




STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

January 22, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Environmental and Construction Units

FROM:  Michael A. Turchy, ECAP Group Leader
Environmental Analysis Unit

SUBJECT: Environmental Permits for the Replacement of:
Buncombe Bridge 307 over Shope Creek on SR 2426 (Shope Creek Road)
Division 13, WBS DF18313.2011272

Please find enclosed the following permits for this project:

Agency	Permit Type	Expiration
US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit	Regional General Permit 50 Action ID: SAW-2025-02113 Dated January 22, 2026	May 25, 2030
NC Division of Water Resources Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Project ID: 202520251547 General Certification No. 7679, <i>Written authorization not required.</i>	expires with above Permit

Work is authorized by the above-referenced documents and must be accomplished in strict accordance with the permitted plans.

The Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group (ECAP) or the Division Environmental Office must be consulted if any deviation from the permit(s) or accompanying drawings is required.

404 Permit (USACE)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WILMINGTON DISTRICT
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

January 22, 2026

Regulatory Division
SAW-2025-02113

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Attn: Mr. Michael A. Turchy
Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group Leader
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598
Sent Via Email: maturchy@ncdot.gov

Dear Mr. Turchy,

This letter is in response to the application you submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, WRDA/Transportation Branch on November 17, 2025, for a Department of the Army general permit verification to replace a bridge that was damaged by **Hurricane Helene**. This project will replace **Bridge No. 307** over Shope Creek on SR 2426 in Buncombe County, North Carolina (35.6460, -82.4470) and has been assigned file number SAW-2025-02113. In order to perform this work, NCDOT proposes to conduct the following activities in waters of the U.S.:

Summary of Proposed Impacts

Impact ID #	NWP / GP #	Open Water (ac)		Wetland (ac)		Stream (lf)	
		Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
Site 1 (Shope Creek)	RGP 50					91' / dewater / pipes for temporary detour	49' / bank stabilization
						75' / dewater / removal of bridge and construction access	
Impact Totals		0	0	0	0	*166'	49'
Total Loss of waters of the U.S. (wetlands and/or open waters)			0	Total Loss of waters of the U.S.			0

*59' of temporary bank stabilization will be located in part of the 49' of permanent bank stabilization and 75' of temporary impact.

We have reviewed the proposed activities in waters of the U.S. and have determined that these activities are authorized by Regional General Permit (RGP) 50 pursuant to authorities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C § 1344). The proposed work must be accomplished in strict accordance with the following:

- enclosed RGP 50 terms, general conditions, and special conditions
- special conditions of the verification letter (see below)
- information in the PCN and attachments
- enclosed plans

If the extent of the project area and/or nature of the authorized impacts to waters are modified, a request detailing the proposed changes must be submitted to this office for written approval before work is initiated. Any deviation from the terms and conditions of the permit, the special conditions of this letter, the information contained in the PCN, or your submitted plans, may subject the permittee to enforcement action.

This verification is valid until **May 25, 2030**, unless the subject RGP is suspended, revoked, or is modified prior to that date such that the activity no longer complies with the terms and conditions of the RGP.

Project Specific Special Conditions:

1. This verification letter does not authorize you to take a federally listed species. In order to legally take a federally listed species, you must have separate authorization under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (e.g., an ESA Section 10 permit, or a Biological Opinion (BO) under ESA Section 7, with “incidental take” provisions with which you must comply). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a document titled, “Biological and Conference Opinions and Informal Consultations – Batch Format, Replace Multiple Crossing Structures Destroyed by Tropical Storm Helene in Buncombe, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties, North Carolina, Service Log #25-276 through 25-299” on September 4, 2025. This document contains mandatory terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures that are associated with incidental take for this project. Your authorization under this verification letter and RGP 50 is conditional upon your compliance with the mandatory terms and conditions associated with incidental take listed in this document for this project. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions associated with incidental take detailed in this document, where a take of a federally listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take, and it would also constitute non-compliance with your verification letter and RGP 50. The USFWS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its Opinion and with the ESA.

2. The permittee shall require its contractors and/or agents to comply with the terms and conditions of this authorization letter in the construction and maintenance of this project and shall provide each of its contractors and/or agents associated with the construction or maintenance of this project with a copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications. A copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications, shall be available at the project site during construction and maintenance of this project.

This general permit verification and any associated authorizations does not preclude the necessity to obtain any other Federal, State, or local permits, licenses, and/or certifications, which may be required.

If you have any questions related to this verification or have issues accessing documents referenced in this letter, please contact Lori Beckwith, Regulatory Project Manager of the WRDA/Transportation Branch at 828-230-0483, by mail at the above address, or by email at loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil. Please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located at <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Scott Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Scott Jones, PWS
WRDA / Transportation Branch Chief
USACE, Wilmington District



Enclosures



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT For use of this form, see Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; the proponent agency is CECW-COR.		Form Approved - OMB No. 0710-0003 Expires 2027-10-31
The Agency Disclosure Notice (ADN)		
<p>The Public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0710-0003, is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.</p>		
<p>PURPOSE: This form is used by recipients of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Regulatory permits to certify compliance with the permit terms and conditions.</p> <p>Your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. If you fail to comply with this permit, you are subject to permit suspension, modification, or revocation.</p>		
<p>Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Regulatory Office.</p> <p>The certification can be submitted by email at loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil or by mail at the below address:</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District</p> <p>Asheville Field Office</p> <p>Street Address: 151 Patton Avenue, Room 208</p> <p>Asheville, North Carolina 28801-5006</p> </div>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">Corps Action Number:</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">SAW-2025-02113</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">Permit Type:</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">General Permit</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">General Permit Number and Name (if applicable):</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">RGP 50</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">Name of Permittee:</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">NCDOT, Division of Highways</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">Project Name:</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">NCDOT/Hurricane Helene/DF18313.2011272/ Br 307 / SR 2426 / Buncombe / Div 13</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">Project Location (physical address):</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Bridge 307 on SR 2426 in Buncombe County, NC</div> </div>		
PERMITTEE'S CERTIFICATION		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">Date Work Started:</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">Date Work Completed:</div> <div style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></div> </div> <p>Enclose photographs showing the completed project (if available).</p> <p>I _____ hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit has been completed in accordance with all of the permit terms and conditions, and that any required compensatory mitigation has been completed in accordance with the permit conditions.</p>		
Name	Date	Signature

401 Certification (NCDWR)

*Written
Authorization
Not Required*

Permitted Drawings

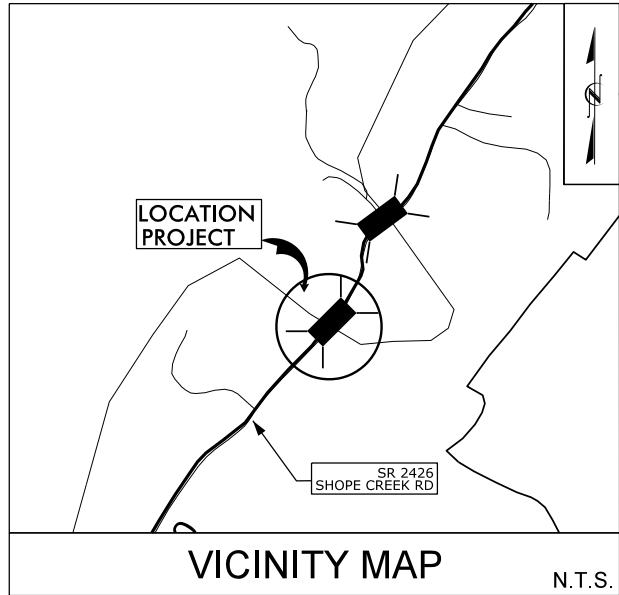
		North Carolina Department of Transportation											
Highway Stormwater Program													
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN													
FOR NCDOT PROJECTS													
(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)													
WBS Element:		TIP/Proj No: DF18313.2011272				County(ies): Buncombe				Page 1		of 2	
General Project Information													
WBS Element:				TIP Number:		DF18313.2011272		Project Type:		Bridge Replacement		Date: 11/13/2025	
NCDOT Contact:		Joel M. Davis				Contractor / Designer:		Angela B. Pridgen, PE					
	Address:		20 Old 74 Asheville, NC 28803					Address:		One Glenwood Ave. Suite 900 Raleigh, NC 27603			
	Phone:		828-250-3360					Phone:		919-420-7660			
	Email:							Email:					
City/Town:		Asheville				County(ies):		Buncombe					
River Basin(s):		French Broad				CAMA County?		No					
Wetlands within Project Limits?		No											
Project Description													
Project Length (lin. miles or feet):		0.06		Surrounding Land Use:		Rural, wooded							
		Proposed Project						Existing Site					
Project Built-Upon Area (ac.)		0.1635 (bridge replacement) + 0.07 temp detour ac.						0.1		ac.			
Typical Cross Section Description:		Proposed project is a 20', 2 lane road with a paved shoulder on the southwest side of the bridge						Existing site is a 2-lane, 18' road with no shoulder					
Annual Avg Daily Traffic (veh/hr/day):		Design/Future:		610		Year: 2045		Existing:		500		Year: 2025	
General Project Narrative: (Description of Minimization of Water Quality Impacts)		The purpose of this project is to replace Bridge #307 after being damaged from Hurricane Helene. Roadway improvements were minimized to reduce impacts to maximum extent practicable. Drainage on the south end of the bridge is conveyed through concrete flumes on both sides and then through a rip-rap pad before entering the stream. Drainage on the north side of the bridge sheet flows off the road. There are less than 0.01ac of permanent impacts for bank stabilization to be installed as needed											

		<div>North Carolina Department of Transportation</div> <div>Highway Stormwater Program</div> <div>STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN</div> <div>FOR NCDOT PROJECTS</div>					
(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)							
WBS Element:		TIP/Proj No.: DF18313.2011272		County(ies): Buncombe		Page 2 of 2	
General Project Information							
Waterbody Information							
Surface Water Body (1):		Shope Creek		NCDWR Stream Index No.:		6-78-18-3	
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:		Class C			
		Supplemental Classification:		None			
Other Stream Classification:		None					
Impairments:		None					
Aquatic T&E Species?		No		Comments:			
NRTR Stream ID:						Buffer Rules in Effect:	
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?		Yes		Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?		No	
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?		No		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)	
		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)					
Surface Water Body (2):				NCDWR Stream Index No.:			
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:					
		Supplemental Classification:					
Other Stream Classification:							
Impairments:							
Aquatic T&E Species?				Comments:			
NRTR Stream ID:						Buffer Rules in Effect:	
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?				Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?			
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?				(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)	
		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)					
Surface Water Body (3):				NCDWR Stream Index No.:			
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:					
		Supplemental Classification:					
Other Stream Classification:							
Impairments:							
Aquatic T&E Species?				Comments:			
NRTR Stream ID:						Buffer Rules in Effect:	
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?				Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?			
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?				(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)	
		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)					

09/08/99

TIP PROJECT: DF18313.2011272

See Sheet 1A For Index of Sheets
See Sheet 1B For Symbology Sheet



VICINITY MAP
ROW PLANS

PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 1 OF 6

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

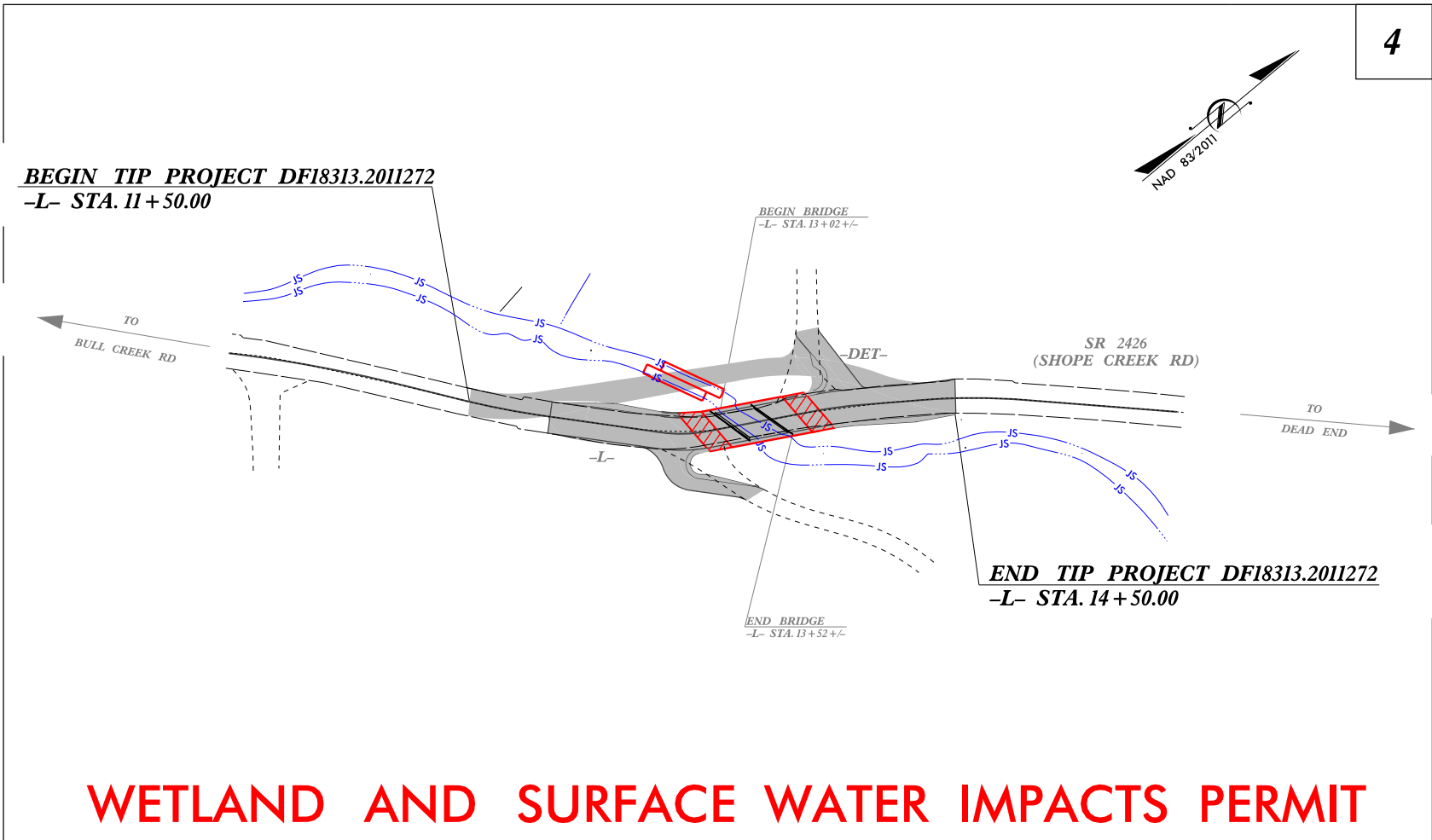
BUNCOMBE COUNTY

LOCATION: REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 307 ON
SR 2426 (SHOPE CREEK ROAD)
OVER SHOPE CREEK

TYPE OF WORK: GRADING, DRAINAGE, PAVING & STRUCTURE

STATE	STATE PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
N.C.	DF18313.2011272	1	
STATE PROJ. NO.	F.A. PROJ. NO.	DESCRIPTION	
DF18313.2011272.1.1		PE	

DIVISION 13



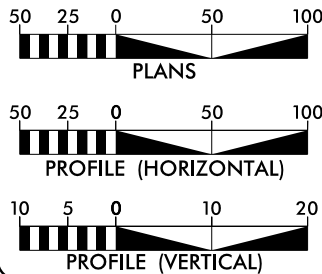
WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS PERMIT

CLEARING ON THIS PROJECT SHALL BE PERFORMED TO THE LIMITS ESTABLISHED BY METHOD II MODIFIED.
THIS PROJECT IS NOT LOCATED WITHIN ANY MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES.
THERE IS NO CONTROL OF ACCESS ON THIS PROJECT.

DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL
UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED

CONTRACT:

GRAPHIC SCALES



DESIGN DATA

ADT 2025 = 500
ADT 2045 = 610
V = 40 MPH
FUNC CLASS = LOCAL
SUBREGIONAL TIER

PROJECT LENGTH

LENGTH ROADWAY PROJECT DF18313.2011272 = 0.048 MI
LENGTH STRUCTURES PROJECT DF18313.2011272 = 0.009 MI
TOTAL LENGTH PROJECT DF18313.2011272 = 0.057 MI

Prepared in the
Office of:

2024 STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

RIGHT OF WAY DATE:
N/A

LETTING DATE:
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

ERIC B. NELSON, PE
PROJECT ENGINEER

ANGELA B. PRIDGEN, PE
PROJECT DESIGN ENGINEER

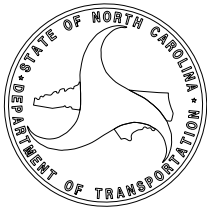
JOEL M. DAVIS
NCDOT DIVISION 13
BRIDGE PROGRAM MANAGER

HYDRAULICS ENGINEER

SIGNATURE: P.E.

ROADWAY DESIGN
ENGINEER

SIGNATURE: P.E.



8/17/99

REVISIONS

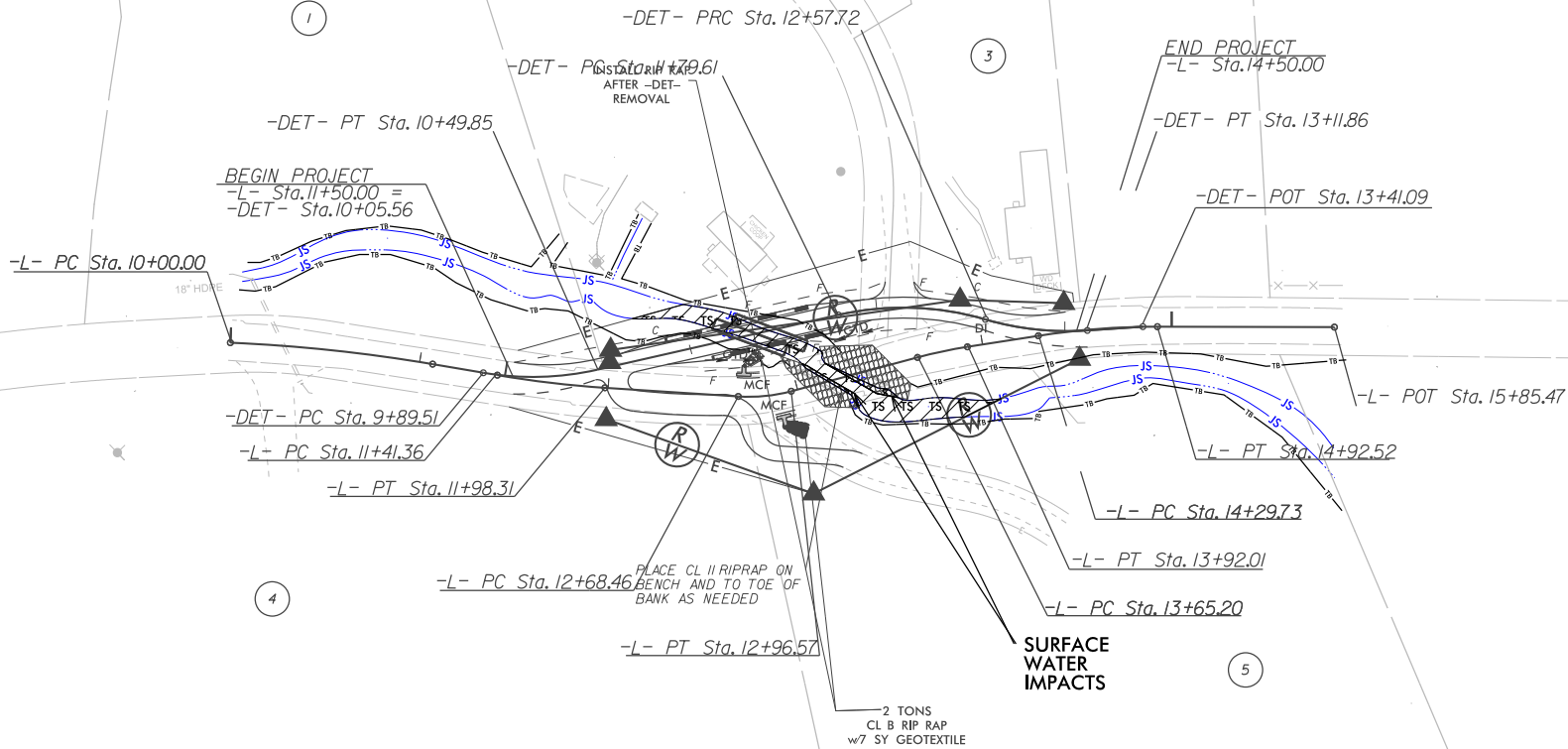
PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 2 OF 6



TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



FOR -L- PLAN & PROFILE, SEE SHEET 4

PROJECT REFERENCE NO. DF1813.2011272	SHEET NO. 2B-1
R/W SHEET NO.	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER
DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED	

-DET-

BEGIN GRADE
-DET- Sta. 10+50.10
EL = 2520.09'

PI = 10+80.00
EL = 2521.40'
VC = 50'
K = 6

PI = 11+30.00
EL = 2527.80'
VC = 40'
K = 3

PI = 12+50.00
EL = 2528.20'
VC = 25'
K = 12

END GRADE
-DET- Sta. 12+63.52
EL = 2528.53'

CULVE

DESIGN DISC.
DESIGN FREL
DESIGN HW I
BASE DISC.
BASE FREQ
BASE HW EL
OVERTOPPING
OVERTOPPING

10+00 11+00 12+00 13+00

2,540
2,530
2,520
2,510
2,500

8/17/99

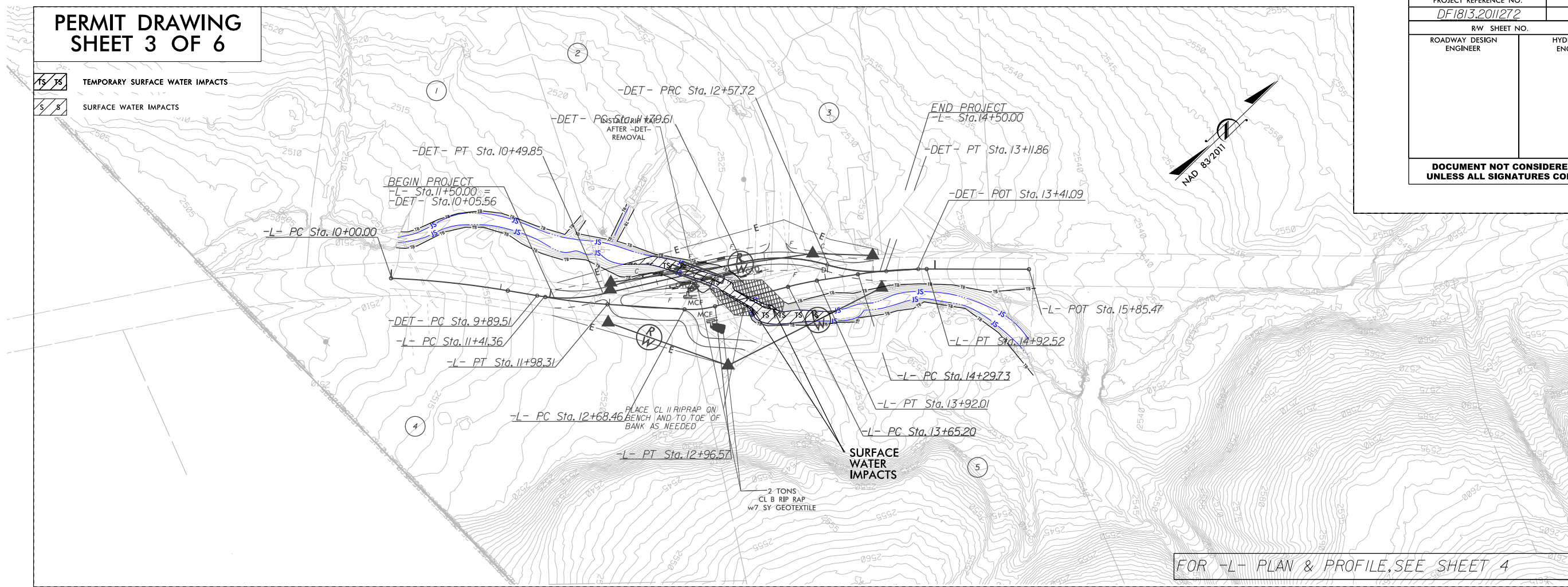
PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 3 OF 6



TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



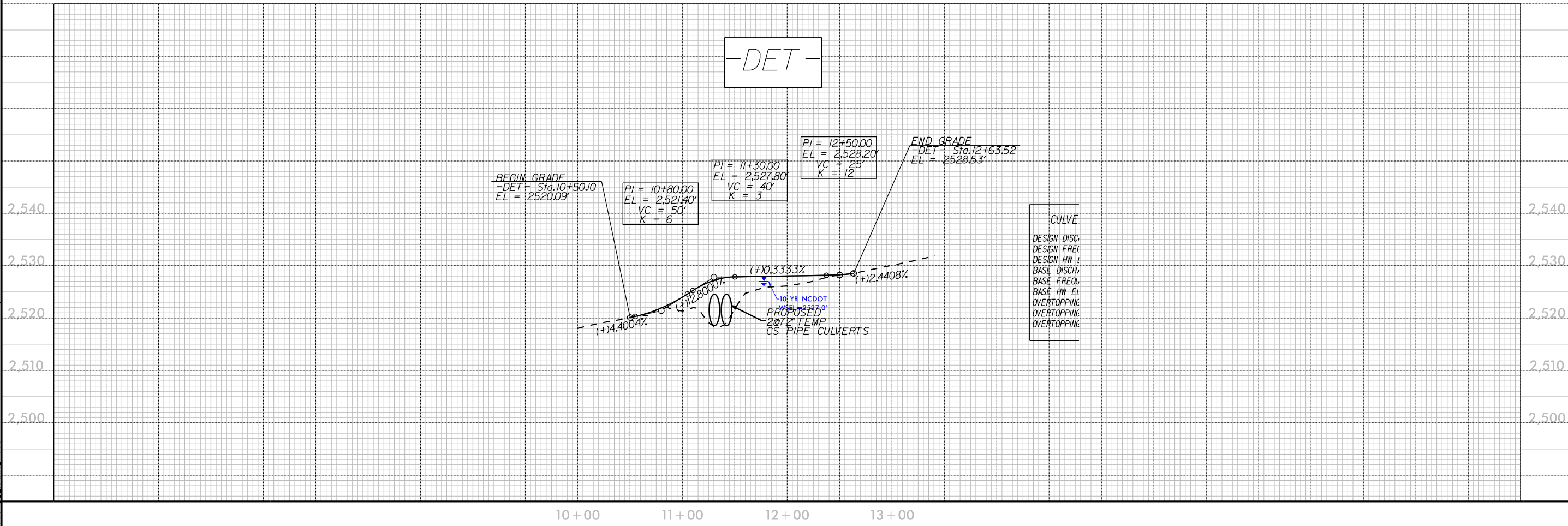
SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



FOR -L- PLAN & PROFILE, SEE SHEET 4

REVISIONS

SYSTEMS



8/17/99

PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 4 OF 6



TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

SPREAD ANALYSIS

DA= 0.02 AC
I= 4 IN/HR
C= 0.9
Q= 0.1 CFS
LONGITUDINAL SLOPE= 0.0333 ft/ft
CROSS SLOPE= 0.02 ft/ft
SHOULDER WIDTH= 2.4 FT.
SPREAD= 2.37 FT.
*SPREAD CALCULATED AT FLUMES

INSTALL RIP RAP
AFTER -DET-
REMOVAL
-L- PT Sta. 12+96.57

BEGIN CONSTRUCTION
-L- Sta. 12+00.00

BEGIN PROJECT
-L- Sta. 11+50.00

-L- PC Sta. 10+00.00

-L- PT Sta. 11+06.88

-L- PC Sta. 11+41.36

-L- PC Sta. 12+68.46

PLACE CL II RIPRAP ON
BENCH AND TO TOE OF
BANK AS NEEDED

SURFACE
WATER
IMPACTS

2 TONS
CL B RIP RAP
w/ 7 SY GEOTEXTILE

END PROJECT
-L- Sta. 14+50.00

-L- POT Sta. 15+85.47

-L- PT Sta. 14+92.52

-L- PC Sta. 14+29.73

-L- PT Sta. 13+92.01

-L- PC Sta. 13+65.20



PROJECT REFERENCE NO.

DF1813.2011272

SHEET NO.

4

R/W SHEET NO.

ROADWAY DESIGN
ENGINEER

HYDRAULICS
ENGINEER

DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL
UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED

ALL SHOULDER TAPERS ARE 8:1

ALL STRUCTURE ANCHORS ARE TYPE III

ALL GUARDRAIL ANCHOR UNITS ARE GREU TL-2

FOR -DET- PLAN & PROFILE, SEE SHEET 2B-1

-L-

BM #1
N 707905.7750 E 976167.9920
R/R SPIKE IN 15' POPLAR
-L- Sta. 14+24.23 FFSET = 17.58' RT
EL = 2529.37'

BEGIN GRADE
-L- Sta. 12+00.00
EL = 2521.02'

BEGIN BRIDGE
-L- Sta. 13+00.70

PI = 12+50.00
EL = 2523.50'
VC = 75'
K = 46

PROPOSED BRIDGE

LOWEST CHORD

BENCH ELEVATION = 2520.0'

CL II RIPRAP (TYP)

CL -L- STA. 13+27
1@50' SINGLE-SPAN
21" CORED SLAB
ELEV. 2526.07'
SKEW 60°

END BRIDGE
-L- Sta. 13+53.30

PI = 14+00.00
EL = 2528.50'
VC = 70'
K = 221'

END GRADE
-L- Sta. 14+50.00
EL = 2530.33'

EXISTING BRIDGE

PROP NCDOT 100-YR
WSEL = 2528.2'

PROP NCDOT 10-YR
WSEL = 2524.4'

POST-HELENE
NWS WSEL = 2519.3'
DATE: 04-08-2025

TOTAL APPROXIMATE
EXCAVATION = 95 CY +/-

10+00

11+00

12+00

13+00

14+00

15+00

2.540

2.530

2.520

2.510

2.500

8/17/99

REVISIONS

PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 5 OF 6

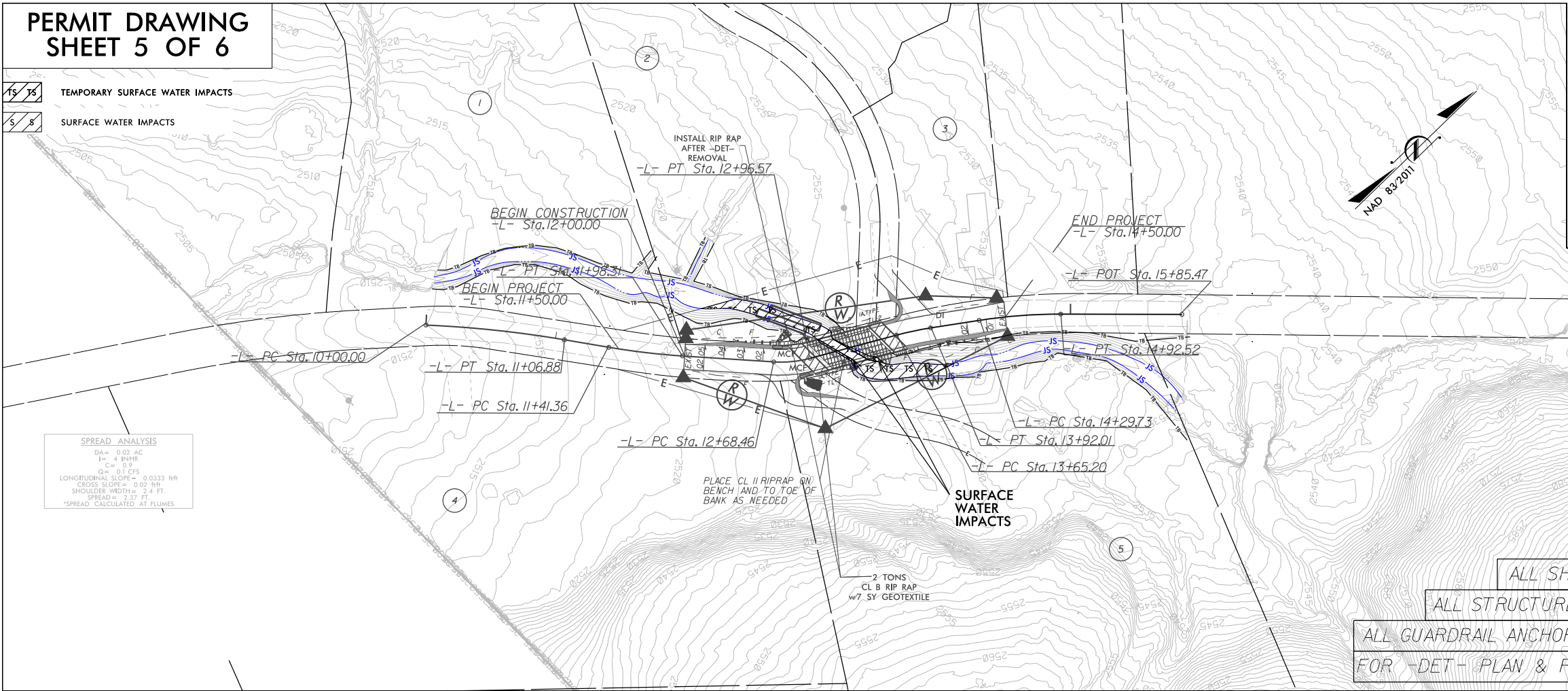


TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

SPREAD ANALYSIS
DA= 0.02 AC
I= 4 IN/HR
C= 0.9
Q= 0.1 CFS
LONGITUDINAL SLOPE= 0.0333 ft/ft
CROSS SLOPE= 0.02 ft/ft
SHOULDER WIDTH= 2.4 FT.
SPREAD= 1.37 FT.
*SPREAD CALCULATED AT FLUMES



PROJECT REFERENCE NO.

DF1813.2011272

SHEET NO.

4

R/W SHEET NO.

ROADWAY DESIGN
ENGINEER

HYDRAULICS
ENGINEER

DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL
UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED

ALL SHOULDER TAPERS ARE 8:1
ALL STRUCTURE ANCHORS ARE TYPE III
ALL GUARDRAIL ANCHOR UNITS ARE GREU TL-2
FOR -DET- PLAN & PROFILE, SEE SHEET 2B-1

-L-

BM #1
N 707905.7750 E 976167.9920
R/R SPIKE IN 15' POPLAR
-L- Sta. 14+24.23 FFSET = 17.58' RT
EL = 2529.37'

