# **PUBLIC NOTICE**



Comment Period Begins: July 20, 2021 Comment Period Ends: August 19, 2021 File Number: NAE-2016-02286 In Reply Refer To: LeeAnn Neal Phone: (978)

318-8498

E-mail: leeann.neal@usace.army.mil

### **30 DAY NOTICE**

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to **conduct work in waters of the United States** as described below. The Corps is soliciting comments on both the project itself and the range of issues to be addressed in the environmental documentation.

APPLICANT: Greater Augusta Utility District, 12 Williams Street, Augusta, Maine 04330

**ACTIVITY:** The work involves the replacement and rehabilitation, respectively, of the Greater Utility District's existing 8" and 20" parallel cast iron sanitary sewer siphons (pipelines) and the installation of a new 16" water main and a new 16" sewer siphon beyond the mean high water line and buried below the bottom of the Kennebec River at Augusta, Maine. The pipeline installations will be facilitated by the construction of a temporary 25' wide x 70' long pile supported construction trestle (work platform) extending beyond the mean high water line from the west bank of the river, and the installation of up to eight (8) individual temporary piles spanning the river. All temporary structures are to be removed one the construction is complete.

The work is shown on the enclosed plans entitled "Greater Augusta Utility District, Kennebec River Sewer Siphon Replacement and Water Main Installation Project" on eight (8) sheets; sheets 1-2 dated "March 2, 2021", sheet 3 most recently revised "July 1, 2021"; sheets 4,5,7, and 8 dated "June 16, 2021" and sheet 6 most recently revised "May 18, 2018".

The project is anticipated to cause temporary disturbance of the substrate, and temporary interruption to navigation within the waterway for the duration of the construction period. Standard sediment and erosion controls will be employed in upland areas of disturbance; the piles and trestle will be removed post installation of the pipes, and the trench will be backfilled and restored to the original contour and character. In addition, appropriate time of year restrictions will be followed to minimize the effects of the project on federally listed species that may be in the project area during construction.

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK:** Kennebec River at Augusta, Maine. The project is located at Latitude 44.300216°N; Longitude -69.777937°W, on the USGS AUGUSTA, ME quadrangle sheet.

#### CENAE-R FILE NO. NAE-2016-02286

#### **AUTHORITY:**

Permi	ts 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 Act.
X	Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408)

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 (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.

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.

The activities proposed herein will also require permission from the USACE pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a USACE federally authorized Civil Works project known as the Kennebec River Federal Navigation Project (FNP). Information on the Kennebec River FNP can be obtained at: <a href="https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Maine-Projects/">https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Maine-Projects/</a>. The proposed alteration involves temporary substrate disturbance associated with the trenching and temporary sidecasting of substrate materials associated with the replacement and rehabilitation of the Greater Augusta Utility District sanitary sewer siphon pipes and installation of a new 16' sewer siphon and new 16'' water main below the mean high water line of the Kennebec River at Augusta, Maine. The proposed alteration is located at an entrance in the upland bank adjacent to Kennedy Brook on the west side of the Kennebec River off 33 Jackson Avenue, Augusta, Maine to a point of exit on the eastern bank as shown on the attached plan. A permit pursuant to Section 10/404 shall not be granted until the Section 408 permission is issued. Through this public notice we are soliciting information necessary to inform the USACE evaluation and review.

#### CENAE-R FILE NO. NAE-2016-02286

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) & ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION: 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.

Trenching and backfilling as well as pile driving will impact EFH for a variety of species and their various life stages. River bottom habitat at this site includes boulders, cobbles, sand, and gravel substrates; and cobble dominated with sediments consisting of a gray-brown alluvial material, primarily medium and fine sand with some silt and gravel. The trenching portion of this project will temporarily impact approximately 10,800SF (0.248acres) of EFH. Material excavated during trenching will be side cast, resulting in another approximate 14,400SF (0.330acres) of temporary impact. After the pipeline work is complete, the side cast material will be backfilled in the trench, restoring original contours and character. Impacts to EFH are expected to include temporary loss of bottom habitat, turbidity, and general disturbance, however these impacts are expected to be minimal and of relatively short duration. Instream work windows and other best management practices are expected to further minimize potential impacts. The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effects will 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.

Similarly, the Corps has initiated consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Kennebec River supports the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon, federally threatened Atlantic sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon Critical Habitat (Gulf of Maine, New York Bight, and Chesapeake Bay DPS), and is within the range of the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment ("DPS") of Atlantic salmon. 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. Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service will be concluded prior to any final decision and will likely result in recommendations to avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts to listed species.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT: The Corps has initiated consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and Maine's Indian Tribes pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. The District Engineer has made the preliminary determination that the proposed work is not likely to affect properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. The Corps will continue review and consultation to fulfil requirements under the Historic Preservation Act as part of the permit review process.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS: The applicant has supplied the Maine Department of Environmental Protection with a permit application for the work described in this public notice and is requesting that the Department either grant or waive Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Comments regarding the applicant's Permit/Water Quality Certification request may be submitted in writing to: Nick Livesay, Director, Bureau of Land Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME, 04333-0017 or by email to: Nick.Livesay@maine.gov

The applicant and the Corps of Engineers are coordinating with the U.S. Coast Guard to determine the

#### CENAE-R FILE NO. NAE-2016-02286

appropriate installation of aids to navigation necessary to minimize impediments to navigation within the waterway. Any necessary Private Aids to Navigation permits from the Coast Guard will be obtained prior to construction.

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.

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- (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 LeeAnn Neal at (978) 318-8498 or (207) 623-8367 extension 2.

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.

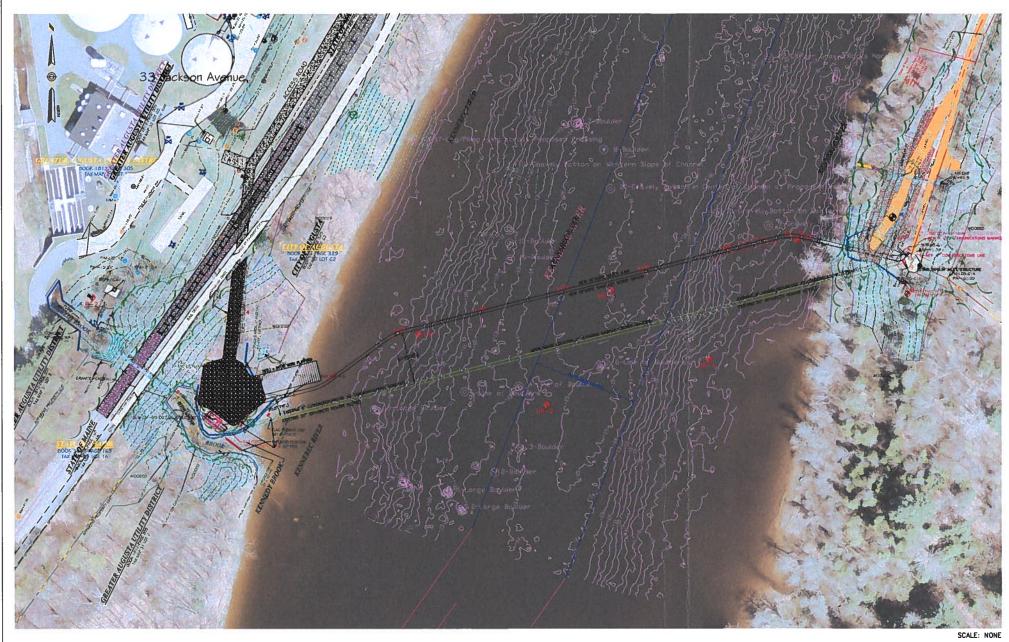
The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in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

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

Frank J. Del Giudice 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 <a href="mailto:bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil">bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil</a>.

# KENNEBEC RIVER UTILITY CROSSING WATER MAIN AND SANITARY SEWER





## Index

Sheet I - Cover Sheet.

Sheet 2 - Existing Condition.

Sheet 3 - Siphon Replacement, Plan and Profile

Sheet 4 - Siphon Outlet Plan and Profile, West Side.

Sheet 5 - Siphon Inlet Plan and Profile, East Side.

Sheet 6 - Summit Resloping Plan, East Side.

Sheet 7 - Siphon Details

Sheet 8 - West Side Access Road

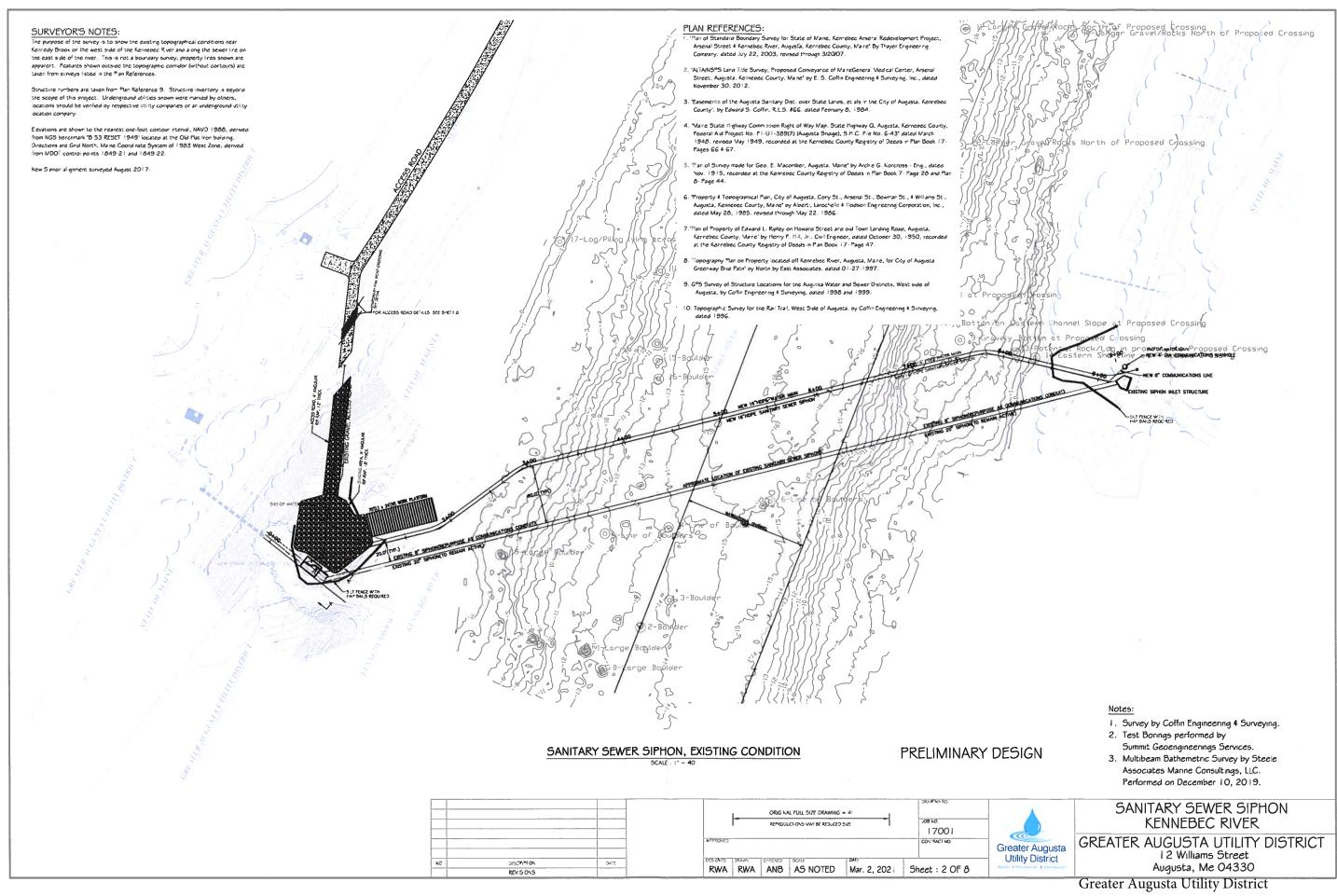


I 2 Williams Street Augusta, Me 04330 March 2, 2021

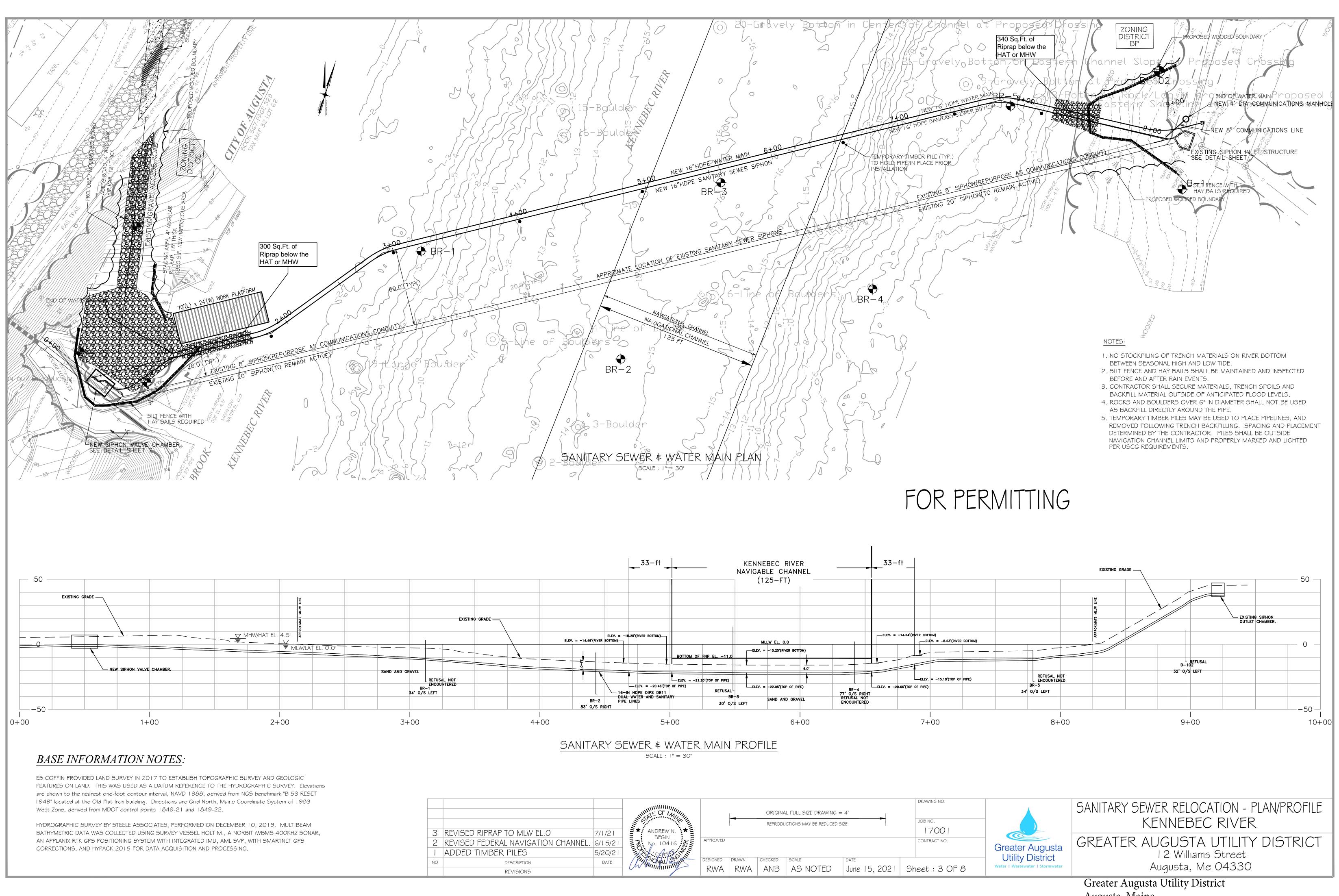
# PRELIMINARY DESIGN

Sheet I of 8

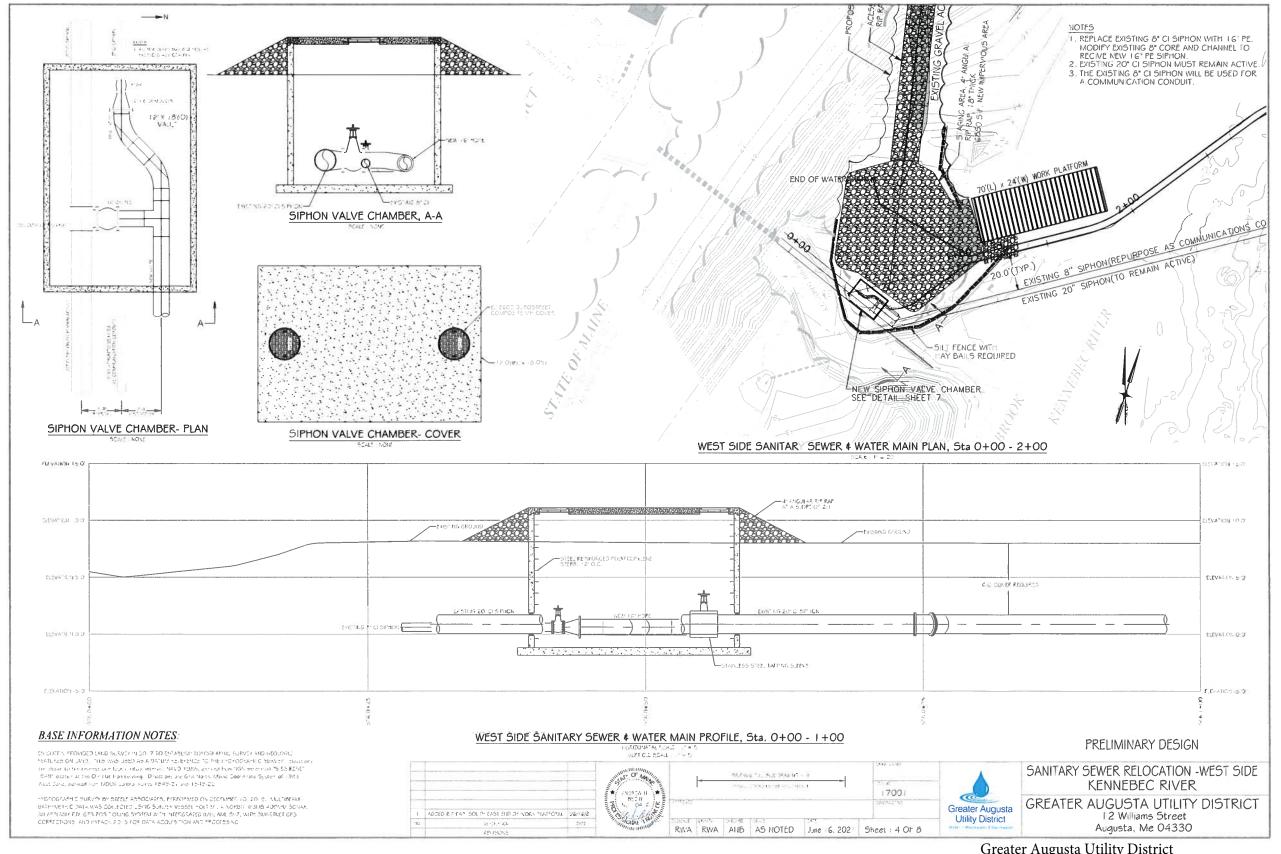
Greater Augusta Utility District
Augusta, Maine
NAE-2016-02286 sheet 1 of 8 "03/02/2021"



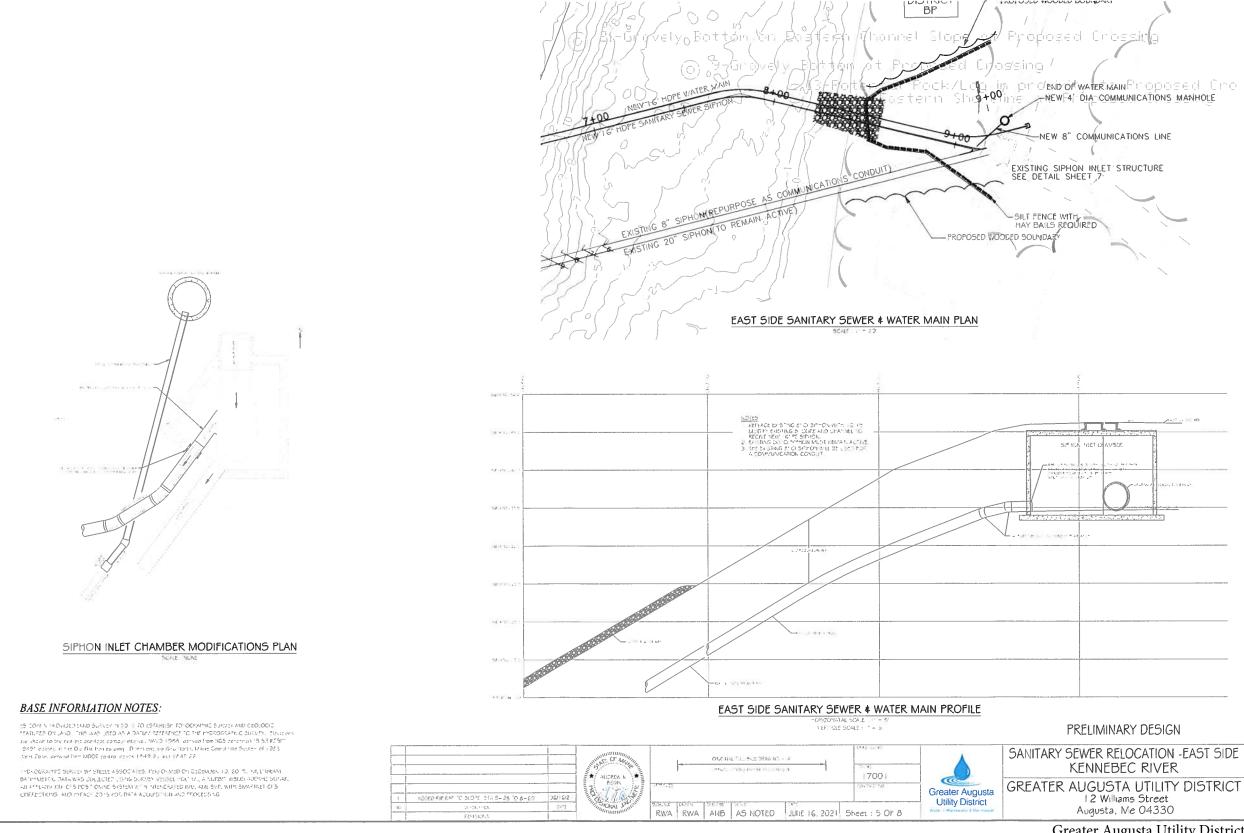
Augusta, Maine
NAE-2016-02286 sheet 2 of 8 "03/02/2021"



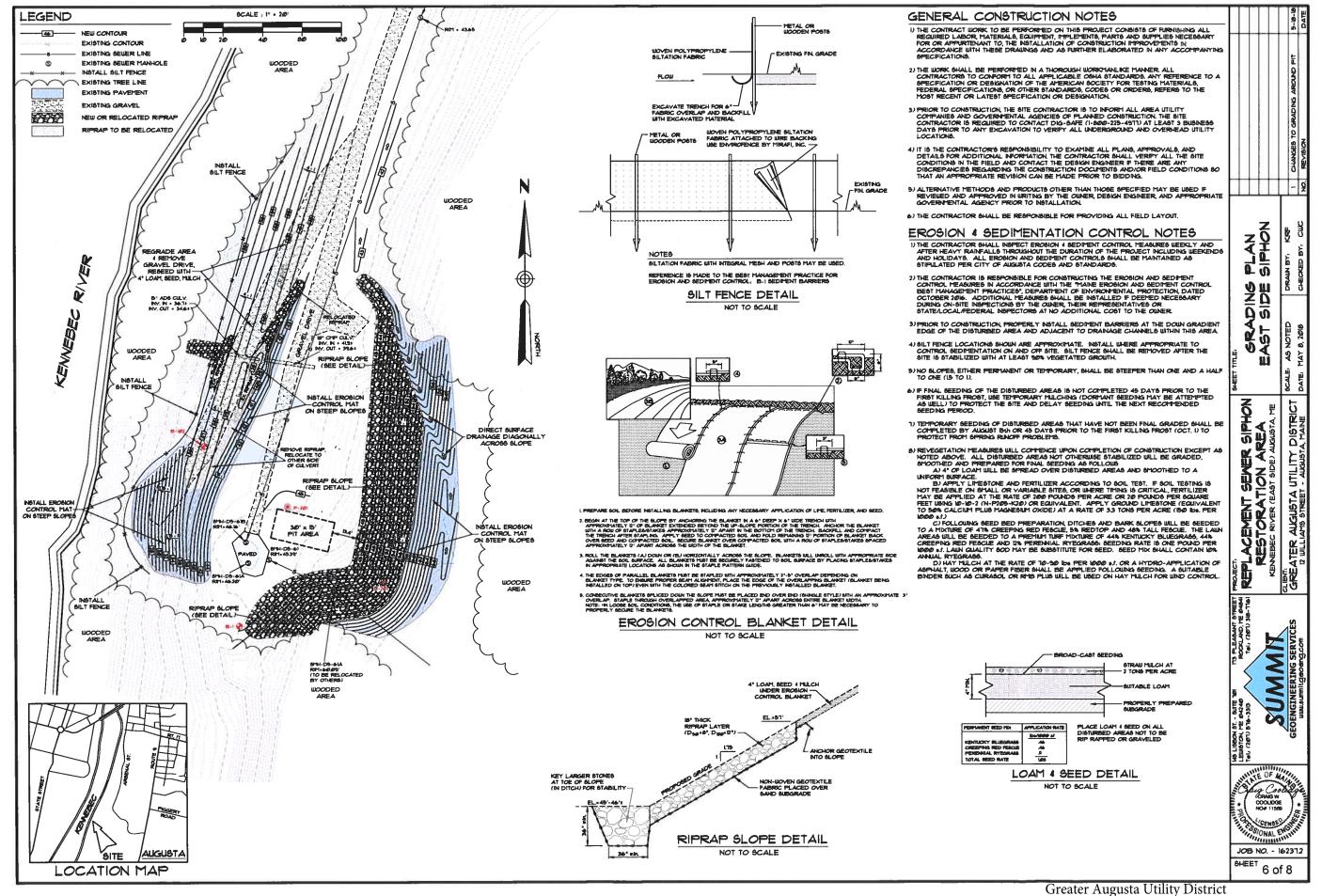
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NAE-2016-02286 sheet 3 of 8 "07/01/2021"

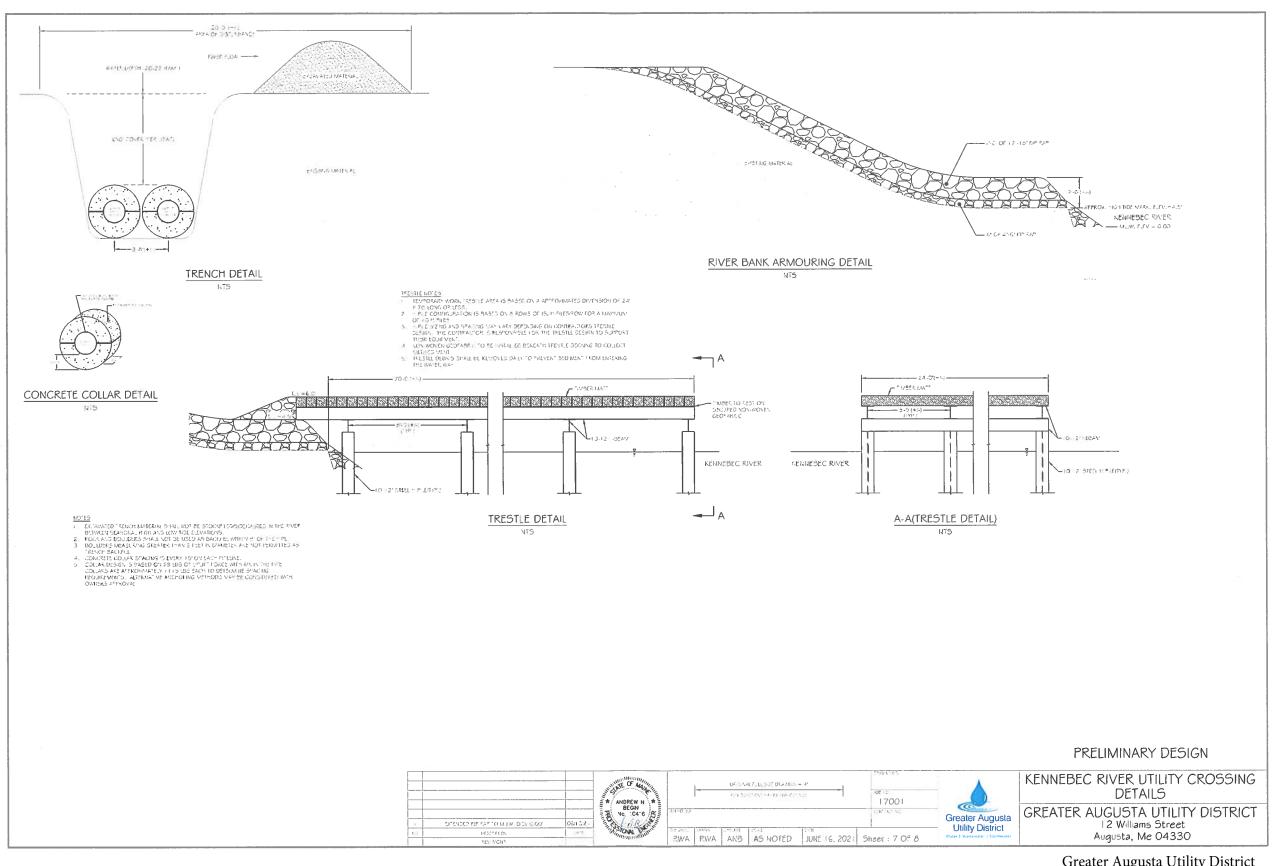


Greater Augusta Utility District Augusta, Maine NAE-2016-02286 sheet 4 of 8 "06/16/2021"

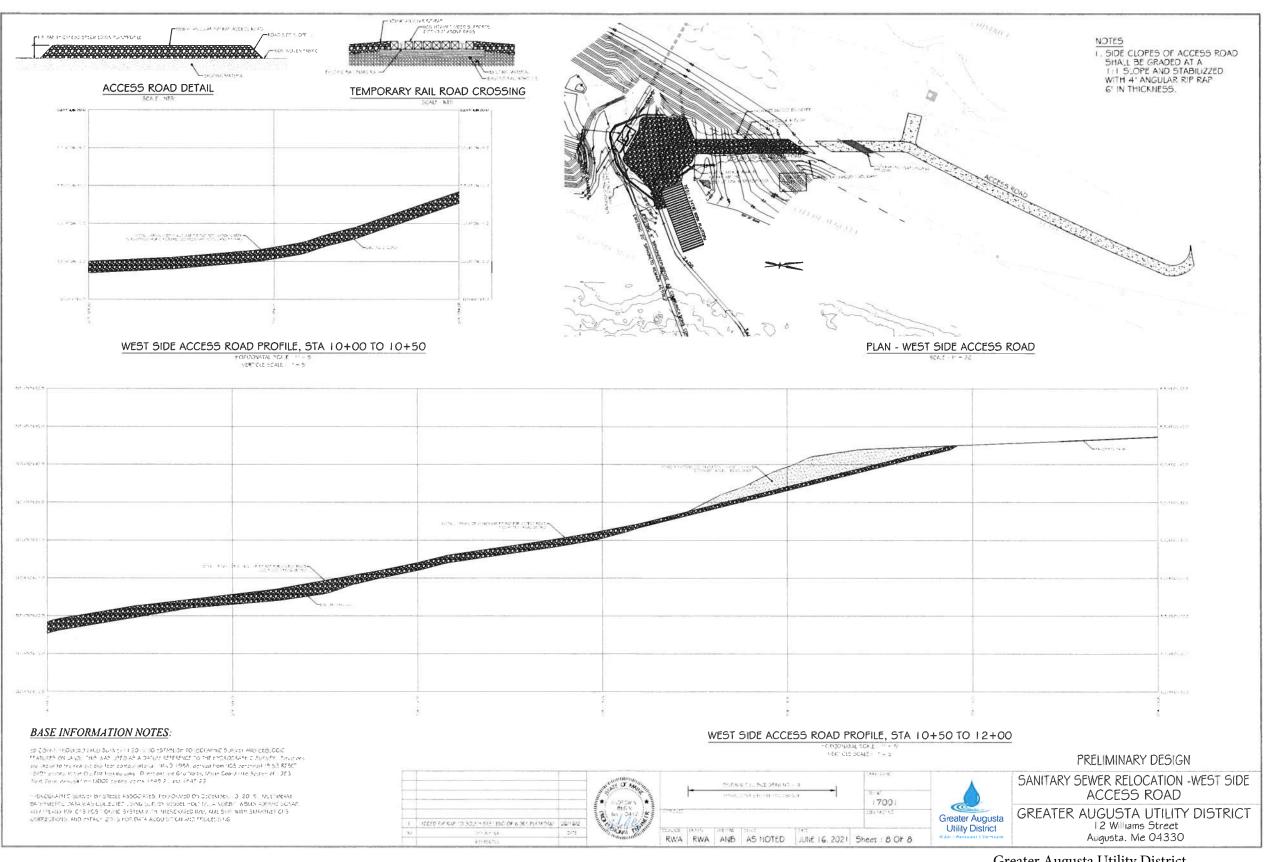


Greater Augusta Utility District Augusta, Maine NAE-2016-02286 sheet 5 of 8 "06/16/2021"





Greater Augusta Utility District Augusta, Maine NAE-2016-02286 sheet 7 of 8 "06/16/2021"



Greater Augusta Utility District Augusta, Maine NAE-2016-02286 sheet 8 of 8 "06/16/2021"