



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

Vermont Project Office
11 Lincoln Street, Rm 210
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: 10 MAR 2020
Comment Period Ends: 09 APR 2020
File Number: NAE-2017-00358
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 from the Vermont Agency of Transportation located at 219 North Main Street in Barre, Vermont 05641. This work is proposed in wetlands adjacent to tributaries of Lake Champlain at Exit 17 of I-89 in Colchester, Vermont. The site coordinates are: Latitude 44.590134° N, Longitude -73.171618° W.

The work involves the placement of fill within 1.66 acres of wetlands in conjunction with the replacement of existing US Route 2 bridge over Interstate 89, and the partial reconstruction of the Exit 17 interchange. The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the I-89 Exit 17 interchange and adjacent intersection of US Route 2 and 7 to current AASHTO standards to improve safety and mobility for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The project will permanently impact approximately 50,772 sq. ft. (1.17 acre) of wetlands from the reconfiguration of the existing I-89 northbound offramp, construction of a new southbound offramp and new southbound onramp, and construction of stormwater improvements. The work will temporarily impact approximately 21,706 sq. ft. (0.5 acre) of wetlands during construction. The wetlands to be impacted are emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands immediately adjacent to a heavily travelled highway and function primarily to maintain water quality.

The work is shown on the enclosed plans, in five sheets, entitled "Location Map" (dated "August 01, 2019"), "Site Location" (dated "August 05, 2019"), and "COLCHESTER NH 028-1(31)" (dated "8/2/2019").

The project has been designed using the best available measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts. There are no less environmentally damaging practicable off-site alternative alignments for the roadway. The "no-build" alternative does not allow the applicant to achieve the project purpose of meeting National Highway Standards. To compensate for the project's projected natural resource impacts, including unavoidable impacts to wetlands, the applicant proposes to make a payment to the Ducks Unlimited – Vermont 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 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.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.
- e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s).

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The Corps is reviewing 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. Our review will be concluded prior to the final decision.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, license or assent from State.
- () 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 Michael S. Adams at (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.

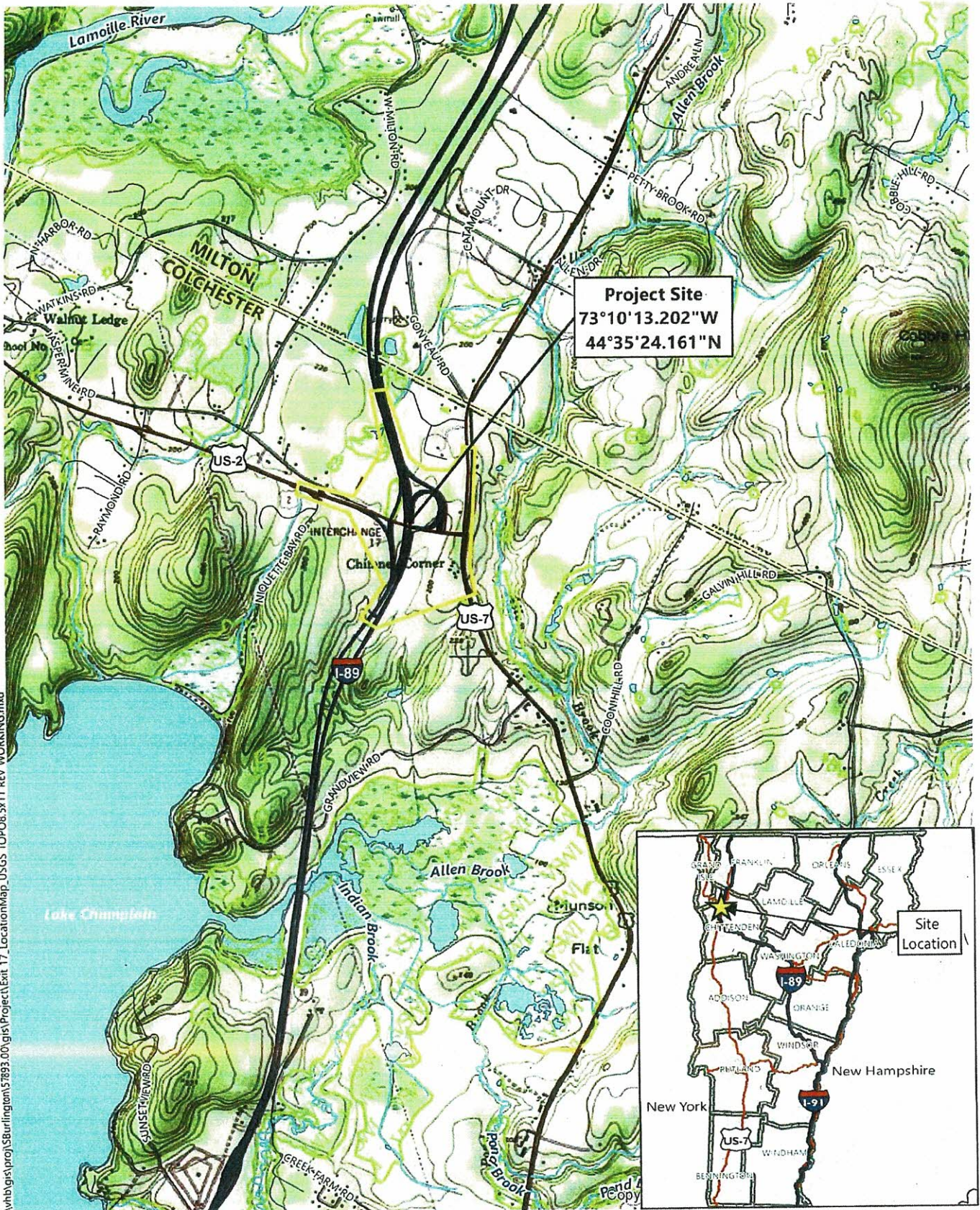
The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in 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. 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: _____



0 1000 2000 Feet

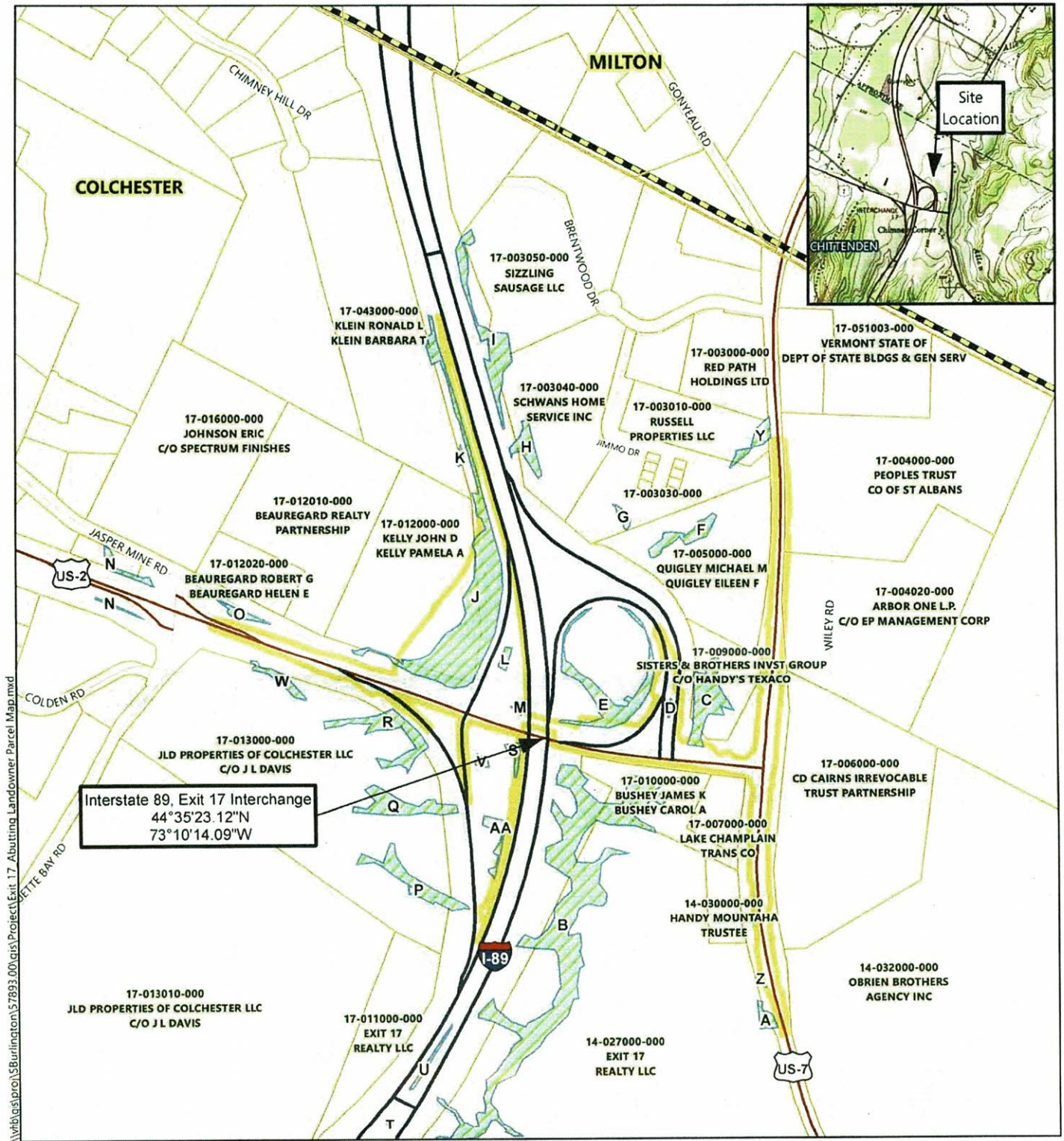
Colchester NH 028-1(31)
I-89 Exit 17 Interchange Reconstruction

Colchester, Vermont

Location Map

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Study Area | VHD Stream (VCGI) | US Highway (VTrans) |
| VSWI Wetland (ANR) | Town Boundary (VCGI) | State Highway (VTrans) |
| VHD Waterbody (VCGI) | Interstate (VTrans) | Town Road (VTrans) |

Sources:
VCGI (Vermont Center for Geographic Information - Various Dates)
VTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation - 2018)
VHB/ERE - 2018



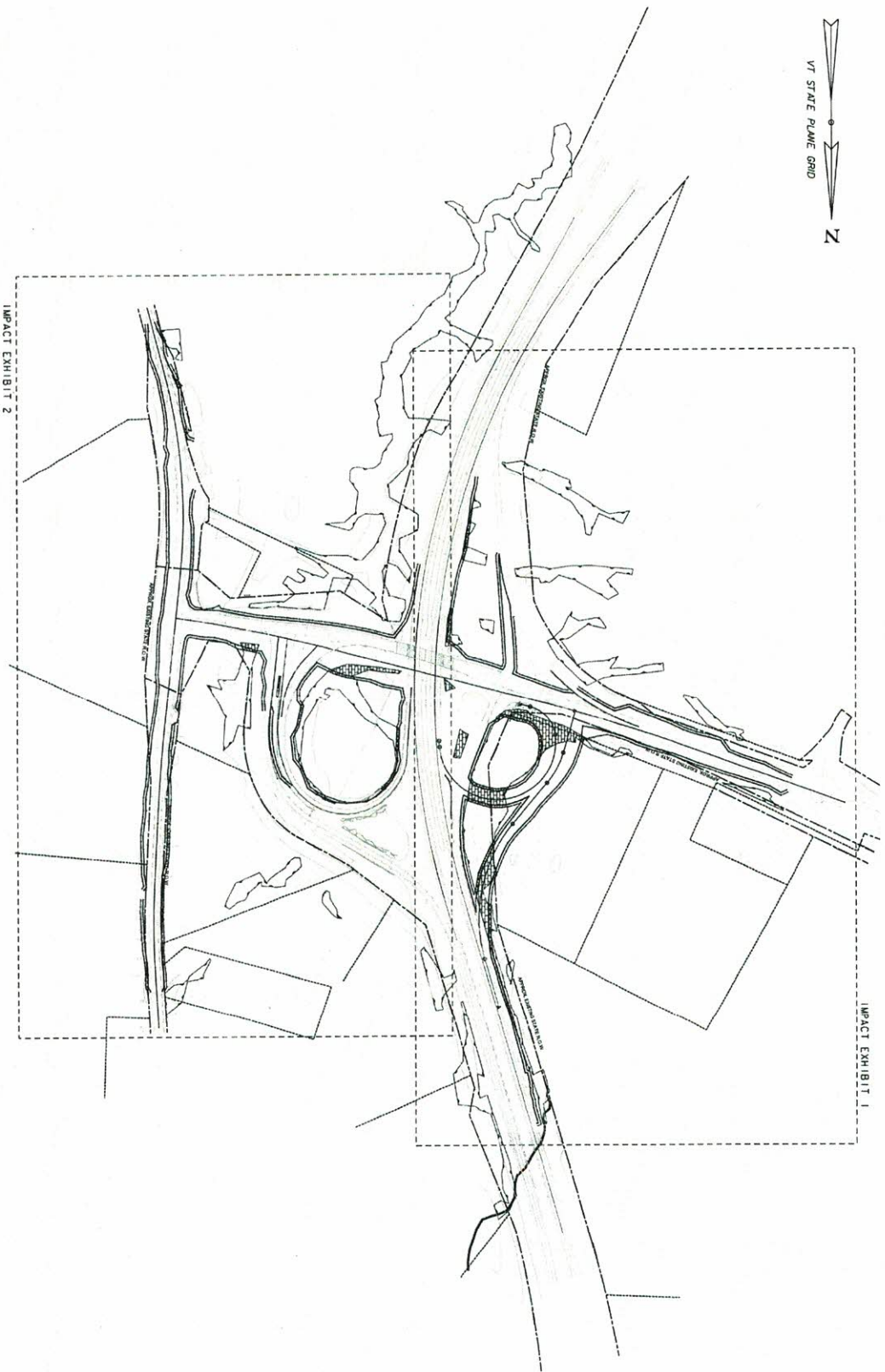
\\vbh\gis\proj\58\Burlington\57893.00\exit17\Abutting Landowner Parcel Map.mxd



- Limit of Disturbance (VHB 2019)
- Delineated Wetland (NEC 2016)
- Parcel Boundaries (VCGI)
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Town Road

Sources:

VCGI (Vermont Center for Geographic Information - Various Dates)
 VOGP (Vermont Open Geodata Portal - Various Dates)
 VHD (Vermont Hydrography Dataset - 2017)
 VTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation - 2017)
 Town of Colchester Online GIS Map & Assessment Data - Various Dates
 VHB - 2017/2018



PROJECT NAME: COLCHESTER
PROJECT NUMBER: NH 028-1(31)
FILE NAME: 241230or_404.dgn
PROJECT LEADER: AP, CUYETTE
DESIGNED BY: J.D. BACHHOCH
404 PERMIT IMPACT INDEX SHEET
PLOT DATE: 8/2/209
DRAWN BY: R.J. FORBES
CHECKED BY: J.D. BACHHOCH
SHEET 1 OF 3

WETLAND I.O. (A)

PERMANENT WETLAND IMPACT

TEMPORARY WETLAND IMPACT

LEGEND

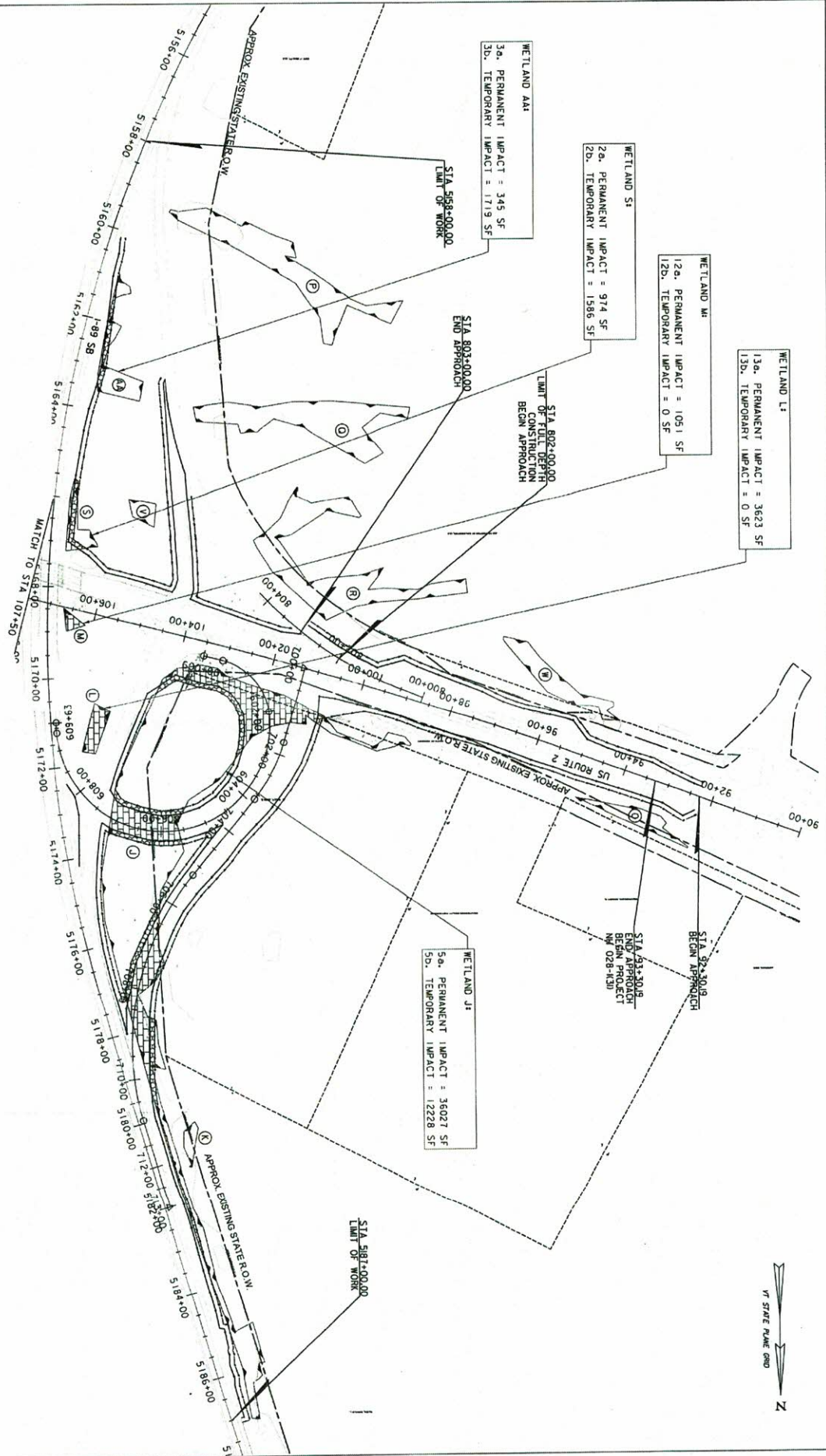
0 100 200
SCALE IN FEET



PROJECT NAME: COLCHESTER
PROJECT NUMBER: NH 028-(131)

FILE NAME: NH7250-00-00-00
PROJECT LEADER: A.P. GUYETTE
DESIGNED BY: J.D. BACHMANN
404 PERMIT IMPACT EXHIBIT SHEET FOR 21 SHEET 2 OF 3

PLAT DATE: 8/22/2009
DRAWN BY: K.L. FORBES
CHECKED BY: J.D. BACHMANN



PERMANENT WETLAND I.D. (A)
 TEMPORARY WETLAND I.D. (B)

0 100 200
 SCALE IN FEET



PROJECT NAME: COLCHESTER
 PROJECT NUMBER: NH 028-1(3)
 FILE NAME: 24+205-404.dgn
 PROJECT LEADER: A.P. GUYETTE
 DESIGNED BY: J.D. BACHMANN
 404 PERMIT IMPACT EXHIBIT SHEET 12 OF 21 SHEET 3 OF 3

LEGEND

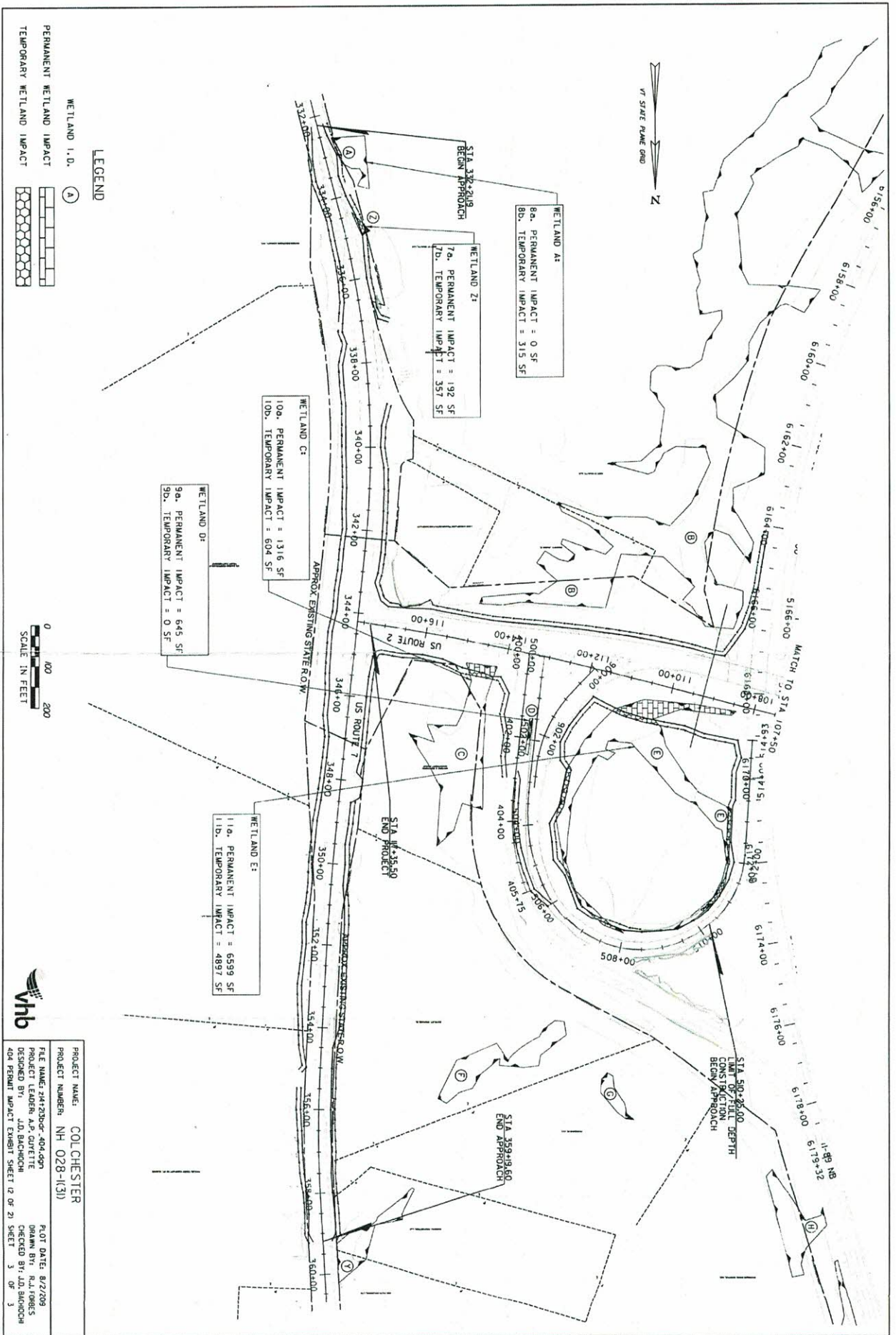
WETLAND D:
 9a. PERMANENT IMPACT = 645 SF
 9b. TEMPORARY IMPACT = 0 SF

WETLAND C:
 10a. PERMANENT IMPACT = 1316 SF
 10b. TEMPORARY IMPACT = 604 SF

WETLAND Z:
 7a. PERMANENT IMPACT = 192 SF
 7b. TEMPORARY IMPACT = 357 SF

WETLAND A:
 8a. PERMANENT IMPACT = 0 SF
 8b. TEMPORARY IMPACT = 315 SF

WETLAND E:
 11a. PERMANENT IMPACT = 6539 SF
 11b. TEMPORARY IMPACT = 4897 SF



STA 500+25.00
 LIMIT OF FILL DEPTH
 CONSTRUCTION
 BEGIN APPROACH

STA 359+9.60
 END APPROACH

STA 345+50
 END PROJECT

MATCH TO STA 107+50

1+80 NB
 6178+32