



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Donald Stein
Town of Barkhamsted

Published: December 12, 2025
Expires: January 12, 2026

New England District
Permit Application No. NAE-2024-02561

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Donald Stein
Town of Barkhamsted
67 Ripley Hill Road
Barkhamsted, Connecticut 06063

AGENT: Duncan Simpson
Princeton Hydro
35 Clark Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08611

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The proposed project would affect waters of the United States associated with the west bank of the West Branch Farmington River (a Wild and Scenic River) and adjacent wetlands. The proposed project is located on the northeast side of West River Road, approximately 0.15 miles downstream of the confluence of the West Branch Farmington River and Still River in Riverton, Litchfield County, Connecticut. The site coordinates are, Latitude 41.957205 and Longitude -73.016471.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The proposed project area currently exhibits severe undercutting and erosion along the west bank. Current conditions are causing bank instability, excessive deposition into a Wild and Scenic River and threatening the stability of West River Road.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The project purpose is to stabilize and restore approximately 580 feet of the west bank of the river where current undercutting and erosion is taking place. Reestablishing a stabilized bank utilizing native stone, native substrate, and vegetation.

Basic: The basic purpose of the project is to stabilize the shoreline and prevent additional erosion of the riverbank during high water events.

Overall: The proposed project would reestablish and stabilize the west riverbank of West Branch Farmington River. The project would prevent further erosion and sedimentation into the river and stabilize the adjacent uplands where West River Road comes into close proximity to the river, preventing the costly damage to the public road.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to temporarily discharge 440 square feet (sf) of stone material into wetlands for the temporary construction of an access road. An additional temporary discharge 11,834 sf of 6-inch stone into 580 linear feet (lf) of the West Branch Farmington River for the purpose of a temporary access road. A permanent discharge of 5,635 sf of stone sized from 1-foot to 4-feet would be placed along 580 lf of the West Branch Farmington River within the undercut banks to stabilize the existing riverbank. The streambed will be excavated approximately 2-feet down for the placement of the 3-4 ft boulders to key-in the remaining 1-3 ft rock at a 1:1 slope to tie into existing grade. The applicant is proposing to utilize imported rock and excavated native stone from the river channel. The placed stone within the exposed riverbank would be covered with a mixture of sand and gravel-sized stone to fill in the voids around the base rocks. The site would then be stabilized with a native seed mix and live stakes of native woody vegetation.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: This project has considered approaches to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and water resources. Access to the site was considered from the western and eastern side of the West Branch of the Farmington River. Access from the west side was problematic due to the narrow, steep slope between West River Road and the river. This would allow very little room for equipment tagging, storage of materials, and would also require a significant amount of material to create an access ramp down to the channel that would allow for the movement of a track hoe, loader, and rock trucks. The second reason that the west side access would be problematic is the need for substantial traffic control on West River Road. Additionally, any impacts to the riparian vegetation on the western bank would further compromise the streambank that requires stabilization and protection. Access on the eastern side of the river provides a great area for the storage of equipment and materials. The access will have temporary wetland impacts because of fill to create an access ramp into the stream channel. This would be mitigated by using filter fabric between the wetland and fill used for the access ramp. The access ramp material will be removed along with the filter fabric once the project has been completed. Other minimization efforts to the stream channel would include the use of a rubber tracked excavator and the loader hauling rock material to the bank stabilization area will also have rubber tires. There are no permanent impacts to riparian wetlands for this project.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant has provided the following explanation why compensatory mitigation should not be required: The proposed project would stabilize a 580 lf portion of eroding streambank adjacent to West River Road with the expressed intention of preserving the existing, narrow band of riparian zone that is actively eroding. If stabilization is not implemented, the riparian zone will continue

to erode and, over time, West River Road will be impacted by the ongoing erosion, creating a significant safety hazard. The proposed access on the eastern side of the West Branch of the Farmington River, from East River Road, allows for the storage of equipment and materials. The access will have de-minimis temporary wetland impacts to facilitate the construction of an access ramp into the river. The location of proposed access has been designed to avoid and minimize impacts on existing resources to the maximum extent practicable, including (1) utilization of filter fabric between the wetland and imported rock, and (2) use of a rubber-tracked excavator and a loader with rubber tires subsequent to implementation of the project, all temporarily placed material needed to facilitate access would be removed. The stabilization effort would (1) avoid permanent impacts to existing waters of the United States, including wetlands, (2) preserve all existing large trees within the riparian area, (3) preserve the remaining narrow band of riparian area from continued erosion, and (4) prevent continued introduction of sediment into the riverine system from this portion of actively eroding bank. The proposed project has been designed with a primary focus on the ecological/geomorphic integrity of the existing stream and preservation of the existing riparian area, which is directly related to the ecological/geomorphic integrity of the stream. This design approach, coupled with no permanent loss of waters of the United States, including wetlands, does not warrant the implementation of mitigation. Further, the proposed project is, in itself, mitigating the ongoing undesirable loss of riparian areas, including wetlands, as a result of the eroding banks along this portion of the stream.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps evaluated the undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) utilizing its existing program-specific regulations and procedures along with 36 CFR Part 800. The Corps' program-specific procedures include 33 CFR 325, Appendix C, and revised interim guidance issued in 2005 and 2007, respectively. The District Engineer consulted district files and records and the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and initially determines that:

No historic properties (i.e., properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places) are present within the Corps' permit area; therefore, there will be no historic properties affected. The Corps subsequently requests concurrence from the SHPO and/or THPO.

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary

determination that the proposed project may affect species and critical habitat listed below. No other ESA-listed species or critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action.

Review through USFWS IPaC indicated northern long-eared bats (NLEB) and tricolored bats (TCB) may occur within the proposed action area. The proposed work would occur within the streambed and adjacent western bank. There would be work during the night and no tree clearing is proposed. The bank stabilization project would prevent the continuing erosion of shoreline and loss of mature trees along the streambank. As a result of the proposed project and utilization of the IPaC D-Key, the Corps has determined the project is **Not Likely to Adversely Affect** (NLAA) either species. USFWS has issued a Concurrence Letter for NLAA on both species based on the D-Key response.

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996, the Corps reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and consulted available species information.

The Corps intends to initiate Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation separately from this public notice. A separate EFH consultation package will be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Corps will not make a permit decision until the consultation process is complete.

Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). DEEP has issued a "Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Applications for Diversion of Water Permit and 401 Water Quality Certification and Intent to Waive Public Hearing" public

notice on October 24, 2025. DEEP has also drafted a tentative “Section 401 Water Quality Certification Non-Consumptive Water Diversion Permit”.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS: Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Corps reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and will consult with the National Park Service(NPS).

The Corps intends to initiate consultation separately from this public notice. A separate consultation package will be sent to the NPS. The Corps will not make a permit decision until the consultation process is complete.

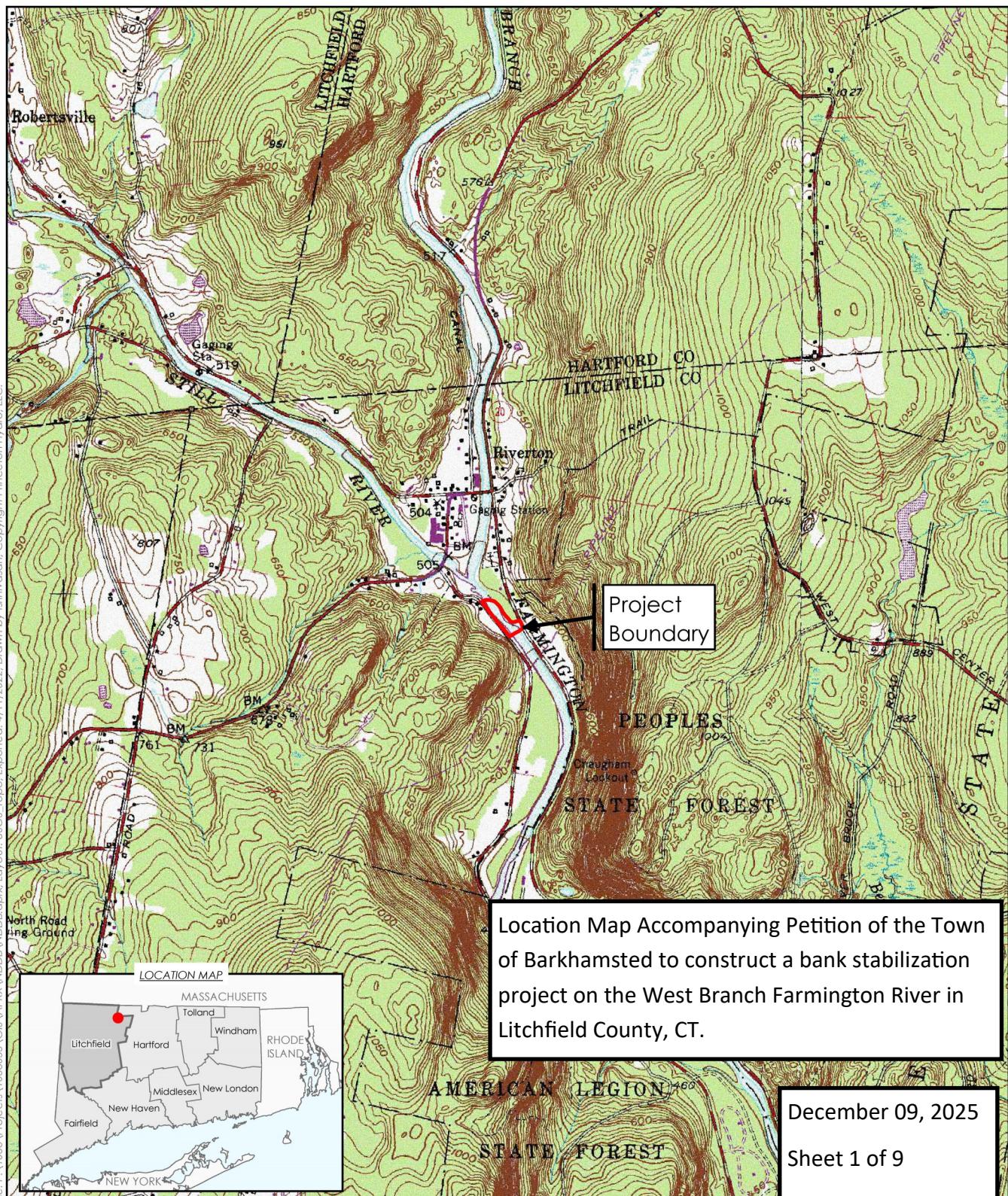
NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has been verified by Corps personnel.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to 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 cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The 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. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The New England District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until January 8, 2026. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to [CENAE-R-PN-CTRI@USACE.ARMY.MIL] Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Attention: cenae-r-ct@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

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 public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.



NOTES:

1. Project boundary based on engineering plan sets provided by Princeton Hydro, LLC.
2. USGS topographic digital raster graphic obtained from USDA NRCS Geospatial Data Gateway, Winsted, CT quadrangle.



0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane Connecticut FIPS 0600 Feet

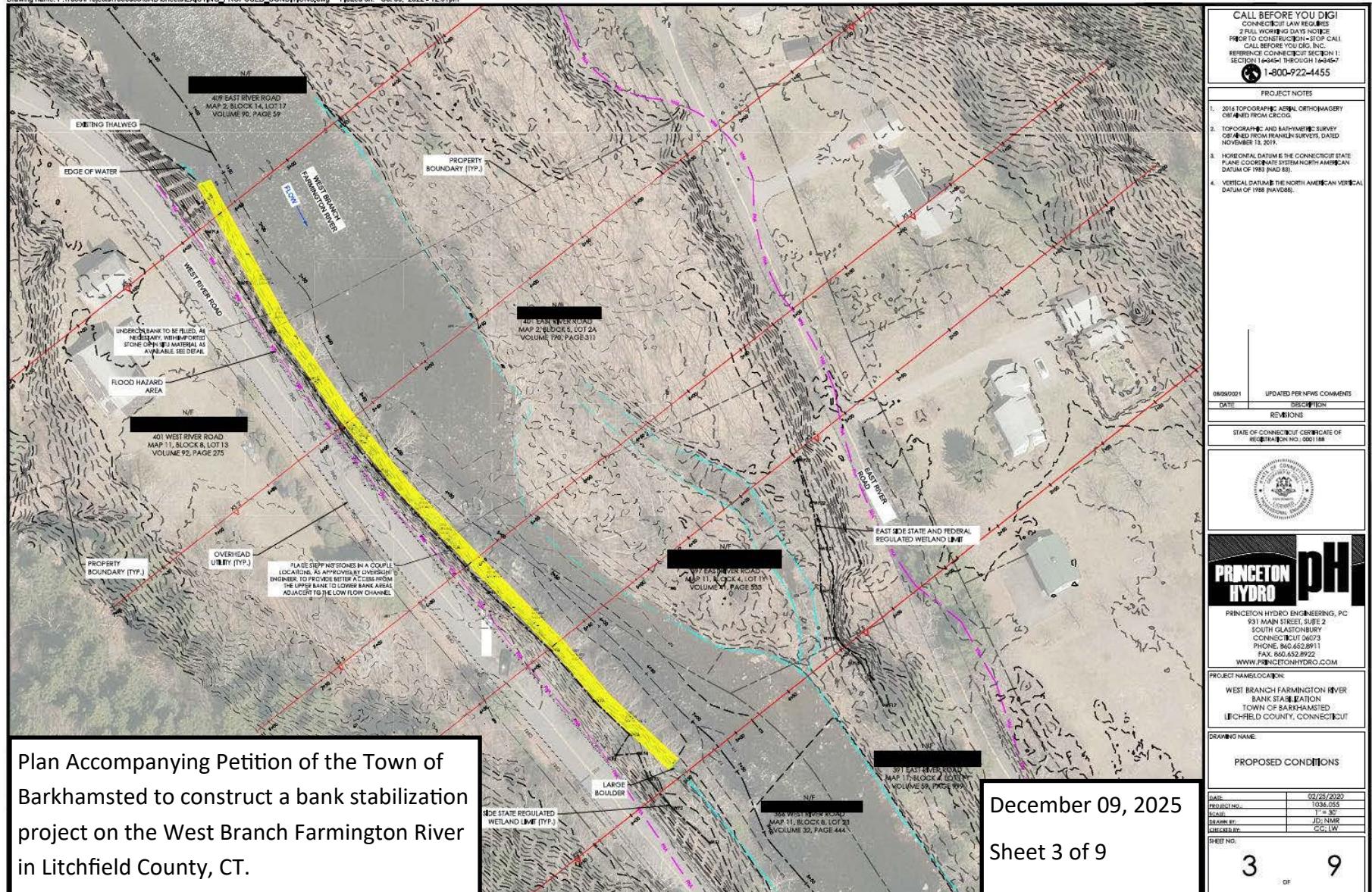
USGS TOPOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW MAP

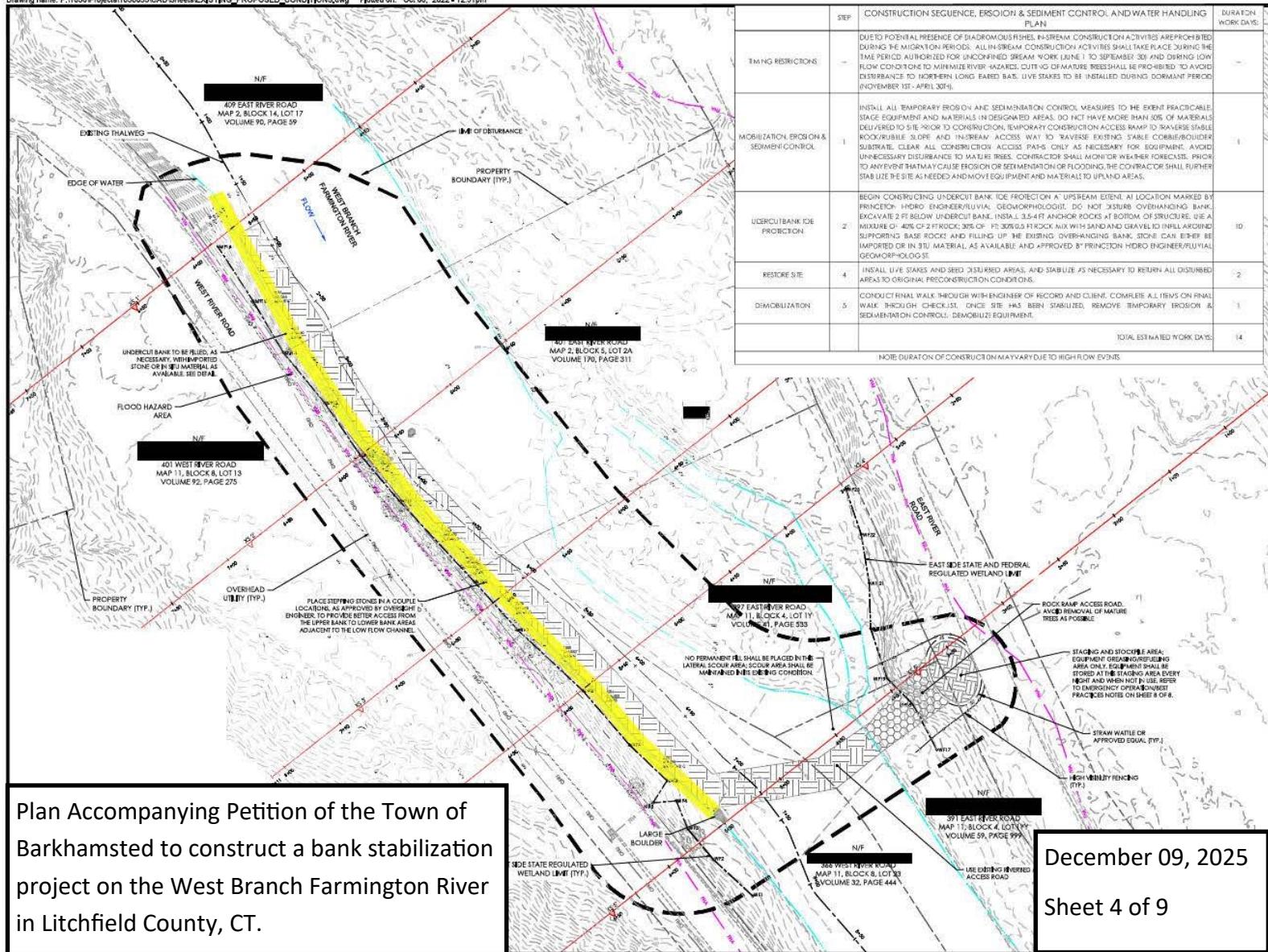
RIVERBANK STABILIZATION
FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
BARKHAMSTED
LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT



PRINCETON HYDRO
SCIENCE DESIGN ENGINEERING

www.PrincetonHydro.com

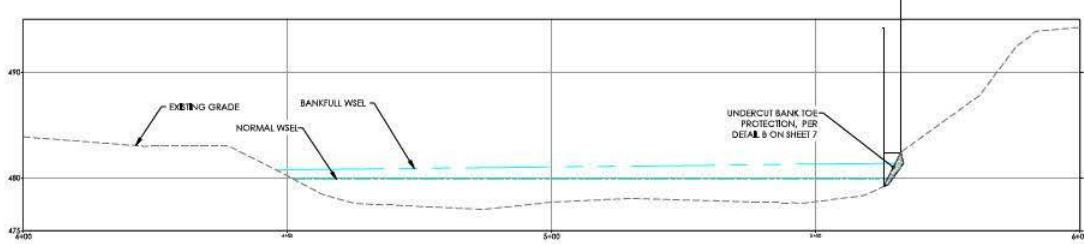




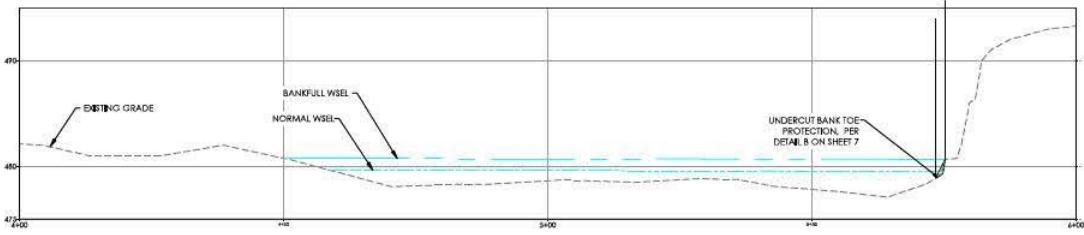
Plan Accompanying Petition of the Town of Barkhamsted to construct a bank stabilization project on the West Branch Farmington River in Litchfield County, CT.

Sheet 4 of 9

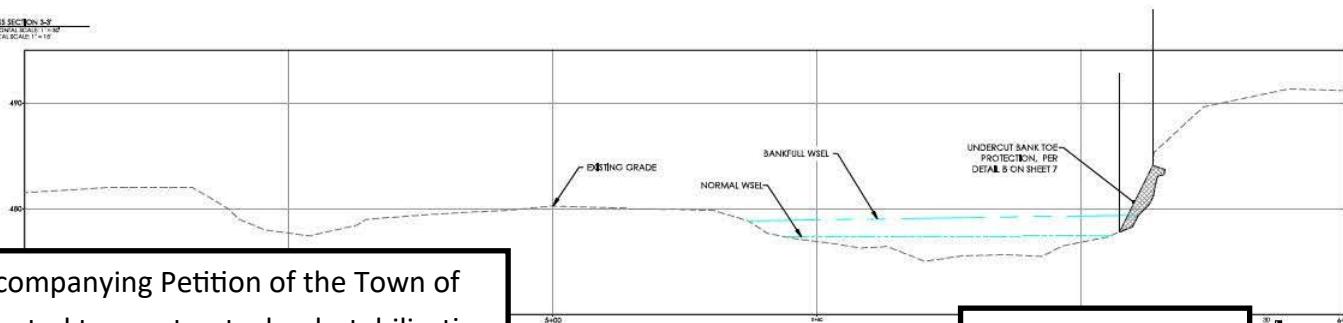
 CROSS SECTION 1-1
HORIZONTAL SCALE 1:100
VERTICAL SCALE 1:10



 CROSS SECTION 2-2
HORIZONTAL SCALE 1:100
VERTICAL SCALE 1:10



 CROSS SECTION 3-3
HORIZONTAL SCALE 1:100
VERTICAL SCALE 1:10



Plan Accompanying Petition of the Town of Barkhamsted to construct a bank stabilization project on the West Branch Farmington River in Litchfield County, CT.

December 09, 2025
Sheet 5 of 9

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!
CONNECTICUT LAW REQUIRES
24 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE
FOR TO CONSTRUCTION STOP CALL
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG, INC.
REFERENCE CONNECTICUT SECTION 11
SECTION 11A(B)(A) THROUGH (D)
1-800-922-4455

PROJECT NOTES

1. 2016 TOPOGRAPHIC AERIAL ORTHOIMAGERY CMF FROM CEDCO
2. TOPOGRAPHIC: BATHYMETRIC SURVEY CMF FROM HANAHAN SURVEYS, DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2019.
3. HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE CONNECTICUT STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983 (NAVD 83).
4. VERTICAL DATUM IS THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988 (NAVD88).

0804021 UPDATED PER NWPS COMMENTS

DATE DESCRIPTION

REVISIONS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT CERTIFICATE OF
REGISTRATION NO.: 0001188



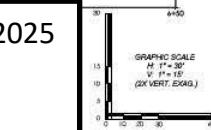
PRINCETON **PH**
PRINCETON HYDRO ENGINEERING, PC
931 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2
SOUTH Glastonbury
CONNECTICUT 06073
PHONE: 860.652.8911
FAX: 860.652.8922
WWW.PRINCETONHYDRO.COM

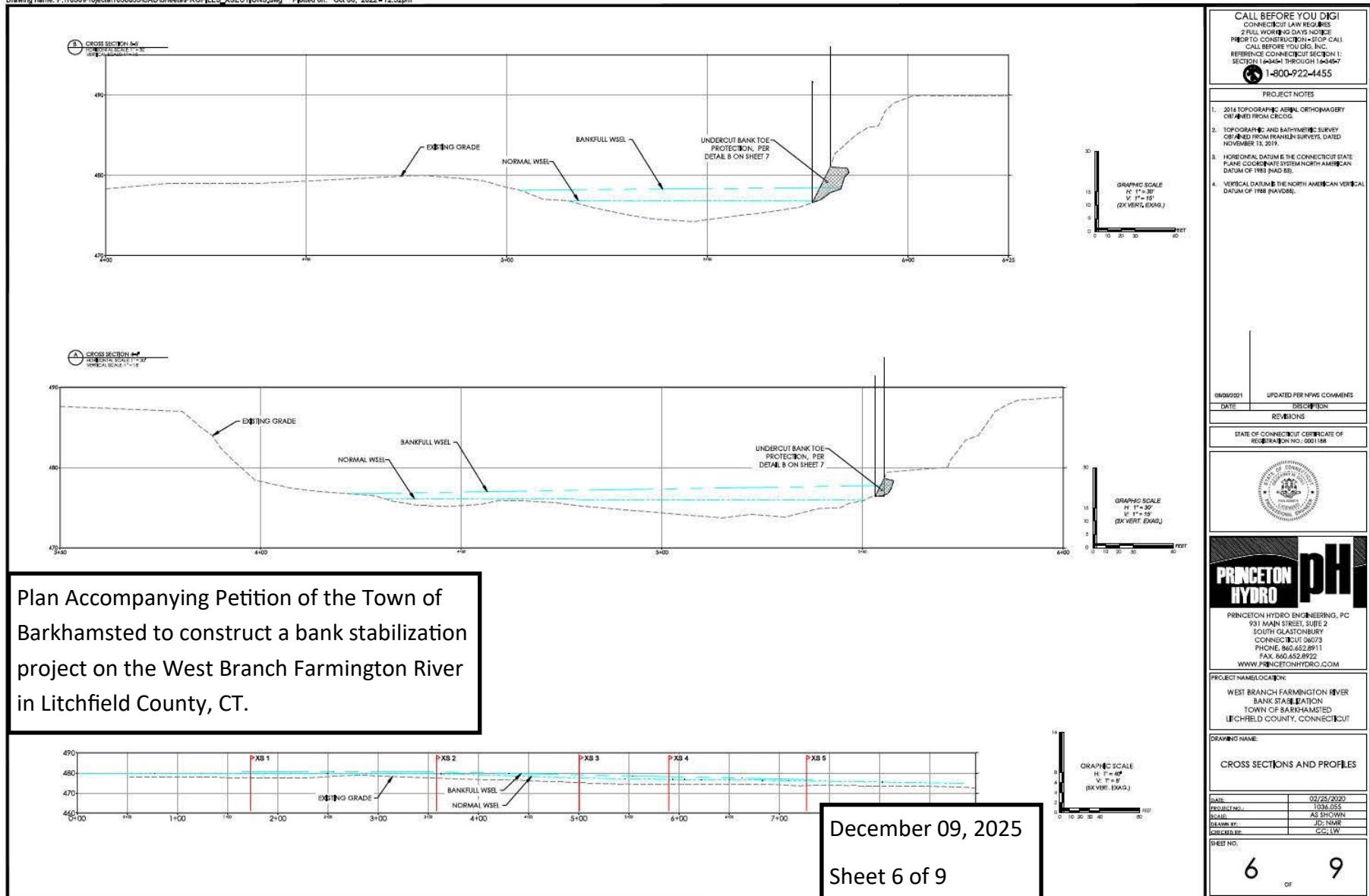
PROJECT NAME/LOCATION
WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER
BANK STABILIZATION
TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

DRAWING NAME
CROSS SECTIONS

DATE:	02/25/2020
PROJECT NO.:	1036.055
SCALE:	AS SHOWN
DRAWN BY:	J.D. NMR
RELEASER:	C.G. LHM
SHEET NO.:	

5 9
OF





Plan Accompanying Petition of the Town of Barkhamsted to construct a bank stabilization project on the West Branch Farmington River in Litchfield County, CT.

December 09, 2025

Sheet 6 of 9

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!
CONNECTICUT LAW REQUIRES
24 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE
FOR TO CONDUCT A STOP CALL
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG, INC.
REFERENCE CONNECTICUT SECTION 11
SECTION 11A(A)(A) THROUGH (D)(4)
1-800-922-4455

1-800-922-4455

PROJECT NOTES

1. 2016 TOPOGRAPHIC AERIAL ORTHOIMAGERY CMF FROM CEDCO
2. TOPOGRAPHIC AND BATHYMETRIC SURVEY CMF FROM HANAHAN SURVEYS, DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2019.
3. HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE CONNECTICUT STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983 (NAVD 88).
4. VERTICAL DATUM IS THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988 (NAVD 88).

0804021 UPDATED PER NPWS COMMENTS

DATE 12/09/2025

REVISIONS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT CERTIFICATE OF
REGISTRATION NO. 0001186



PRINCETON HYDRO
PRINCETON HYDRO ENGINEERING, PC
931 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2
SOUTH Glastonbury
CONNECTICUT 06073
PHONE: 860.652.8911
FAX: 860.652.8922
WWW.PRINCETONHYDRO.COM

PROJECT NAME/LOCATION

WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER
BANK STABILIZATION
TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

DRAWING NAME

REGULATORY IMPACT SHEET

DATE	02/25/2020
PROJECT NO.	1036.055
SCALE	1" = 30'
DRAWN BY	JGD/NMR
RELEASER	CG/LH
SHEET NO.	9

9 9

