



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: April 6, 2021
Comment Period Ends: May 6, 2021
File Number: NAE-2020-02336
In Reply Refer To: Christina Comeau
Phone: (978) 618-1870
E-mail: Christina.M.Comeau@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from the Naval Submarine Base New London, Rte 12 Box 400, Groton, CT. This work is proposed within the Thames River from Fort Trumbull in the City of New London (41.342846, -72.092309) to south of Pfizer Pier in the Town of Groton within the Congressionally authorized Federal Navigation Channel (41.332952, -72.083320).

Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASENLON) proposes to relocate the existing Underwater Electromagnetic Measurement System (UEMMS) and Data Concentrator Shed (DCS) in the Thames River to avoid construction and operational conflicts with the planned expansion of an adjacent facility owned and operated by General Dynamics Electric Boat Corporation. The proposed action is needed to maintain continuous and efficient electromagnetic measurement services currently provided by the existing UEMMS, which is critical to the operational readiness and capability of the US Atlantic Fleet.

The current facility consists of three components: a DCS, a range control building, and an UEMMS, which includes a sensor array. The existing and proposed UEMMS is located within the Thames River federal navigation channel, and the existing and proposed DCS, which collects and stores data from the UEMMS, is in State of Connecticut waters of the Thames River. The range control building, located on a US government-owned parcel at Fort Trumbull State Park, houses power and data connections for the UEMMS and will not be relocated as part of the planned project. The proposed action includes the following:

- Construction of a new UEMMS and DCS approximately 2,500 feet south of the existing site. Construction of the new DCS will include installation of four piles using a diesel impact hammer;
- Installation of new data and power cables in the riverbed from the range control building to the new UEMMS and DCS; and
- Removal of the DCS and its supporting piles plus abandoning in place the data and power cables supporting the existing UEMMS located on the sea floor.

The new UEMMS and DCS will be identical in appearance and operations as the existing site. There will be no change in operating procedures or to the type and frequency of vessels transiting the UEMMS. The proposed action may require minimal, temporary diversions of marine traffic around the project site during in-water work in the federal navigation channel; however, these potential impacts to navigation will be coordinated with the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Coast Guard, and the local harbor masters. Temporary water quality impacts associated with the proposed action are not anticipated to result in off-site effects on coastal resources.

The installation of the new DCS, power cables, sensor tubes, and measuring devices is anticipated to take 6 to 8 months to complete. After the new UEMMS and DCS are fully operational, the existing DCS will be

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removed and the UEMMS will be excavated and all sensors retrieved. The demolition of the DCS and removal of the existing sensors is estimated to take 2 to 3 months to complete.

The work is shown on the enclosed preliminary drawings entitled "RELOCATION OF THE TYPE 6 ELECTRO-MAGNETIC MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY, NAVAL SUB BASE NEW LONDON, NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT, ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING DRAWINGS, JULY 2020," on 12 sheets, and dated "JULY 2020."

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.
- 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 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a USACE federally authorized Civil Works project known as the Thames River. The proposed alteration involves the installation of an MT and EMT Sensor Array across the bottom of the channel. The proposed alteration is located south of Pfizer Pier in the Town of Groton within the Congressionally authorized Federal Navigation Channel (41.332952, -72.083320). A permit

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pursuant to Section 10/404/103 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.

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 3.2 acres of EFH. This habitat consists of mostly subtidal waters with a silty 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, an expanded EFH assessment will be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service, who in turn will provide conservation recommendations. The USACE 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 the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The USACE 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 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.
- (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 Christina M. Comeau at (978) 618-1870, (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 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.

Michael S. Wierbonics
Acting 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.

**RELOCATION OF THE TYPE 6
ELECTRO-MAGNETIC MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY**

**NAVAL SUB BASE NEW LONDON
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT**

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING DRAWINGS

JULY 2020

GENERAL NOTES:

1. HORIZONTAL GRID AND GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES ARE REFERENCED TO CONNECTICUT STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, ZONE 0600, NAD 83.
2. ALL SOUNDING ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET REFERENCED TO MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (MLLW).
3. INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR THE NEW DCS STRUCTURE IS BASED ON THE DESIGN COMPLETED IN JULY 2020.
4. ALL EXCAVATION AND FILL QUANTITIES, SENSOR DETAILS AND ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON PREVIOUS RANGE DESIGN AND THE 2012 UEMMS UPGRADE. ESTIMATES AND QUANTITIES WILL BE REVISED DURING THE RANGE DESIGN PHASE.

APPLICANT:
 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
 NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
 MIDLANT
 439 TAUTOG AVENUE, ROOM 104
 GROTON, CT 06349
 OFFICE: 860-694-5649

ENGINEER:
 NAVFAC EXWC, CIOFP6
 OCEAN CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
 720 KENNON STREET SE
 BLDG 36, SUITE 333
 WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, DC 20374
 OFFICE: 202-433-5181

08/07/2020 10:26:22 AM New London Type 6 Relocation Permit Sketches (from final)_080620.dwg

REFERENCE No.: _____ IN: THAMES RIVER NEAR / AT: GROTON COUNTY: NEW LONDON STATE: CT	JULY 2020 DATE		NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND MIDLANT DIVISION	
			NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY COVER SHEET	NEW LONDON, CT SHEET 1 OF 12
NOT TO SCALE				

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TABLE OF DRAWINGS	
SHEET No.	SHEET TITLE
1	COVER SHEET
2	TABLE OF DRAWINGS
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4	PROPOSED SITE PLAN
5	DCS EAST AND WEST ISOMETRIC VIEW
6	DCS WEST ELEVATION
7	DCS SOUTH ELEVATION
8	SENSOR ARRAY PLAN AND PROFILE
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10	EMT SECTION DETAILS
11	MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS
12	SHORE LANDING DETAIL

REFERENCE No.: _____
 IN: THAMES RIVER
 NEAR / AT: GROTON
 COUNTY: NEW LONDON STATE: CT

JULY 2020



NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
 MIDLANT DIVISION

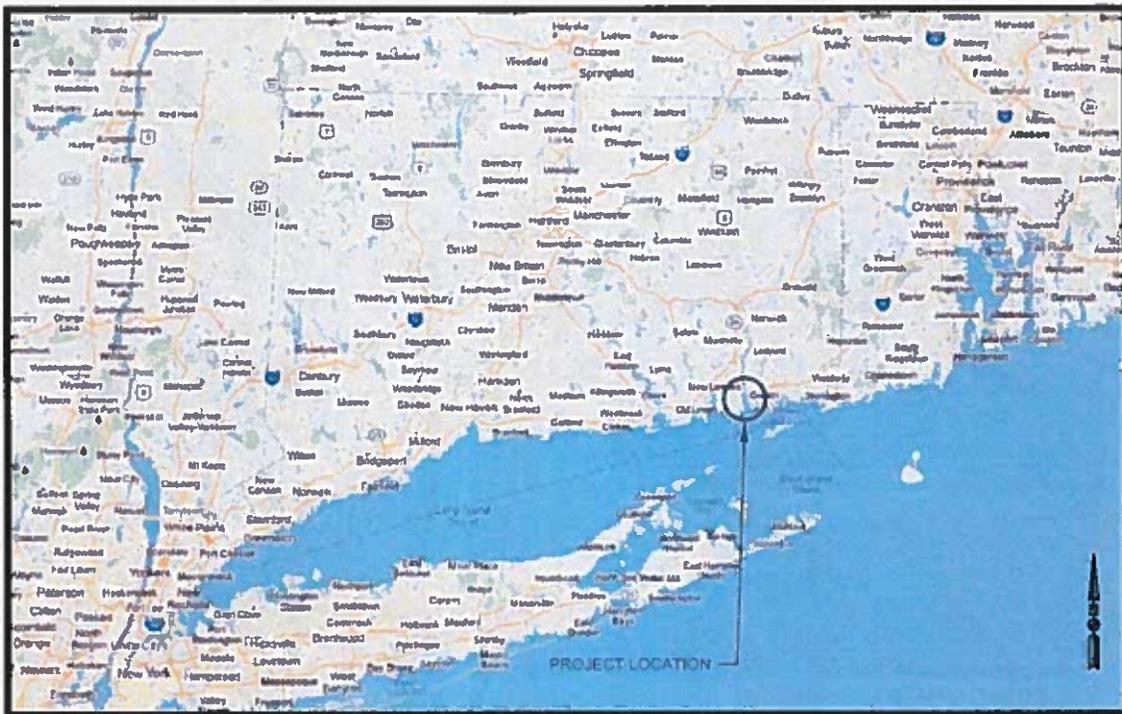
NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT
 RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY
 TABLE OF DRAWINGS

SHEET
 2 OF 12

NOT TO SCALE

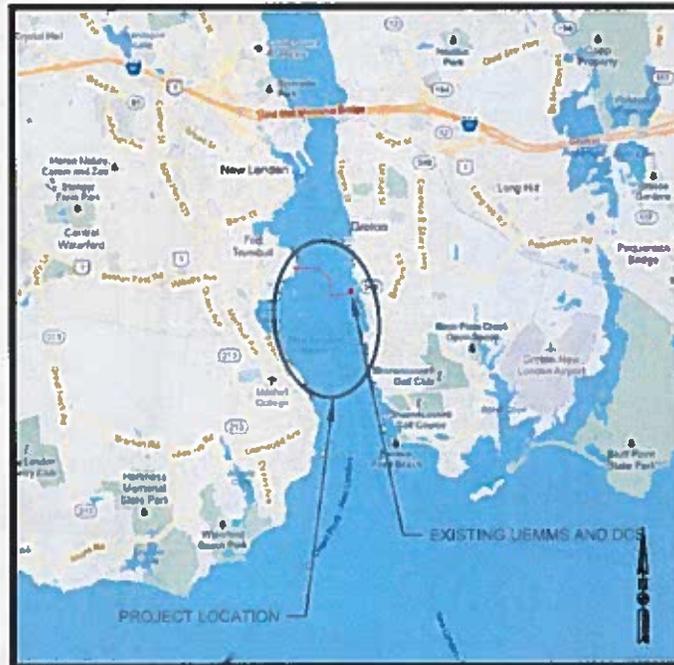
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VICINITY MAP

NOT TO SCALE



LOCATION MAP

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 NEAR / AT: GROTON
 COUNTY: NEW LONDON STATE: CT

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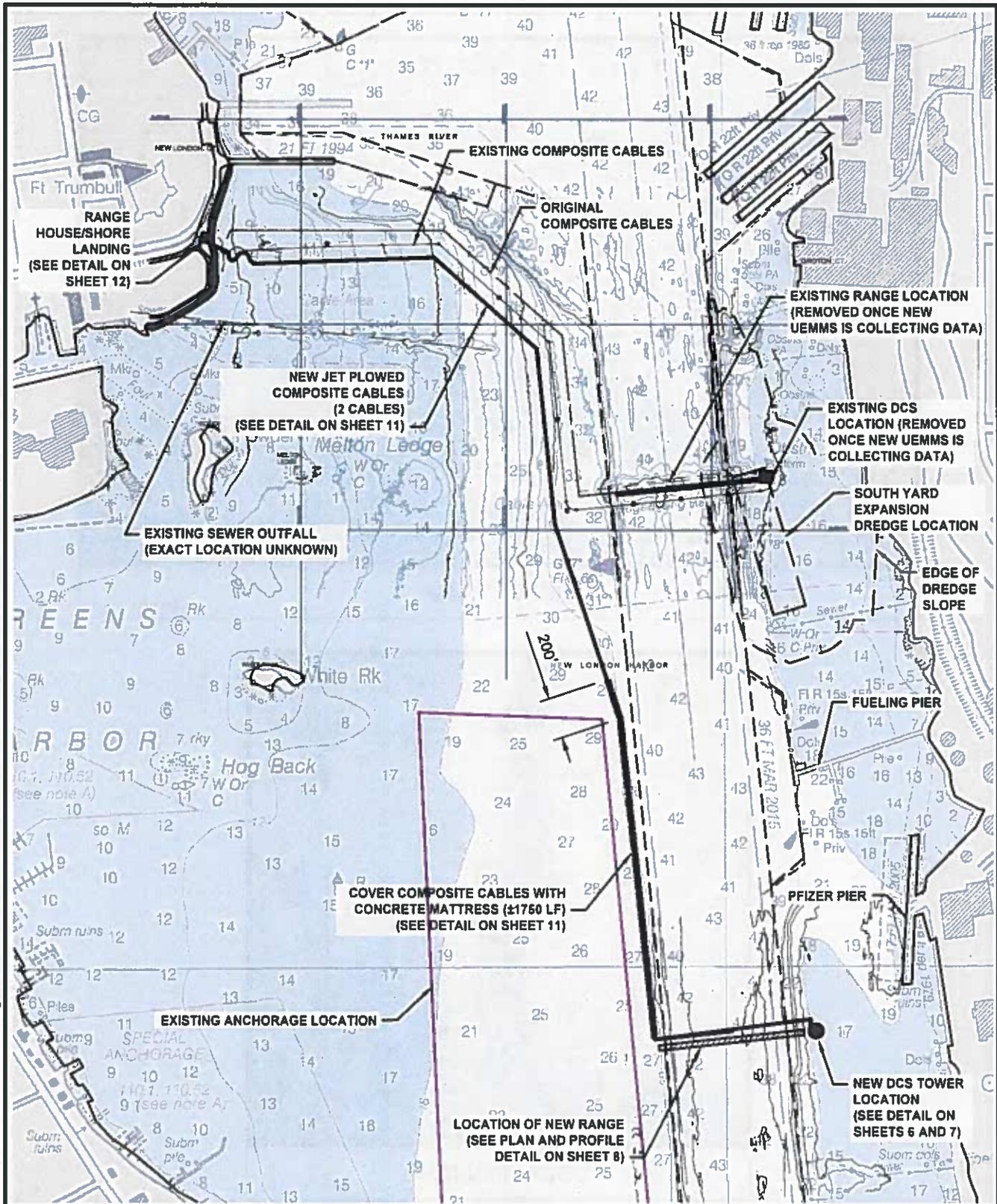


NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
 MIDLANT DIVISION

NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT
 RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY
 PROJECT SITE MAPS

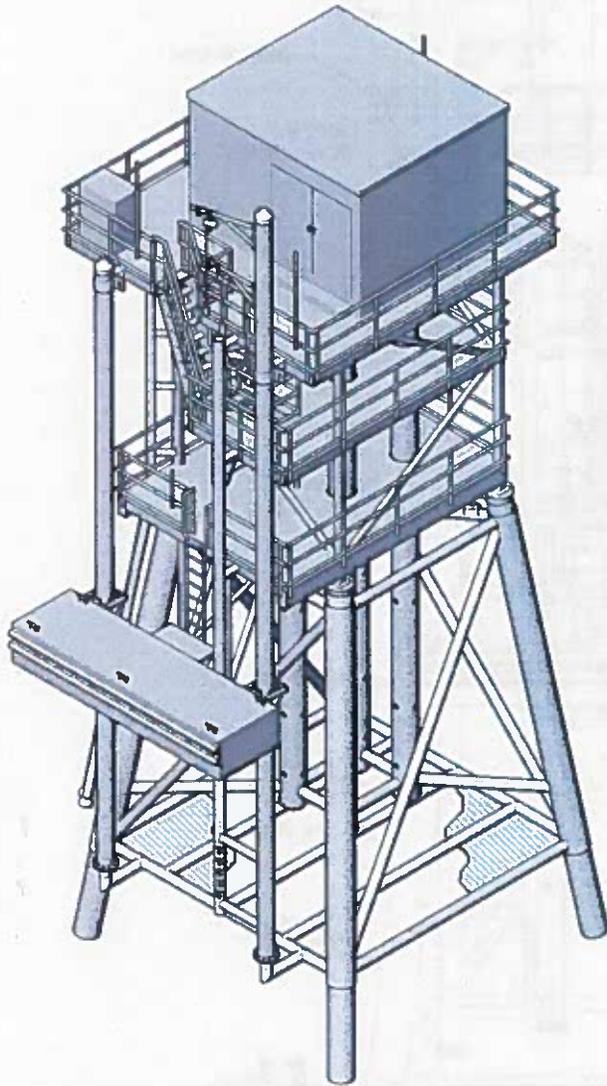
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 3 OF 12

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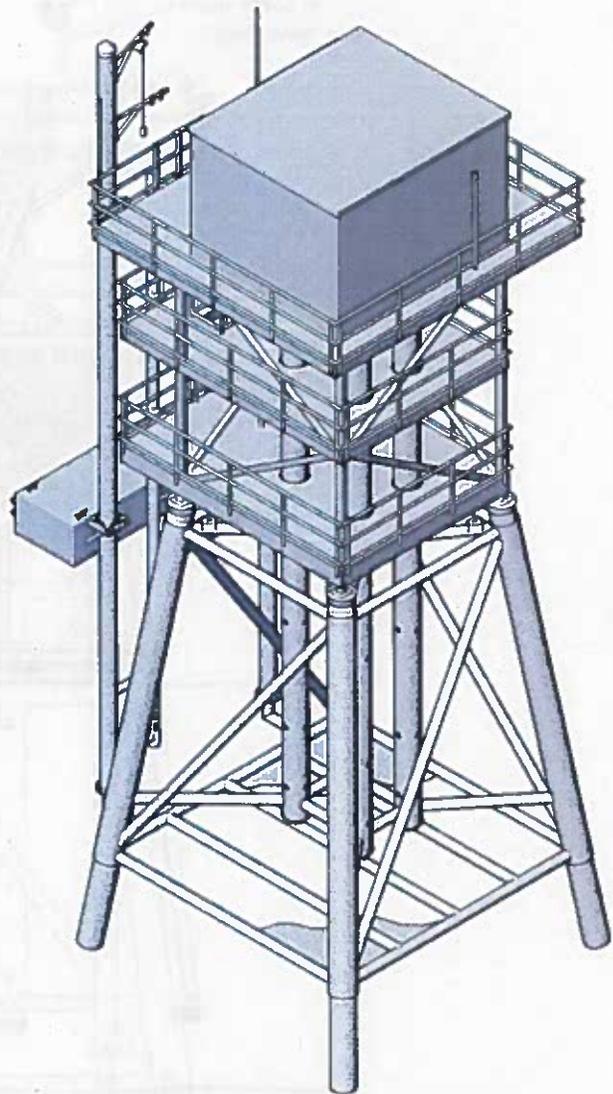


08/07/2020 11:21:48 AM PROPOSED SITE PLAN.dwg

REFERENCE No. _____ IN: <u>THAMES RIVER</u> NEAR / AT: <u>GROTON</u> COUNTY: <u>NEW LONDON</u> STATE: <u>CT</u>		 NAVFAC	NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND MIDLANT DIVISION	
JULY 2020 DATE			NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT	SHEET RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY PROPOSED SITE PLAN 4 OF 12
NOT TO SCALE				



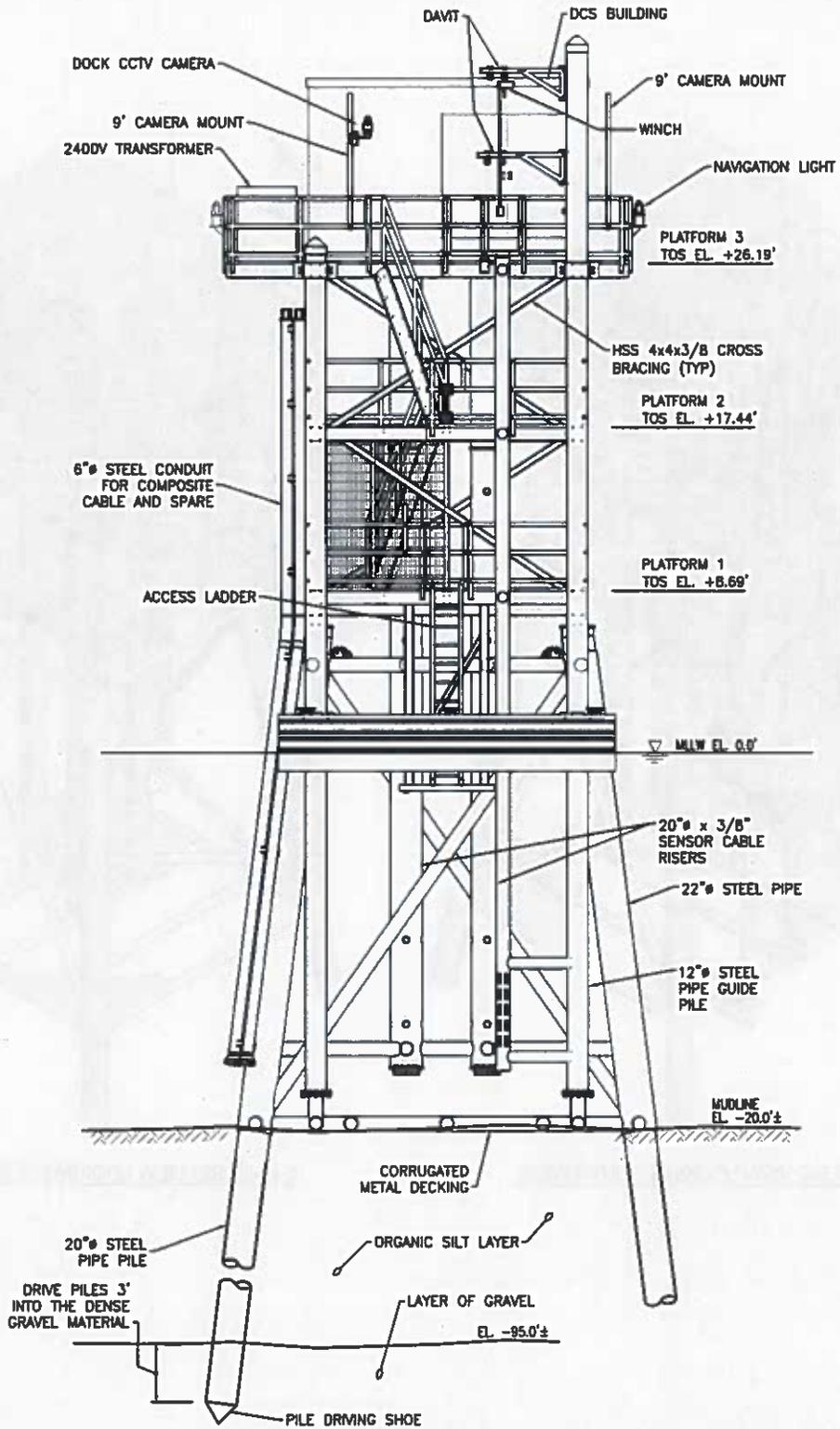
ISOMETRIC VIEW LOOKING SOUTH WEST



ISOMETRIC VIEW LOOKING NORTH EAST

06/07/2020 10:08:33 AM TOWER ISOMETRICS.dwg

REFERENCE No. _____ IN THAMES RIVER NEAR / AT GROTON COUNTY NEW LONDON STATE CT	JULY 2020 DATE	 NAVFC	NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND MIDLANT DIVISION	SHEET
NOT TO SCALE			NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY DCS EAST AND WEST ISOMETRIC VIEW	5 OF 12



08/07/2020 10:13:55 AM TOWER WEST ELEVATION.dwg

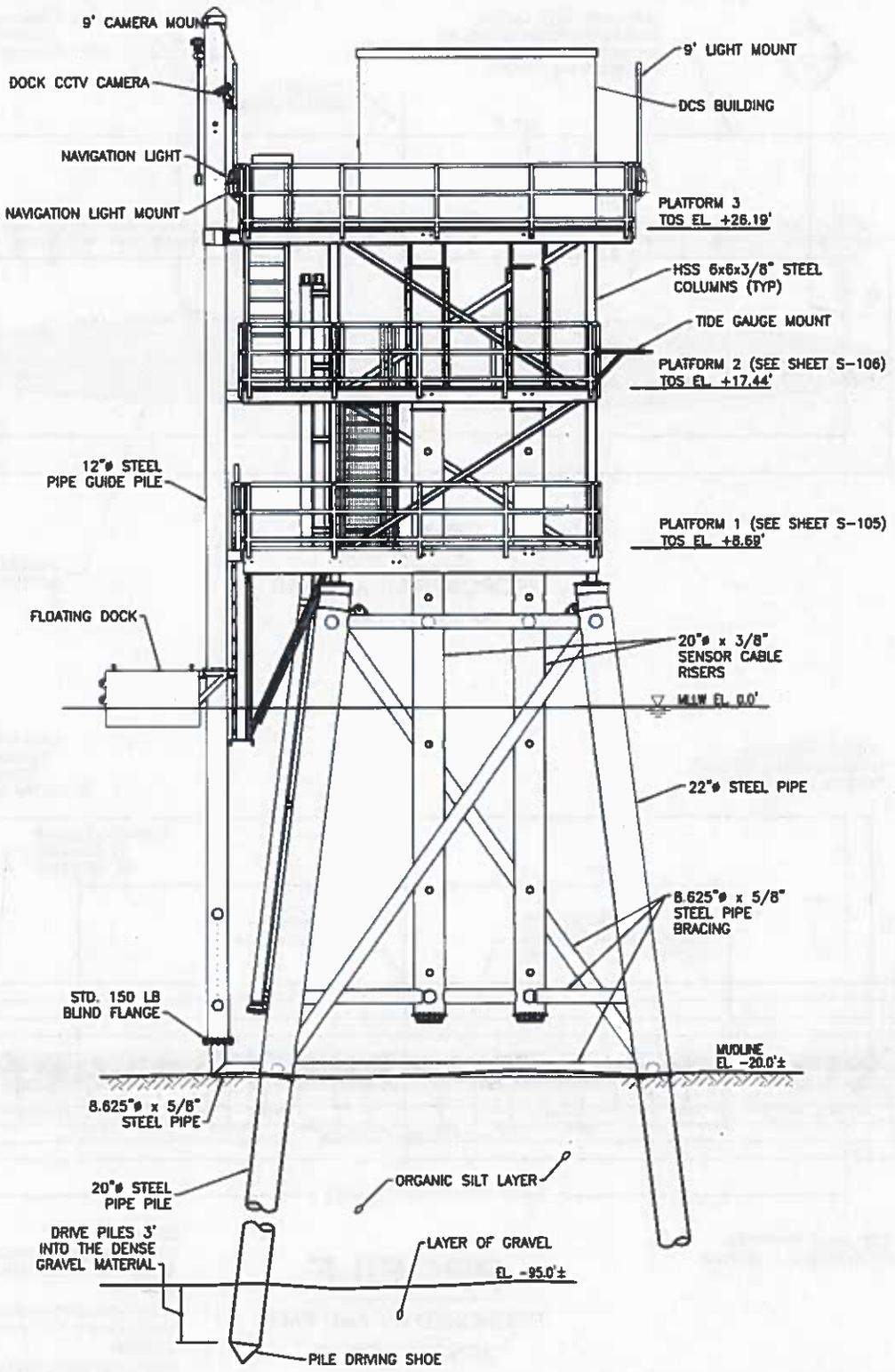
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 IN THAMES RIVER
 NEAR / AT GROTON
 COUNTY NEWLONDON STATE CT
 NOT TO SCALE

JULY 2020
 DATE



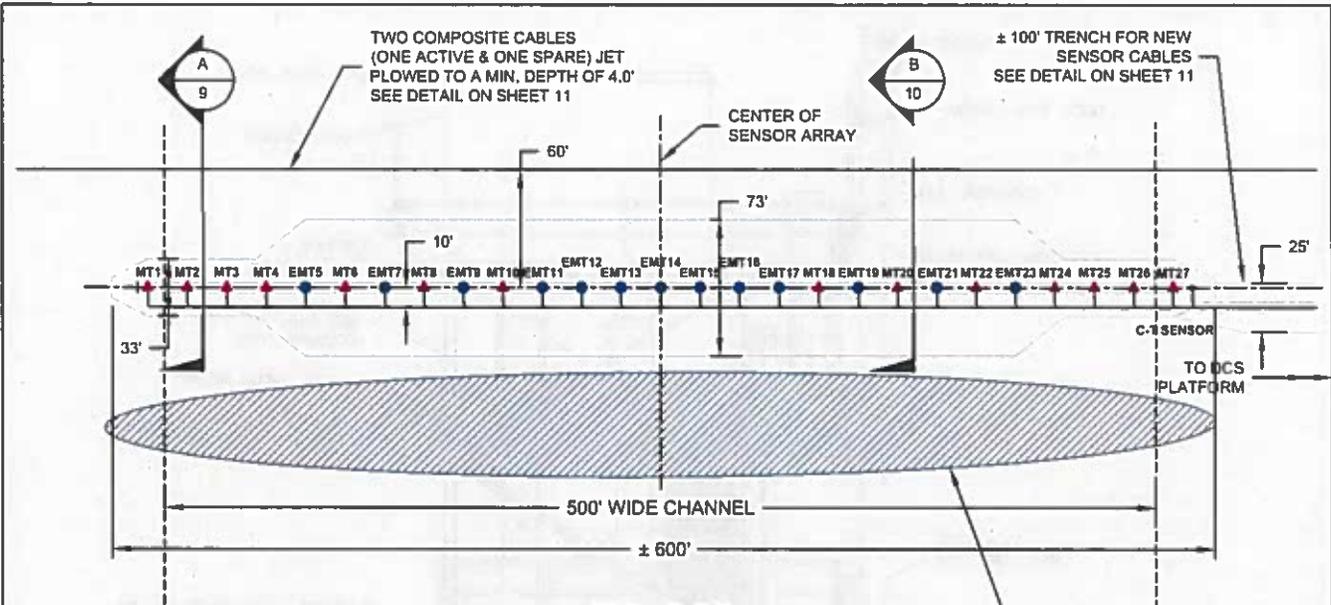
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
 MIDLANT DIVISION
 NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT
 RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY
 DCS WEST ELEVATION

SHEET
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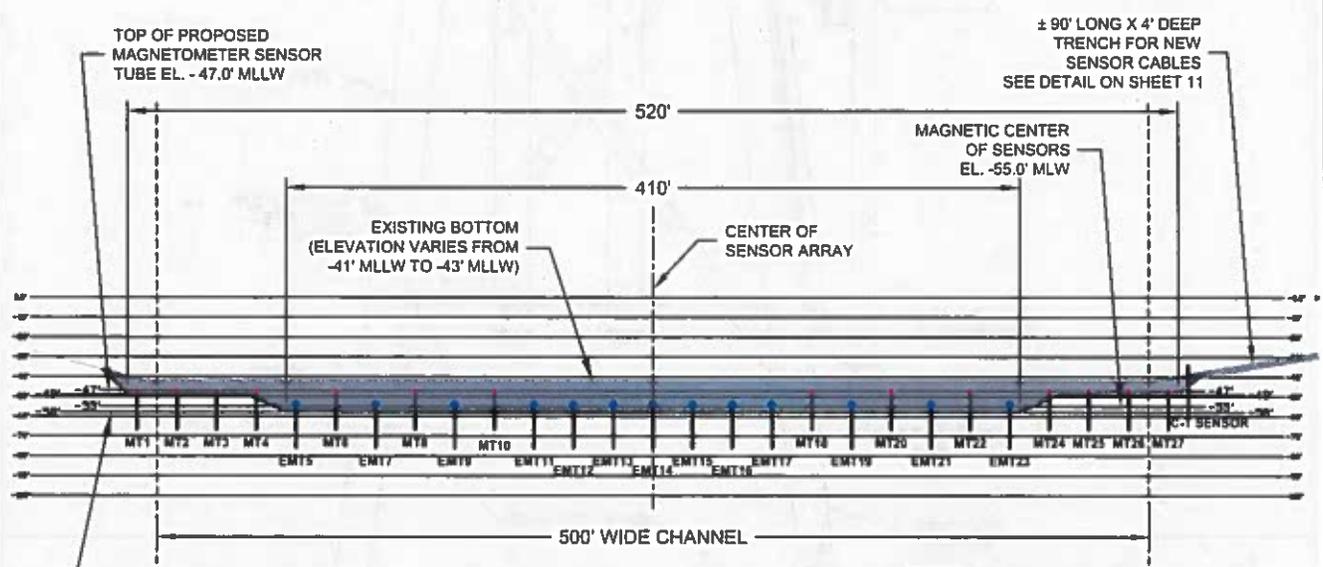


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REFERENCE No. _____ IN THAMES RIVER NEAR / AT GROTON COUNTY NEW LONDON STATE CT	JULY 2020 DATE		NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND MIDLANT DIVISION	
NOT TO SCALE			NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT	SHEET
			RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY DCS SOUTH ELEVATION	7 OF 12



PLAN
 PROPOSED MT AND EMT
 SENSOR ARRAY



PROFILE
 PROPOSED MT AND EMT
 SENSOR ARRAY

NOTES:
 TOTAL VOLUME OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL FOR ARRAY AND CABLE PATH IS APPROXIMATELY 10,000 CY.
 TOTAL VOLUME OF NON MAGNETIC GRAVEL IS APPROXIMATELY 6700 CY (INCLUDES CABLE PATH TO DCS).
 TOTAL VOLUME OF NON MAGNETIC SAND IS APPROXIMATELY 3300 CY (INCLUDES CABLE PATH TO DCS).

08/07/2020 10:33:16 AM New London Type 6 Relocation Permit Sketches (from final)_080620.dwg

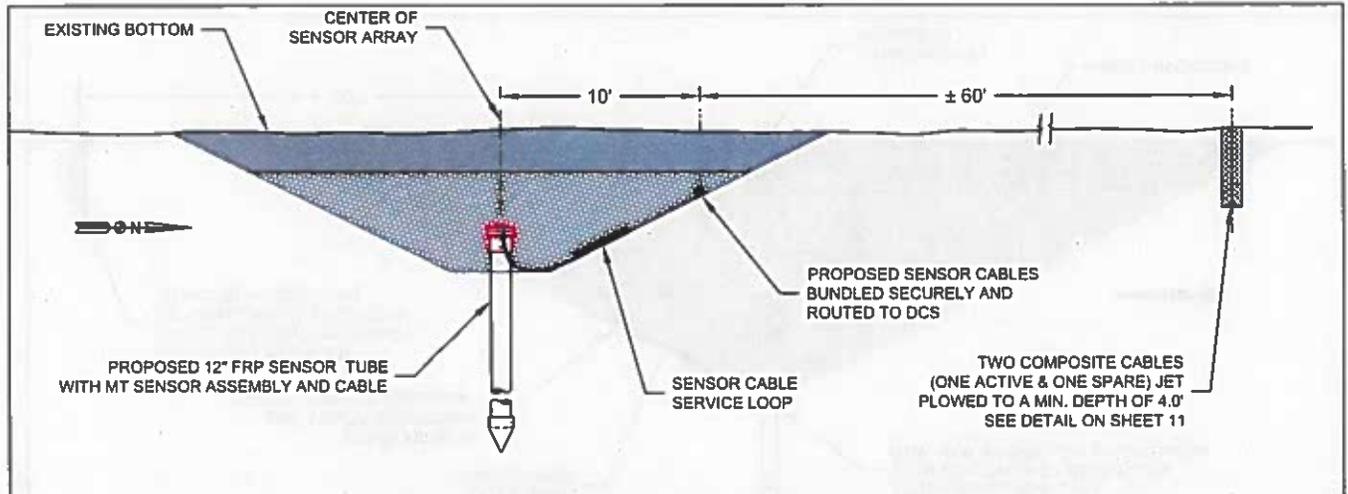
REFERENCE No.: _____
 IN: THAMES RIVER
 NEAR / AT: GROTON
 COUNTY: NEW LONDON STATE: CT
 NOT TO SCALE

JULY 2020
 DATE

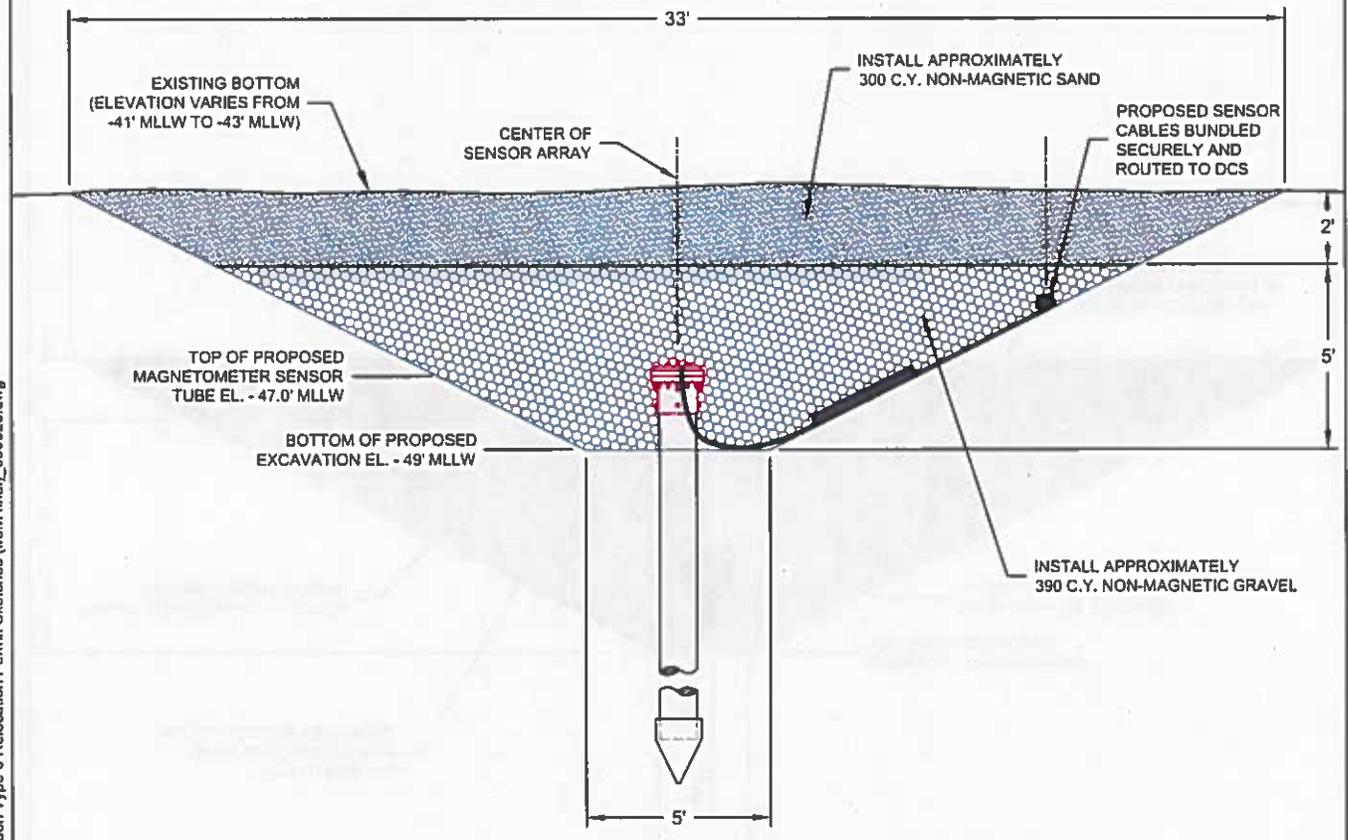


NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
 MIDLANT DIVISION

NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON	NEW LONDON, CT	SHEET
RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY		8 OF 12
SENSOR ARRAY PLAN AND PROFILE		



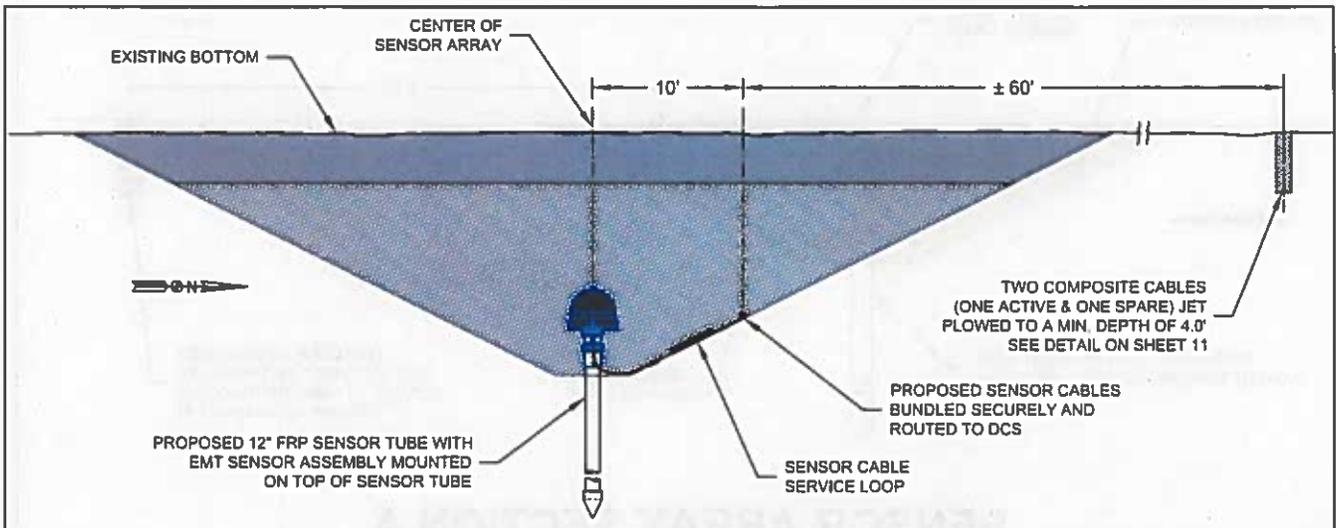
SENSOR ARRAY SECTION A



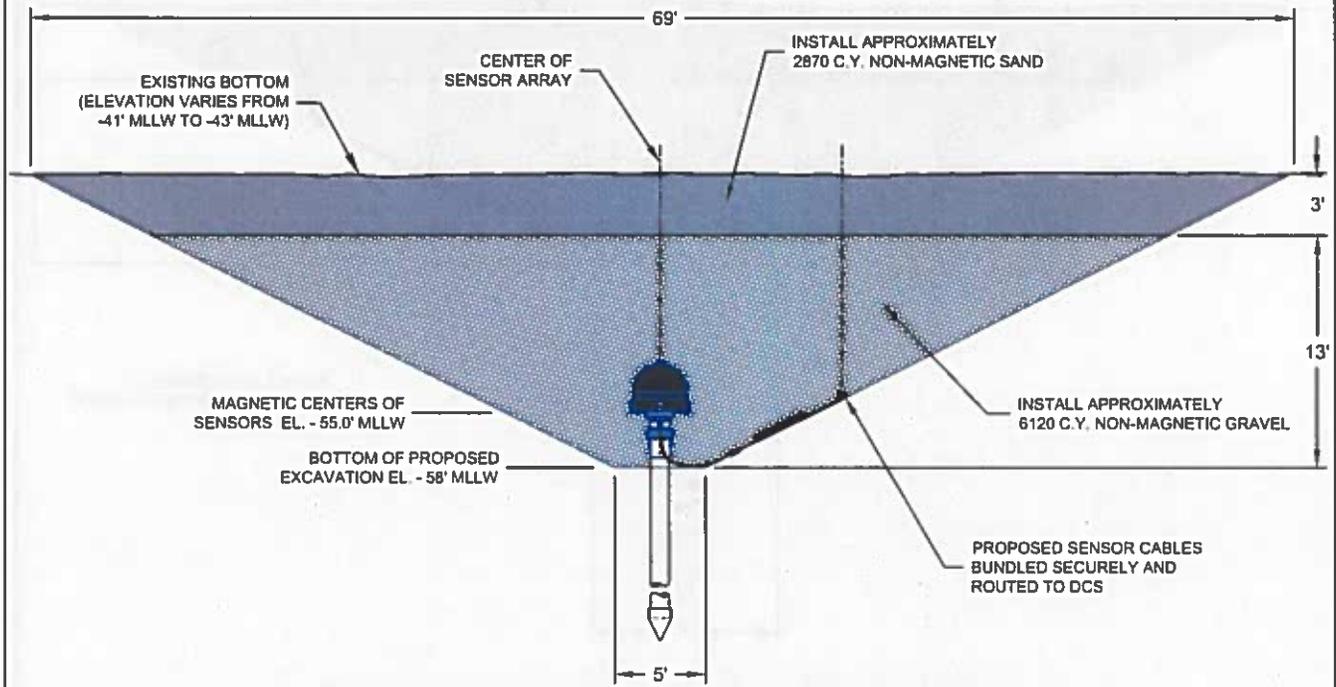
MAGNETOMETER EXCAVATION DETAIL

08/07/2020 10:34:58 AM New London Type 6 Relocation Permit Sketches (from final)_080620.dwg

REFERENCE No.: _____ IN: <u>THAMES RIVER</u> NEAR / AT: <u>GROTON</u> COUNTY: <u>NEW LONDON</u> STATE: <u>CT</u>	JULY 2020 DATE		NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND MIDLANT DIVISION NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY MAGNETOMETER SECTION DETAILS	SHEET 9 OF 12
NOT TO SCALE				



SENSOR ARRAY SECTION B

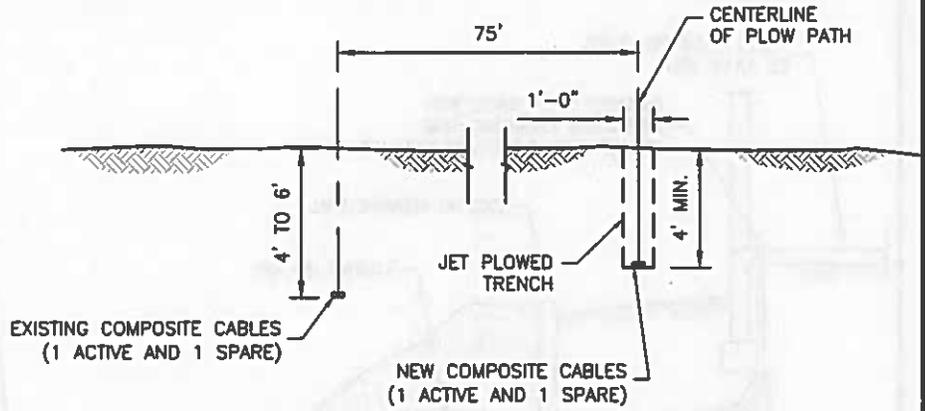


EMT EXCAVATION DETAIL

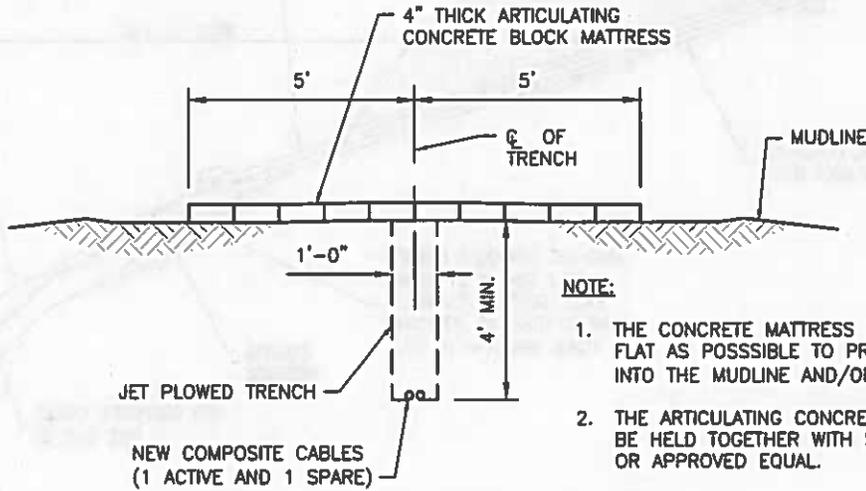
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REFERENCE No.: _____ IN: THAMES RIVER NEAR / AT: GROTON COUNTY: NEW LONDON STATE: CT	JULY 2020 DATE		NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND MIDLANT DIVISION NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY EMT SECTION DETAILS	SHEET 10 OF 12
NOT TO SCALE				

THE CABLES WILL BE INSTALLED USING JET-PLOWED TECHNOLOGY. A SPECIALLY DESIGNED DEVICE WITH AN ADJUSTABLE BLADE, OR PLOW, RESTS ON THE RIVER BOTTOM AND IS TOWED BY A SURFACE VESSEL. THE PLOW CREATES A NARROW TRENCH AT THE DESIGNATED DEPTH, WHILE WATER JETS FLUIDIZE THE SEDIMENT WITHIN THE "TRENCH". THE CABLES ARE FED THROUGH THE PLOW AND IS LAID INTO THE "TRENCH" AS IT MOVES FORWARD. THE FLUIDIZED SEDIMENTS THEN SETTLE BACK DOWN INTO THE "TRENCH" AND BURY THE CABLE.



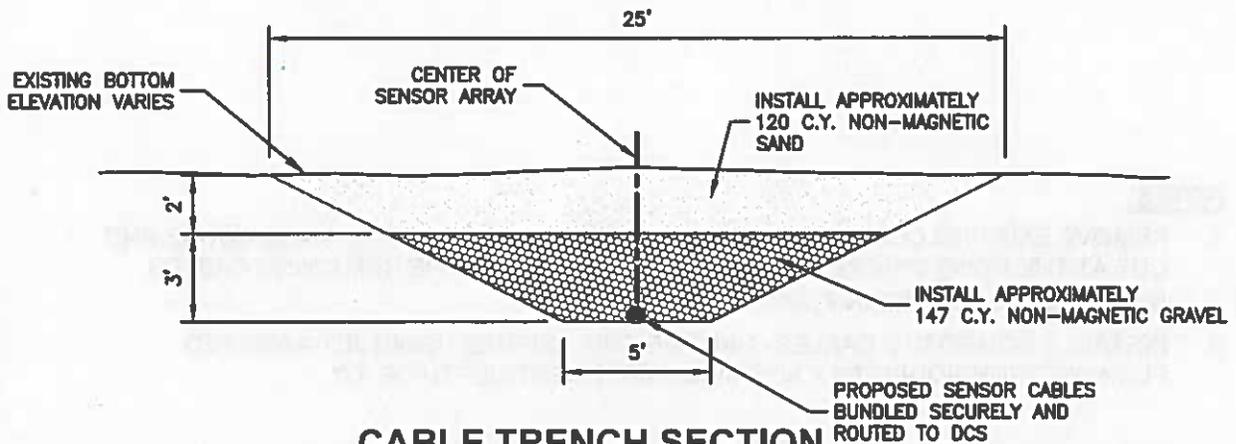
OLD AND NEW JET PLOW DETAIL



NOTE:

1. THE CONCRETE MATTRESS IS TO BE INSTALLED AS FLAT AS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT IT FROM SINKING INTO THE MUDLINE AND/OR DAMAGING THE CABLES.
2. THE ARTICULATING CONCRETE BLOCK MATTRESS WILL BE HELD TOGETHER WITH STEEL CABLE, POLY ROPE, OR APPROVED EQUAL.

CONCRETE MATTRESS DETAIL



CABLE TRENCH SECTION

08/07/2020 10:04:51 AM MISC DETAILS.dwg

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 IN: THAMES RIVER
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 COUNTY: NEW LONDON STATE: CT

JULY 2020

DATE

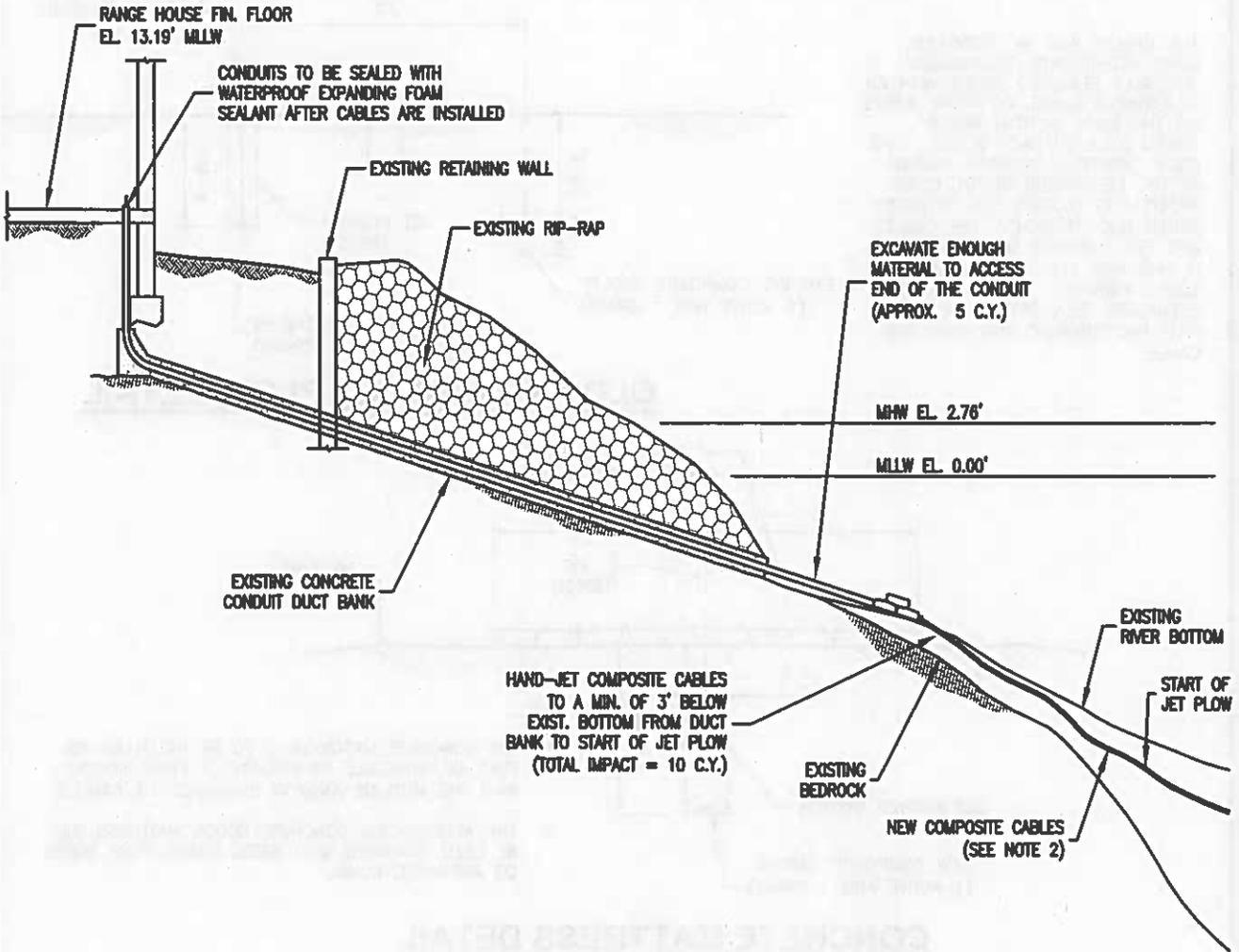


NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
 MIDLANT DIVISION

NAVAL SUBBASE NEW LONDON NEW LONDON, CT
 RELOCATION OF EXISTING MEASUREMENT RANGING FACILITY
 MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS

SHEET
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NOT TO SCALE



NOTES:

1. REMOVE EXISTING COMPOSITE CABLES (2) FROM THE CONDUIT/RANGE HOUSE AND CUT AT THE POINT WHERE THEY ENTER THE MUDLINE. THE REMAINING CABLES SHALL BE ABANDONED IN PLACE.
2. INSTALL 2 COMPOSITE CABLES (1 ACTIVE AND 1 SPARE) USING JET-ASSISTED PLOWING TECHNIQUES TO A MINIMUM EMBEDMENT DEPTH OF 4.0'.

08/07/2020 10:07:42 AM SHORE LANDING DETAIL.dwg

REFERENCE No. _____ IN THAMES RIVER NEAR / AT GROTON COUNTY NEWLONDON STATE CT	JULY 2020 DATE		NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND MIDLANT DIVISION
NOT TO SCALE	DATE		