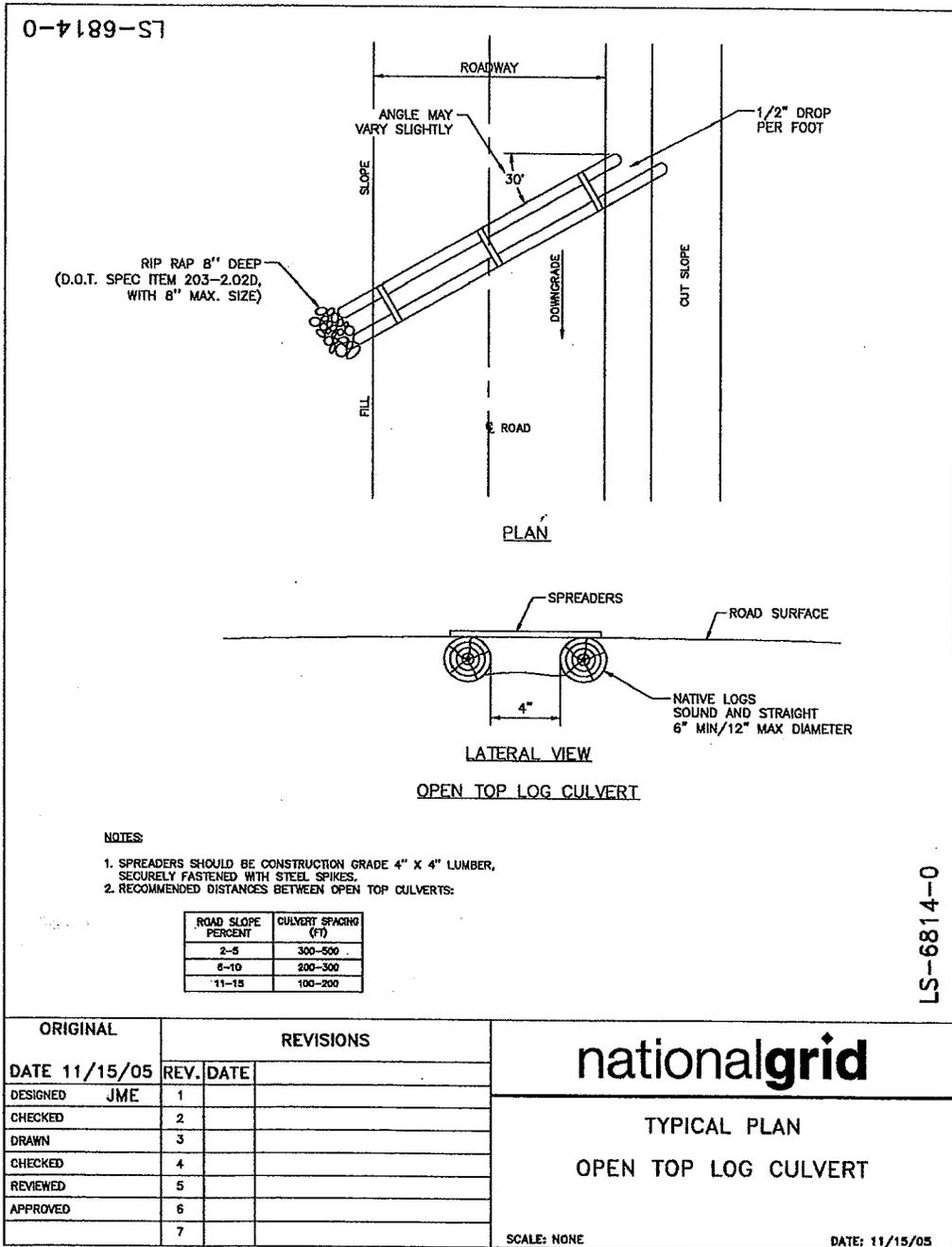
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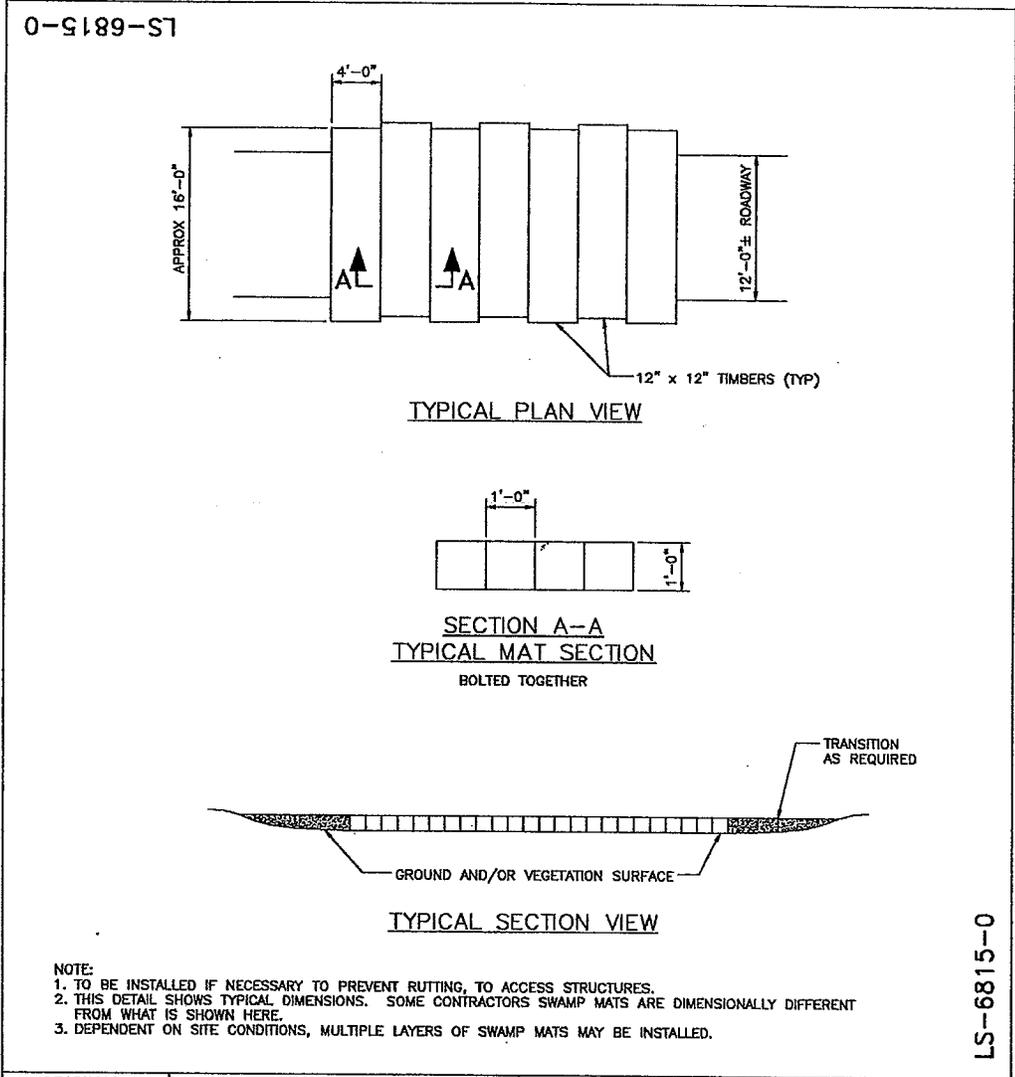
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WETLAND AND STREAM CROSSINGS

General:

- Installations shall maintain uninterrupted hydraulic and hydrologic continuity and shall be installed to minimize use or damage by beavers, while not interfering with the movement of aquatic and wetland fish and wildlife species, in general.
- No wood preservatives, herbicides, pesticides, fuels, or other deleterious substances may be introduced into wetlands and protected waters.

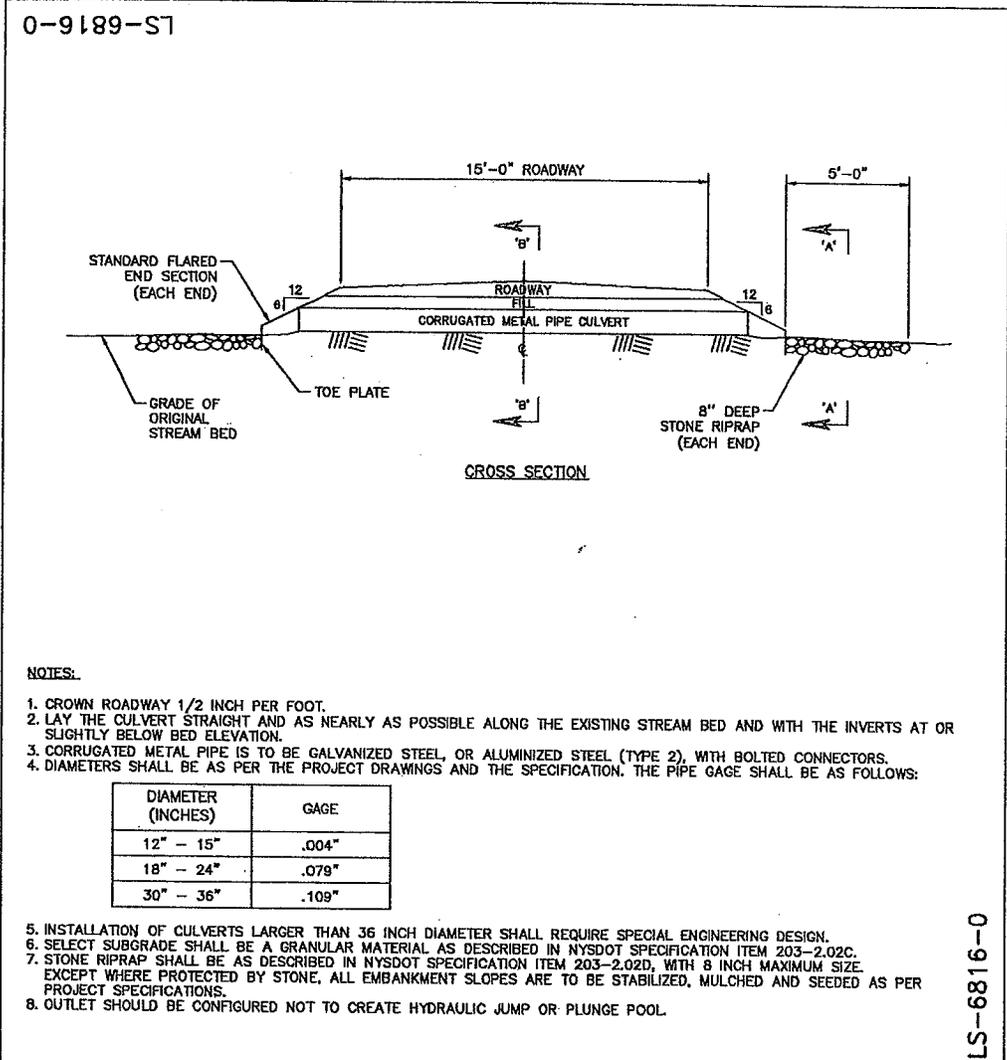
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ORIGINAL	REVISIONS		nationalgrid TYPICAL SWAMP MAT DETAIL
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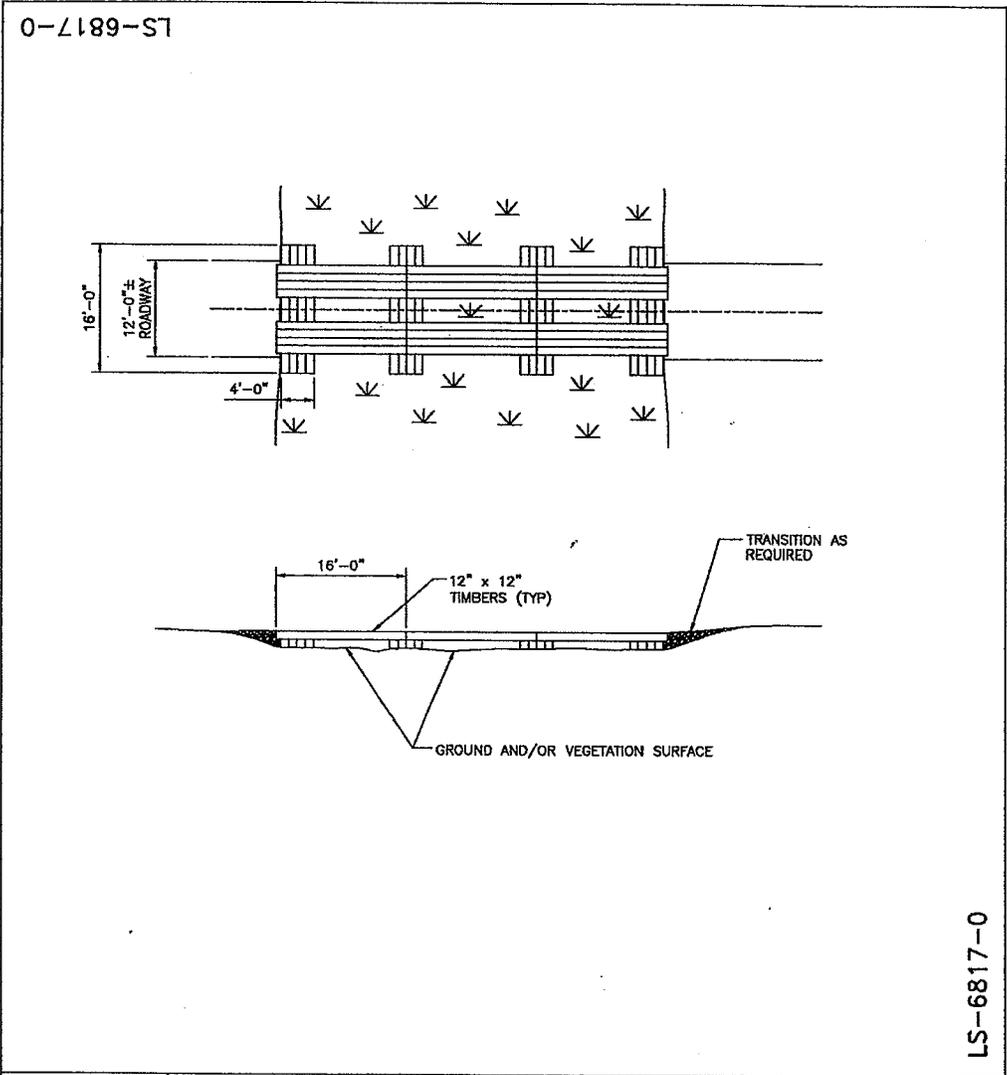
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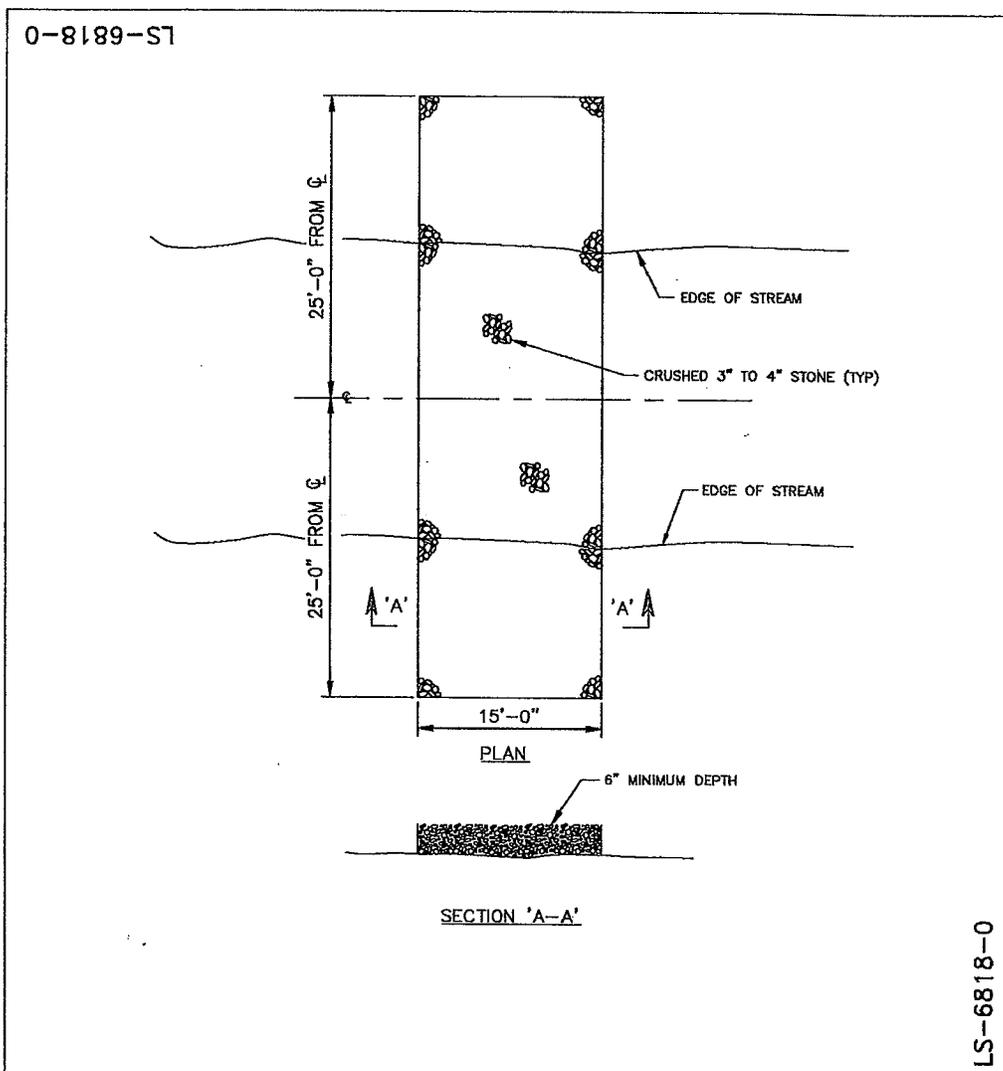
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ORIGINAL	REVISIONS		nationalgrid TYPICAL STREAM CROSSING WITH SWAMP MATS
DATE 11/15/05 DESIGNED JME CHECKED DRAWN CHECKED REVIEWED APPROVED	REV. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	DATE 	
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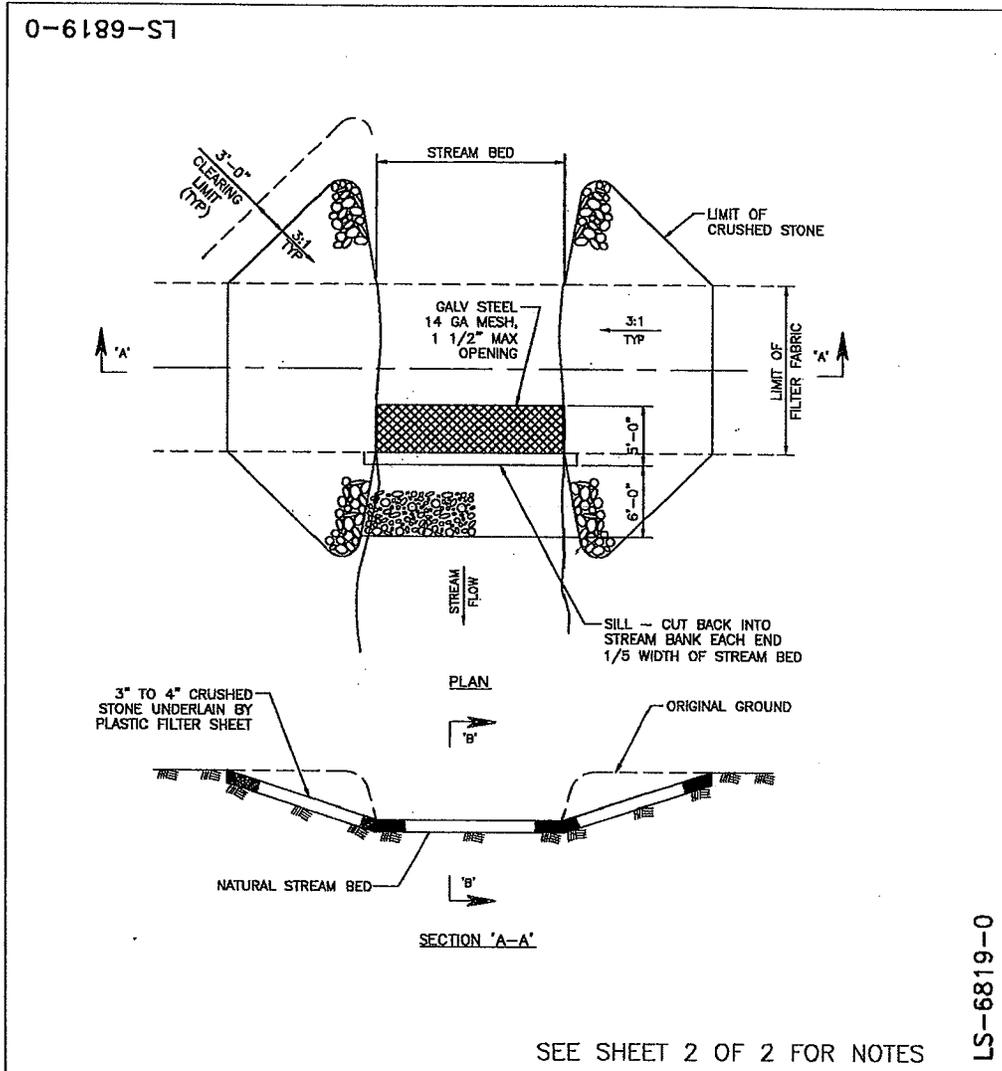
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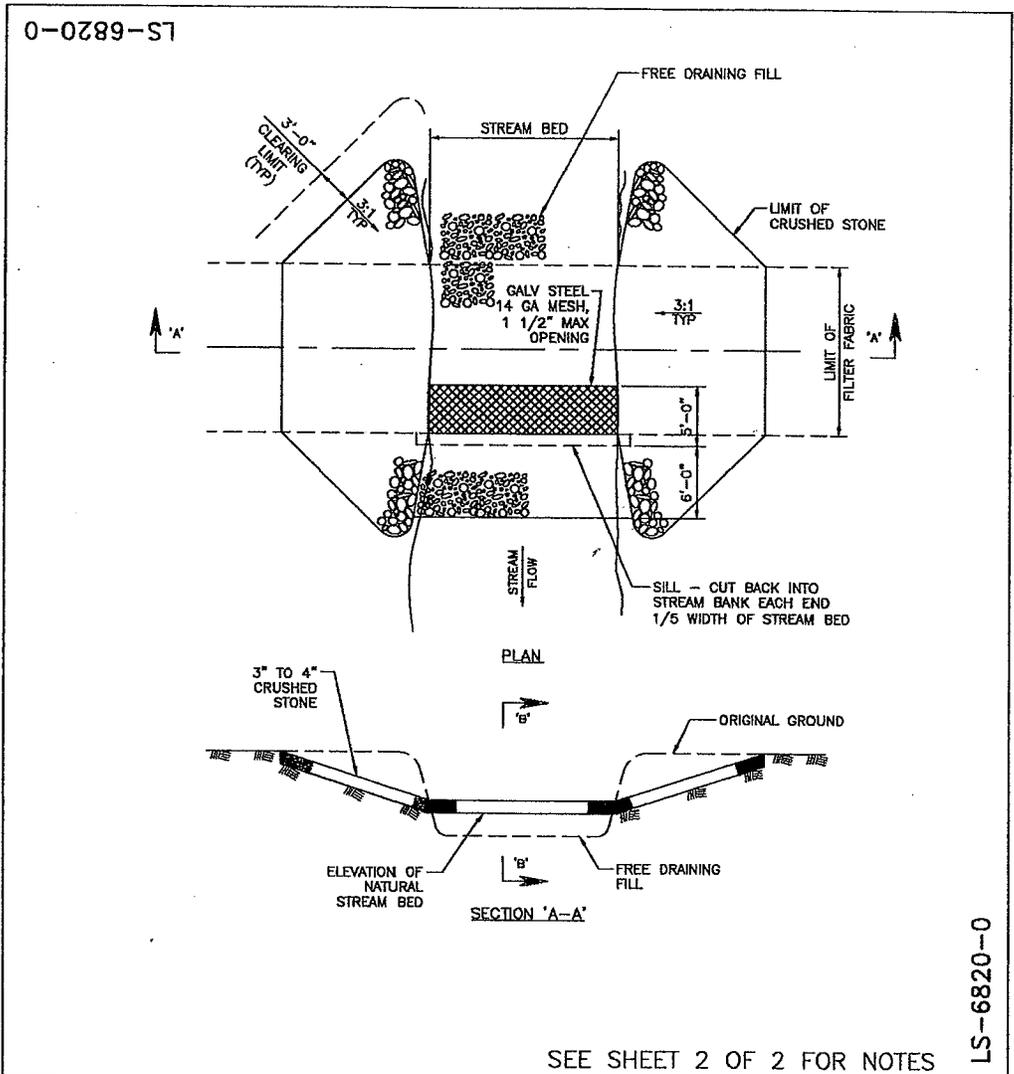


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ORIGINAL	REVISIONS		nationalgrid TYPICAL STREAM FORD TYPE 1 (WHERE LESS THAN 6" SOFT MATERIAL ON BED) SHEET 1 OF 2
DATE 11/15/05	REV.	DATE	
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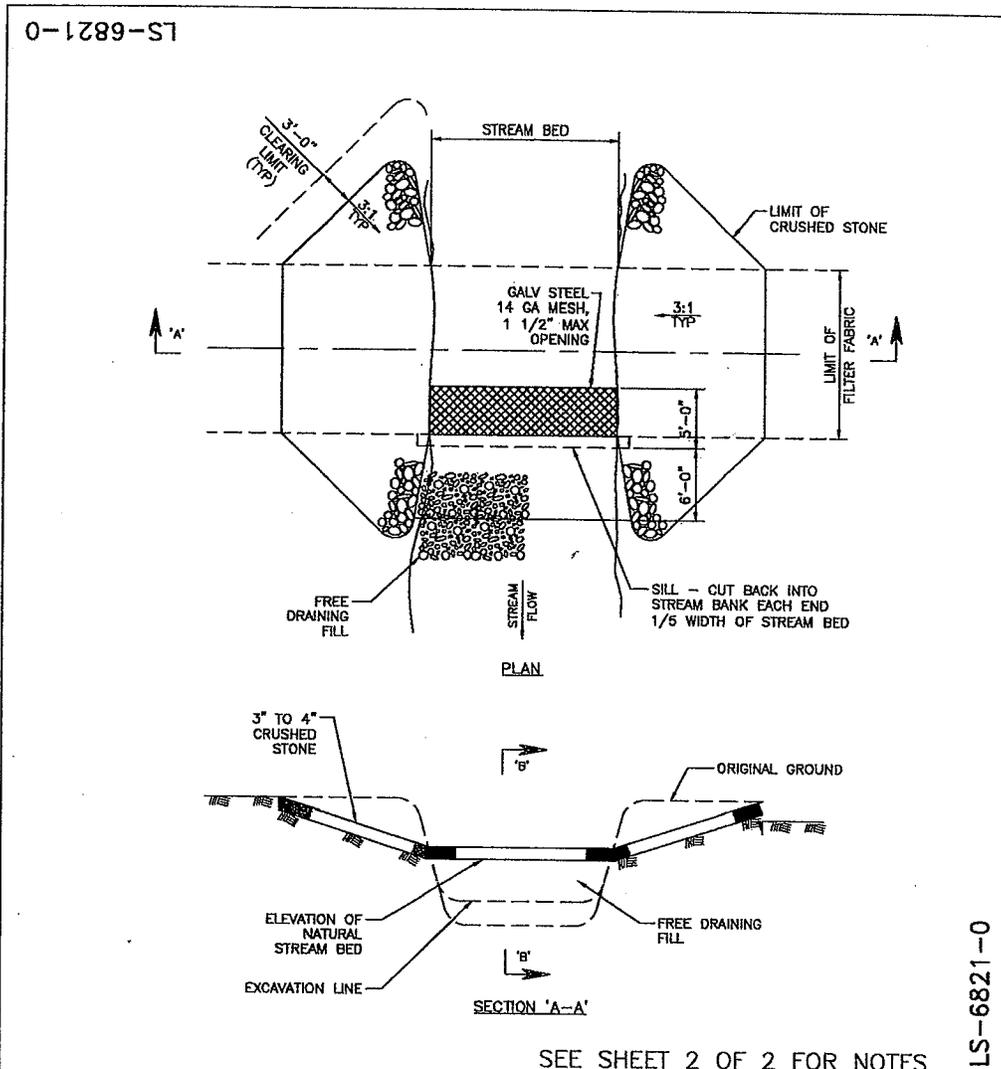
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ORIGINAL	REVISIONS		nationalgrid TYPICAL STREAM FORD TYPE 2 (WHERE BETWEEN 6" AND 3' SOFT MATERIAL ON BED) SHEET 1 OF 2
DATE 11/15/05	REV.	DATE	
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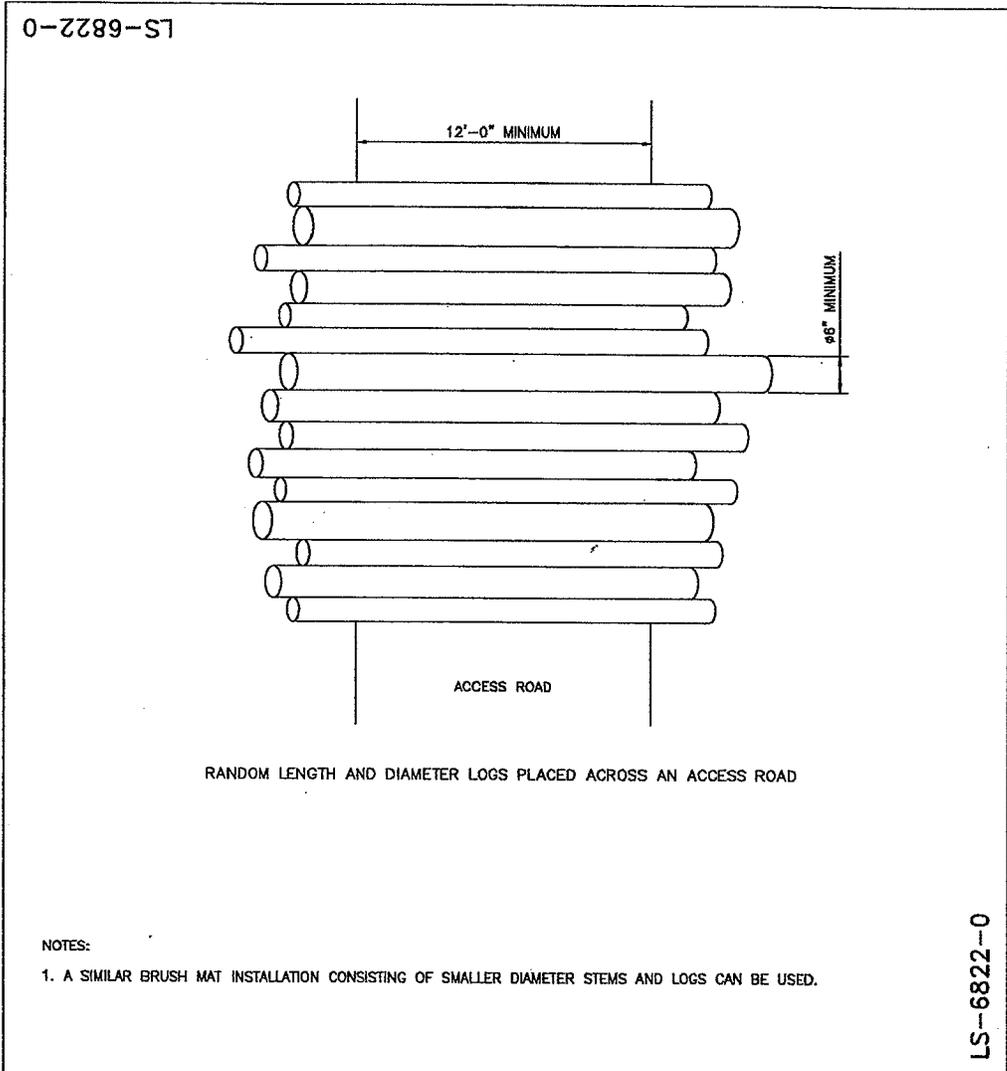
SEE SHEET 2 OF 2 FOR NOTES

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DATE 11/15/05	REV.	DATE	
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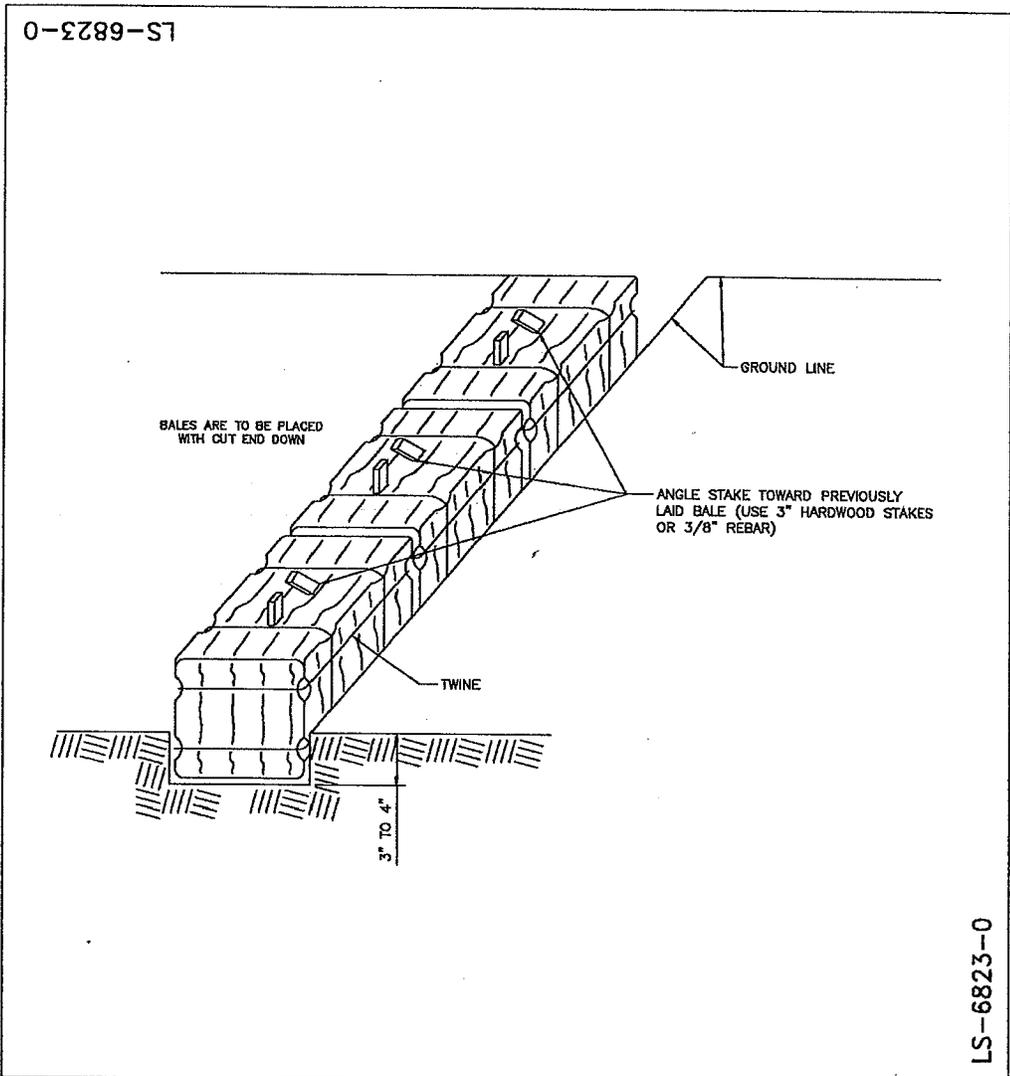
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EROSION CONTROLS

General:

- Erosion control installations shall not cause turbidity in streams downstream of the worksite and are to contain sediment at or near the spot from which soil or sediment is disturbed.
- Straw bales shall be used instead of hay bales in areas where the potential introduction of invasive plant species is of concern.

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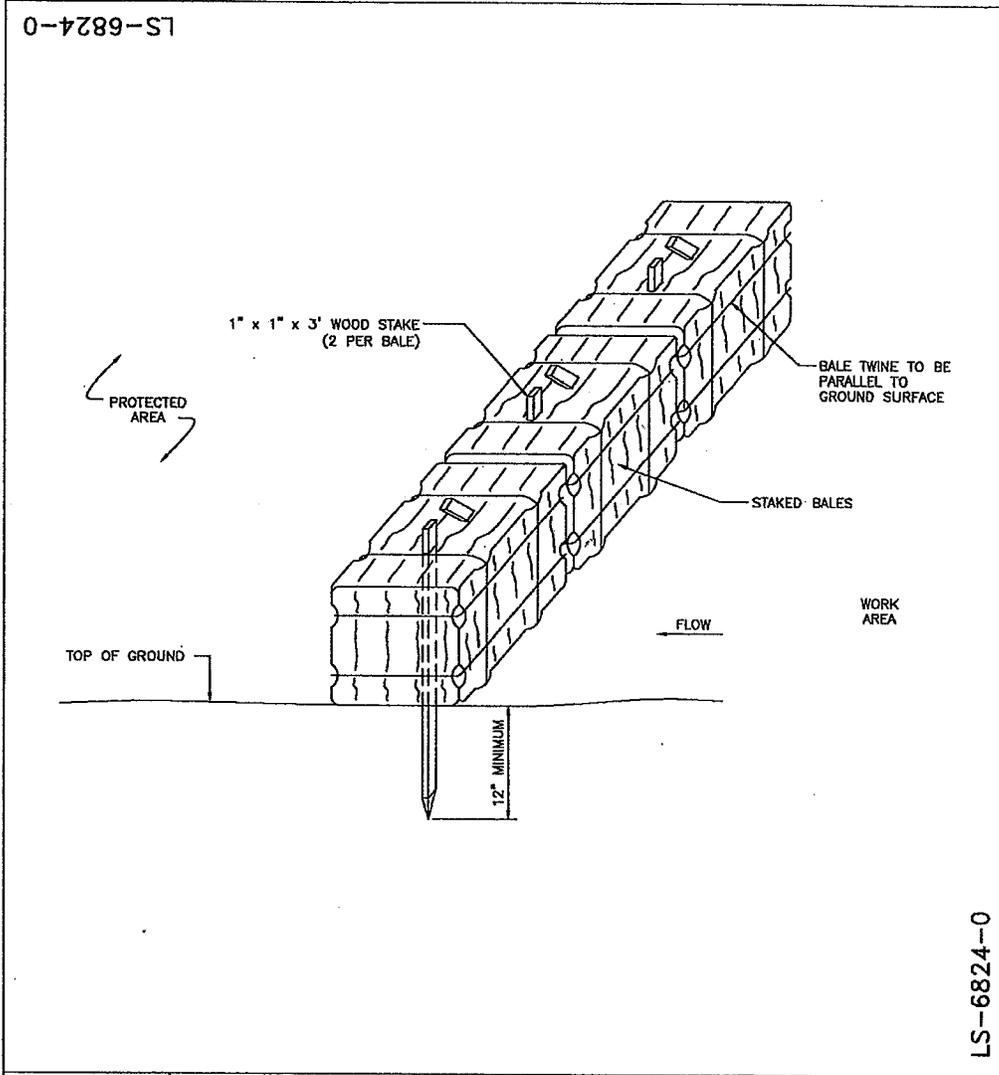


ORIGINAL	REVISIONS		nationalgrid TYPICAL EMBEDDED SEDIMENT BARRIER INSTALLATION SHEET 1 OF 2
DATE 11/15/05	REV.	DATE	
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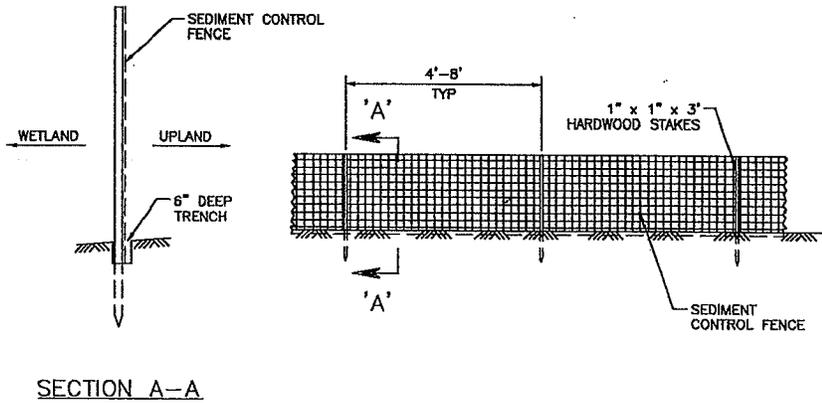
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ORIGINAL	REVISIONS		nationalgrid
DATE 11/15/05	REV.	DATE	
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DESIGNED	JME	1		TYPICAL SEDIMENT CONTROL FENCE
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LS-6826-0

STRAW/HAYBALE CHECK DAM
 3' HARDWOOD STAKES OR #5/8" REBAR
 BALING TWINE
 PLACE BALES CUT END DOWN

SANDBAG CHECK DAM
 TAMP IN BACKFILL
 SAND BAGS

LOG CHECK DAM
 CUT NOTCH IN TOP OF LOG
 SET LOG IN DITCH BOTTOM. BACKFILL TO PREVENT UNDERMINING

STONE CHECK DAM
 COARSE STONE (2"-6" STONE)

NOTES:
 1. USE CHECK DAMS TO SLOW WATER FLOWS AND AS SMALL SEDIMENT TRAPS IN DITCHES ALONG ACCESS ROADS.
 2. CLEAN SEDIMENT AND REPLACE DAMS AS NECESSARY

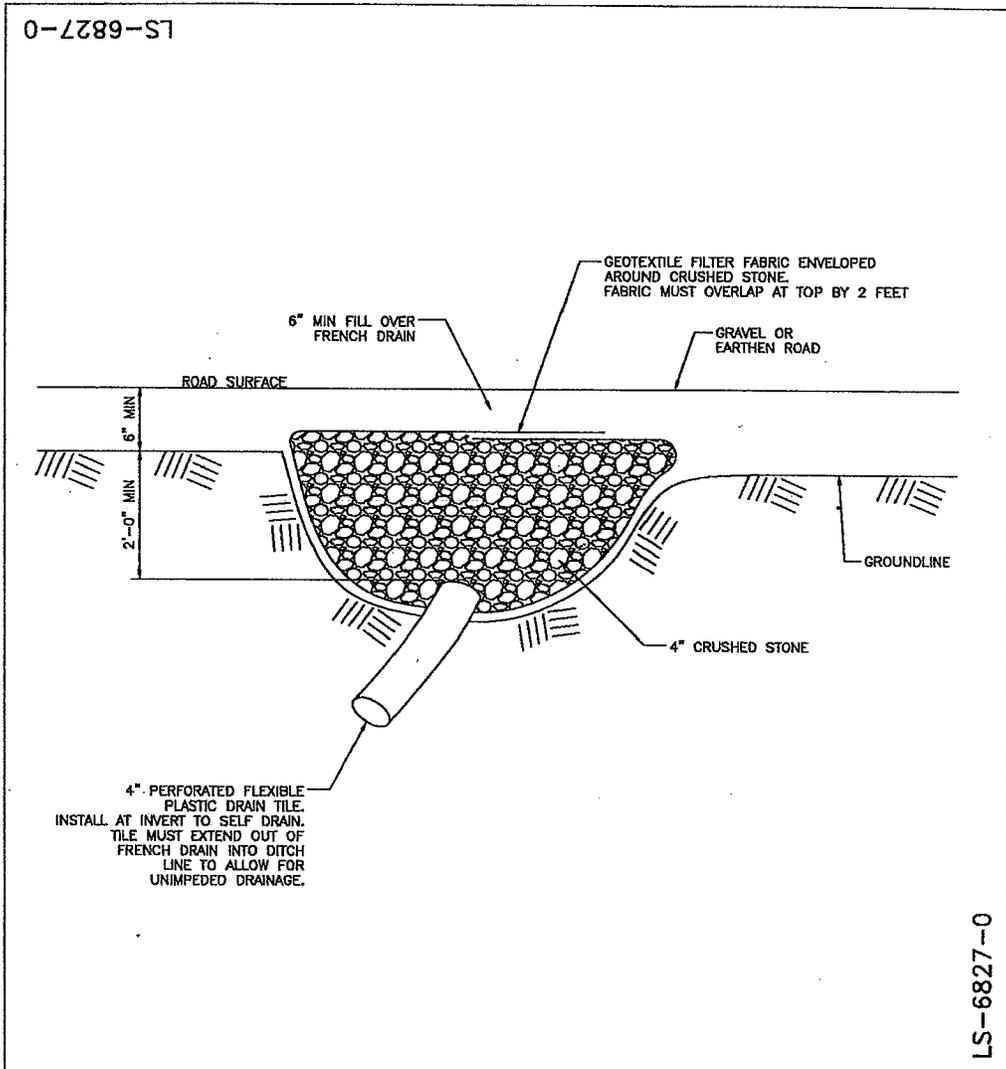
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APPROVED	7	

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TYPICAL CHECK DAM INSTALLATIONS

SCALE: NONE DATE: 11/15/05

LS-6826-0

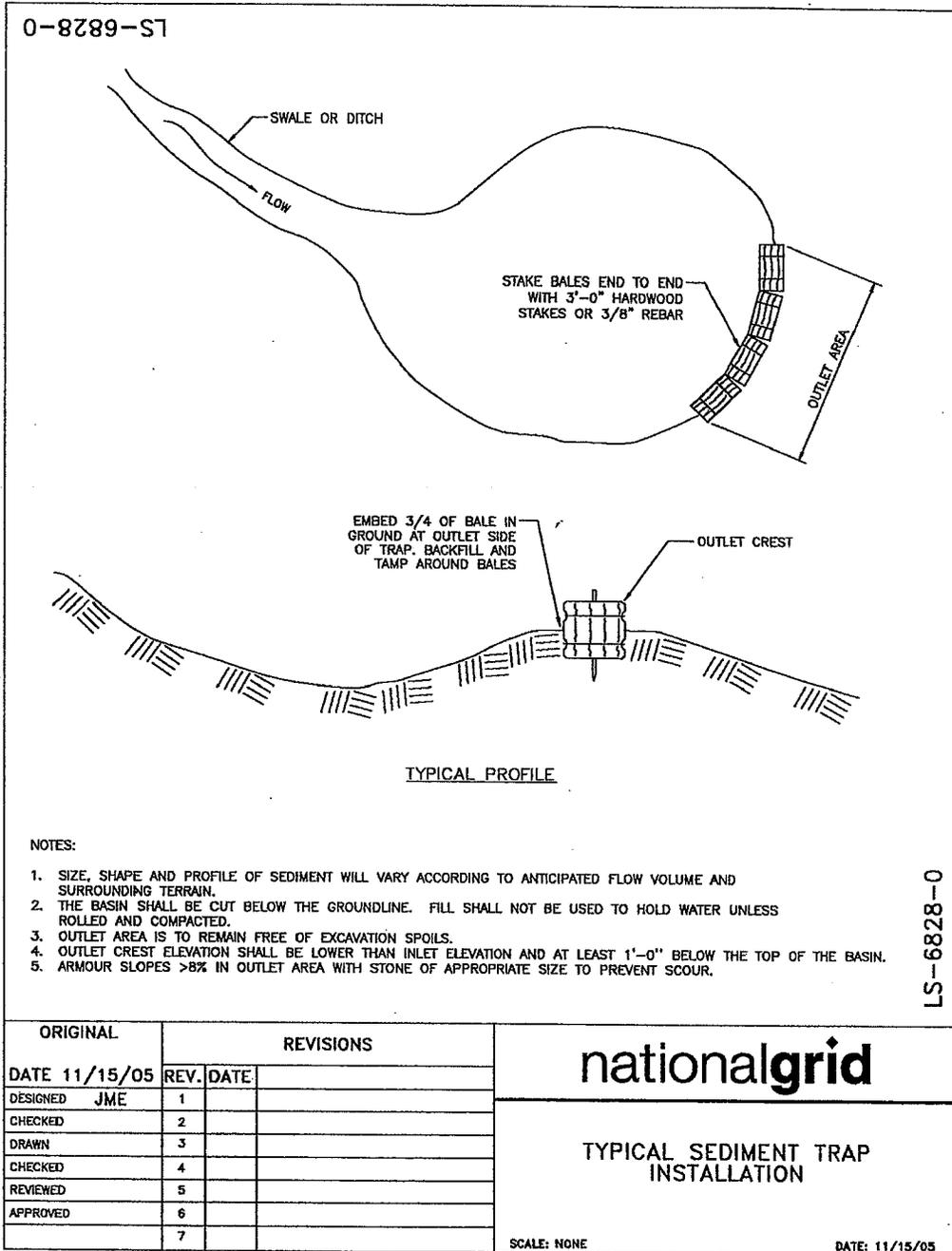


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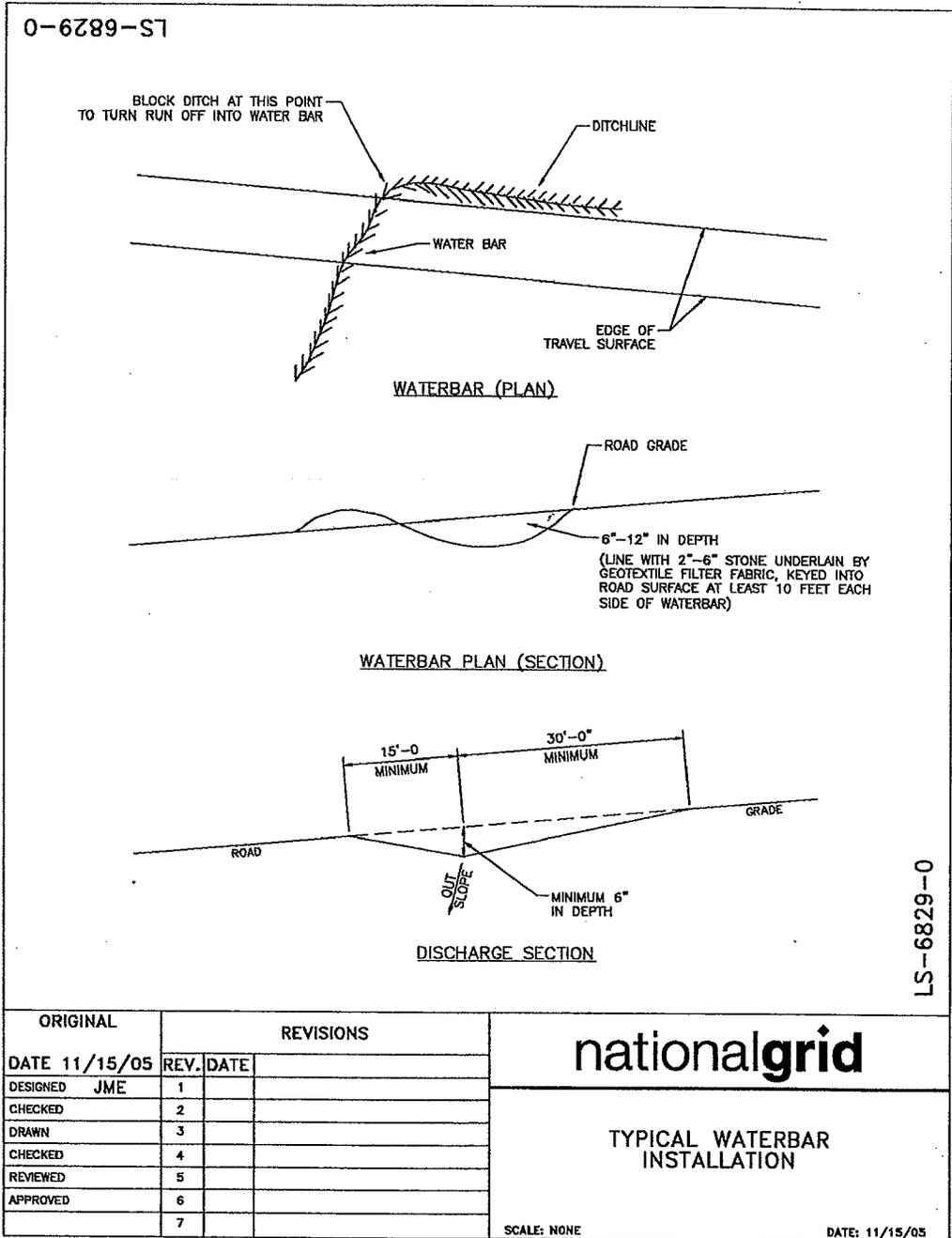
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TYPICAL FRENCH DRAIN INSTALLATION

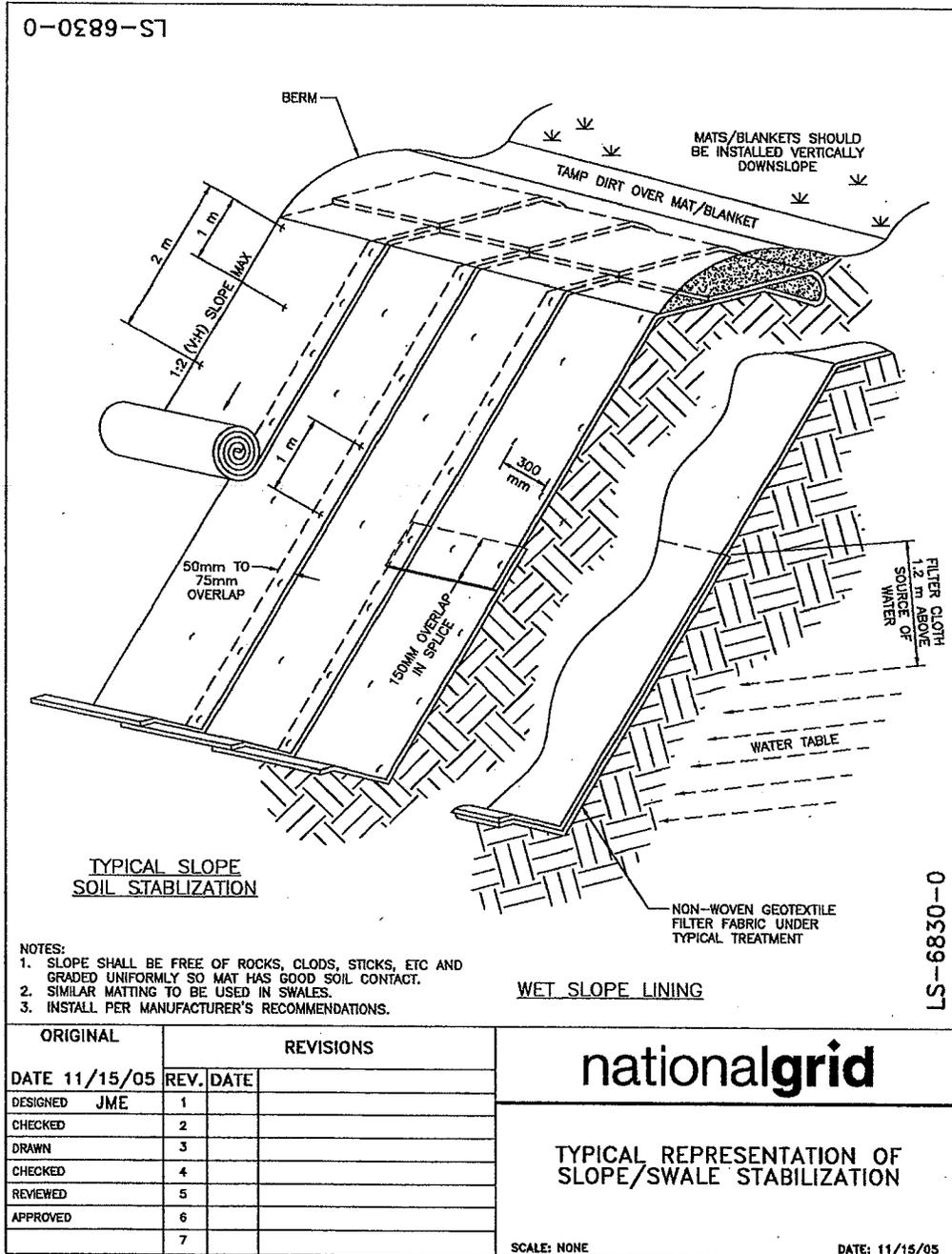
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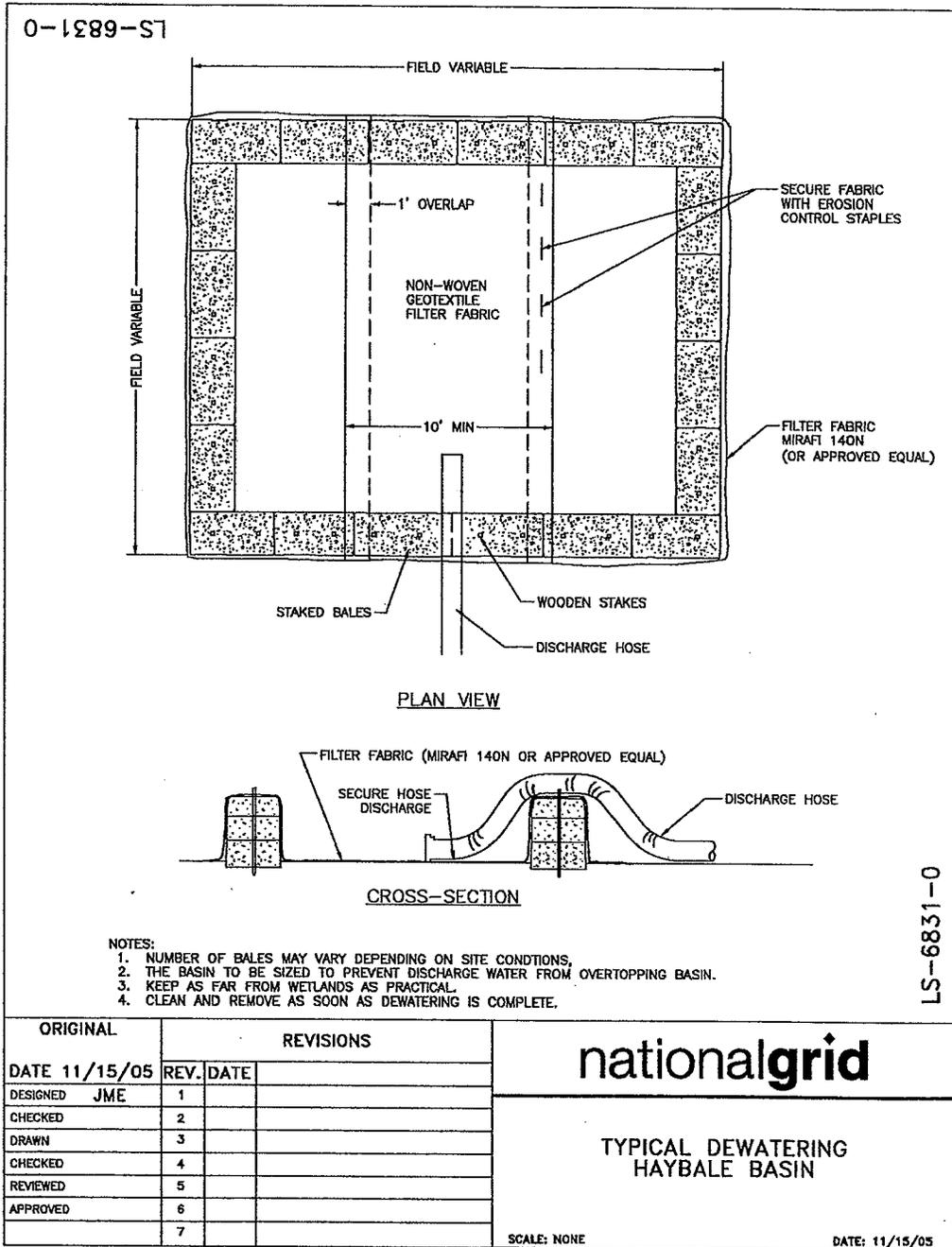


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