



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

October 10, 2003

US Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Field Office
151 Patton Ave.
Room 208
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

ATTENTION: Mr. Steve Lund
NCDOT Coordinator

Dear Sir:

Subject: **Nationwide 23 Permit Application** for the Replacement of Bridge No. 59 over Hickory Nut Creek on US Hwy 74A, Henderson County, Federal Aid Project No. BRSTP-74(27), State Project No. 8.1951601, TIP B-3474, Division 14.

Please find enclosed three copies of the project planning report for the above referenced project. Replacement of Bridge No. 59 will be at approximately the same location with a new bridge 35.0 feet (10.7 m) in length and 40.0 feet (12.2 m) in width. The bridge will have two 12.0-foot (3.6 m) travel lanes and 8.0-foot (2.4 m) offsets on each side. The new approach roadway will include two 12-foot (3.6 m) travel lanes, and 10-foot (3.0 m) grassed shoulders on each side. Shoulder width will be widened 3.0 feet (0.9 m) where guardrail is warranted. The elevation of the bridge and approaches will be 0.5-foot (0.2 m) higher than the existing bridge to accommodate for conveyance of the 50-year storm event.

No jurisdictional wetlands will be impacted by the construction of the proposed bridge. However, other improvements will result in 24 feet of permanent impacts and 3 feet of temporary impacts to streams. Specifically this will consist of:

- The addition of 24 feet (7.3m) of 54" RCP under Bearwallow Mountain Road (SR 1594), due to widening at its intersection with US 74A on the west side of Bridge No. 59, will result in 24 feet (7.3 m) of impacts to an UT to Hickory Nut Creek (see sheet 3).

- The addition of three feet (0.91m) of 54” RCP under Bearwallow Mountain Road (SR 1594) due to the temporary detour associated with widening of Bearwallow Mountain Road will result in three feet (0.91m) of temporary impacts to an UT to Hickory Nut Creek (see sheet 5).

The bridge will be built using top-down construction. Therefore, no causeway or workpad will be required.

During construction, traffic will be maintained by a temporary on-site detour located on the downstream (east) side of the existing structure. This detour will not impact any jurisdictional resources as depicted on sheet 5 of 7.

Bridge Demolition

Bridge No. 59 is composed of a reinforced concrete floor supported by reinforced concrete deck girders. The existing structure is 32 feet long with a 20.2-foot clear roadway width. A 3-foot wide walkway is located along the eastern side of the bridge. The walkway consists of a wooden deck and railing and is supported by two steel girders. The deck of the bridge is 7 feet above the streambed. Temporary fill that potentially could fall into waters of the United States is associated with the concrete deck and bents and totals approximately 70 cubic yards (53.5 cubic meters). Best Management Practices for Bridge Demolition and Removal will be implemented in an effort to minimize these impacts.

As noted in the project’s CE document, NCDOT will observe an in-stream construction moratorium from November 1 to April 15 to avoid impacts to trout reproduction.

Federally-Protected Species

As of January 29, 2003, the USFWS lists eight federally protected species for Henderson County. The project site was visited on June 17, 2003 by NCDOT biologists Chris Underwood and Michael Turchy and a field survey was conducted for the swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), bunched arrowhead (*Sagittaria fasciculata*), mountain sweet pitcher plant (*Liatris helleri*), and white irisette (*Sisyrinchium dichotumum*). No endangered or threatened species were found. Furthermore, this project lies in the Atlantic coast drainage, and both the Appalachian elktoe (*Alasmidonta raveneliana*) and the oyster mussel (*Epioblasma capsaeformis*) occur in the Tennessee drainage. The bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) is listed as Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance and incidental taking of bog turtles resulting from lawful activity is allowable under this listing. The Biological Conclusions for the eight protected species remain No Effect.

Regulatory Approvals

We anticipate that comments from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) will be required prior to authorization by the Corps of Engineers. By copy of this letter and attachment, NCDOT hereby requests NCWRC review. NCDOT requests that NCWRC forward their comments to the Corps of Engineers.

Section 404 Permit: This project is being processed by the Federal Highway Administration as a “Categorical Exclusion” in accordance with 23 CFR 771.115(b).

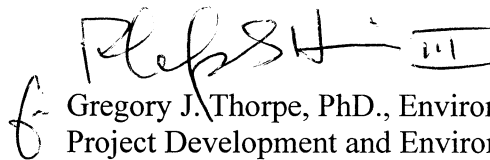
Therefore, we do not anticipate requesting an individual permit but propose to proceed under a Nationwide 23 (FR number 10, pages 2020-2095; January 15, 2002).

Section 401 Permit: We anticipate a 401 General Certification will apply to this project, and are providing two copies of the Categorical Exclusion document to the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality, for their review.

A copy of this permit application will be posted on the DOT website at: <http://www.ncdot.org/planning/pe/naturalunit/Permit.html>.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Chris Underwood at (919) 715-1541.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Thorpe", with a horizontal line underneath. To the left of the signature is a small, stylized symbol resembling a lowercase "f" or a similar character.

Gregory J. Thorpe, PhD., Environmental Management Director
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

cc:

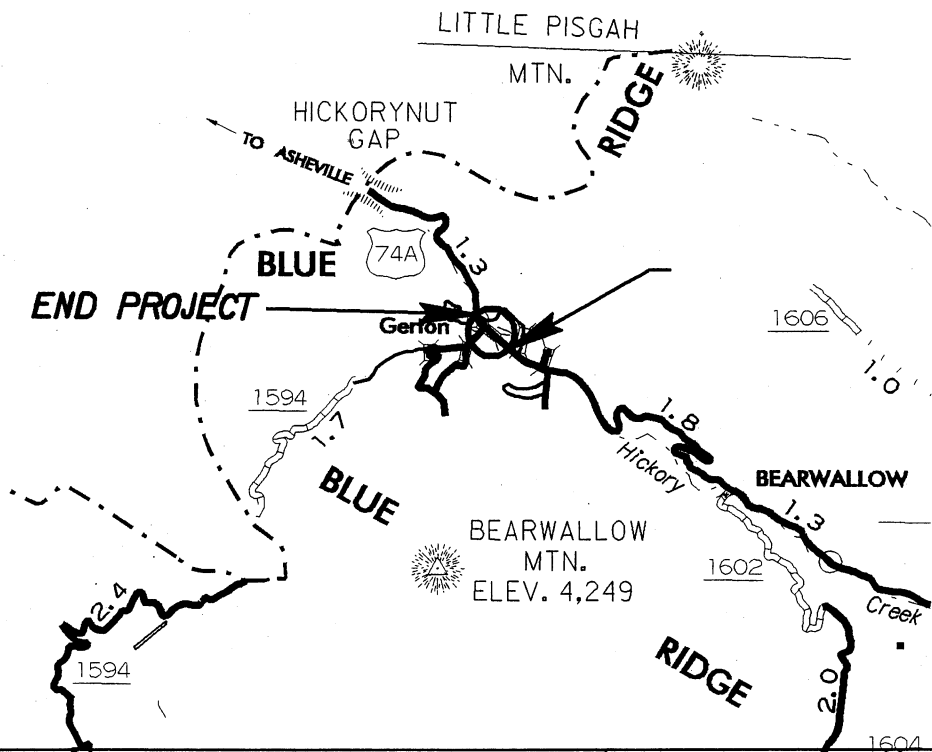
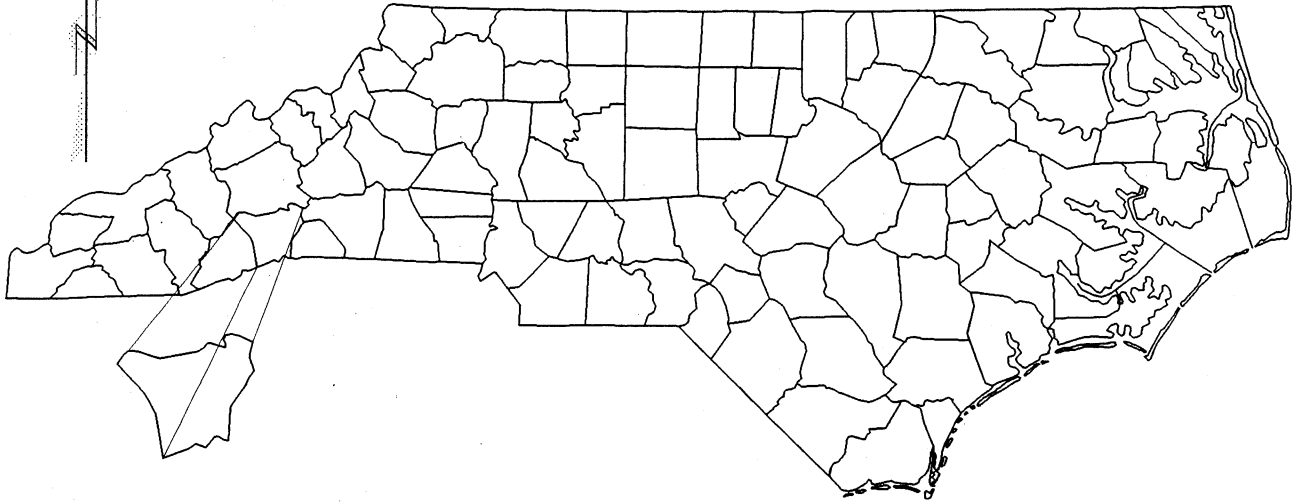
w/attachment

Mr. John Dorney, Division of Water Quality (2 copies)
Ms. Marella Buncick, USFWS
Ms. Marla Chambers, NCWRC
Mr. Greg Perfetti, P.E., Structure Design
Mr. Harold Draper, TVA

w/o attachment

Mr. David Franklin, USACE, Wilmington
Mr. Jay Bennett, P.E., Roadway Design
Mr. Omar Sultan, Programming and TIP
Ms. Debbie Barbour, P.E., Highway Design
Mr. David Chang, P.E., Hydraulics
Mr. Mark Staley, Roadside Environmental
Mr. John Sullivan, FHWA
Mr. Ron Watson, Division Engineer
Mr. Mark Davis, DEO
Ms. Missy Dickens

NORTH CAROLINA



VICINITY MAPS

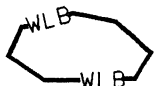

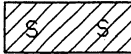


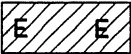

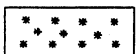

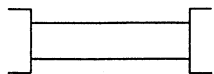
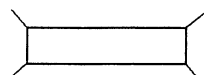


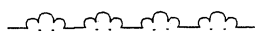
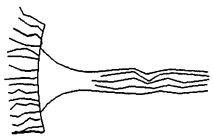
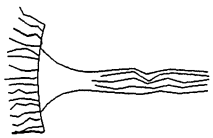



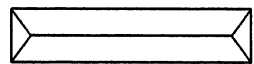
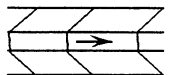
NOT TO SCALE

NCDOT

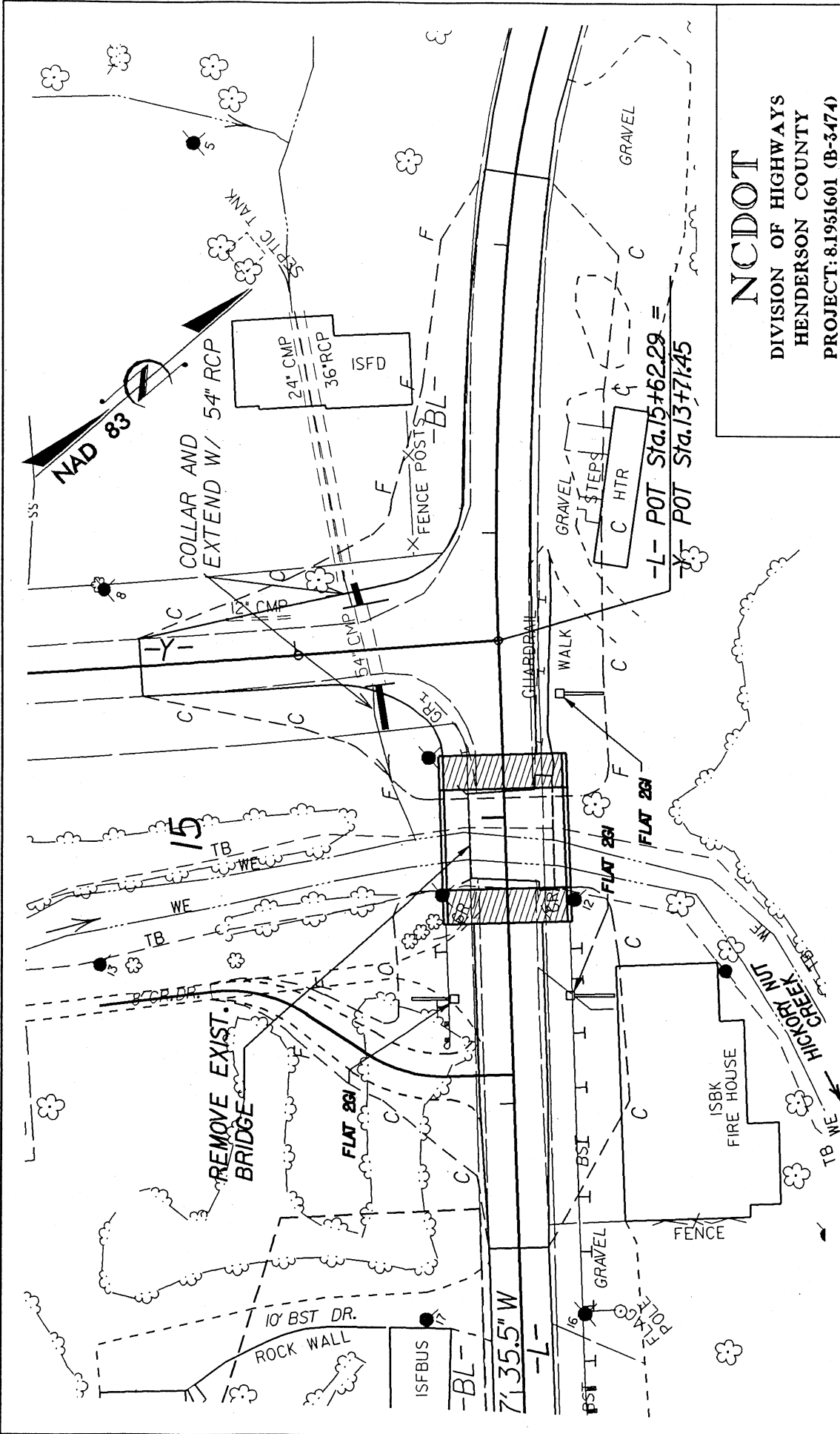
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
HENDERSON COUNTY
PROJECT: 8.1951601 (B-3474)

REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE[#] 59
ON US 74A OVER
HICKORY NUT CREEK

WETLAND LEGEND

<p>— WLB — WETLAND BOUNDARY</p> <p> WETLAND</p> <p> DENOTES FILL IN WETLAND</p> <p> DENOTES FILL IN SURFACE WATER</p> <p> DENOTES FILL IN SURFACE WATER (POND)</p> <p> DENOTES TEMPORARY FILL IN WETLAND</p> <p> DENOTES EXCAVATION IN WETLAND</p> <p> DENOTES TEMPORARY FILL IN SURFACE WATER</p> <p> DENOTES MECHANIZED CLEARING</p> <p>→ FLOW DIRECTION</p> <p>— TB — TOP OF BANK</p> <p>— WE — EDGE OF WATER</p> <p>— C — PROP. LIMIT OF CUT</p> <p>— F — PROP. LIMIT OF FILL</p> <p>▲ PROP. RIGHT OF WAY</p> <p>— NG — NATURAL GROUND</p> <p>— PL — PROPERTY LINE</p> <p>— TDE — TEMP. DRAINAGE EASEMENT</p> <p>— PDE — PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT</p> <p>— EAB — EXIST. ENDANGERED ANIMAL BOUNDARY</p> <p>— EPB — EXIST. ENDANGERED PLANT BOUNDARY</p> <p>—▽— WATER SURFACE</p> <p>x x x x x x x x x x LIVE STAKES</p> <p> BOULDER</p> <p>— — — CORE FIBER ROLLS</p>	<p> PROPOSED BRIDGE</p> <p> PROPOSED BOX CULVERT</p> <p> PROPOSED PIPE CULVERT 12"-48" PIPES 54" PIPES & ABOVE</p> <p>(DASHED LINES DENOTE EXISTING STRUCTURES)</p> <p> SINGLE TREE</p> <p> WOODS LINE</p> <p> DRAINAGE INLET</p> <p> ROOTWAD</p> <p> RIP RAP</p> <p> ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER OR PARCEL NUMBER IF AVAILABLE</p> <p> PREFORMED SCOUR HOLE</p> <p> LEVEL SPREADER (LS)</p> <p> DITCH / GRASS SWALE</p>
--	--

NCDOT
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
HENDERSON COUNTY
PROJECT: 8.1951601 (B-3474)
REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE# 59
ON US 74A OVER
HICKORY NUT CREEK
SHEET 2 OF 7



NCDOT

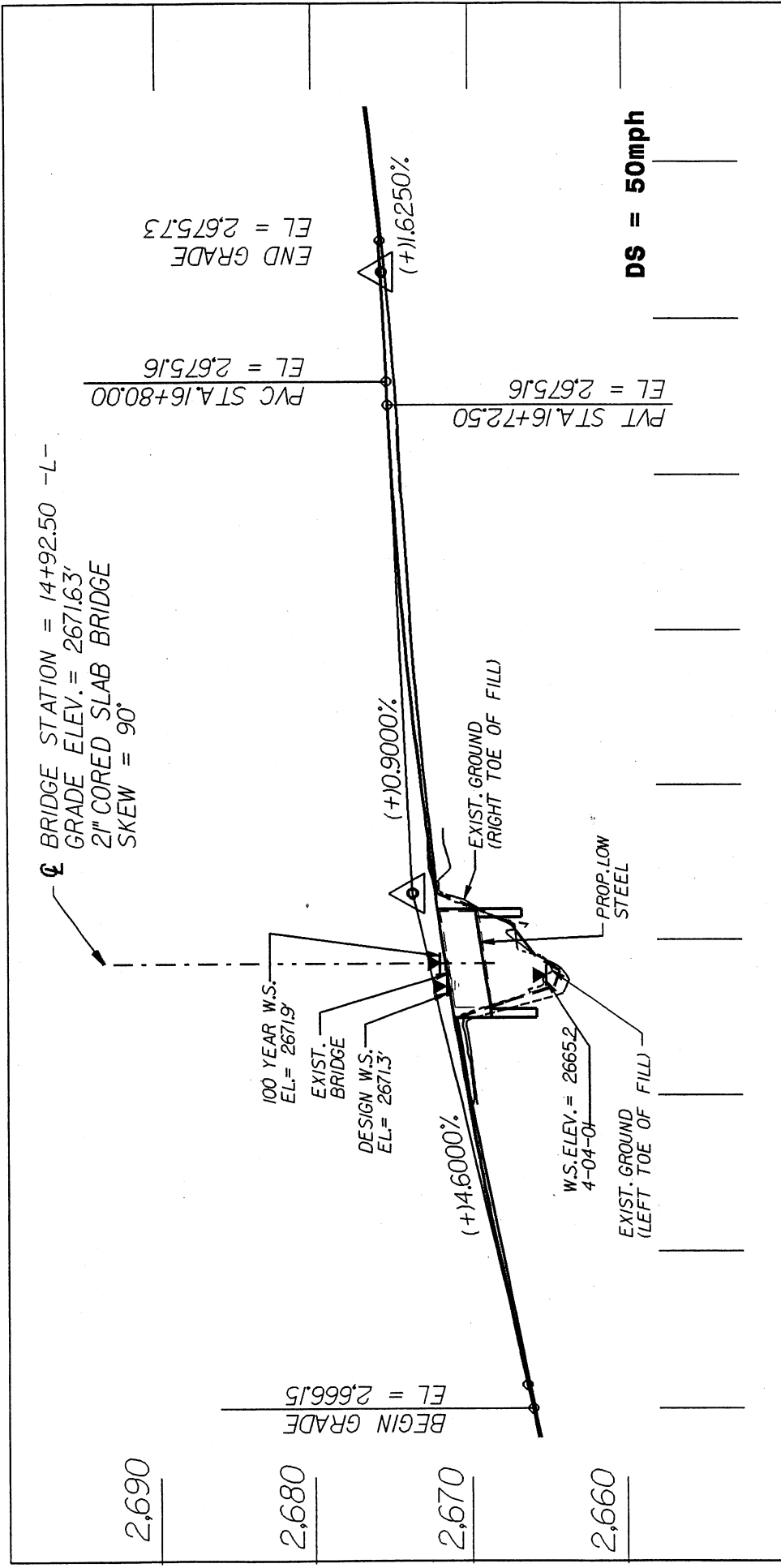
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 HENDERSON COUNTY
 PROJECT: 8.1951601 (B-3474)

REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE # 59
 ON US 70A OVER
 HICKORY NUT CREEK

SHEET 3 OF 7

PLAN VIEW

SCALE = 1"=50'

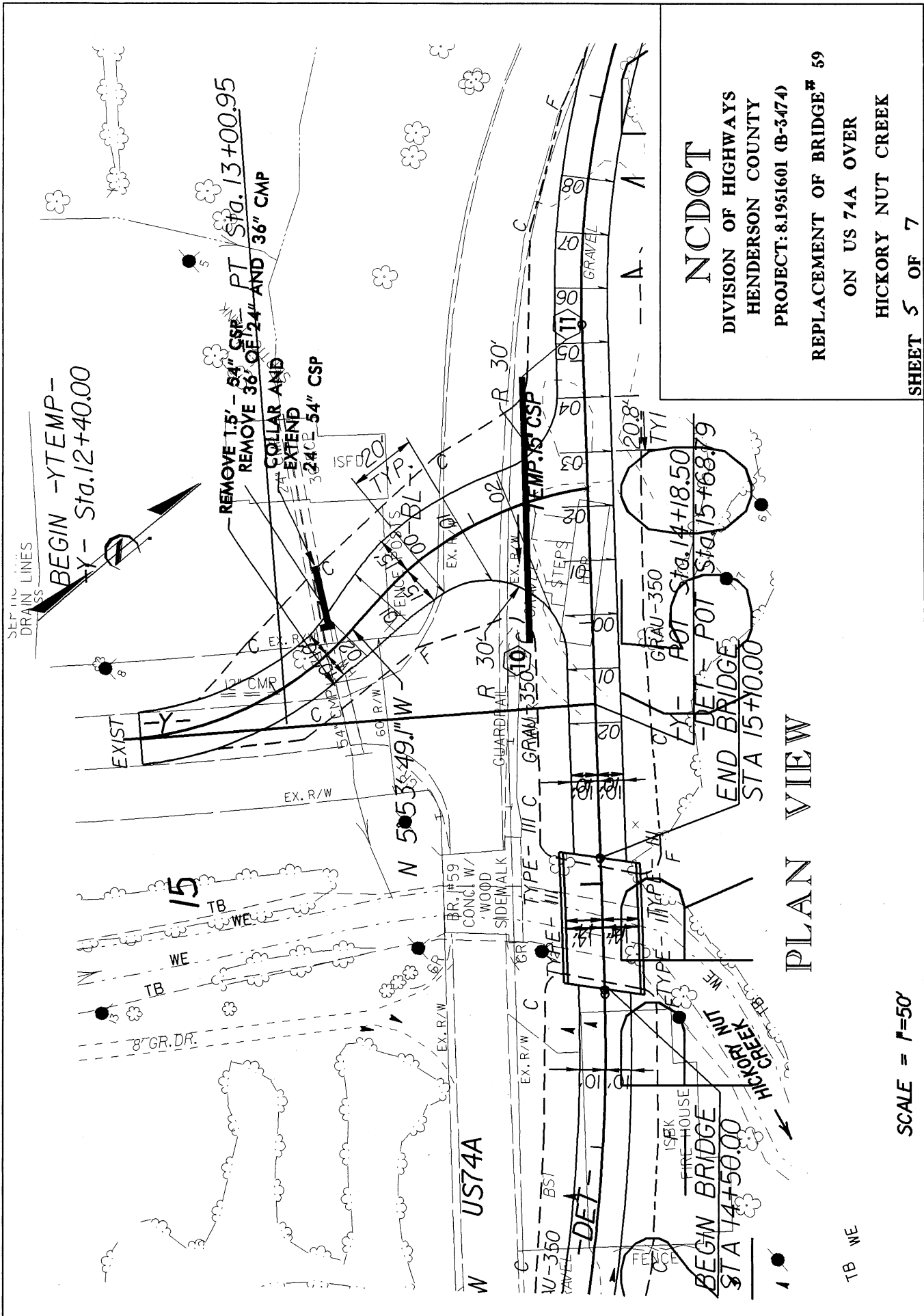


PROFILE

PROFILE - PROPOSED BRIDGE

SCALE: HORIZ. = 1"=50'
 VERT. = 1"= 10'

NCDOT
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 HENDERSON COUNTY
 PROJECT: 8.1951601 (B-3474)
 REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE# 59
 ON US 74A OVER
 HICKORY NUT CREEK

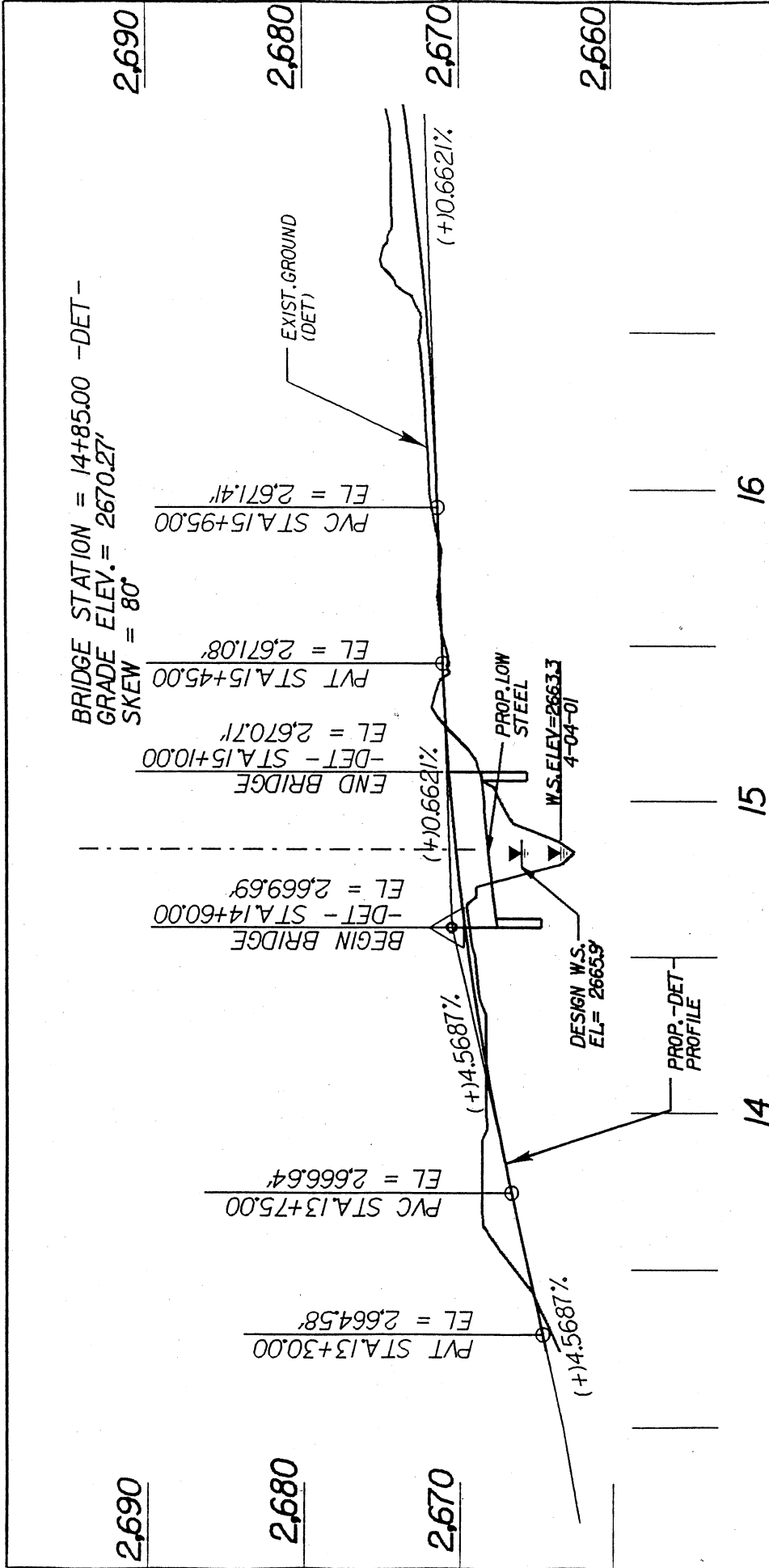


NCDOT
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 HENDERSON COUNTY
 PROJECT: 8.1951601 (B-3474)
 REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE # 59
 ON US 74A OVER
 HICKORY NUT CREEK
 SHEET 5 OF 7

PLAN VIEW

SCALE = 1"=50'

TB WE



NCDOT

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 HENDERSON COUNTY
 PROJECT: 8.1951601 (B-3474)

REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE # 59
 ON US 74A OVER
 HICKORY NUT CREEK

SHEET 6 OF 7

PROFILE

