

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Comment Period Begins: July 3, 2024 Comment Period Ends: August 2, 2024 File Number: NAE-2023-01331 In Reply Refer to: Mike Wierbonics

**Phone:** (978) 318-8723

Email: michael.s.wierbonics@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE), has received a revised permit application, file number NAE-2023-01331, for additional work in waters of the United States from Matthew Waldrip representing NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy. Originally, USACE issued a public notice for this project on July 25, 2023, for impacts subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 jurisdiction. The newly revised application now proposes the additional discharge of fill material that is subject to Section 10 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act jurisdiction. This work is proposed in Vineyard Sound between Mill Road in Falmouth, Massachusetts and Squantum Avenue in Tisbury, Massachusetts. The site coordinates are: Latitude: 41.541436 Longitude: -70.623283 (Falmouth Landing) and Latitude: 41.478814 Longitude: -70.611114 (Tisbury Landing).

The proposed work would construct a 4.4-mile electrical transmission cable across Vineyard Sound. The cable would landfall off Mill Road in Falmouth, Massachusetts and off Squantum Avenue in Tisbury, Massachusetts. Approximately 17,375 linear feet (3.30 miles) of cable would be installed via trenchless jetplow and 6,050 feet (1.14 miles) of cable would be installed via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). Approximately 2,500 feet of HDD would occur to Falmouth landfall and 3,550 feet of HDD would occur to the Tisbury landfall. Jetplow installation would bury the cable 6 to 10 feet below the seabed. HDD installation would bury the cable 60 to 80 feet below the seabed. In areas of hard bottom habitat where ideal burial depth would not be achieved, 1,579 cubic yards of concrete mattresses would be discharged over the cable totaling 1.07 acres.

The work is shown on the enclosed plans entitled "PLAN ACCOMPANYING PETITION OF NSTAR ELECTRIC CO. D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A BURIED SUBMARINE CABLE WITHIN VINEYARD SOUND FALMOUTH, BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS TO TISBURY, DUKES COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS," on twenty-nine (29) sheets dated "MARCH 19, 2024."

The project has been designed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the United States. HDD installation would occur in nearshore areas to avoid impacts to sensitive habitats such as eelgrass near the landfall sites. Installation of the cable via jetplow would result in temporary effects that are anticipated to revert back to preimpact conditions within a few tidal cycles. The proposed discharge of concrete mattresses would result in the permanent impact of 1.07 acres of waters of the U.S.

#### CENAE-R

File No. NAE-2023-01331 – Eversource 91 Cable Replacement Project

## **AUTHORITY**

Perm	its are required pursuant to:
X	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
Χ	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 USACE 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 USACE 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.

## **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.

This project would impact 6.7 acres of EFH. This habitat consists of medium to coarse grain sands, hard bottom habitat, and complex bottom habitat. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect species that use these waters and substrate. However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect would 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.

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#### NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on our initial review of the proposed project, no historic properties were identified within the permit area. 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.

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION**

The USACE 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 National Marine Fisheries Service 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:

- (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.

# **COMMENTS**

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

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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.

People submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available for public review in their entirety and will be considered a matter of public record.

Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Wierbonics at <a href="michael.s.wierbonics@usace.army.mil">michael.s.wierbonics@usace.army.mil</a>, (978) 618-0812, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367.

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 USACE 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. 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 <u>NOT</u> AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Daniel Breen

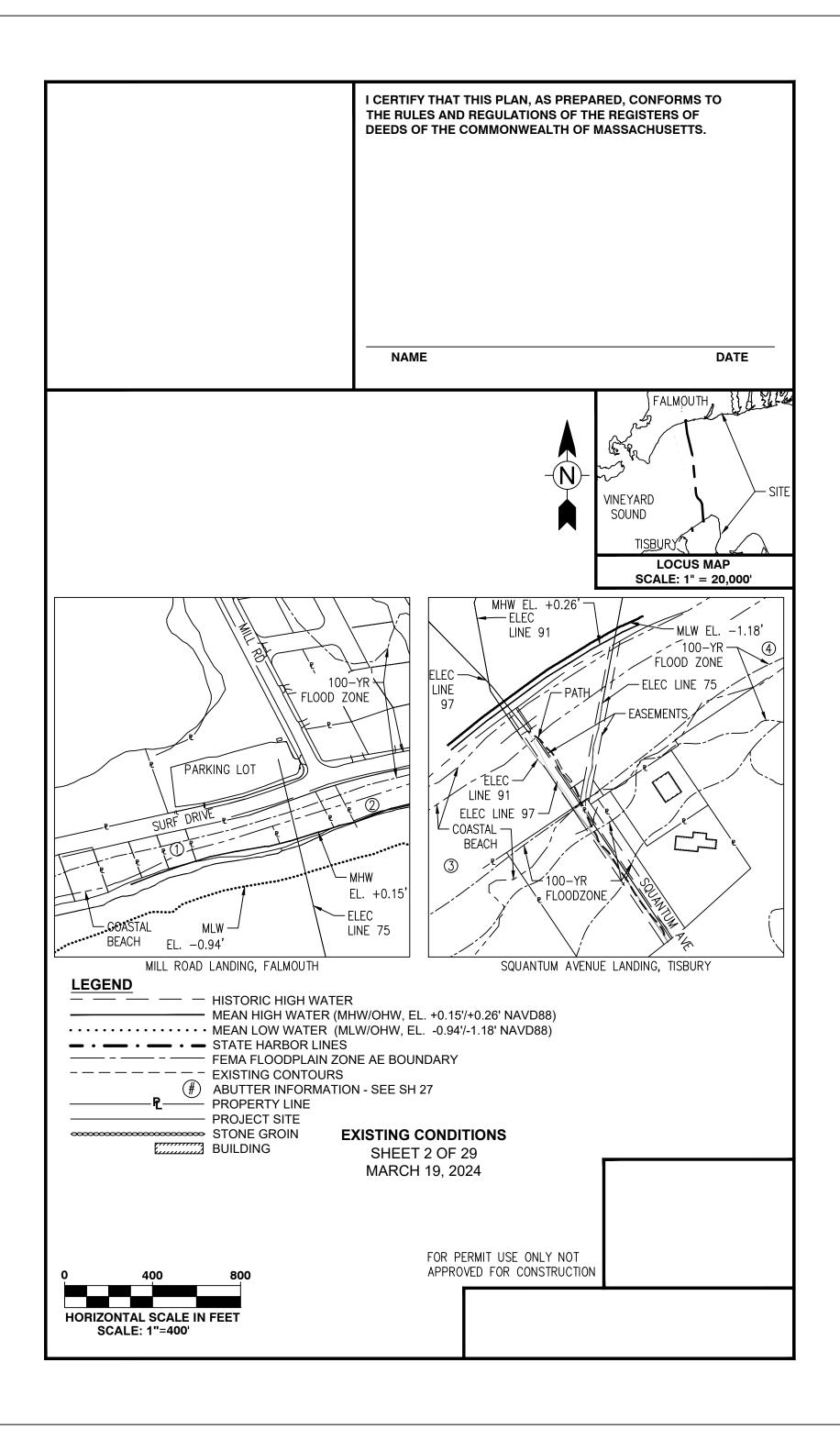
Chief, Transportation and Utilities Section

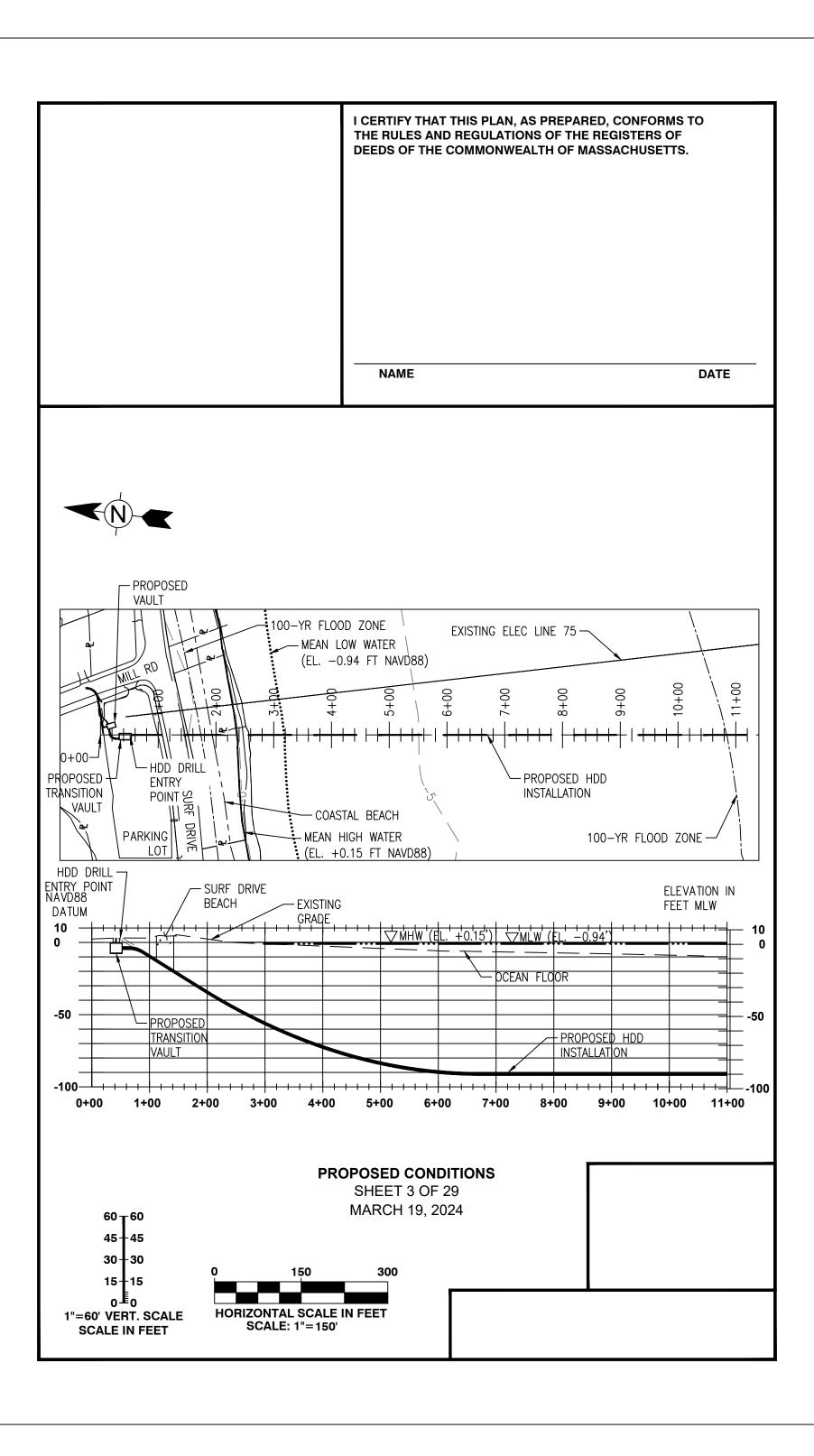
Regulatory Division

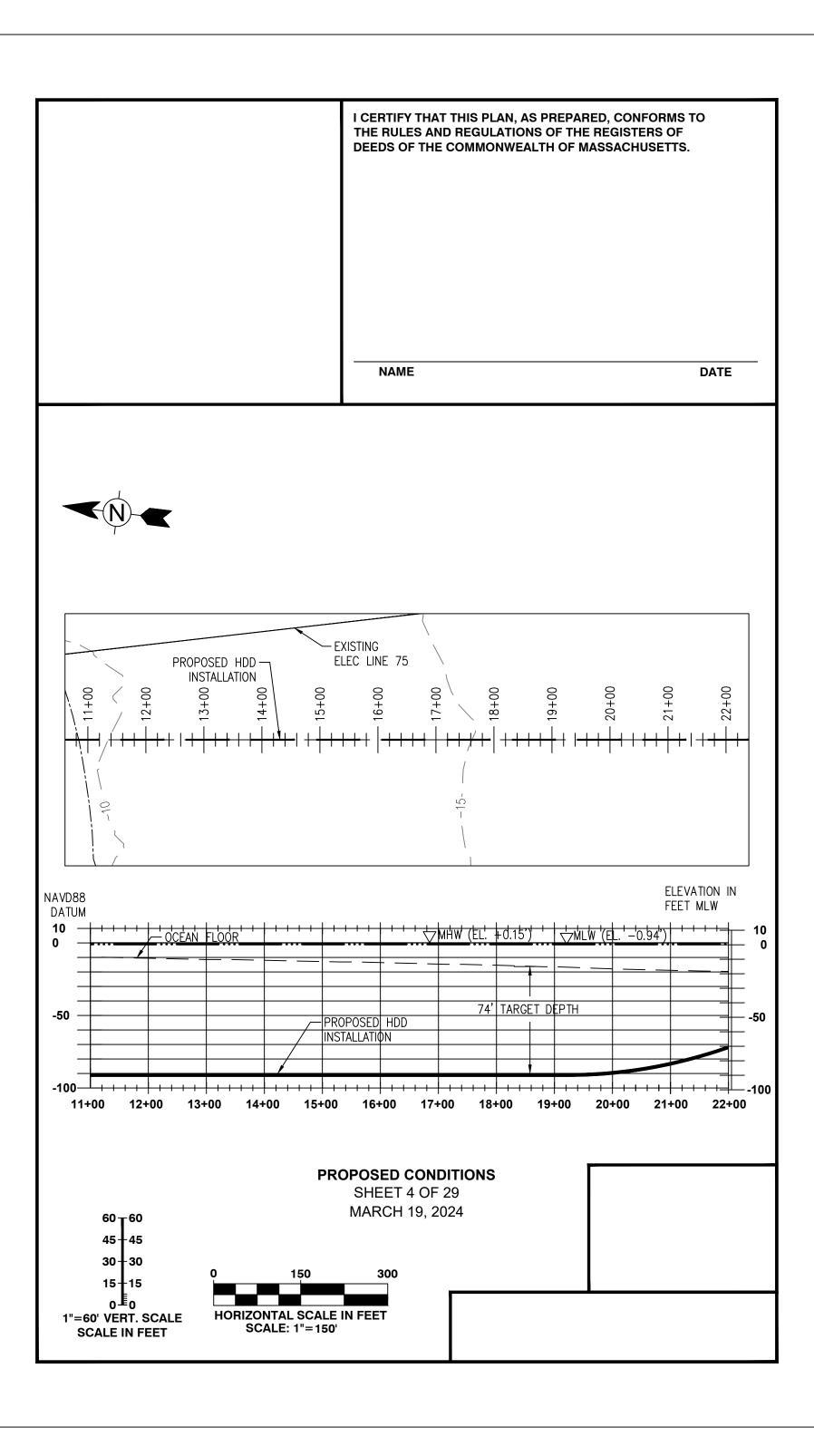
Daniel B. Bream

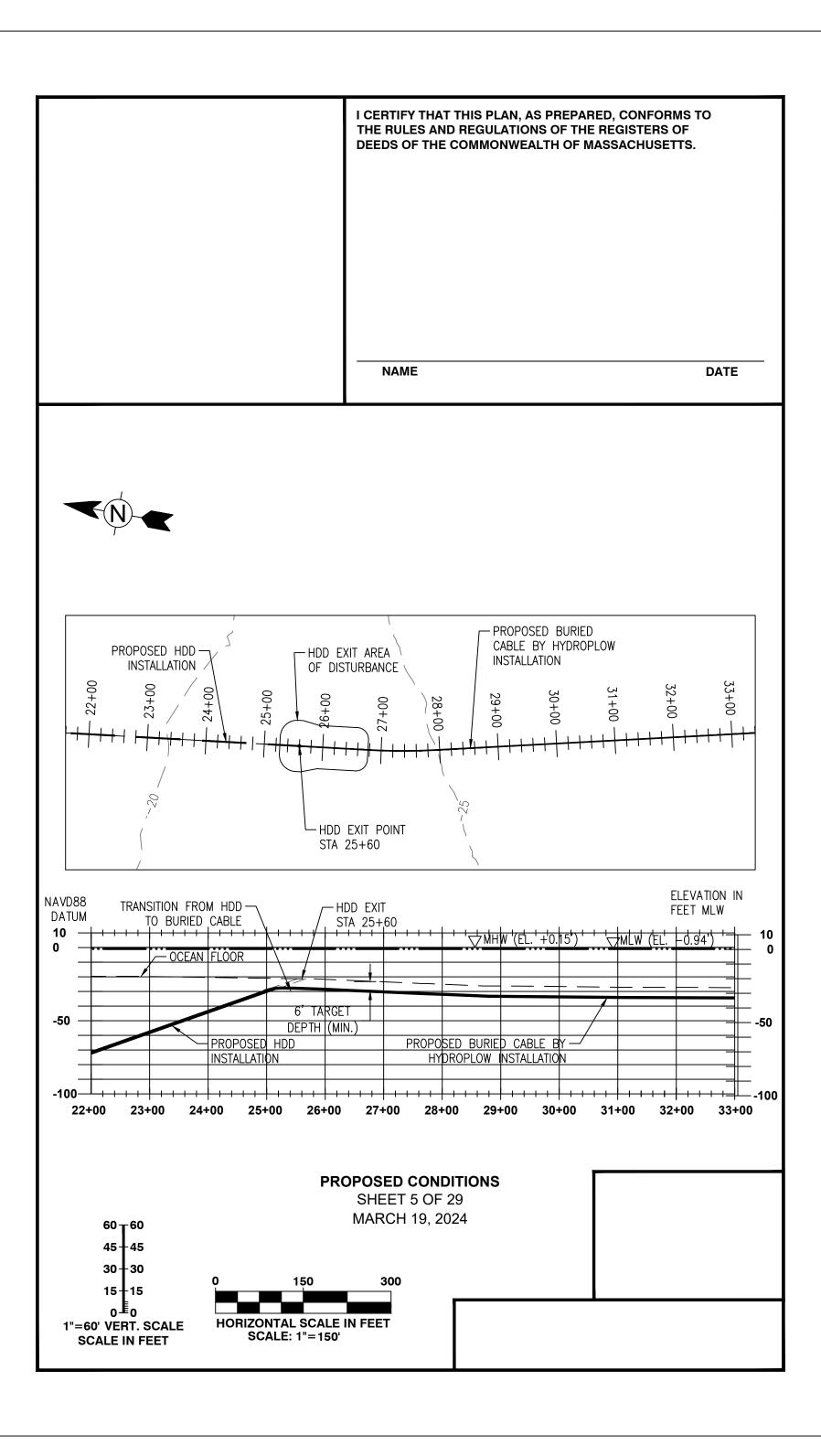
If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil

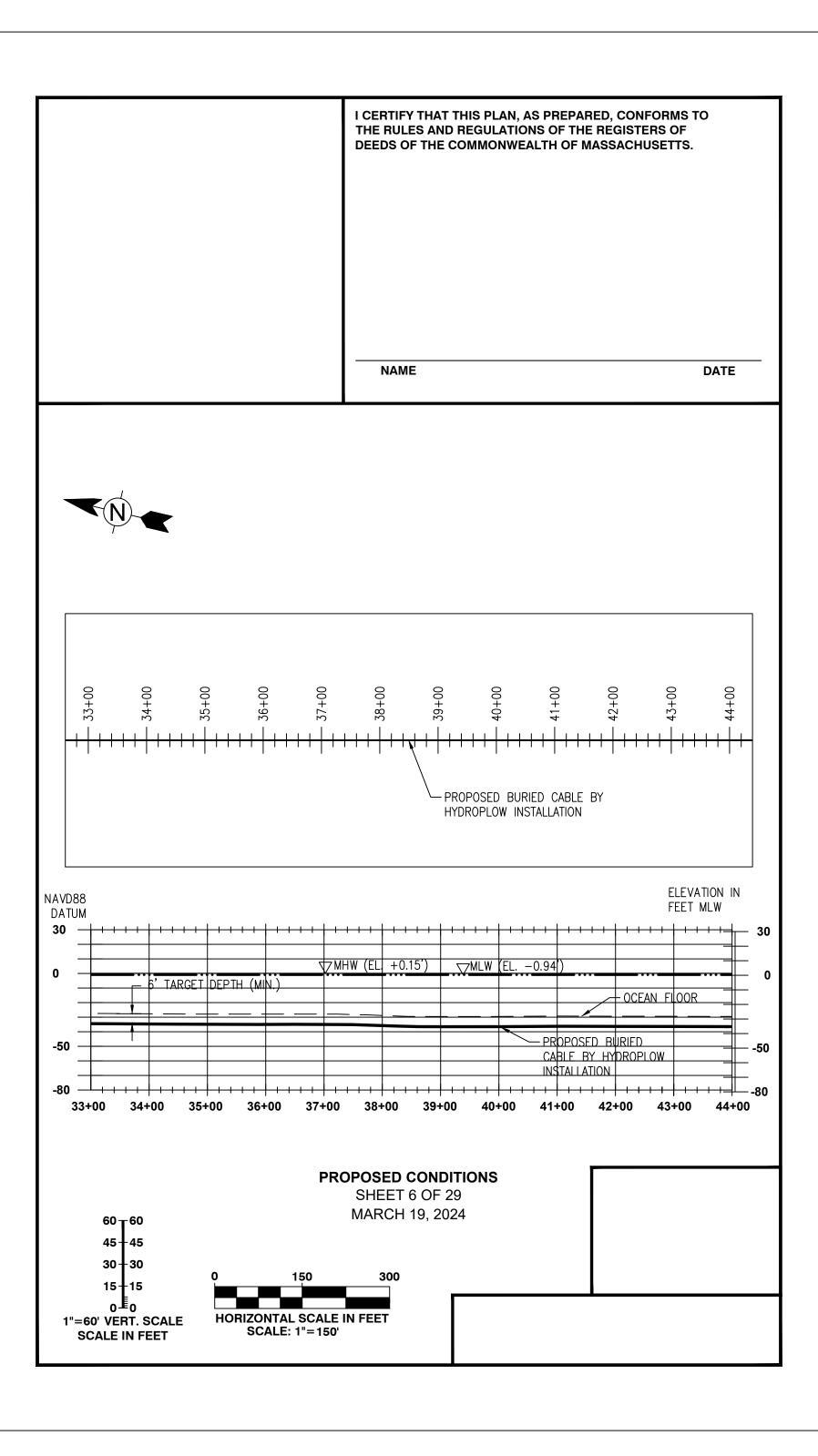
I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, AS PREPARED, CONFORMS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS OF DEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. NAME **DATE** FALMOUTH, **DRAWING INDEX** SHEET TITLE COVER 2 WATERFRONT BOUNDARIES AND FEATURES 3 FALMOUTH LANDING - PLAN & PROFILE SUBMARINE ROUTE - PLAN & PROFILE 4-23 SITE 24 TISBURY LANDING - PLAN & PROFILE VINEYARD 25 HDD EXIT DETAIL AND ALIGNMENT POINTS SOUND 26 SECONDARY CABLE PROTECTION DETAIL 27 ABUTTER'S INFORMATION TISBURY 28-29 **CROSS SECTION DETAILS LOCUS MAP** PROPOSED HDD SCALE: 1" = 20,000' 🖔 INSTALLATION OF HDD DRILL CABLE ~2507 FEET ENTRY POINT \$ HDD DRILL AP2 ALIGNMENT POINTS CHART SHOWN ON SHEET 25 **EXIT POINT** AP3 AP4 ABUTTER'S INFORMATION SHOWN ON SHEET 27 AP5 AP6-AP7 AP8-DATUM VIA BUZZARDS BAY AP9-INTERACTIVE TIDAL DATUM VIEWER (NAVD 88) FALMOUTH **TISBURY** <u>#804</u> <u>MLLW</u> #650 MLLW PROPOSED: +9.42' MAX TIDE +10.68 +9.42 +10.88 BURIED CABLE +0.62' +2.08'MHHW +0.40'+1.66 ~3.30 MILES MHW +0.15' +1.41' +0.26' +1.72' (17423 FEET) AP10-+0.00' +1.26' +0.00' +1.46' NAVD 88 +0.32'-1.18' + 1.28'MLW-0.94 AP11 HDD DRILL MLLW -1.26 +0.00'-1.46 +0.00' AP12 EXIT POINT HDD DRILL **ENTRY POINT** AP19-PROPOSED HDD -AP20-INSTALLATION OF CABLE ~3548 FEET Ħ 4,000 8,000 FOR PERMIT USE ONLY NOT **EXISTING CONDITIONS** APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION SHEET 1 OF 29 **HORIZONTAL SCALE IN FEET** MARCH 19, 2024 SCALE: 1"=4,000' PLAN ACCOMPANYING PETITION OF NSTAR ELECTRIC CO. D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A BURIED SUBMARINE CABLE WITHIN VINEYARD SOUND FALMOUTH, BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS TO TISBURY, DUKES COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

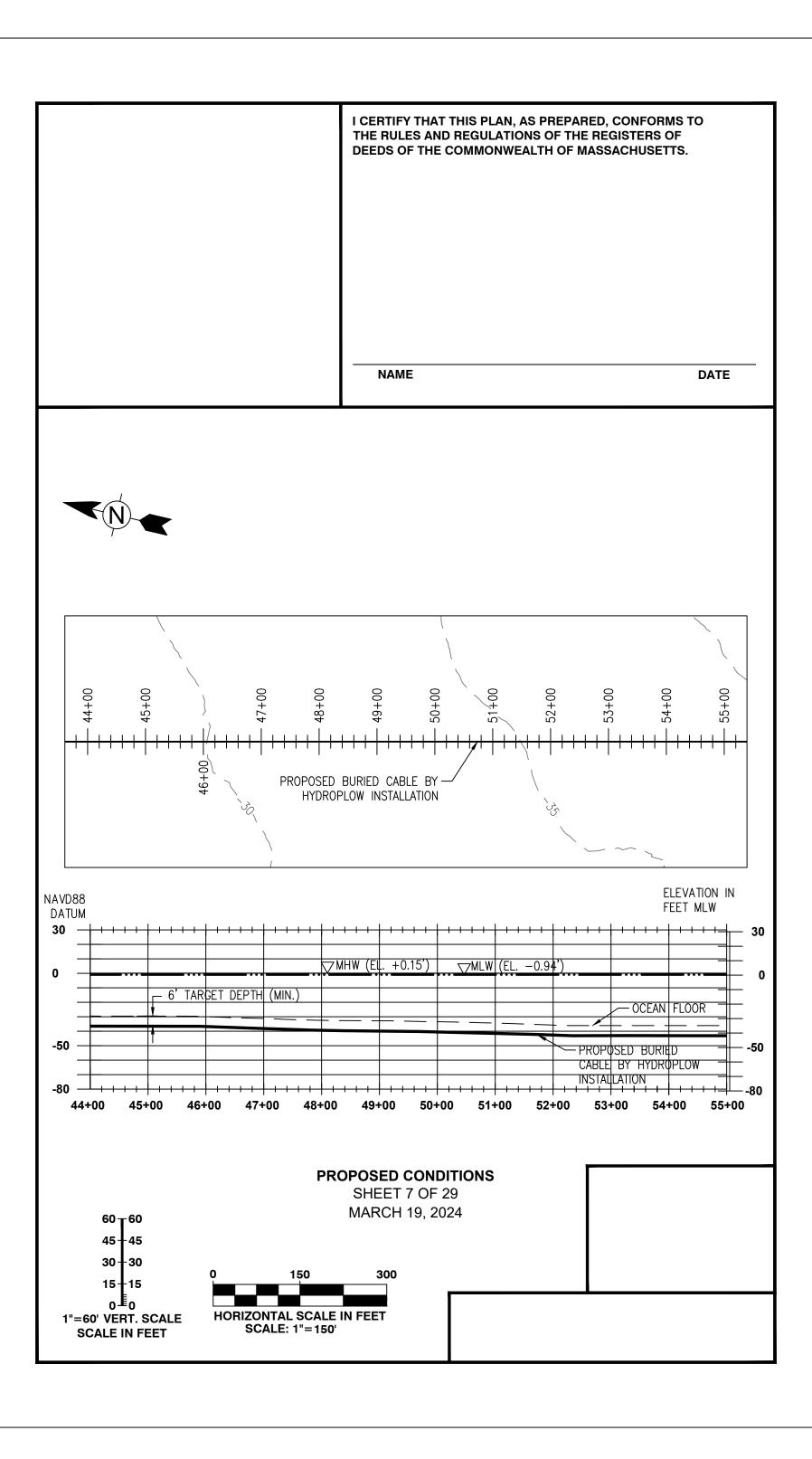


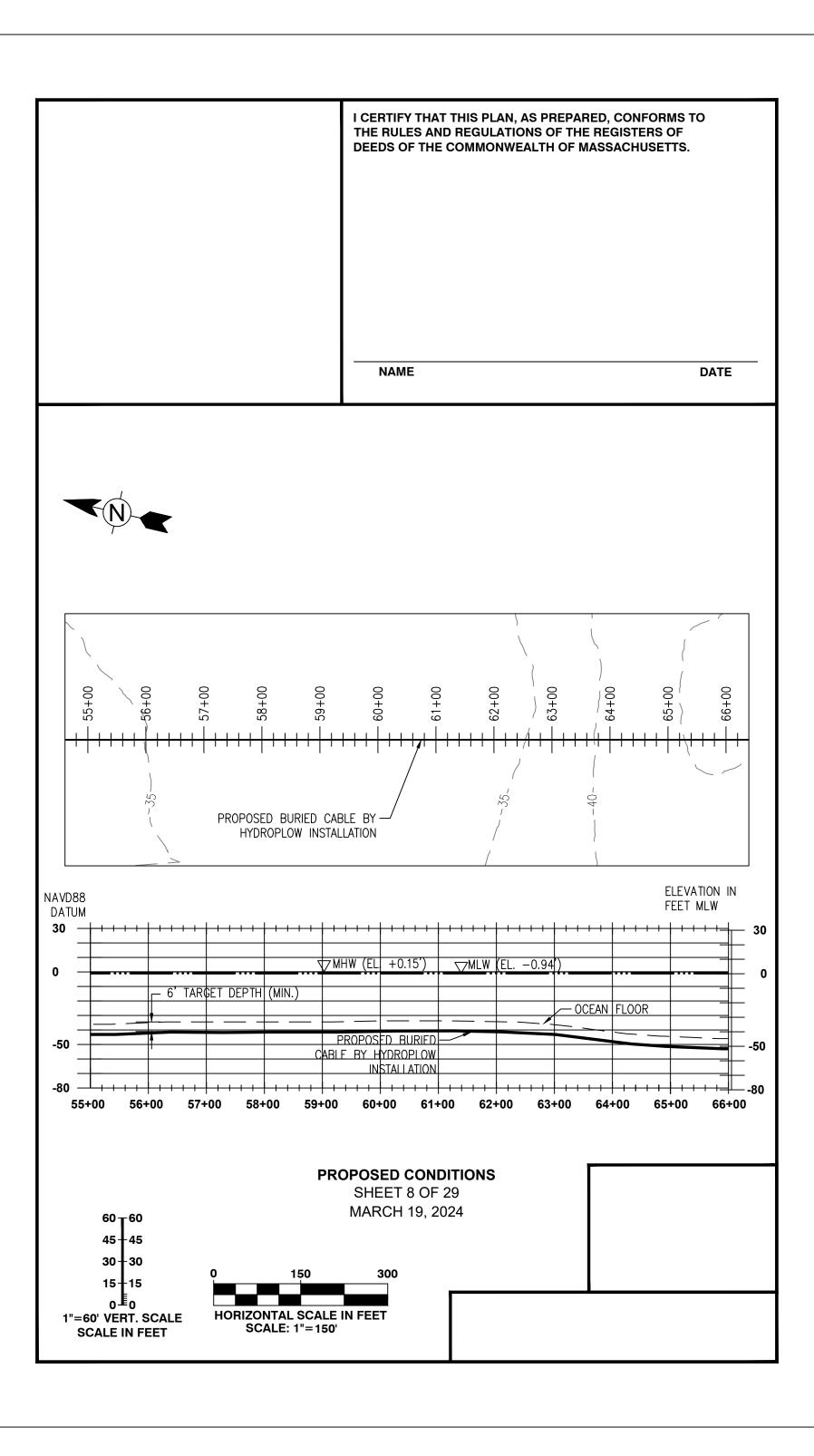


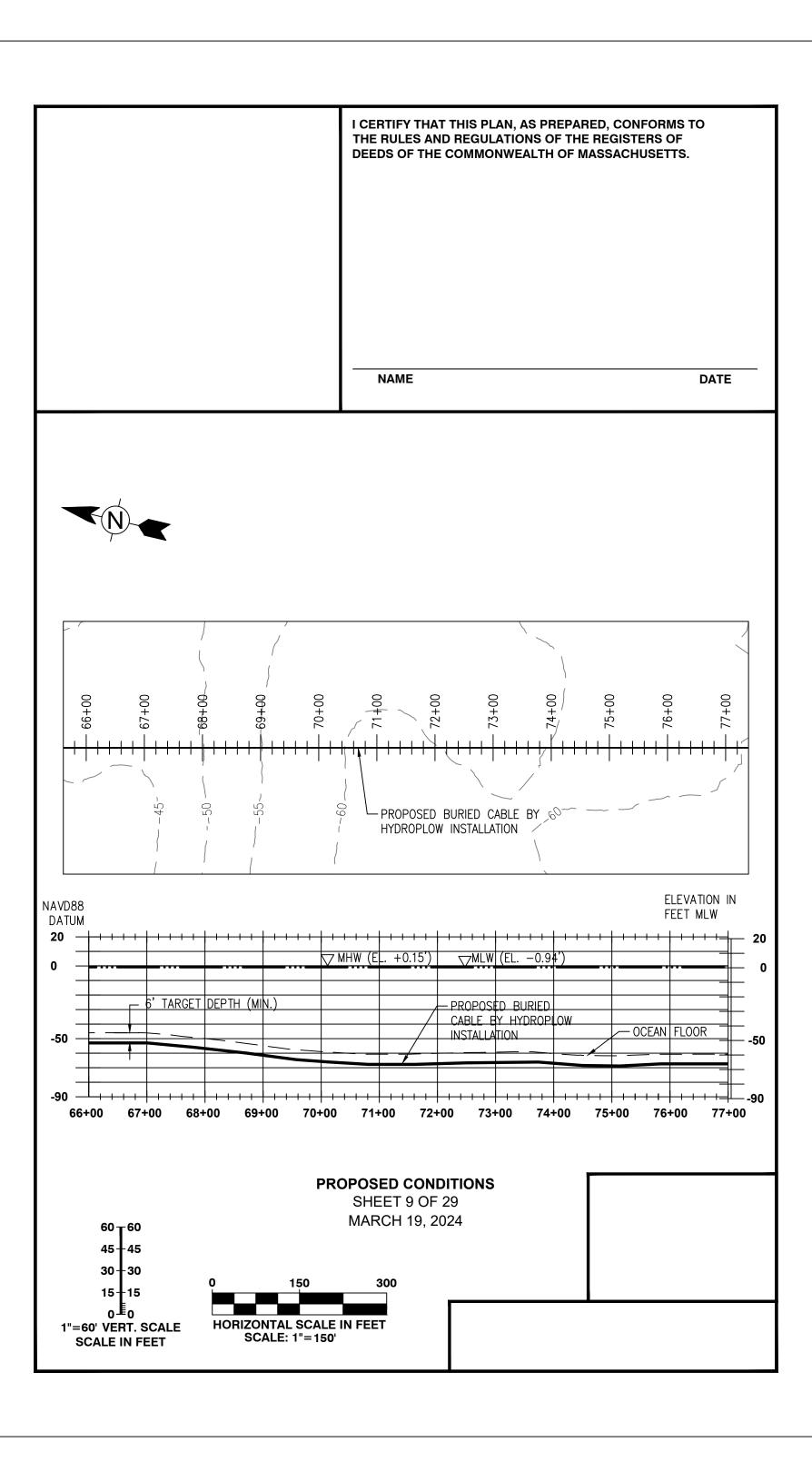


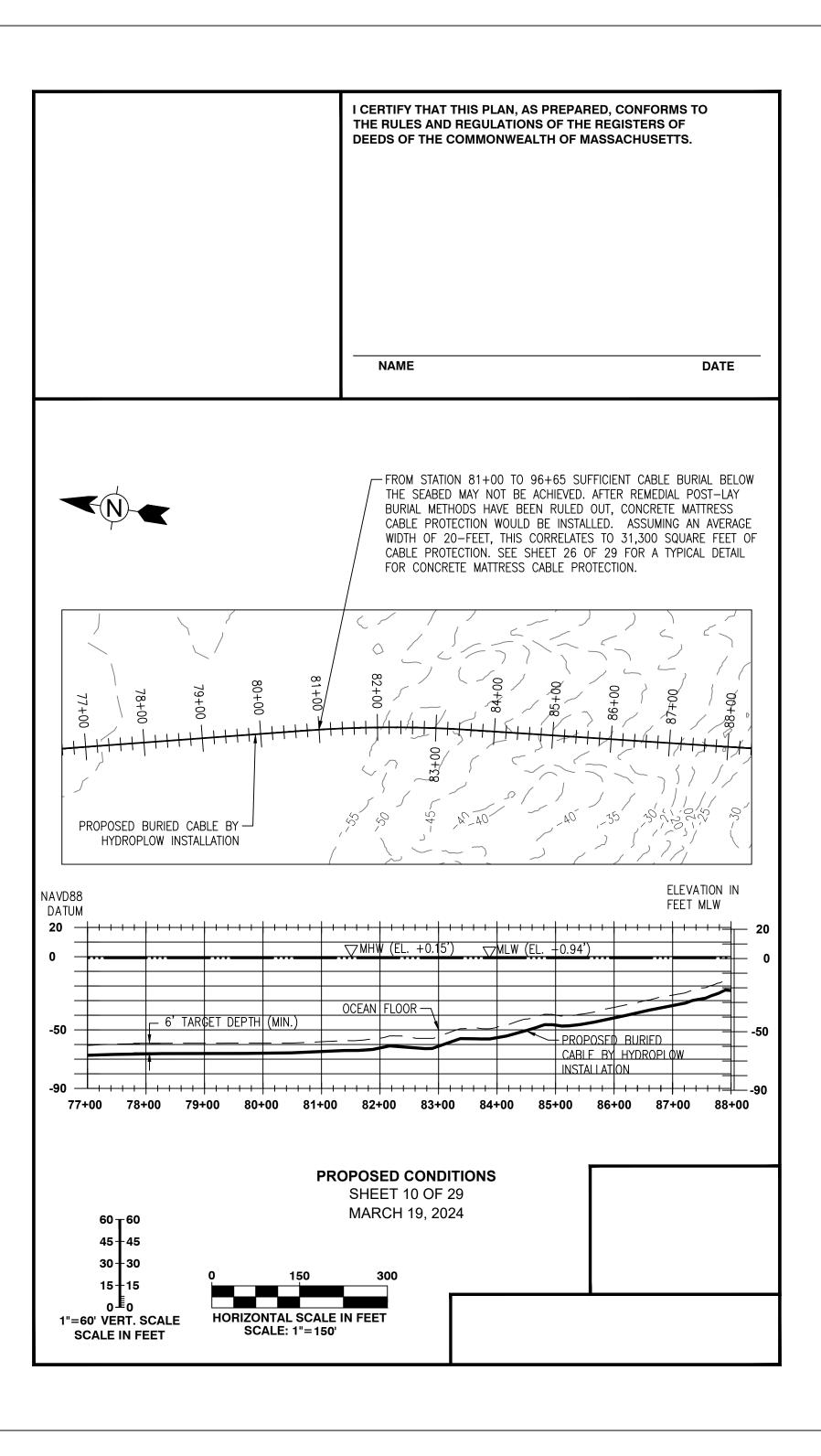


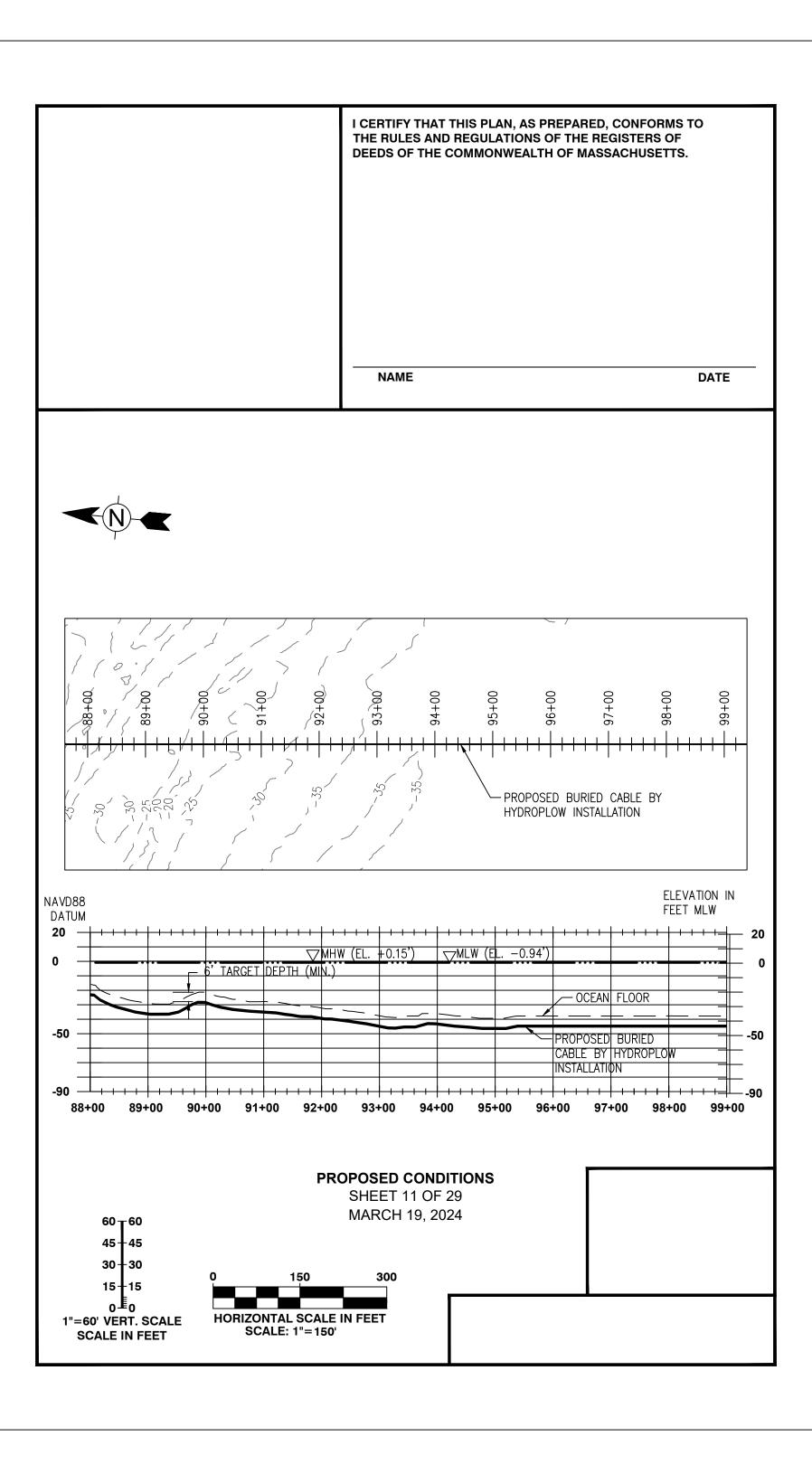


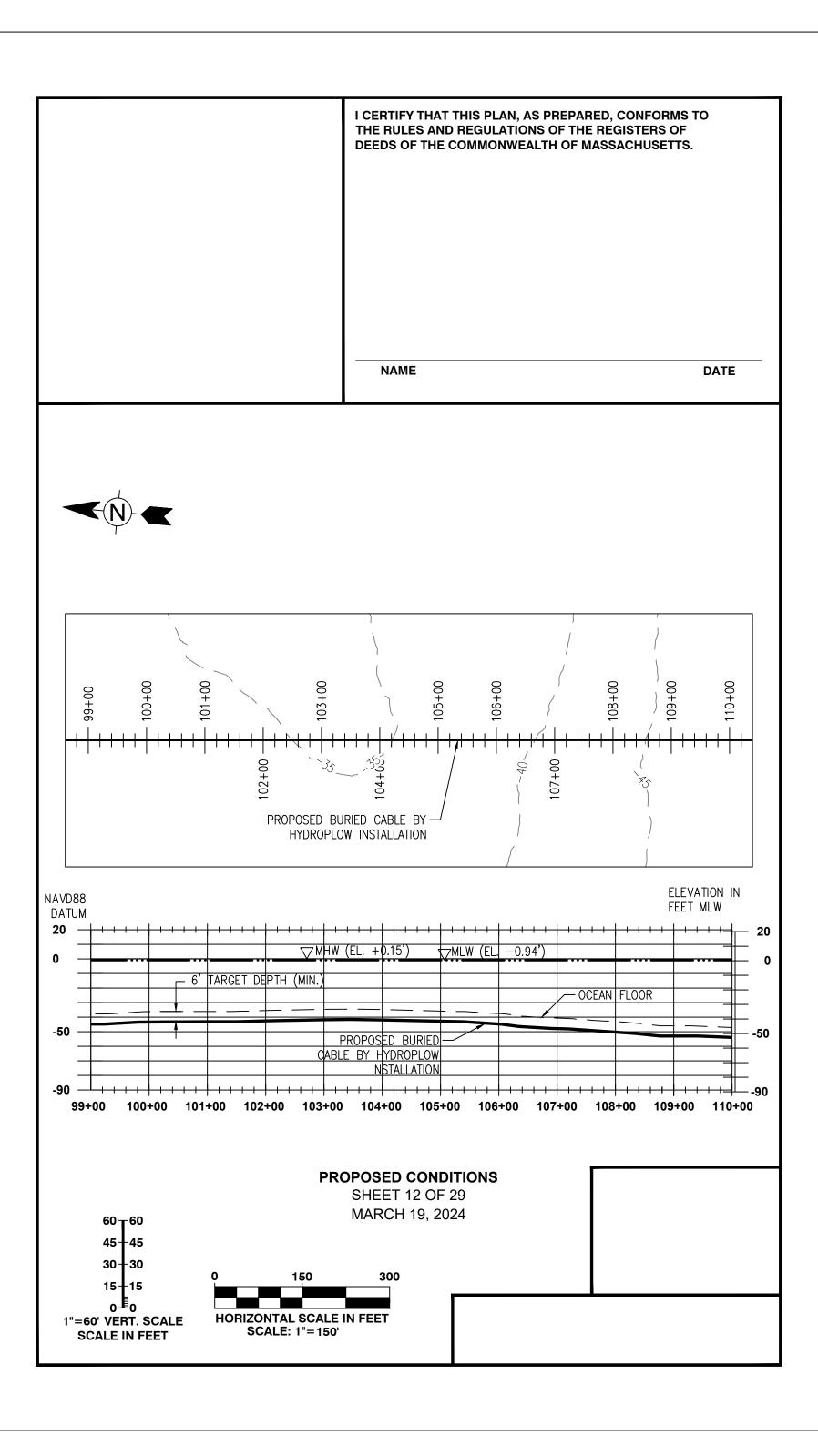


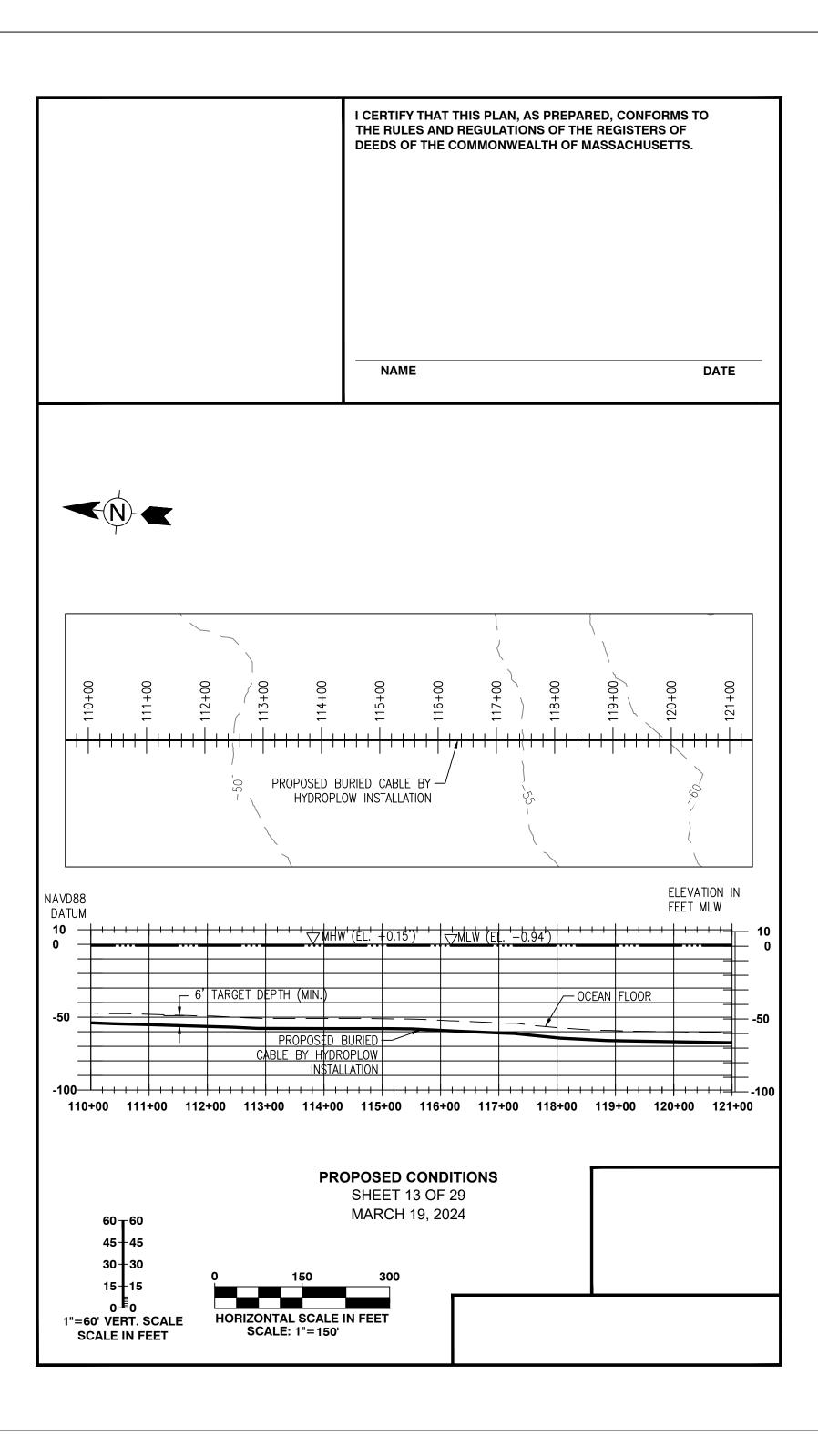


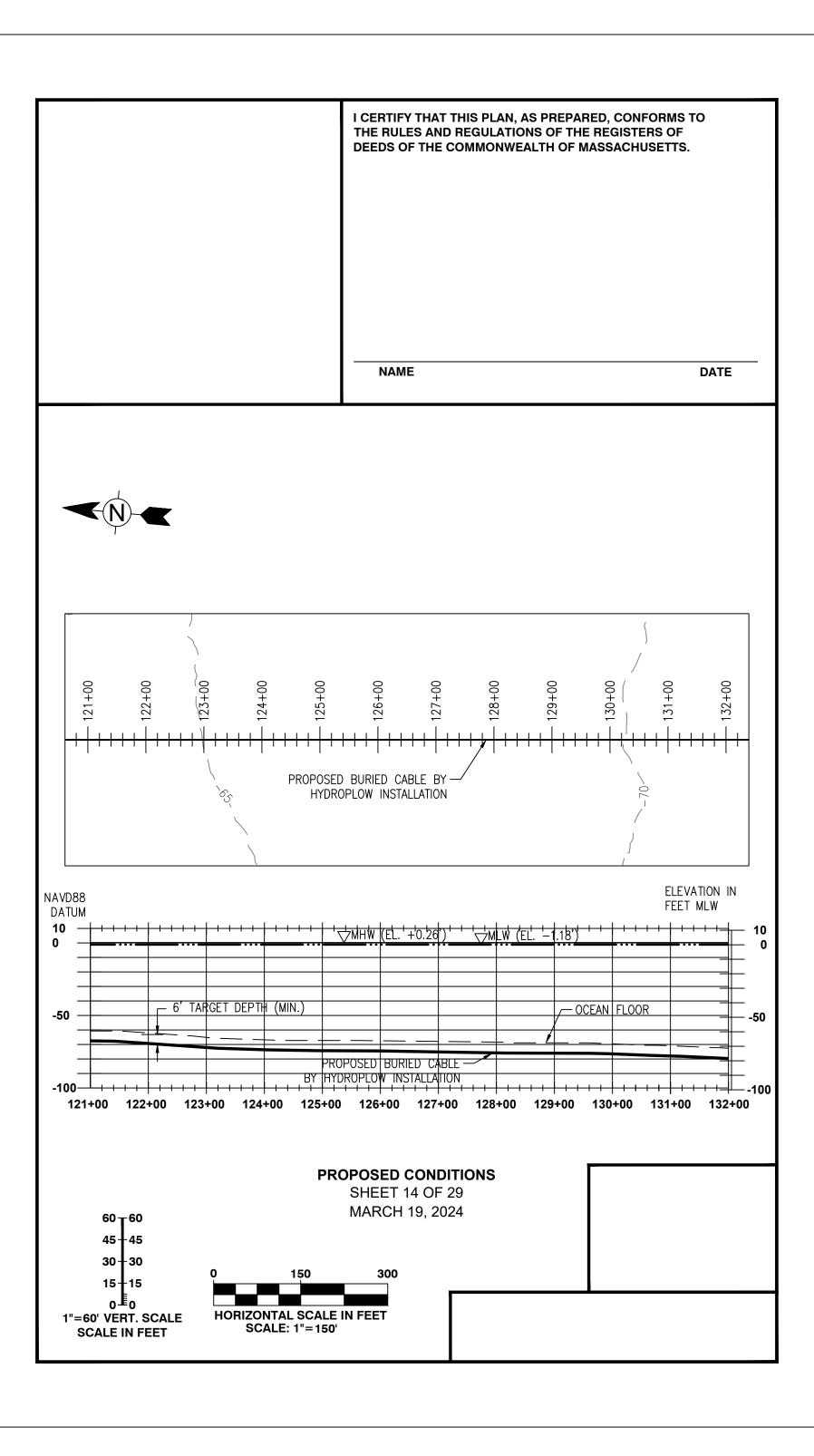


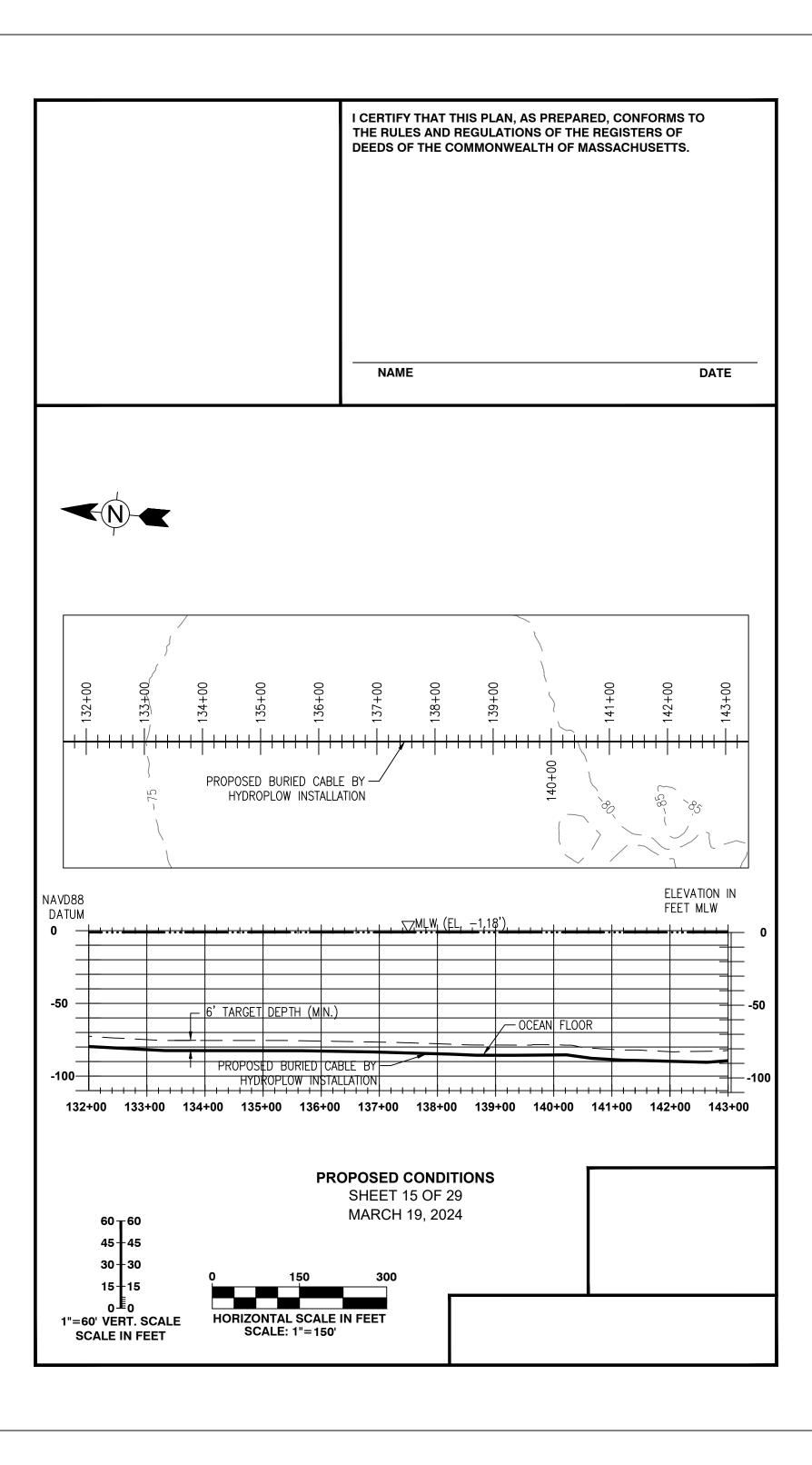


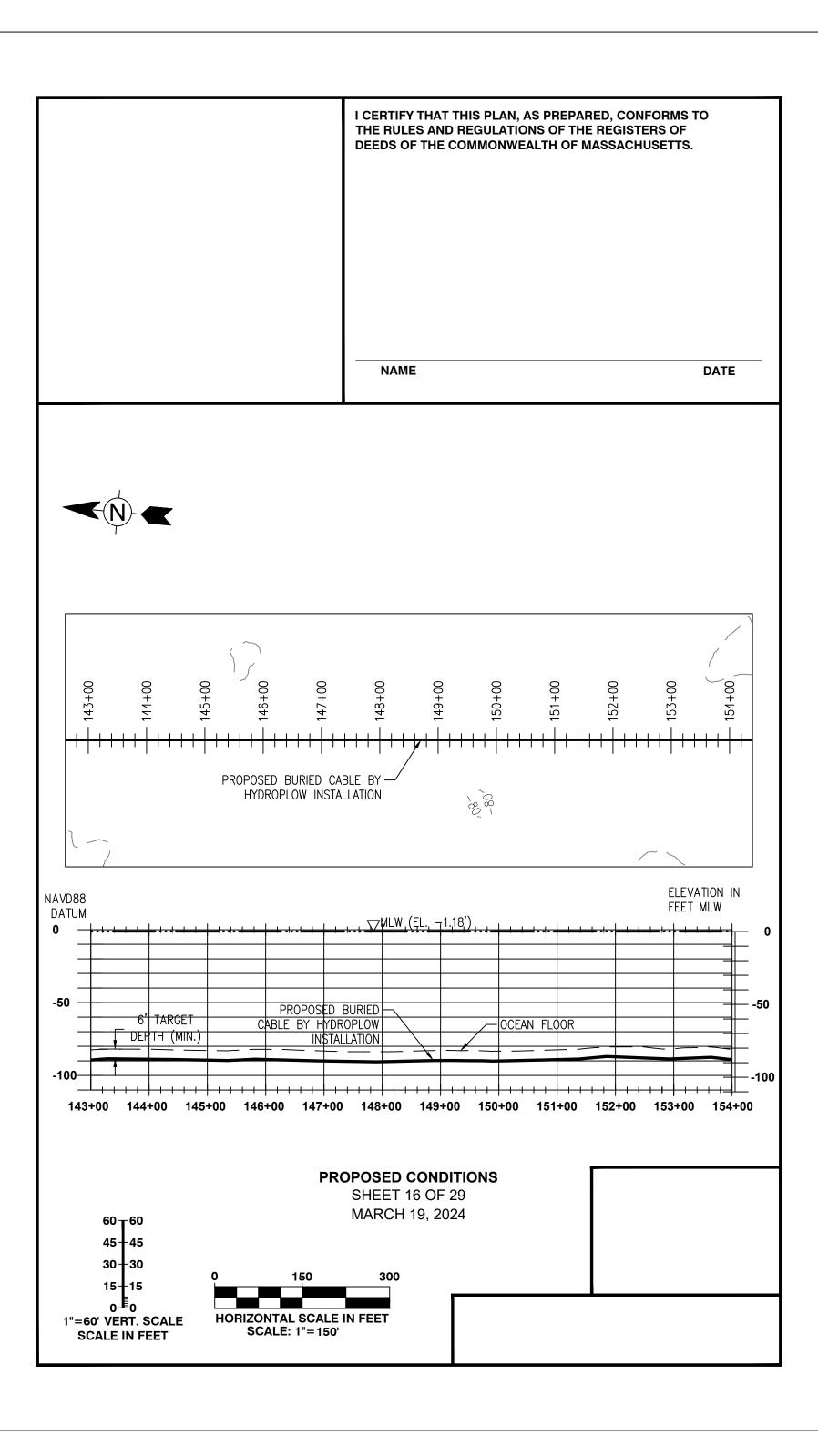


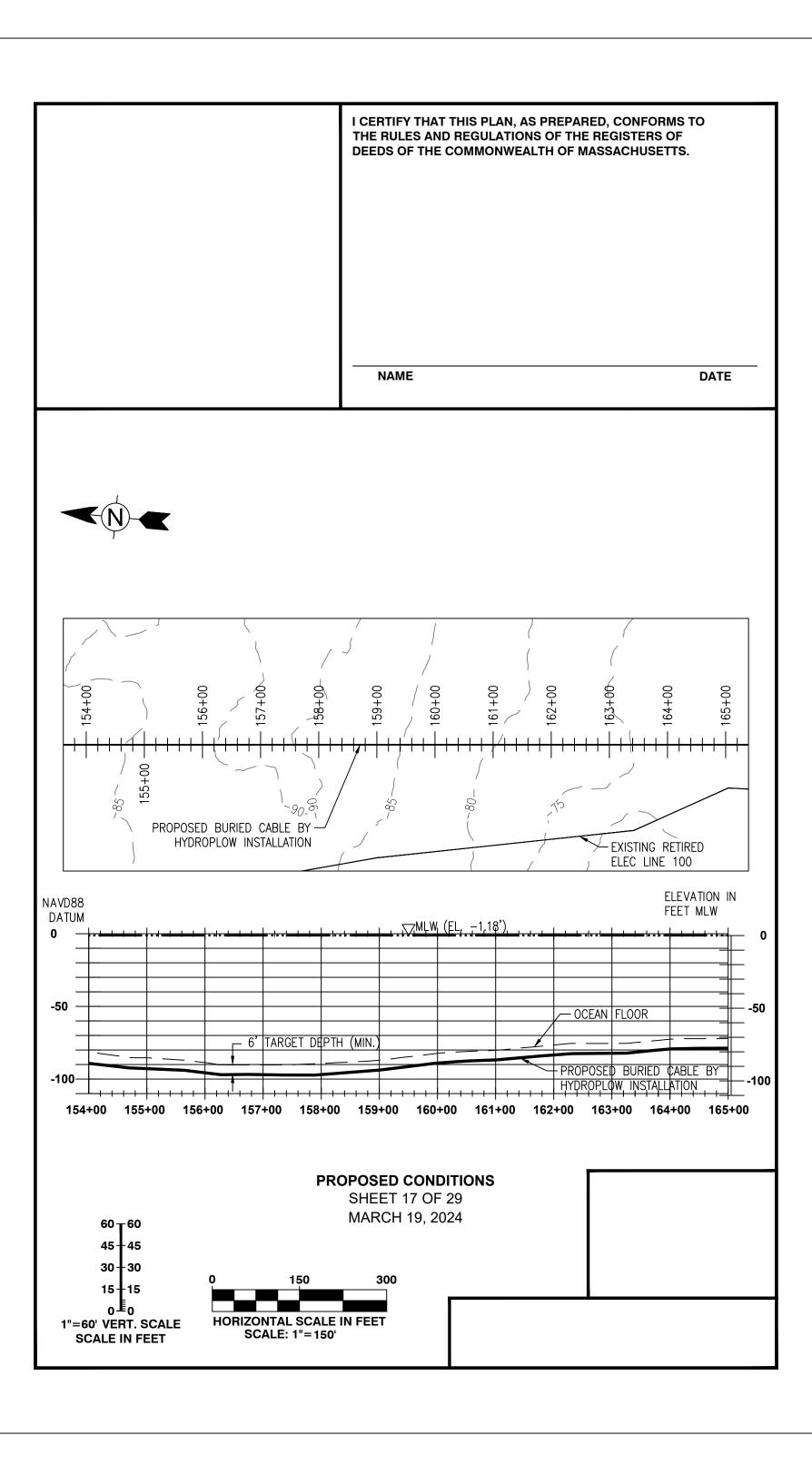


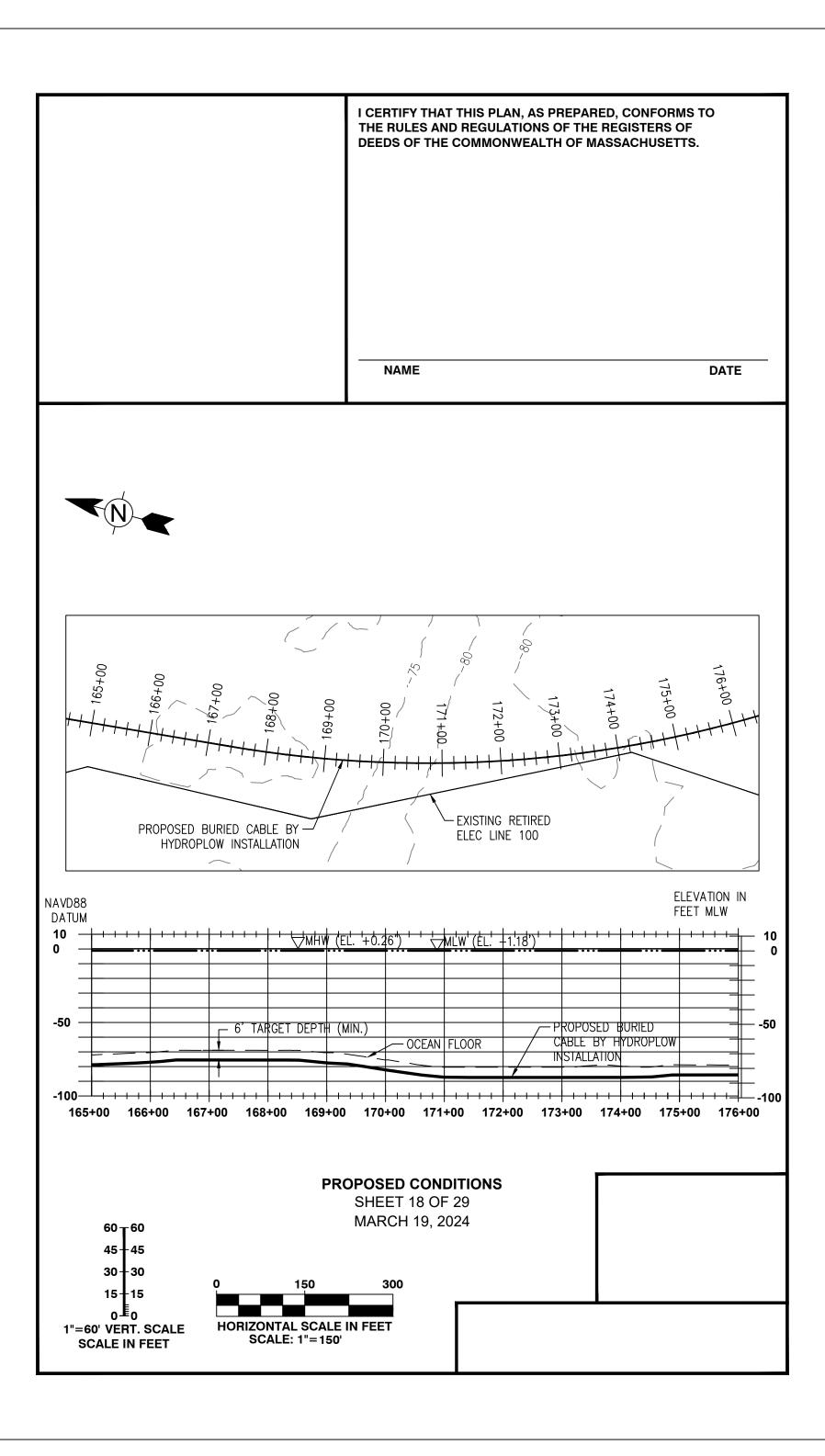


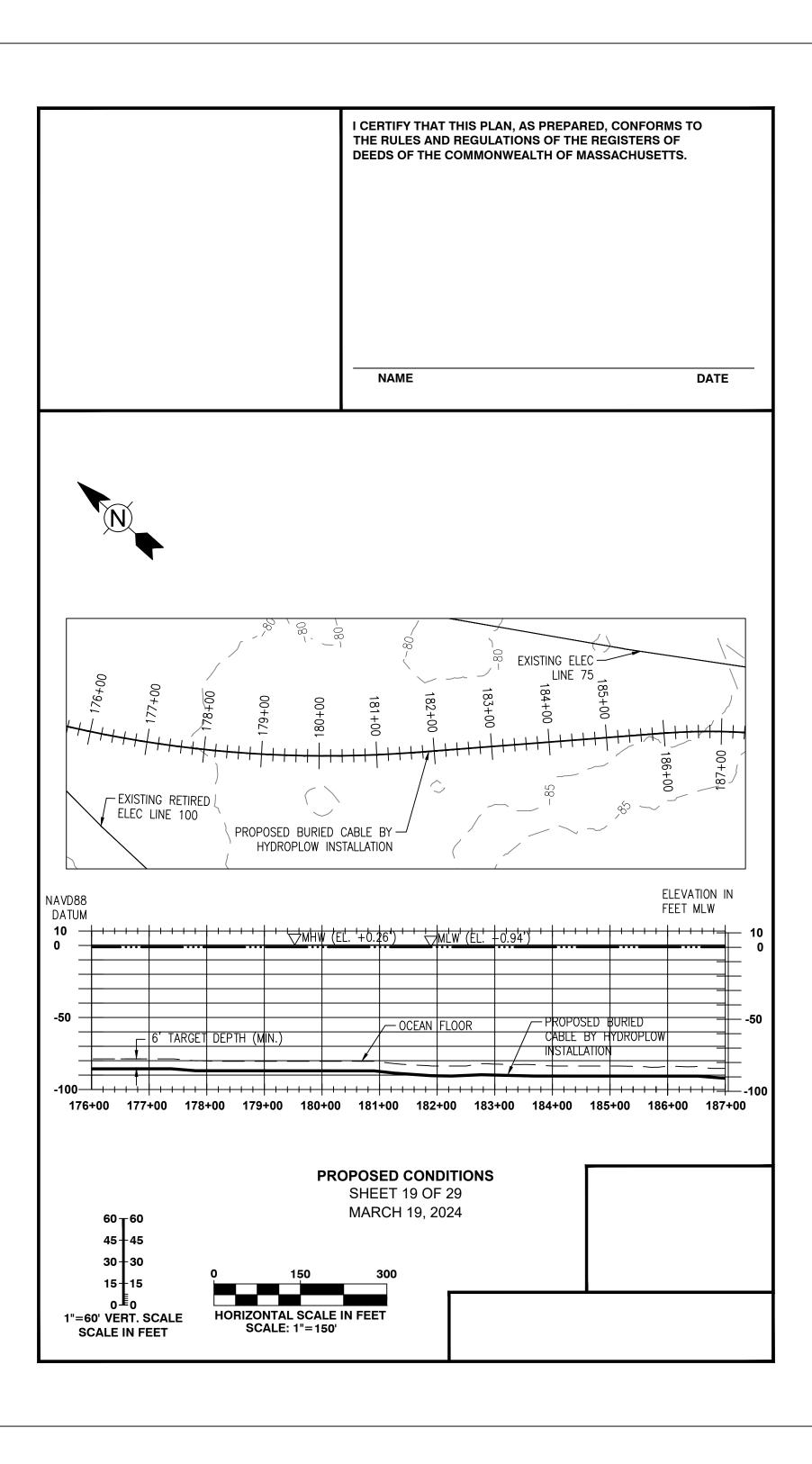


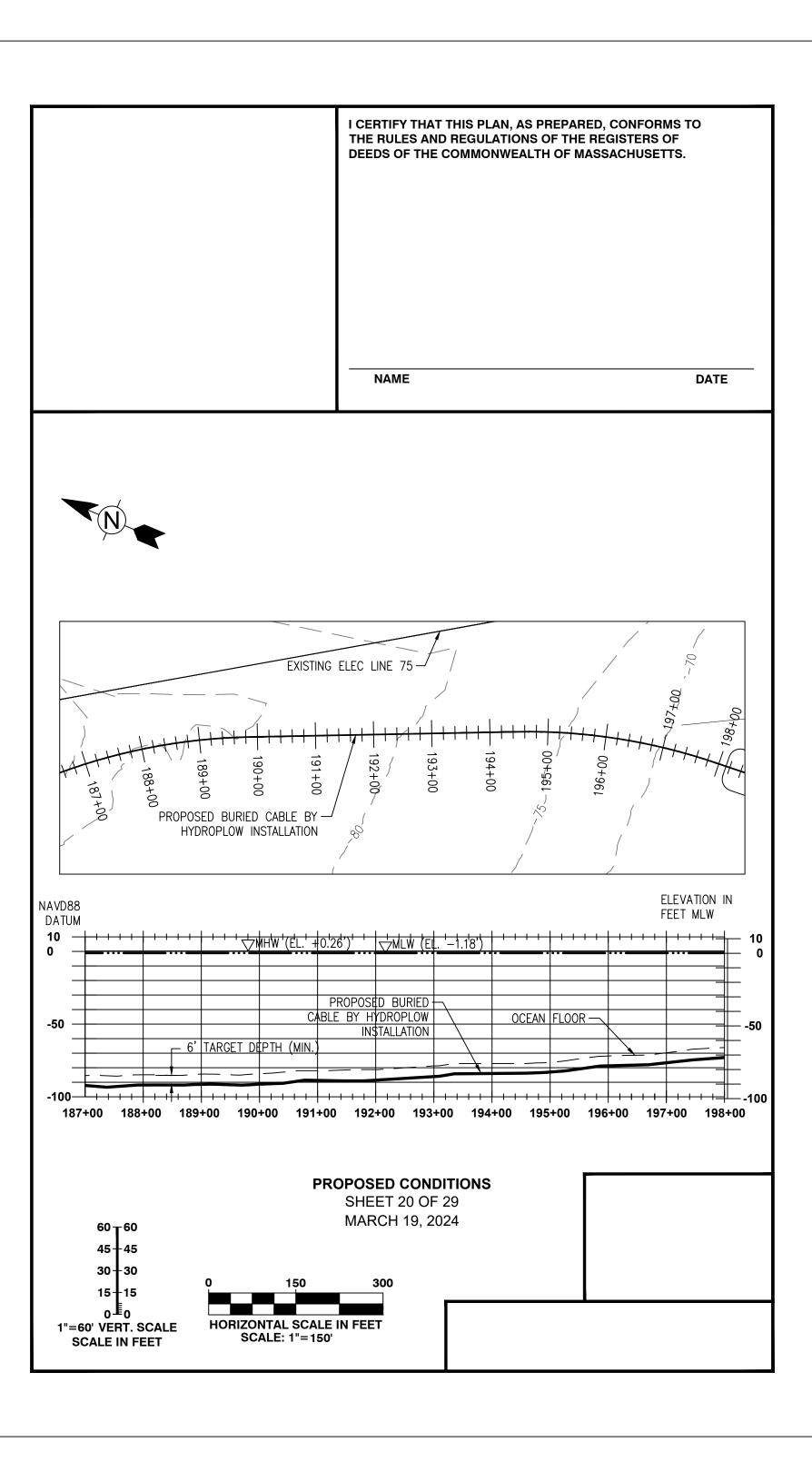


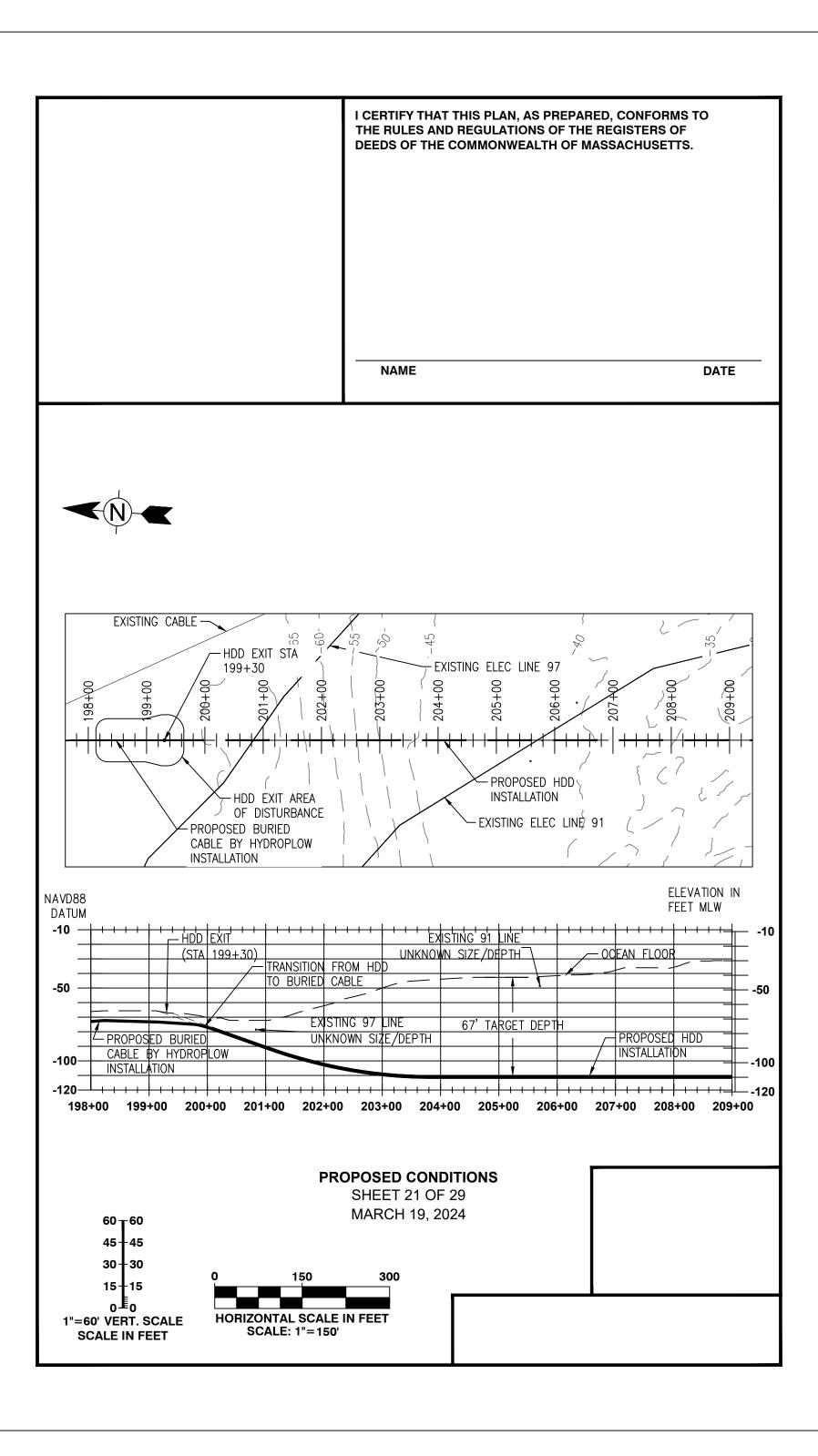


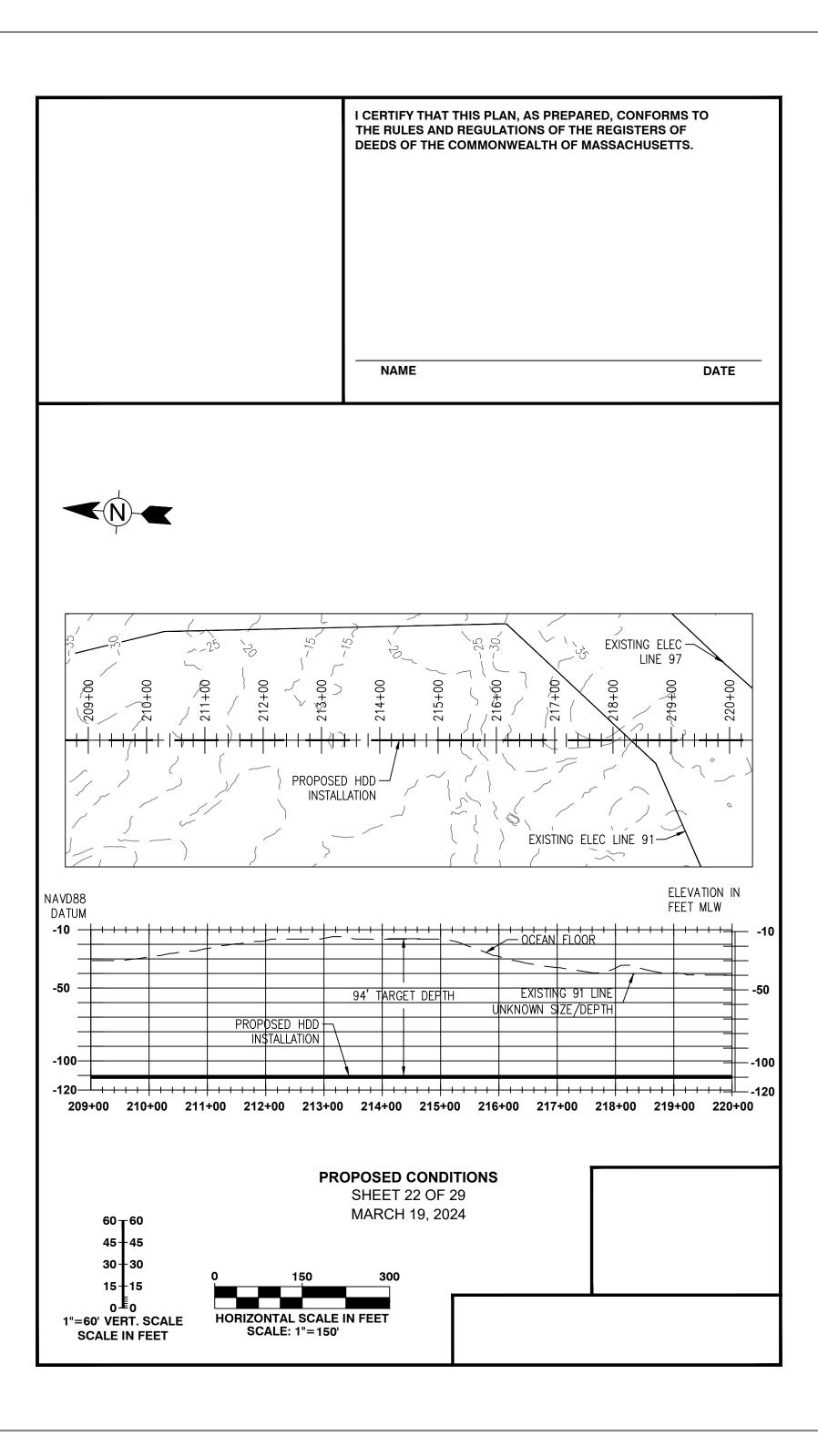


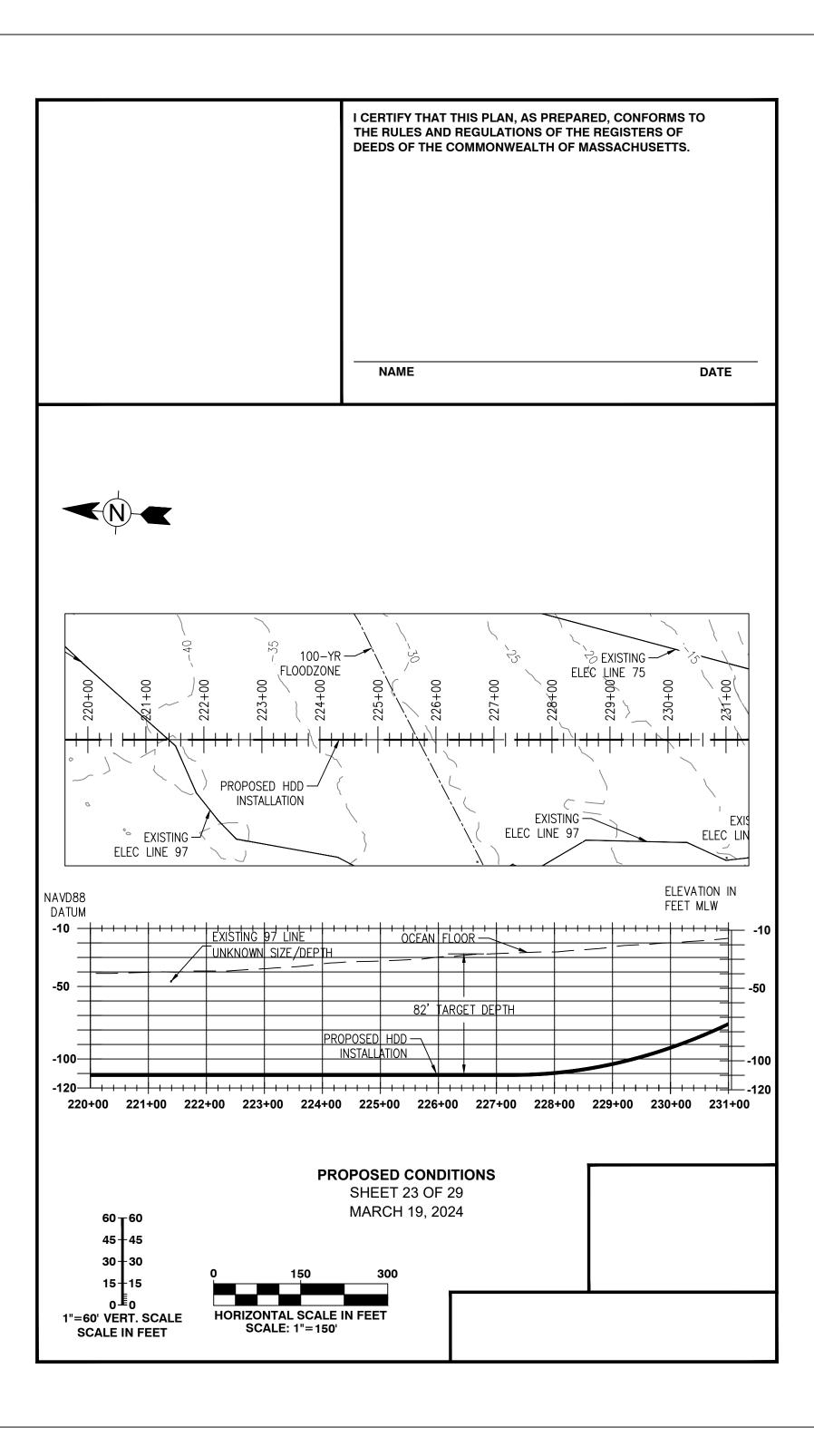


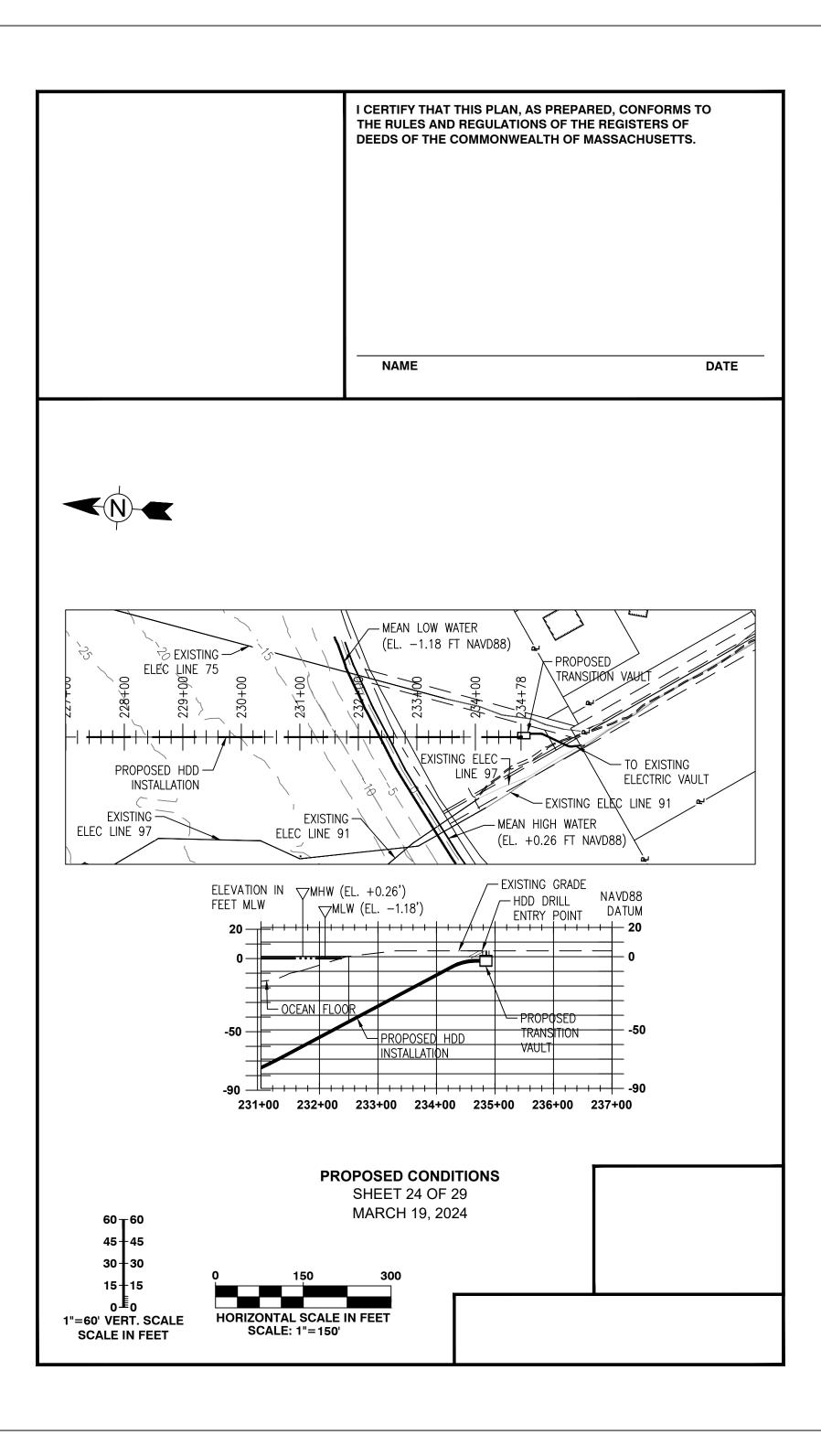


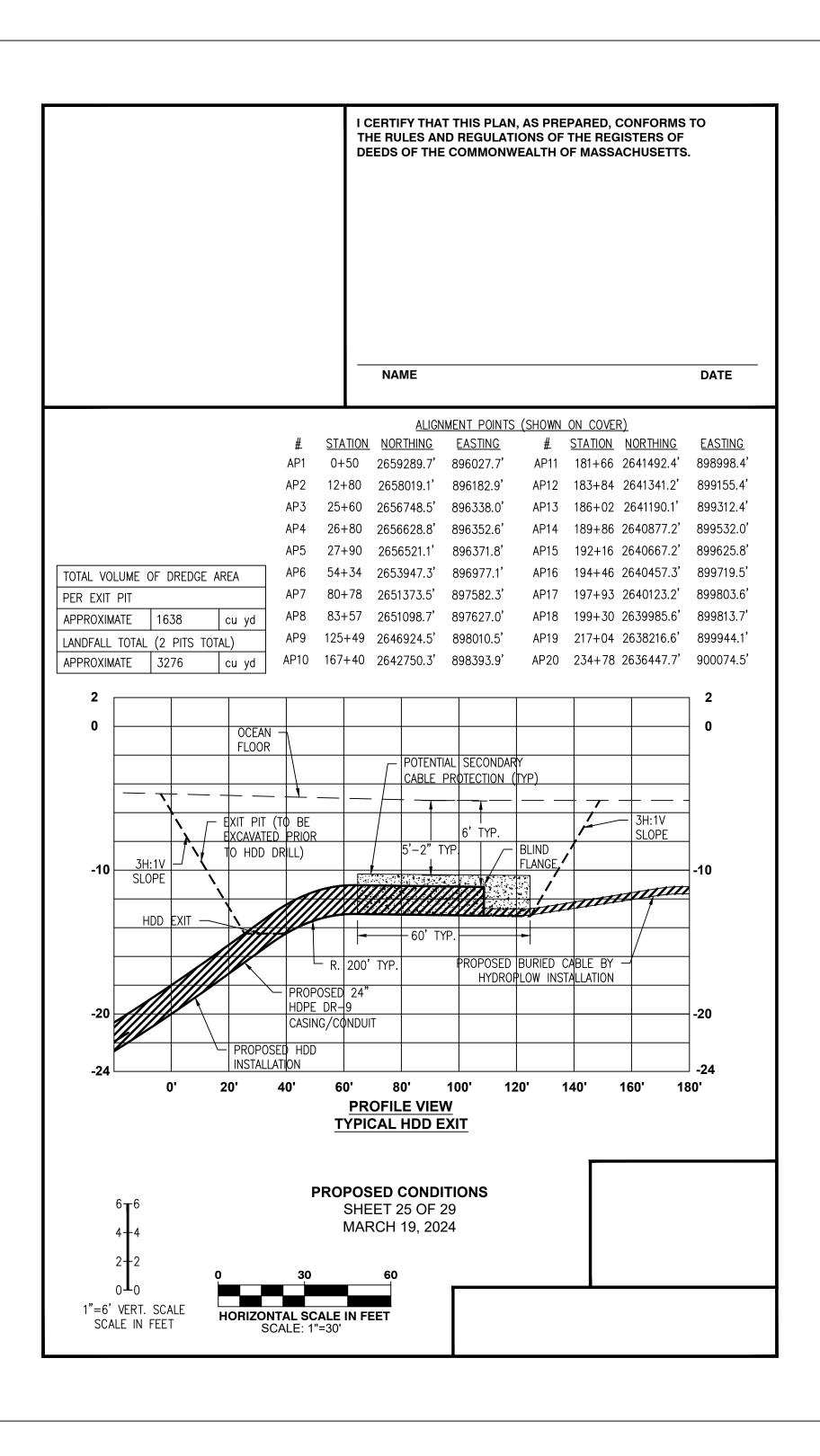


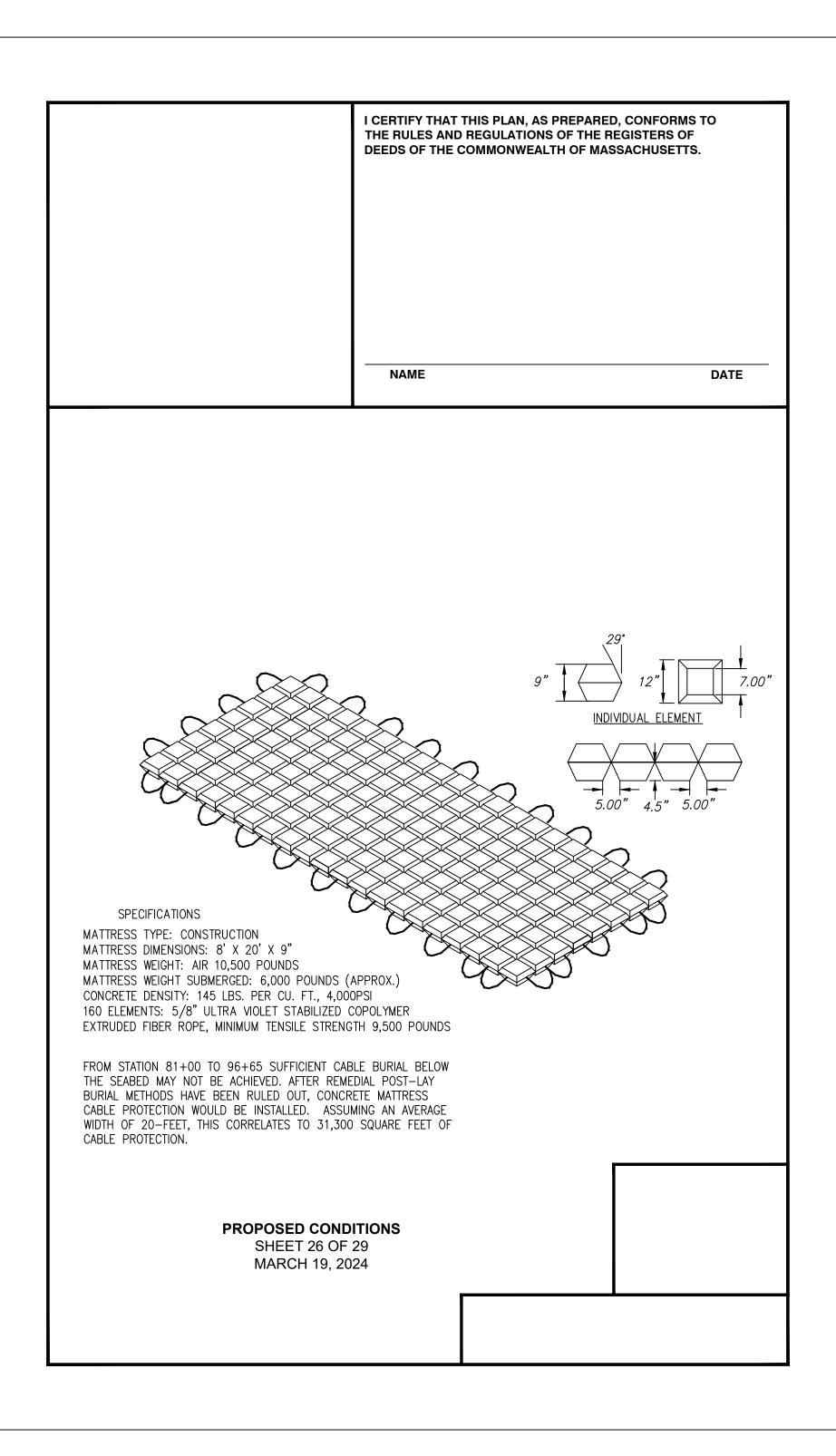












	I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, AS PREPARED, CONFOR THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTERS DEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSE	OF
	NAME	DATE
① 47 07 001 0040 240 SURF DR PCA NOMINEE TF AMANDA FERAZZI, T	R 0 SURF DR RUST TOWN OF FALMOUTH	
PARCEL 30-A-3  MINK MEADOWS BEACH  SUSANNAH S. BRISTOL, TRUSTEE  (± 710' TO THE WEST)	PARCEL 1-G-1 MAIN STREET SUSANNAH S. BRISTOL, TRUSTEE (± 1,150' TO THE EAST)	
	IST OF ABUTTERS SHEET 27 OF 29 MARCH 19, 2024	
	FOR PERMIT USE ONLY NOT APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION	

