PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District 696 Virginia Road

Concord, MA 01742-2751

Comment Period Begins: September 13 2022 Comment Period Ends: October 13, 2022 File Number: NAE-2008-00014 In Reply Refer To: Charles Farris Phone: (978) 318-8336 E-mail: Charles.n.farris@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from the Town of Harwich, 732 Main Street, Harwich, Massachusetts 02645. This work is proposed in several waterbodies within the town borders. The site coordinates are provided in the attached project plans.

The proposed work is a comprehensive plan for maintenance dredging the historically sandy portions of five municipal channels: the Herring River Channel, Allen Harbor Channel, Wychmere Harbor Channel, Saquatucket Harbor Channel, and Round Cove Channel. Suitable sandy material from these areas will be used to nourish beaches in the vicinity of each project (see project plans). The anticipated volumes to be removed from each area are presented in Table 1 with a maximum total volume proposed for all project areas over a tenyear period of approximately 513,500 cubic yards (CY). All project areas will be hydraulically dredged using the Barnstable County dredging platform to the various permitted depths presented in Table 1 inclusive of a one-foot overdepth.

Site	Project Depth (ft. MLLW)	Frequency of Use	Volume (CY) per Event	Number of Events	Maximum Total Volume (CY) in 10 Years
Allen Harbor Channel	-6	Annually	20,000	10	200,000
Wychmere Harbor Channel	r Channel -6 Eve		20,000	5	100,000
Saquatucket Harbor Channel	-8	Every 2 – 3 years	20,000	5	100,000
Herring River Channel	-6	Every 2 – 3 years	20,000	5	100,000
Round Cove	-6	Every 3 – 5 years	4,500	3	13,500
Maximum Total Program Volume (CY)					513,500

Table 1: Summary of Proposed Dredge Areas and Volumes

The work is shown on the enclosed plans entitled "Proposed Dredging and Nourishment", on twelve sheets and dated April 10th, 2018.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

- x Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- <u>x</u> 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.

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 impact 1,207,787 square feet of EFH. This habitat consists of subtidal shallow water sandy bottom habitat in each dredging area. The only exception is in confined areas of Allen Harbor and Round Cove, where the shallow water habitat is underlain by sediments that are too fine grained to be suitable for beach placement. These materials will be disposed of at an upland location in the Town. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect species that use these waters and substrate. However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect 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.

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 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 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.
- (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 Charles Farris at (978) 318-8336s.

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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.

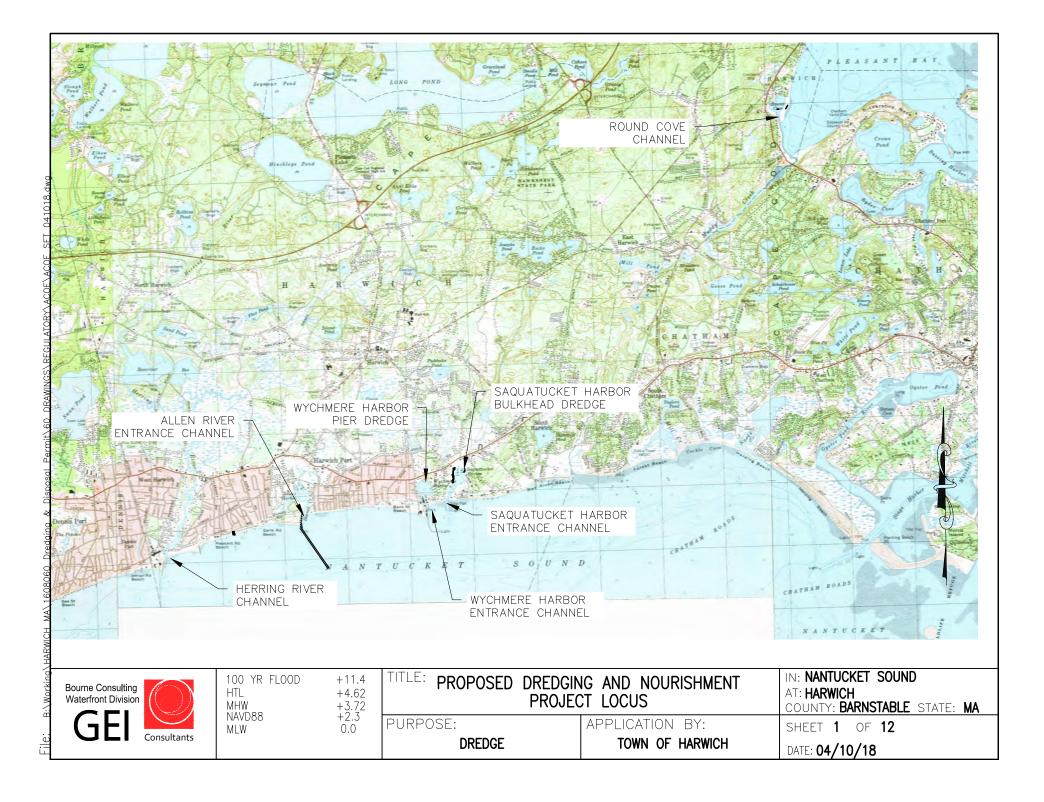
The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in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

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Robert J. De Sista

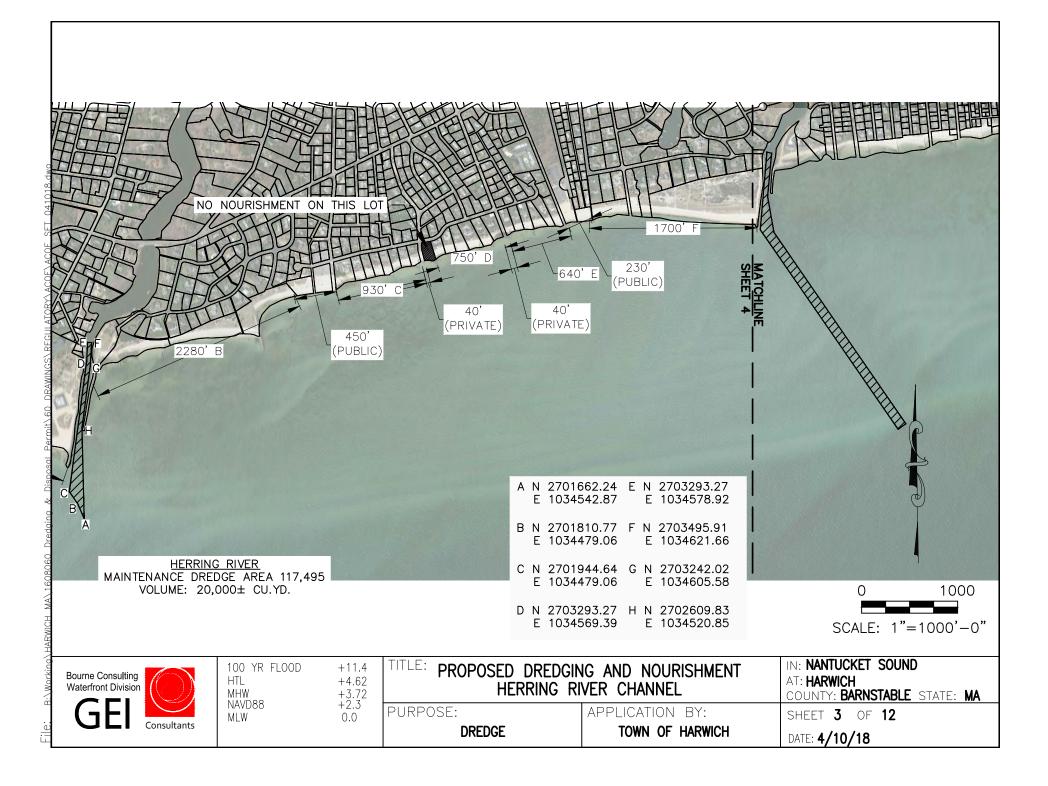
Robert J. DeSista Chief, Policy and Technical Support Branch Regulatory Division

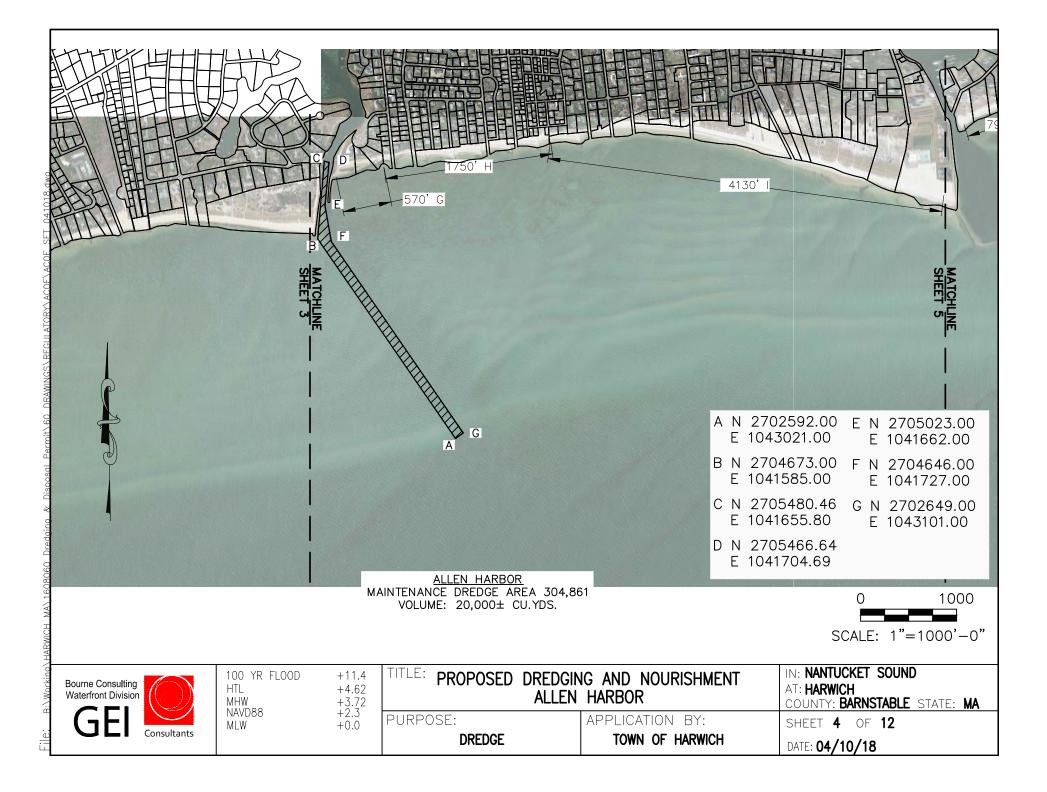
If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at <u>bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil</u>.

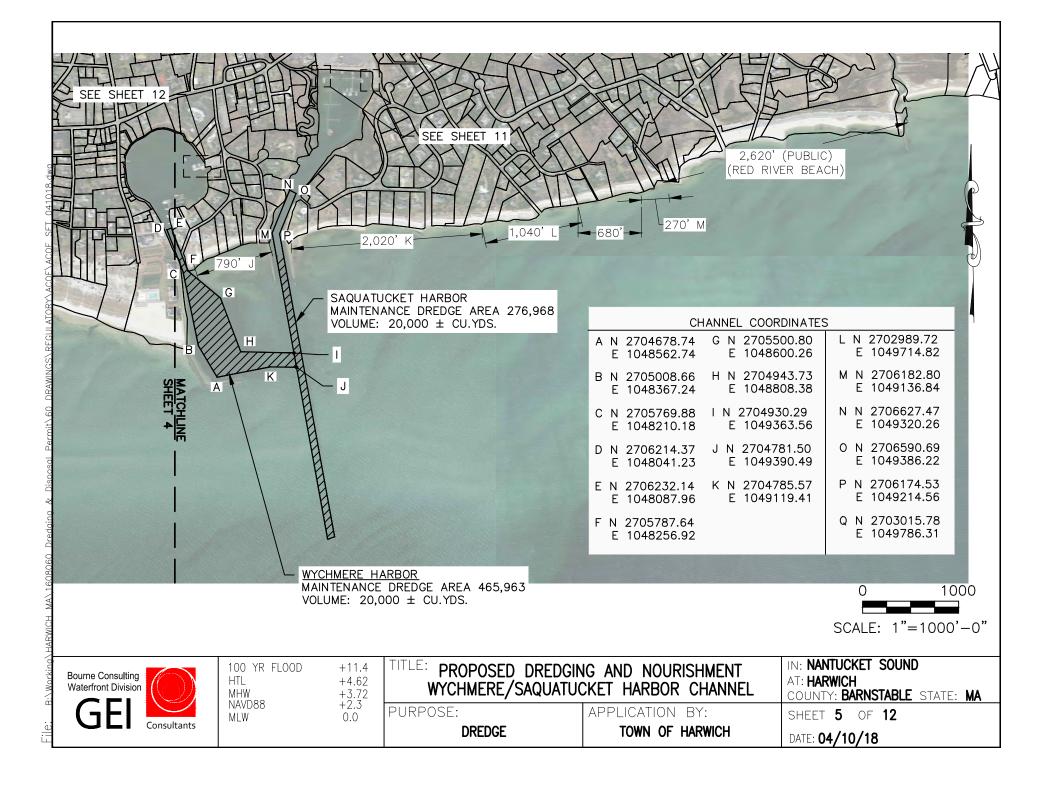


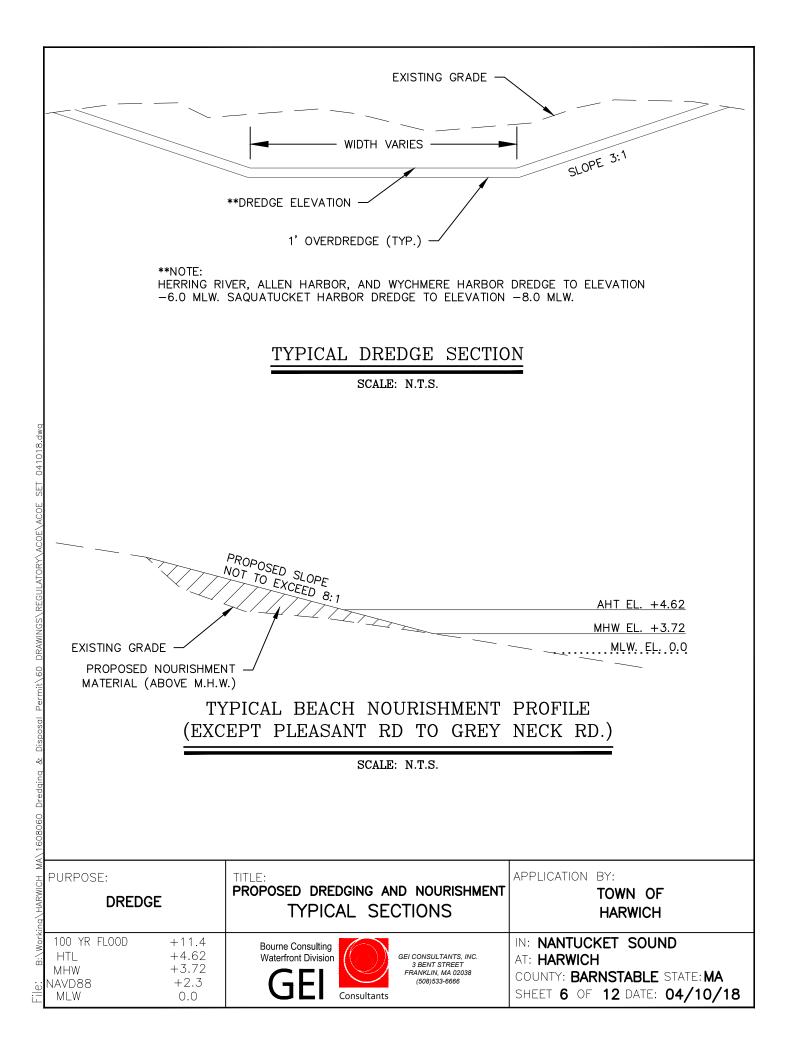
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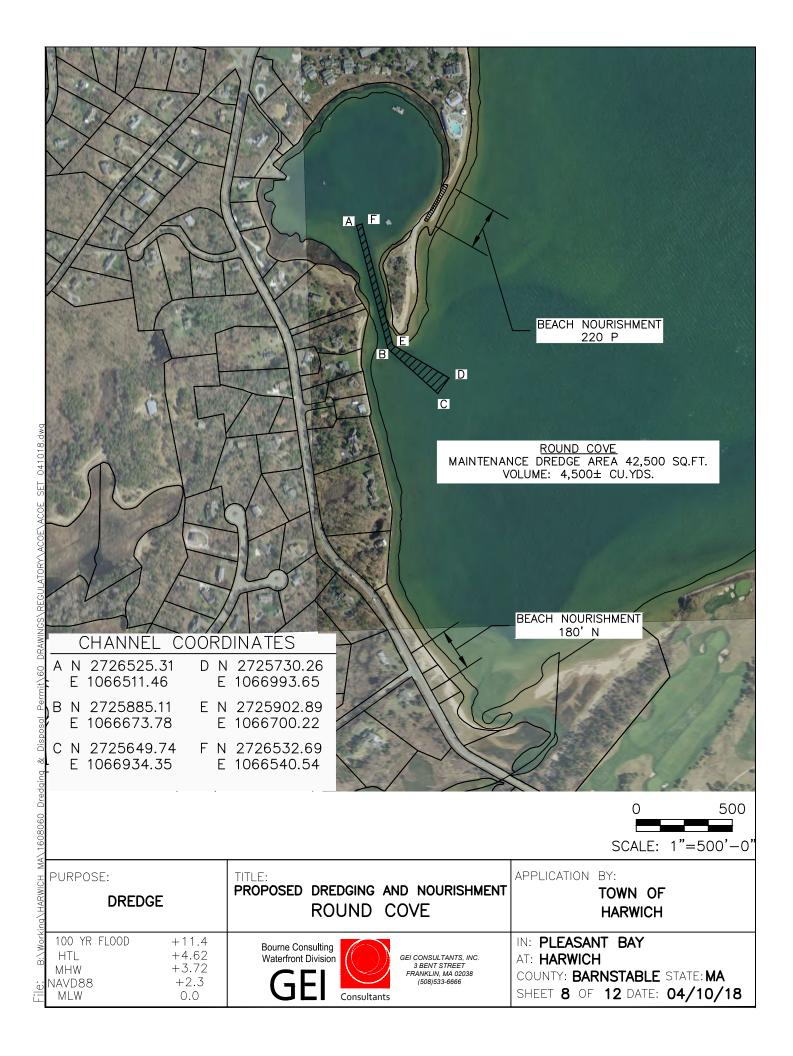


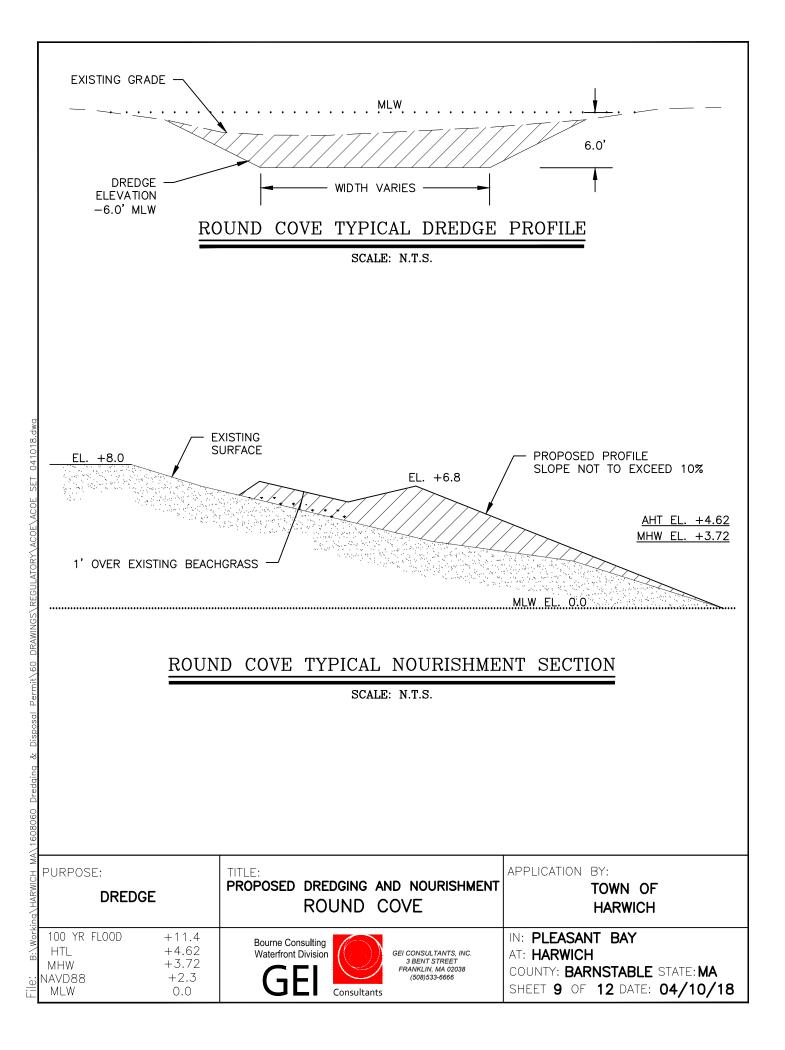


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