

30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: March 10, 2015 Comment Period Ends: April 10, 2015

File Number: NAE-2008-3268

In Reply Refer To: Ms. Diane M. Ray

Phone: (978) 318-8831

E-mail: diane.m.ray@usace.army.mil

of Engineers ®
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below.

APPLICANT: Americas Styrenics, LLC - Allyn's Point Site

ACTIVITY: Perform maintenance dredging from two distinct areas adjacent to the federal navigation channel in the Thames River at Allyn's Point in Gales Ferry, Connecticut with disposal of the dredged material at the Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site. A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

This work is proposed in the Thames River off property located at 1761 Route 12, New London, Connecticut. The site coordinates are: Latitude 41.442557, Longitude -72.086643.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and 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 Corps of Engineers 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. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers 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).

The dredging portion of this project will impact approximately 324,000 s.f. of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for the attached list of species and their life stages. Habitat at this site can be described as silt, sand and gravel. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect any of the species on the attached list. 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.

The dredged material disposal is proposed for Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site (CLIS). CLIS is an open water disposal sites, which provide Essential Fish Habitat for the attached list of species and their life stages. Habitat at CLIS can be described as sand and silt. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect any of the species listed on the attached sheets. 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 New England District, Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project site. 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 any Federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. We will be conducting informal coordination with National Marine Fisheries Service.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and New York 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 obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

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 Ms. Diane M. Ray at 978-318-8831, (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 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.

Barbara Newman

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. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

NAME: ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE:

The proposal includes work as described on the attached plans entitled, "XXXXXX" and "Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site", each on one sheet, not dated.

The proposed work involves maintenance dredging two distinct areas, one area is an approximately 100,000 square foot berthing area with dredge depths to -23' mean low water and the other area is an approximately 224,000 square foot turning area with dredge depths to -25' mean low water. A total of approximately 100,000 c.y. of material will be dredged mechanically and disposed of at the Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site. The purpose of the proposed dredging is to remove sediment that has accumulated in the ship berthing area along an existing pier and within the turning basin used for egress by vessels leaving the pier. The pier is used for the off-loading of liquid styrene by ships.

Dredged Material Disposal Mitigation Discussion:

The alternatives considered in the dredged material disposal analysis fall into four general categories: beneficial use, upland disposal, confined disposal, and open-water disposal. The feasibility of disposal alternatives was analyzed relative to the physical and chemical quality of the dredged material, the volume of material to be dredged, the availability of suitable disposal and beneficial use sites, and the cost of disposal.

Based on the characteristics of the dredged material, the lack of suitable alternate disposal or beneficial use sites and costs, the most feasible, practical, cost-effective and environmentally acceptable alternative for the disposal of dredged materials from the proposed dredging is disposal at the requested disposal site.

The dredged material has undergone physical, chemical, and biological testing and has satisfied the criteria for ocean disposal of dredged material as specified in part 227 of the Ocean Dumping Act regulations. It is our preliminary determination that the material is acceptable for disposal at this disposal site.

Any permit issued for this project will include special conditions requiring scows to come to a complete stop when disposing of the material at the disposal site. There will also be a time of year restriction included as a special condition which prohibits dredging during ecologically sensitive times of years.

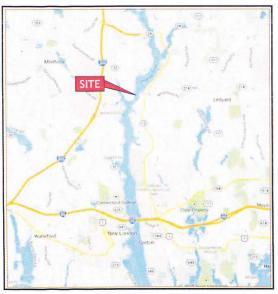
Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site

The Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site is frequently used for disposal of bottom sediments from various harbors along the eastern New York, northern Long Island, and central and western Connecticut coasts. An average of approximately 400,000 cubic yards of suitable sediments (suitability determined through case-by-case analyses) has been deposited at this site annually. The site has been monitored through the Corps' Disposal Area Monitoring System (DAMOS) program. DAMOS studies show that the site is a low energy environment such that sediment deposited at this location will remain within the site's boundaries. Levels of metals and organics in the sediments within the disposal site are generally above background levels, indicative of the industrial nature of the areas dredged that utilize the site. Areas outside the disposal site have not been found to be affected by sediment deposited within the site

MAINTENANCE DREDGING

for AMERICAS STYRENICS LLC, ALLYN'S POINT PLANT

GALES FERRY, CONNECTICUT Map 61, Block 2120, Lot 1761



SITE	VIC	INITY	MAP

		INDEX OF DRAWINGS		
SHEET	EET DRAWING TITLE			
1	G-01	TITLE, INDEX OF DRAWINGS, LOCATION AND VICINITY MAPS		
2	G-02	LEGEND, ABBREVIATIONS, AND NOTES		
3	C-01	OVERALL SITE PLAN (ALLYN'S POINT PLANT)		
4	C-02	GENERAL SITE PLAN (SHIP BERTH AND TURNING BASIN)		
5	C-03	DREDGING SECTIONS - 1		
6	C-04	DREDGING SECTIONS - 2		
7	C-05	DREDGING SECTIONS - 3		
8	C-06	DREDGING SECTIONS - 4		
9	C-07	DREDGING SECTIONS - 5		
10	C-08	DREDGING SECTIONS - 6		





SITE LOCATION MAP

PERMIT SUBMISSION NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION THIS DRAWING IS HALF SIZE



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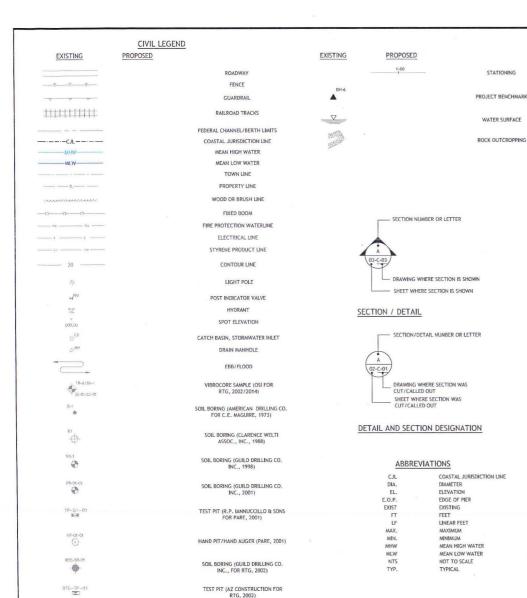
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MAINTENANCE DREDGING

AMERICAS STYRENICS LLC ALLYN'S POINT PLANT GALES FERRY, CT

TITLE,	IND	EX ()F	DRA	WI	NGS,
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	DWG No.	G-01
	DATE	FEB 2015
	PROJ No.	13103.02



GENERAL NOTES

- 1. THE SITE IS LOCATED IN THE THAMES RIVER IN GALES FERRY, CT.
- THE CONTRACTOR IS REFERRED TO MR. DAVID GEORGE/AMERICAS STYRENICS, LLC, FOR CONTRACTUAL, SCHEDULE, INSIGNATE, BONDING, AND PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS (TELEPHONE: 225-331-3226). THE CONTRACTOR IS REFERRED TO MS. SHAUNDA LAKE/AMERICAS STYRENICS, LLC, ALLIAYS POINT PLANT, FOR PERMITTING AND HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (TELEPHONE: 800-440-7862). FOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON THESE DRAWNIOS, THE CONTRACTOR IS REFERRED TO MR. JAM RUSSELL/RET (TELEPHONE: 401-488-3100).
- ALL PERSONNEL WORKING ON-SITE SHALL ATTEND AMERICAS STYRENICS, LLC, ALLYN'S POINT PLANT INDOCTRINATION/SAFETY TRAINING PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK ON THIS PROJECT.
- 4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE SOLELY AND COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITIONS OF THE JOB SITE, INCLUDING THE SAFETY OF ALL PRESONS AND PROPERTY DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK. SAFETY PROVISIONS SHALL COMPLY WITH OSHA, MARRICAS STYRENICS, LLC, AND OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. THESE REQUIREMENTS SHALL APPLY CONTINUOUSLY AND NOT BE LIMITED TO NORMAL MORPHISH. USURE

LAYOUT

- 1. THE HORIZONTAL CONTROL DATUM FOR THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN ADJUSTED TO THE CONNECTICUT STATE PLANE. COORDINATE SYSTEM, AND 3TO SUB 1-METER ACCURACY, POINTS 51-1 AND 57-2 ARE PK MIAIS THAT WERE STIN. THE EXISTING TIMBER PIER BY PARE ENGINEERING CORPORATION (PARE) ON NOVEMBER 13, 1998, HORIZONTAL CONTROL POINT 51-3 IS A PK MIAL SET IN THE PAYED ACCESS ROOA AND HORIZONTAL CONTROL. POINT STATE AND ACCURATE AND ACCURATE
- THE VERTICAL CONTROL DATUM FOR THIS PROJECT IS MLW, PROJECT BENCHMARK DH-6: DRILL HOLE IN A
 CONCRETE CURB AT THE AN OFF-LOADING STATION, ELEVATION = 7.97 FEET. PROJECT BENCHMARK DH-7: DRILL
 HOLE IN A CONCRETE FERLE POST BASE, ELEVATION = 6.78 FEET.
- THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PERFORMING ALL LAYOUT WORK FROM THE CONTROL
 MONUMENTATION PROVIDED (TABLE 1).

FLOOD ZONE

 THE PROPOSED WORK IS WITHIN FEMA FLOOD ZONE A, 100-YR FLOOD ELEVATION = 12 FT. NAVD 88 ACCORDING TO FIRM MAP COMMUNITY NUMBER 809157, REVISED 2011. THE THAMES RIVER IS TIDAL AND ITS ELEVATION IS AFFECTED BY STORM PRECIPITATION, SNOW MELT, AND OTHER FACTORS. ITS ELEVATION IS EXPECTED TO VARY DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS WORK.

AVAILABLE SUBSURFACE INFORMATION

- GEOTTECHNICAL INFORMATION, AS INCLUDED AND LOCATED ON THESE PRAWINGS, WAS OBTAINED FROM SOIL BORINGS AND TEST PITS COMPLETED BY THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY, ALLIYS POINT PLANT, BETWEEN ABOUT JUNE 1973 AND NOVEMBER 2002 AND BY AMERICAS STYRENICS, LLC, ALLIYAS POINT PLANT IN 2014 FOR USE IN THE COLLECTION OF GENERAL SITE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS. THIS INFORMATION IS INCLUDED AS PARTO THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.
- 2. IT IS INTENDED THAT THE SUBSUPFACE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS BE USED ONLY AS AN INDICATION OF POSSIBLE SUBSUPFACE CONDITIONS, AND THAT UPON THE CONTRACTORS REVIEW, FURTHER SUBSUPFACE EXPLORATIONS MAY BE WARRANTED, SUCH EXPLORATIONS SHALL BE PERFORMED AT THE CONTRACTORS EXPENSE.
- THE CONTRACTOR SHALL USE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AT ITS OWN RISK AND SHALL COMPLETELY HOLD HARMESS AMERICAS STYRENICS, LLC, ALLYNS POINT PLANT AND RTG FROM ALL CONSEQUENCES AND/OR FAULT ARISING FROM ITS USE.

		BLE 1 NTROL POINTS	
POINT ID	NORTHING	EASTING	ELEVATION (FT. MLW)
DH-6	723057.8035	1182607.2630	7.97
DH-7	722984.7465	1182544.5825	6.78

PERMIT SUBMISSION
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
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North Kingstown, Rhode Island 07:852
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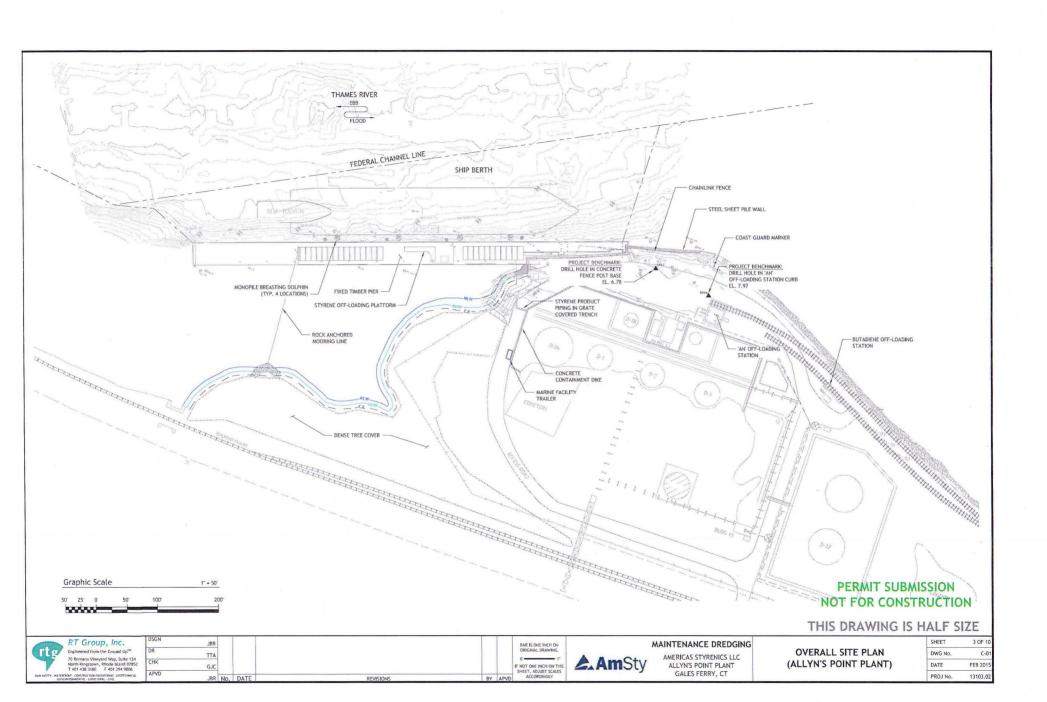
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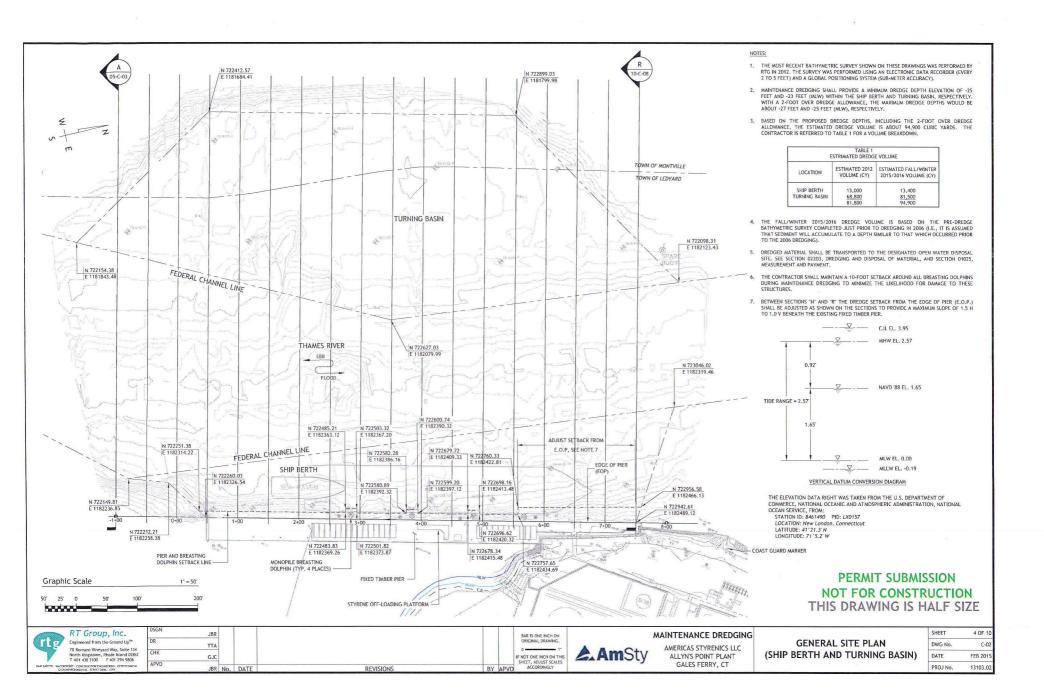
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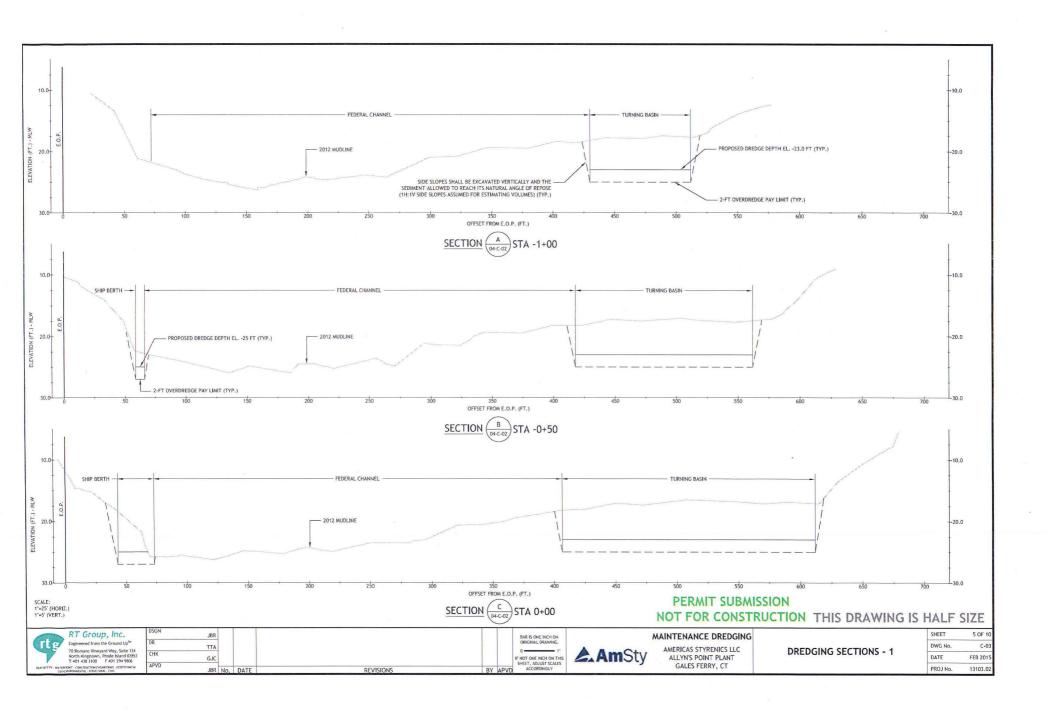
MAINTENANCE DREDGING

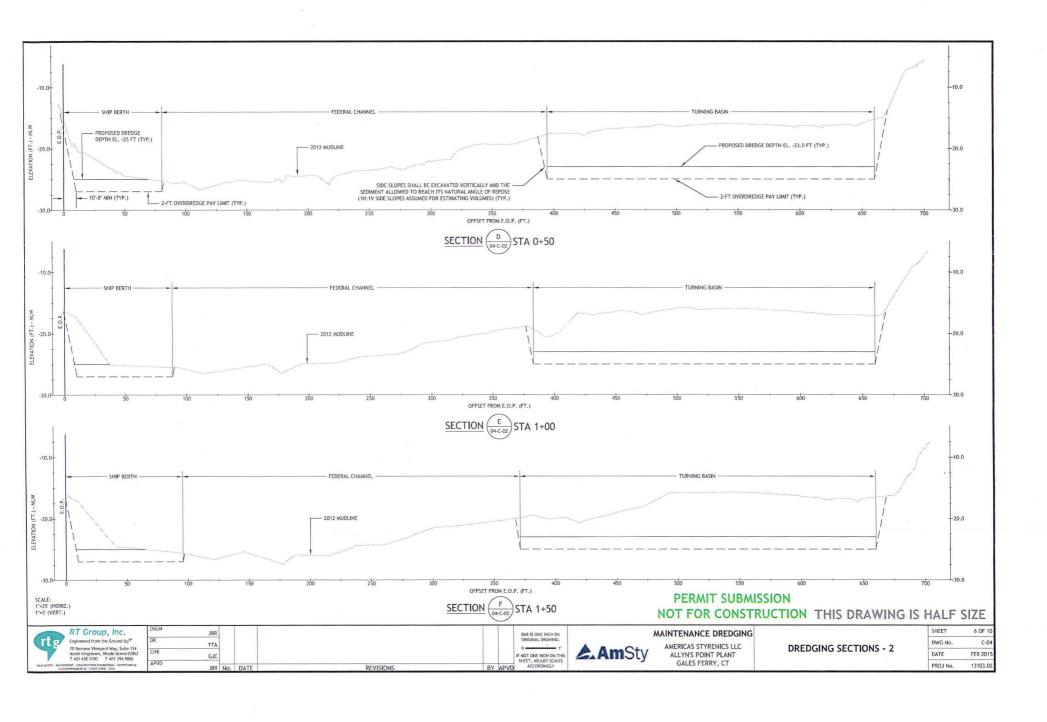
AMERICAS STYRENICS LLC ALLYN'S POINT PLANT GALES FERRY, CT LEGEND, ABBREVIATIONS, AND NOTES

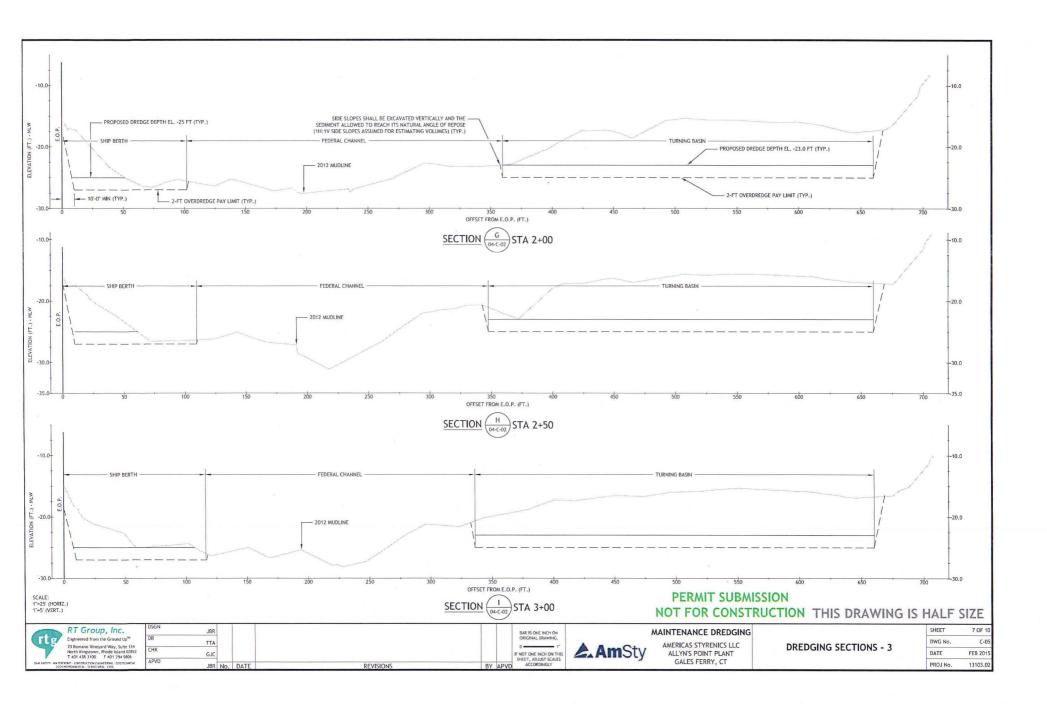
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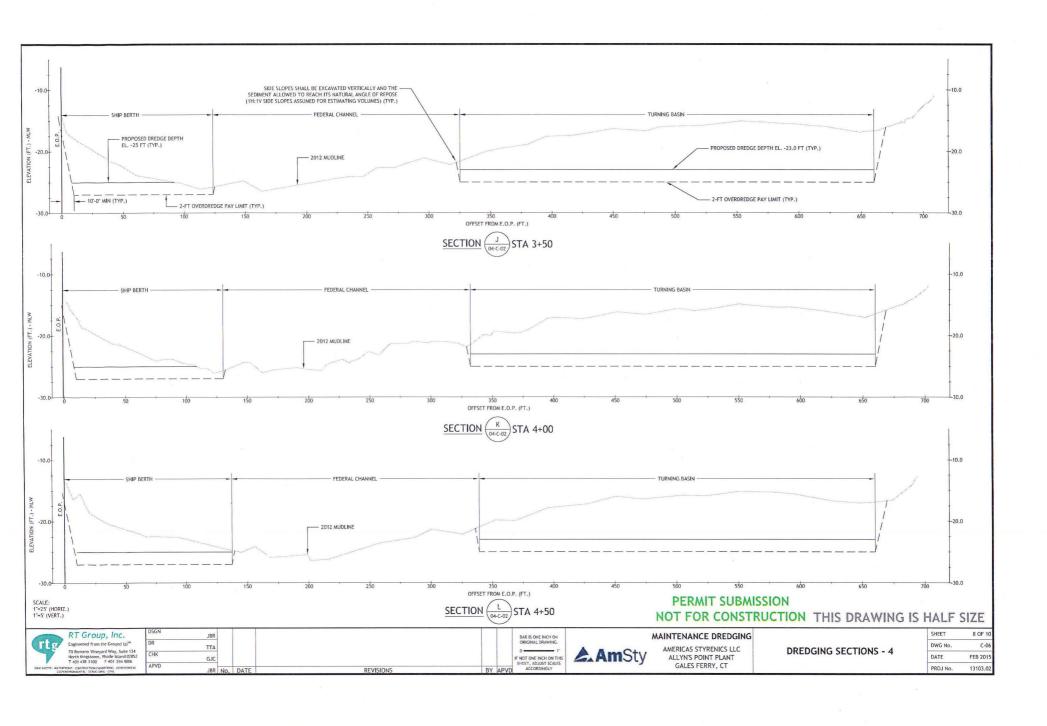


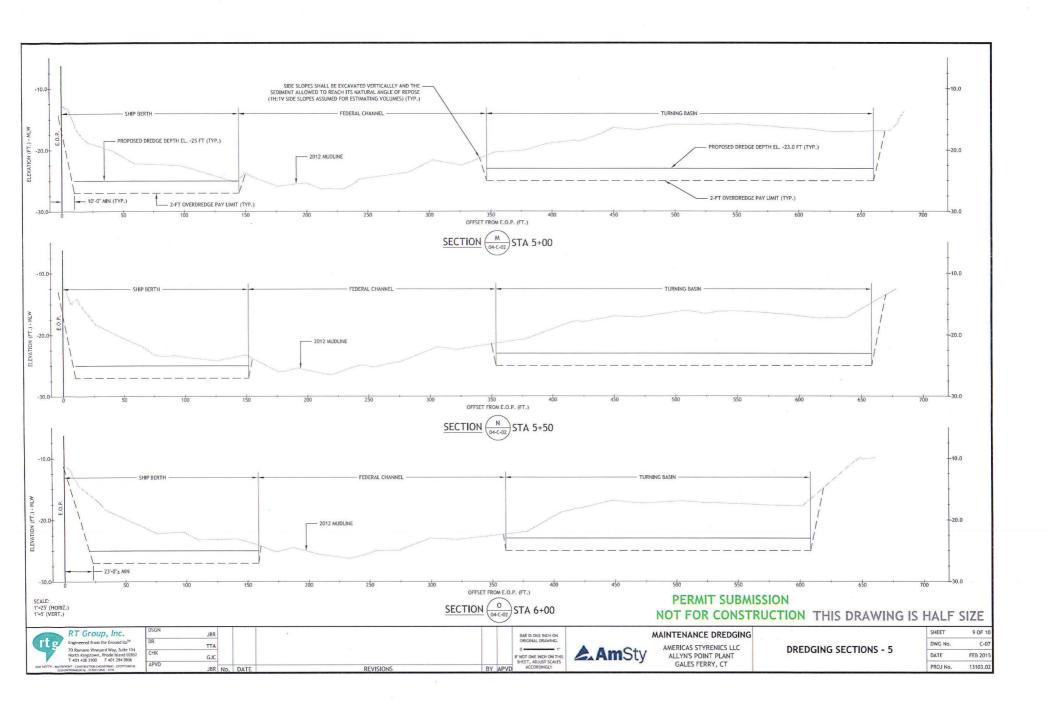


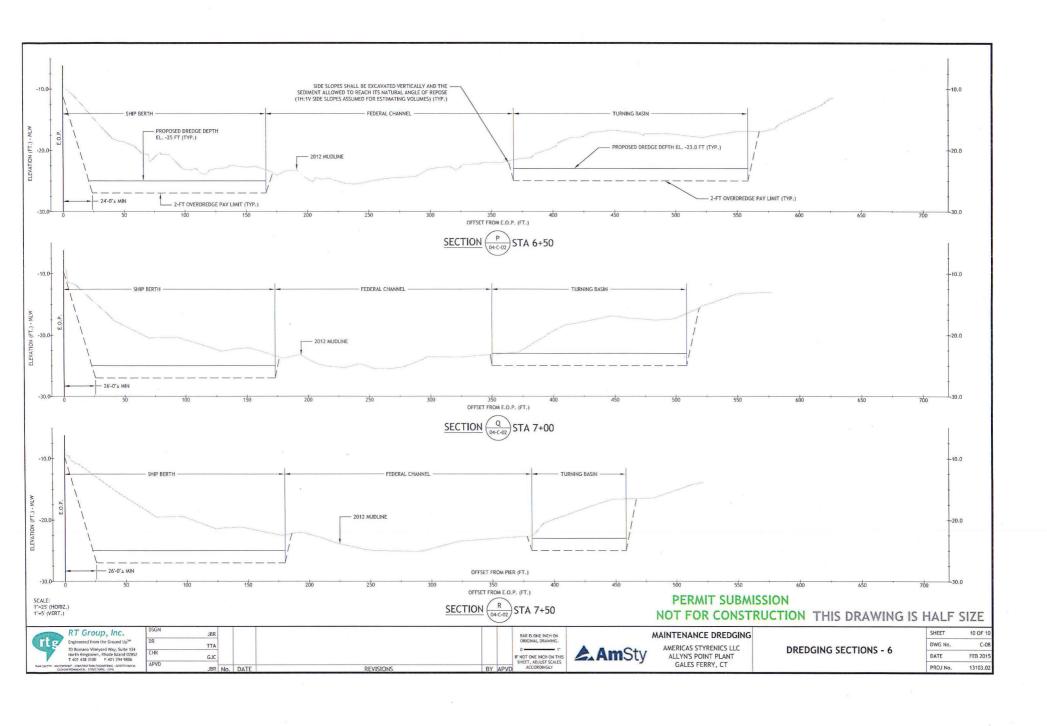












Summary of EFH Designation for the 10' x 10' square quadrant

_Boundary	North	East	South	West
Coordinate	41° 30.0' N	72° 00.0' W	41° 20.0' N	72° 10.0' W

<u>Square Description (i.e. habitat, landmarks, coastline markers):</u> The waters within the square within the Connecticut River estuary affecting the following: within New London Harbor from Long Island Sound on the south, north up to just north of Smith Cove within the Thames River. These waters affect the following: Greens Harbor, Hog Back, White Rock, Melton Ledge, Groton, CT., and New London CT., Winthrop Pt., Jacobs Rock, Bailey Pt., Mamacoke River, and Harrison, CT. Also, the waters within this square are found within the Poquonock River north of the Groton – New London Airport, and affect waters within northern Jordan Cove, Jordan Brook, and North Wing Brook, near Jordan CT.

Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)			X	X
pollock (Pollachius virens)			X	X
red hake (Urophycis chuss)	X	X	X	X
windowpane flounder (Scopthalmus aquosus)	X	X	X	X .
Atlantic sea herring (Clupea harengus)			X	X
monkfish (Lophius americanus)				X
bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix)			X	X
king mackerel (Scomberomorus cavalla)	X	X	X	X
Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus maculatus)	X	X	X	X
cobia (Rachycentron canadum)	X	X	X	X
sand tiger shark (Odontaspis taurus)		X		

Summary of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Designation 10 x 10 Square Coordinates: Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site

Boundary	North	East	South	West
Coordinate	41° 10.0' N	72° 50.0' W	41° 00.0' N	73° 00.0' W

<u>Square Description (i.e. habitat, landmarks, coastline markers):</u> Atlantic Ocean waters within the square within Long Island Sound affecting the following: one square south of the waters within the square south of New Haven, CT. In this square there is a dumping ground on the northeast corner.

_Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)			X	X
pollock (Pollachius virens)			X	X
whiting (Merluccius bilinearis)				X
red hake (Urophycis chuss)	X	X	X	X
winter flounder (Pleuronectes americanus)	X	X	X	X
windowpane flounder (Scopthalmus aquosus)	X	X	X	X
American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides)			X	X
Atlantic sea herring (Clupea harengus)			X	·X
bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix)			X	X
Atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus)	X	X	X	X
summer flounder (Paralicthys dentatus)			X	
scup (Stenotomus chrysops)	X	X	X	X
black sea bass (Centropristus striata)	n/a		X	
king mackerel (Scomberomorus cavalla)	X	X	X	X
Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus maculatus)	X	X	X	X
cobia (Rachycentron canadum)	X	X	X	X
sand tiger shark (Odontaspis taurus)		X		