PUBLIC NOTICE



US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District Maine Project Office 442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 350 Augusta, Maine 04330 Comment Period Begins: 04FEB2020 Comment Period Ends: 05MAR2020 File Number: NAE-2019-01481

File Number: NAE-2019-01481 In Reply Refer To: Peter Tischbein

Phone: (207) 623-8367 Ext. 3

E-mail: Peter. Tischbein@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from Nordic Aquafarms, Inc., 511 Congress Street, Suite 500, Portland, Maine 04101. This work is proposed in freshwater wetlands, unnamed intermittent streams, and the intertidal and subtidal zones of Belfast/Penobscot Bay at 282 & 285 Northport Ave. (U.S. Rt. 1) in Belfast, Waldo Co., Maine. The site coordinates are: Latitude 44.395960 Longitude 68.988890.

The work involves the development of a private, commercial land-based facility utilizing a recirculating aquaculture system in order to rear atlantic salmon for commercial seafood sales. The landward facility sited on 54 acres will require the construction of buildings to house administrative & operational functions, production modules, processing wastewater treatment, facility infrastructure (water, power, sewer), access drives and parking. The waterward portion of the facility will require the installation of 2 water intake and 1 water discharge pipe which will be buried in the intertidal zone and anchored with concrete collars in the subtidal zone of the bay.

The natural resource impacts associated with this planned development is:

- 1. Temporary fill impacts of 3,960 sq. ft. (0.09 ac.) and permanent fill impacts of 192,070 sq. ft. (4.40 ac.) to freshwater wetlands.
- 2. Temporary fill impacts of 628 sq. ft. (0.014 ac.) and permanent fill impacts of 6,876 sq. ft. (0.15 ac.) to unnamed intermittent streams.
- 3. Temporary fill impacts of 2,295 sq. ft. (0.05 ac.) to shoreline coastal saltmarsh, 486 sq. ft. (0.011 ac.) to intertidal cobble beach, and 78,300 sq. ft. (1.79 ac.) to intertidal mudflat (for water pipe installation).
- 4. Temporary fill impacts of 222,006 sq. ft. (5.08 ac.) to subtidal substrate and permanent fill (precast concrete collars) impacts of 4,303 sq. ft. (0.01 ac.) to subtidal substrate.

The work is shown on the enclosed plans entitled "Site Location Map", "Belfast Aquaculture Project, Wetland and Stream Impacts" Maps 1 -5 all dated Dec. 18, 2019, "Intake/Discharge Piping, Plan & Profile" Sheet CS101 (Overview) dated 08-14-19 and Sheets CS101-1 – CS101-8 (Enlargements), "Intertidal & Surf Zone" Detail 1 CS501, "Transition Zone" Detail 2 CS501, "Underwater Zone" Details 3, 4, 4A CS501 all dated Oct. 2019, "Civil Details-2" Sheet CS502, dated 10-29-19 and "Eckrote Driveway Culvert, Plan, Profile and Cross Sections", CC-101 dated 12/19/19.

The project is obligated to try to avoid and minimize impacts to Corps of Engineers regulated aquatic resources and compensating for those which are unavoidable. This project will be utilizing the Natural Resources Mitigation Fund by payment of an In-Lieu Fee amount of greater than \$650,000.00. In addition, the project proposes to improve natural stream conditions by the replacement of 2 badly constructed culverted stream crossings (attached plan "Eckrote Driveway Culvert", Sheet CC-101).

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The applicant is proposing these measures seeking to lessen the project's impacts. This notice solicits comments on these proposed measures form the interested or affected public as well as those agencies who speak to the public interest. After receipt of the comments, the Corps of Engineers will obtain any necessary additional information from the applicant and determine whether the proposed measures are practicable and serve to mitigate the project's unavoidable impacts.

AUTHORITY

Permi	is are required pursuant to:	
X_	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899	
X_	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act	
	Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries A	ct.

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.

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This project will have an adverse effect on a total of 14.62 acres of EFH. This habitat consists of saltmarsh, cobble beach, mudflat and subtidal substrate. 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 will submit an expanded EFH assessment to the National Marine Fisheries Service, who in turn will provide conservation recommendations to the Corps. The Corps will coordinate with the applicant regarding implementation of these recommendations. The EFH consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision.

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 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 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.
- () Permit from local wetland agency or conservation commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

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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 Peter Tischbein at (207) 623-8367, Ext. 3.

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.

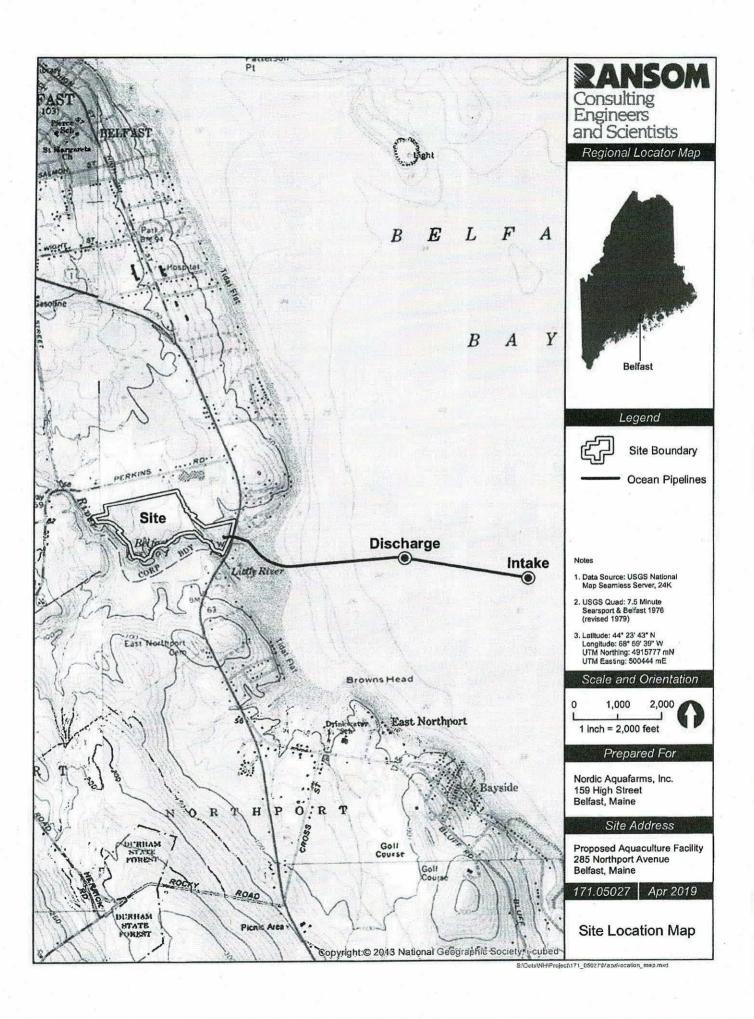
The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in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

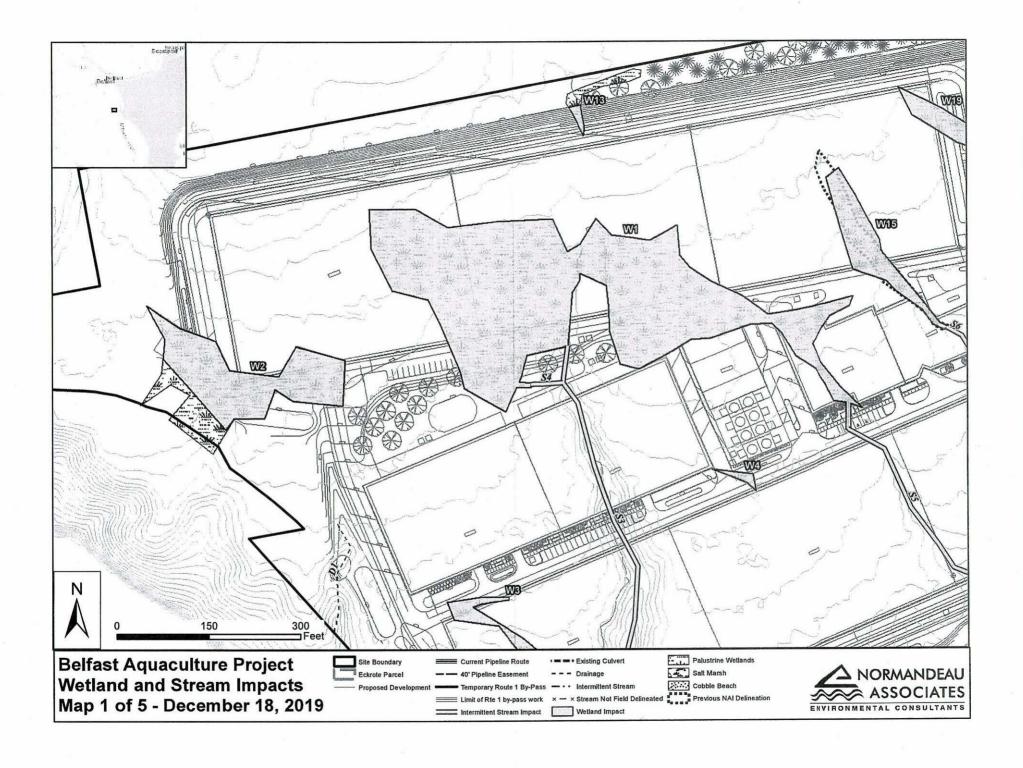
THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

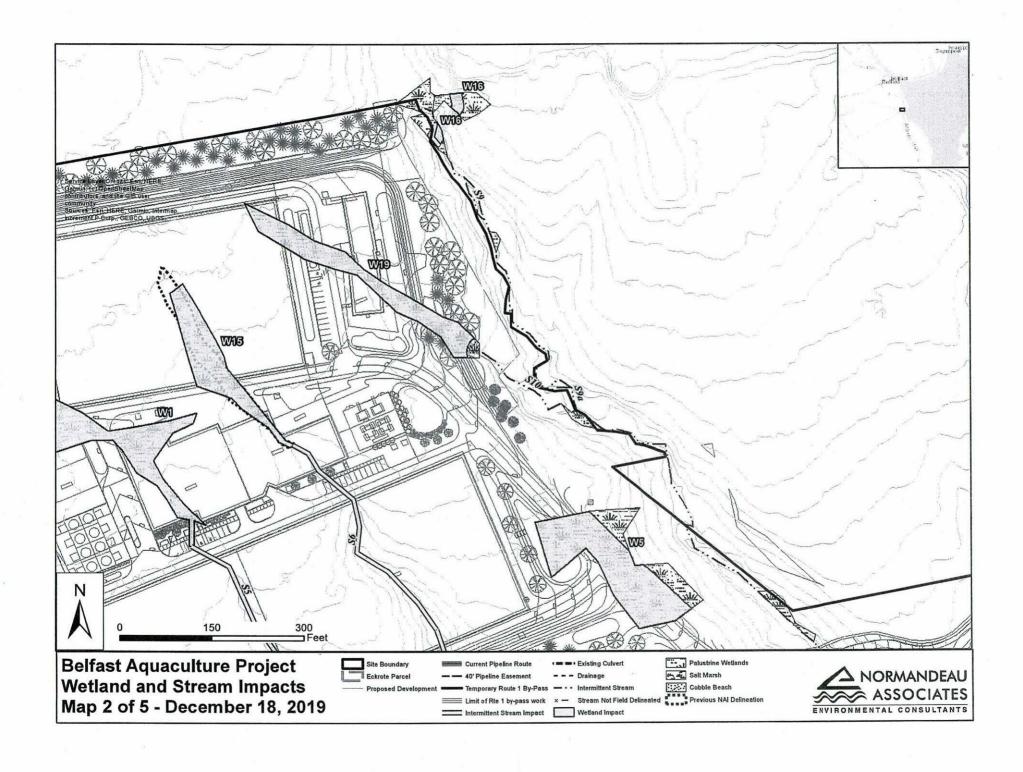
Frank J. DelGiudice Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch Regulatory Division

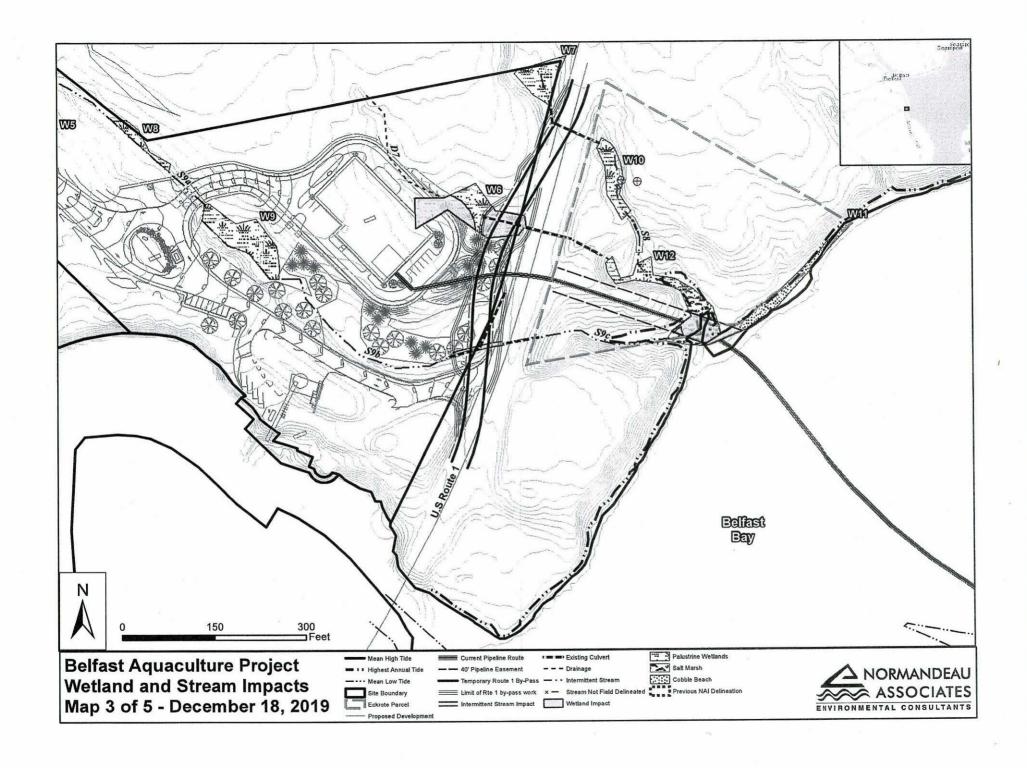
If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

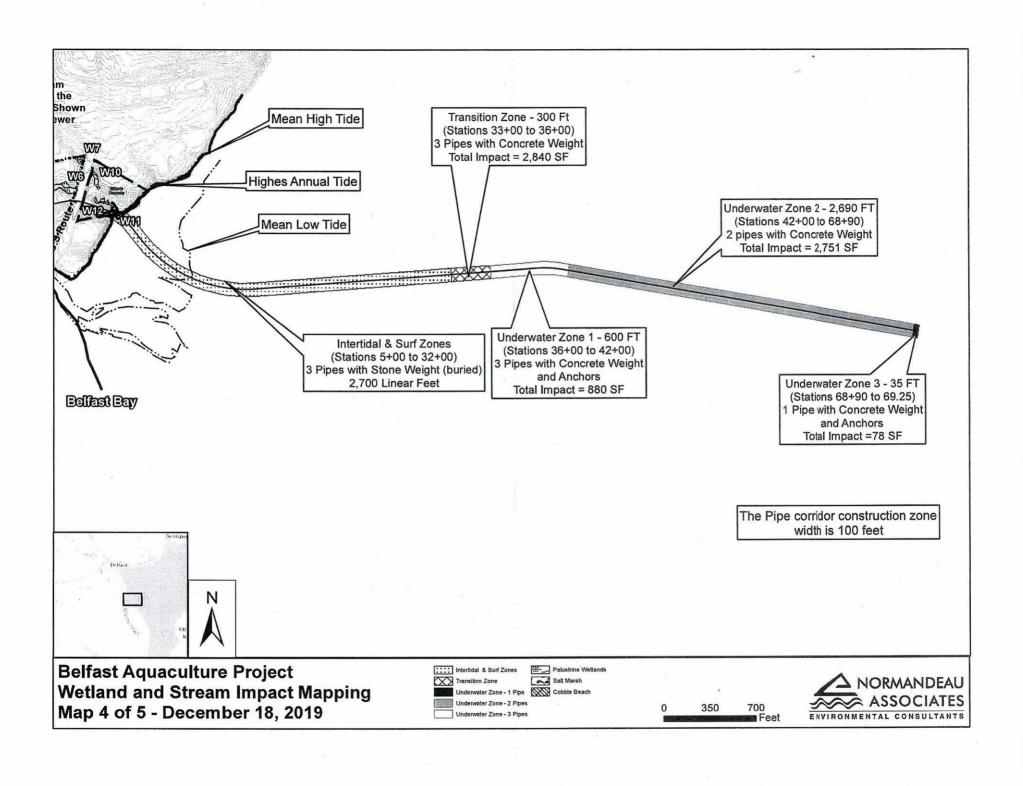
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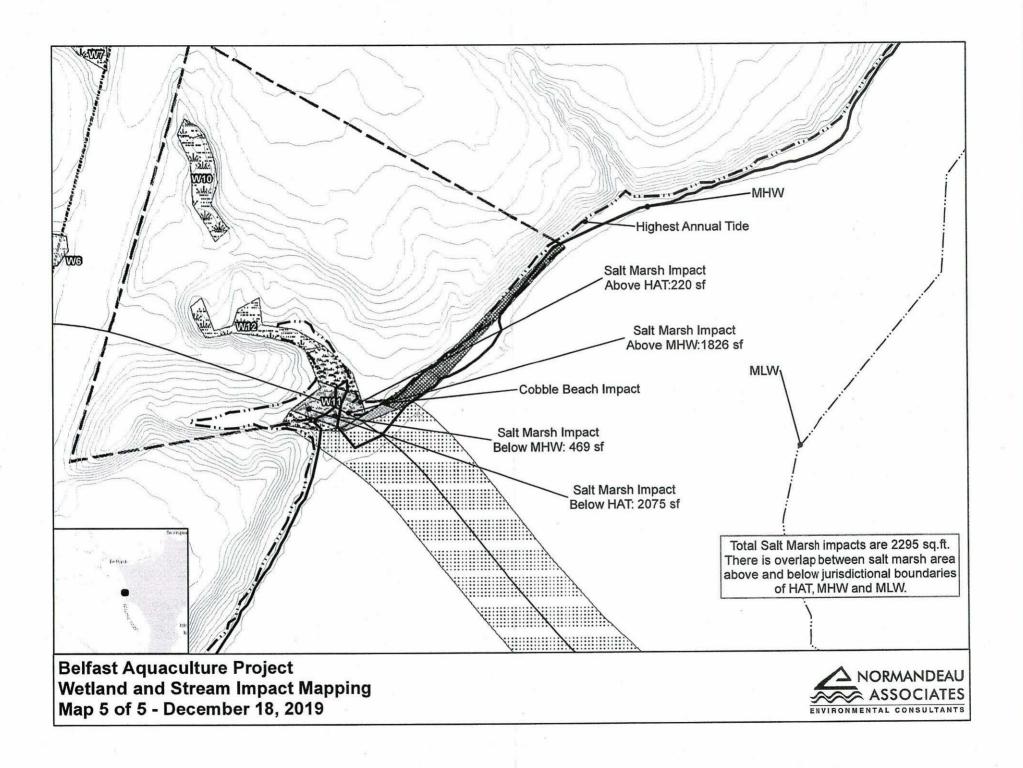


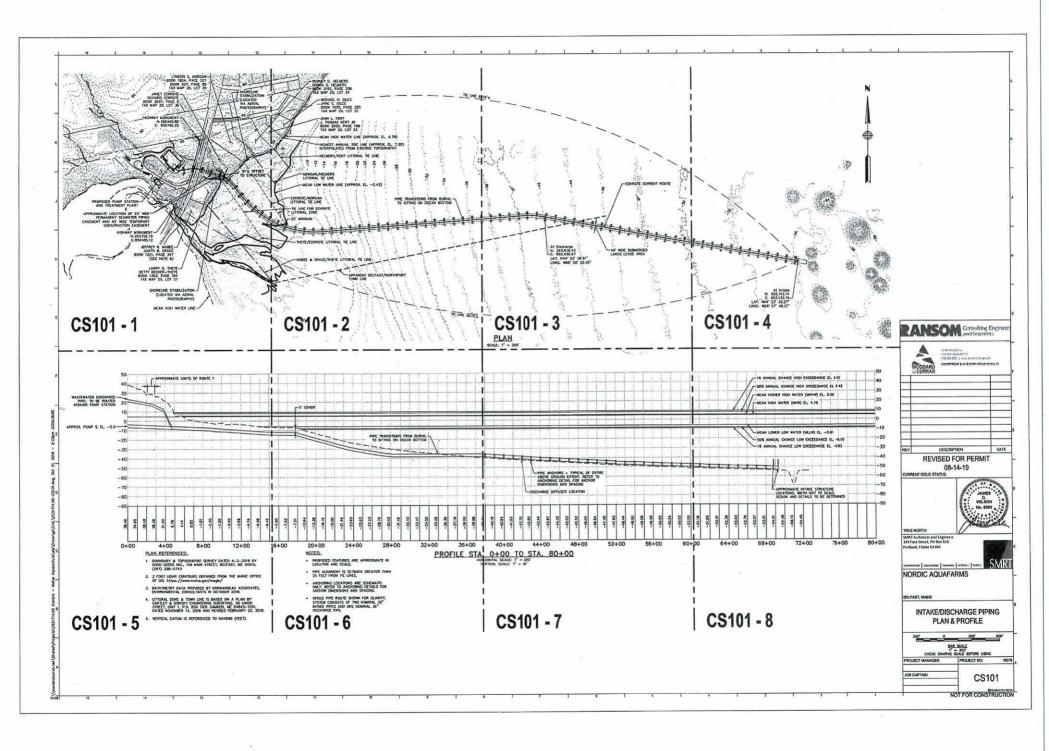


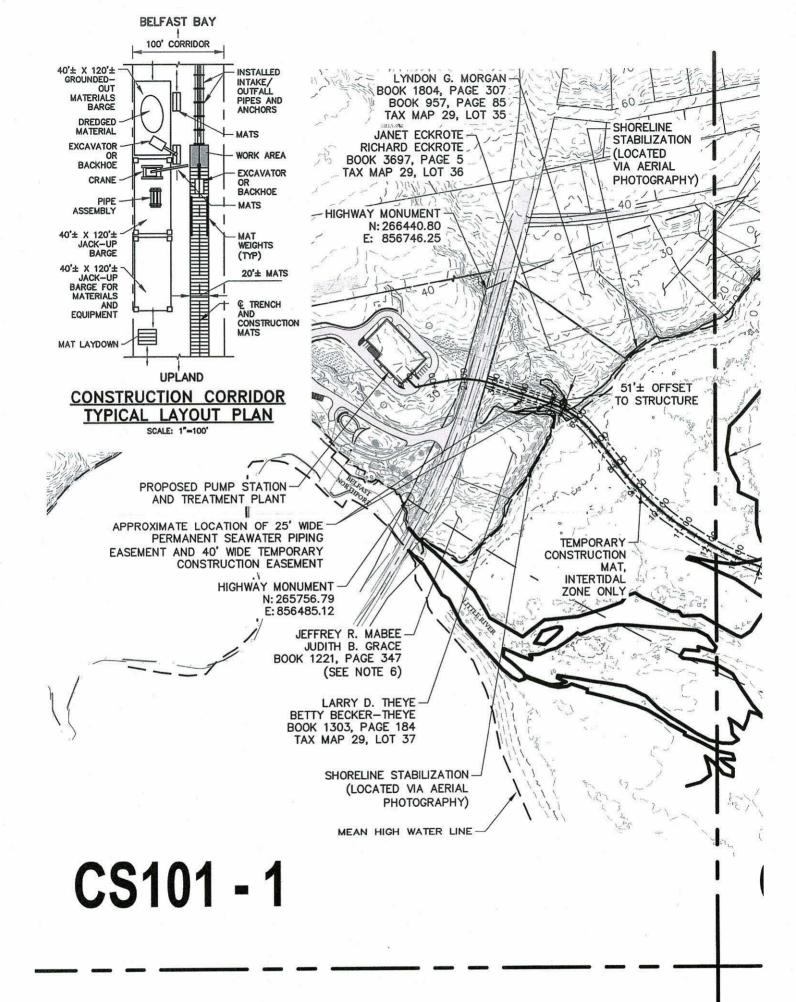


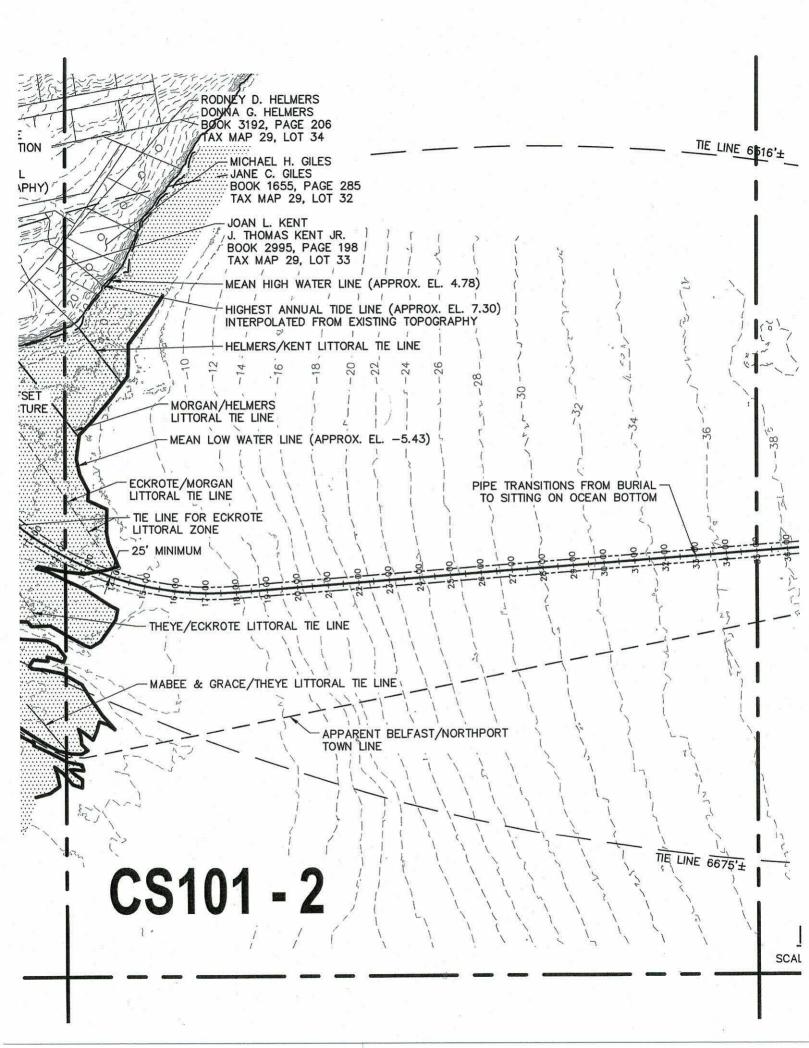




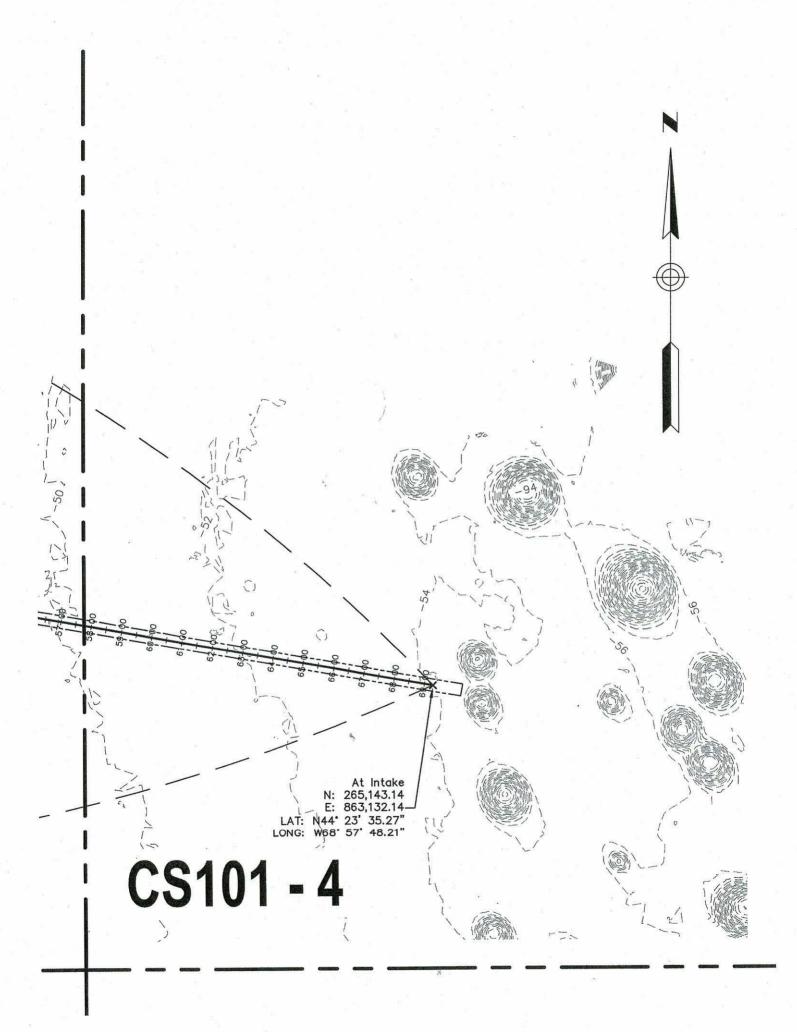


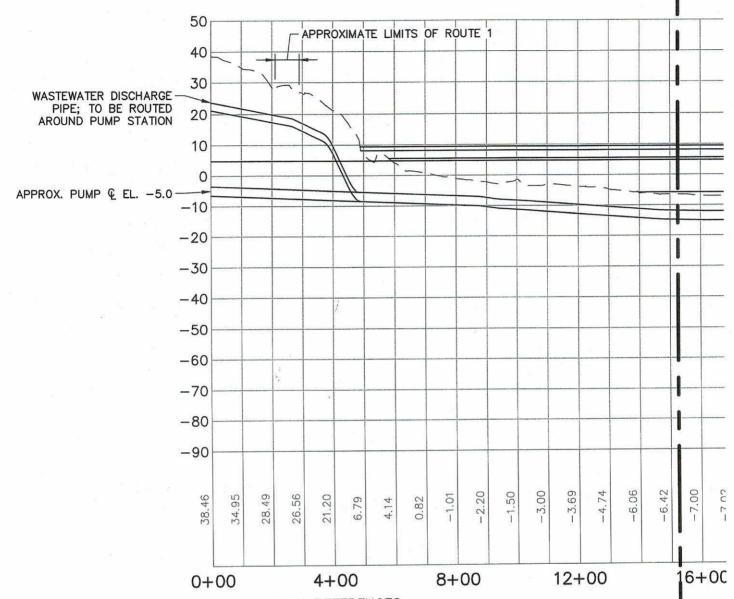






LINE 6516'± ECKROTE CURRENT ROUTE At Discharge N: 265,618.43 E: 860,430.67 LAT: N44' 23' 39.81" LONG: W68' 58' 25.45" 40' WIDE SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE AREA CS101 - 3 PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 300'



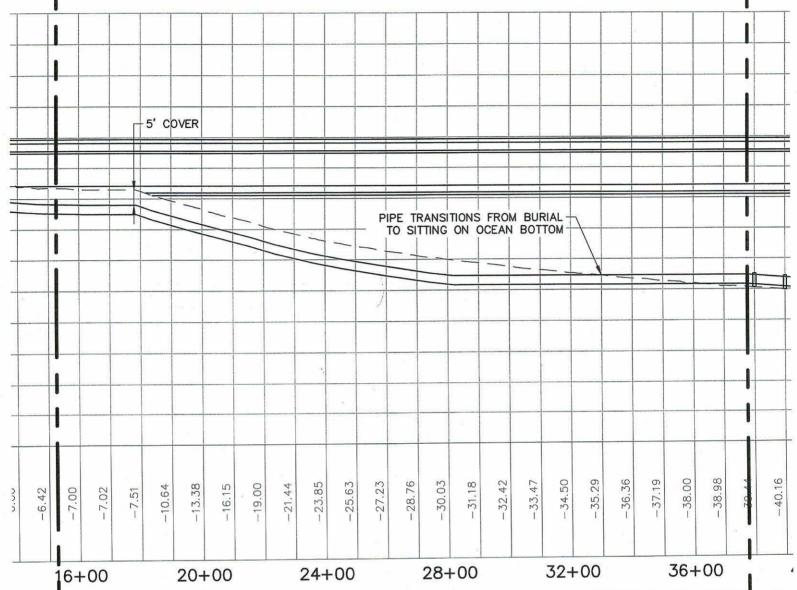


PLAN REFERENCES:

- BOUNDARY & TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY DATED 4-2-2018 BY GOOD DEEDS INC., 109 MAIN STREET, BELFAST, ME 04915, (207) 338-5743
- 2 FOOT LIDAR CONTOURS OBTAINED FROM THE MAINE OFFICE OF GIS. https://www.maine.gov/megis/
- BATHYMETRY DATA PROVIDED BY NORMANDEAU ASSOCIATES, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS IN OCTOBER 2018.
- 4. LITTORAL ZONE & TOWN LINE IS BASED ON A PLAN BY GARTLEY & DORSKY ENGINEERING SURVEYING, 59 UNION STREET, UNIT 1, P.O. BOX 1031 CAMDEN, ME 04843—1031, DATED NOVEMBER 14, 2018 AND REVISED FEBRUARY 22, 2019.

CS101 - 5

5. VERTICAL DATUM IS REFERENCED TO NAVD88 (FEET).



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PROFILE STA, 0-

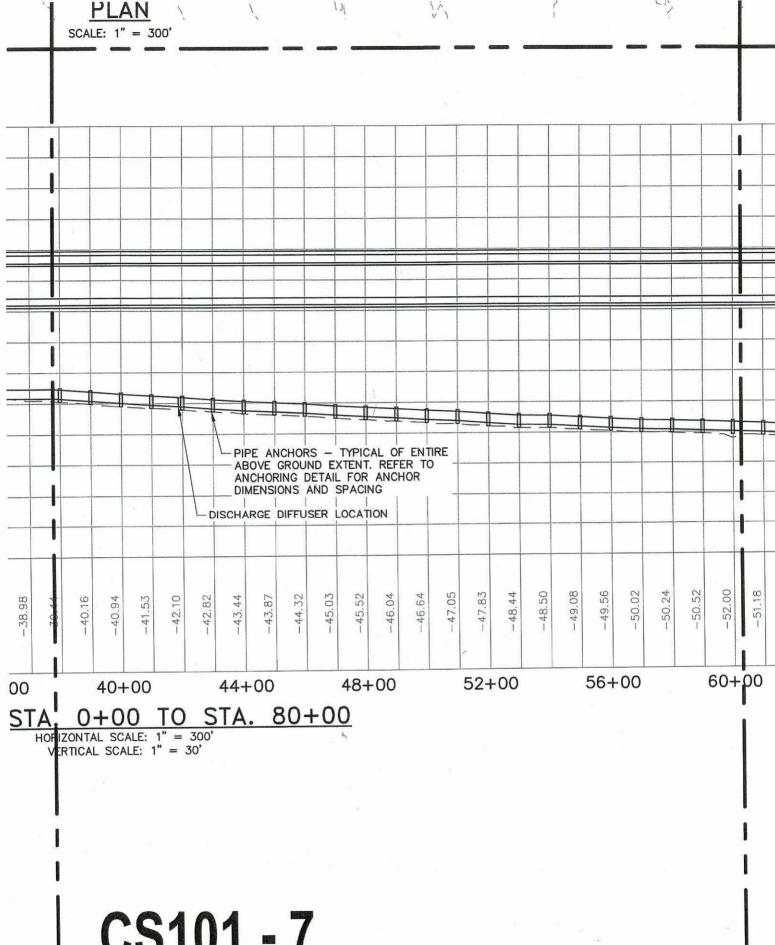
VERTICAL

 PROPOSED FEATURES ARE APPROXIMATE IN LOCATION AND SCALE.

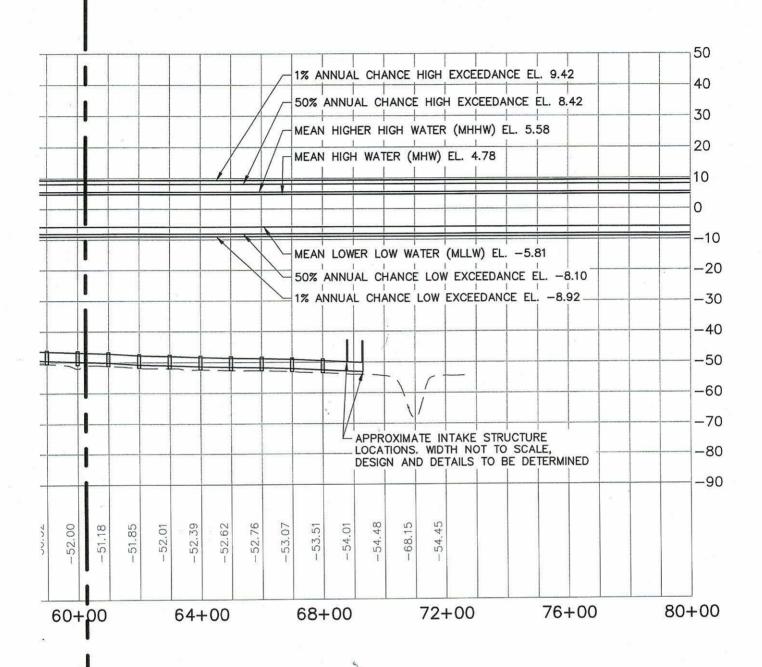
 PIPE ALIGNMENT IS SETBACK GREATER THAN 25 FEET FROM TIE LINES.

- ANCHORING LOCATIONS ARE SCHEMATIC ONLY. REFER TO ANCHORING DETAILS FOR ANCHOR DIMENSIONS AND SPACING.
- SINGLE PIPE ROUTE SHOWN FOR CLARITY; SYSTEM CONSISTS OF TWO NOMINAL 30" INTAKE PIPES AND ONE NOMINAL 36" DISCHARGE PIPE.

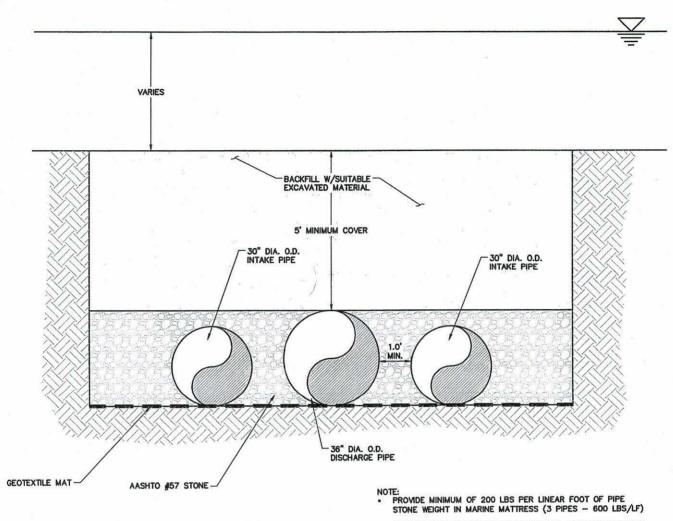
CS101 - 6



CS101 - 7



CS101 - 8



PENDING PIPELINE INSTALLATION METHODS CONCRETE COLLARS AT 200 LBS PER LINEAR FOOT PER PIPE MAY BE REQUIRED IN TRENCHED AREAS. TYPICAL SPACING 10 FEET TO 20 FEET.

INTERTIDAL & SURF ZONES (STATIONS 5+00 TO 32+00)

CS501 NOT TO SCALE
CONCEPTUAL NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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COMMITMENT & INTEGRITY DRIVE RESULTS

INTERTIDAL & SURF ZONES (STATIONS 5+00 TO 32+00)

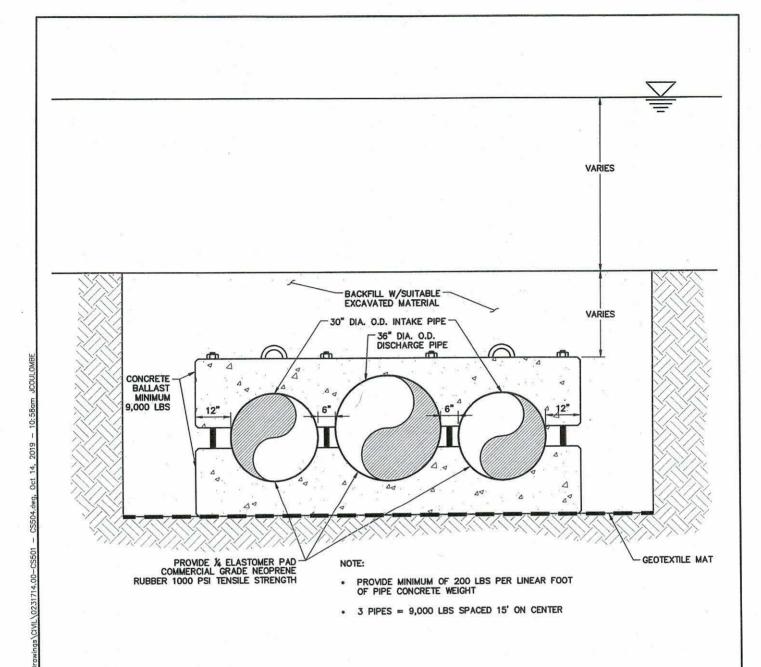
| DESIGNED BY: | CHECKED BY: | DRAWN BY: | 0231714.00-CS501 - CS50*.dwg

CIANBRO

JOB NO: 0231714.00 DATE: OCTOBER 2019 SCALE: N.T.S.

NAF BELFAST

Detail 1 CS501



TRANSITION ZONE (STATIONS 32+00 TO 36+00)

NOT TO SCALE CS501 CONCEPTUAL NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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TRANSITION ZONE (STATIONS 32+00 TO 36+00)

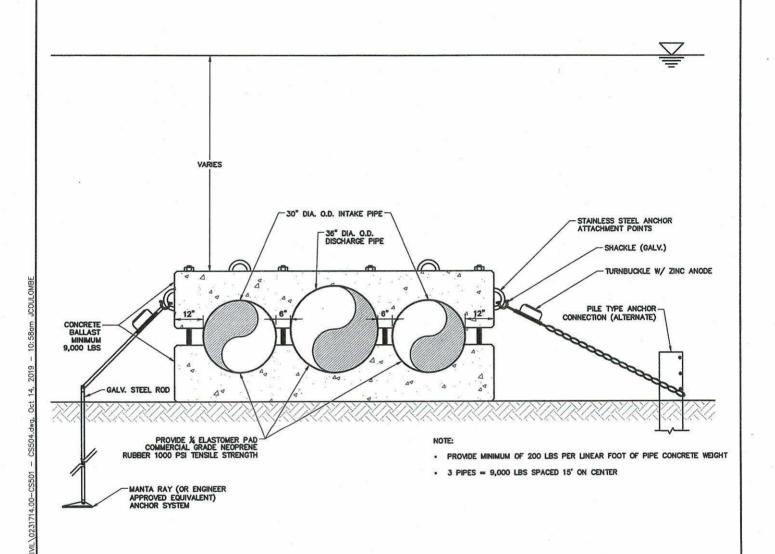
CHECKED BY: 0231714.00-CS50

CIANBRO

JOB NO: 0231714.00 DATE: OCTOBER 2019

NAF BELFAST

Detail 2 CS501



UNDERWATER ZONE (STATIONS 36+00 TO 42+00)

3 CS501/

NOT TO SCALE
CONCEPTUAL NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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COMMITMENT & INTEGRITY DRIVE RESULTS

UNDERWATER ZONE (STATIONS 36+00 TO 42+00)

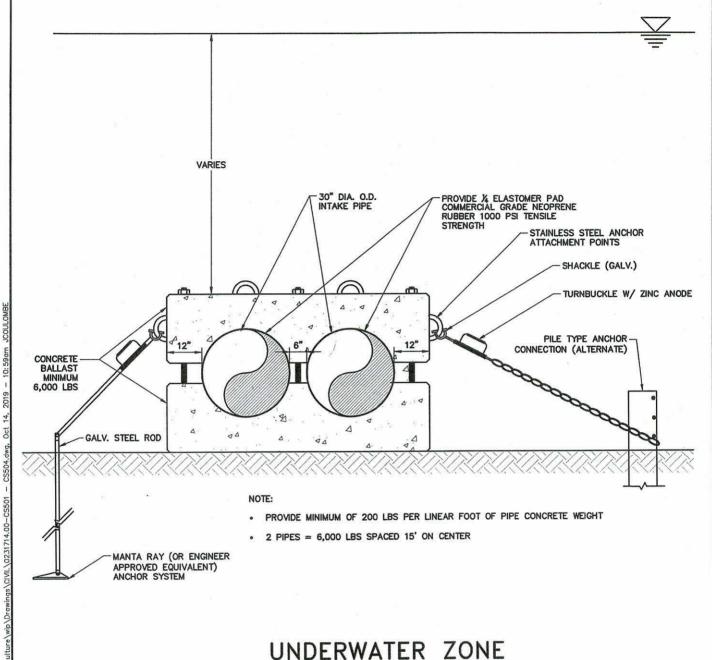
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CIANBRO

JOB NO: 0231714.00 DATE: OCTOBER 2019 SCALE: N.T.S.

NAF BELFAST

Detail 3 CS501



UNDERWATER ZONE (STATIONS 42+00 TO 68+90)

CS501

NOT TO SCALE CONCEPTUAL NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



Oct 14, 2019

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COMMITMENT & INTEGRITY DRIVE RESULTS

UNDERWATER ZONE (STATIONS 42+00 TO 68+90)

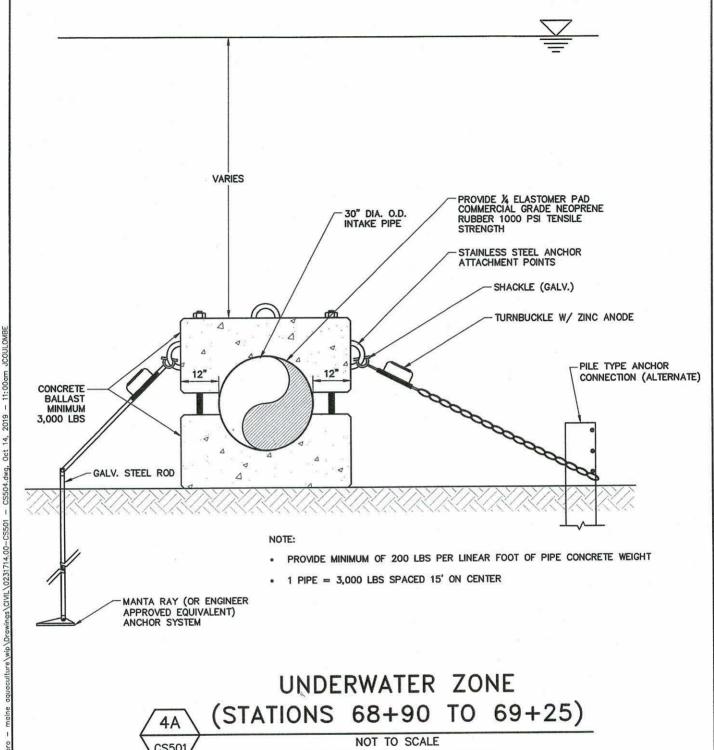
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JOB NO: 0231714.00 DATE: OCTOBER 2019

NAF BELFAST

Detail 4 CS501



CS501

CONCEPTUAL NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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COMMITMENT & INTEGRITY DRIVE RESULTS

UNDERWATER ZONE (STATIONS 68+90 TO 69+25)

CHECKED BY: 0231714.00-CS501

CIANBRO

JOB NO: 0231714.00 DATE: OCTOBER 2019

NAF BELFAST

Detail 4A CS501

