

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District

696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Comment Period Begins: May 24, 2016 Comment Period Ends: June 24, 2016 File Number: NAE-2014-2192

In Replying Refer to: Barbara Newman

Phone: (978) 318-8515

Email: barbara.h.newman@usace.army.mil

The New England District Corps of Engineers has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION, LLC (Algonquin), 5400 WESTHEIMER COURT, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056-5310 c/o Terry Doyle, AGT, LLC, 890 Winter Street, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02451. The Atlantic Bridge Project (ABP) involves the discharge of approximately 1.5 acres of direct permanent and temporary fill and 0. 85 acres of secondary impacts to wetlands and waters within the Southeast Discharge Take-up and Relay section of the project in the City of Danbury, Connecticut and 0.07 acres of direct impacts for temporary fill in wetlands near the Salem Pike M & R (Metering and Regulating Station) section of the project in the City of Norwich, Connecticut.

<u>Project Purpose and Need</u> The project purpose and need is to expand Algonquin's existing pipeline system to provide gas transportation service of up to 132,705 dekatherms per day from its receipt point at Mahwah in Bergen County, New Jersey, to its distributors in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine.

Project Description

The work in the City of Danbury involves the removal (take-up) of approximately 2.3 miles of the existing 26-inch diameter mainline in Algonquin's right of way (ROW) and its replacement (relay) with a new 42-inch diameter pipeline, starting at the existing mainline valve 19 (milepost (MP) 0.0) and extending to the east, crossing Route 37 and East Hayestown Road before heading south for a short distance to a parallel configuration with the northern shoulder of Interstate 84. The take-up and relay segment runs in parallel with the northern edge of Interstate 84 crossing Great Plain Road and Rockwell Road before terminating at a new launcher and receiver site at MP 2.3 in Danbury (Southeast Discharge Take-up and Relay). The wetland and stream crossing areas are shown on the enclosed plans and the types and quantities of impacts are shown in Table 1R-1 enclosed.

Direct permanent and temporary impacts for the take up and relay portion of the Atlantic Bridge Project are mostly within Algonquin's ROW and involve the removal of wetland shrubs and soil, excavation of the old pipe and its replacement with a larger pipe, and the back filling of the trench with gravel and the excavated soil. For river crossings cofferdams will be used so that the work can be done in the dry. The top twelve inches of soil from the wetlands removed during trenching will be set aside to be reused and replaced back in the trenches as close to the existing topography as possible. Secondary impacts include the cutting of forested wetlands outside the ROW for construction vehicles and access. However, the trees will be cut flush to the ground, and the roots will not be removed. These areas will be allowed to return to forested wetland. No new ROW will be established.

The work in Norwich involves the replacement of the existing Salem Pike M&R Station, with a new station approx. 300 feet from the existing one, directly across Briar Hill Road on Algonquin's E-3 Lateral System in the City of Norwich, Connecticut. The parcel where the new M&R station will be located is owned by

Norwich Public Utilities, (NPU) which is one of the project shippers. Wetland resources have been identified along the northern and western edges of the proposed Salem Pike M & R Station. The impacts to wetlands and waters from both these projects are shown below in Table 1R-1 below.

The applicant proposes to use best management practices during all work. Post construction procedures will ensure reestablishment of wetland plant communities, and restoration of stream banks and streambed and invasive species management. On-site restoration for stream crossings would re-establish the original stream bed and bank contours, and mulch, jute thatching, or bonded fiber blankets would be installed on the stream banks to prevent erosion and encourage reestablishment of vegetation cover. Disturbed riparian areas would be revegetated with conservation grasses and legumes in accordance with the recommended wetland or upland seed mix. Where necessary, slope breakers (i.e., interceptor dikes) would be installed adjacent to stream banks to minimize the potential for erosion. Temporary sediment barriers, such as silt fence or straw bales, would be maintained across the ROW until a permanent vegetation cover is established. Within the construction ROW, a 25-foot wide riparian strip adjacent to water bodies will be allowed to revegetate with native plant species. If trench dewatering is necessary in or near a waterbody, the removed trench water will be discharged into an energy dissipation/sediment filtration device, such as a geotextile filter bag, or straw bale structure located away from the water's edge to prevent heavily silt-laden water from flowing into the waterbody in accordance with the Atlantic Bridge Project. For dry crossing, stream bed and bank contours will be re-established and stabilized prior to returning flow to the waterbody channel.

To compensate for unavoidable temporary and secondary impacts to waters of the United States as a result of the work, the applicant proposes a payment to the Audubon Connecticut In-Lieu Fee Program in Connecticut. The total amount of compensation being offered is \$40,740.93. Table 2R-1 enclosed, demonstrates how this amount was determined.

The work is shown on the enclosed sixteen (16) sheets with various titles related to the Atlantic Bridge Project under Spectra Energy Partners/Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, dated 2015 through 2017.

The Atlantic Bridge Project includes other work in New England and New York not covered in this public notice. The impacts to waters of the U.S. in New England have been identified above and are in Connecticut only; the impacts related to the New York project will be addressed independently. If you are interested in reviewing New York's application or public notice, please contact Melanie O'Meara at Melanie.S.O'Meara@usace.army.mil. Briefly, the other work includes 4.0 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline to replace existing 26-inch diameter pipeline in Westchester County, New York; a new 7,700 horsepower compressor station (Weymouth Compressor Station) in Norfolk County, Massachusetts; modifications to three existing compressor stations in Rockland County, New York and Windham and New Haven Counties, Connecticut; modifications to four existing metering and regulating stations and one regulator station in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine; and ancillary facilities associated with the new pipeline including mainline valves and pig launcher/receiver facilities.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as lead Federal agency

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead Federal agency for this project which is identified as Docket No. CP16-9000. As the lead agency, FERC has prepared an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA includes a review under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531) and Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA), as well as other applicable Federal regulations. The EA was issued on May 1, 2016 and is expecting comments by June 1, 2016. The EA with accompanying instructions for submitting comments to the FERC is available for review at http://www.ferc.gov. Using the "eLibrary"

link on the FERC website, select "General Search" from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and the FERC "Docket No." and follow the instructions. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676, or e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. The EA is also available for download at the Corps website by going to http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.

AUTHORITY

Pern	nits are required pursuant to:
	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

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.

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. By this Public Notice, we are requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency concur with our determination.

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.

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 Barbara Newman at (978) 318-8515.

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.

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	

RESPONSE TABLE 1R-1

Atlantic Bridge Waters of the U.S. Impact Analysis - New England District

				Direct Impac	ts within Construction (square feet)	Secondary Impacts <u>d</u> / (square feet)			
Facility, Resource ID and Name	Enter MP <u>a</u> /	Exit MP <u>a</u> /	Cowardin Class <u>b</u> /	Direct Impacts (e.g., trench, side casting within Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Temporary PEM Wetland Impacts (e.g., swamp mats, cofferdams within Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Temporary PEM Wetland Impacts (e.g., swamp mats, cofferdams <u>outside</u> Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Stream Crossing Area (e.g., tree canopy removal outside Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Forested (PFO) Wetlands (e.g., tree/shrub cutting outside Permanent Pipeline ROW)	
PIPELINE FACILITI	ES								
42-inch Southeast	Discharge	Take-up and	Relay (no new j	permanent ROW) - Dai	nbury, Connecticut				
C14-SL-1-S1 Padanaram Brook	0.51	0.51	R5	880.00	N/A	N/A	2,500.00	N/A	
Wetland C14-SL-2W	0.72	0.72	PFO1	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	17.26	
C14-SL-2-S1 UNT to Padanaram Brook	0.62	0.62	R6	0.00	N/A	N/A	13,194.03	N/A	
007.07	1.98	2.07	PEM1/PFO1	14,377.33	8,046.93	74.15	N/A	9,154.46	
Wetland C15-SL-4W	2.14	2.20	PEM1/PFO1	13,449.66	4,492.94	0.00	N/A	8,249.35	
	2.23	2.23	PEM1	599.88	706.92	0.00	N/A	0.00	
C14-SL-4-SA UNT to Still River	2.04	2.04	R6	0.00	N/A	N/A	1,799.08	N/A	
C14-SL-4-S1 UNT to Still River	2.05	2.05	R6	820.00	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	
C14-SL-4-SB UNT to Still River	2.06	2.06	R6	62.00	N/A	N/A	0.00	N/A	
Wetland B14-SL-5W	2.28	2.32	PEM1/PFO1	9,162.66	5,100.52	5,999.26	N/A	1,953.16	
Subtotal 42-inch So	outheast Dis	scharge Take	e-up and Relay	39,351.53	18,347.31	6,073.41	17,493.11	19,374.23	
ABOVEGROUND F	ACILITIES				1				
Salem Pike M&R St	tation - Nor	wich, Conne	ecticut			al.			
C14-SPM-2-W	N/A	N/A	PEM1	3,049.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Subtota	al Salem Pil	ke M&R Stati	on	3,049.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Subtotal for Pip	eline and i	Abovegroun	d Facilities	42,400.73	18,347.31	6,073.41	17,493.11	19,374.23	
TOTALS (Wetlands a	and Waterbo	odies)		66,821.45	36.867.34			

RESPONSE TABLE 1R-1

			Atlaı	ntic Bridge Waters of t	he U.S. Impact Analysi	s - New England Distri	ct	
				Direct Impac	ts within Construction (square feet)	Workspace <u>c</u> /	Secondary I (square	
Facility, Resource ID and Name	Enter MP <u>a</u> /	Exit MP <u>a</u> /	Cowardin Class <u>b</u> /	Direct Impacts (e.g., trench, side casting within Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Temporary PEM Wetland Impacts (e.g., swamp mats, cofferdams within Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Temporary PEM Wetland Impacts (e.g., swamp mats, cofferdams <u>outside</u> Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Stream Crossing Area (e.g., tree canopy removal <u>outside</u> Permanent Pipeline ROW)	Forested (PFO) Wetlands (e.g., tree/shrub cutting outside Permanent Pipeline ROW)

N/A = not applicable

b/ Cowardan Classifications:

PEM - Palustrine emergent wetland

PFO - Palustrine forested wetland

R5 – Perennial stream

R6 - Ephemeral stream

d/ Secondary impacts were calculated in areas where forest clearing is proposed in a wetland or within 25 feet of the stream bank(s).

a/ Mile Post where the wetland first intersects and finally exits the proposed construction ROW.

c/ Direct impacts occurring within the construction workspace for the Project include direct and temporary impacts to PEM wetlands within the permanent pipeline right-of-way ("ROW") and temporary impacts outside of the permanent pipeline ROW. Direct impacts occur when any discharge of fill is located in wetlands and waters, including the placement of excavated material and the trench where the redeposit of the excavated soil takes place (approximately 40 feet wide within the permanent ROW). Temporary impacts or temporary fill consist of swamp mats, cofferdams, and temporary access ways, if in wetland and waters (however, no access roads for the Atlantic Bridge Project will cross wetlands/waters). Impacts to PFO wetlands are not included in this column because there will be no permanent conversion to non-forested wetland.

RESPONSE TABLE 2R-1

Atlantic Bridge Proposed Mitigation - New England District

				Restoration proposed (e.g., seeding, planting, reversion or conversion)	Impacts outside Permanent Pipeline ROW (square feet)				Proposed In Lieu Fee f/	
Facility, Resource ID and Name	Enter MP <u>a</u> /				Temporary impacts to PEM/PSS wetland during construction	Temporal loss of wetland function due to cutting of PFO <u>c/</u>	Permanent Conversion <u>d</u> /	Impact to streams due to canopy removal el	Mitigation Multiplier (%)	Amount of Compensation (\$)
PIPELINE FAC										
42-inch South	east Disch	arge Take	-up and Rela	y - Danbury, Connecticu	t (Housatonic River	Service Area - \$7.5	6 per square foot)			
C14-SL-1-S1 Padanaram Brook	0.51	0.51	R5	Disturbed riparian areas will be seeded and allowed to revegetate and revert to pre-construction condition	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,500.00	20%	3,780.00
Wetland C14-SL-2W	0.72	0.72	PFO1	Topsoil segregation to restore native seedbank, seed with annual rye, disturbed wetlands will be allowed to revert back to pre-construction condition	0.00	17.26	0.00	N/A	15%	19.58
C14-SL-2-S1 UNT to Padanaram Brook	0.62	0.62	R6	Disturbed riparian areas will be seeded and allowed to revegetate and revert to pre-construction condition	N/A	N/A	N/A	13,194.03	10%	9,974.69
		PEM1 Topsoil segregation to	74.15	N/A	0.00	N/A	5%	28.03		
	1.98	2.07	PFO1	restore native seedbank, seed with	N/A	9,154.46	0.00	N/A	15%	10,381.16
Wetland C15-SL-4W			PEM1	annual rye, disturbed wetlands will be	0.00	N/A	0.00	N/A	5%	0.00
010 02 111	2.14	2.20	PFO1	allowed to revert back to pre-construction	N/A	8,249.35	0.00	N/A	15%	9,354.76
	2.23	2.23	PEM1	condition	0.00	N/A	0.00	N/A	5%	0.00
C14-SL-4-SA UNT to Still River	2.04	2.04	R6	Disturbed riparian areas will be seeded and allowed to revegetate and revert to pre-construction condition	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,799.08	20%	2,720.21
C14-SL-4-S1 UNT to Still River	2.05	2.05	R6	Disturbed riparian areas will be seeded and allowed to revegetate and revert to pre-construction condition	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	20%	0.00

RESPONSE TABLE 2R-1

Atlantic Bridge Proposed Mitigation - New England District

	3			Restoration	Impacts	outside Permanent	Proposed In Lieu Fee f/											
Facility, Resource ID and Name	Enter MP <u>a</u> /	Exit MP <u>a</u> /	Cowardin Class <u>b</u> /	proposed (e.g., seeding, planting, reversion or conversion)	Temporary impacts to PEM/PSS wetland during construction	Temporal loss of wetland function due to cutting of PFO <u>c/</u>	Permanent Conversion <u>d</u> /	Impact to streams due to canopy removal <u>e</u> /	Mitigation Multiplier (%)	Amount of Compensation (\$)								
C14-SL-4-SB UNT to Still River	2.06	2.06	R6	Disturbed riparian areas will be seeded and allowed to revegetate and revert to pre-construction condition	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	20%	0.00								
Wetland	2.28	28 2.32									PEM1	Topsoil segregation to restore native seedbank, seed with	5,999.26	N/A	0.00	N/A	5%	2,267.62
B14-SL-5W			DEO1	annual rye, disturbed wetlands will be allowed to revert back to pre-construction condition	N/A	1,953.16	0.00	N/A	15%	2214.88								
Subtot	al 42-inch	Southeast	Discharge Tal	e-up and Relay	6,073.41	19,374.23	0.00	17,493.11	N/A	\$40,740.93								
ABOVEGROUP	ND FACILI	TIES																
Salem Pike M&	R Station	- Norwich	n, Connecticu	(Thames River Service	Area - \$7.97 per squ	uare foot)												
C14-SPM-2- W	N/A	N/A	PEM1	Topsoil segregation to restore native seedbank, seed with annual rye, disturbed wetlands will be allowed to revert back to pre-construction condition	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	0	0.00								
	Subt	otal Salem	Pike M&R Sta	tion	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00								
		TO	TALS		6,073.41	19,374.23	0.00	17,493.11	N/A	\$40,740.93								

N/A = not applicable

b/ Cowardan Classifications:

PEM - Palustrine emergent wetland

PFO - Palustrine forested wetland

R5 - Perennial stream

R6 - Ephemeral stream

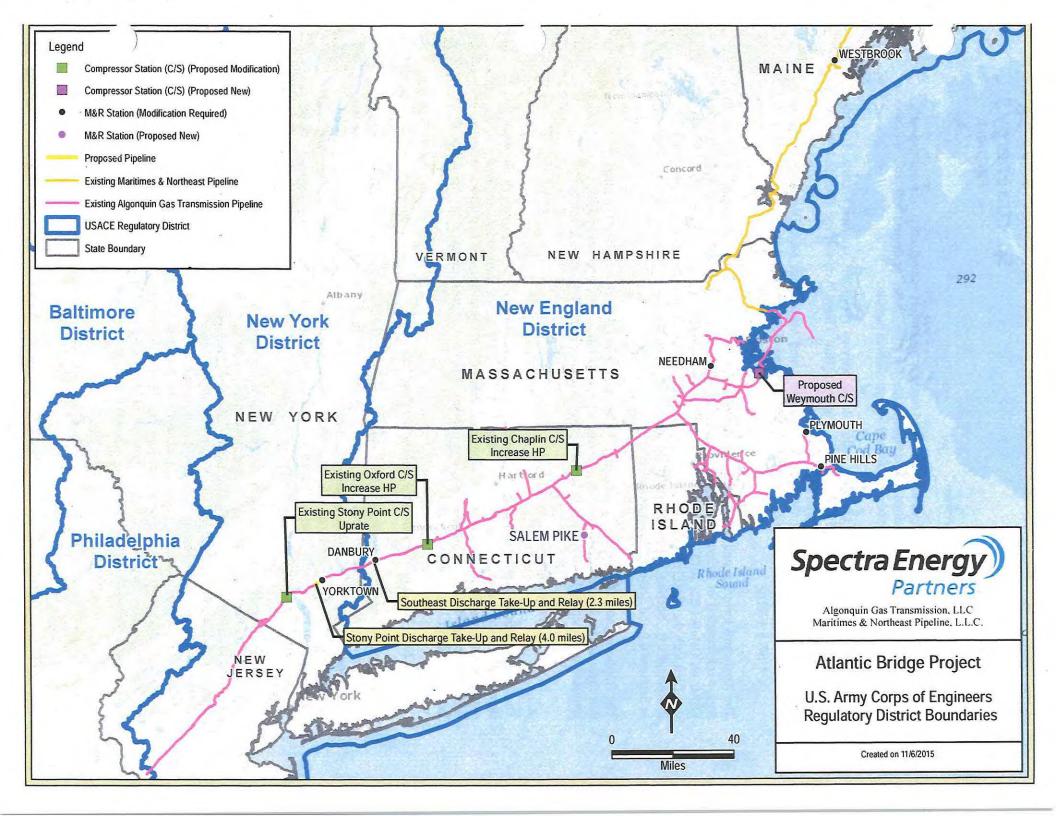
d/ Permanent Conversion occurs when forested wetlands are cleared and not allowed to revegetate with mature trees. There will be no new permanent ROW or permanent conversion of wetland cover types as a result of the Atlantic Bridge Project.

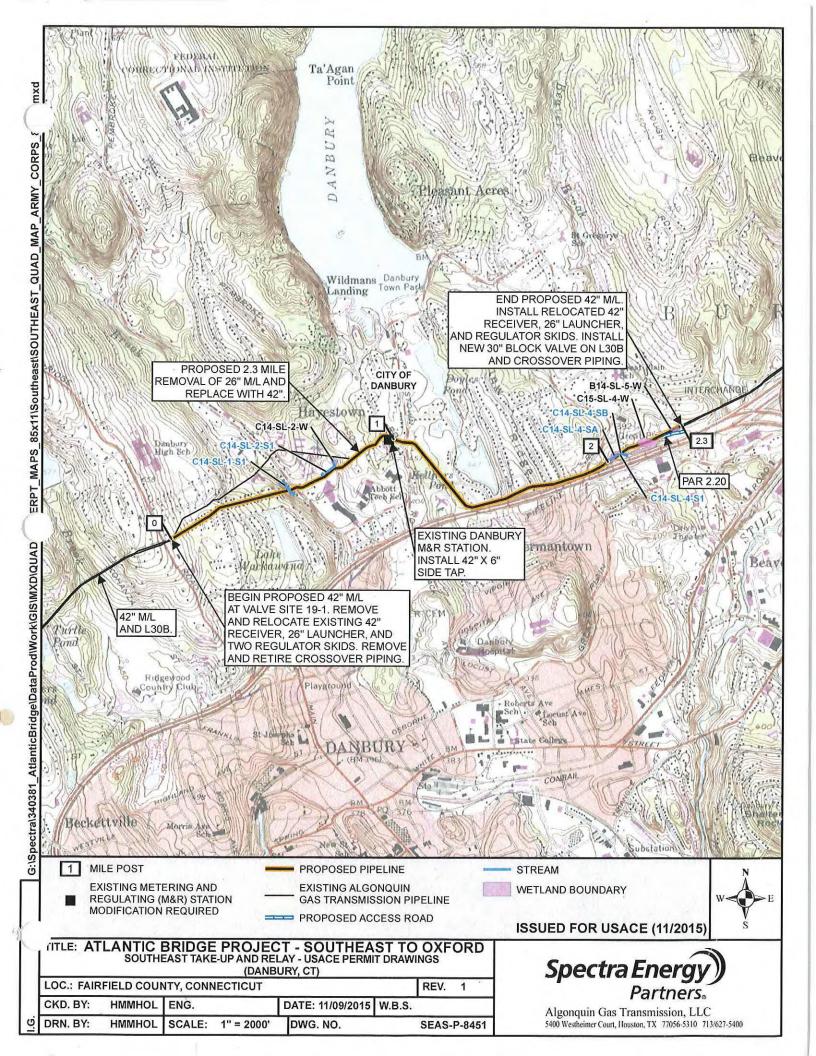
e/ Secondary stream impacts were calculated in areas where forest clearing is proposed within 25 feet of a stream bank(s).

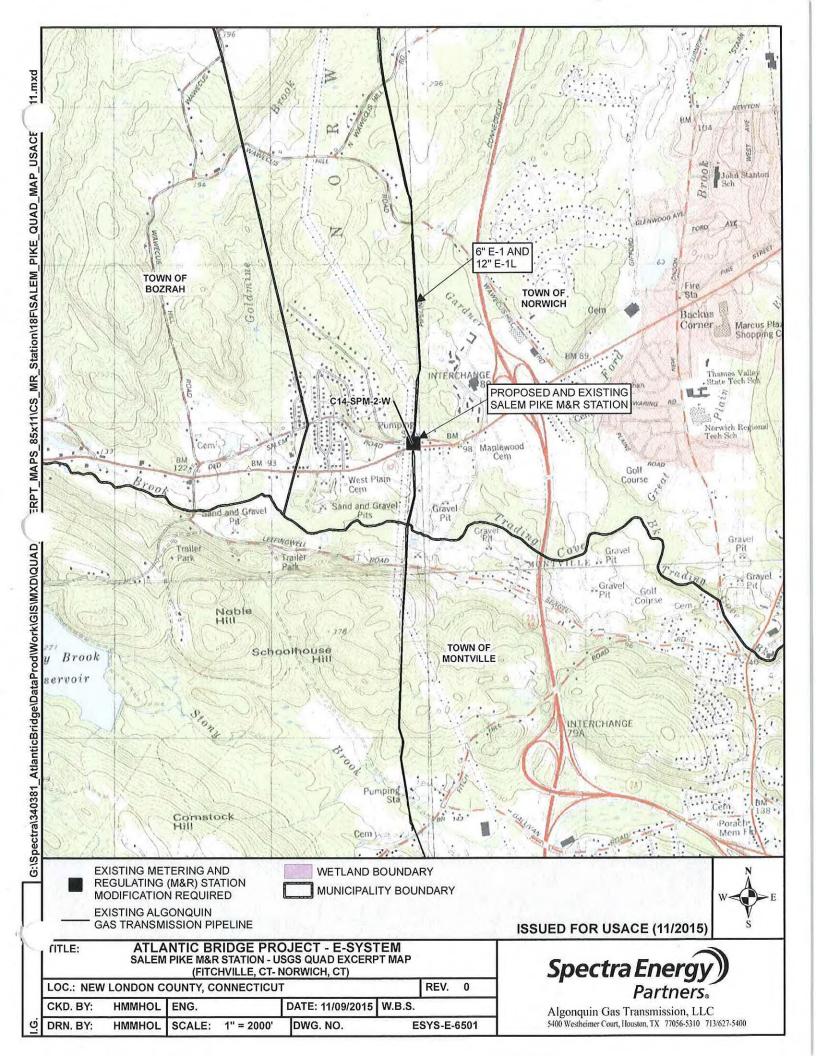
a/ Mile Post where the wetland first intersects and finally exits the proposed construction ROW.

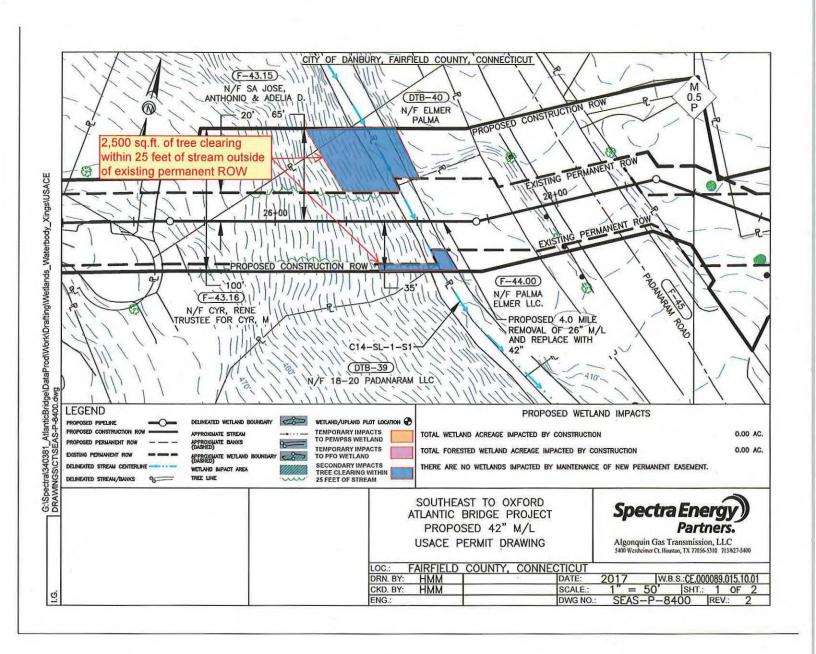
c/ Clearing forested wetland vegetation in temporary construction workspaces will result in a temporal loss of wetland function. PFO wetland areas located outside of the existing permanent ROW but within the temporary workspace will be restored in accordance with the Atlantic Bridge Project E&SCP. Although these areas will remain in a wetland state, there is a temporal time lag associated with these areas regaining their wetland canopy functions.

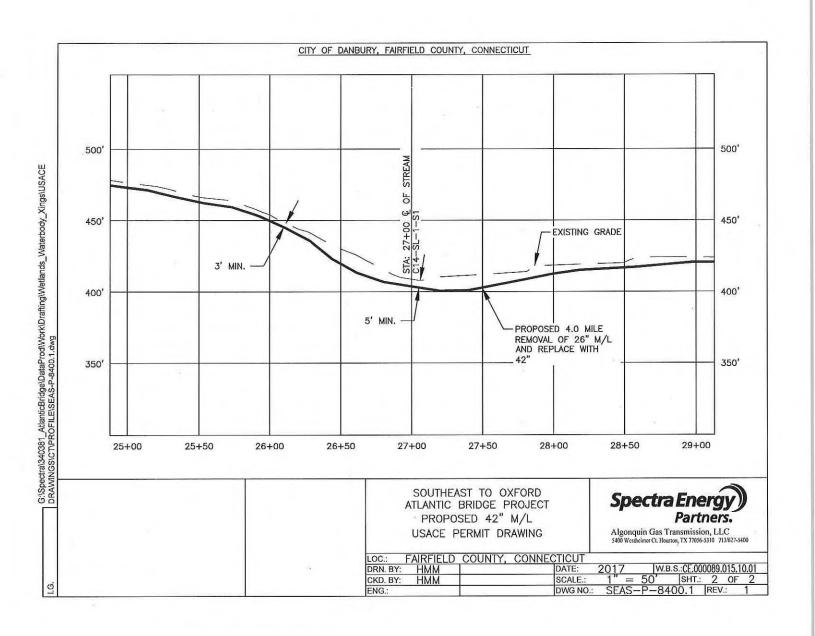
f/ Proposed In Lieu Fee mitigation multiplier and compensation amount have been determined based on information from the USACE mitigation guidance provided by the USACE in their December 17, 2015 letter regarding the Atlantic Bridge Project.

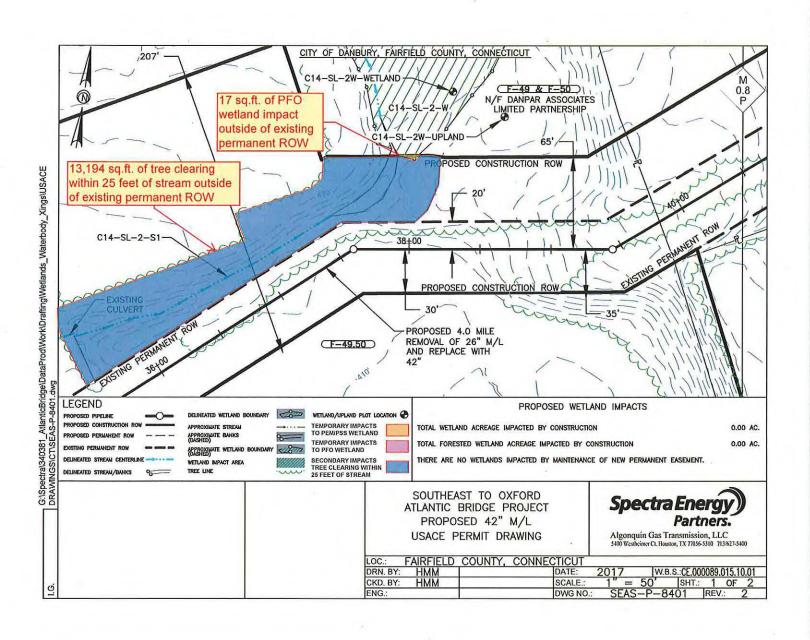


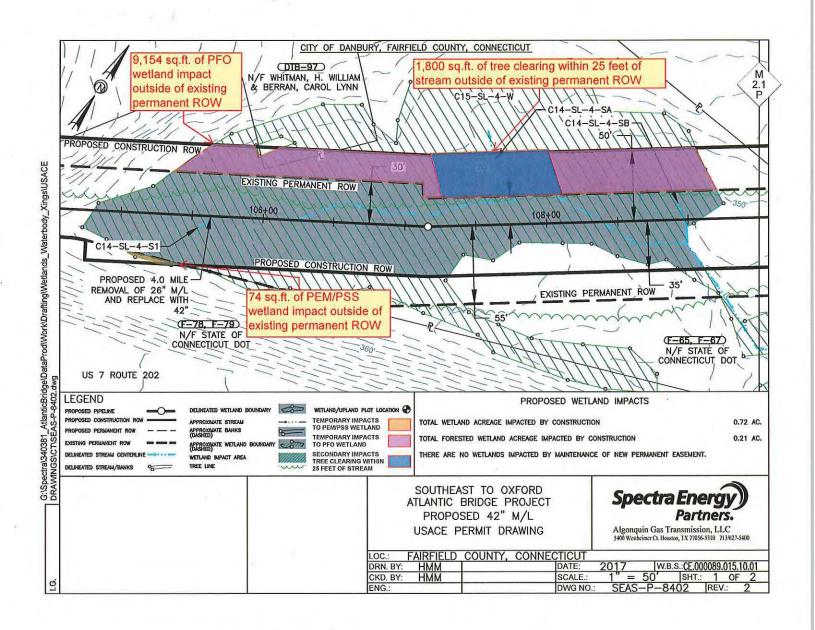


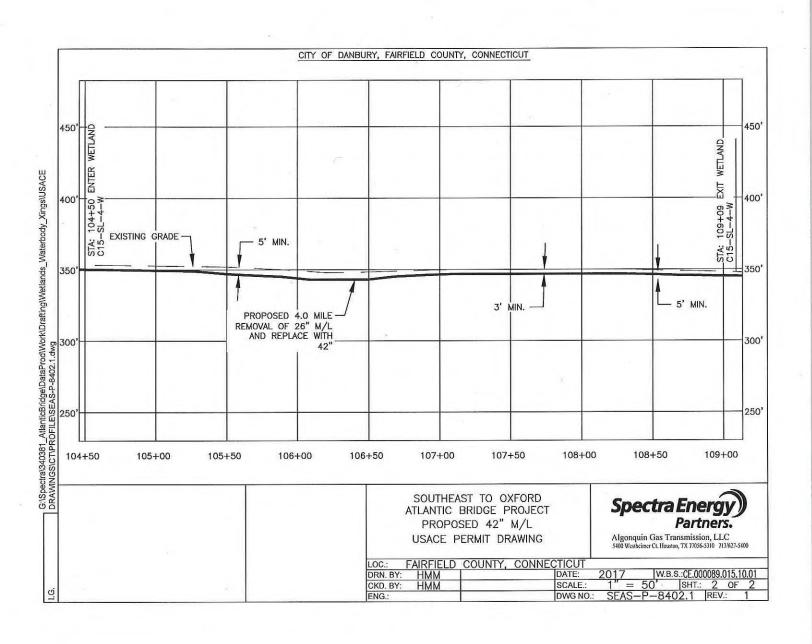


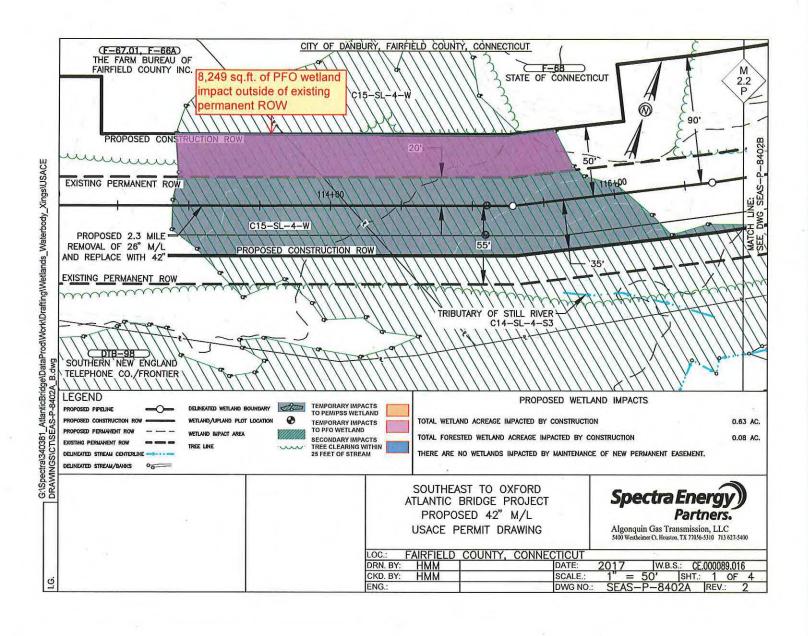


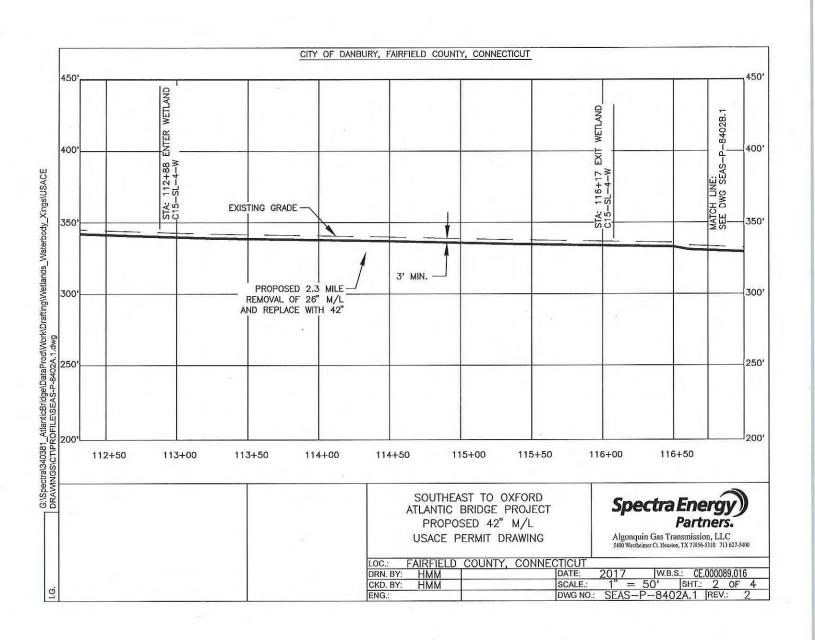


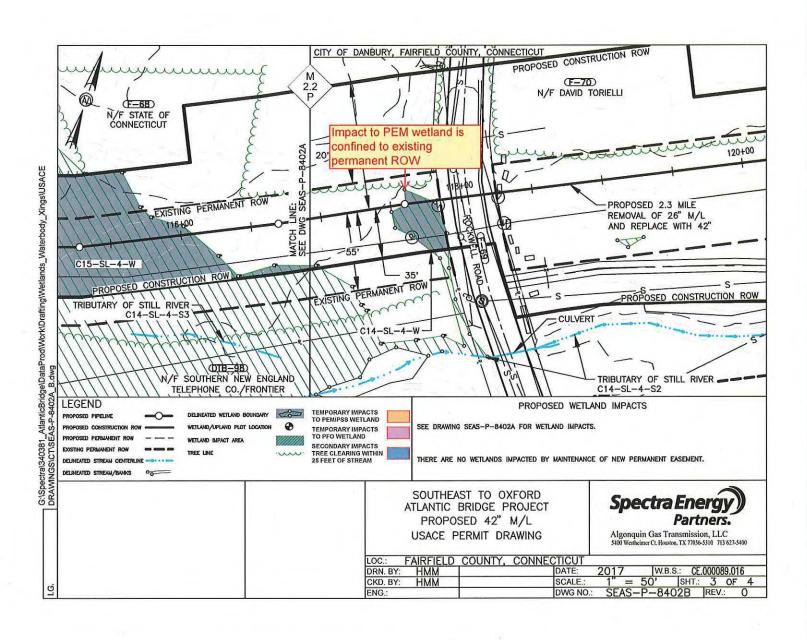


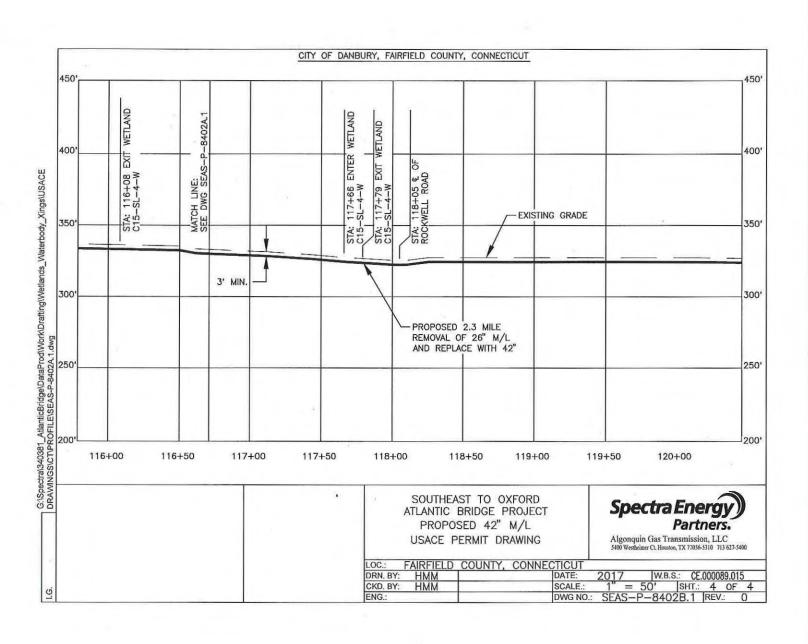


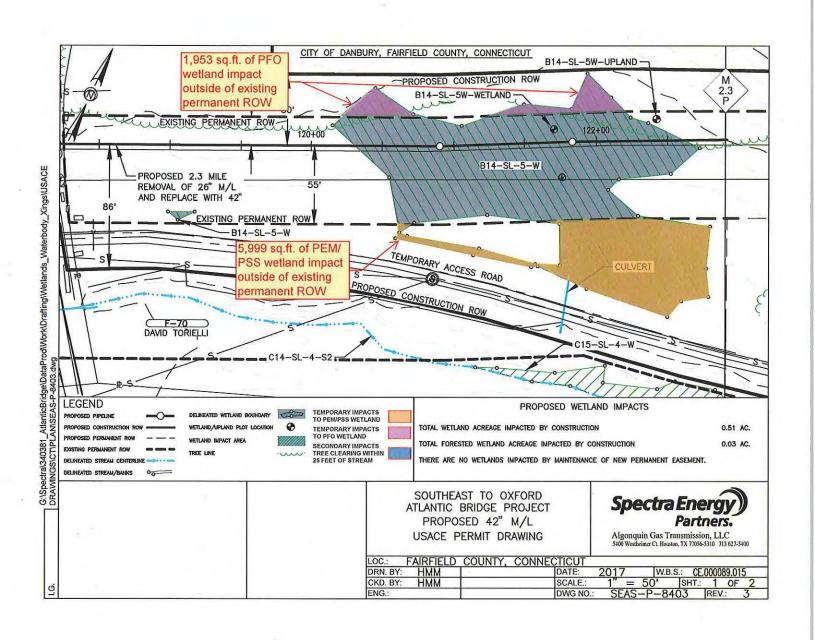


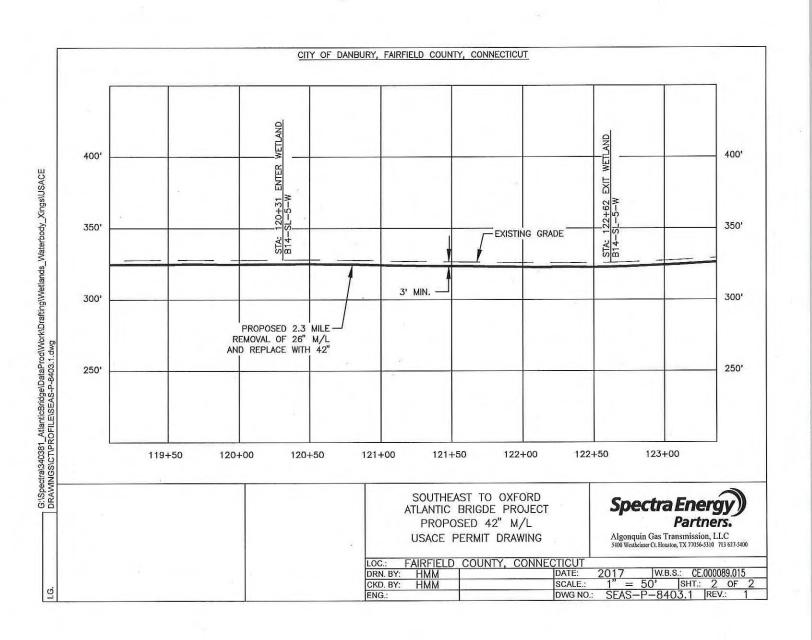


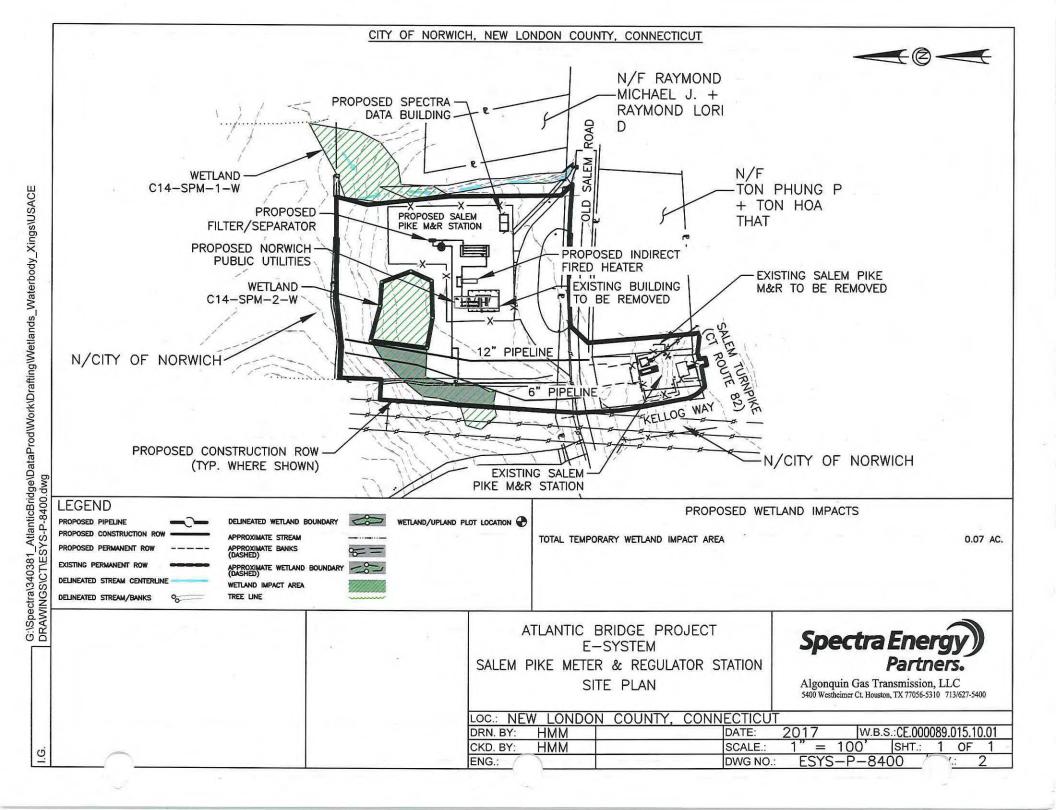


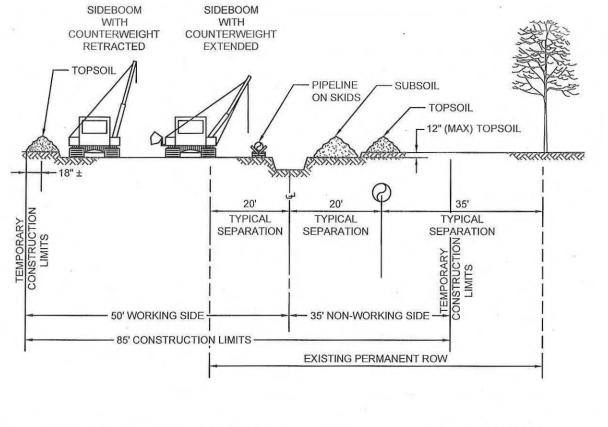


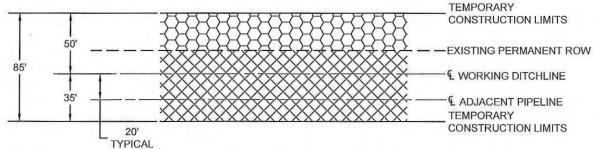












NOTES:

- ALTHOUGH THE DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE TYPICAL, SOME VARIATIONS MAY EXIST DUE TO SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND DIAMETER OF PROPOSED PIPELINE. UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED ON THE ALIGNMENT SHEETS, THE WIDTH OF THE CONSTRUCTION RIGHT-OF-WAY SHALL BE 85 FEET.
- 2. TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL SHALL BE SEGREGATED IN ALL RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND IN AGRICULTURAL LANDS, PASTURES, HAYFIELDS, AND OTHER AREAS AT LANDOWNER'S OR LAND MANAGING AGENCY'S REQUEST IF THE CONSTRUCTION ROW IS WIDER THAN 30 FEET.
- 3. WHERE TOPSOIL SEGREGATION IS REQUIRED, MAINTAIN SEPARATION OF SALVAGED TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL THROUGHOUT ALL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.
- 4. IN WETLANDS, SEGREGATE THE TOP 12 INCHES (MAX) OF TOPSOIL WITHIN THE DITCHLINE, EXCEPT IN AREAS WHERE STANDING WATER IS PRESENT OR SOILS ARE SATURATED OR FROZEN.

TYPICAL MAINLINE 85' REDUCED CONSTRUCTION WIDTH THROUGH WETLANDS	FIGURE #6	
(MULTIPLE LINE SYSTEM - TAKE UP & RELAY) PROPOSED PIPELINE NORTH SIDE	ÈS-0006	REV.