



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

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Comment Period Begins:** APRIL 23, 2019

**Comment Period Ends:** MAY 8, 2019

**File Number:** NAE-2015-00665

**In Reply Refer To:** Lindsey Lefebvre

**Phone:** (978) 318-8295

**E-mail:** [Lindsey.E.Lefebvre@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lindsey.E.Lefebvre@usace.army.mil)

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States (WoUS) for the Seacoast Reliability Project from Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, Inc, 13 Legends Drive, Hooksett, New Hampshire. This work is proposed in wetlands and waters between the Madbury Substation to the Portsmouth Substation, New Hampshire.

The work involves both direct permanent and temporary discharges of dredged or fill material into various wetlands and WoUS along the proposed route to provide a parallel path to the enhance the existing 115kV loop between the Deerfield and Scobie Pond Substations in order to address reliability concerns in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region, which have been previously identified by the Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE). The proposed line will be compromised of overhead transmission structures and conductor, underground cable, and submarine cables.

The proposed 115 kV transmission Line F107 will run approximately 12.9 miles from a new 115 kV bay at Madbury Substation to a new 115kV bay at Portsmouth Substation. The transmission line will be located primarily within an existing electric utility corridor that is currently occupied by a 34.5 kV overhead distribution supported by direct embedded wood pole structures. There will be two terrestrial sections of the new 115kV line that will be constructed underground with three solid dielectric insulated cables installed in individual PE conduits. Additionally, there will be one new 115kV line that will be constructed completely underwater with three specialized solid dielectric insulated submarine cables directly buried across Little Bay.

Impacts to wetlands and WoUS include approximately .02 acres of permanent impact to non-tidal wetlands and 0.2 acres of permanent impacts to tidal wetlands. Permanent impacts are associated with the installation of new transmission line structures in terrestrial areas and the need for concrete mattresses for cable protection in estuarine areas. Temporary impacts include approximately 7 acres to non-tidal wetlands, 0.01 acres to river/stream, and 6 acres to tidal wetlands. Temporary impacts are associated with timber matting along access roads and for work pads and for impacts associated with installation of the marine cables using jetplow and hand-jetting technology.

The work is shown on the enclosed plans entitled "Seacoast Reliability Project," on 31 sheets, and dated "July 25, 2018."

The Seacoast Reliability Project has been designed to avoid and minimize environmental impacts while strengthening the existing electrical infrastructure in the Seacoast area. To compensate for the project's projected impacts to waterways and wetlands, the applicant is currently proposing a contribution to the State of New Hampshire Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (NH In Lieu Fee Program).

## **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 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.

This project will have an adverse effect on approximately 7 acres of EFH. This habitat consists of fine sand, silt and soft mud in the intertidal zone and in deeper areas the substrate is made up of fine to medium sands, silts, clay, and shell fragments. Loss of this habitat 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 submitted an EFH assessment to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the EFH consultation has been concluded.

## **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. Review and consultation to fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, has been completed 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 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 have coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on listed species under their jurisdiction and the ESA consultation has been completed.

## **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**

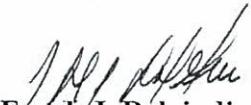
In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Lefebvre at (978) 318-8295, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling 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.

**CENAE-R**  
**FILE NO. NAE-2015-00665**

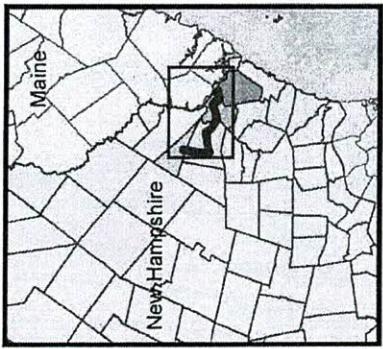
**THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.**



**Frank J. Delgiudice  
Deputy Chief  
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: \_\_\_\_\_



## Facility Map Regional Overview

Seacoast Reliability Project

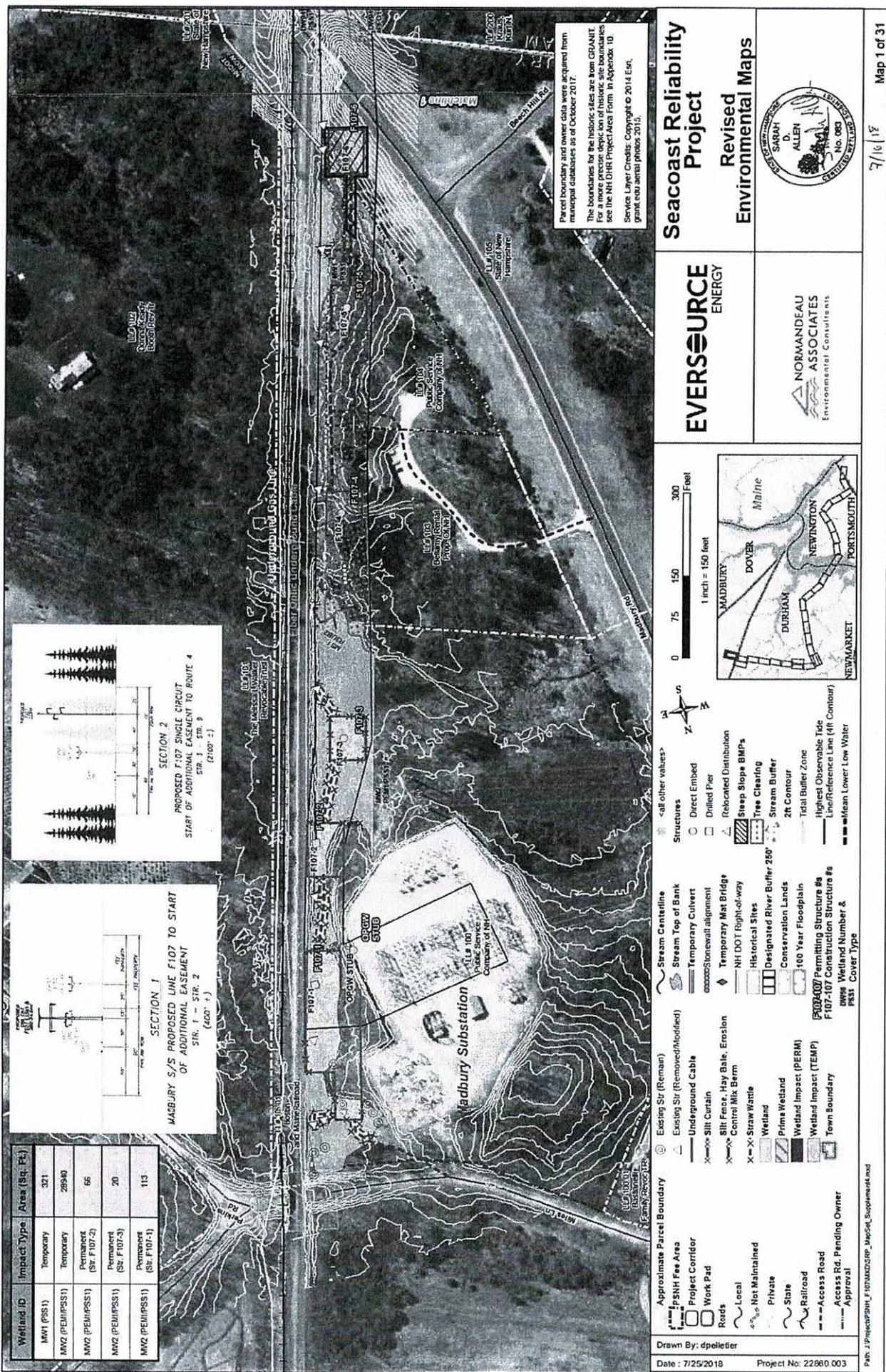
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Project Corridor

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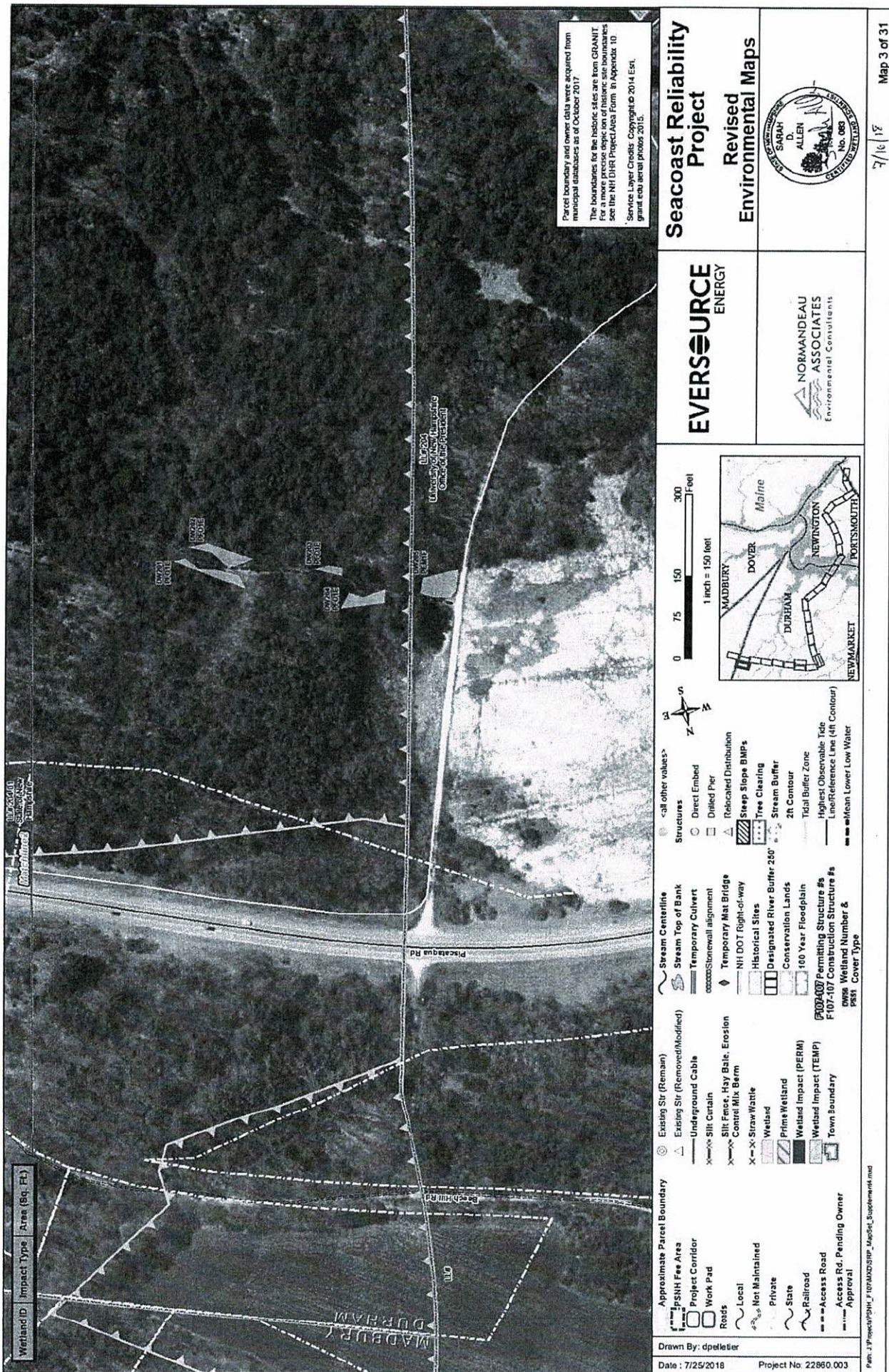
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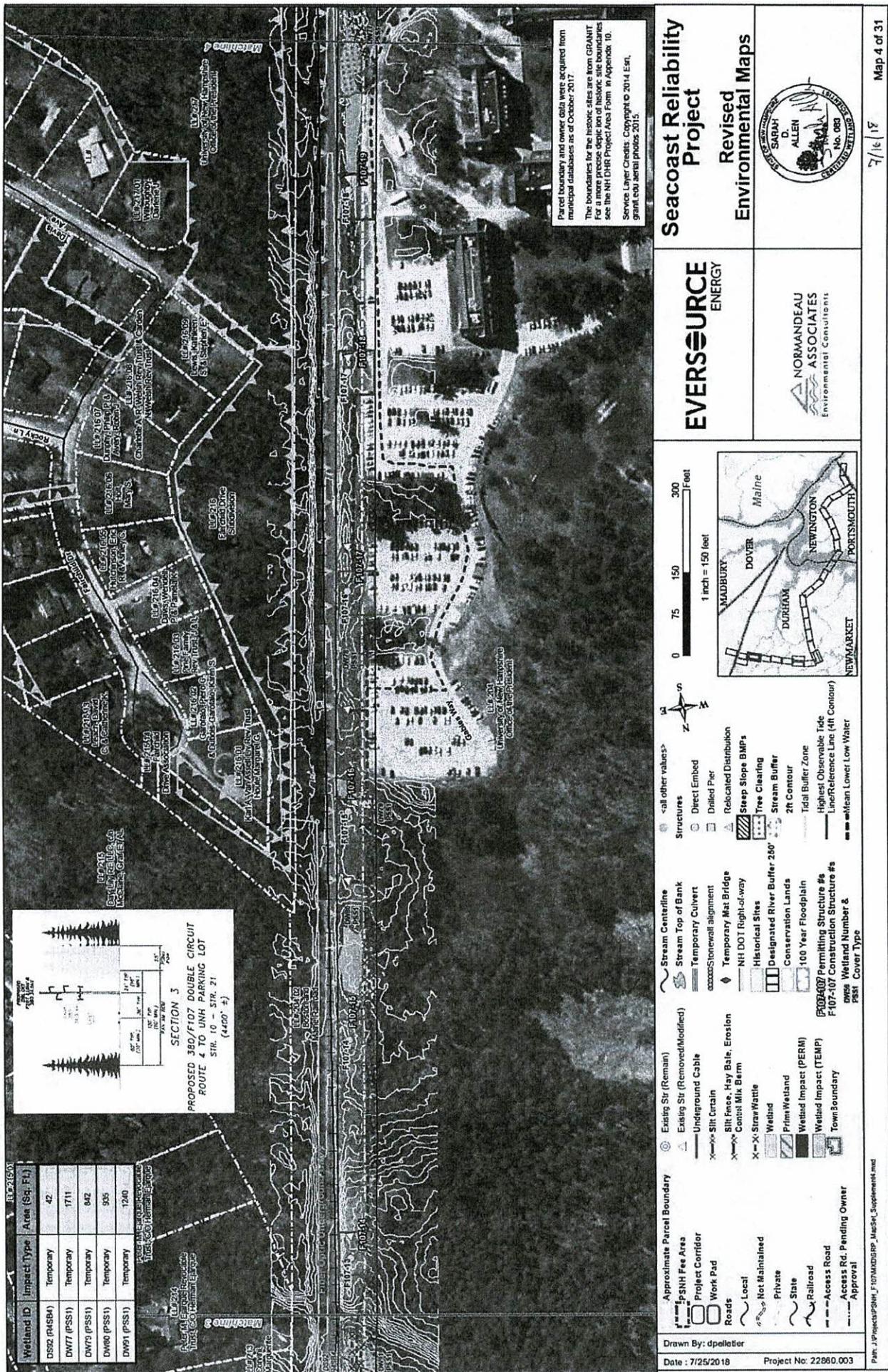
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ENERGY

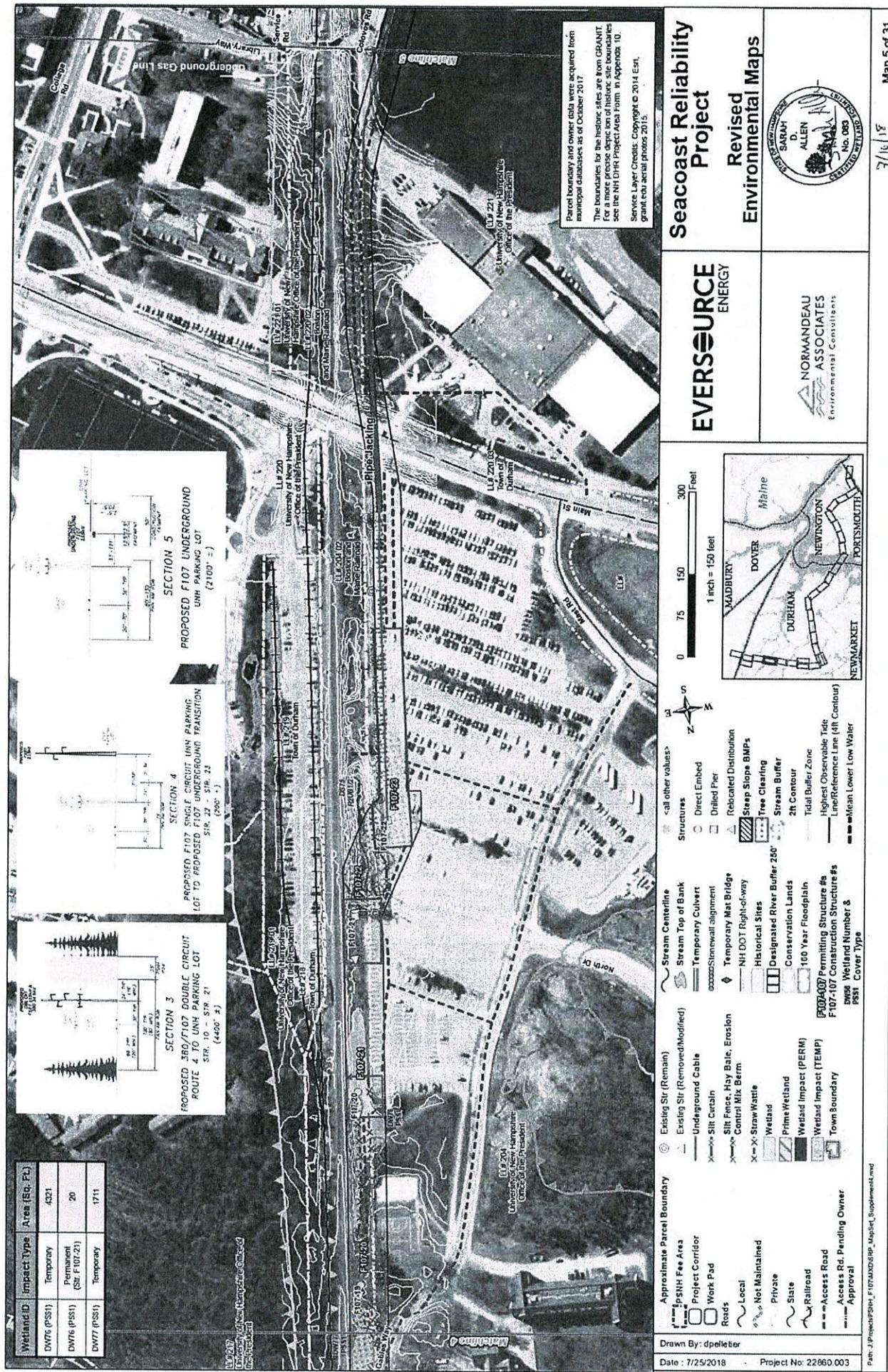


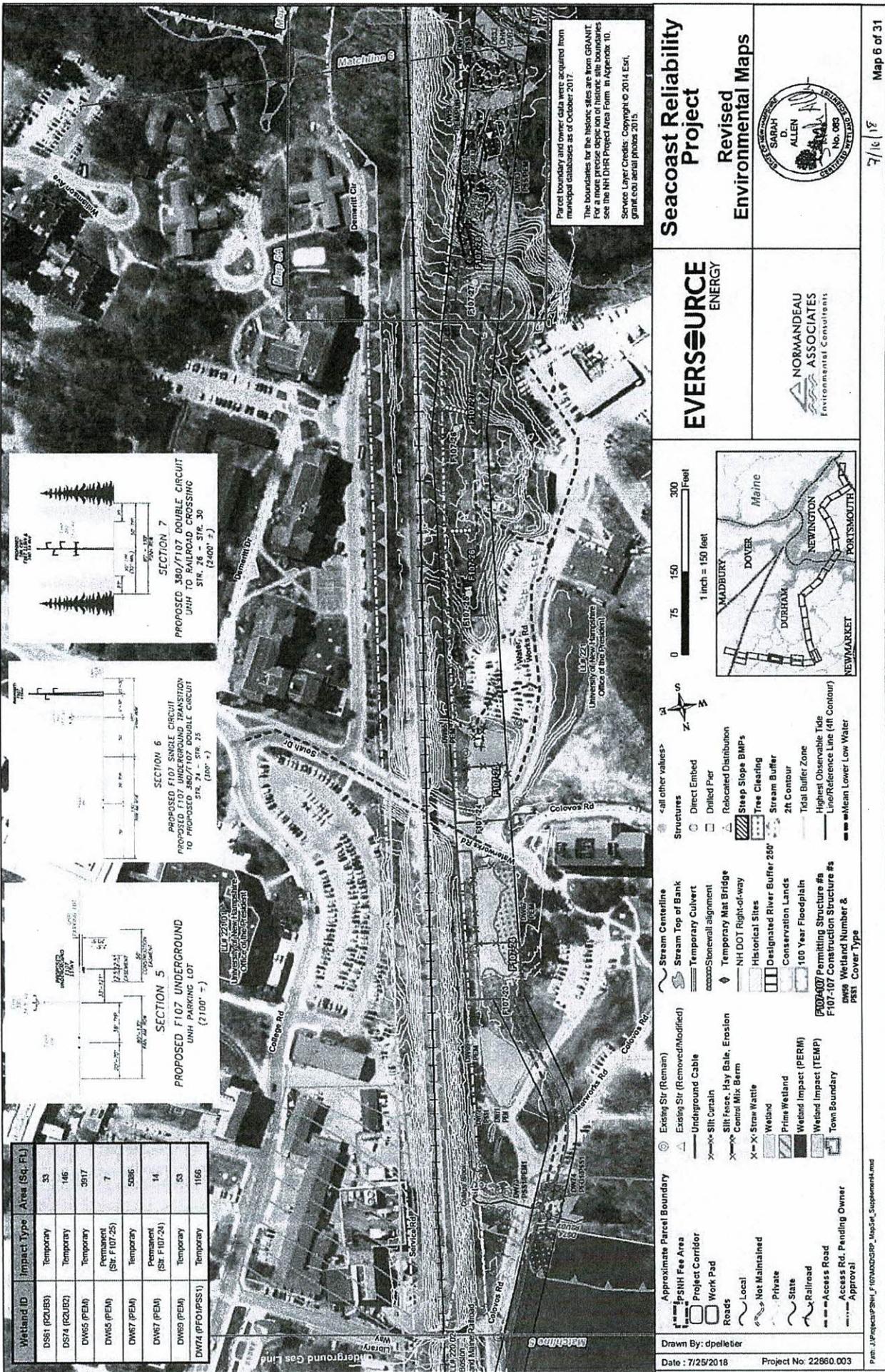


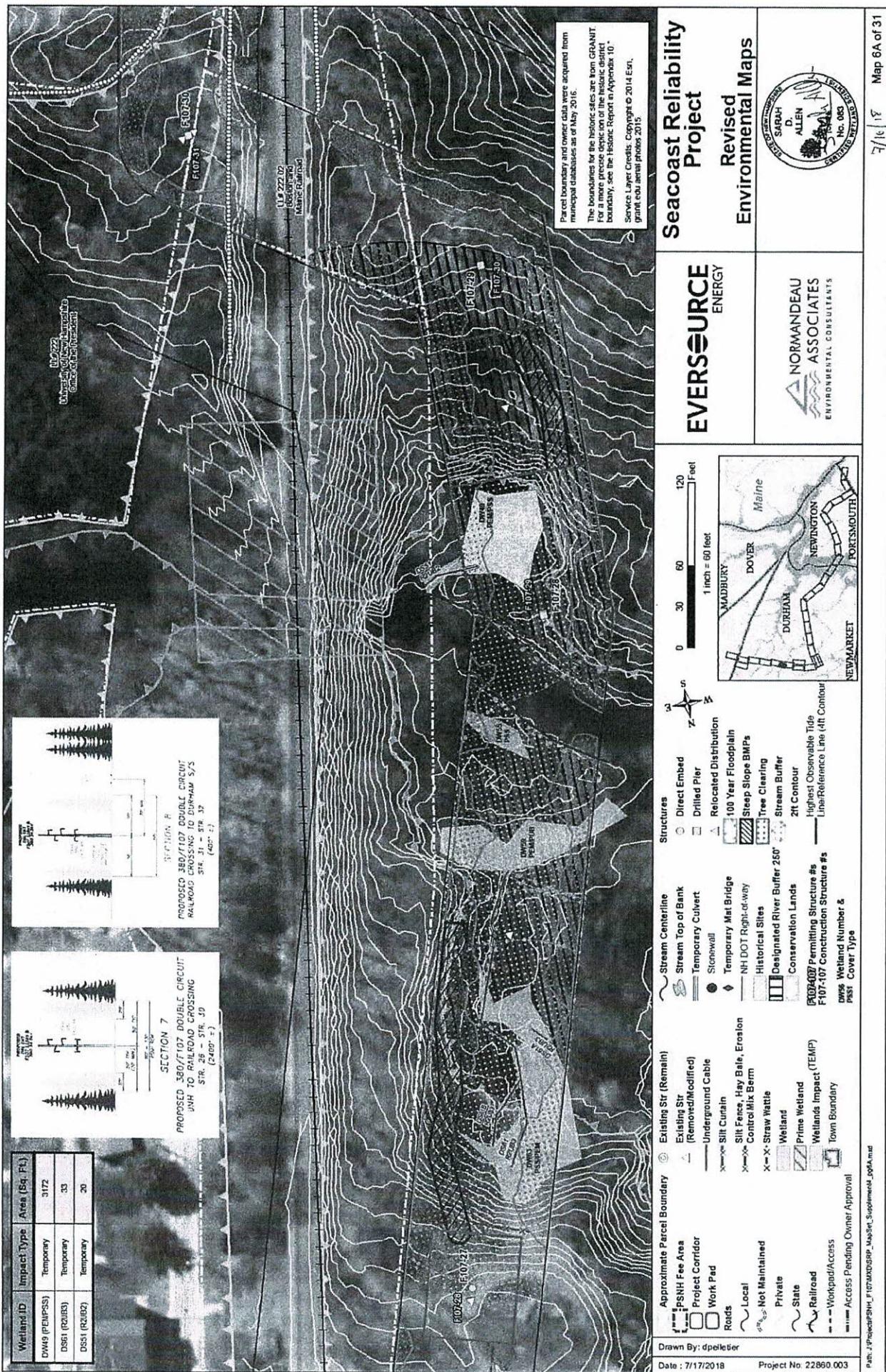


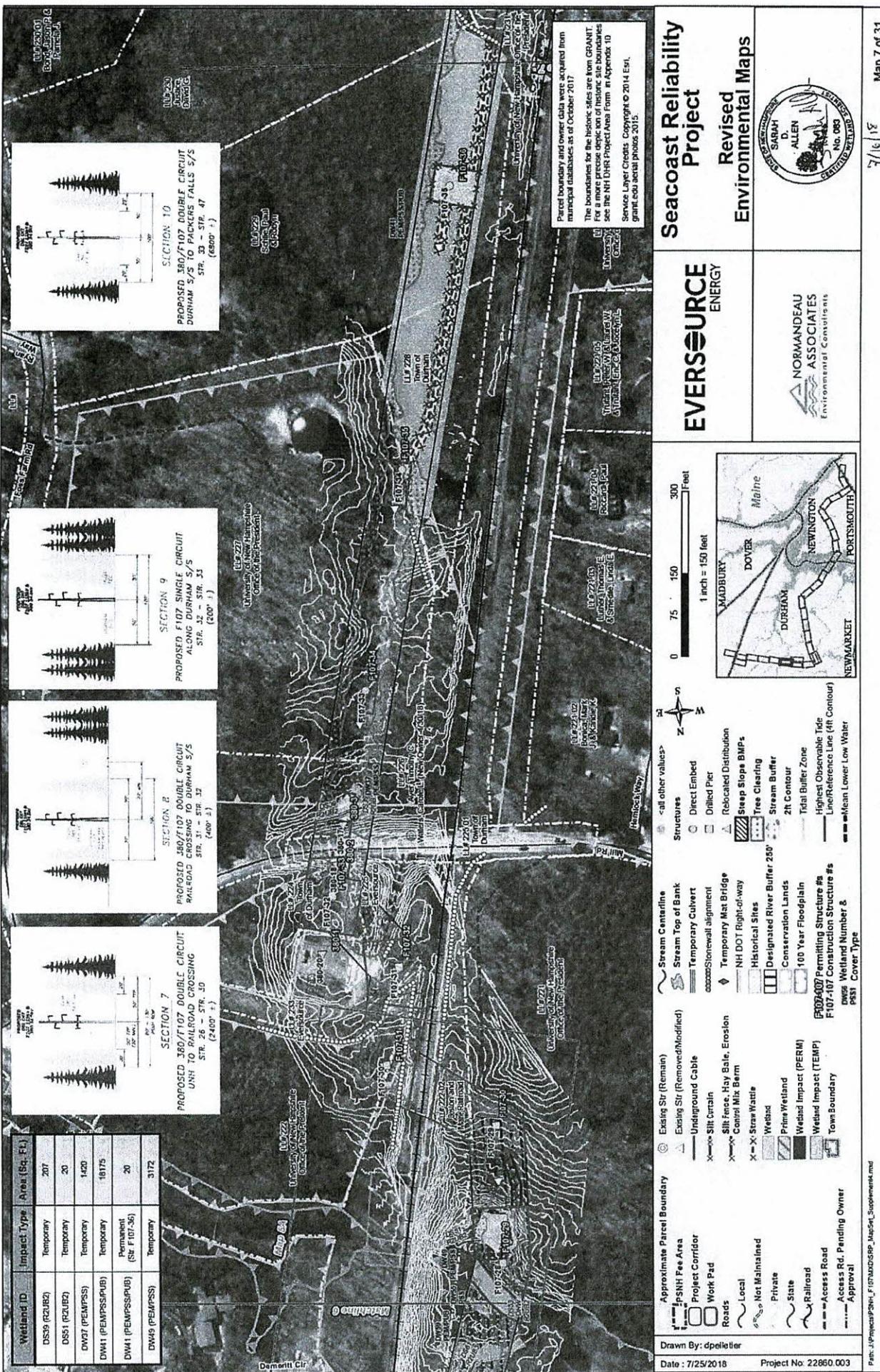


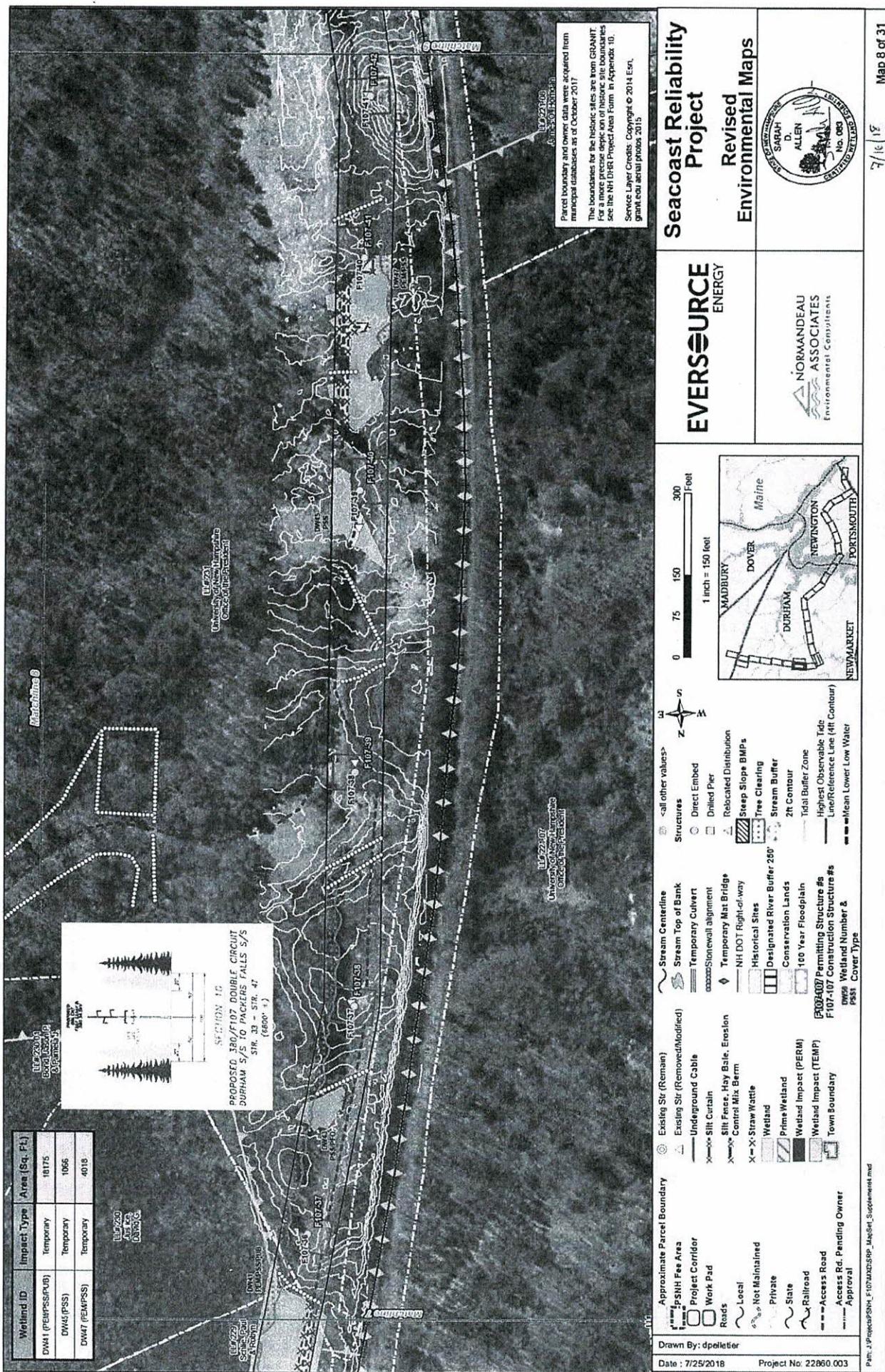


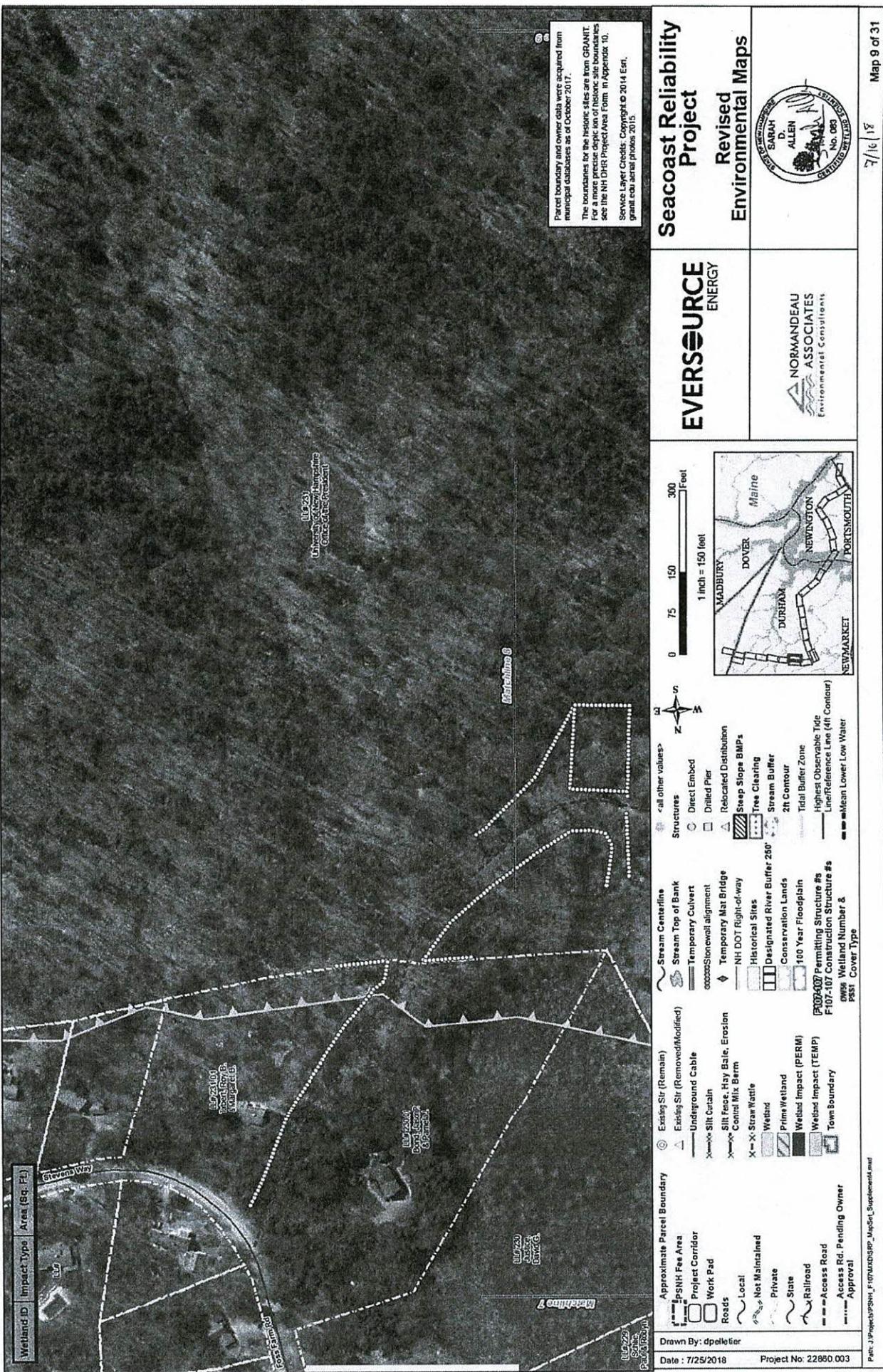


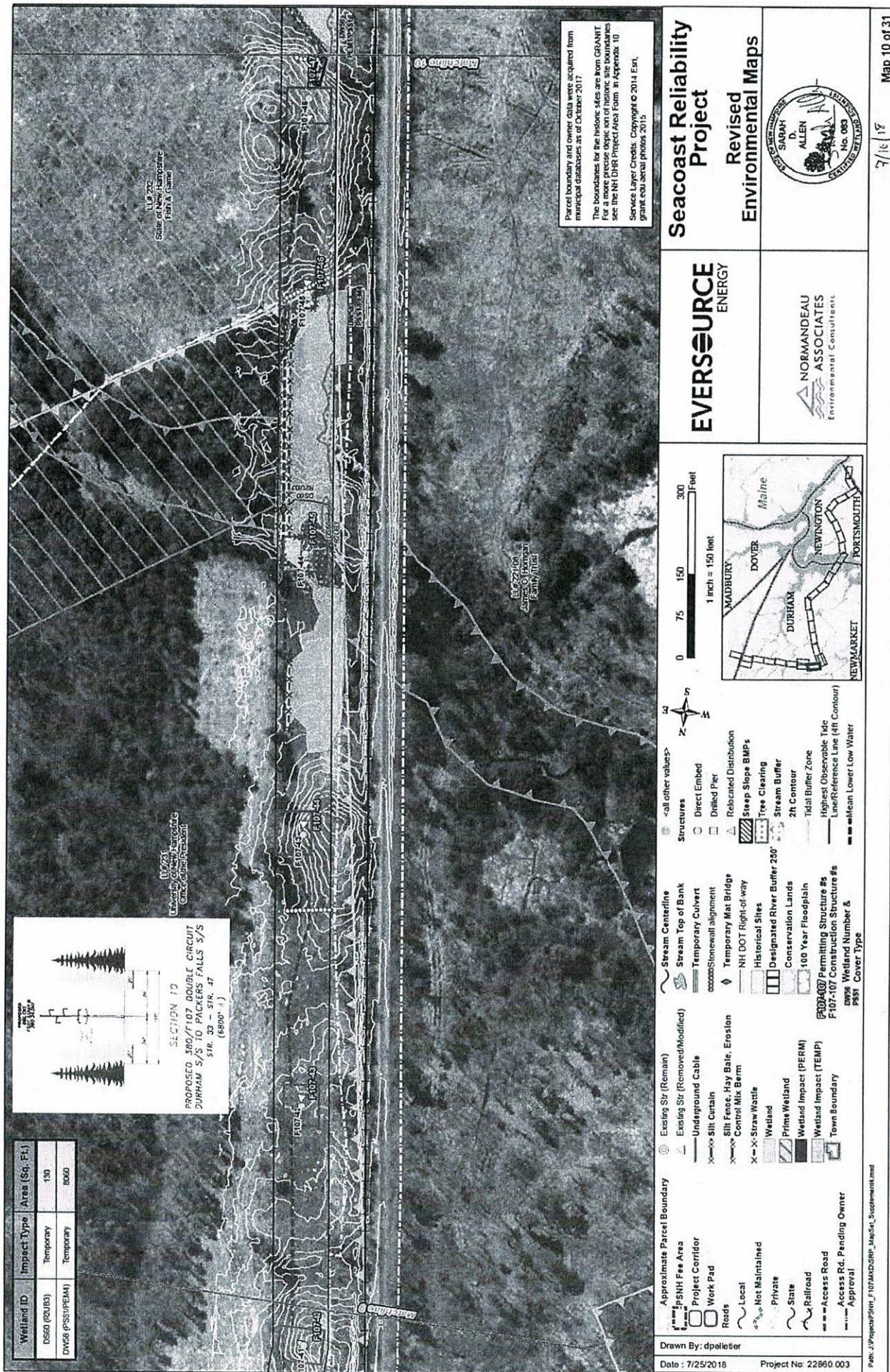


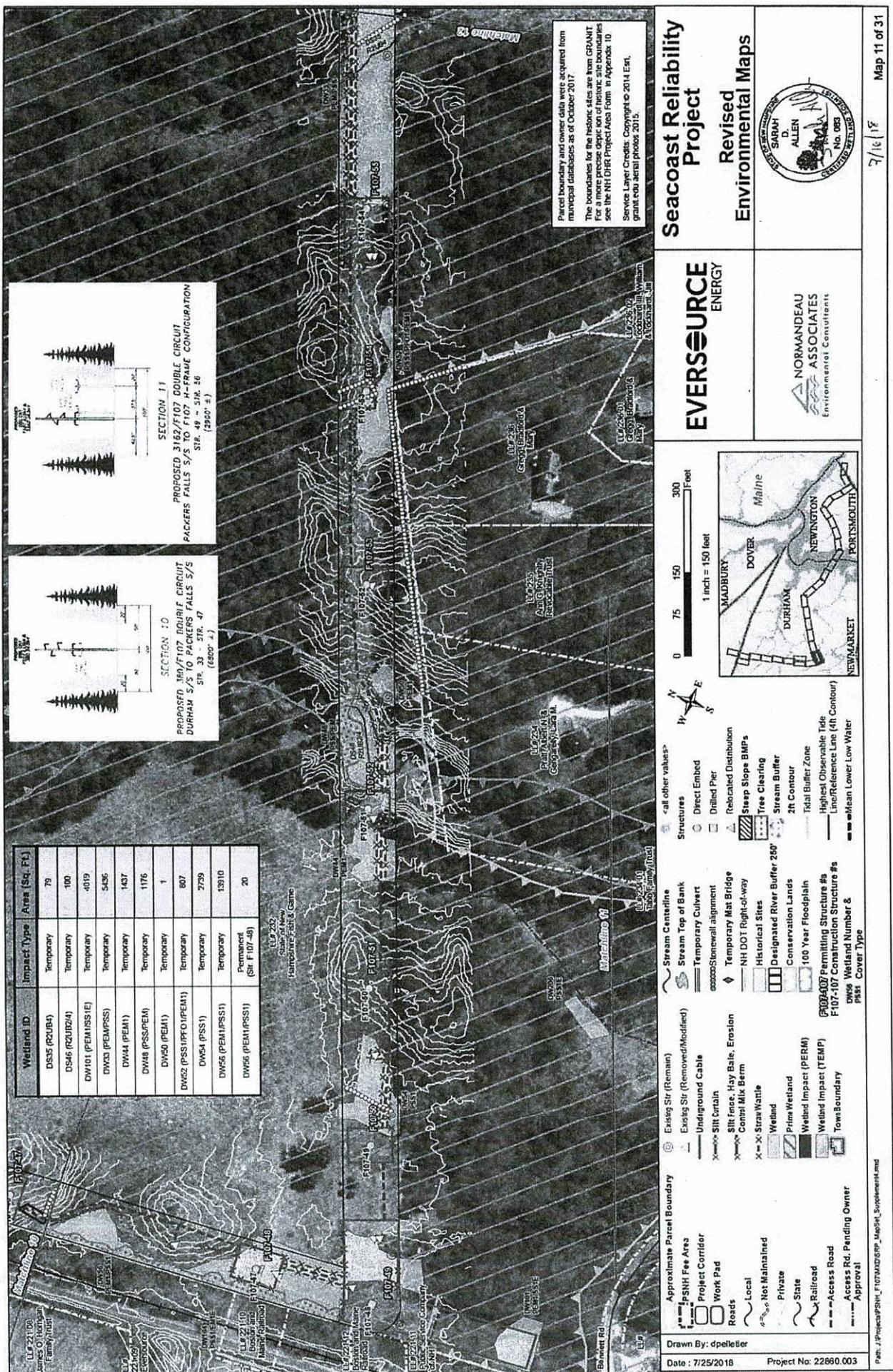


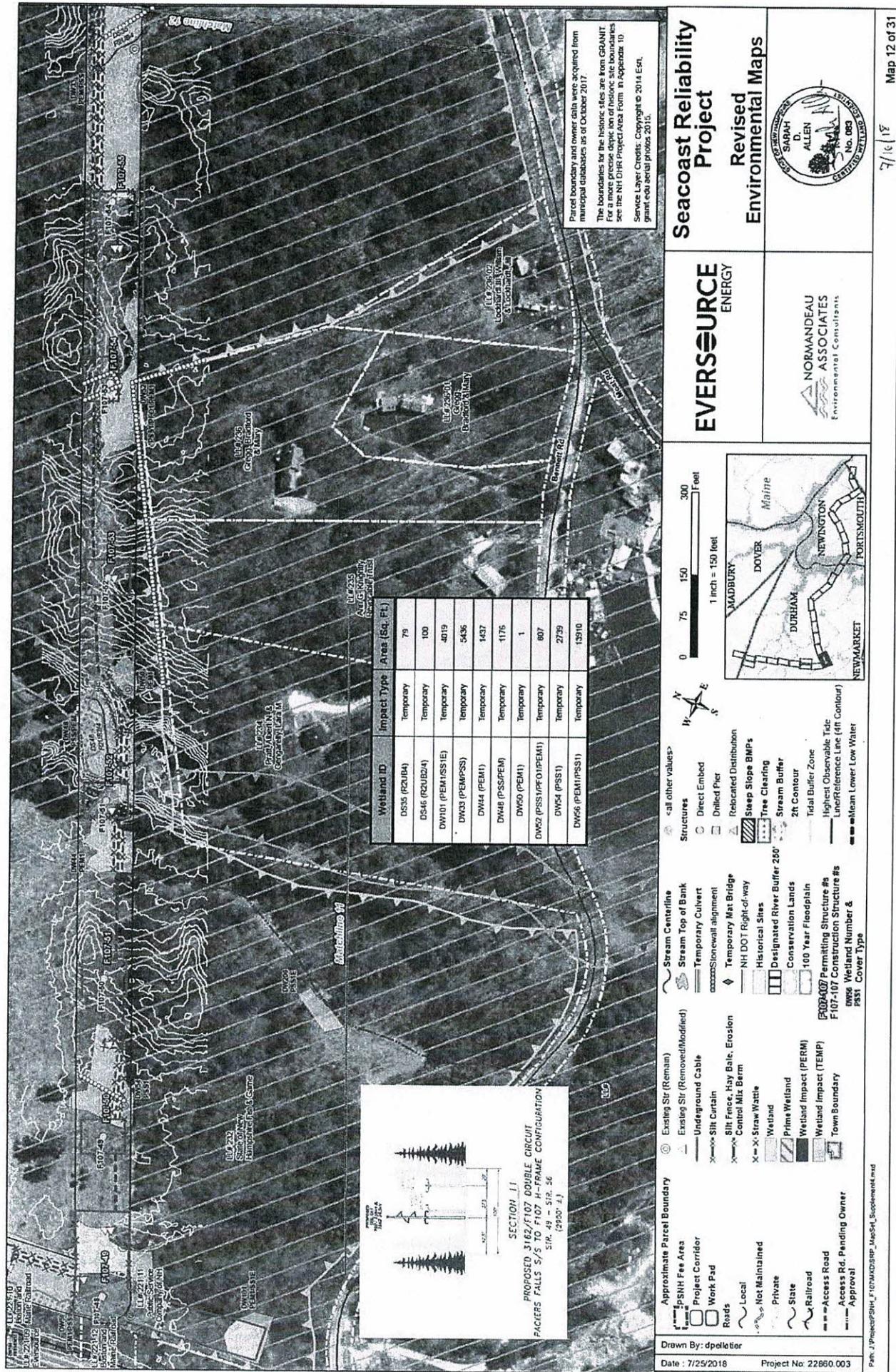


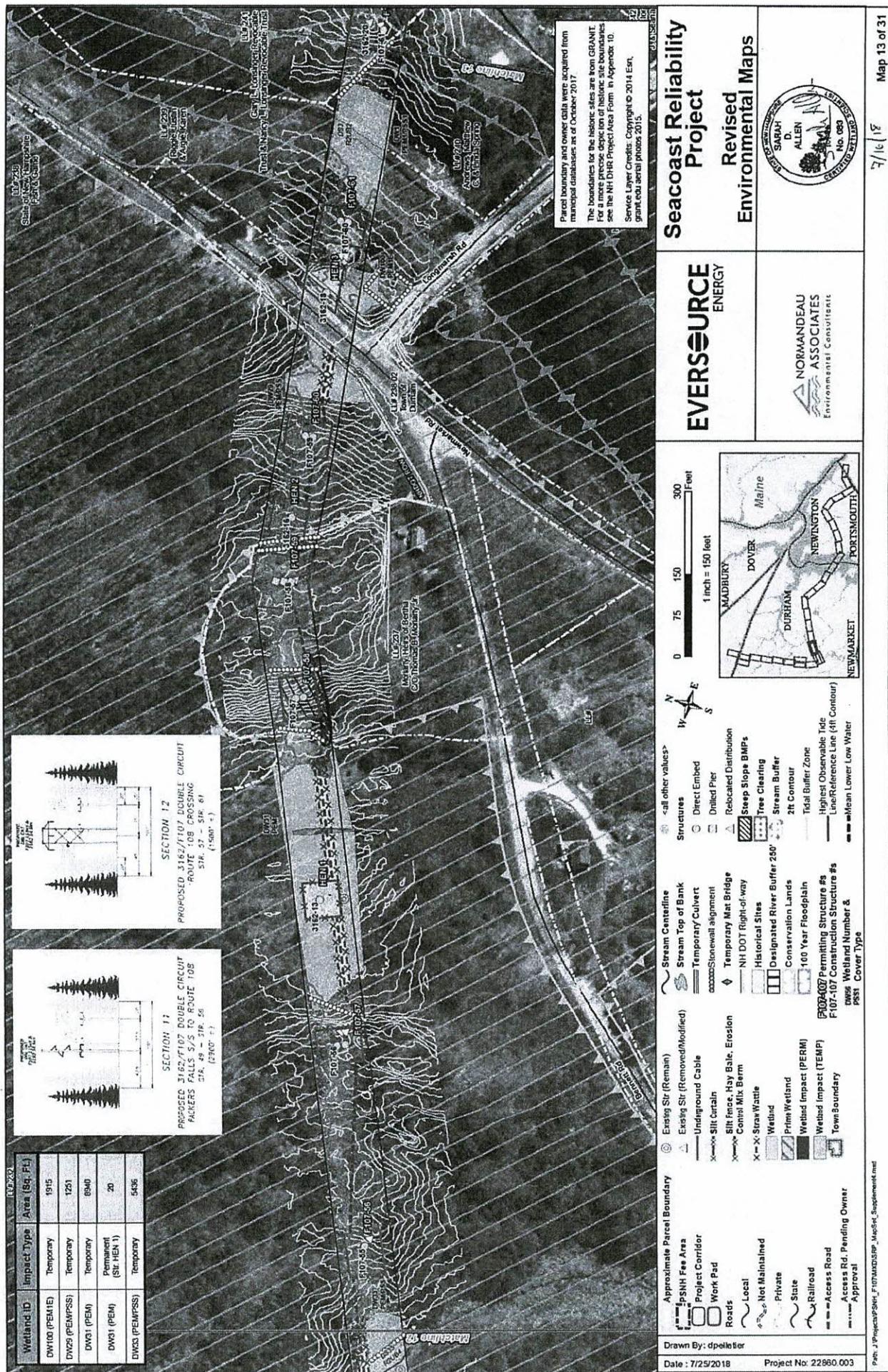


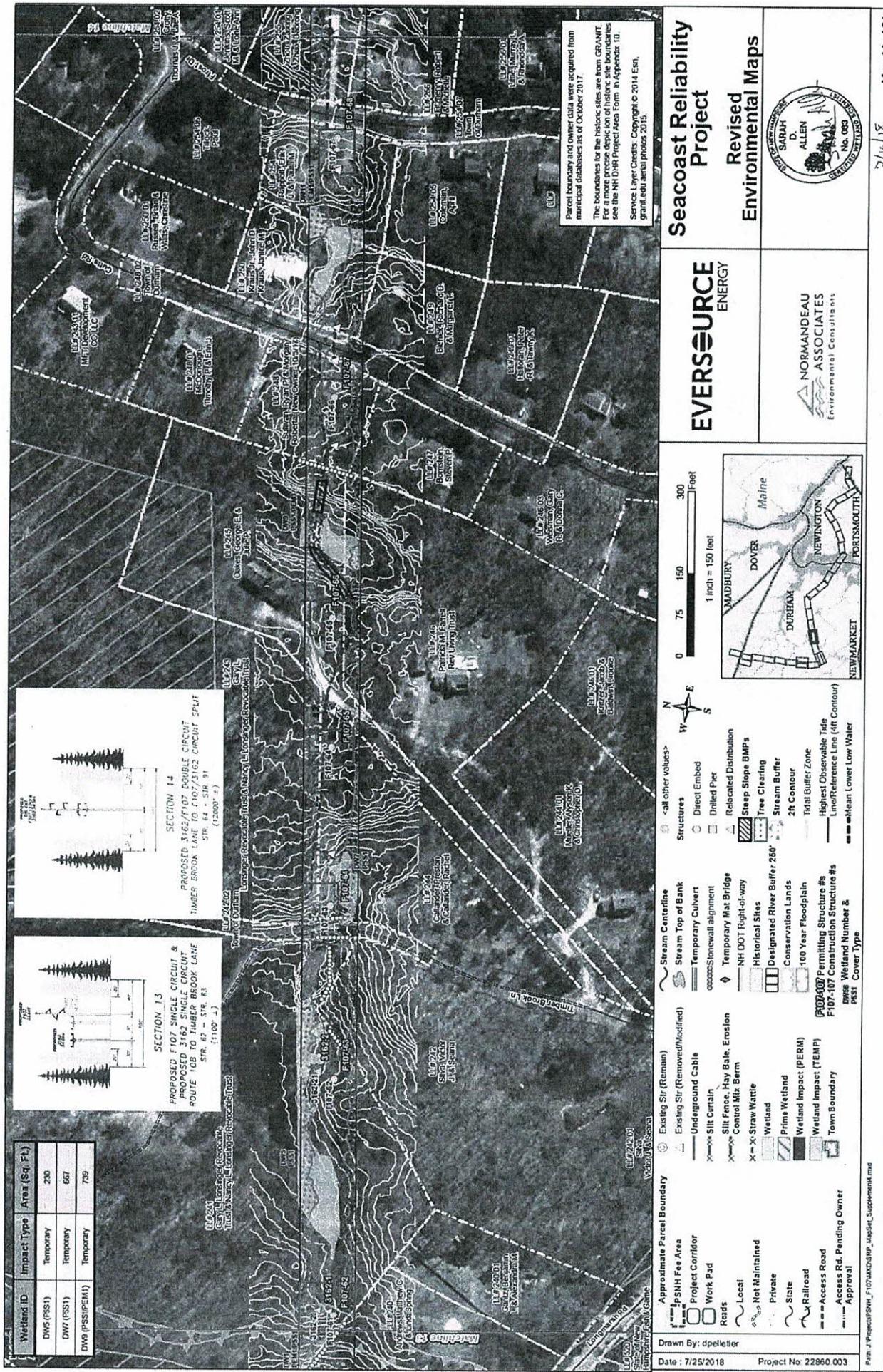


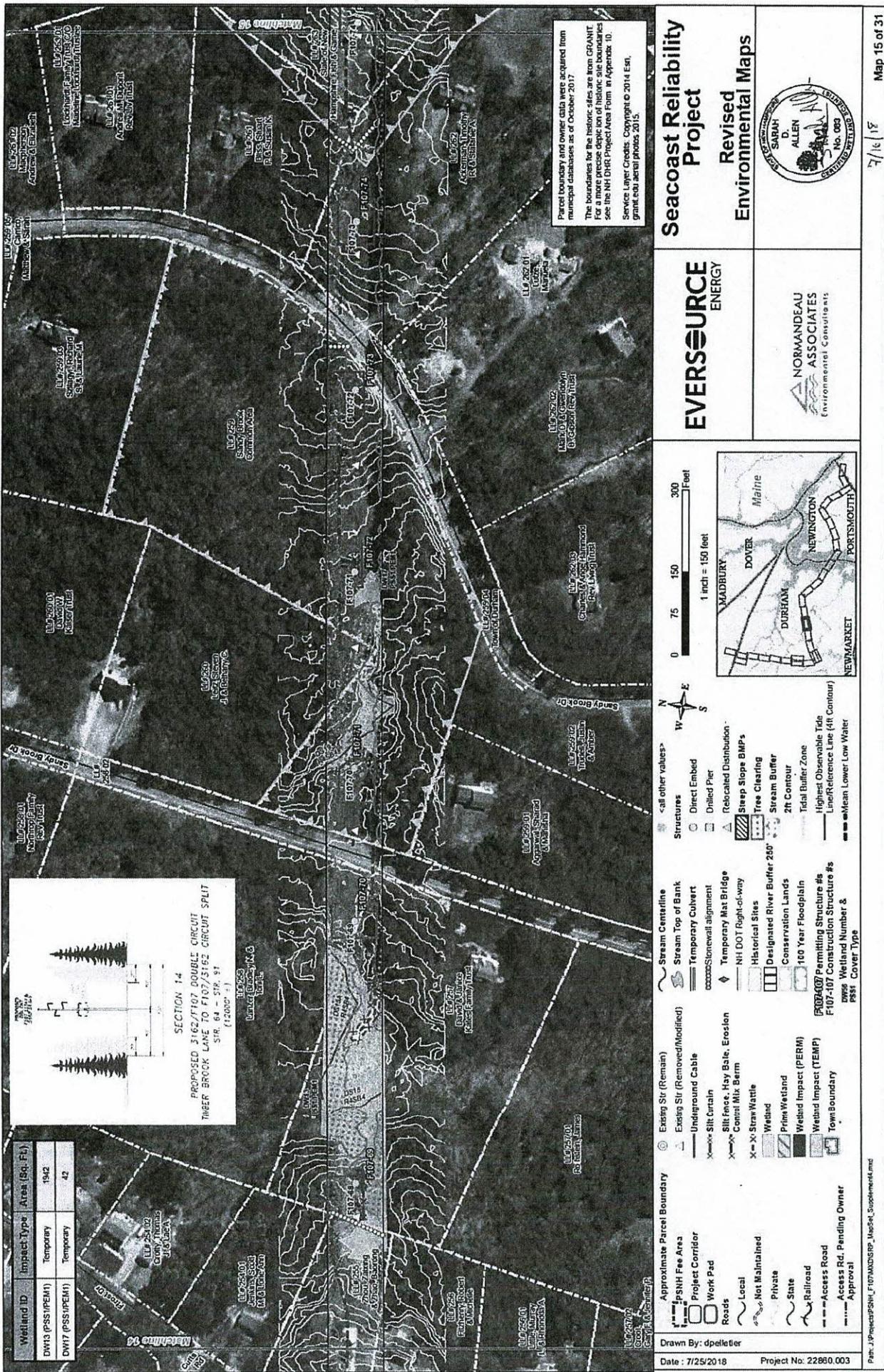


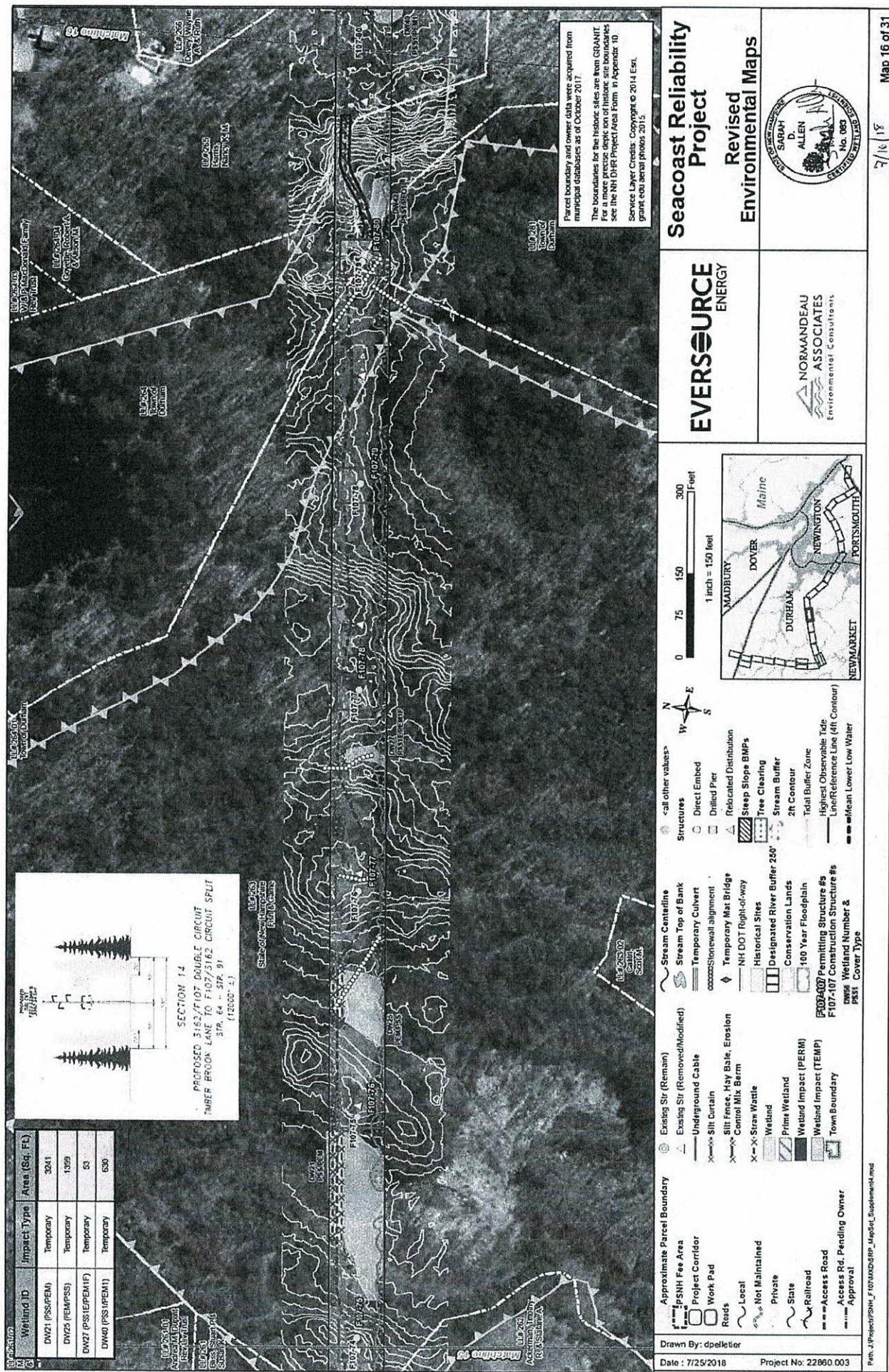


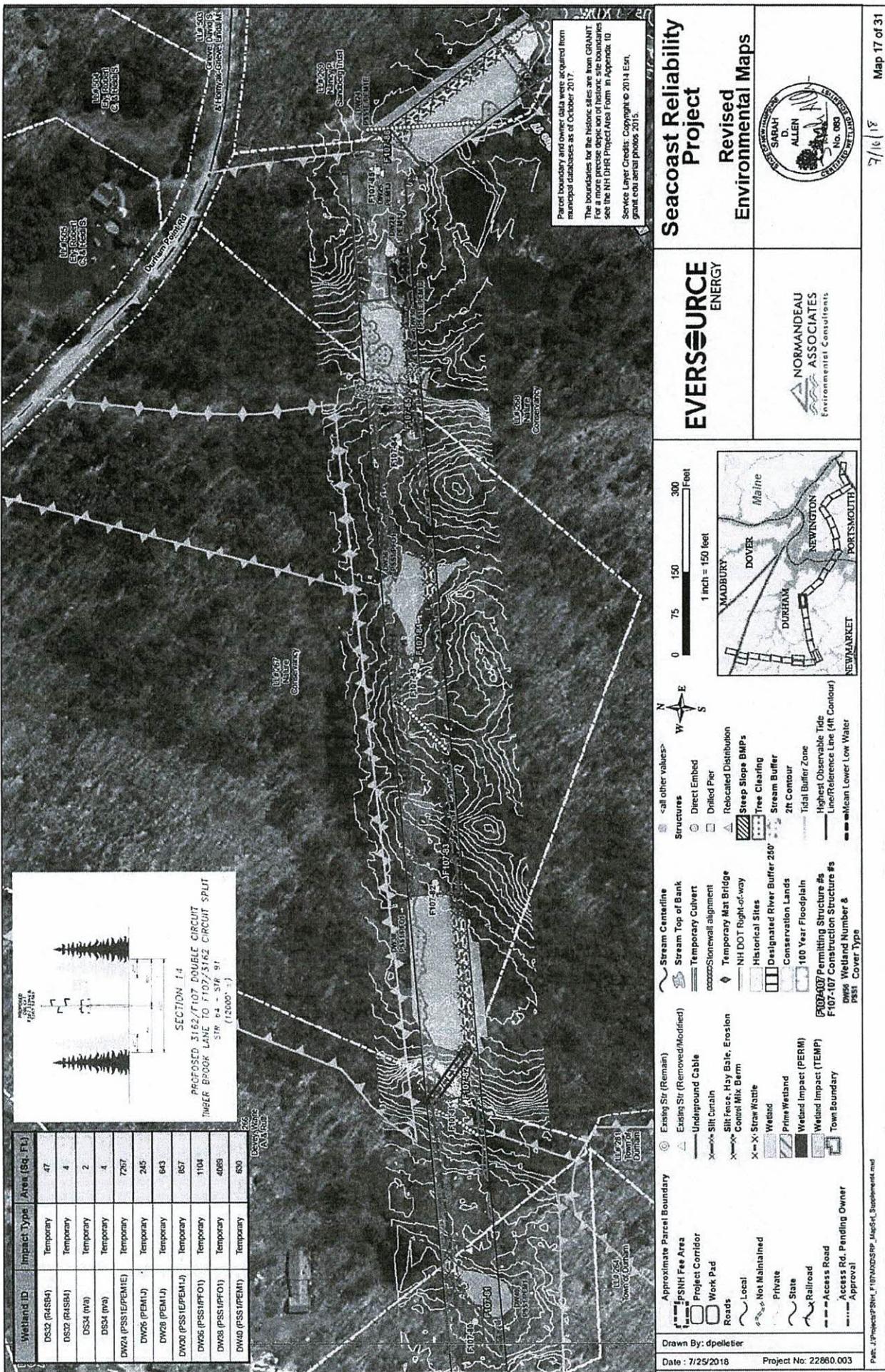


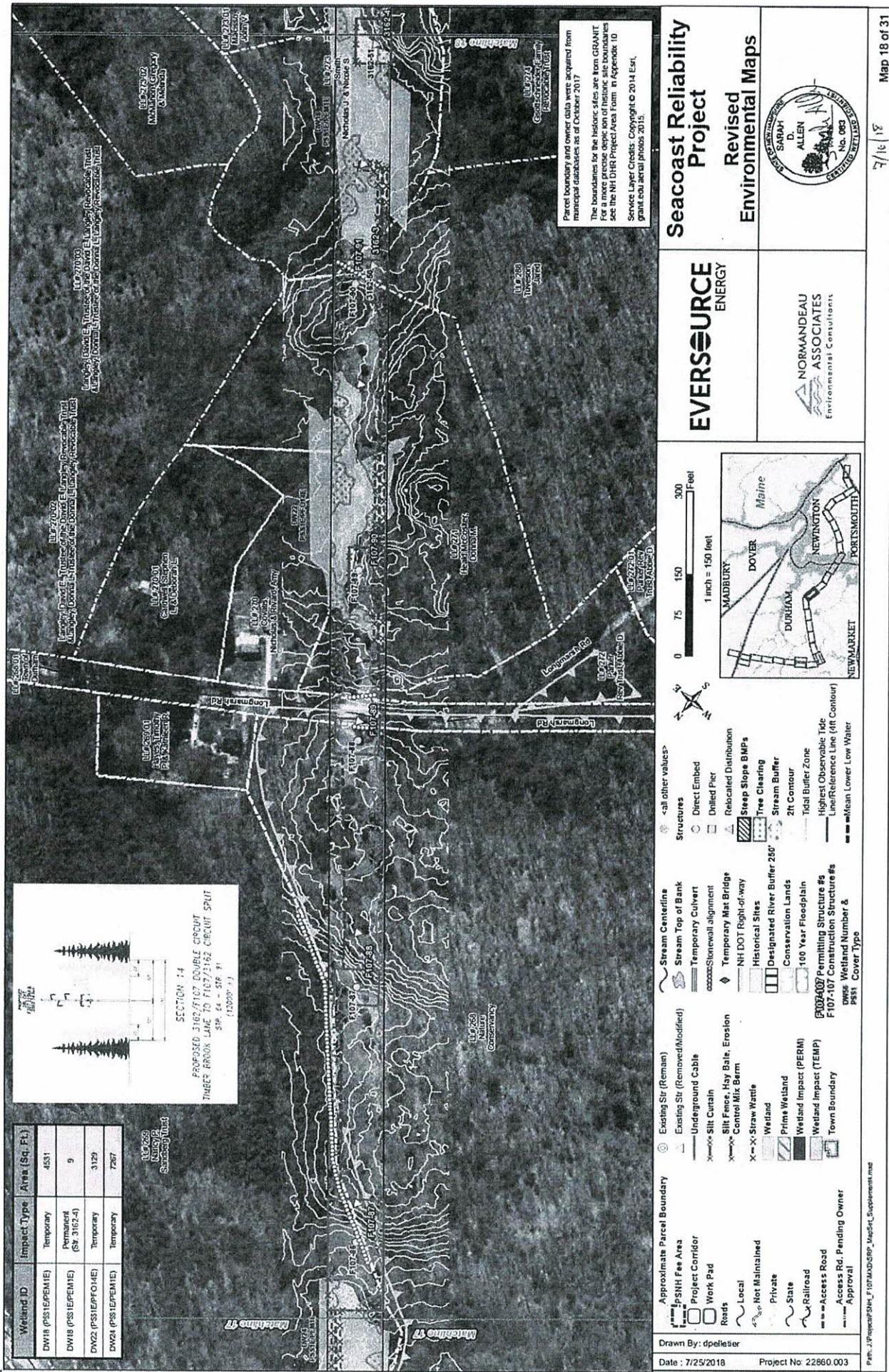


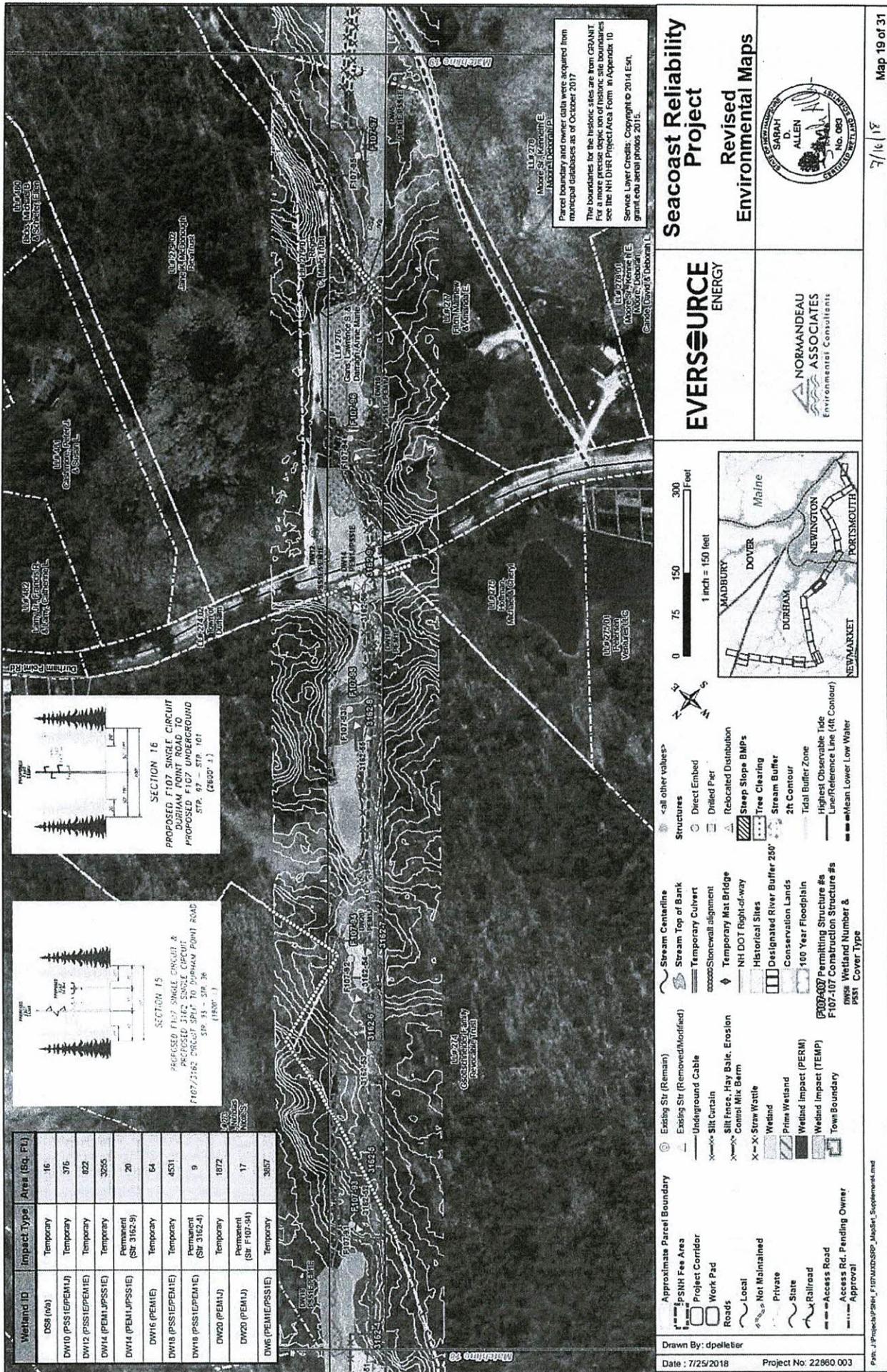


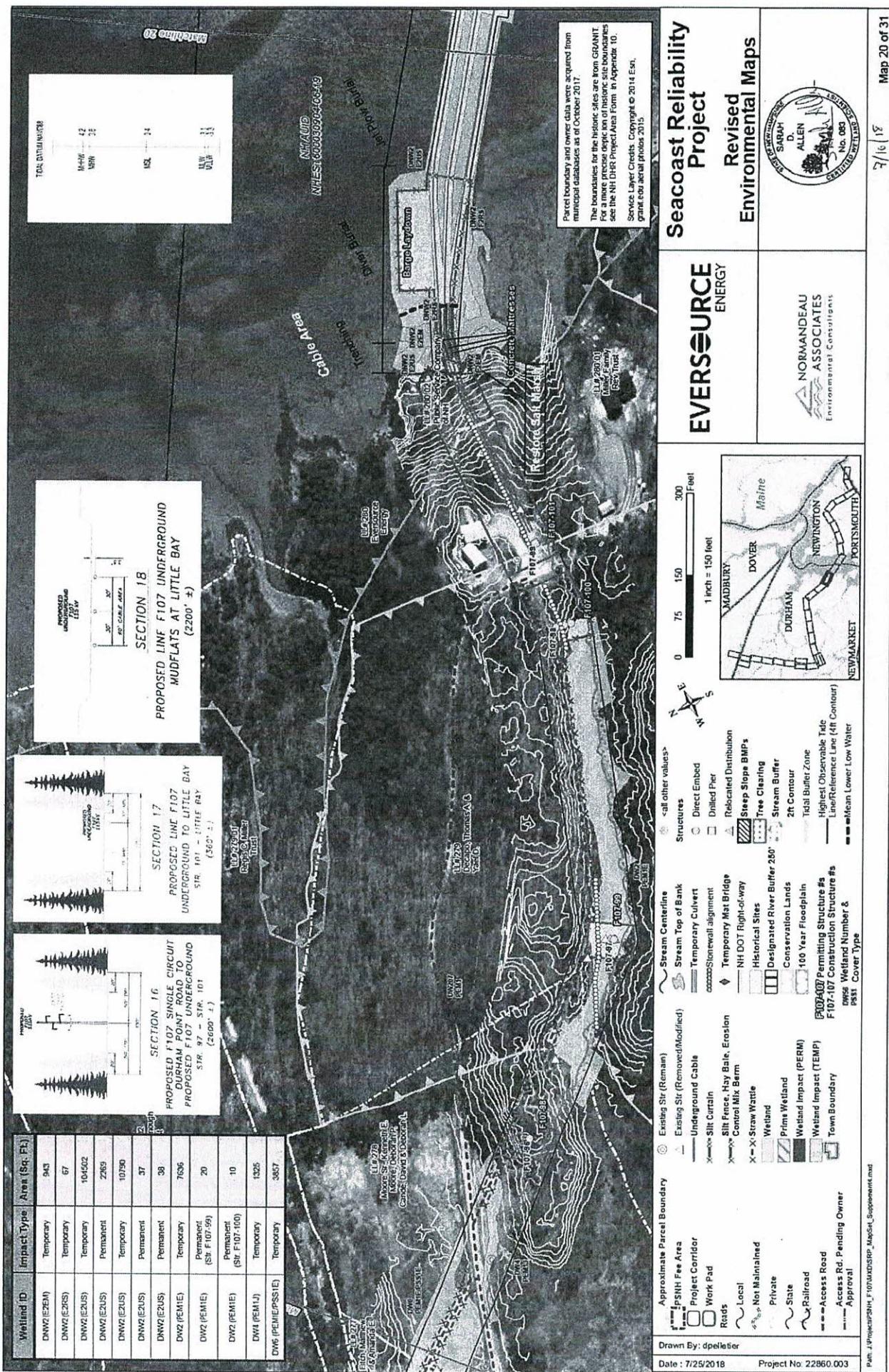


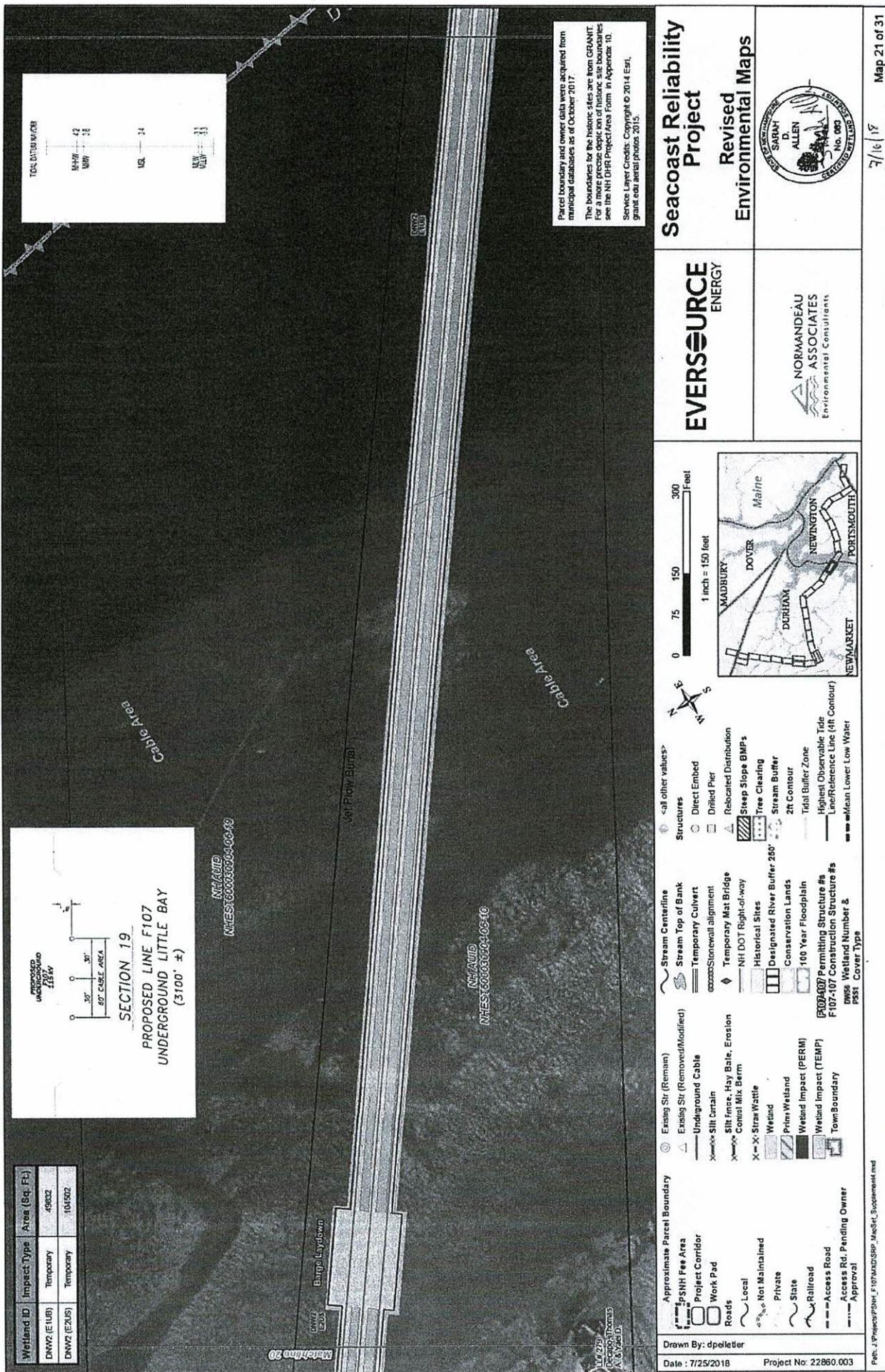


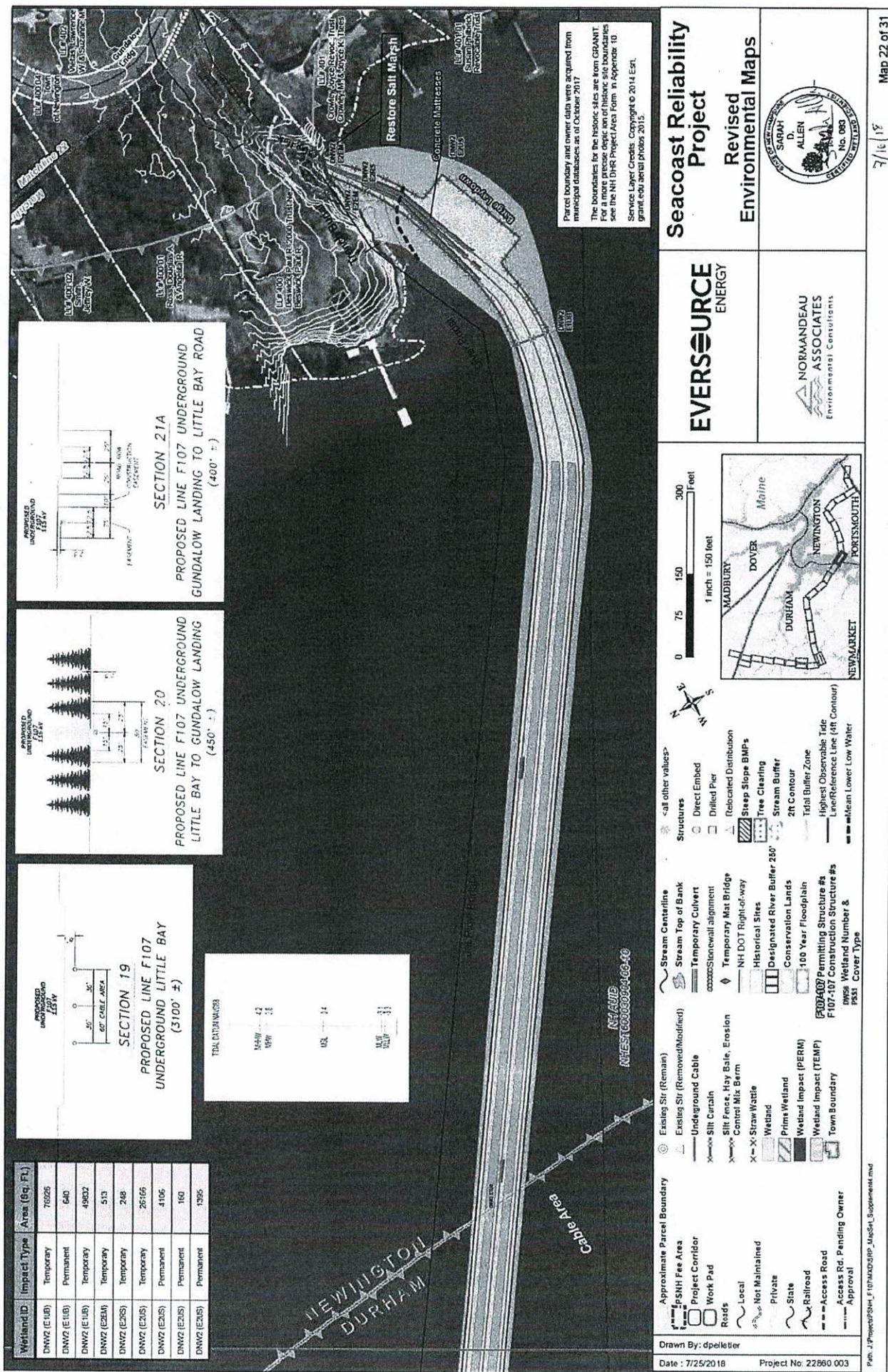


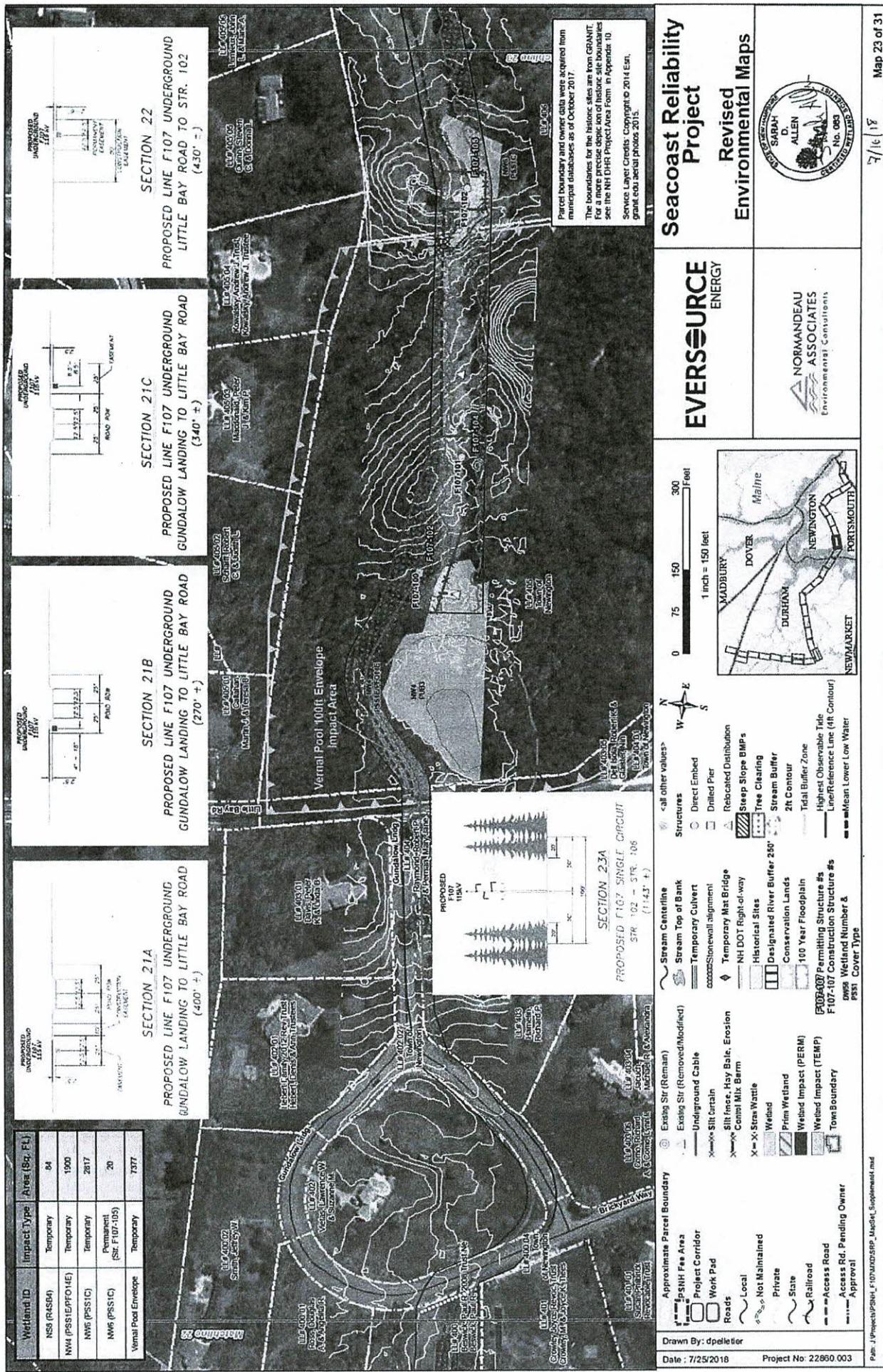


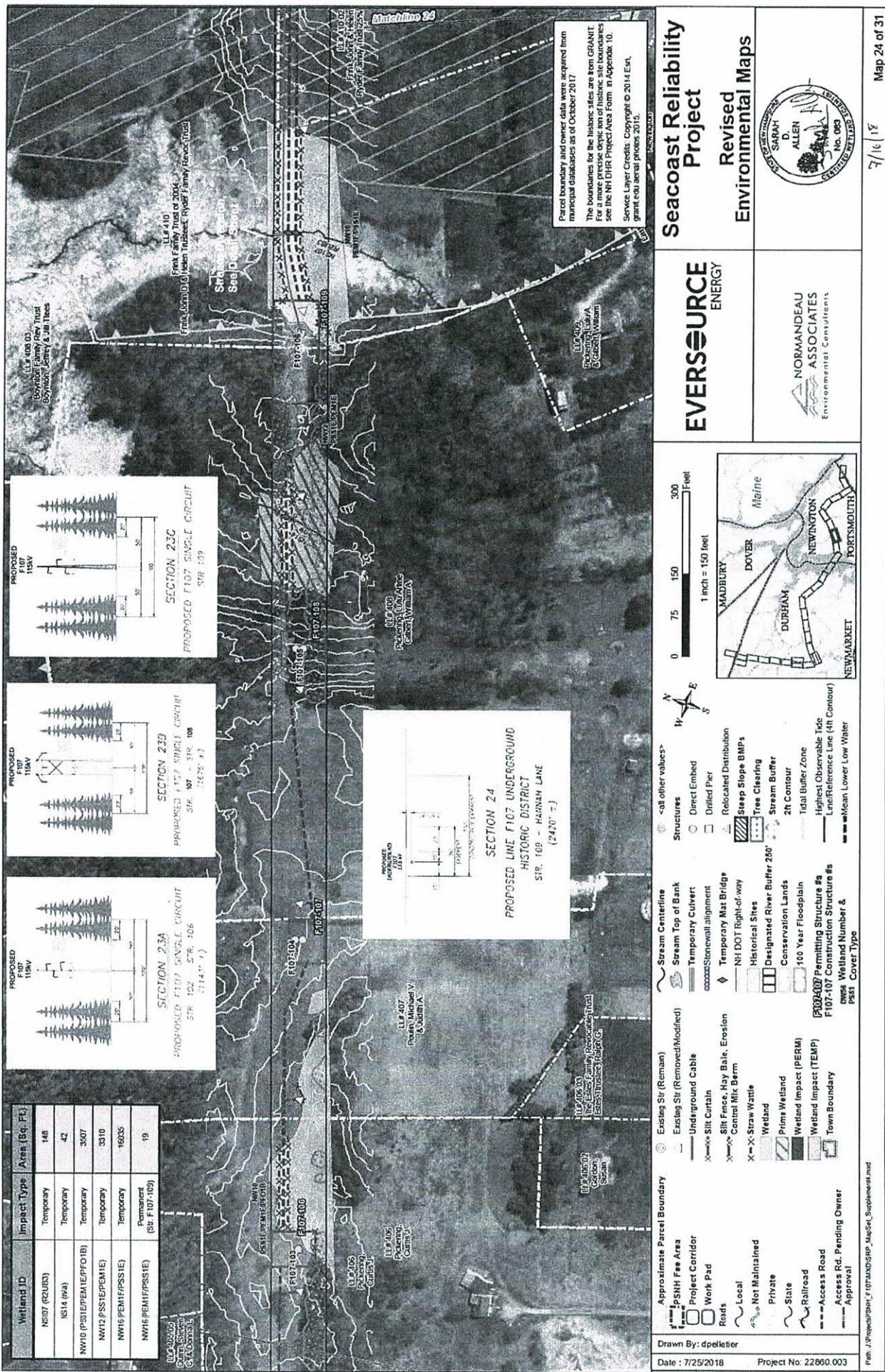


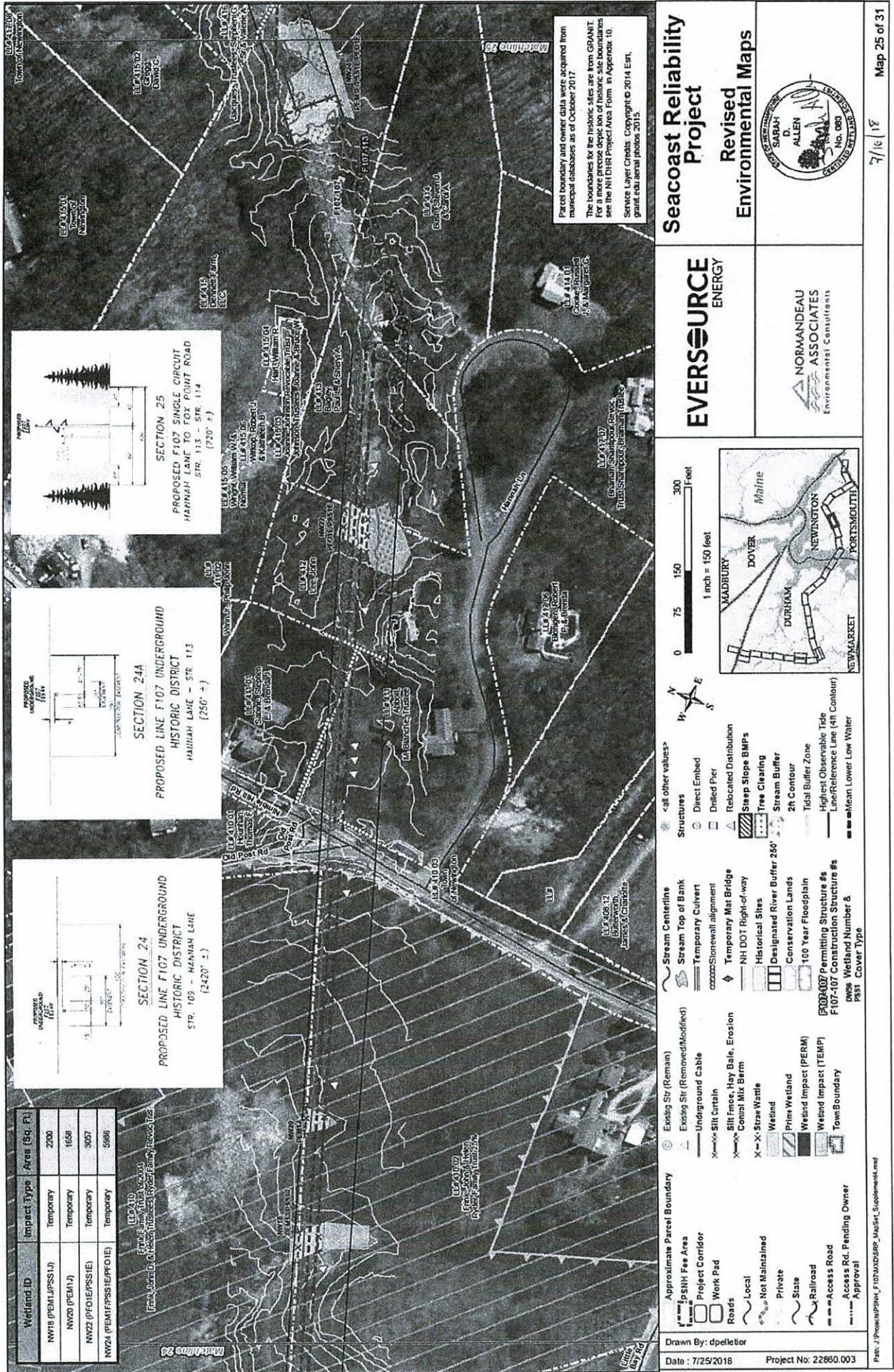


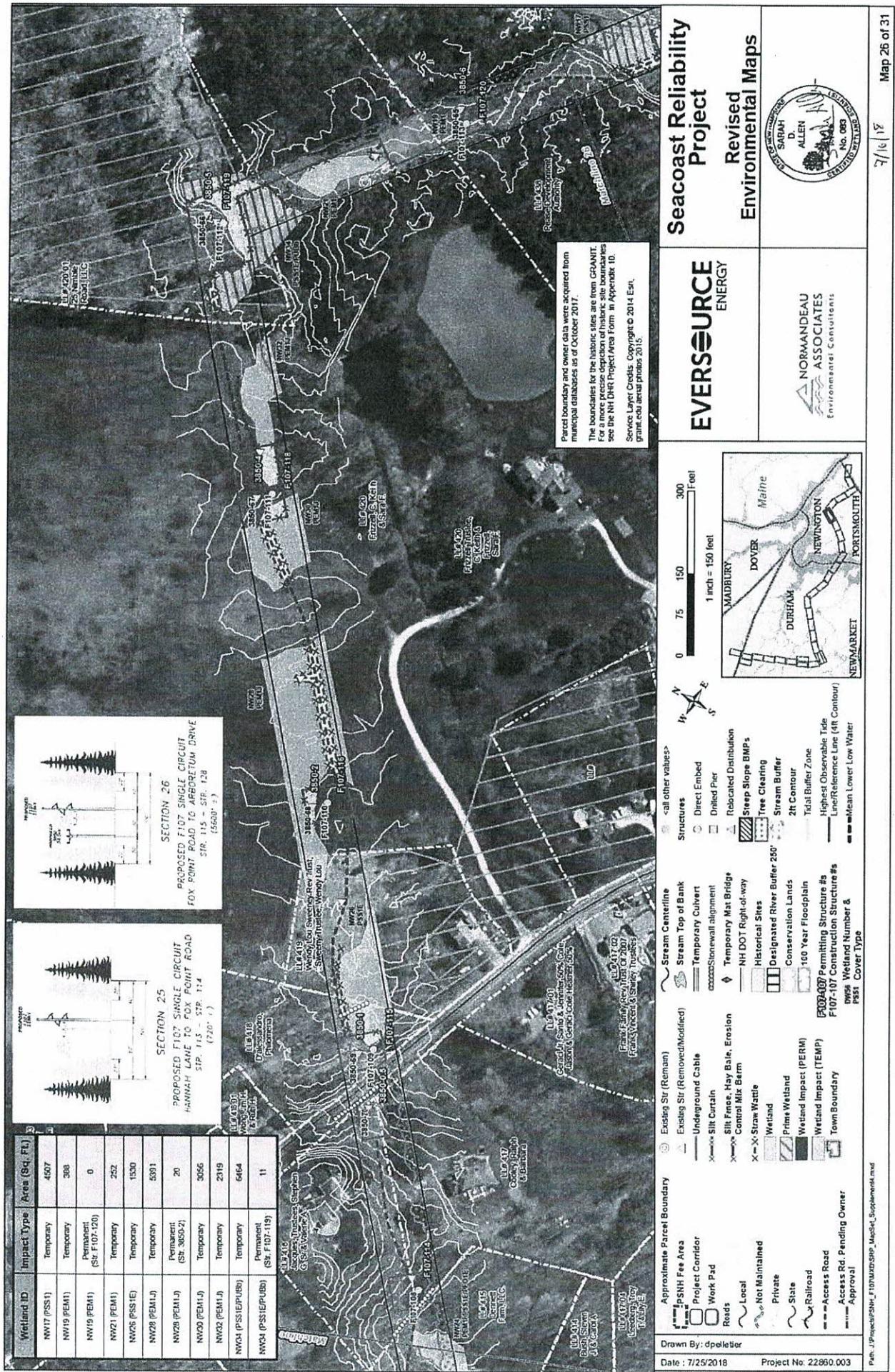


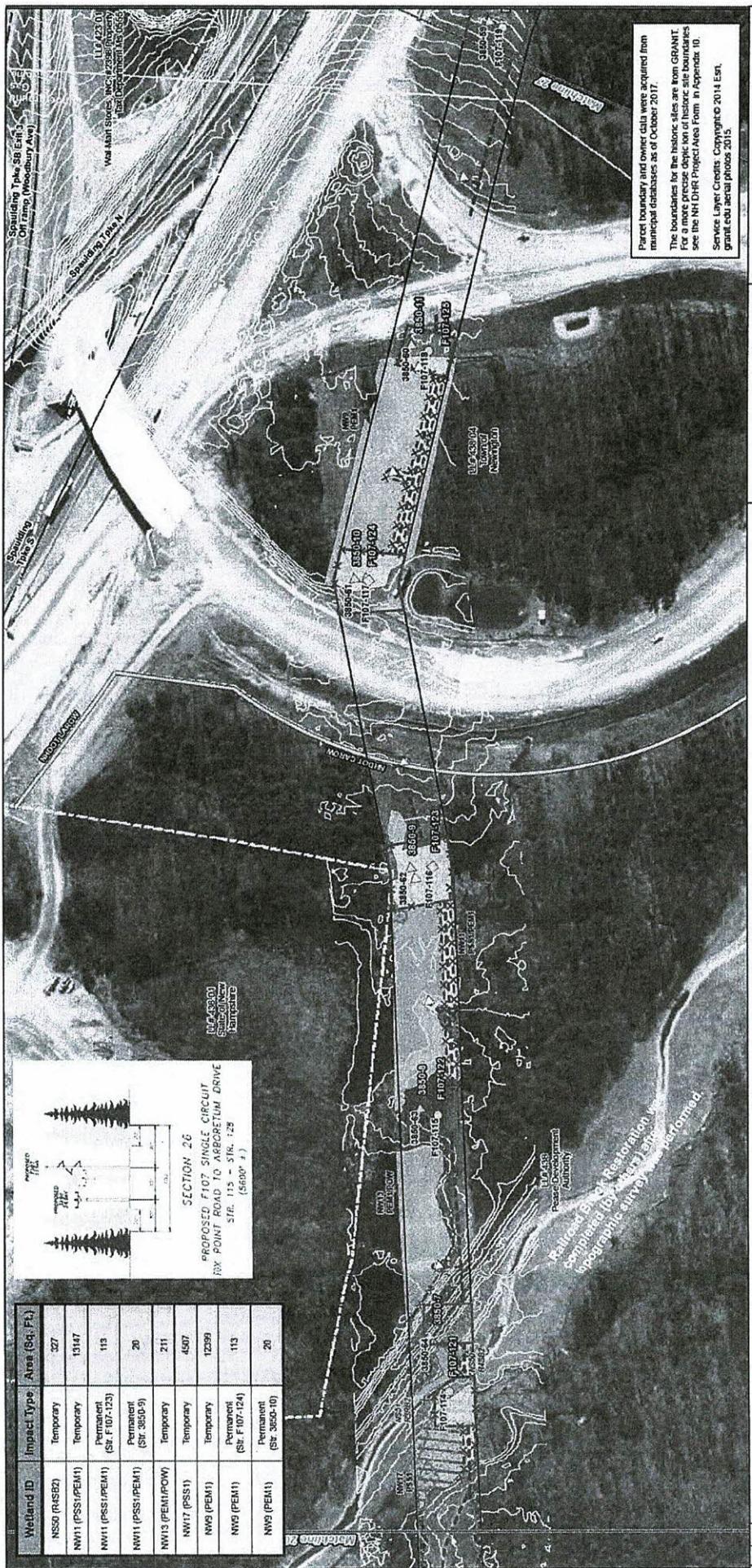












Parcel boundary and owner data were acquired from  
manicore databases as of October 2017.  
The boundaries for the historic sites are from GRANT.  
For a more precise depiction of historic site boundaries,  
see the NHR Project Area Form in Appendix 10.  
Service Layer Credits: Copyright © 2014 Esri.  
grant.edu aerial photos 2015.

acoast Reliability  
Project



Map 27 of 31

ENERGI



**Stream Buffer Types**

- Stream Centrifile
- Stream Top of Bank
- Temporary Culvert
- Construction/realignment
- Temporary Mat Bridge
- NH DOT Right-of-way
- Historical Sites
- Designated River Buffer 250'
- Conservation Lands
- 100 Year Floodplain
- Permitting Structure #s
- Construction Structure #s
- Landfill Number &
- Cover Type

**Other Symbols**

- <all other values>
- Structures
- Direct Embed
- Dredled Pier
- Relocated Distribution
- Steep Slope BMP
- Free Cleaning
- Stream Buffer
- 2ft Contour
- Tidal Buffer Zone
- Highest Observability
- Line/Reference Line
- Mean Lower Low
- Mean Upper High

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