
PUBLIC NOTICE



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

Comment Period Begins: April 21, 2015
Comment Period Ends: May 20, 2015
File Number: NAE-2012-01538
In Reply Refer To: Lindsey Lefebvre
Phone: (978) 318-8295
E-mail: Lindsey.E.Lefebvre@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from Norwood Municipal Light Department, 206 Central Street, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062. This work is proposed in wetlands bordering Neponset River at a utility transmission corridor between Bullard Street and Dean Street, Sharon and Norwood, Massachusetts. The site coordinates are: Latitude 42.166998 Longitude - 71.188316.

The work involves the discharge of .018 acres of permanent fill, 7.12 acres of temporary fill, and 6.26 acres of secondary impacts to waters of the United States associated with the replacement of two, aged 115-kV transmission lines that provide electricity to the Town of Norwood. Because this right of way (ROW) was chosen in the late 1960's prior to the Clean Water Act of 1972, the ROW contains significant areas of wetland that will be impacted during construction activities. The two transmission lines are supported by H-frame wooden transmission towers which are 45 years old and nearing the end of their useful service. It is important that these structures be replaced before any fail which could result in significant interruption in electric transmission.

The permanent fill, .018 acres (812 square feet), is associated with the placement of new utility structures in wetland areas. Each wooden utility pole will result in approximately 14 square feet of permanent fill, which is estimated based on the area of each four foot diameter caisson structure within which a wooden pole will be placed. To facilitate temporary access during the construction period, swamp mats will be placed within wetland areas for access to new structure locations, equipment staging, and conductor stringing areas. The total temporary disturbance associated with the placement of swamp mats includes 7.12 acres. Following the completion of work, the swamp mats will be removed and the area will be re-graded as necessary to restore to preconstruction conditions. After re-grading, the disturbed soils will be reseeded as necessary with a wetland seed mix or will be allowed to re-vegetate naturally. Secondary impacts for this project include permanently converting 6.26 acres of forested wetland to scrub/shrub and/or emergent wetland types. These impacts are associated with the removal of trees along an approximately 50-foot strip of land adjacent to the presently maintained ROW. To minimize soil disturbance and subsequent erosion, trees will be cut as close to the ground and stumps and roots will remain in place.

The work is shown on the attached plans entitled "Norwood Municipal Light Department (Existing/Proposed Environmental Conditions) Norwood/Sharon, MA, ACOE Plan Set," on 18 sheets, and dated "September 19, 2014."

In developing plans for replacing the utility transmission lines, Norwood Municipal Light Department considered ways to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the United States. Structure and access roads will be carefully placed so wetland impacts will either be avoided or minimized. Where wetland impacts cannot be

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FILE NO. NAE-2012-01538

avoided, Best Management Practices, such as swamp mats, erosion control barriers, and wetland preservation will be employed to limit negative impacts to wetland resources.

The Walker Property in Norwood, Massachusetts has been selected for preservation as the principal means of compensatory mitigation for unavoidable temporary and permanent wetland impacts. The Walker Property is a 83.4 acre parcel that is predominately forested wetland. The parcel is situated between two properties already in conservation (University Avenue Conservation Land to the east and the Neponset River Reservation to the west) therefore creating one, large contiguous preservation area. It is also a part of the Fowl Meadow Ponkaboag Bog Area of Critical Environmental Concern which is designed to protect the quantity and quality of the region's water supply and to prevent the loss of valuable flood storage area.

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 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 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 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:

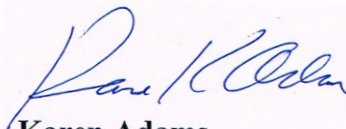
- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

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 Lindsey Lefebvre at (978) 318-8295, (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.



Karen Adams
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 betтина.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,

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696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____



Legend

-  Project Alignment
-  Town Boundaries

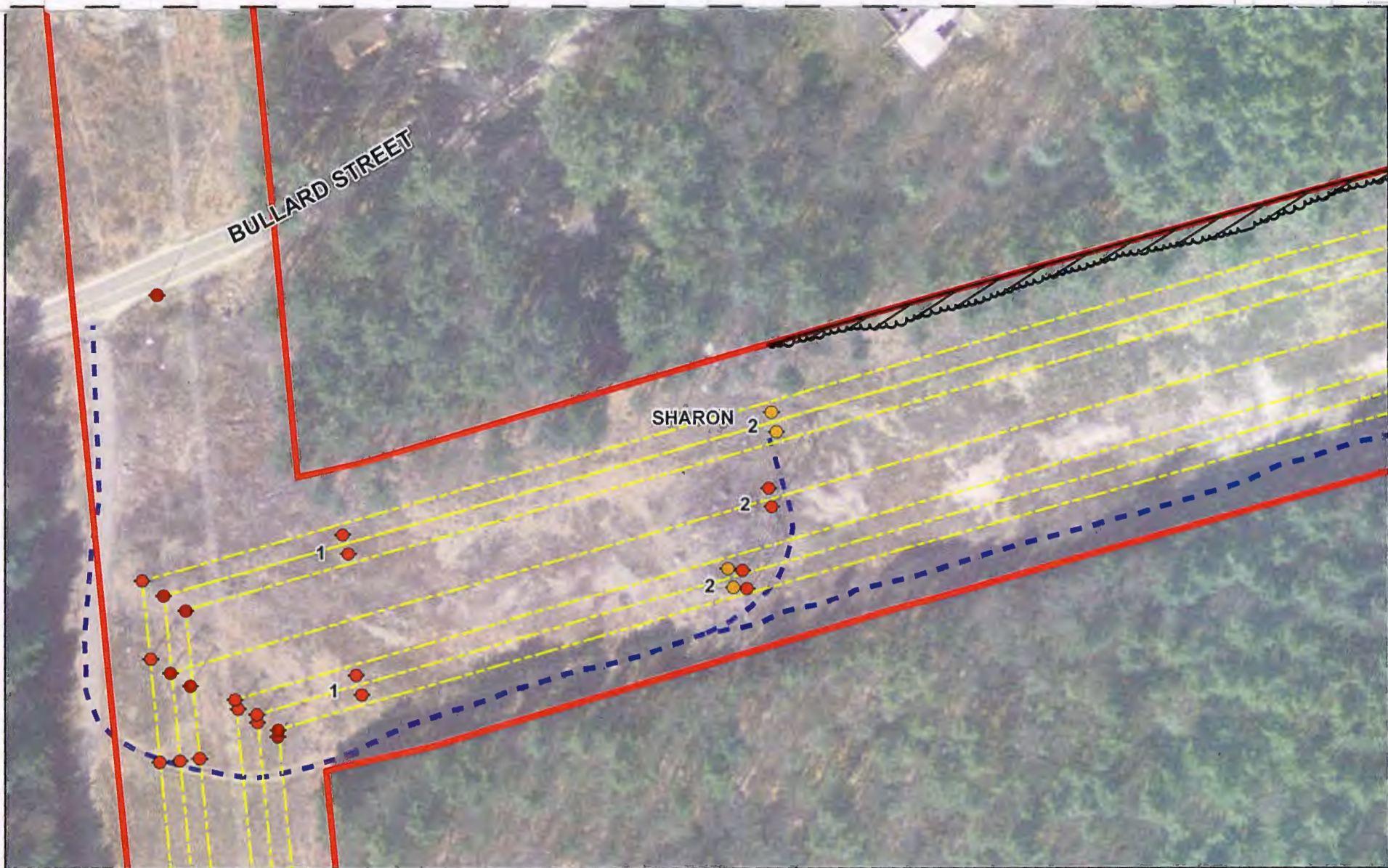
VHB Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Figure 1 - USGS Locus Map

Norwood Municipal Light Department
Preliminary Permit Set

Norwood/Sharon, MA





VHB
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADBAND

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200
 Feet

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**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
 Conditions)
 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 1 of 18

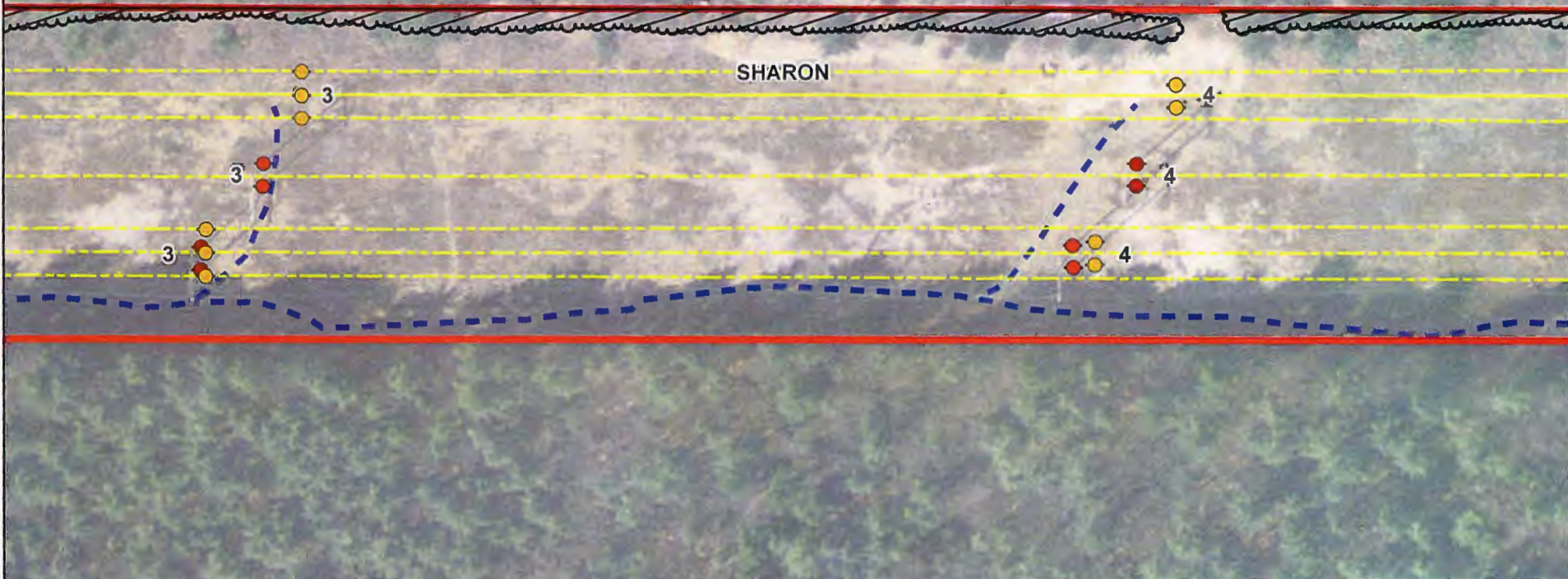
Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
 Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

LEGEND

- Existing Structure Location
- Proposed Structure Location
- Existing ROW Limits
- Additional ROW Needed
- Proposed Overhead Wire
- ▨ Tree Clearing Within 210' ROW
- Wetland Flag
- ▲ ACOE Data Plot
- Potential Waters of the U.S. - Neponset River
- Delineated Wetland Edge
- Approximate Wetland Edge
- Wetland Resource Areas
- 100-Yr Floodplain
- ▭ Vernal Pool Envelope
- ▭ VP Critical Terrestrial Habitat
- Intermittent Stream
- Perennial Stream
- ▭ ACOE 100' Upland Stream Buffer
- ▭ 200-foot Riverfront Area
- ▭ 100-foot Wetland Buffer
- Proposed Access Roads (Approximate Location)
- ▭ Construction Platform/Access Rd Timber Mat
- ▭ Construction Staging Area
- ▭ Silt Fence/Hay Bale Erosion Control
- ⊙ Approximate Sensitive Resource Area Location
- ★ Vernal Pool

MONT FERN AVENUE

SHARON



VHB
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADBAND

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0 100 200
 Feet

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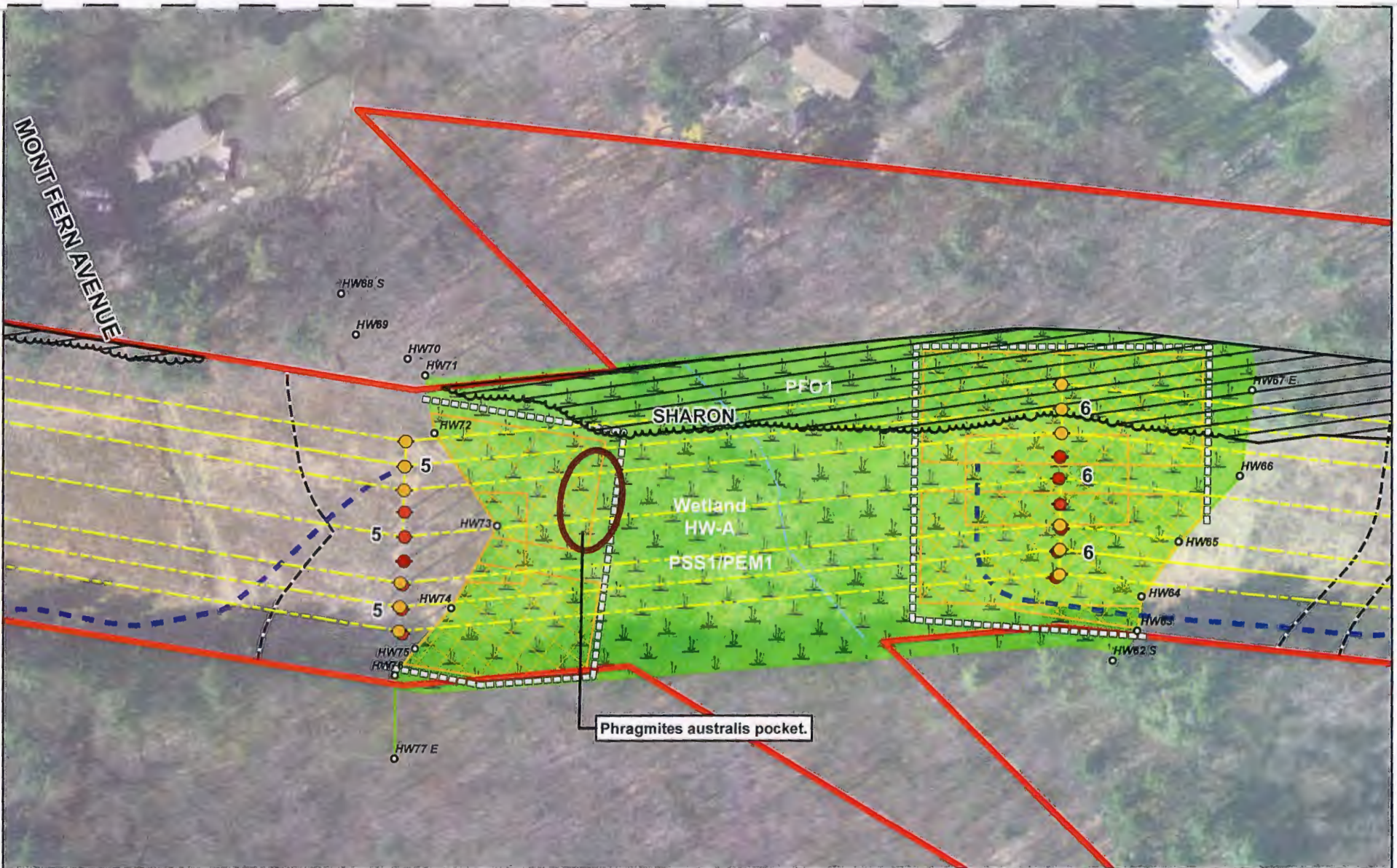
**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
 Conditions)
 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 2 of 18

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VHB
Yanase Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

NORWOOD LIGHT
ELECTRIC & BROADBAND

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0 100 200
Feet

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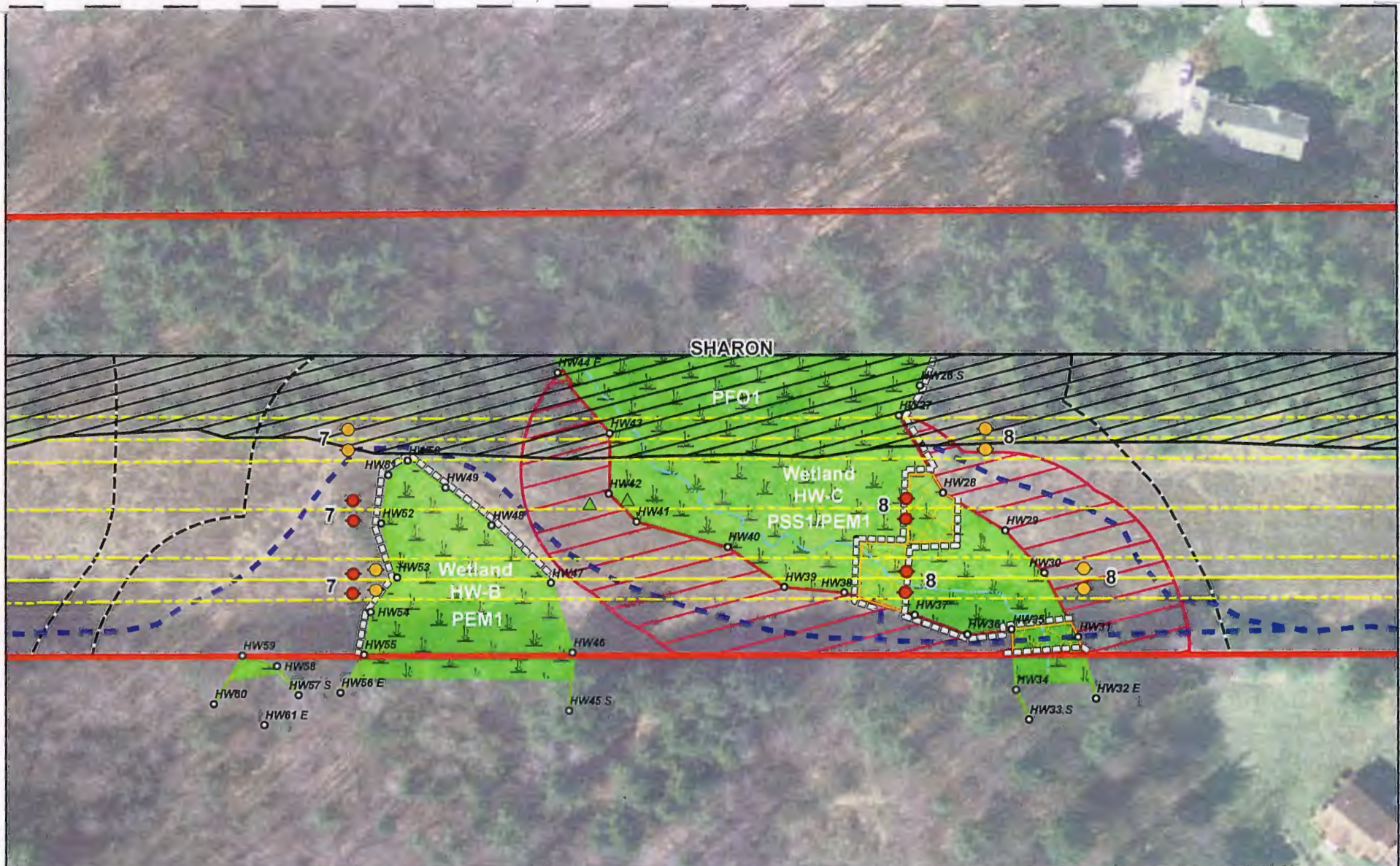
**Norwood Municipal Light Department
(Existing/Proposed Environmental
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Norwood/Sharon, MA
ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 3 of 18

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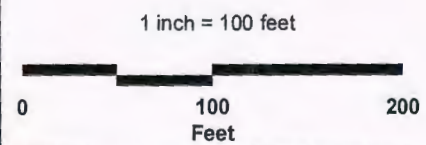
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NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADBAND



**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
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 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

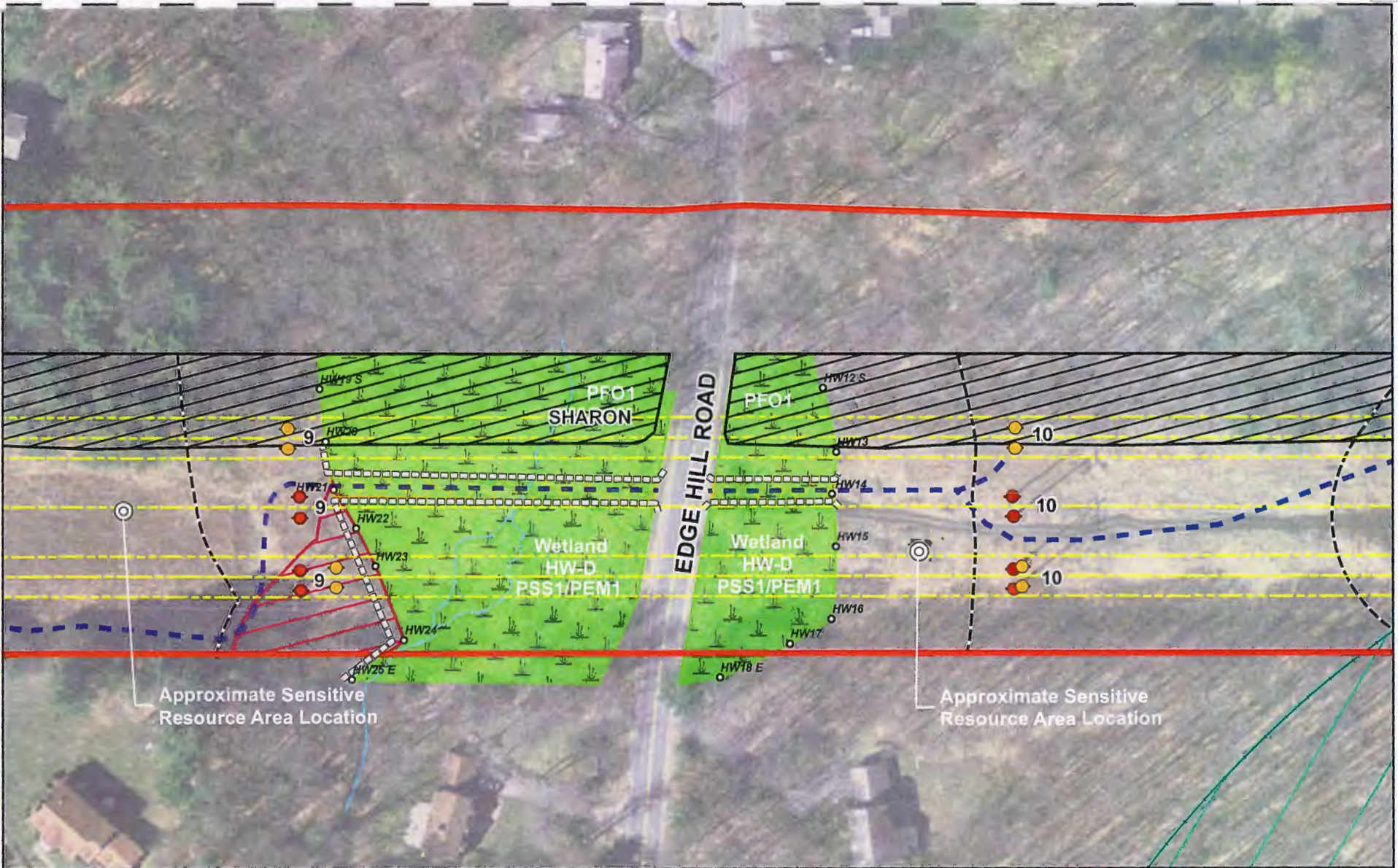
September 19, 2014 Sheet 4 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
 Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

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LEGEND

Existing Structure Location	Vernal Pool Envelope	Vernal Pool
Proposed Structure Location	VP Critical Terrestrial Habitat	
Existing ROW Limits	Intermittent Stream	
Additional ROW Needed	Perennial Stream	
Proposed Overhead Wire	ACOE 100' Upland Stream Buffer	
Tree Clearing Within 210' ROW	200-foot Riverfront Area	
Wetland Flag	100-foot Wetland Buffer	
ACOE Data Plot	Proposed Access Roads (Approximate Location)	
Potential Waters of the U.S. - Neponset River	Construction Platform/Access Rd Timber Mat	
Delineated Wetland Edge	Construction Staging Area	
Approximate Wetland Edge	Silt Fence/Hay Bale Erosion Control	
Wetland Resource Areas	Approximate Sensitive Resource Area Location	
100-Yr Floodplain		



Approximate Sensitive Resource Area Location

Approximate Sensitive Resource Area Location

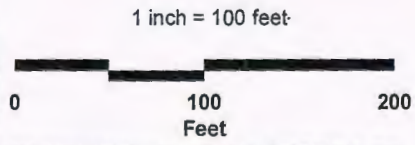
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NORWOOD LIGHT
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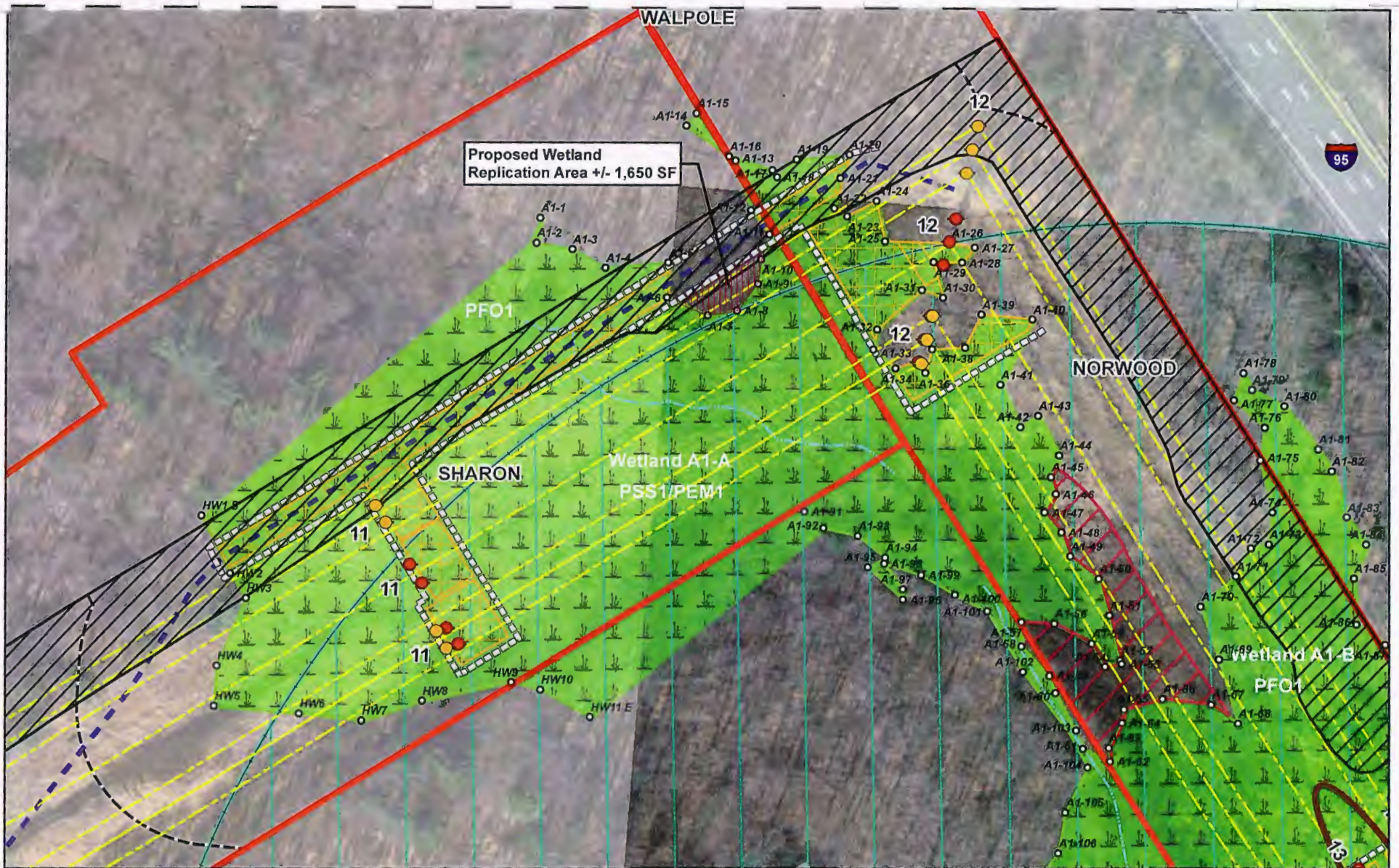
**Norwood Municipal Light Department
(Existing/Proposed Environmental
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Norwood/Sharon, MA
ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 5 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
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LEGEND	
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	Proposed Structure Location
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	Vernal Pool



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NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADCAST

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200
 Feet

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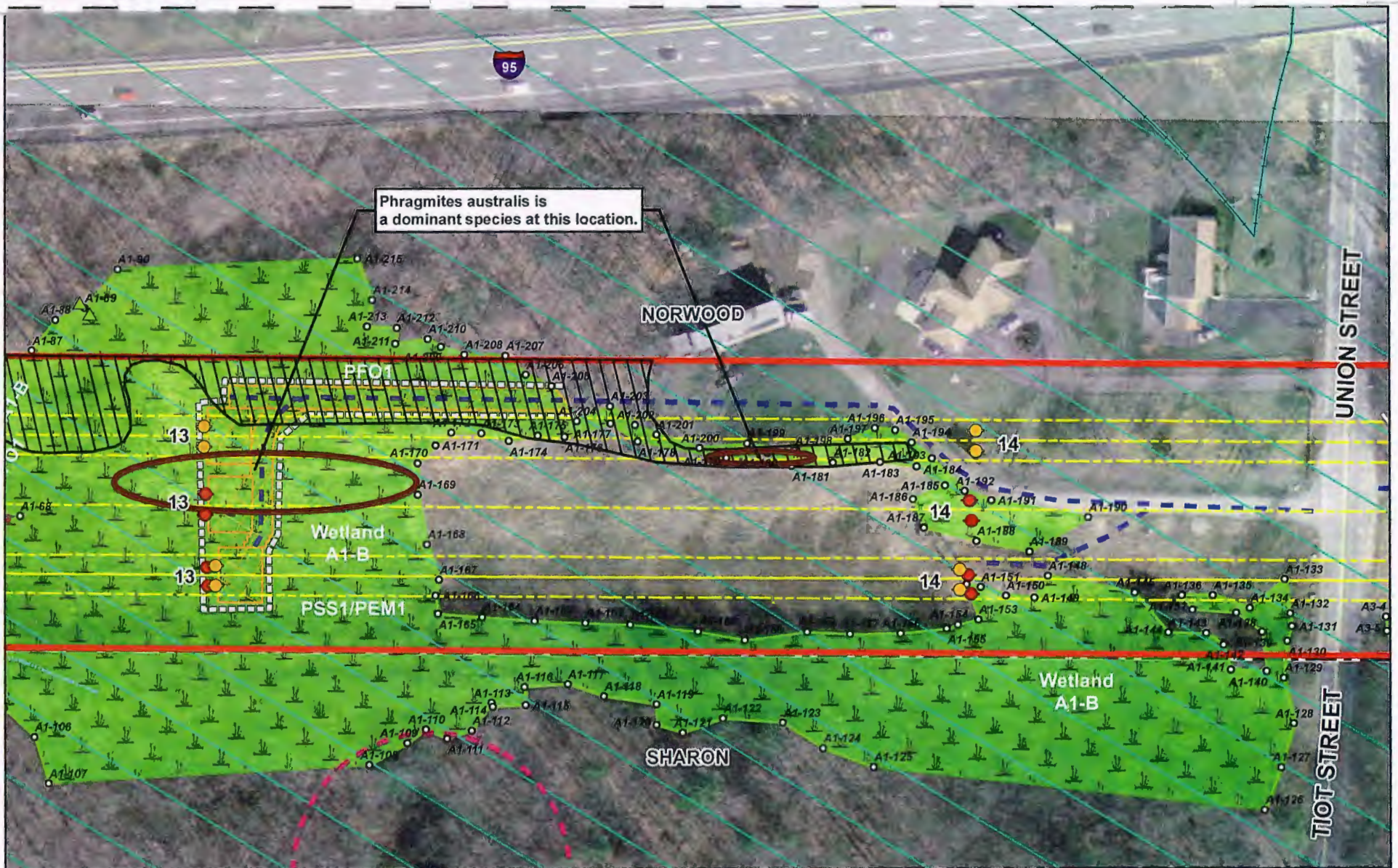
**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
 Conditions)
 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 6 of 18

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- Approximate Sensitive Resource Area Location
- ★ Vernal Pool



Phragmites australis is a dominant species at this location.

NORWOOD

SHARON

UNION STREET

TIOT STREET



Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.



**Norwood Municipal Light Department
(Existing/Proposed Environmental
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Norwood/Sharon, MA
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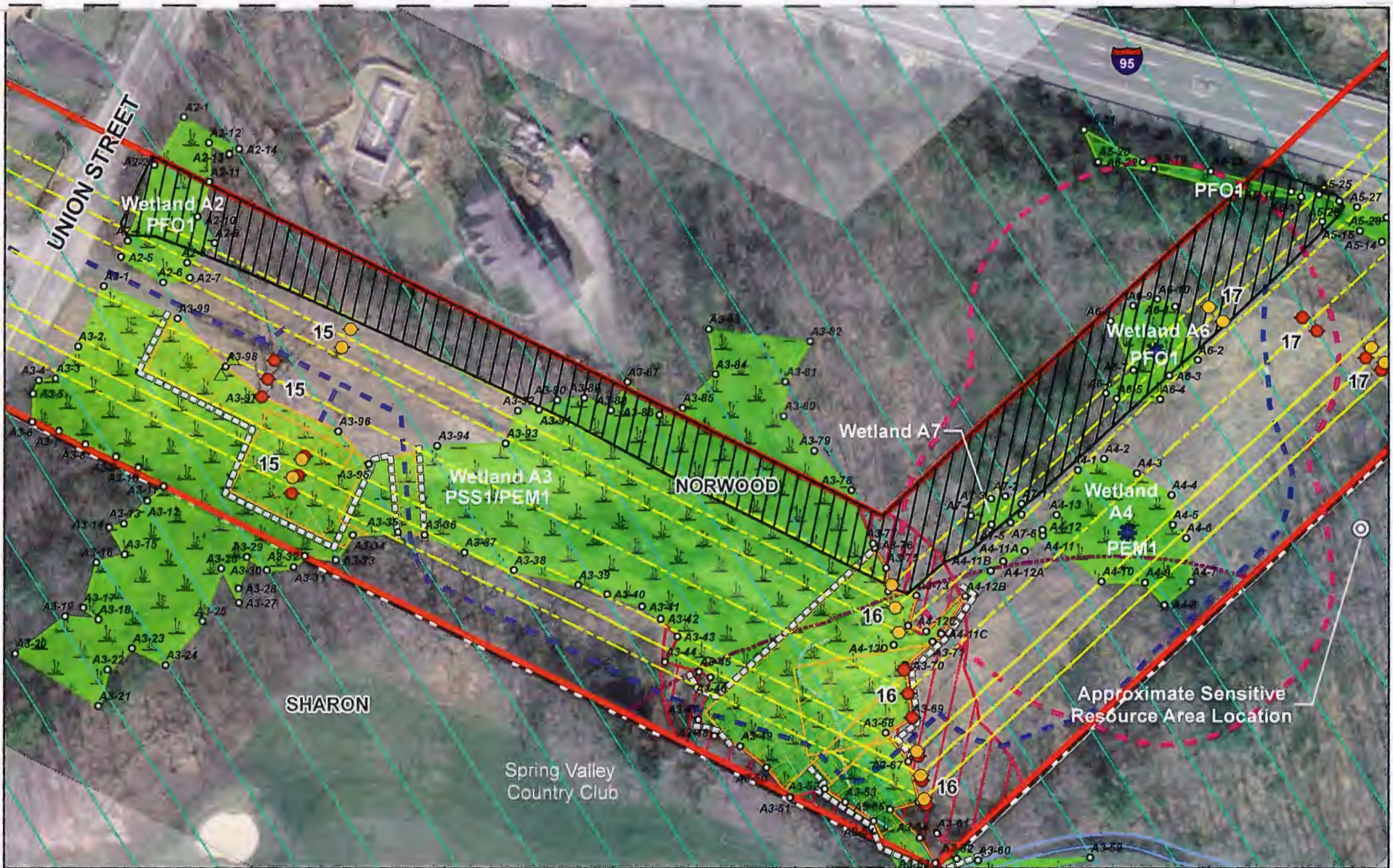
September 19, 2014 Sheet 7 of 18

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1 inch = 100 feet



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NORWOOD LIGHT
ELECTRIC & BROADBAND

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200
Feet

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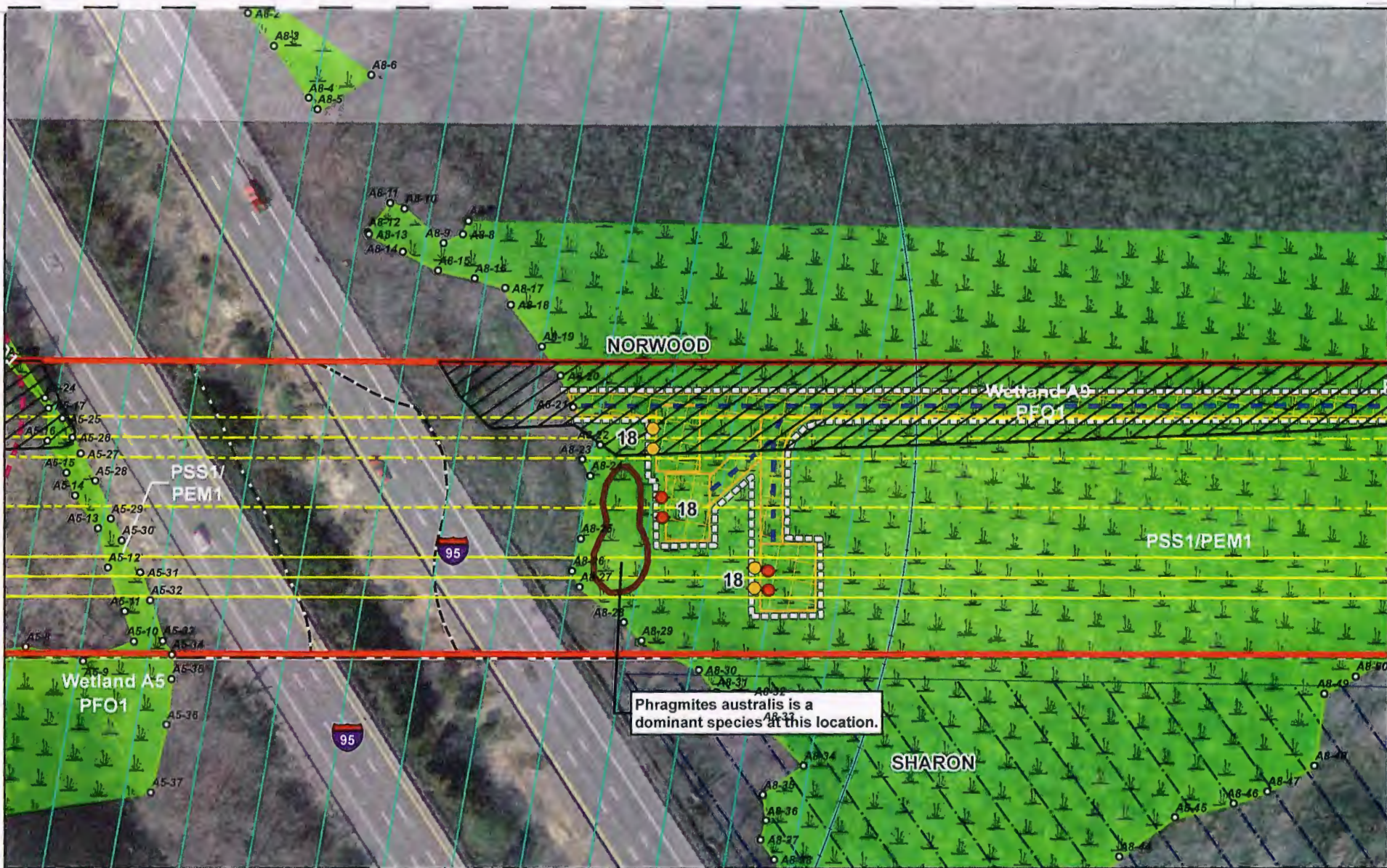
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September 19, 2014 Sheet 8 of 18

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- ★ Vernal Pool



Phragmites australis is a dominant species at this location.

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200
Feet

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**Norwood Municipal Light Department
(Existing/Proposed Environmental
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September 19, 2014 Sheet 9 of 18

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THIS AREA WAS NOT FIELD EVALUATED FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT/PRESENCE OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES DUE TO INACCESSIBILITY BY FOOT.

NORWOOD

PFO1

PEO1

Wetland A9
PSS1/PEM1

19

20

20

20

AB-51 AB-52 AB-53 AB-54 AB-55

AB-57

AB-50

AB-49

AB-58

SHARON

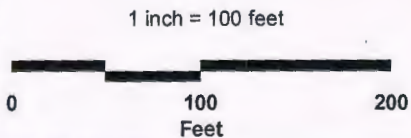


Norwood Municipal Light Department
(Existing/Proposed Environmental
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Norwood/Sharon, MA
ACOE Plan Set

September 19, 2014

Sheet 10 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
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NORWOOD

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Phragmites australis is a dominant species at this location.

Wetland A9
PSS/PEM1

SHARON




Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.



NORWOOD LIGHT
ELECTRIC
& BROADBAND

1 inch = 100 feet



0 100 200
Feet

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Norwood Municipal Light Department
(Existing/Proposed Environmental
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September 19, 2014 Sheet 11 of 18

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VHB
 Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADCAST

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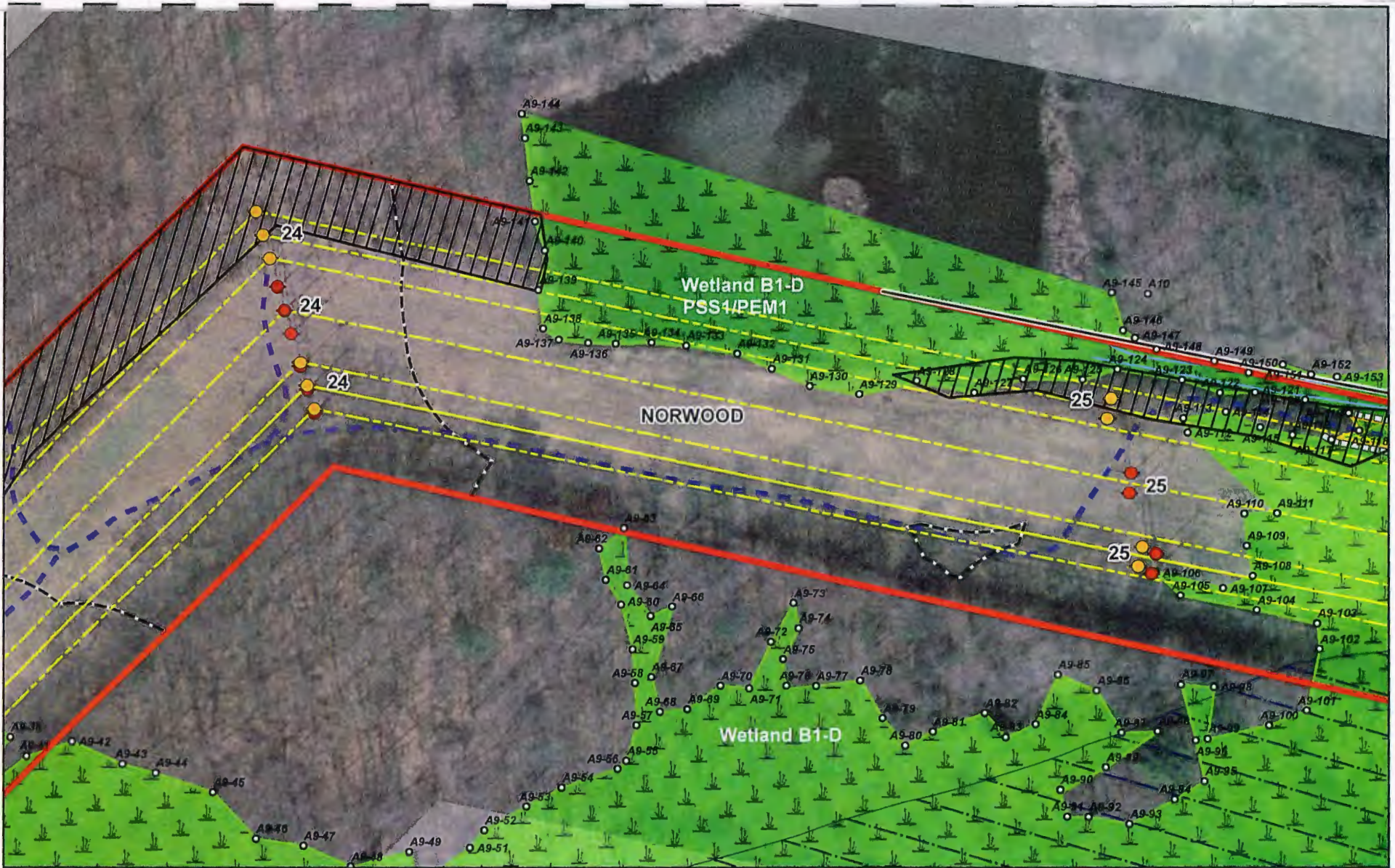
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September 19, 2014 Sheet 12 of 18

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- ▭ Construction Staging Area
- ▭ Silt Fence/Hay Bale Erosion Control
- Approximate Sensitive Resource Area Location
- ★ Vernal Pool



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NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADBAND

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200
 Feet

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**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
 Conditions)
 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 13 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
 Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

LEGEND

- Existing Structure Location
- Proposed Structure Location
- Existing ROW Limits
- - - Additional ROW Needed
- - - Proposed Overhead Wire
- ▨ Tree Clearing Within 210' ROW
- Wetland Flag
- ▲ ACOE Data Plot
- Potential Waters of the U.S. - Neponset River
- Delineated Wetland Edge
- Approximate Wetland Edge
- Wetland Resource Areas
- 100-Yr Floodplain
- ⬢ Vernal Pool Envelope
- ▭ VP Critical Terrestrial Habitat
- Intermittent Stream
- Perennial Stream
- ▭ ACOE 100' Upland Stream Buffer
- ▭ 200-foot Riverfront Area
- ▭ 100-foot Wetland Buffer
- ▭ Proposed Access Roads (Approximate Location)
- ▭ Construction Platform/Access Rd Timber Mat
- ▭ Construction Staging Area
- ▭ Silt Fence/Hay Bale Erosion Control
- ⊙ Approximate Sensitive Resource Area Location
- ★ Vernal Pool

NORWOOD

Wetland B1-D
PSS1PEM1

Phragmites australis pocket.

26
26
26

PFO1

B7-118

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NORWOOD LIGHT
ELECTRIC & BROADCAST

Norwood Municipal Light Department (Existing/Proposed Environmental Conditions) Norwood/Sharon, MA ACOE Plan Set

September 19, 2014

Sheet 14 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

LEGEND

- Existing Structure Location
- Proposed Structure Location
- Existing ROW Limits
- Additional ROW Needed
- Proposed Overhead Wire
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- Wetland Flag
- ACOE Data Plot
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NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADCAST

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200
 Feet

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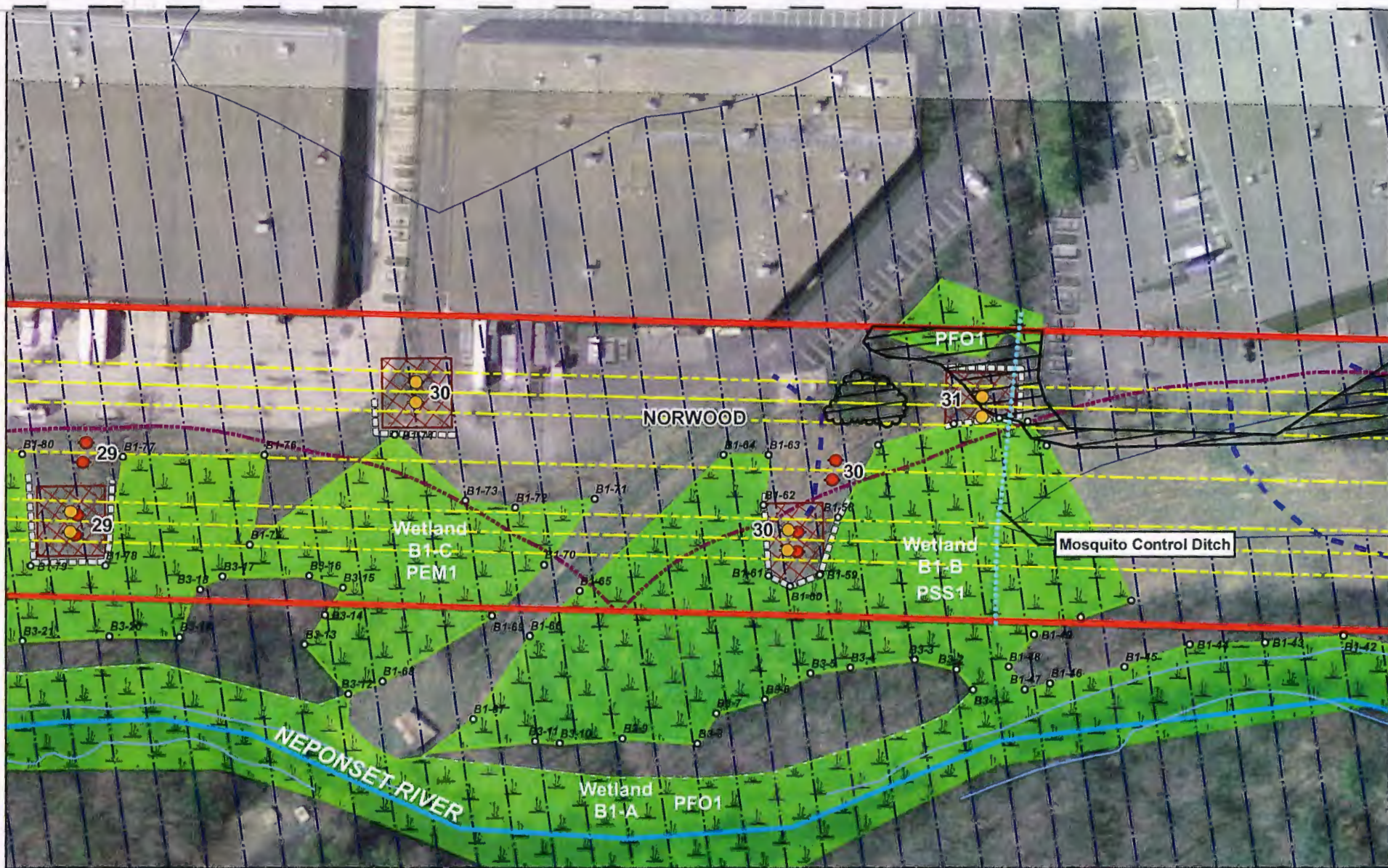
**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
 Conditions)
 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 15 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
 Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

LEGEND

- Existing Structure Location
- Proposed Structure Location
- Existing ROW Limits
- Additional ROW Needed
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NORWOOD LIGHT
 ELECTRIC & BROADBAND

1 inch = 100 feet

0 100 200
 Feet

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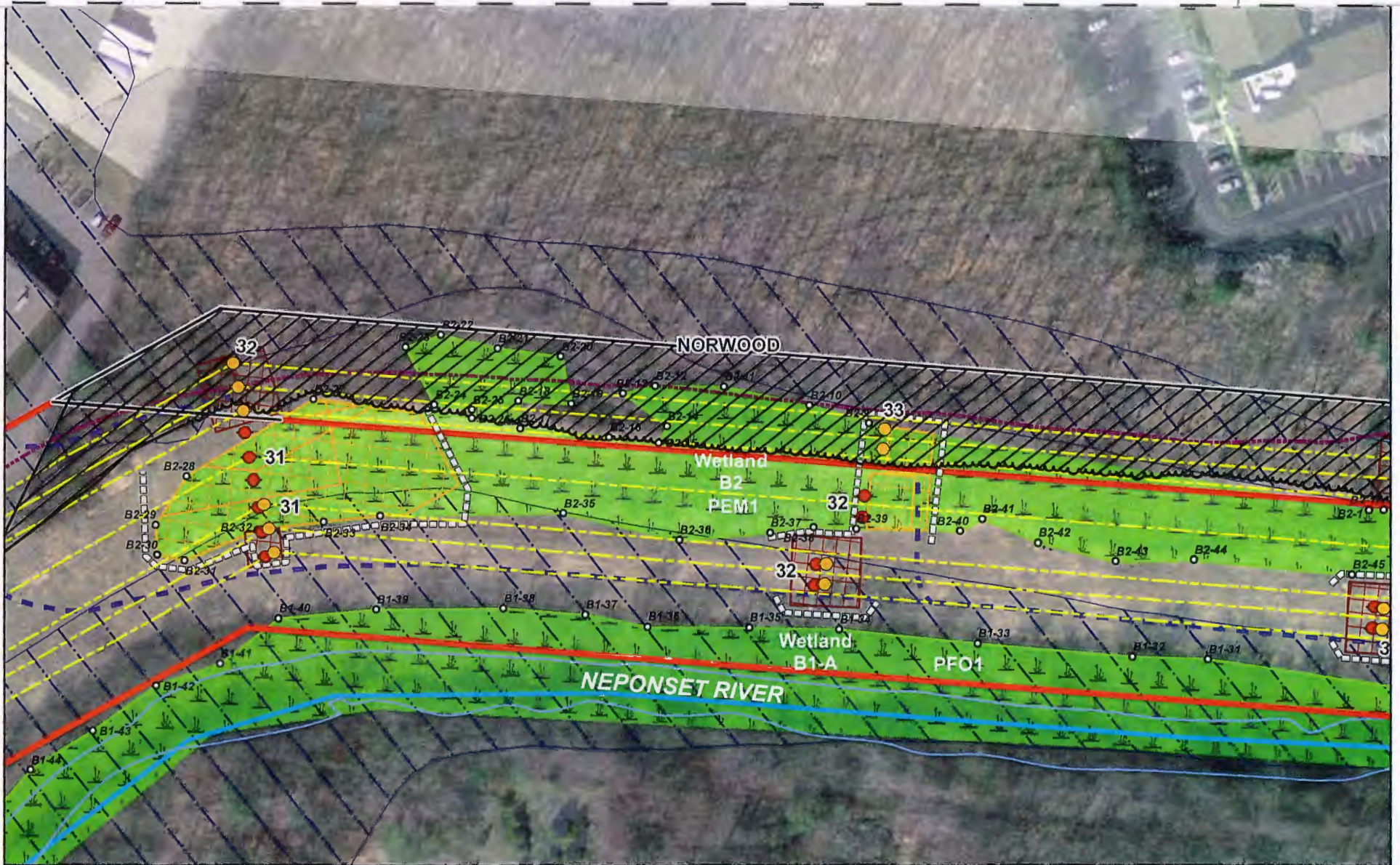
**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
 Conditions)
 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 16 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plans
 Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

LEGEND

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- Proposed Structure Location
- Existing ROW Limits
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 ELECTRIC & BROADBAND

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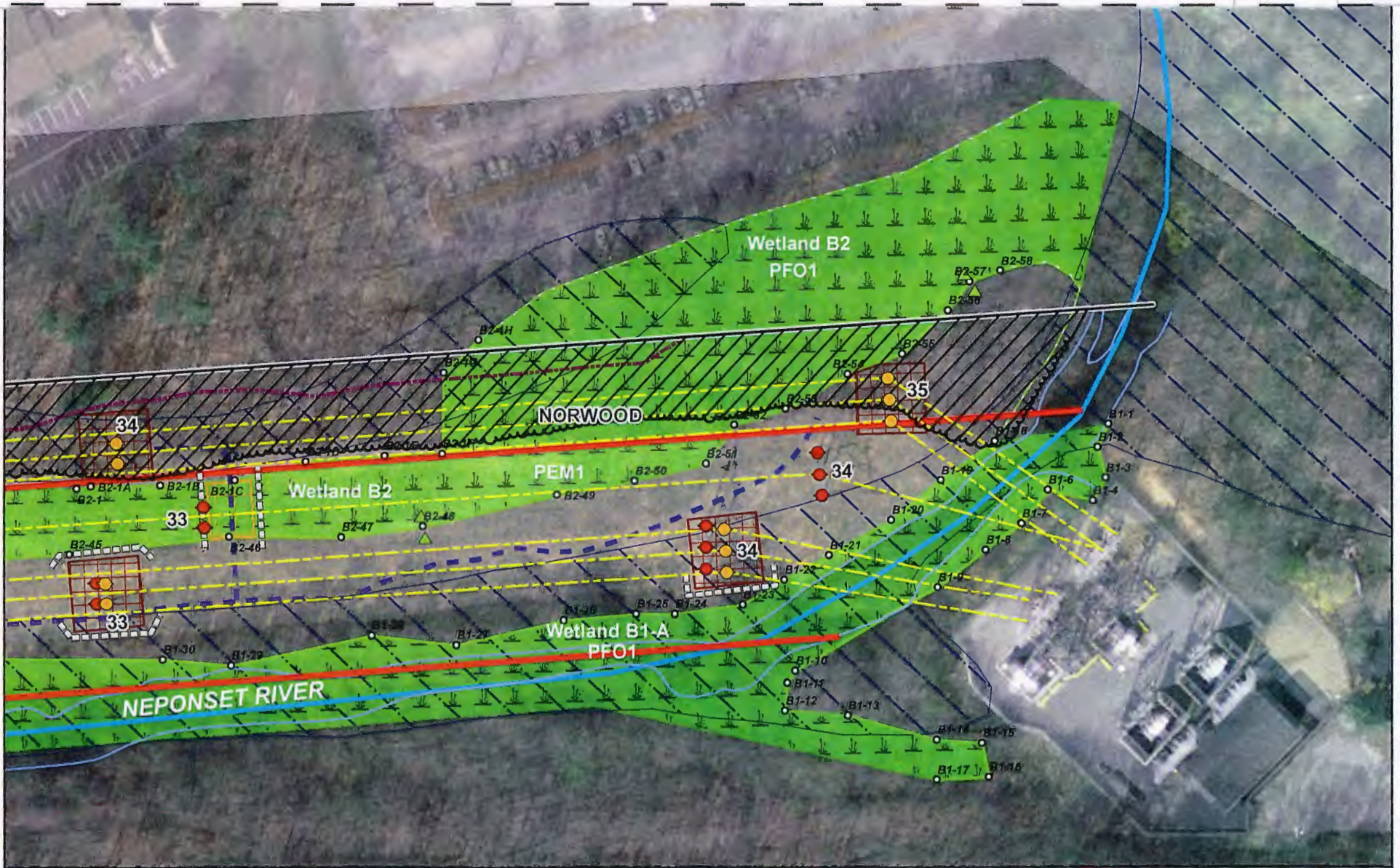
**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
 Conditions)
 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 17 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
 Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

LEGEND

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**Norwood Municipal Light Department
 (Existing/Proposed Environmental
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 Norwood/Sharon, MA
 ACOE Plan Set**

September 19, 2014 Sheet 18 of 18

Reference: North American Datum 1983 State Plane
 Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 (US Feet)

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