



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

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Comment Period Begins:** November 25, 2014  
**Comment Period Ends:** December 26, 2014  
**File Number:** NAE-2014-261  
**In Reply Refer To:** Lindsay Flieger  
**Phone:** (978) 318-8656  
**E-mail:** lindsay.flieger@usace.army.mil

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

**APPLICANT** The Metropolitan District (MDC)

**ACTIVITY** To construct and maintain a South Hartford sewer conveyance and storage tunnel in order to reduce the number of overflow events discharging into Wethersfield Cove and the Connecticut River. A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

## **WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK**

This work is proposed in wetlands adjacent to the Connecticut River at 255 Brainard Road, in Hartford, Connecticut. The proposed location on the USGS Hartford South quadrangle sheet is at Lat/Long coordinates 41.73127 N and -72.66079 E.

## **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).

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

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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.

**SECTION 106 COORDINATION**

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 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.



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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 Lindsay Flieger at (978) 318-8656, (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, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at [bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE**

The work includes the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States for the construction of the South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel (SHCST) in order to reduce overflows into the Connecticut River and its adjacent tributaries. The SHCST will eliminate discharges from the West Hartford and Newington Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and reduce discharges from the Franklin Avenue Area Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). The work will be conducted in wetlands adjacent to Wethersfield Cove and the Connecticut River at 255 Brainard Rd in South Hartford, Connecticut.

The 18-foot diameter tunnel will be located approximately 200' below grade in subsurface bedrock and will run approximately 4 miles through Hartford, before terminating at the Hartford Water Pollution Control Facility (HWPCF). Consolidation conduits, located mainly in the existing streets, will intercept overflows and divert them to one of the seven drop shafts leading down to the storage tunnel. The tunnel's main launch shaft site will be located adjacent to the HWPCF. All spoils will be removed from the tunnel at this point and will be pumped into the adjacent facility. The only impacts to wetlands will be at this main launch site.

This project will directly impact a total of 20,740 square feet of palustrine forested and palustrine emergent federal wetlands. Work includes constructing permanent bio swales, storm water retention areas, access roads, electrical infrastructure, an equipment removal and personnel/utility shaft, and a permanent head works pump house that will pump the wastewater from the storage tunnel and convey it directly to the HWPCF.

The project will also require 45,794 square feet (1.05 acres) of temporary impacts. These impacts include the creation of staging areas to support the construction of the deep rock tunnel, electrical duct bank work, temporary water handling measures, work pads and temporary access roads.

The work is described on the enclosed plans entitled "The South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel," on 20 sheets, and dated "10/18/2014."

## **MITIGATION**

This project will comply with the consent decrees from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) to eliminate/reduce overflows from SSOs and CSOs into nearby waters.

The tunnel will not impact federal wetland resources along the tunnel alignment except at the main launch shaft site. It is necessary for the main launch shaft site to be located adjacent to the HWPCF in order to function properly. Therefore, some impacts to wetlands are unavoidable. However, the construction site has been designed to circumvent as much of the wetlands as possible.

Mitigation for the 20,740 square feet of permanent impacts will be in the form of an In-Lieu Fee contribution to the Connecticut Audubon Society. Mitigation for the 1.05 acres of temporary impacts will be a mixture of in-kind wetland re-establishment and restoration of historically filled wetlands (currently uplands) as shown on plan sheets 8-20.



**South Hartford  
Conveyance  
and Storage Tunnel**

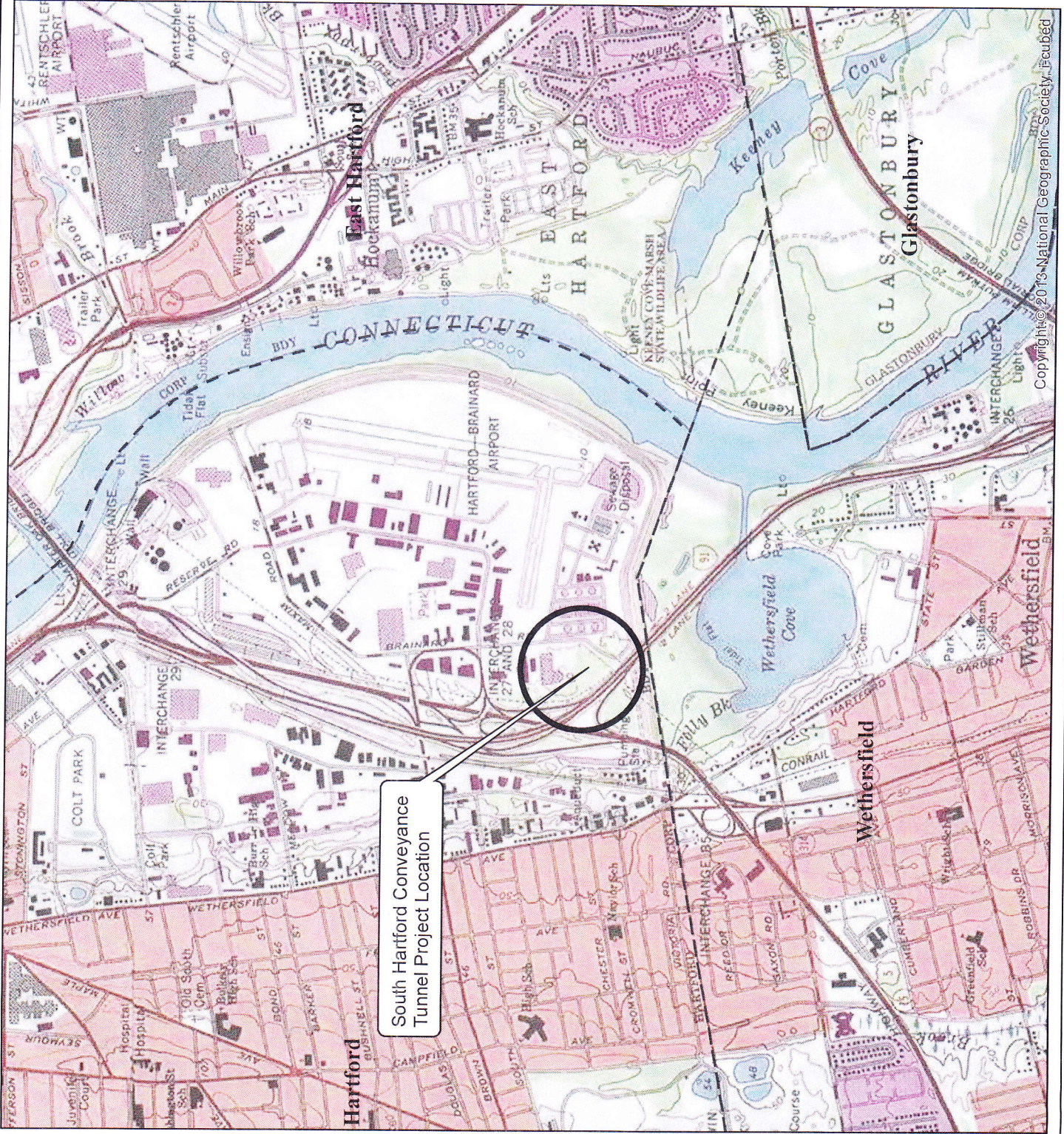
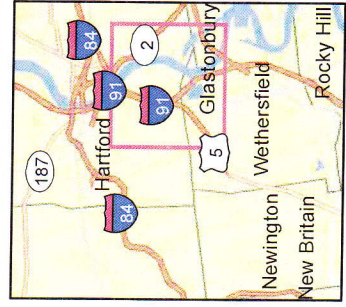
**Figure 1  
Project Location**



Project Location

1:24,000





USGS Quadrangle  
Hartford South



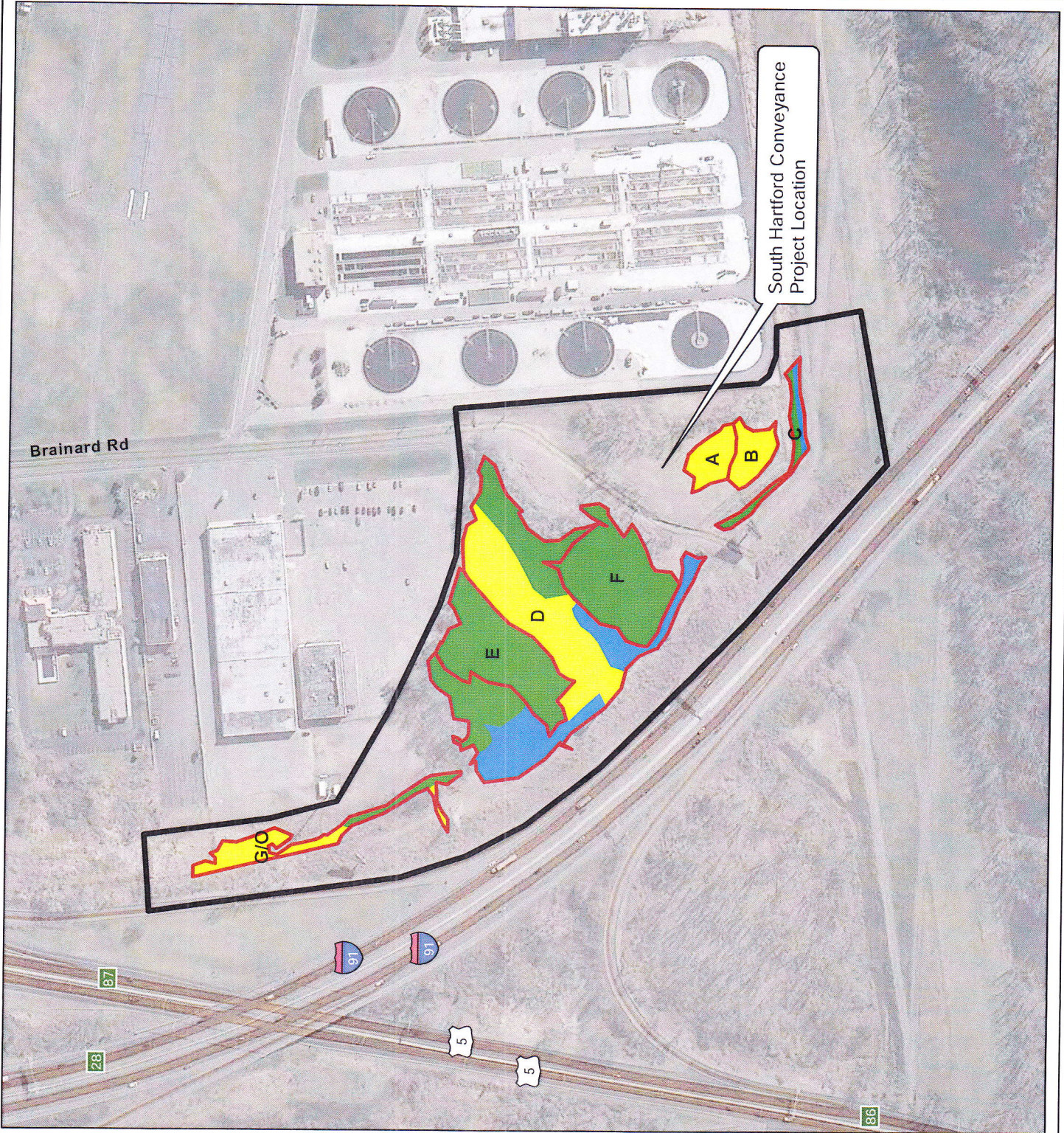
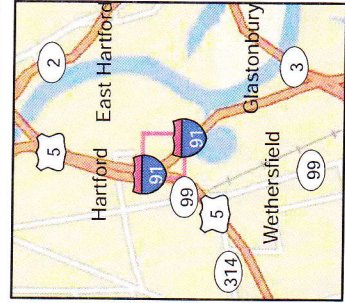
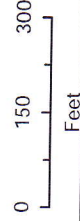


# South Hartford Conveyance and Storage Tunnel

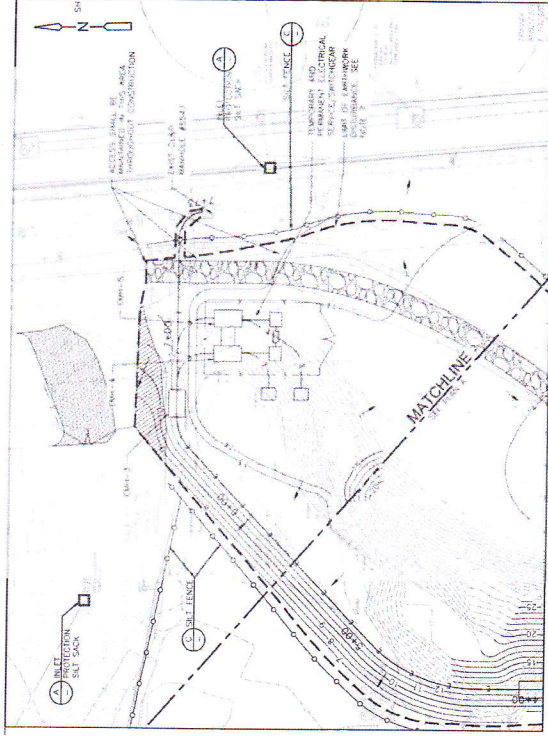
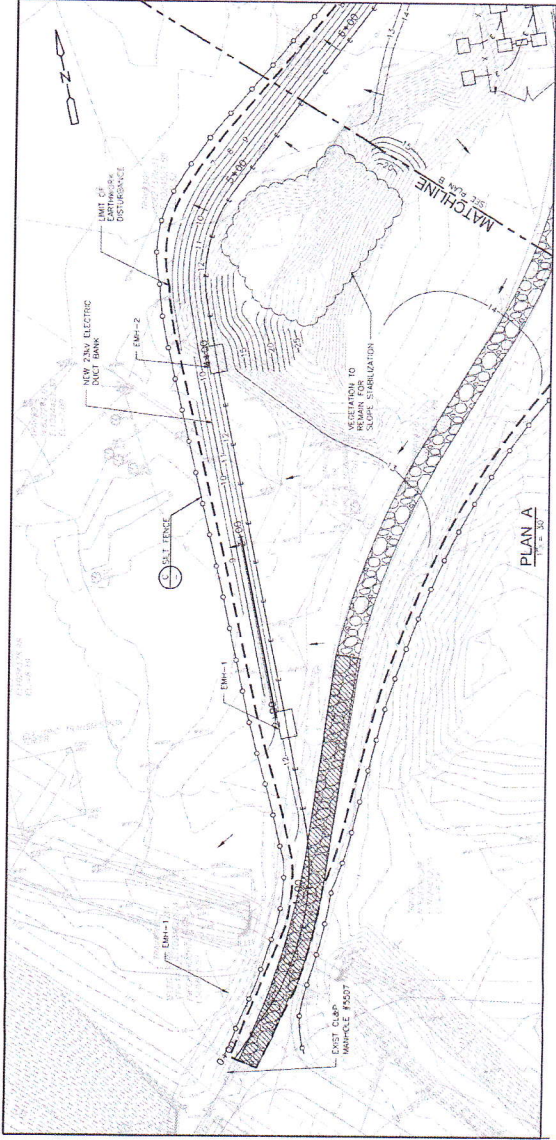
Figure 3  
Existing Wetland Types

-  Project Location
-  PEM Wetland Classification
-  PFO Wetland Classification
-  PSS Wetland Classification
-  Delineated Wetland Boundary

USGS Quadrangle  
Hartford South







NOTE:  
 1. WORK TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE SECTION 408 PERMIT GRANTED



**AECOM**  
 in association with  
**BLACK & VEATCH**

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT  
 SOUTH HARTFORD CONVEYANCE AND STORAGE TUNNEL  
 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

REFERENCE:

SCALE:

DATE:

FIGURE 4