

# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

June 27, 2023

U.S. Army Corps of N.C. Division of Water N.C. Div. of Coastal Engineers Resources Management Washington Regulatory Transportation Permitting 401 South Griffin St

Field Office Branch Ste 300

2407 West Fifth Street 1617 Mail Service Center Elizabeth City, NC 27909 Washington, NC 27889 Raleigh NC 27699-1617

ATTN: Mr. Kyle Barnes, Mr. Garcy Ward Mr. Greg Daisey

NCDOT Coordinator NCDOT Coordinator NCDOT Coordinator

SUBJECT: Application for Section 404/Section 10 Individual Permit, Section 401 Individual

Water Quality Certification, and CAMA Major Development Permit for the Proposed Replacement of the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge (Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7) on U.S. 64 over the Alligator River/Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Tyrrell and Dare Counties, North Carolina. STIP Project No. HB-0001; Federal Aid Project No.

NHPB-0001; USACE Action ID No. SAW-2021-01091.

Dear Sirs:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge (Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7) on U.S. 64 over the Alligator River portion of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Tyrrell and Dare Counties, North Carolina (at Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Mile 84.2). The project will replace the existing 2.83-mile-long swing-span drawbridge with a modern 3.32-mile, two-lane, fixed-span, high-rise bridge north of the existing alignment. The new structure will be comprised of either driven piles or drilled piers, Florida I-beam concrete girders, concrete deck panels, and a drivable wearing surface will provide a vertical navigable channel clearance of 65 feet and a navigational channel horizontal clearance of 140 feet.

The purpose of this letter is to request approval for a Section 404 Individual Permit and Section 401 Individual Water Quality Certification. Additionally, a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Major Development Permit is being pursued from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM). In addition to this cover letter, this application package includes the following:

ENG Form 4345, stormwater management plan, permit drawings, roadway plans, erosion control plans, Division of Mitigation Services (DMS) Acceptance Letter, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) survey/concurrence documentation, Concurrence Point 4B/4C meeting minutes, and CAMA application forms.

# **Purpose and Need**

The project purpose and need are as follows:

# The **NEED** for the proposed project:

The current bridge is experiencing substantial deterioration due to its age and structural deficiencies resulting in ongoing maintenance problems, jeopardizing its ability to provide a reliable connection between Columbia and Manns Harbor, Manteo, and the Outer Banks. The NEED for the project is demonstrated by the following summary of existing and projected conditions:

- Replacement is critical due to the age and structural deficiency of the bridge. The existing bridge is a 2.83-mile long, 2-lane bridge consisting of 343 spans with a moveable steel swing span. The bridge was constructed in 1960 and is classified as structurally deficient with a 31.71 rating of a possible 100.
- The existing bridge requires costly, heavy maintenance on a regular basis and requires constant smaller maintenance activities to keep the swing mechanism operational.
- Approximately 3.5 years ago (November 2019), a \$17 million major rehabilitation project was completed, consisting of several hundred pile jackets, concrete repair, deck surfacing, and a major mechanical overhaul of the swing mechanism and controls. Similar rehabilitation efforts will be needed within 5-6 years.
- Even with the major rehabilitation, the Department is required to perform regular work to maintain the swing mechanism, which has a history of malfunction resulting in closure of the bridge to vehicular travel. The mechanical parts, gears, and controls are not readily available and require custom fabrication with long lead times to acquire and replace.
- The existing Lindsay C. Warren bridge traffic will need to be maintained during construction of the new bridge. Depending on duration of construction, regular maintenance of the existing bridge may also need to occur. Vertical and horizontal navigational clearance has been approved by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Marine passage along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway will need to be maintained during construction.

## The **PURPOSE** of the proposed project is to:

• Replace the existing 2.83-mile-long Lindsay C. Warren Bridge (Tyrrell County Bridge Number 7) carrying U.S. 64 across the Alligator River, with a two-lane, high-level, fixed-span bridge.

## **Project Description**

The NCDOT proposes to replace the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge (Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7) on U.S. 64 over the Alligator River portion of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Tyrrell and Dare Counties, North Carolina (at Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Mile 84.2). The existing bridge is a two-lane swing bridge and would be removed as part of the project. The proposed replacement structure would be a modern two-lane, high-level, fixed span bridge providing a vertical navigable clearance of 65 feet and horizontal navigational clearance of 140 feet. The HB-0001 project proposes a 2-lane (12 feet each) roadway and bridge, with 10-foot shoulders (5-foot paved on the approaches) and 8-foot paved shoulders on the bridge. Total project length is approximately 4.25 miles.

The project starts in Tyrrell County on U.S. 64, just west of Fort Landing Road (Sta. 662+50). The new bridge alignment diverges from the existing U.S. 64 alignment and passes north of the existing marina/convenience store and crosses the Alligator River to the north of the existing Lindsay C. Warren Bridge. The project ends in Dare County and ties back into existing U.S. 64 past Old Ferry Landing Road (Sta. 907+60).

The existing Lindsay C. Warren bridge traffic will need to be maintained during construction of the new bridge. Depending on duration of construction, regular maintenance of the existing bridge may need to occur. Marine traffic will also continue using the existing navigational channel and the swing span bridge would continue to function.

# **Project Schedule**

Mobilization is proposed to begin in June 2024 when the project is Let, with in-water construction scheduled to begin around November 2024. Proposed bridge completion is in 2028 and demolition of the existing bridge is scheduled for 2029.

# **Summary of Impacts**

The Categorical Exclusion (CE) and subsequent Right-of-Way (ROW) Consultation anticipated that the Preferred Alternative would result in the following permanent jurisdictional impacts:

Table 1: Potential Permanent Jurisdictional Impacts from CE and ROW Consultation, Preferred Alternative

Resources	Impacts from CE	Impacts from ROW Consultation	Notes
CAMA R	esources (acres)		
Estuarine Public Trust Waters	0.10	0.02	
Coastal Wetlands	0.12	0.076	
Non-CAMA	Resources (acres)		
Wetlands	15.3	10.57	Excludes Coastal Wetlands (listed above)
Surface Waters	0.35	0.21	Included Ponds and Tributaries

The current design prepared by NCDOT has avoided and minimized impacts to jurisdictional resources to the greatest extent practicable. Through avoidance and minimization efforts the proposed design has reduced jurisdictional impacts to the following:

Table 2: Permanent and Temporary Jurisdictional Impacts, Permit Drawings

Resor	urces	Area (acres)	Notes				
	CAMA Resources (acres)						
Estuarine Publ	ic Trust Waters	0.0					
Coastal '	Wetlands	0.054	Includes Permanent Fill and Mechanized Clearing				
Resources	Resources Impact Type		Notes				
	Non-CAMA Resour	ces (acres)					
W 4 1 ( 1 1	Permanent Impact	9.048	Includes Fill and Excavation				
Wetlands(excludes Coastal Wetlands)	Mechanized Clearing	1.748					
Coastai Wetlands)	Temporary Fill	0.60					
	Hand Clearing	3.27					
	Permanent Impact	0.178	Included Ponds, Tributaries, open water				
Surface Waters	Temporary Impact	10.84	impacts to Alligator River, and other open waters				

Permanent impacts to Public Trust Waters were eliminated. Permanent impacts to Section 404/CAMA wetlands were reduced by 0.066 acres from the CE and 0.022 acres from the ROW Consultation. Permanent impacts to Section 404 wetlands (includes fill and mechanized clearing) were reduced by 4.504 acres from the CE and increased 0.226 acres from the ROW Consultation (the increase was a result of requests made by agencies during the Concurrence Point 4C meeting to increase mechanized clearing impacts at certain sites). Permanent impacts to surface waters were reduced by 0.172 acres from the CE and 0.032 acres from the ROW Consultation.

## **Summary of Mitigation**

Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Section 404 and Section 404/CAMA wetlands will be provided through a combination of mitigation credits provided by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) — DMS and on-site mitigation designed by NCDOT. The DMS Mitigation Acceptance Letter and on-site mitigation plan are attached to this application.

#### **NEPA Document Status**

The bridge replacement was previously addressed as part of a previous State of North Carolina (non-federal) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Study for the improvement and widening of approximately 27 miles of U.S. 64 in Tyrrell and Dare Counties (TIP R-2544/R-2545). The State environmental review process completed a draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project, but the FEIS was not signed, and a Record of Decision was not completed.

Under the current STIP No., the Type III CE was approved on August 31, 2021. An update to the CE was provided through a NEPA/SEPA Environmental Consultation (i.e., ROW Consultation) on March 20, 2023. The CE can be found at:

xfer.services.ncdot.gov - /pdea/EnvironmentalDocs/Documents/.

The Consultation can be found at:

xfer.services.ncdot.gov - /pdea/EnvironmentalDocs/Consultations/

# **Merger History**

Under R-2544/2545, the project had progressed through a portion of the NEPA/404 Merger process. The selection of a Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA), Concurrence Point (CP) 3, was achieved on February 14, 2013 and CP 4A (Avoidance and Minimization) was signed on December 17, 2014. The R-2544/R-2544 project did not progress any further in Merger.

A Merger Screening Meeting for HB-0001 was held on January 28, 2021, where it was determined that replacement of the Alligator River bridge, project HB-0001, would proceed through the Merger process as a standalone project. A CP 1 meeting was held on March 10, 2021, where the Merger team agreed on the project Purpose and Need and Project Study Area. A CP 2/2A meeting was held on April 21, 2021, where the Alternatives to Carry Forward were determined, and Hydraulic Considerations reviewed. The HB-0001 Alternative, carrying U.S. 64 over the Alligator River on a new bridge north of the existing bridge, was the only proposed alignment that the Merger team agreed to carry forward. CP 3 (LEDPA) and 4A (Avoidance and Minimization) were reached on June 23, 2021. CP 4B (Hydraulic Design) was held on April 20, 2022. CP 4C (Permit Drawing Review) was held on April 20, 2023.

#### **Resource Status**

Water resources associated with the project are part of the Pasquotank River Basin (United States Geological Survey [USGS] Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 03010205).

One potential jurisdictional river, the Alligator River (which is also part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway), is located in the HB-0001 footprint. The Alligator River just downstream (north) of the existing bridge (North Carolina Division of Water Resources [NCDWR] Index No. 30-16-[21.5]) is classified as a SC; Swamp (Sw) water. The Alligator River just upstream (south) of the existing bridge (30-16-[7]) is classified as a SC; Sw, Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) from the mouth of Northwest Fork to the existing Lindsay C. Warren Bridge. There are no designated High-Quality Waters (HQW) or Water Supply I or II watersheds (WS-I or WS-II) within the study area or within 1.0 mile downstream of the study area. The North Carolina 2022 Final 303(d) List of Impaired Waters identify the Alligator River (30-16-[7]) as an impaired water for Copper.

Anadromous Fish Habitat has also been identified within the project footprint. The Alligator River north of the existing U.S. 64 bridge (NCDWR Index No. 30-16-[21.5]) is classified as a coastal Anadromous Fish Spawning Area (AFSA) under Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) jurisdiction. The Alligator River south of the existing U.S. 64 bridge (NCDWR Index No. 30-16-[7]) is classified as joint AFSA waters under the jurisdiction of MFC and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). No Primary Nursery Areas have been identified within the project area.

Wetland and stream delineations were performed for STIP No. HB-0001 on February 25-26, 2021. A Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (SAW-2021-01091) was issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on September 20, 2021. Additional delineations were completed

by NCDOT in March 2023 and approved by USACE without requiring an additional site visit.

# **Impacts to Jurisdictional Resources**

Final proposed impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and surface waters associated with road and bridge construction for HB-0001 are summarized in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. None of the surface water impacts within Table 1 are within CAMA features.

**Table 1. Surface Water Impacts** 

Permit Drawing Site Number	NRTR Label	Туре	Permanent Impacts (ac.)	Temporary Impacts (ac.)	Mitigation Required <sup>3</sup>
1	TF	Tributary		0.018	No
3	PA	Pond	0.009	0.010	No
12	TC	Tributary	0.139	0.012	No
14	TD	Tributary	0.011	0.010	No
17	TB	Tributary	0.008	0.017	No
18	TD	Tributary	0.010	0.006	No
19	Alligator River	Perennial	0.198		No
	Total		0.376	0.072	

Table 2. Wetland Impacts<sup>1</sup>

Permit Drawing Site Number	NRTR Label	NCWAM Type	Riparian or Non-riparian	Section 404 or Section 404/CAMA	Permanent Impacts (ac.)	Temporary Impacts (ac.)	Excavation (ac.)	Mechanized Clearing (ac.)	Hand Clearing (ac.)	Mitigation Required (ac.)
1	WD	Riverine Swamp Forest/Tidal Freshwater Marsh	Riparian	Section 404	0.010			0.020		0.03
1	WC	Tidal Freshwater Marsh	Riparian	Section 404/CAMA	0.026			0.028		0.054
2	WB	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	0.061			0.057	0.282	0.118
3	WB	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	0.142				0.052	0.142
4	WA	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	0.512			0.095	0.145	0.607
5	WA	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	2.77			0.533	0.840	3.303
6	WA	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	0.257			0.076		0.333
7	WD	Riverine Swamp Forest/Tidal Freshwater Marsh	Riparian	Section 404	0.002			0.021		0.023
8	WA	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	1.498			0.291	0.210	1.789
9	WA	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404					0.345	
10	WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404					0.621	
11	WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	1.361			0.283	0.452	1.644
12	WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	2.082			0.293	0.235	2.375
13	WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	0.324			0.073	0.086	0.397
15	WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404			0.023			0.023
16	WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404			0.002			0.002
17	WJ	Tidal Freshwater Marsh	Riparian	Section 404	0.004			0.004		0.008
19	WH	Riverine Swamp Forest	Riparian	Section 404	0.008					0.008
<sup>1</sup> Rounded to	tals are th	e sum of the actual impacts.	To	otal	9.057	0.00	0.02	1.776	3.27	10.856

## **Utility Impacts**

Project construction will entail the relocation of various utilities. However, any impacts from these relocations are accounted for in the impacts listed in Tables 1 and 2 and on the Wetland and Stream Permit Drawings. Underground utilities that cross features and are not accounted for at an impact site will be installed through trenchless installation methods in order to not impact these features.

# **Federally Protected Species**

As of the date of this application, the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website and/or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) list 17 species for the project (Table 3). Species with the federal classification of Endangered (E), Proposed Endangered (PE), or Threatened (T) are protected under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. Species listed as Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance [T(S/A)], such as the American alligator, are not subject to Section 7 consultation. The bald eagle is protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and is also not subject to Section 7 consultation.

Table 3. Federally protected species listed for the project<sup>1</sup>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>2</sup>	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion <sup>3</sup>
Acipenser brevirostrum	Shortnose sturgeon	Е	Yes	MANLAA
Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus	Atlantic sturgeon	Е	Yes	MANLAA
Myotis septentrionalis	Northern long-eared bat	Е	Yes	MALAA
Perimyotis subflavus	Tricolored bat	PE	Yes	TBD
Canis rufus	Red wolf	Е	Yes	MANLAA
Trichechus manatus	West Indian manatee	T	Yes	MANLAA
Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis	Eastern black rail	Т	Yes	MANLAA <sup>4</sup>
Charadrius melodus	Piping plover	T	No	No Effect
Calidris canus rufa	Red knot	T	No	No Effect
Dryobates (syn. Picoides) borealis	Red-cockaded woodpecker	Е	Yes	MALAA
Alligator mississippiensis	American alligator	SAT	Yes	Not Required
Chelonia mydas	Green sea turtle	T	No	No Effect
Eretmochelys imbricata	Hawksbill sea turtle	Е	No	No Effect
Lepidochelys kempii	Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	Е	No	No Effect
Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback sea turtle	Е	No	No Effect
Caretta caretta	Leatherback sea turtle	T	No	No Effect

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> USFWS IPaC website checked on May 22, 2023.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  E - Endangered; PE - Proposed Endangered; SAT - Similarity of Appearance to a Threatened Taxon; T - Threatened.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> MALAA – May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect; MANLAA – May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect; TBD – To Be Determined.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This Biological Conclusion is based on the presence of habitat and presumption that no black rails are present. Surveys are currently ongoing, and this conclusion may change depending on survey results.

A review of the Spring (April) 2023 North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) dataset identified the following occurrences within 1.0 of the project:

- Atlantic sturgeon Element Occurrence (EO) No. 5; this is an occurrence that encompasses the entire Atlantic Coast in North Carolina.
- American alligator EO No. 7; within the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge
- Red wolf EO No. 4; comprised of the entire Albemarle Peninsula
- Red-cockaded woodpecker EO No. 25; within the Palmetto Peartree Preserve

# **Biological Conclusions for ESA Listed Species**

The CE addressed the analysis of potential effects on federally protected species at the time of the document. On September 14, 2022, the USFWS announced a proposal to list the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus* - PESU) as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (including in Dare and Tyrrell Counties). Given the proposal to list PESU as Federally Endangered, NCDOT and its federal partners, the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) and USACE, are initiating a conference programmatic consultation to address impacts to this species. USFWS has not provided an official effective listing date, but it is anticipated to occur in the second half of 2023. Upon listing, USFWS is expected to provide habitat descriptions and an area of influence/distribution range for PESU. When this information is provided, it will help to inform NCDOT's determinations on habitat that could be impacted by NCDOT actions.

The USFWS has issued a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the FHWA, USACE, and NCDOT for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in eastern North Carolina. The PBO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT projects and activities. Although this programmatic covers Divisions 1-8, the USFWS only considers NLEBs to be known or potentially found in 30 counties within Divisions 1-8. NCDOT, FHWA, and USACE have agreed to two conservation measures which will avoid/minimize mortality of NLEBs. These conservation measures only apply to the 30 current known/potential counties shown on Figure 2 of the PBO at this time. The programmatic determination for NLEB for the NCDOT program is May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect. The PBO will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for ten years (effective through December 31, 2030) for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes Dare and Tyrrell Counties, where HB-0001 is located.

For the remaining species where a Biological Conclusion other than No Effect has been rendered, the following actions have been taken:

- Atlantic and shortnose sturge<del>on</del> (MANLAA) In an email dated January 7, 2021, the NMFS concurred with the Biological Conclusions for these species.
- Red wolf (MANLAA) In an email dated July 12, 2021, the USFWS stated:

"Since, through avoidance and minimization efforts, we have now avoided all impacts to the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, the red wolf does not come into play for Section 7. The species in North Carolina is considered Experimental, Non-Essential. This means it is treated as federally threatened on National Wildlife Refuge and National Park Service lands only. Off of these federal lands it is considered "proposed", which does not require consultation. We often recommend doing Section 7 conference for proposed species, but that is probably not necessary for the red wolf since it appears the "proposed" status will not change anytime soon. If the status was to change in the future, it would only need informal consultation at that time."

- West Indian Manatee (MANLAA) The Guidelines for Avoiding Impacts to the West Indian Manatee: Precautionary Measures for Construction Activities in North Carolina Waters (USFWS, 2003) will be implemented for this project to ensure no adverse effects occur to this species.
- Eastern black rail (MANLAA) An initial Biological Conclusion of "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" was rendered for this species based on just the presence of suitable habitat. Since that time, the USFWS has established a survey protocol for the species. Surveys are currently in progress and will be completed in early June 2023. It is anticipated that, if no black rails are identified during surveys, that the Biological Conclusion will remain unchanged. However, if the species is identified, additional coordination with USFWS will be required to determine what is required for the species to satisfy Section 7 consultation.
- Red-cockaded woodpecker (MALAA) A Biological Opinion was issued by the USFWS for the species on November 5, 2021. Per conditions outlined in the Biological Opinion, additional surveys will be completed in the Fall/Winter 2023 to update the cluster analysis as it relates to this project, which will determine the final level of take on the species.

# **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA)**

Bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). Golden eagles do not occur in North Carolina.

Suitable foraging habitat is present within and within 660 feet of the project footprint. Additionally, bald eagle nests are known within the project vicinity. Since habitat is present, the project and the area within 660 feet of the project was surveyed for bald eagle nests via helicopter. No eagles or nests were identified within the survey area. One active eagle nest was observed within 0.5 miles of the study area. A review of the Spring (April) 2023 NCNHP dataset identified bald eagle EO Nos. 24 and 30 within 1.0 of the project. However, due to the lack of nests within the survey area, it has been determined that this project will not impact this species.

## Moratoria

Anadromous fish habitat has been identified within the study area. The Alligator River north of the existing U.S. 64 bridge (NCDWR Index No. 30-16-[21.5]) is classified as coastal AFSA under MFC jurisdiction. The Alligator River south of the existing U.S. 64 bridge (NCDWR Index No. 30-16-[7]) is classified as joint AFSA waters under the jurisdiction of MFC and the NCWRC. No Primary Nursery Areas have been identified within the study area. An in-water construction moratorium from July 15 – September 30 for the entire river, and February 15 – June 30 for the deepwater channel will apply to this project.

## **Essential Fish Habitat**

The NOAA – NMFS (per the Essential Fish Habitat Mapper website) has identified the Alligator River at the project location as Essential Fish Habitat. Table 4 lists the fish species that may occur in the study area that are managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA).

Table 4. Commercial fish species reported to occur in the project area

Species	Life Stage <sup>1</sup>
Atlantic butterfish	A
Bluefish	J, A
Summer flounder	L, J, A
Snapper Grouper	L, J, A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A – Adult, J – Juvenile, L – Larvae

## Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

The proposed project will require that the existing structure over the Alligator River be removed, and a new structure built in proximity. The new bridge structure will require footings to be placed within the River; however, there will no direct or indirect permanent impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) since none were identified within the existing or proposed project footprints. In addition, bridge footings of existing Tyrrell Bridge No. 7 will be removed.

Therefore, the proposed project will likely result in a negligible net effect on available Essential Fish Habitat. Additional surveys will be completed prior to Let to confirm that no SAV are present that may be affected by the project.

#### **Cultural Resources**

Construction of the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge was completed in 1962. The bridge was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) during the 2005 NCDOT Historic Bridge Inventory. The bridge is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C as an early example of the use of welding as a method of construction for long-span application of welder girders in the state of North Carolina.

The Alligator River Bridge replacement project proposes to replace the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge, thereby resulting in an "Adverse Effect on Historic Properties" finding by FHWA. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with FHWA's finding on June 24, 2021 and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed for the project on August 31, 2021. In the MOA, NCDOT agreed to stipulations related to recordation of the existing bridge, design elements of the proposed bridge, and the placement of decorative panels within the new bridge approaches.

## Borrow

Several potential borrow sites are under consideration, but a borrow site has not currently been selected. Any borrow site will be evaluated to ensure no impacts to streams or wetlands would occur directly or indirectly through drainage. Impacts to jurisdictional resources associated with obtaining borrow are not anticipated.

## **FEMA Compliance**

The project has been coordinated with appropriate state and local officials and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assure compliance with FEMA, state, and local floodway regulations.

## **Mitigation Options**

The NCDOT is committed to incorporating all reasonable and practicable design features to avoid and minimize jurisdictional impacts, and to provide full compensatory mitigation of all remaining, unavoidable jurisdictional impacts. Avoidance measures were taken during planning and NEPA compliance stages; minimization measures were incorporated as part of the project design.

Avoidance and Minimization: NCDOT employs many strategies to avoid and minimize impacts to jurisdictional areas in all of its designs. Avoidance and minimization measures for HB-0001 were further discussed during the CP 4B and 4C meetings and are being implemented to the maximum extent practicable. All stream and wetland areas not affected by the project will be protected from unnecessary encroachment. Additional Avoidance and Minimization measures are listed below.

- A Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) has been created for the project and is included in this package with the permit drawings.
- Best Management Practices for the Protection of Surface Waters will be implemented for this project.
- All major structures have been designed to minimize environmental and jurisdictional feature impacts as much as practicable.
- The Alligator River section south of the bridge has been designated as an ORW, but the river section north of the existing bridge has not been designated as an ORW. Since the proposed bridge will be located north of the existing bridge, the stormwater from the bridge and approaches will outlet into the non-ORW section of the Alligator River.
- Based on Stochastic Empirical Loading and Dilution Model (SELDM) analysis, it was determined that minimum measures can be used to treat stormwater runoff at the Alligator River.
- The stormwater management plan includes the use of deck drains where there is a minimum of 12 feet of clearance from the deck drain to the surface water. The roadway profile provides at least this minimum vertical clearance for as much of the bridge as possible. The deck drains will be located from Sta. 51+78 to Sta. 213+96 -L- LT/RT. For the sections between the bridge approach and the deck drains, the runoff will accumulate in the shoulder and be collected outside the approach slabs with traditional two-grate inlets (2GIs) and pipe outlets.
- The profile and drainage are designed so that spread is kept out of the travel lane and the bypass from the system is less than 0.1 cubic feet per second (cfs). With this approach, a closed drainage system attached to the bridge is not required. The pipes outlet at the toe of the roadway embankment. There are wetland areas on both sides of the road at both the beginning and end of the bridge. To minimize impacts to the wetland areas, rip-rap pads are utilized at the pipe outlets to dissipate energy. The wetland areas outlet to the Alligator River, so ditching to the Alligator River will not be used to avoid additional wetland impacts.
- Given the wetland areas at the bridge approaches, Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) would result in large wetland impacts. To avoid these impacts, the use of SCMs was omitted.
- For the roadway sections, fill slopes will be steepened to minimize filling in wetland areas to the greatest extent practicable.
- Ditching through wetland areas will be avoided, and all closed system drainage outlets will be designed to have non-erosive velocities.
- All cross-pipes with jurisdictional waters will be buried.

- Utilities will be installed through trenchless installation methods where practicable.
- Where possible, utilities were placed within the proposed roadway fill limits to avoid additional impacts.

<u>Compensation:</u> The NCDOT has avoided and minimized impacts to jurisdictional resources to the greatest extent practicable.

The proposed construction of HB-0001 will result in unavoidable impacts to 10.856 acres of wetlands (with 0.054 acres of that being within Section 404/CAMA wetlands) that will require mitigation. The wetland impacts are in the 8-digit HUC 03010205 of the Pasquotank River Basin.

Compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable impacts to wetlands will be provided by a combination of compensatory mitigation credits from NCDEQ – DMS and on-site mitigation. Please see the attached DMS Mitigation Acceptance Letter and On-Site Mitigation Plan.

## **Indirect and Cumulative Effects**

Potential indirect and cumulative effects (ICE) attributable to the HB-0001 project were analyzed as part of the CE through a Direct and Indirect Screening Tool (DIST). Negative impacts to transit, local traffic, or communities are not anticipated as a result of this project. Additionally, the project will not encourage the development of activity centers or similar areas of concentrated, moderate to high intensity land development or redevelopment in the project vicinity.

The potential for the degradation of water quality does exist through erosion and stream sedimentation. The stormwater management plan details measures taken to avoid and minimize these potential project related impacts.

The notable natural environmental features found within the project area are provided multiple protections under state and federal laws and local permitting ordinances. The cumulative effect of this project when considered in the context of other past, present, and future actions, and the resulting impact on the notable human and natural features, will not notably contribute to cumulative impacts to environmental resources in the project area. Although unavoidable permanent impacts to wetlands will occur as part of this project, the direct natural environmental impacts by NCDOT have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable while still serving the purpose of the project. All future development will be required to follow local, state, and federal guidelines and permitting regulations. Additionally, wetland areas will be restored on-site, and existing impervious surface will be removed, which will help to counteract wetland impacts associated with the project.

# **Regulatory Approvals**

<u>Section 404/Section 10:</u> Application is hereby made for a USACE Individual Section 404/Section 10 Permit as required for the above-described activities.

<u>Section 401:</u> We are requesting a Section 401 Individual Water Quality Certification from NCDWR. We are providing this application to NCDEQ, for their approval. Authorization to debit the \$570.00 Permit Application Fee from WBS Element 49475.1.1 is hereby given.

<u>CAMA:</u> NCDOT requests that the proposed work be authorized under a Coastal Area Management Act Major Permit. Adjacent riparian landowner certified mail return receipts will be provided once they are received. Authorization to debit the \$475.00 Permit Application Fee from WBS Element 49475.1.1 is hereby given. A copy of this permit request and its distribution list will be posted on the NCDOT website at:

https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Environmental

Thank you for your assistance with this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jason Dilday at <u>jldilday1@ncdot.gov</u> or (919) 707-6111.

Sincerely,

Michael Turchy

Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group Leader

NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit

Michael Ly

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

#### APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

33 CFR 325. The proponent agency is CECW-CO-R.

Form Approved -OMB No. 0710-0003 Expires: 02-28-2022

The public reporting burden for this collection of information, OMB Control Number 0710-0003, is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the 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 <a href="whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil">whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil</a>. 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. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.

#### PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned. System of Record Notice (SORN). The information received is entered into our permit tracking database and a SORN has been completed (SORN #A1145b) and may be accessed at the following website: <a href="http://dpcld.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx">http://dpcld.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx</a>

(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)						
1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE		3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLI	CATION COMPLETE	
	(ITEMS BELOW TO BE	FILLED BY AP	PLICANT)	ı		
5. APPLICANT'S NAME		8. AUTHORIZ	ED AGENT'S NAME A	ND TITLE (agent i	s not required)	
First - Michael Middle - A	Last - Turchy	First -	Middle	- Last	-	
Company - NCDOT Environmental Analy	sis Unit	Company -				
E-mail Address - maturchy@ncdot.gov		E-mail Address	s -			
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:		9. AGENT'S A	ADDRESS:			
Address- 1598 Mail Service Center		Address-				
City - Raleigh State - NC	Zip - 27699 Country - USA	City -	State -	Zip -	Country -	
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOs. w/AREA COD	E	10. AGENTS PHONE NOs. w/AREA CODE				
a. Residence b. Business (919) 707-6157	c. Fax	a. Residence	b. Busines	cs C.	Fax	
	STATEMENT OF	AUTHORIZATI	ON			
11. I hereby authorize,		my agent in the	processing of this applic	cation and to furnis	sh, upon request,	
<del>-</del>	SIGNATURE OF APPLIC	ANT	DATE			
N/	AME, LOCATION, AND DESCR	IPTION OF PRO	JECT OR ACTIVITY			
12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instruction Replacement of US 64 Tyrrell County Br	,	Warren Bridge)	) over the Alligator R	tiver, Dare/Tyrre	ell Cos. (HB-0001)	
13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (if a	pplicable)	14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable)				
Alligator River/Atlantic Intracoastal Water	Address N/A					
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT	0.1			<del></del> -		
Latitude: ∘N 35.900382 Longit	tude: •W -76.005901	City -	5	tate-	Zip-	
16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (see instructions)						
State Tax Parcel ID Multiple PINs Municipality East Lake						
Section Township -	Range	)				

#### 17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

From Washington, NC: Take US 17 North to US 64 East in Williamston (approximately 20 miles). Then, take US 64 East approximately 62 miles to the western terminus of the Lindsay C. Warren Bridge (Tyrrell County Bridge Number 7). Project begins at roughly this location and spans the Alligator River to near East Lake, North Carolina.

#### 18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes the replacement of US 64 Tyrrell County Bridge Number 7 over the Alligator River/Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Dare and Tyrrell Counties (STIP No. HB-0001). The proposed two-lane, 3.32-mile long, high-level, fixed-span bridge would replace the existing 2.83-mile long, 2-lane bridge, 343-span (with a movable steel swing span) bridge. Based on the design, the project will result in impacts to the Alligator River and Section 404 and Section 404/ CAMA wetlands. All features are located in the Pasquotank River Basin (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 03010205).

#### 19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing 2.83-mile-long Lindsay C. Warren Bridge (Tyrrell County Bridge Number 7), carrying US 64 across the Alligator River/Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, with a two-lane, high-level, fixed-span bridge. The current bridge is experiencing substantial deterioration due to its age and structural deficiencies resulting in ongoing maintenance problems, jeopardizing its ability to provide a reliable connection between Columbia and Manns Harbor, Manteo, and the Outer Banks. A potential bridge malfunction or maintenance that requires the bridge to stay in the closed position for more than a short-term closure also affects reliable passage along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The existing bridge was constructed in 1960 and is classified as structurally deficient with a 31.71 rating of a possible 100.

#### USE BLOCKS 20-23 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

#### 20. Reason(s) for Discharge

The proposed bridge replacement will require fill in jurisdictional waters. The proposed bridge will be constructed just to the north of the existing bridge (~2,000 ft.) since, due to the unreasonable detour if the road was closed, traffic will have to be maintained on the current bridge during construction. Temporary and/or Permanent fill in both Section 404 and CAMA wetlands and the River will result from the new location of the bridge, as well as roadway fill required to raise the elevation on both sides of the river to accommodate a high-level bridge.

21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards:

Type Type Type

Amount in Cubic Yards Amount in Cubic Yards Amount in Cubic Yards

See attached Roadway Plans

22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)

Acres See Attached Permit Drawings

or

Linear Feet See Attached Permit Drawings

### 23. Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation (see instructions)

BMPS for the Protection of Surface Waters will be employed for this project. Additionally, no impacts to the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge or Alligator River Gameland will occur as part of the preferred alternative. See Attached Stormwater Management Plan for more details on Avoidance and Minimization.

Compensatory Mitigation will be achieved by a combination of aquisition of credits for the NC Division of Mitigation Services and On-site Mitigation. Please see the attached NCDMS mitigation acceptance letter and on-site mitigation plan.

**ENG FORM 4345, FEB 2019** Page 2 of 3

24. Is Any Portion of the	Work Already Complete?	Yes No I	F YES, DESCRIBE THE COM	PLETED WORK	
25. Addresses of Adjoin	ing Property Owners, Less	ees, Etc., Whose Pro	operty Adjoins the Waterbody (	if more than can be entered here, please at	ttach a supplemental list).
a. Address- See Attacl	ned Property Owner List				
City -		S	State -	Zip -	
b. Address-					
b. Addiese					
City -		5	State -	Zip -	
c. Address-					
City -		c	State -	Zip -	
Oity -			state -	Ζίρ -	
d. Address-					
City -		8	State -	Zip -	
a Addraga					
e. Address-					
City -		S	State -	Zip -	
OC List of Other Contin	atas an Ammanuala/Damiala n	i	'adamal Chaha and a and Amanai	an fan Marik Danariikand in Thia Ar	
		IDENTIFICAT	ION	es for Work Described in This Ap	
AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED
USACE	NWP 6	SAW-2021-010	91 2021-07-15	2021-08-23	
NCDWR	Indiv. WQC	20211126 v.2	2022-08-31	2022-10-06	
		-			
	-	-			
	_	_			
* Would include but is no	ot restricted to zoning, buildi	ng, and flood plain p	permits		
				. I certify that this information in	
applicant.	i luitiner certily that I posse	ss the authority to ur	idertake the work described he	erein or am acting as the duly au	monzed agent of the
Mil	ul of	6/27/202	3		
SIGNATUR	RE OF APPLICANT	DATE	SIGN	IATURE OF AGENT	DATE
				ity (applicant) or it may be sig	gned by a duly
authorized agent if the	e statement in block 11 h	as been tilled out	and signed.		

statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

\*\*ENG FORM 4345, FEB 2019\*\*

Page 3 of 3

knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States

ROY COOPER Governor ELIZABETH S. BISER Secretary MARC RECKTENWALD Director



April 27, 2023

Mr. Jamie Lancaster, P.E. Environmental Analysis Unit North Carolina Department of Transportation 1598 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Dear Mr. Lancaster:

Subject: Mitigation Acceptance Letter:

HB-0001, Replace Bridge Number 7 on US 64 over the Alligator River, Dare and Tyrell Counties

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Mitigation Services (NCDEQ-DMS) will provide the mitigation for the subject project. Based on the information received from you on April 27, 2023, the impacts are located in CU 03010205 of the Pasquotank River basin in the Northern Outer Coastal Plain (NOCP) Eco-Region, and are as follows:

Pasquotank	Stream			Wetlands			Buffer (Sq. Ft.)	
03010205	Cold	Cool	Warm	Riparian	Non- Riparian	Coastal Marsh	Zone 1	Zone 2
Impacts (feet/acres)	0	0	0	10.730	0	0.050	0	0

NCDEQ – DMS commits to implementing sufficient compensatory wetland mitigation credits to offset the impacts associated with this project as determined by the regulatory agencies in accordance with the In-Lieu Fee Instrument dated July 28, 2010. If the above referenced impact amounts are revised, then this mitigation acceptance letter will no longer be valid and a new mitigation acceptance letter will be required from NCDEQ-DMS.

\If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Beth Harmon at 919-707-8420.

Sincerely,

for James B. Stanfill
DMS Deputy Director

cc: Mr. Monte Matthews, USACE – Raleigh

Ms. Amy Chapman, NCDWR File: HB-0001\_Construction



Clizabeth Harmon

# APPLICATION for Major Development Permit

1. Primary Applicant/ Landowner Information

N.C.D.O.T. Environmental Analysis Unit



(last revised 12/27/06)

**Business Name** 

#### North Carolina DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Replacement of US 64 Tyrrell County Bridge No 7 (Lindsay C. Warren Bridge) over the Alligator River (Atlantic

Intracoastal Waterway), Dare/Tyrrell Cos. (HB-0001)

Project Name (if applicable)

Applicant 1: First Name		MI	Last Name				
Michael		Α	Turchy				
Applicant 2: First Name		MI	Last Name	Last Name			
If additional applicants, pleas	se attach an additional pag	e(s) with names	listed.				
Mailing Address			PO Box	City	State	•	
1598 Mail Service Center				Raleigh	NC		
ZIP	Country	Phone No.			FAX No.		
27699	USA	919 - 707	- 6157 ext.		-	-	
Street Address (if different fr	om above)		City	State	ZIP		
1000 Birch Ridge Drive			Raleigh	NC	276	10-	
Email							
maturchy@ncdot.gov							
2. Agent/Contract	or Information						
Business Name							
Agent/ Contractor 1: First N	ame	MI	Last Name				
Agent/ Contractor 2: First N	ame	MI	Last Name				
Mailing Address			PO Box	City		State	
ZIP		Phone No. 1		Phone	No. 2		
		-	- ext.			ext.	
FAX No.		Contractor #					
Street Address (if different from above)			City	State	ZIP		
						-	
Email							

3. Project Location						
County (can be multiple) Dare Tyrrell	Street Address N/A				State Rd. # US 64	
Subdivision Name		City East Lak	e	State NC	Zip 27953 -	
Phone No ext.			Lot No.(s) (if many, attach	additional ,	page with list)	
In which NC river basin is the project     Pasquotank	t located?		b. Name of body of water Alligator River/Atlant			
c. Is the water body identified in (b) about Matural ☐Manmade ☐Unknow		ade?	d. Name the closest major Albemarle Sound	water bod	ly to the proposed project site.	
e. Is proposed work within city limits or ⊠Yes □No	planning jurisdiction?	)	f. If applicable, list the plar work falls within. East Lake	nning jurisd	liction or city limit the proposed	
4. Site Description						
a. Total length of shoreline on the tract 2,589 (1,198 western shore, 1,3 Project Study Area)	` '	within	b. Size of entire tract (sq.ft.) 1,301,040,321 (Project Study Area)			
c. Size of individual lot(s)  Multiple, PINs, (If many lot sizes, please attach add	liki anal mana wikh a link		d. Approximate elevation of tract above NHW (normal high water) or NWL (normal water level)  0-13 ft (highest at marina) □NHW or ☑NWL			
e. Vegetation on tract  Maintained/disturbed areas of n vegetation	nowed grass and pa	avement, c	L coastal shrub habitat, swa	amp fores	t, tidal freshwater marsh	
f. Man-made features and uses now or Roads, driveways, residential/c		s, roadside	e ditches, bridge and asso	ociated su	pport structures.	
g. Identify and describe the existing land uses <u>adjacent</u> to the proposed project site.  Conservation and protected lands, residential (minimal), commercial (including gas station, marina), WRC boat ramp site (not currently in use)						
h. How does local government zone the tract?  i. N/A		<ul> <li>i. Is the proposed project consistent with the applicable zoning?</li> <li>(Attach zoning compliance certificate, if applicable)</li> <li>☐Yes ☐No ☑NA</li> </ul>				
j. Is the proposed activity part of an urban waterfront redevelopment pro			pposal?	∐Yes	⊠No	
k. Has a professional archaeological a	ssessment been done	for the trac	ct? If yes, attach a copy.	⊠Yes	□No □NA	
If yes, by whom?				NCDO	Т	
I. Is the proposed project located in a National Registered Historic Distri National Register listed or eligible property?			ict or does it involve a	⊠Yes	□No □NA	

# <Form continues on next page>

m. (i) Are there wetlands on the site?	⊠Yes □No
(ii) Are there coastal wetlands on the site?	⊠Yes □No
(iii) If yes to either (i) or (ii) above, has a delineation been conducted? (Attach documentation, if available)	⊠Yes □No
n. Describe existing wastewater treatment facilities.	
N/A	
o. Describe existing drinking water supply source. N/A	
p. Describe existing storm water management or treatment systems.	
N/A	
5. Activities and Impacts	
a. Will the project be for commercial, public, or private use?	☐Commercial ☑Public/Government
	□Private/Community
b. Give a brief description of purpose, use, and daily operations of the project wh	•
The purpose of the project is to replace the existing 2.83-mile-long Lin 7), carrying US 64 across the Alligator River/Atlantic Intracoastal Water The current bridge is experiencing substantial deterioration due to its amaintenance problems, jeopardizing its ability to provide a reliable confunction, and the Outer Banks. A potential bridge malfunction or maint position for more than a short-term closure also affects reliable passage existing bridge was constructed in 1960 and is classified as structurally	erway, with a two-lane, high-level, fixed-span bridge. age and structural deficiencies resulting in ongoing nnection between Columbia and Manns Harbor, enance that requires the bridge to stay in the closed ge along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The y deficient with a 31.71 rating of a possible 100.
c. Describe the proposed construction methodology, types of construction equipment and where it is to be stored.	nent to be used during construction, the number of each type
During construction, vehicular traffic will be maintained on the existing navigation channel, and the swing span bridge will continue to function nearshore shallow waters, are proposed to access the new bridge alignspan, where barge access will be used. An in-water construction more river, and February 15 – June 30 for the deepwater channel is require bridge will be demolished via top-down techniques, along with the use waters and barges. Existing Tyrrell Bridge No. 7 will be removed companys off at a depth below scour and navigational clearance, and wou remove, it will be cut at the mudline.	n. Temporary work platforms, one on either shore in inment except for the central spans and navigation attorium from July 15 – September 30 for the entired per the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. The existing of temporary work platforms in nearshore shallow bletely, including piles, to the extent practicable. If a pile
d. List all development activities you propose.	
The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes the 7 over the Alligator River/Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Dare and 1 two-lane, 3.32-mile long, high-level, fixed-span bridge would replace t (with a movable steel swing span) bridge. Based on the design, the practiver and Section 404 and Section 404/CAMA wetlands. All features a Geological Survey [USGS] Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 03010205).	yrrell Counties (STIP No. HB-0001). The proposed ne existing 2.83-mile long, 2-lane bridge, 343-span oject will result in potential impacts to the Alligator
e. Are the proposed activities maintenance of an existing project, new work, or b	oth? New work - replacement of existing bridge
f. What is the approximate total disturbed land area resulting from the proposed	oroject? 2,894,562 ⊠Sq.Ft or □Acres
g. Will the proposed project encroach on any public easement, public accessway that the public has established use of?	or other area ⊠Yes □No □NA

Form DCM MP-1 (Page 4 of 5)

h.	Describe location and type of existing and proposed discharges to w	aters of the state.									
	Existing discharges are related to the existing roadway and bi stormwater. Stormwater discharges occur within Section 404				and discharge of						
	Proposed discharges are associated with the proposed bridge replacement, new location roadway approaches, and new stormwater infrastructure. Permanent discharges into wetlands are related to roadway fill, excavation, and mechanized clearing in either Section 404 or Section 404/CAMA wetlands. Temporary impacts in the form of hand clearing will also occur in wetlands. Temporary and permanent discharges to surface waters include roadway fill and the placement of bents in the Alligator River.										
i. '	Will wastewater or stormwater be discharged into a wetland?		⊠Yes	□No	□NA						
	If yes, will this discharged water be of the same salinity as the receiv	ing water?	□Yes								
j.	Is there any mitigation proposed?		⊠Yes	□No	□NA						
	If yes, attach a mitigation proposal.										
	<form continu<="" td=""><td>es on back&gt;</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></form>	es on back>									
6	. Additional Information										
pa	addition to this completed application form, (MP-1) the following item ackage to be complete. Items (a) – (f) are always applicable to any m struction booklet on how to properly prepare the required items below	ajor development applicati									
a.	A project narrative.										
b.	An accurate, dated work plat (including plan view and cross-sectional proposed project. Is any portion already complete? If previously aubetween work completed and proposed.										
C.	A site or location map that is sufficiently detailed to guide agency pe	rsonnel unfamiliar with the	area to t	he site.							
d.	A copy of the deed (with state application only) or other instrument u	nder which the applicant o	claims title	e to the	affected properties.						
e.	The appropriate application fee. Check or money order made payat	ole to DENR.									
f.	A list of the names and complete addresses of the adjacent waterfro owners have received a copy of the application and plats by certified which to submit comments on the proposed project to the Division o	l mail. Such landowners n									
	Name See Attached		Phone	No.							
	Address										
	Name		Phone	No.							
	Address										
	Name		Phone	No.							
	Address										
	111111111										
g.	A list of previous state or federal permits issued for work on the projection	ect tract. Include permit nu	umbers, p	ermitte	e, and issuing dates.						
	USACE, SAW-2021-01091, NWP 6 for geotechnical borings	8/23/2021									
	NCDWR, Individual Water Quality Certification for geotechnical borings	10/06/2022									
h.	Signed consultant or agent authorization form, if applicable.										
i.	Wetland delineation, if necessary.										
j.	A signed AEC hazard notice for projects in oceanfront and inlet area	s. (Must be signed by pro	perty ow	ner)							
k.	A statement of compliance with the N.C. Environmental Policy Act (	, ,	•								
1	of public funds or use of public lands, attach a statement documention	na compliance with the No.	rth ('arol	na Env	ronmental Policy Act						

# 7. Certification and Permission to Enter on Land

I understand that any permit issued in response to this application will allow only the development described in the application. The project will be subject to the conditions and restrictions contained in the permit.

I certify that I am authorized to grant, and do in enter on the aforementioned lands in connect monitoring of the project.  I further certify that the information provided in	ction with evaluating information	on related to this permit application ar	•
Date6/27/2023	Print Name	Michael Turchy	_
S	Signature <i>Millu</i>	l of	
Please indicate application attachments pertai	ning to your proposed project.		
☑DCM MP-2 Excavation and Fill Information	n ⊠DCM MP	-5 Bridges and Culverts	
□DCM MP-3 Upland Development			
□DCM MP-4 Structures Information			

# Form DCM MP-2

# **EXCAVATION** and **FILL**

# (Except for bridges and culverts)

Access

Attach this form to Joint Application for CAMA Major Permit, Form DCM MP-1. Be sure to complete all other sections of the Joint Application that relate to this proposed project. Please include all supplemental information.

Describe below the purpose of proposed excavation and/or fill activities. All values should be given in feet.

		Channel (NLW or NWL)	Canal	Boat Basin	Boat Ramp	Rock Groin	Rock Breakwater	(excluding shoreline stabilization)
Lei	ngth							5,665
Wie	dth							150
	g. Existing pth					NA	NA	varies
Final Project Depth		oject				NA	NA	varies
1.	EXCAVATI	ON					☐This section	not applicable
a.	. Amount of material to be excavated from below NHW or NWL in cubic yards.			or NWL in		rial to be excavated. (muck, loamy/cla		
	17 CY (12 for clean water diversion at Site 15, 5 for tail ditch at Site 16)					(maok, loumy/ola	yoy 0011 <i>)</i>	
C.	` '	ea to be excavated			0 0	excavation in cubic y	/ards.	

	17 CY (12 for clean water diversion at Site 15, 5 for tail ditch at Site 16)						
c.	(i) Does the area to be excavated include coastal wetlands/marsh (CW), submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), shell bottom (SB), or other wetlands (WL)? If any boxes are checked, provide the number of square feet affected.	d.	High-ground excavation in cubic yards.  No high ground excavation.				
2.	DISPOSAL OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL		☐This section not applicable				
а.	Location of disposal area.	b.	Dimensions of disposal area.				
	TBD, possibly off-site		TBD				
С.	(i) Do you claim title to disposal area?  ⊠Yes □No □NA  (ii) If no, attach a letter granting permission from the owner.	 d.	(i) Will a disposal area be available for future maintenance?  ☐Yes ☐No ☑NA  (ii) If yes, where?				
₽.	(i) Does the disposal area include any coastal wetlands/marsh (CW), submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), shell bottom (SB), or other wetlands (WL)? If any boxes are checked, provide the number of square feet affected.	f.	(i) Does the disposal include any area in the water?  ☐Yes ☑No ☐NA  (ii) If yes, how much water area is affected?				

Other

3.	SHORELINE STABILIZATION (If development is a wood groin, use MP-4 – Structures)		⊠This section not applicable
a.	Type of shoreline stabilization:  ☐Bulkhead ☐Riprap ☐Breakwater/Sill ☐Other:	b.	Length: Width:
C.	Average distance waterward of NHW or NWL:	d. 	Maximum distance waterward of NHW or NWL:
e.	Type of stabilization material:	f. —	<ul> <li>(i) Has there been shoreline erosion during preceding 12 months?         ☐Yes ☐No ☐NA</li> <li>(ii) If yes, state amount of erosion and source of erosion amount information.</li> </ul>
g.	Number of square feet of fill to be placed below water level.  Bulkhead backfill Riprap  Breakwater/Sill Other	h.	Type of fill material.
i.	Source of fill material.	_	
4.	OTHER FILL ACTIVITIES (Excluding Shoreline Stabilization)		☐This section not applicable
a.	(i) Will fill material be brought to the site?    Yes    No    NA  If yes,  (ii) Amount of material to be placed in the water 0 CY  (iii) Dimensions of fill area N/A  (iv) Purpose of fill	b. —	<ul> <li>(i) Will fill material be placed in coastal wetlands/marsh (CW), submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), shell bottom (SB), or other wetlands (WL)? If any boxes are checked, provide the number of square feet affected.</li></ul>
5.	GENERAL		
a.	How will excavated or fill material be kept on site and erosion controlled?  An erosion control plan has been developed that covers how fill and excavated materal will be erosion controlled.	b.	What type of construction equipment will be used (e.g., dragline, backhoe, or hydraulic dredge)?  Typical roadway construction equipment such as backhoe, dozer, roller, etc.
C.	<ul> <li>(i) Will navigational aids be required as a result of the project?  ☐Yes ☐No ☐NA</li> <li>(ii) If yes, explain what type and how they will be implemented.  Existing navigational aids related to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway will be modified to account for the removal of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge.</li> </ul>	d.	<ul> <li>(i) Will wetlands be crossed in transporting equipment to project site?</li></ul>
6/2	7/2023	Pro	oject Name
Dat NC	e DOT STIP No. HB-0001	. 110	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

# Form DCM MP-2 (Excavation and Fill, Page 3 of 3)

NCDOT / Michael Turchy	
Applicant Name Mishael Lh	
Applicant Signature	

# Form DCM MP-5

# **BRIDGES and CULVERTS**

Attach this form to Joint Application for CAMA Major Permit, Form DCM MP-1. Be sure to complete all other sections of the Joint Application that relate to this proposed project. Please include all supplemental information.

1.	BRIDGES		□This section not applicable
a.	Is the proposed bridge:  ☐Commercial ☑Public/Government ☐Private/Community	b.	Water body to be crossed by bridge: Alligator River/Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway
C.	Type of bridge (construction material):  Either driven piles or drilled piers, Prestressed Florida I- Beam girders, precast concrete deck panels, and a driveable wearing surface.	d.	Water depth at the proposed crossing at NLW or NWL: 14'8" NWL at the navigational opening
e.	(i) Will proposed bridge replace an existing bridge? ☑Yes ☐No If yes,  (ii) Length of existing bridge: 14,928 ft  (iii) Width of existing bridge: 26 ft  (iv) Navigation clearance underneath existing bridge: 14' closed, unlimited open  (v) Will all, or a part of, the existing bridge be removed?  (Explain) During construction, vehicular traffic will be maintained on the existing bridge; marine traffic will continue to use the existing navigation channel, and the swing span bridge will continue to function.  Temporary work platforms, one on either shore in nearshore shallow waters, are proposed to access the new bridge alignment except for the central spans and navigation span, where barge access will be used. An in-water construction moratorium from July 15 − September 30 for the entire river, and February 15 − June 30 for the deepwater channel is required per the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. The existing bridge will be demolished via top-down techniques, along with the use of temporary work platforms in nearshore shallow waters and barges. Existing Tyrrell Bridge No. 7 will be removed completely, including piles, to the extent practicable. If a pile snaps off at a depth below scour and navigational clearance, and would require significant disturbance of substrate to remove, it will be cut at the mudline.	f.	(i) Will proposed bridge replace an existing culvert?  \Box \Box \Box \exists of tyes,  (ii) Length of existing culvert:
g.	Length of proposed bridge: 17,540 ft	h.	Width of proposed bridge: 40 ft
i.	Will the proposed bridge affect existing water flow? ☐Yes ☒No If yes, explain:	j.	Will the proposed bridge affect navigation by reducing or increasing the existing navigable opening?   ☐Yes ☐No If yes, explain: The current bridge has a navigational opening of 100 ft on either side of the central pier. The new bridge will increase the navigational opening to 140 ft.

Form DCM MP-5 (Bridges and Culverts, Page 2 of 5) Navigation clearance underneath proposed bridge: 65' within Have you contacted the U.S. Coast Guard concerning their approval? ⊠Yes □No navigational channel If yes, explain: The US Coast Guard was contacted regarding the proposed vertical and horizontal clearance of the new bridge. In a letter dated July 22, 2022, the US Coast Guard stated that they did not see any issue with NCDOT obtaining a permit for the project. A US Coast Guard permit application was submitted in May 2023. Will the proposed bridge cross wetlands containing no navigable Height of proposed bridge above wetlands: Varies b/w 8-12 ft ⊠Yes □No If yes, explain: The proposed bridge/roadway will cross/impact both CAMA and CAMA/404 wetlands. 2. CULVERTS ☐ This section not applicable Water body in which the culvert is to be placed: Number of culverts proposed: 8 Pipes are either underneath new road or driveways < Form continues on back> Type of culvert (construction material): 1) 2 corrugated aluminum pipe arches at wildlife crossings - 53"x41" a) L STA. 24+25, Site 3 - 69' b) L STA. 228+60, Site 19 - 111' 2) 4 reinforced concrete equalizer pipes a) 3 @ 36" i. Y1 STA 11+32, Site 6 - 76'. ii.L STA. 33+00, Site 5 - 102' iii. Y2 STA. 14+68, Site 13 - 116' b) 1 @ 24" - Y1 STA. 13+50, Site 7 - 68' 3) 2 aluminum alloy driveway pipes - 60" a) Y2 STA. 10+86, Site 14 - 44' b) L STA. 240+59, Site 18 - 32' (i) Will proposed culvert replace an existing bridge? (i) Will proposed culvert replace an existing culvert? ☐Yes ⊠No ⊠Yes □No If yes, If yes, (ii) Length of existing bridge: \_ (ii) Length of existing culvert(s): \_ (iii) Width of existing bridge: \_\_\_ (iii) Width of existing culvert(s): (iv) Navigation clearance underneath existing bridge: (iv) Height of the top of the existing culvert above the NHW or NWL: (v) Will all, or a part of, the existing bridge be removed? (v) Will all, or a part of, the existing culvert be removed? (Explain)

(Explain) All culverts are new except for the driveway culverts, which replace existing driveway culverts.

Form DCM MP-5 (Bridges and Culverts, Page 3 of 5)

f.	Length of proposed culvert: See list above	g.	Width of proposed culvert: see list above				
h.	Height of the top of the proposed culvert above the NHW or NWL. varies; see culvert sizes above	i.	Depth of culvert to be buried below existing bottom contour.  1' for all with jurisdictional waters				
j.	Will the proposed culvert affect navigation by reducing or increasing the existing navigable opening? ☐Yes ☒No If yes, explain:	k.	Will the proposed culvert affect existing water flow?  ☐Yes ☒No  If yes, explain:				
3.	EXCAVATION and FILL		☐This section not applicable				
a.	(i) Will the placement of the proposed bridge or culvert require any excavation below the NHW or NWL? ☐Yes ☐No If yes,  (ii) Avg. length of area to be excavated:  (iii) Avg. width of area to be excavated:  (iv) Avg. depth of area to be excavated:  (v) Amount of material to be excavated in cubic yards:	b.	(i) Will the placement of the proposed bridge or culvert require any excavation within coastal wetlands/marsh (CW), submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), shell bottom (SB), or other wetlands (WL)? If any boxes are checked, provide the number of square feet affected.  □CW □ □SAV □ □SB □ □SB □WL 1.089 □None  (ii) Describe the purpose of the excavation in these areas:				
C.	(i) Will the placement of the proposed bridge or culvert require any high-ground excavation?  ☐Yes ☑No If yes,  (ii) Avg. length of area to be excavated:  ☐(iii) Avg. width of area to be excavated:  ☐(iv) Avg. depth of area to be excavated:  ☐(iv) Avg. depth of area to be excavated:  ☐(iv) Amount of material to be excavated in cubic yards:  ☐(iv) Amount of material yards:  ☐(iv) Amount of mater						
d.	If the placement of the bridge or culvert involves any excavation, plea (i) Location of the spoil disposal area: TBD, possible off-site	ase cor	mplete the following:				
	(ii) Dimensions of the spoil disposal area: TBD  (iii) Do you claim title to the disposal area? ☑Yes ☐No (If no, at (iv) Will the disposal area be available for future maintenance? ☐Ye  (v) Does the disposal area include any coastal wetlands/marsh (CW) bottom (SB)?  ☐CW ☐SAV ☐WL ☐SB ☑None  If any boxes are checked, give dimensions if different from (ii) ab  (vi) Does the disposal area include any area below the NHW or NWL If yes, give dimensions if different from (ii) above.	es ⊠li , subm ove.	No erged aquatic vegetation (SAVs), other wetlands (WL), or shell				

# Form DCM MP-5 (Bridges and Culverts, Page 4 of 5)

	(i) Will the placement of the proposed bridge or culvert result in any fill (other than excavated material described in Item d above) to be placed below NHW or NWL?		fill (other than excavated material described in Item <b>d</b> above) to be placed within coastal wetlands/marsh (CW), submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), shell bottom (SB), or other wetlands (WL)? If any boxes are checked, provide the number of square feet affected.    CW
g.	(i) Will the placement of the proposed bridge or culvert result in any fill (other than excavated material described in Item d above) to be placed on high-ground?  ☐ Yes ☑ No If yes,  (ii) Avg. length of area to be filled:  ☐  (iii) Avg. width of area to be filled:  ☐  (iv) Purpose of fill:		
4.	GENERAL		
a.	Will the proposed project require the relocation of any existing utility lines?	b.	Will the proposed project require the construction of any temporary detour structures? ☐Yes ☒No  If yes, explain:
	part of this project. The relocation of a fiber optic line is also being discussed. All utility relocations will occur within areas of roadway/bridge impact; therefore, no separate jurisdictional utility impacts that are not already covered by roadway/bridge impacts will occur and no utility drawings are part of this application.		yoo, oquanii
	also being discussed. All utility relocations will occur within areas of roadway/bridge impact; therefore, no separate jurisdictional utility impacts that are not already covered by roadway/bridge impacts will occur and no	inue	

e.	What type of construction equipment will be used (for example, dragline, backhoe, or hydraulic dredge)?  Typical roadway construction equipment such as backhoes, dozers, rollers, dump trucks, etc. will be used for roadway/approach construction. Additional equipment such as cranes, pile drivers, and barges will be used for bridge construction. Temporary work platforms will also be installed in the river off of both shorelines to allow construction equipment to access nearshore construction areas.	f.	Will wetlands be crossed in transporting equipment to project site?  ☐Yes ☐No  If yes, explain steps that will be taken to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.  Equipment will use temporary work platforms and or/matting when crossing wetland areas to avoid or minimize compaction and permanent wetland impacts to the site related to equipment use. None of these areas are in CAMA wetlands.
g.	Will the placement of the proposed bridge or culvert require any shoreline stabilization? □Yes ☑No		

6/27/2023
Date
NCDOT STIP No. HB-0001
Project Name
NCDOT / Michael Turchy
Applicant Name  Applicant Signature

If yes, complete form MP-2, Section 3 for Shoreline Stabilization only.

Form DCM MP-5 (Bridges and Culverts, Page 5 of 5)



#### North Carolina Department of Transportation

# Highway Stormwater Program STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN



Version 3.00; Released August 2021) FOR NCDOT PROJECTS												
WBS Element: 49475.1.1 TIP/Proj No: HB-0001 County(ies): Dare Tyrrell Page 1 of												
				Ge	neral Project I	nformation						
WBS Element:		49475.1.1		TIP Number:	HB-0001		Project	Туре:	Bridge Replacement	Date:	3/2/2023	
NCDOT Contact:		John Conforti, REI	М			Contractor / Desig	ner:	Patrick Har	tnett, PE			
	Address: Project Management Unit				Address:	Summit Design and Engineering Services						
		1582 Birch Ridge Drive					3301 Bens	3301 Benson Dr				
		Raleigh, NC 27610					Raleigh, NC 27609					
	Phone:	(919) 707-6015					Phone: (919) 322-0115					
	Email:	jgconforti@ncdot.c	<u>qov</u>				Email:	patrick.hart	nett@summitde.com			
City/Town:				lumbia		County(ies):	Da		e Tyrrell			
River Basin(s):		Pasqu	otank			CAMA County?	Ye	s	Yes			
Wetlands within Pr	oject Limits?	Yes										
					Project Desc			11				
Project Length (lin	miles or feet):	4.246	miles	Surrounding L		Rural Area with Con	nmerciai Land	Uses				
				Proposed Project	1			45.0	Existing Site			
Project Built-Upon Typical Cross Sect		2 lone road with 10	21.0		ac.	ro longth is 2.2 miles	2 long road w	15.0	ac. I lanes with grass shoulder. The	bridge length	is 2.9 miles and	
Typical Cross Sect	ion Description:	and clear roadway			s. The total blidg	je lengin is 3.3 miles	width of 30'.	illi iz liave	riaries with grass shoulder. The	bridge lerigin	is 2.6 miles and	
		and oldar roddinay		Todiaoio.								
Annual Avg Daily T	raffic (veh/hr/day):	Design/Future	e·	13200	Year <sup>.</sup>	2043	Existing:		9645	Year	2023	
	ject Narrative:								gator River. The existing structu			
(Description of M	nimization of Water	long with a width o	of 30'. The existi	ng structure has deck	drains. The pro	posed structure will b	oe approximate	ely 3.3 miles	long with a clear roadway width	of 40'. The A	lligator River is	
Quality	Impacts)		the only stream identified in the study area, but it has two separate NCDWR Index Numbers north and south of the existing US 64 bridge. The river section south of the bridge I									
		•				•	-		ince the proposed bridge will be	located north	of the existing	
		bridge, the stormw	ater from the bi	ridge and approaches	will outlet into ti	ne non-ORW section	of the Alligato	r River.				
		Within the project a	Within the project area, the existing impervious area is 15.0 acres, and the proposed impervious area is 21 acres. Please note the project will remove the existing pavement where it									
									s 10.6 acres. The proposed brid			
					•			0	. The additional 0.7 acres of imp			
		proposed roadway. The proposed roadway will have shoulder sections. For the SELDM analysis, the location of the analysis was the proposed bridge, and the entire section of US										
		64 that drains to the Alligator River though the roadside channels was included to be conservative. Even with this conservative approach, the analysis determined that minimum										
		measures can be used to treat stormwater runoff at this stream crossing. Please note that there were several jurisdictional surface waters identified within the study area. These waters all connect to the Alligator River, so the Alligator River was used as the only SELDM analysis point.										
		and an extension of the standard of the standard of the decided and only deleter than the standard of the stan										
		The stormwater management plan includes the use of deck drains where there is a minimum of 12 feet of clearance from the deck drain to the surface water. The roadway profile										
		provides at least this minimum vertical clearance for as much of the bridge as possible. The deck drains will be located from Sta. 51+78 to Sta. 213+96 -L-LT/RT. For the sections										
		between the bridge approach and the deck drains, the runoff will accumulate in the shoulder and be collected outside the approach slabs with traditional 2GIs and pipe outlets. The										
		profile and drainage are designed so that spread is kept out of the travel lane and the bypass from the system is less than 0.1 cfs. With this approach, a closed drainage system byteshed to the bridge is not required. The pipes cutted at the top of the ready applicable and bridge.									0 ,	
			attached to the bridge is not required. The pipes outlet at the toe of the roadway embankment. There are wetland areas on both sides of the road at both the begin and end bridge. Fo minimize impacts to the wetland areas, rip-rap pads are utilized at the pipe outlets to dissipate energy. The wetland areas outlet to the Alligator River, so ditching to the Alligator									
			rimine in page 6 the walking lates, in-rap pead are unique 4 the peads as supple causes of the properties of the walking and the peads are unique 6 the walking 6 the peads are unique									
		mpacts. To avoid these impacts, the use of SCMs was omitted.										
		All cre 1 c										
		All utility relocations will take place within the footprint of the proposed alignments and therefore do not have any associated impacts. The power and telecommunication lines with the ball the place within the footprint of the proposed alignments and therefore do not have any associated impacts. The power and telecommunication lines with the place of the proposed alignments and therefore do not have any associated impacts. The power and telecommunication lines with the place of the proposed alignments and therefore do not have any associated impacts. The power and telecommunication lines with the place of the proposed alignments and therefore do not have any associated impacts. The power and telecommunication lines with the place of the proposed alignments and therefore do not have any associated impacts. The power and telecommunication lines with the place of the proposed alignments and therefore do not have any associated impacts.										
		attached to the proposed bridge. Staging areas for equipment on this project will be placed in existing NCDOT ROW and will also utilize abandoned sections of existing alignment as needed.									sting alignments	
		For the roadway sections, fill slopes will be steepened to minimize filling in wetland areas to the greatest extent practicable. Ditching through wetland areas will be avoided, and									voided, and all	
		closed system dra	inage outlets w	Il be designed to have	non-erosive ve	elocities. Lastly, all cr	oss-pipes with	jurisdictiona	al waters will be buried.			

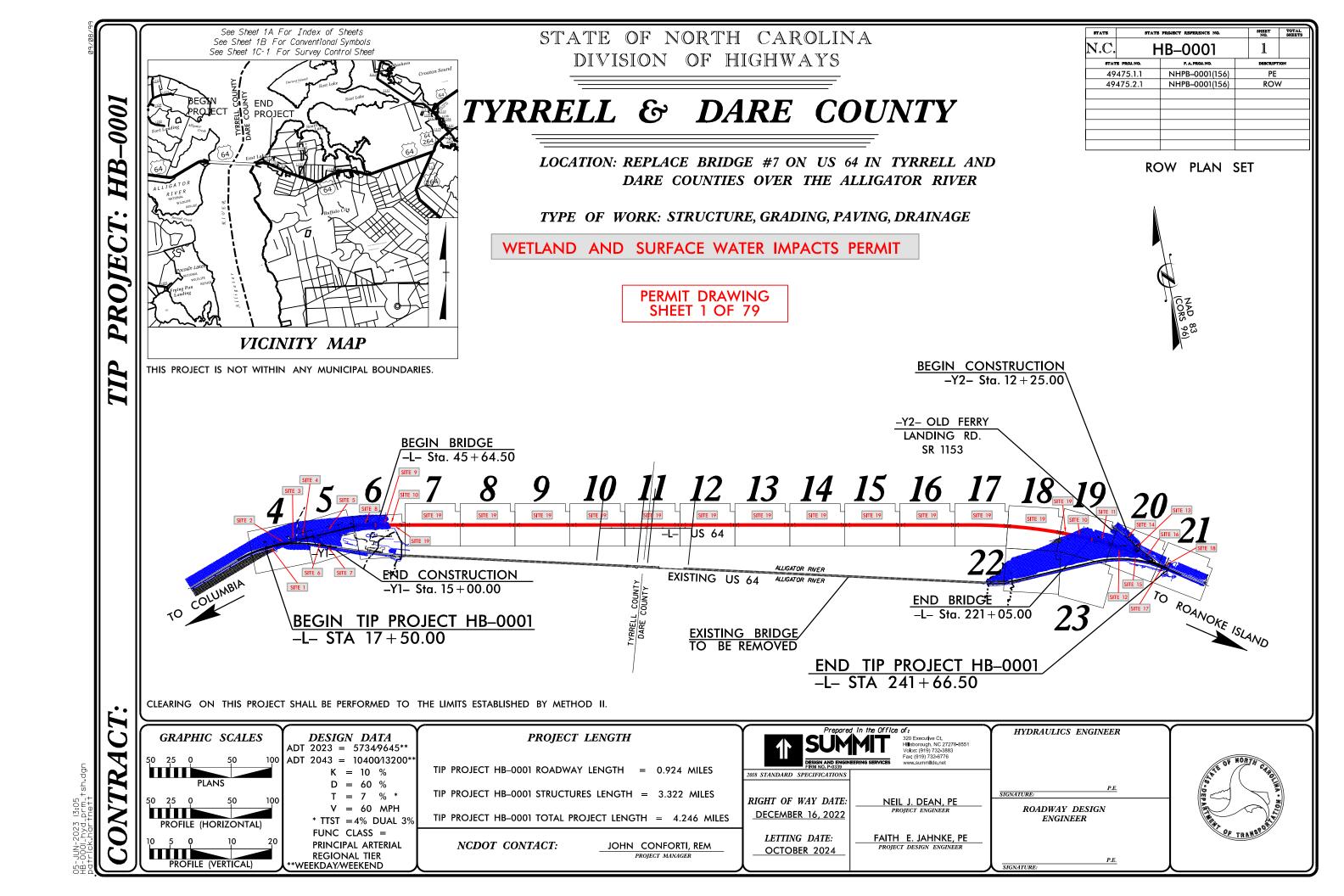


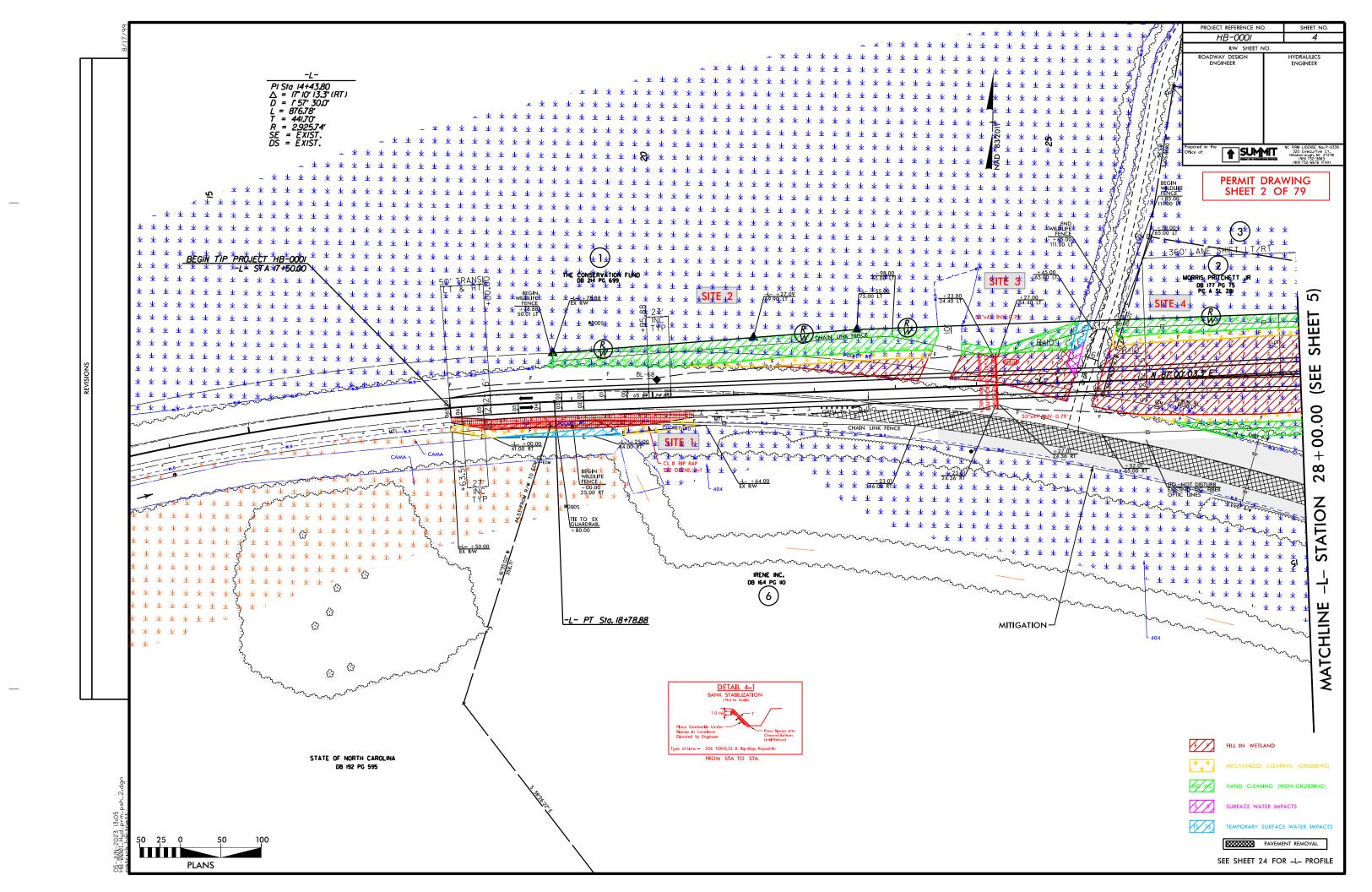
# North Carolina Department of Transportation

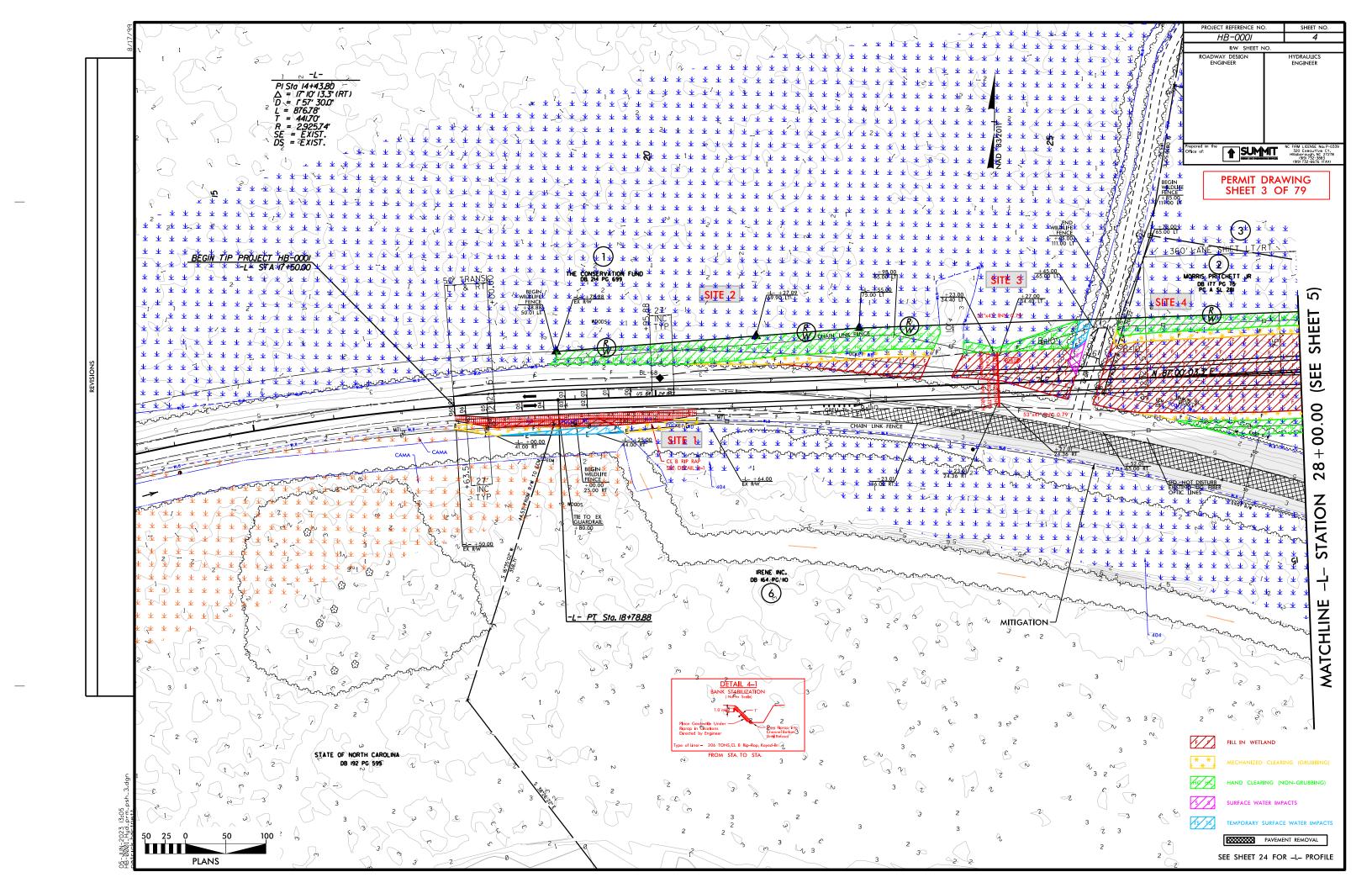


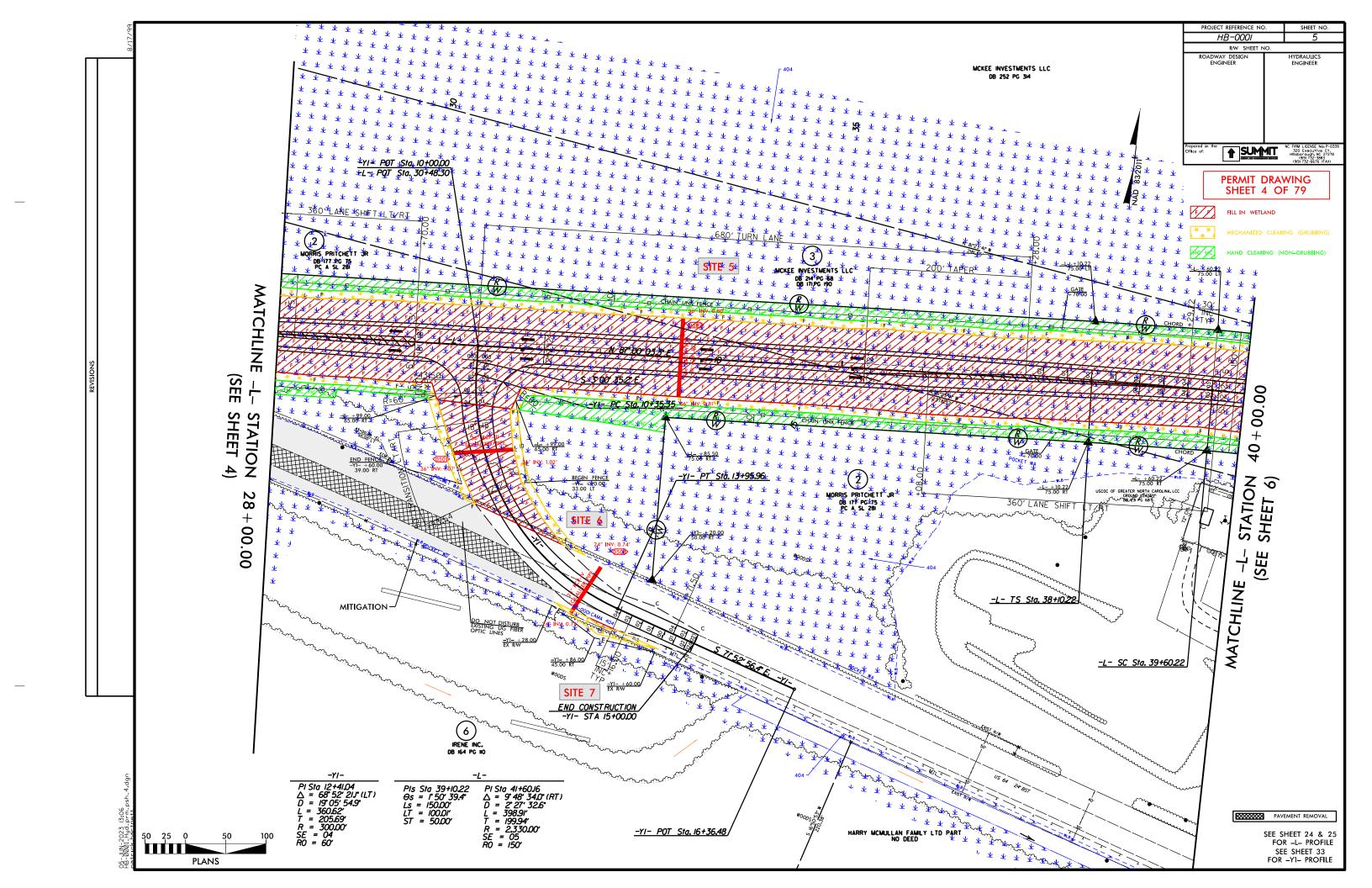
# Highway Stormwater Program

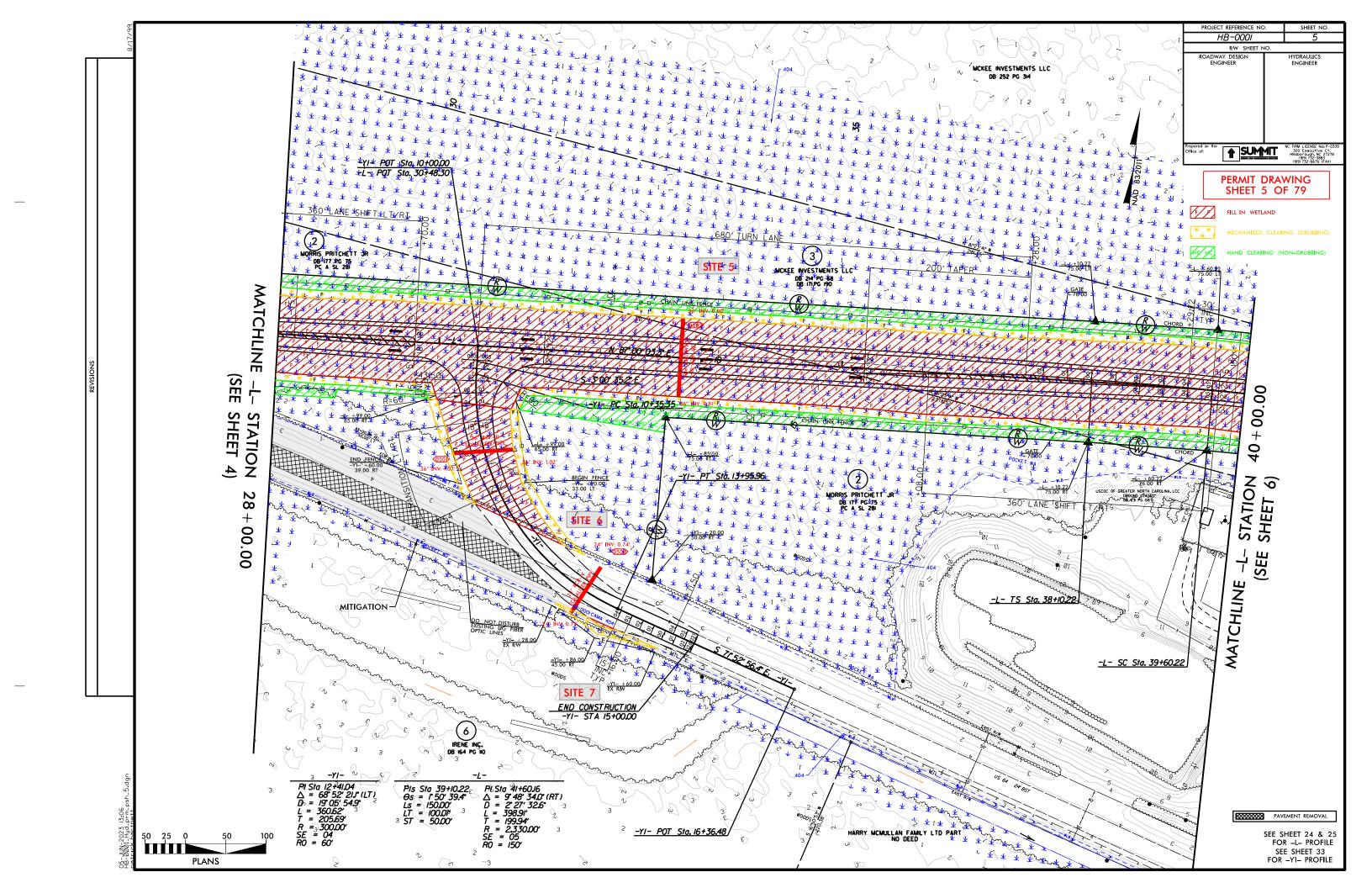
	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN											
(Version 3.00; Released August 2021) FOR NCDOT PROJECTS												
WBS Element: 49475.1.1	TIP/Proj No.:	HB-0001	County(ies):	Dare Tyrrell		Page	2	of	2			
			General Project I	nformation								
			Waterbody Info	ormation								
Surface Water Body (1):		Alligato	or River	NCDWR Stream Index No.	:	30-16-(7)						
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body			Primary Classification:	Class SC								
Nobilit Gariace Water Glassification for Water Body			Supplemental Classification:	Swamp Waters (Sw)	Waters (ORW)							
Other Stream Classification:	Areas of Environmental Concern											
Impairments:	None											
Aquatic T&E Species?	Yes Comments: See NRTR											
NRTR Stream ID:	30-16-(7)			Buffer Rules in Effect:	Buffer Rules in Effect:		N/A					
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body? Yes		Deck Drains Discharge Over Bu		Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer? N/A								
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?  Yes		(If yes, provide justification in	,	(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)			Gen				rative)					
Surface Water Body (2):		Alligato	or River	NCDWR Stream Index No.:		30-16-(21.5)						
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body			Primary Classification:	Class SC								
Trobin Canada Tratar Glacomountain for Tratar Body			Supplemental Classification:	Swamp Waters (Sw)								
Other Stream Classification:	None											
Impairments:	None											
Aquatic T&E Species?	Yes	Comments:	See NRTR									
NRTR Stream ID:	30-16-(21.5)			Buffer Rules in Effect:	Buffer Rules in Effect:		N/A					
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body? Yes		Yes	Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?  N/A		Dissipator Pads Provide	Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?		N/A				
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?  Yes		(If yes, provide justification in	e) (If yes, describe in the C	(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the								
3									General Project Narrative)			

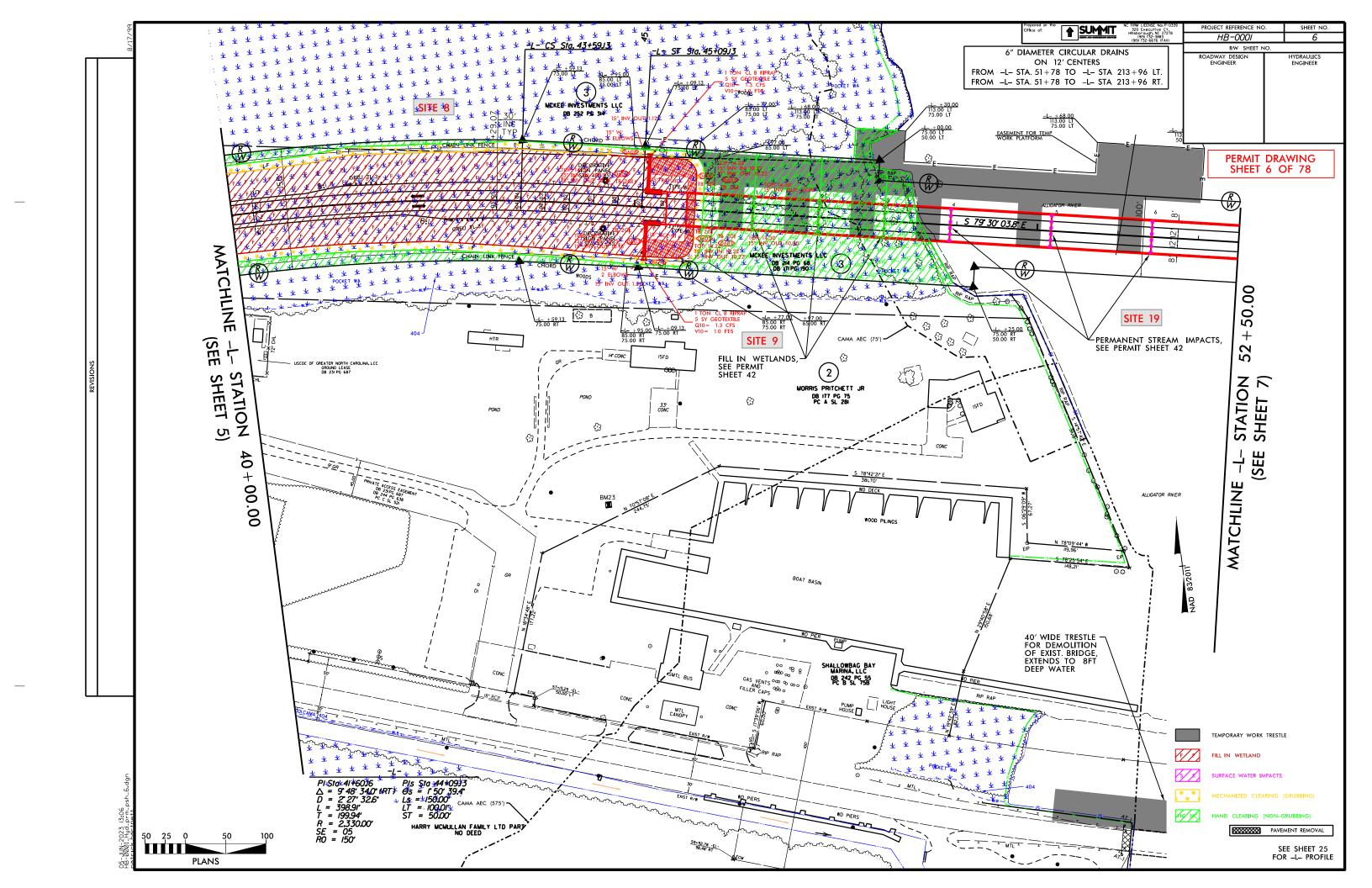


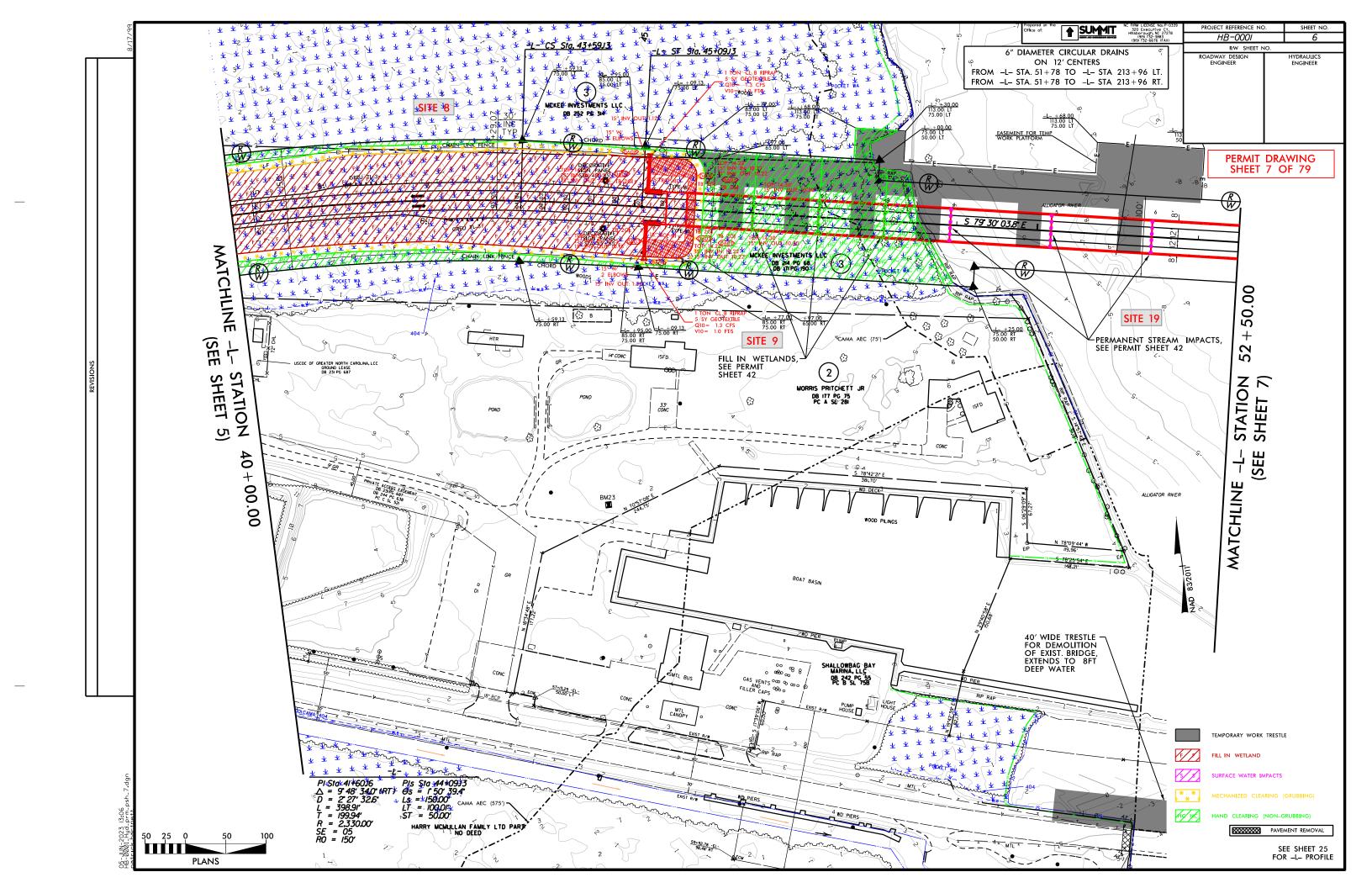


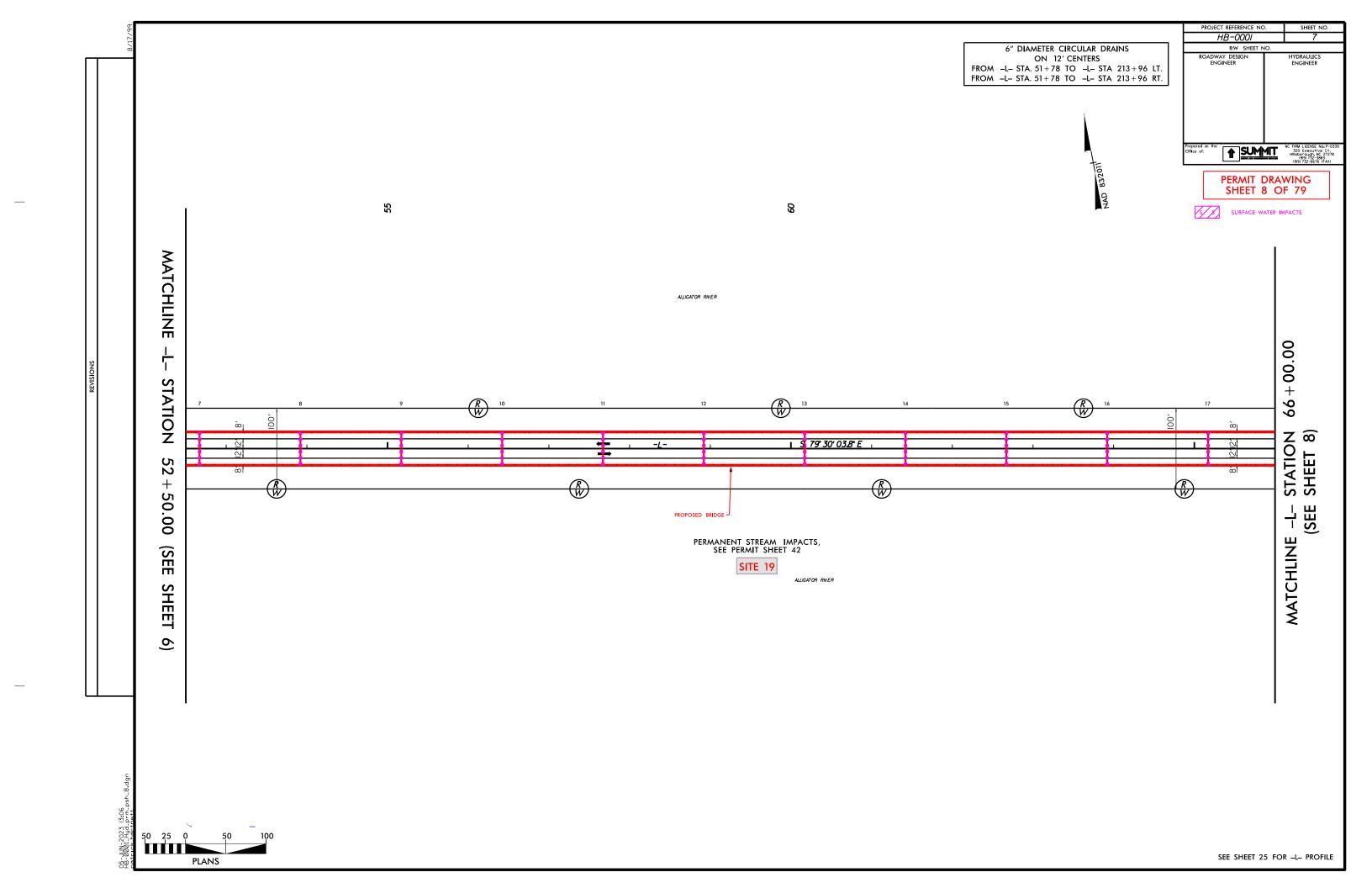


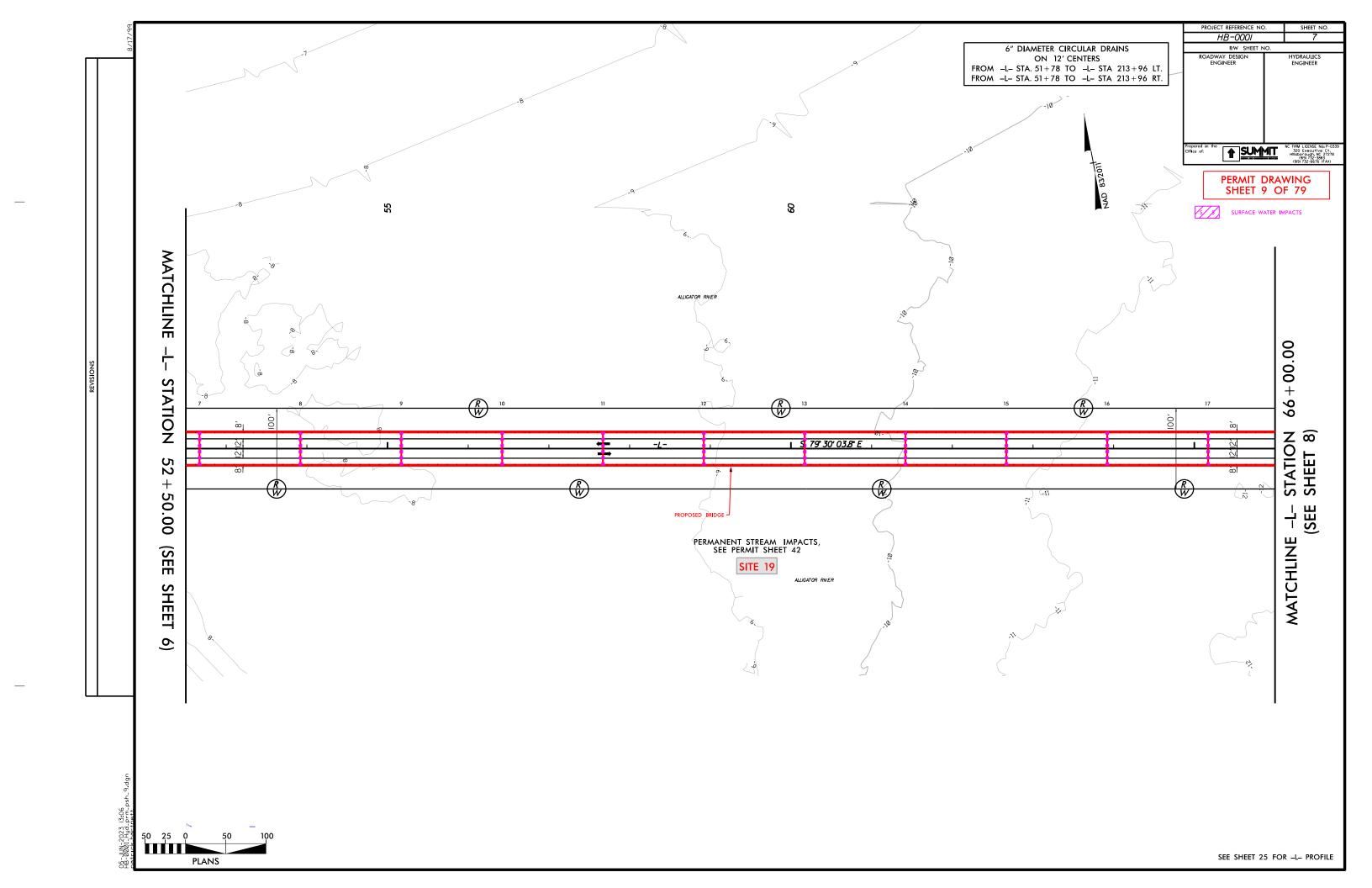


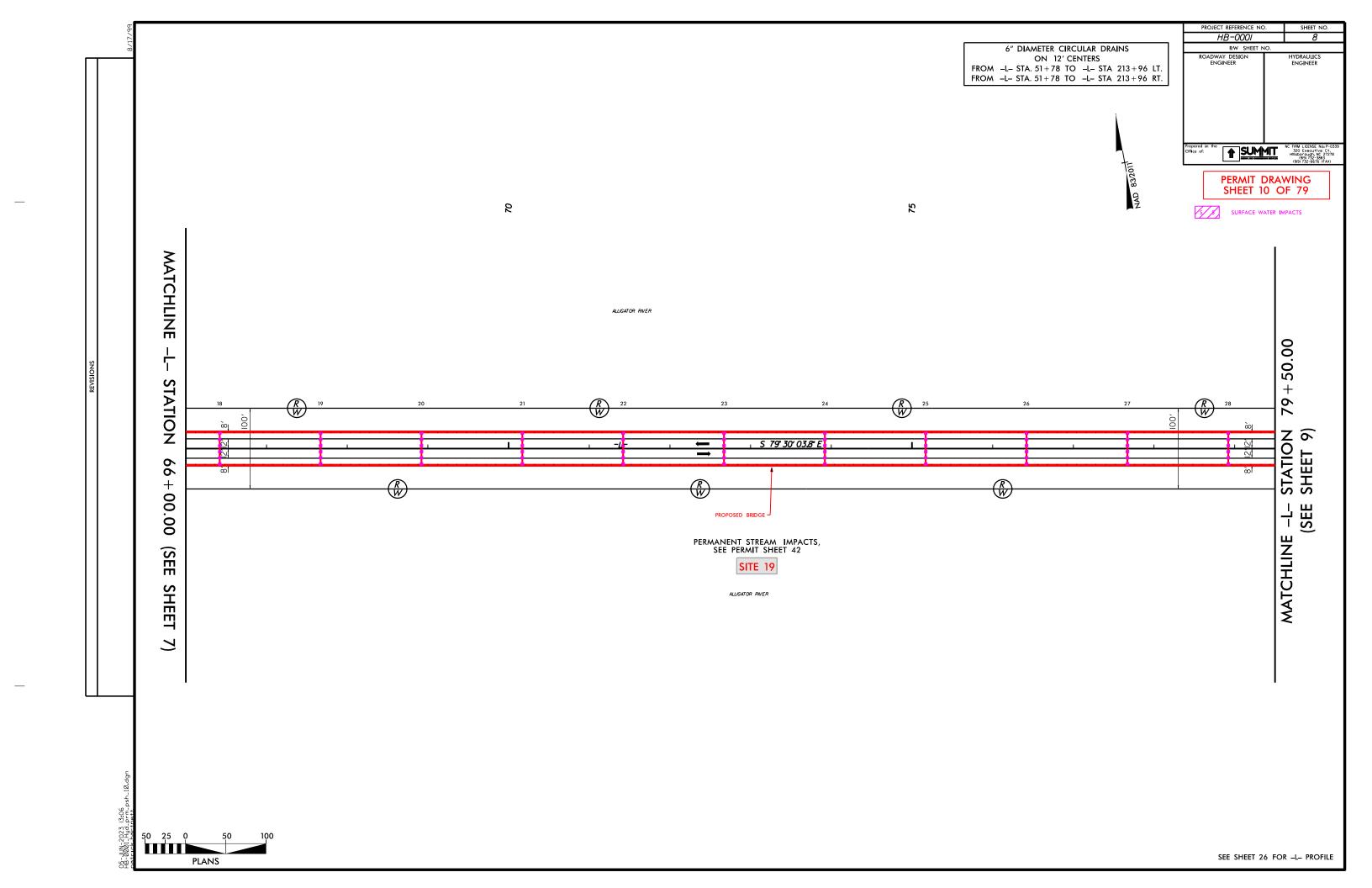


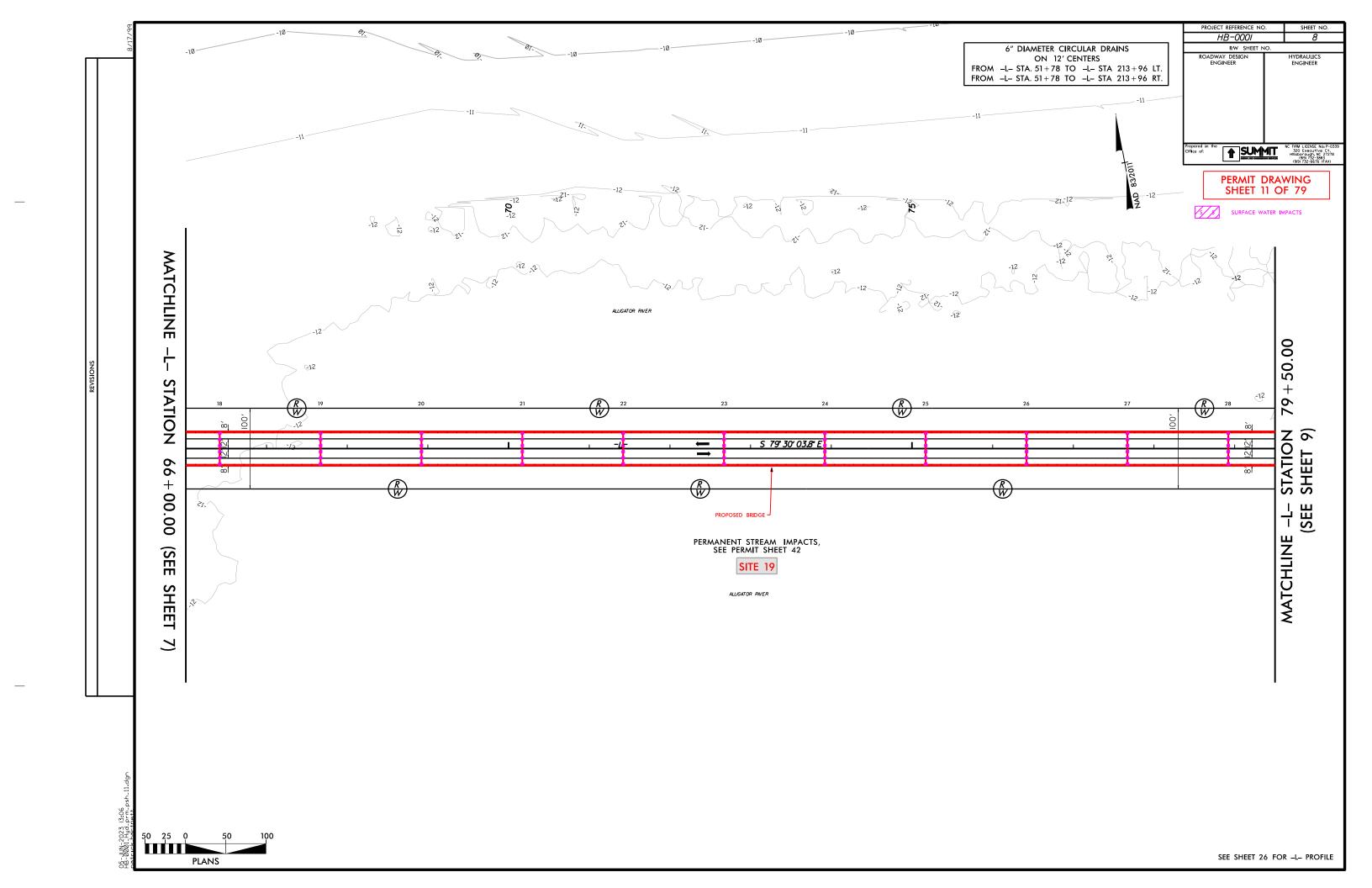


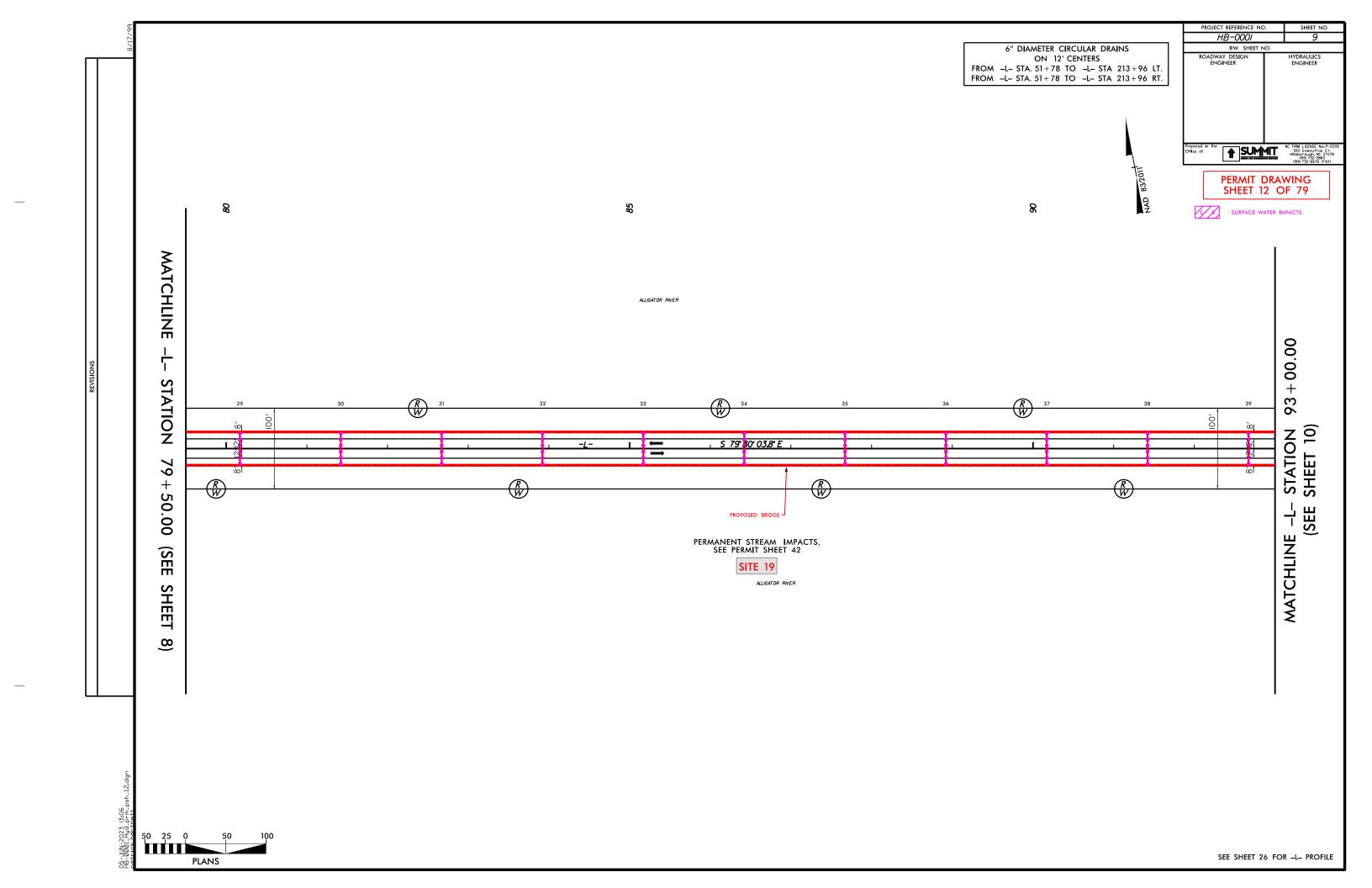


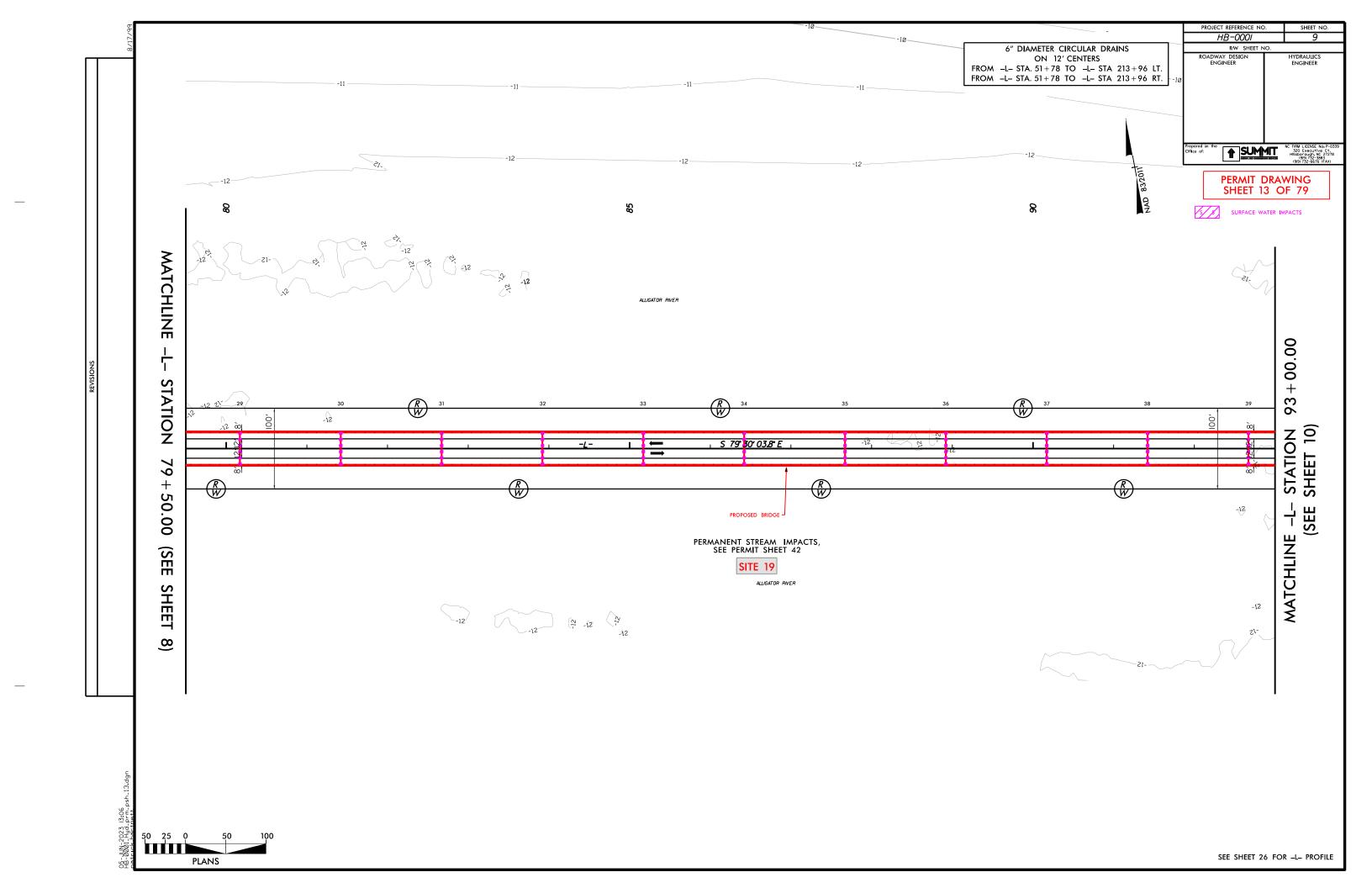


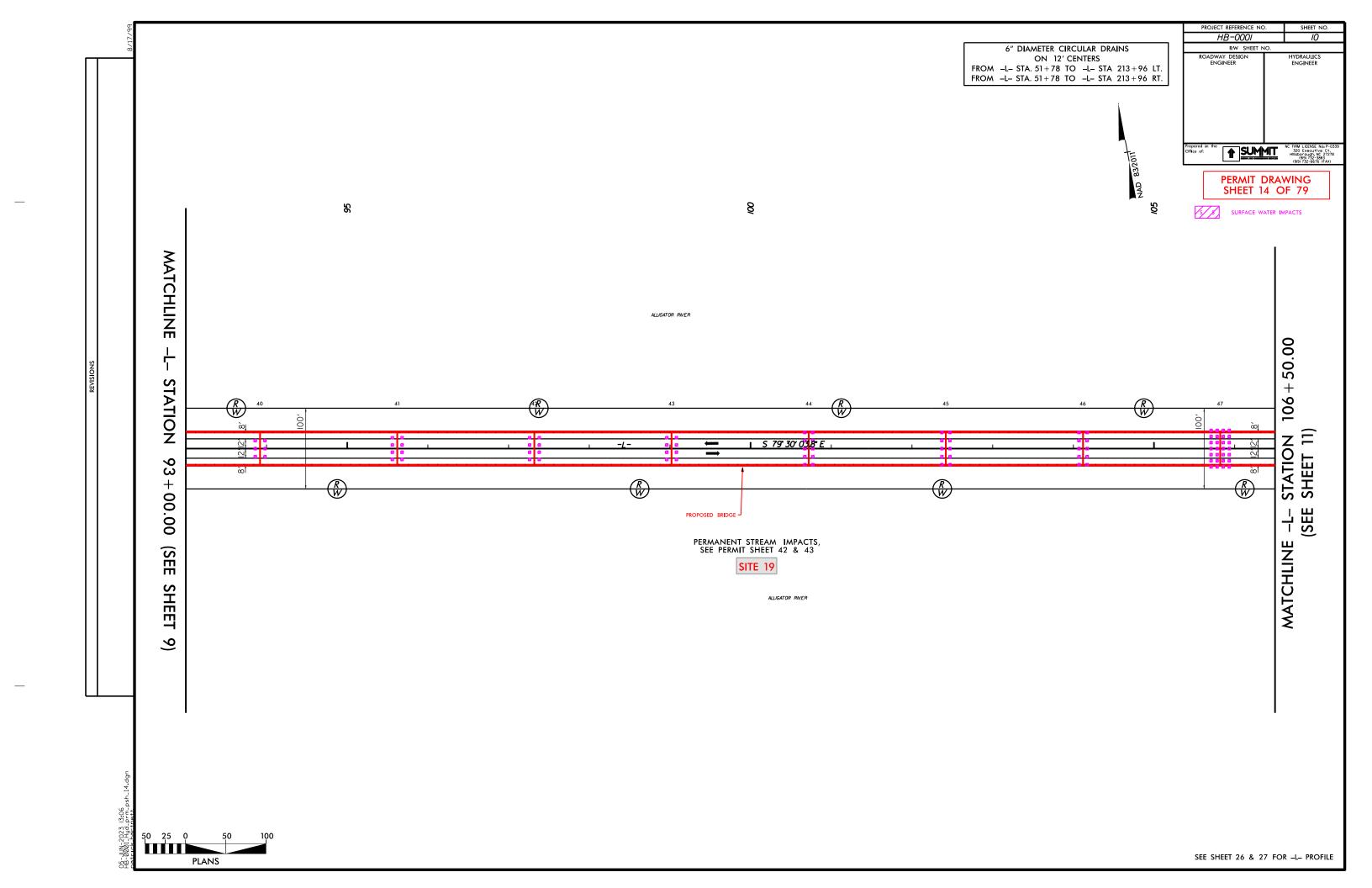


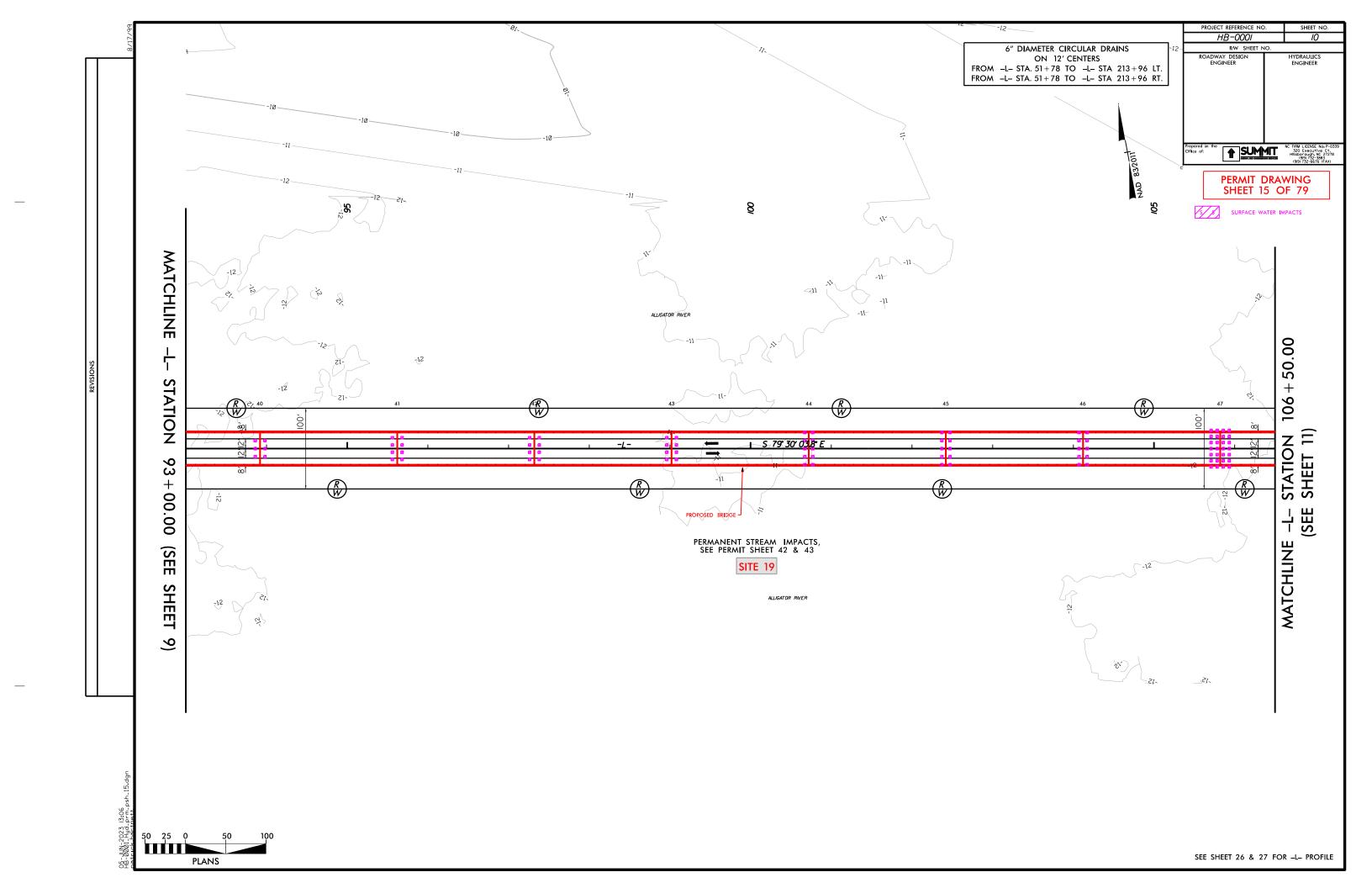


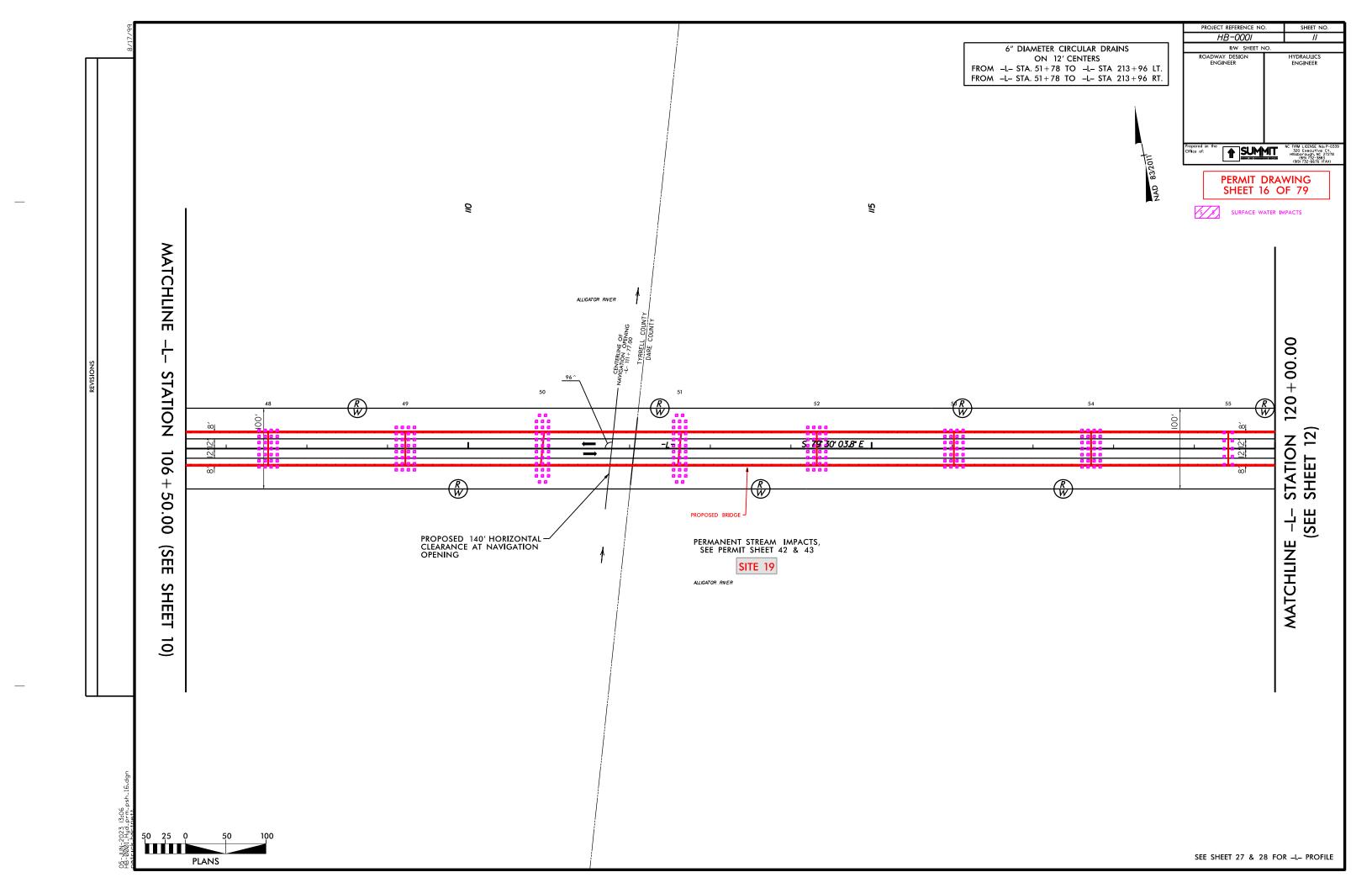


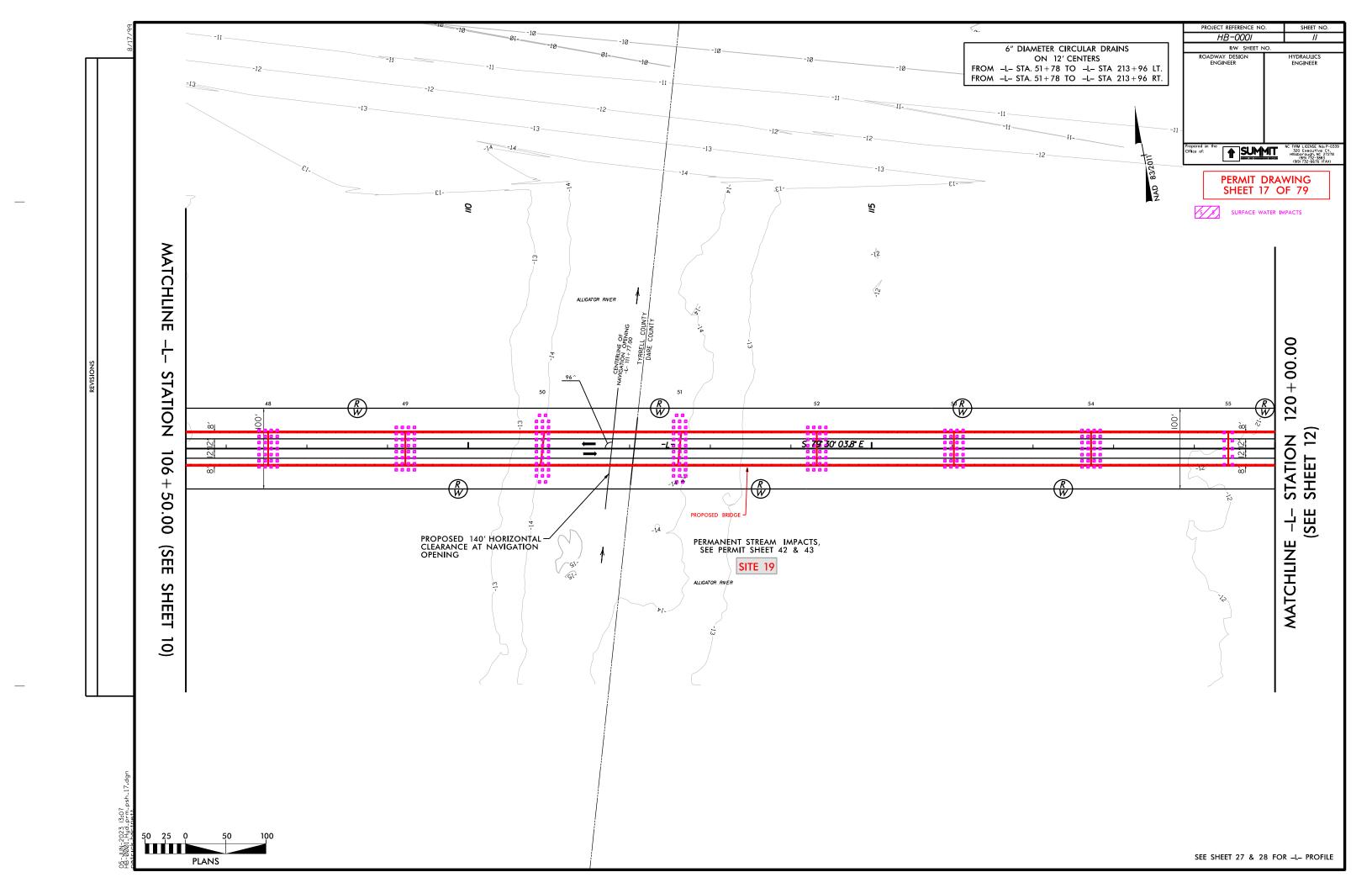


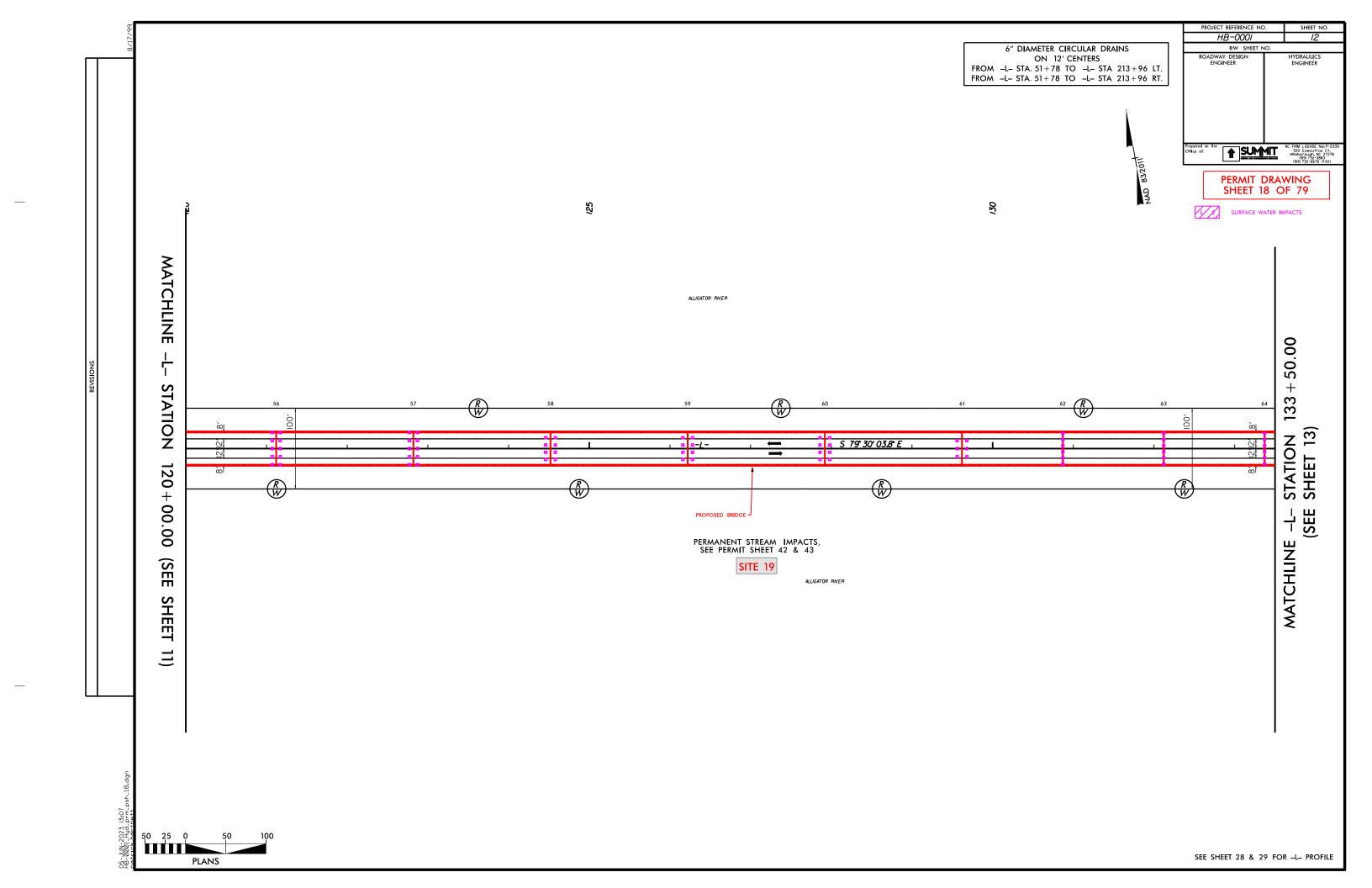


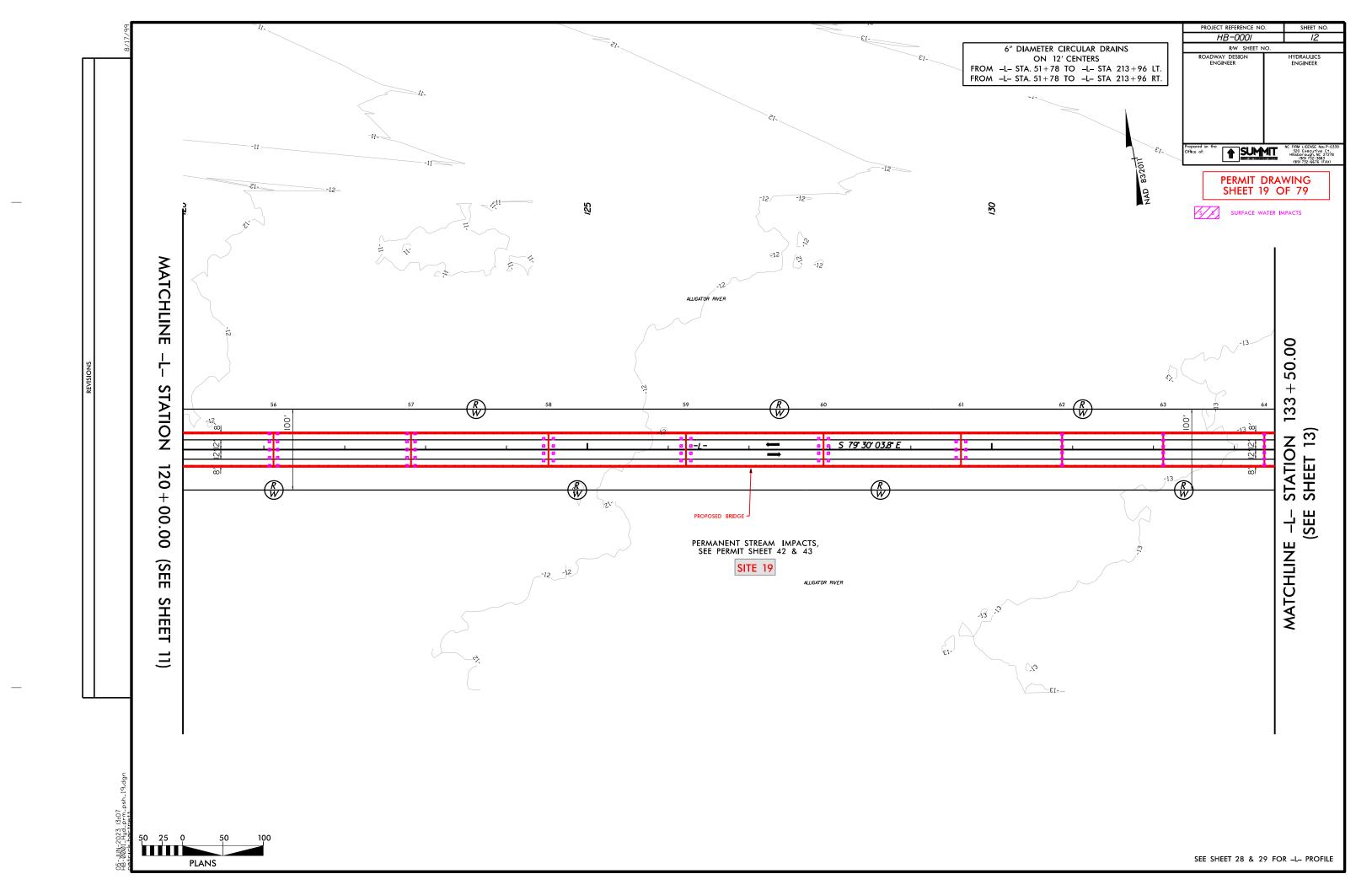


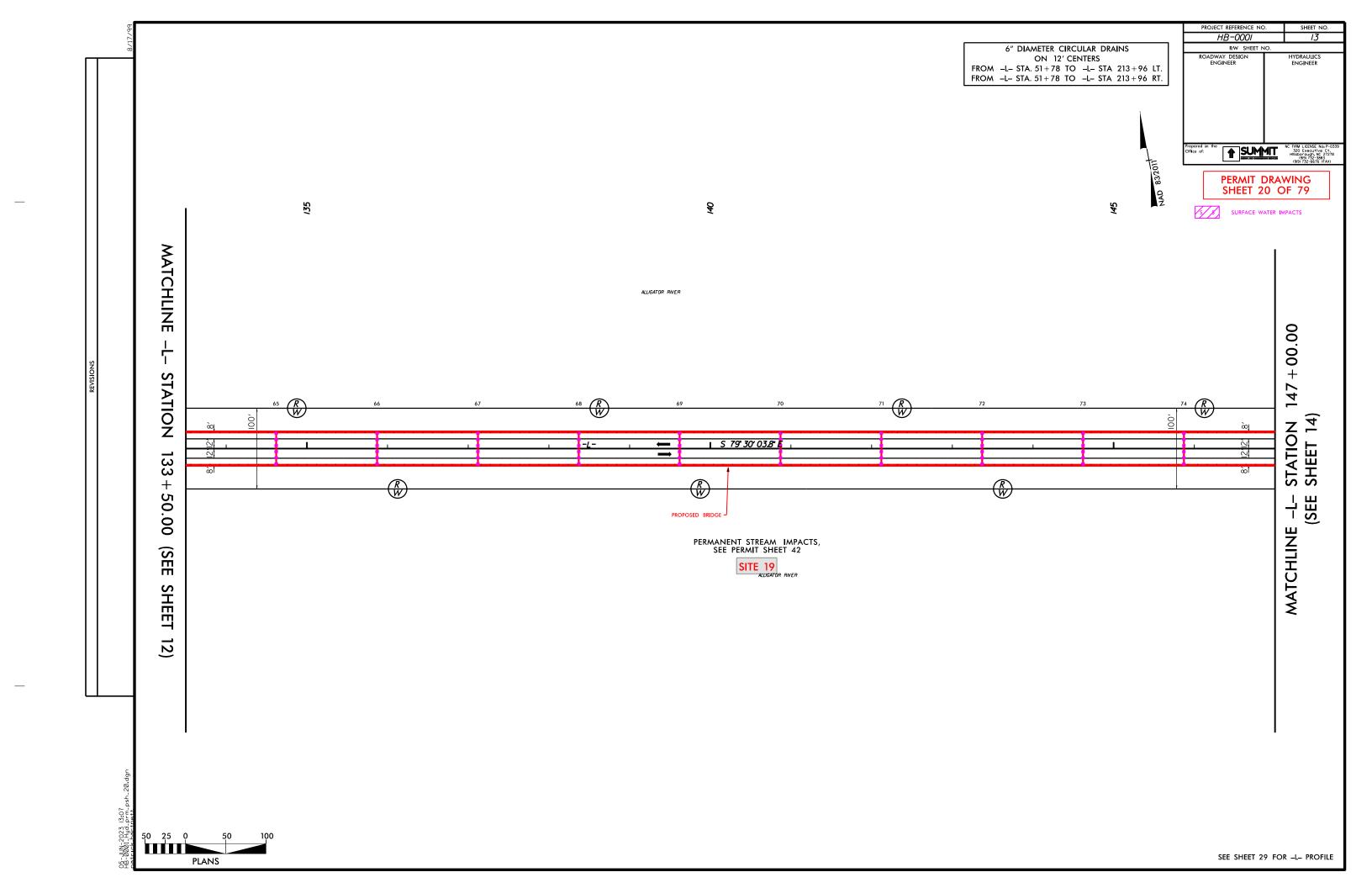


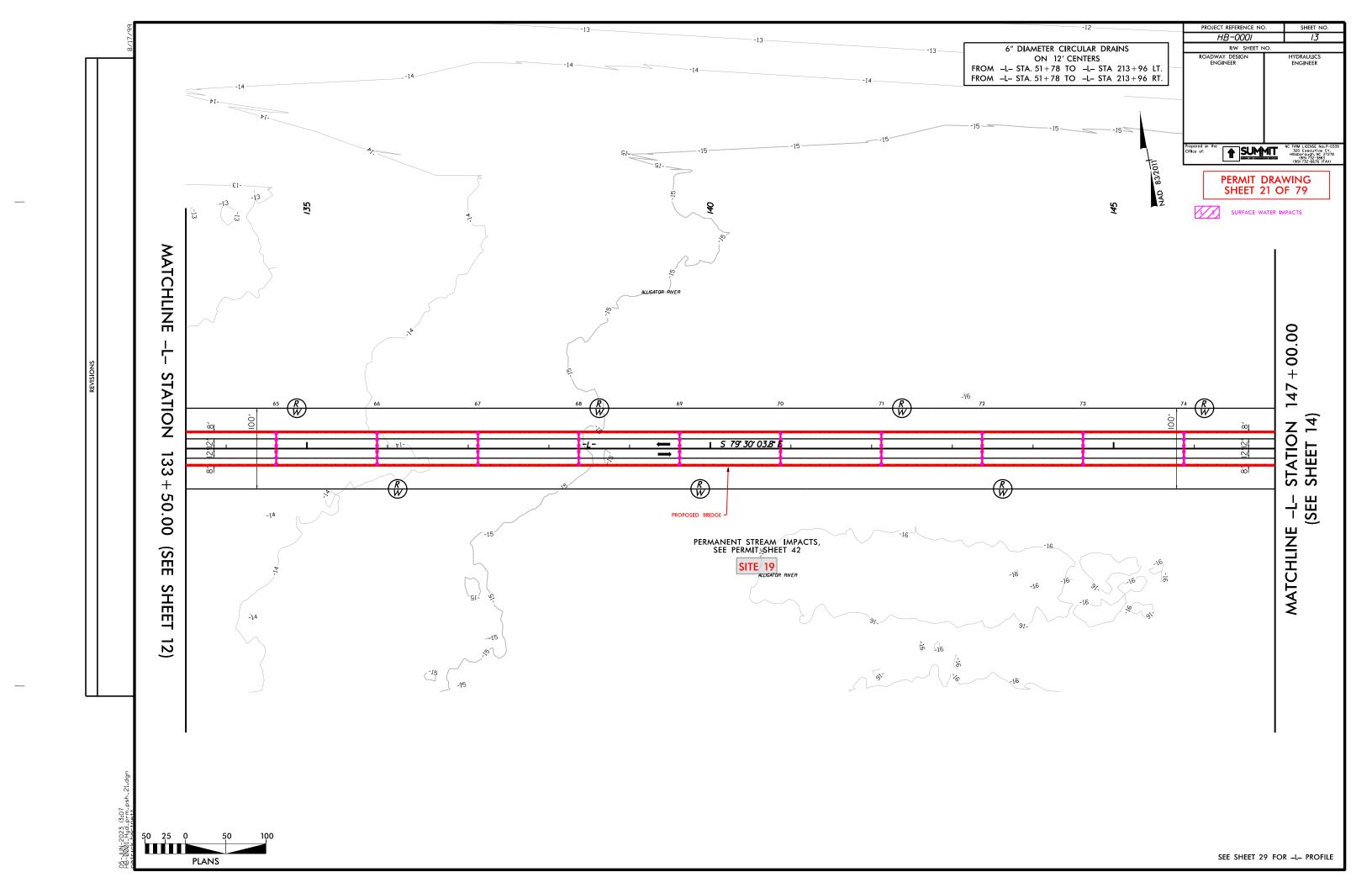


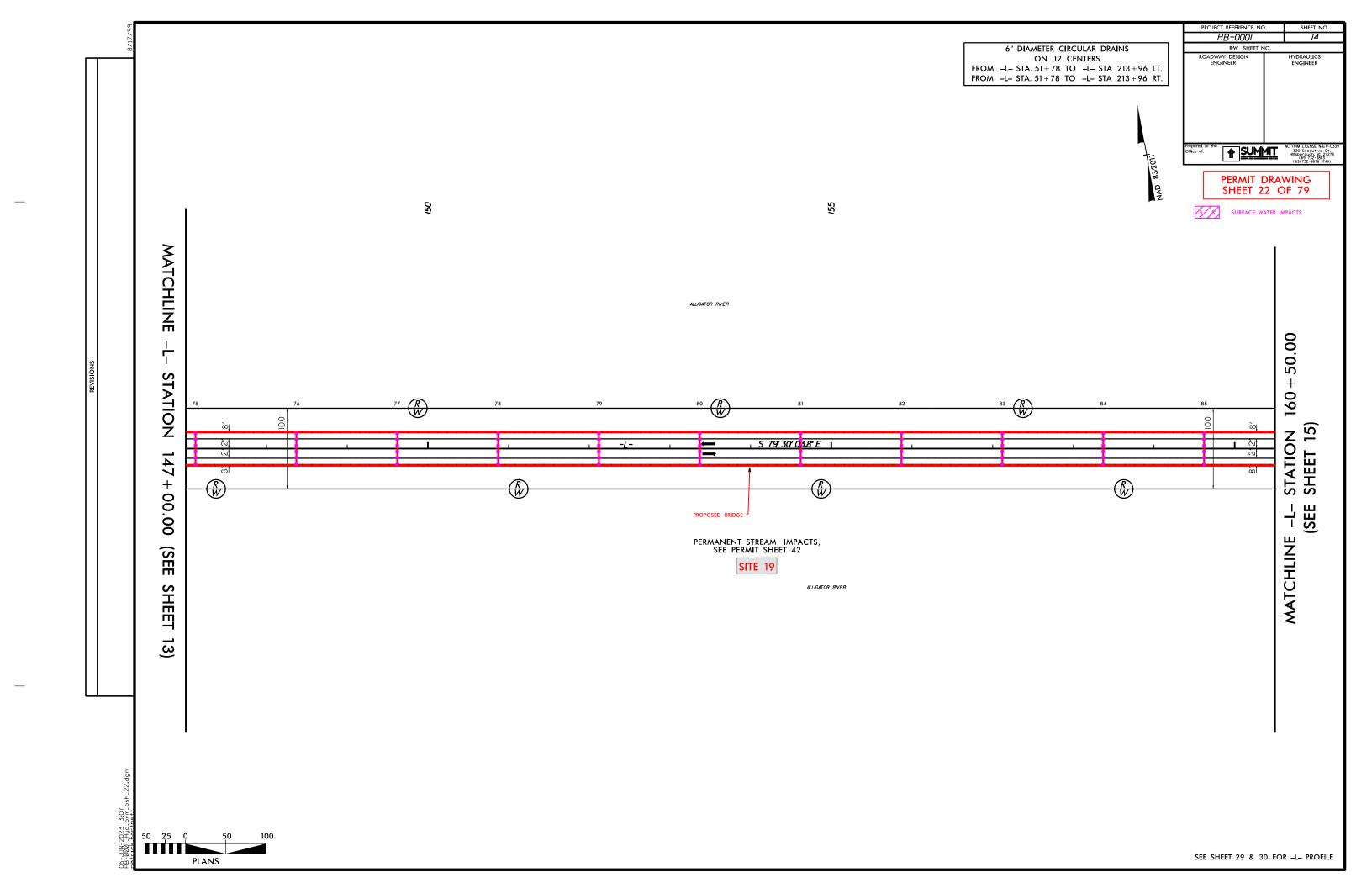


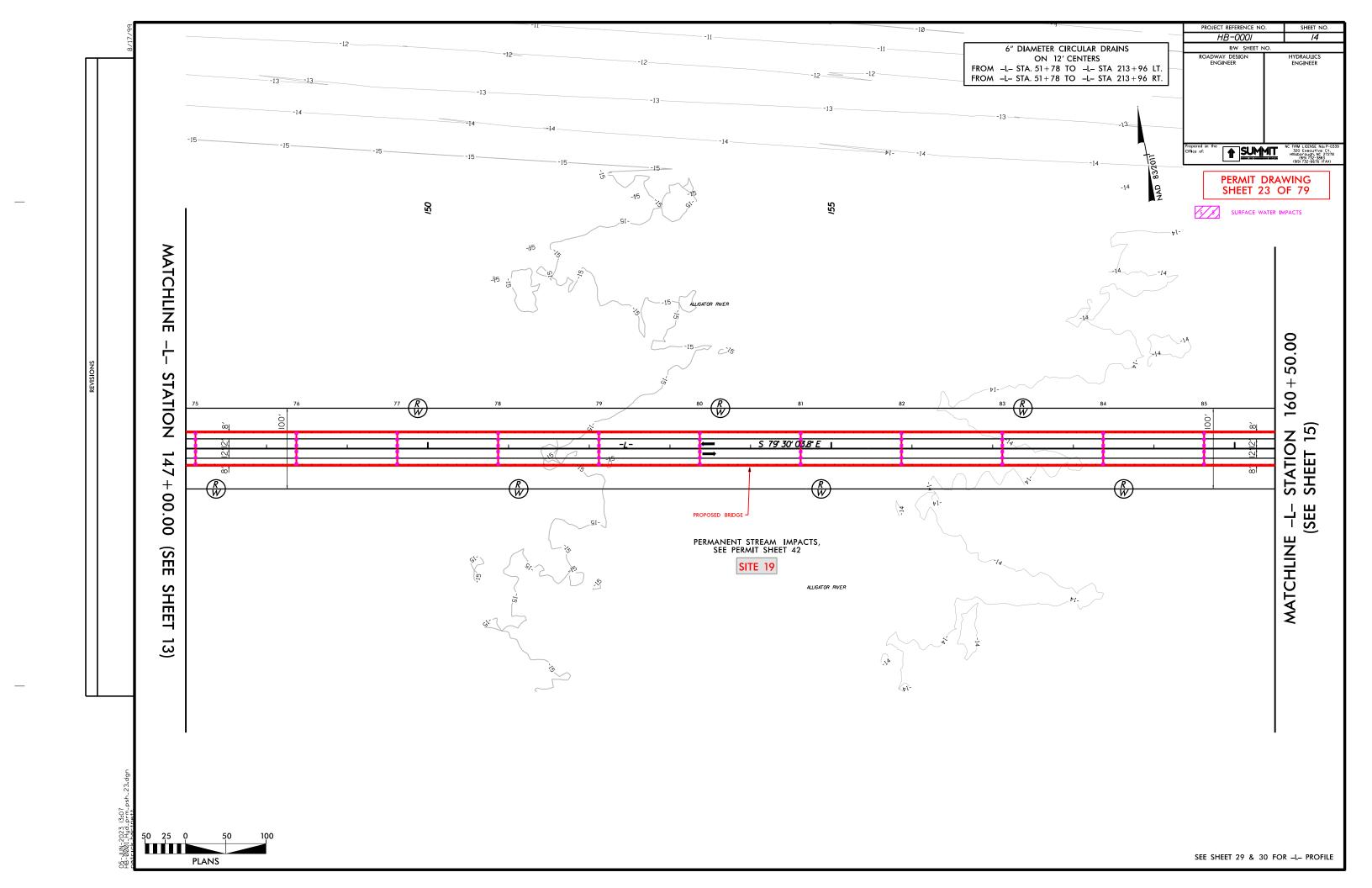


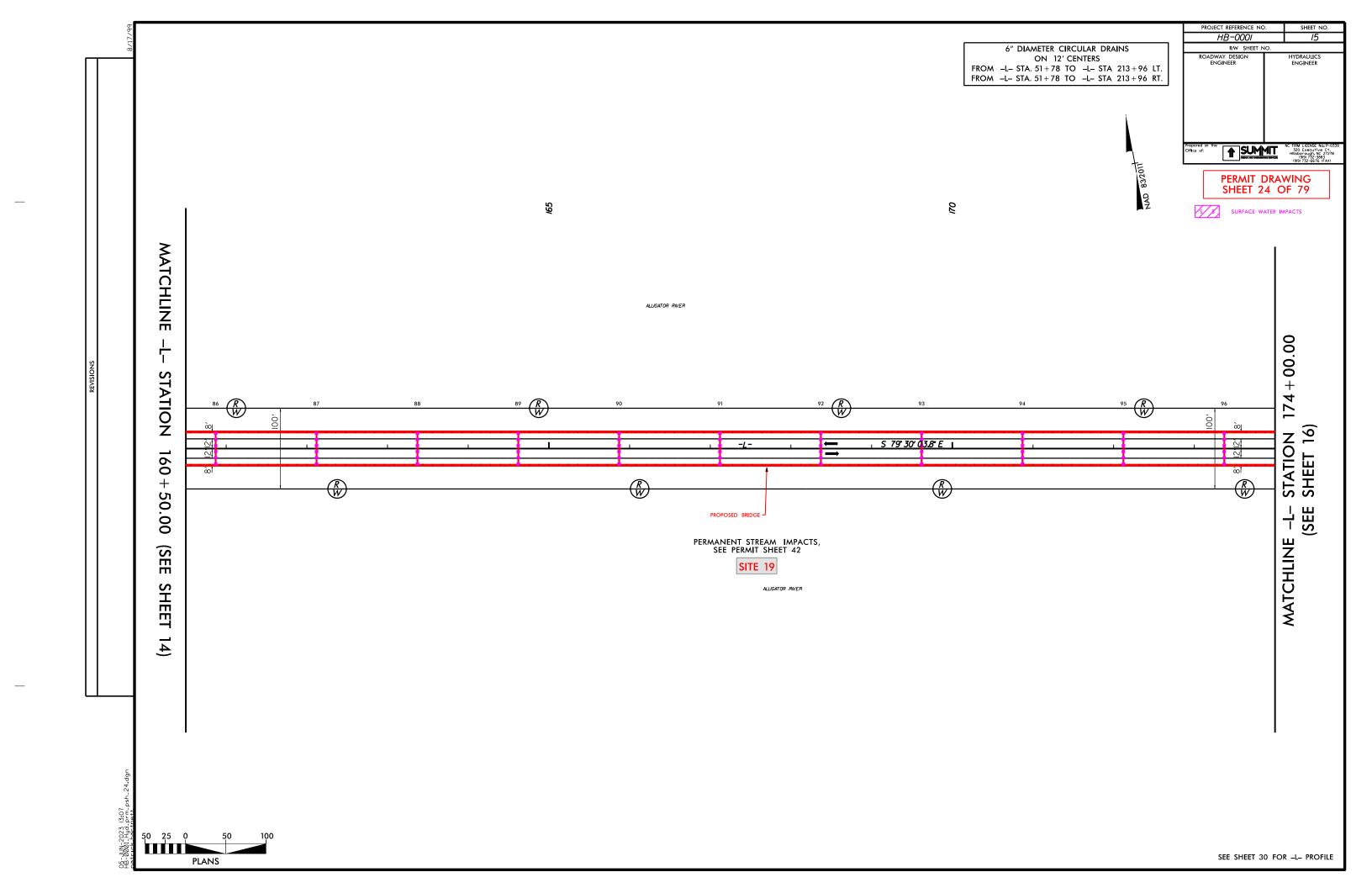


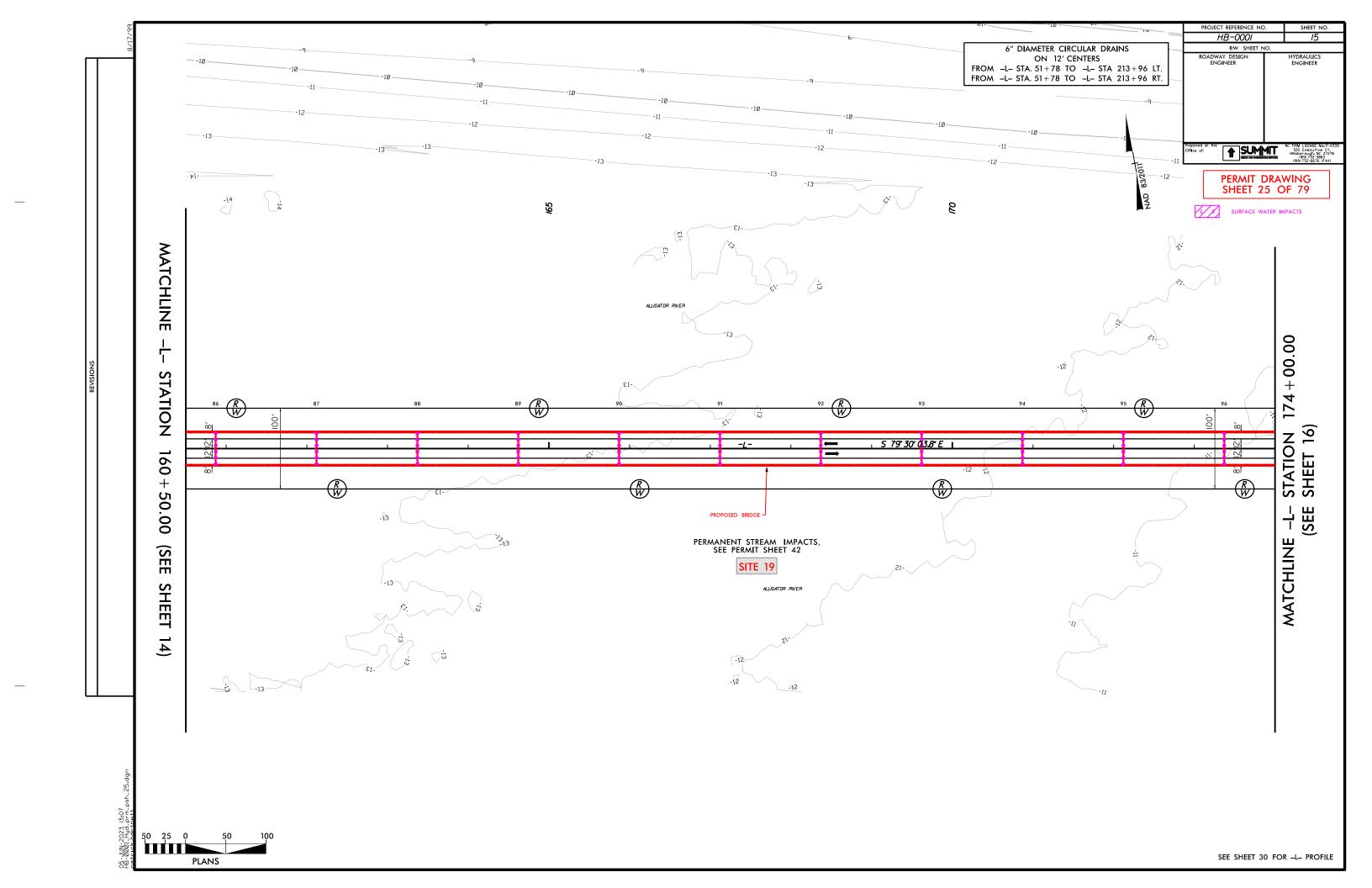


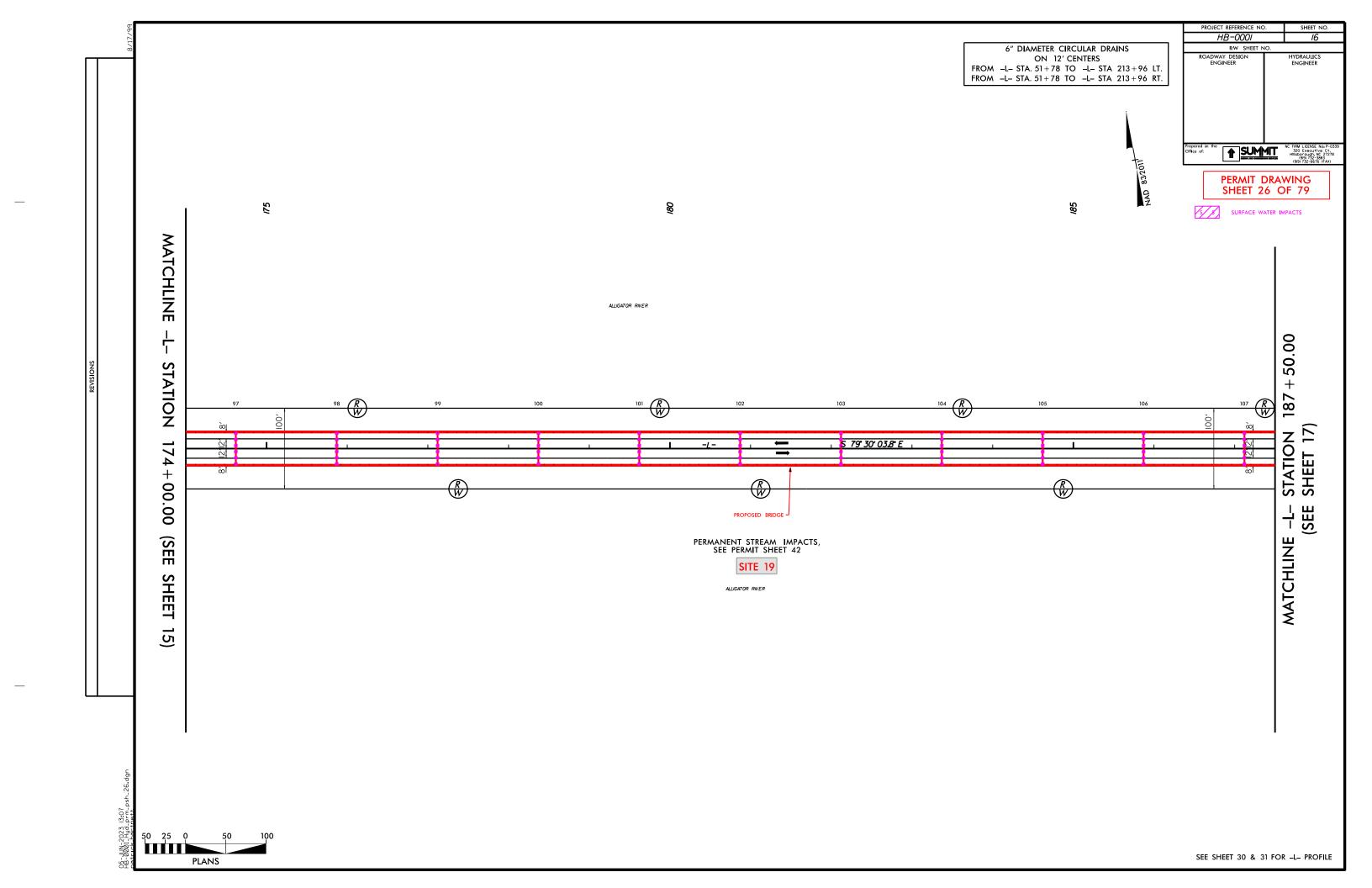


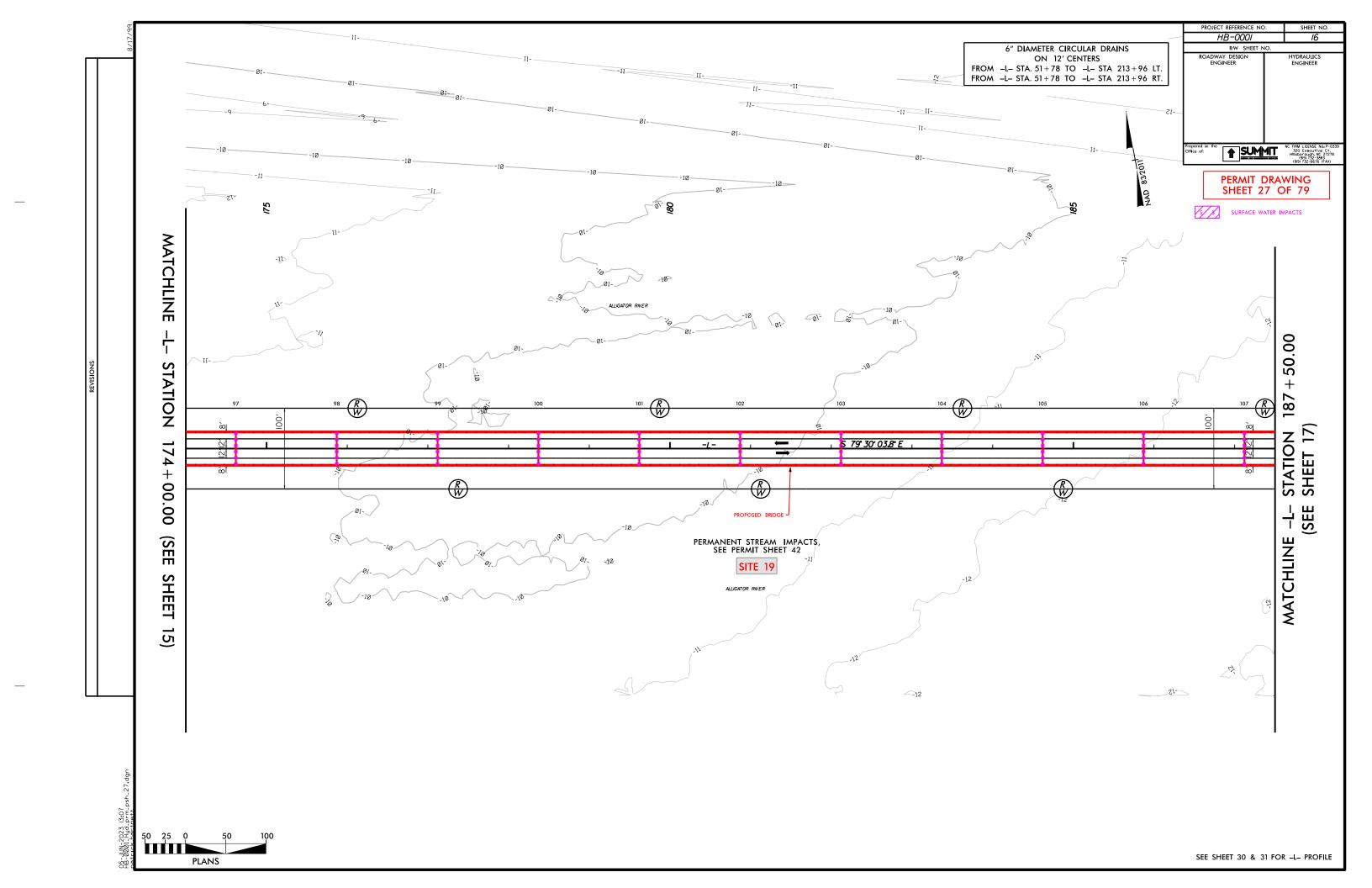


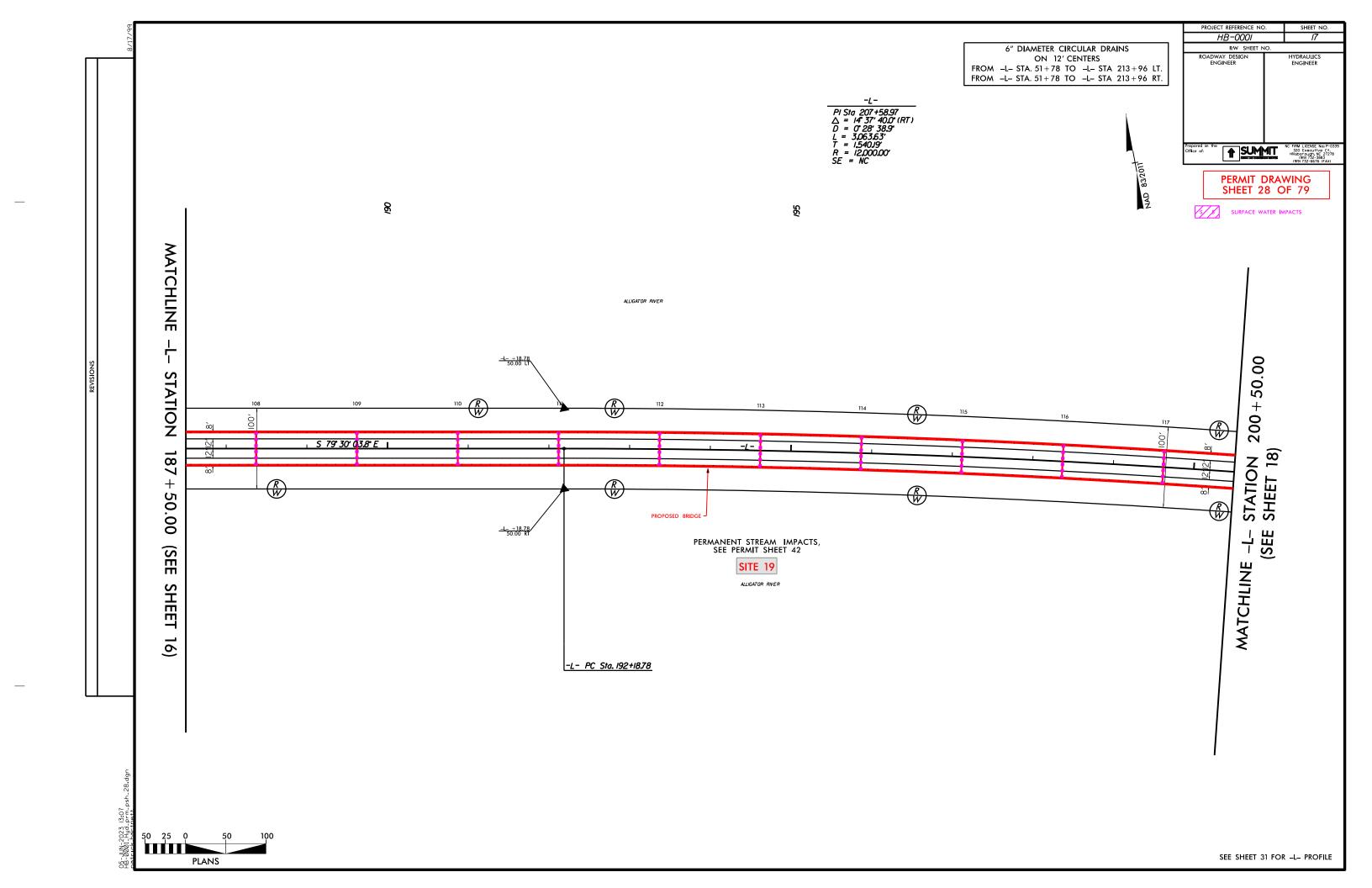


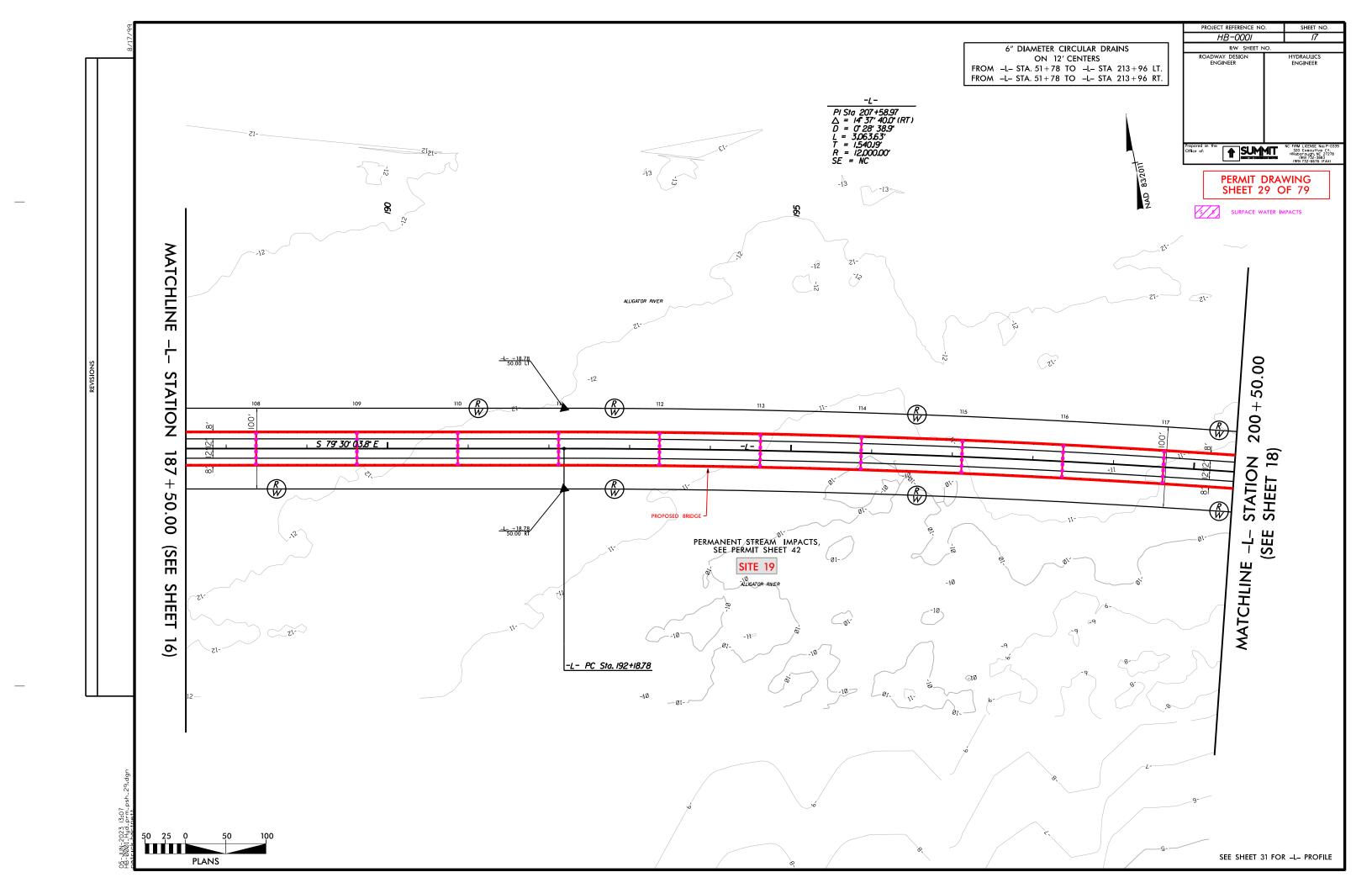


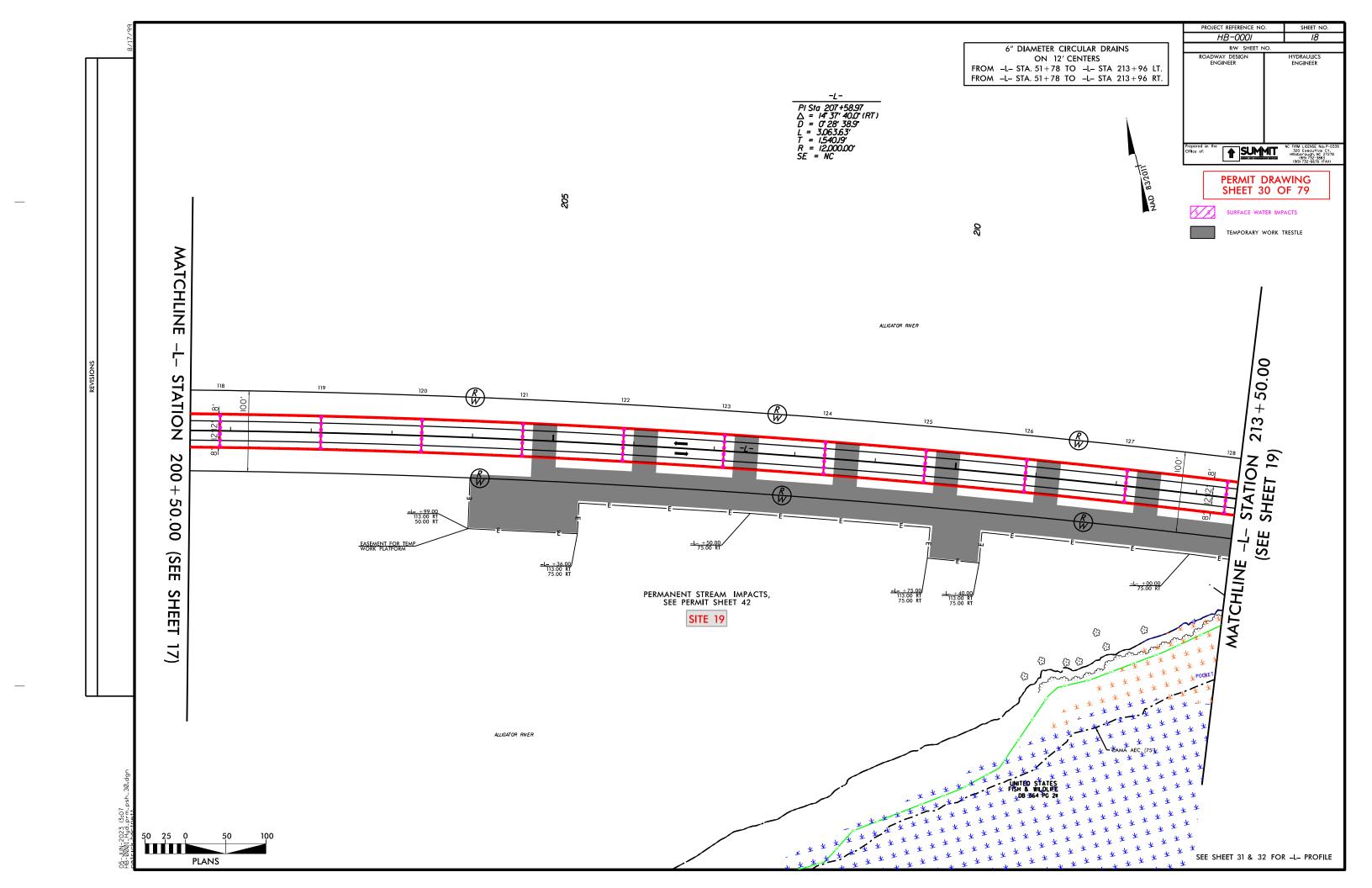


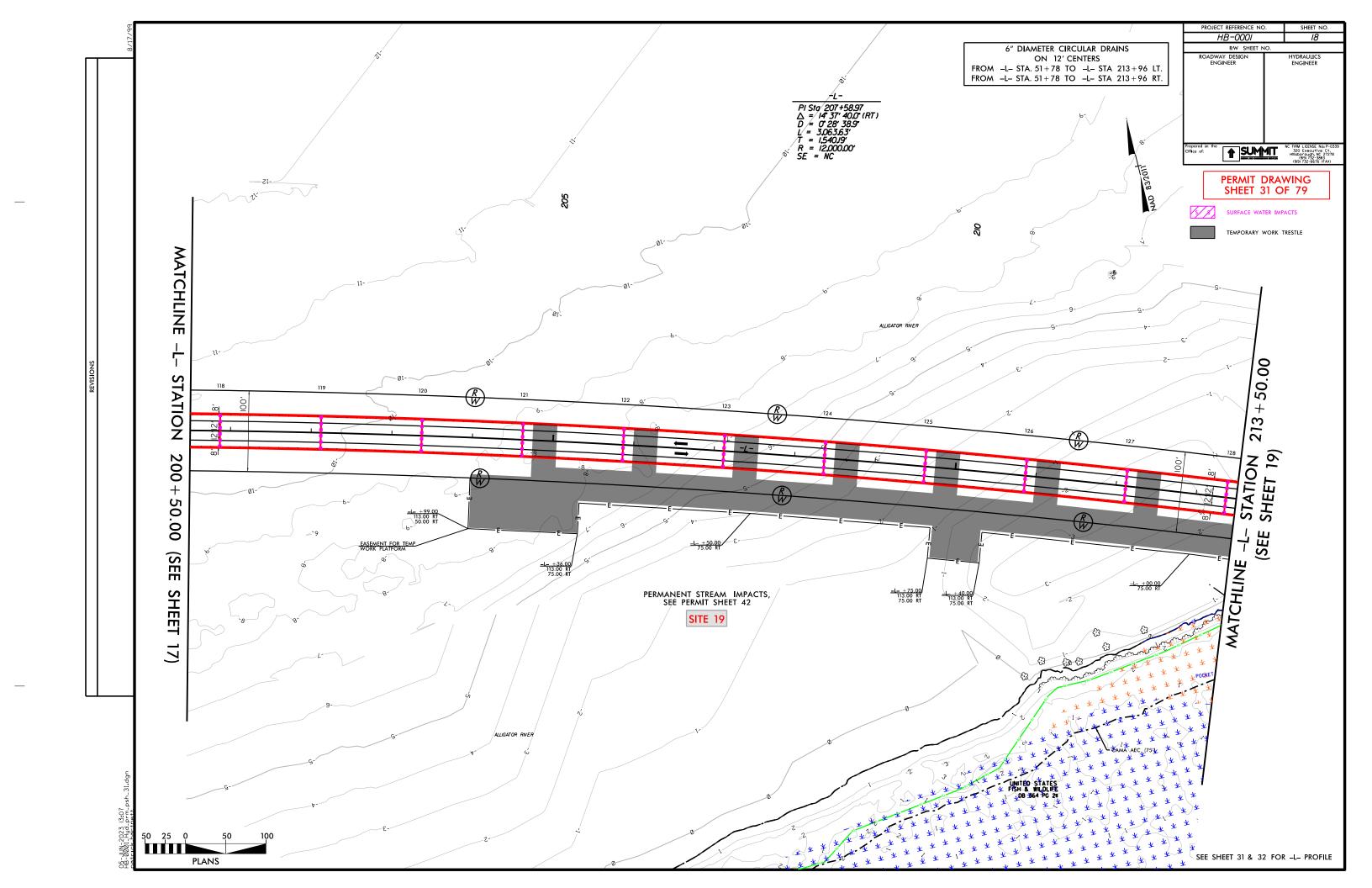


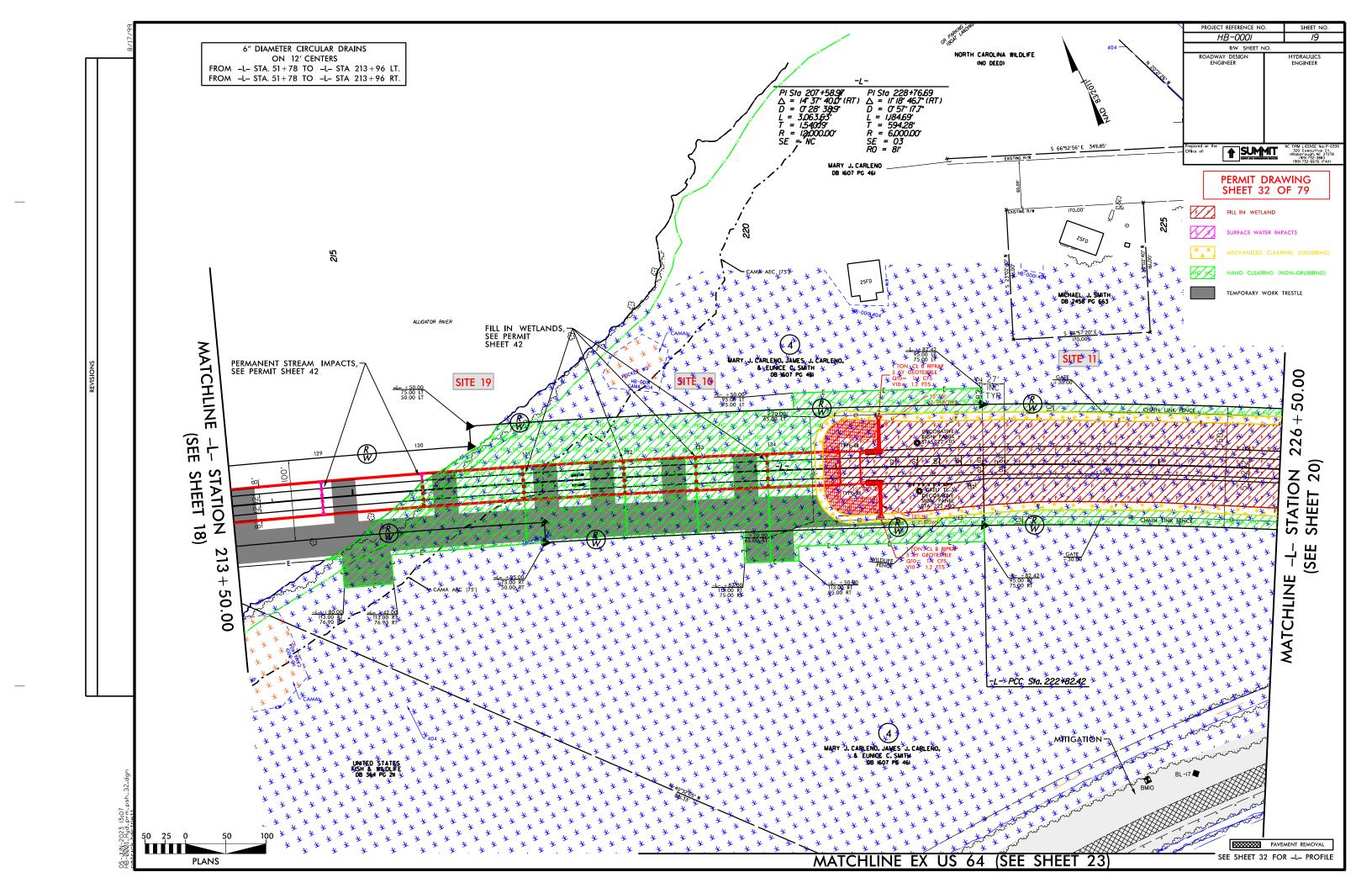


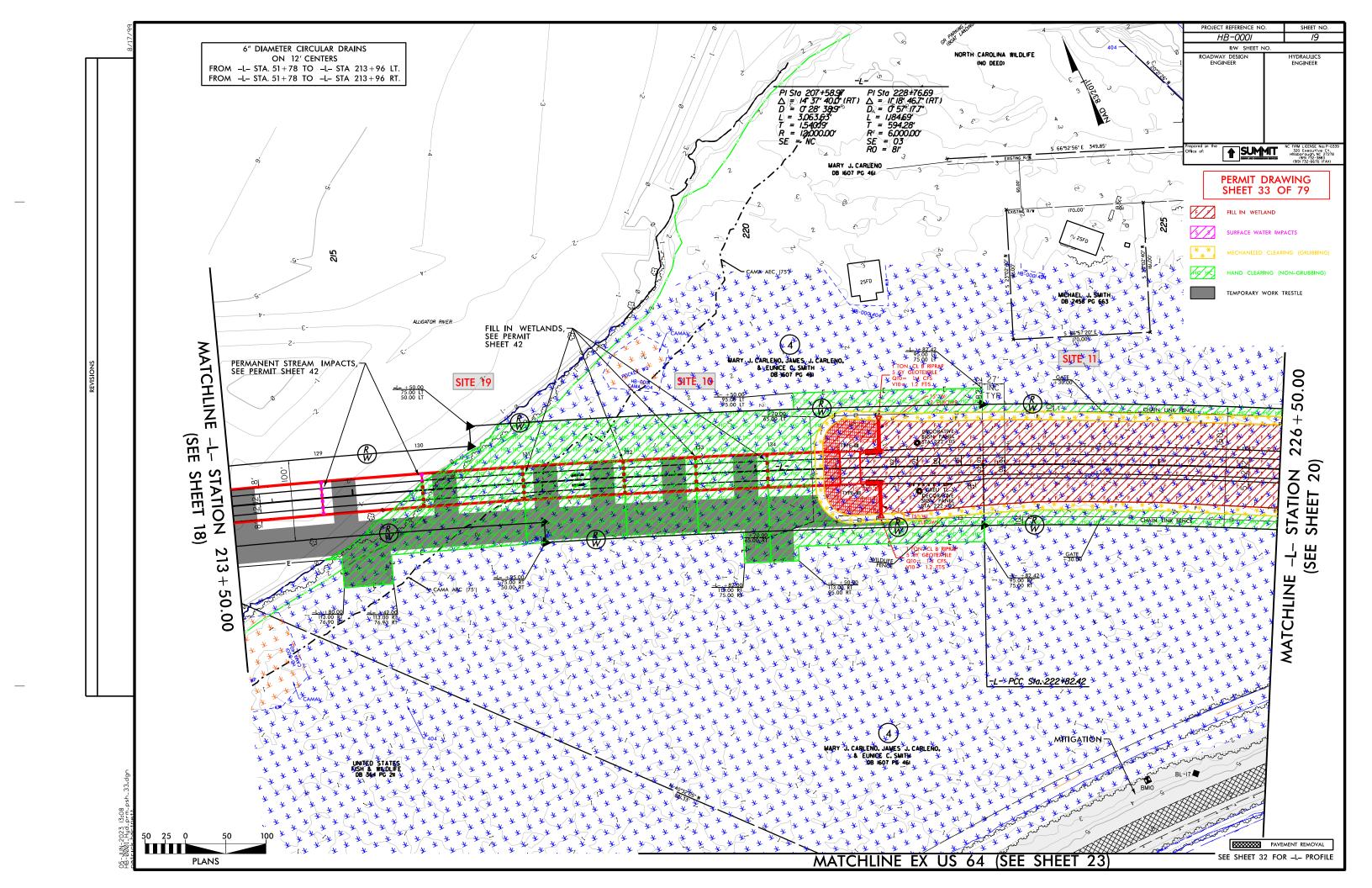


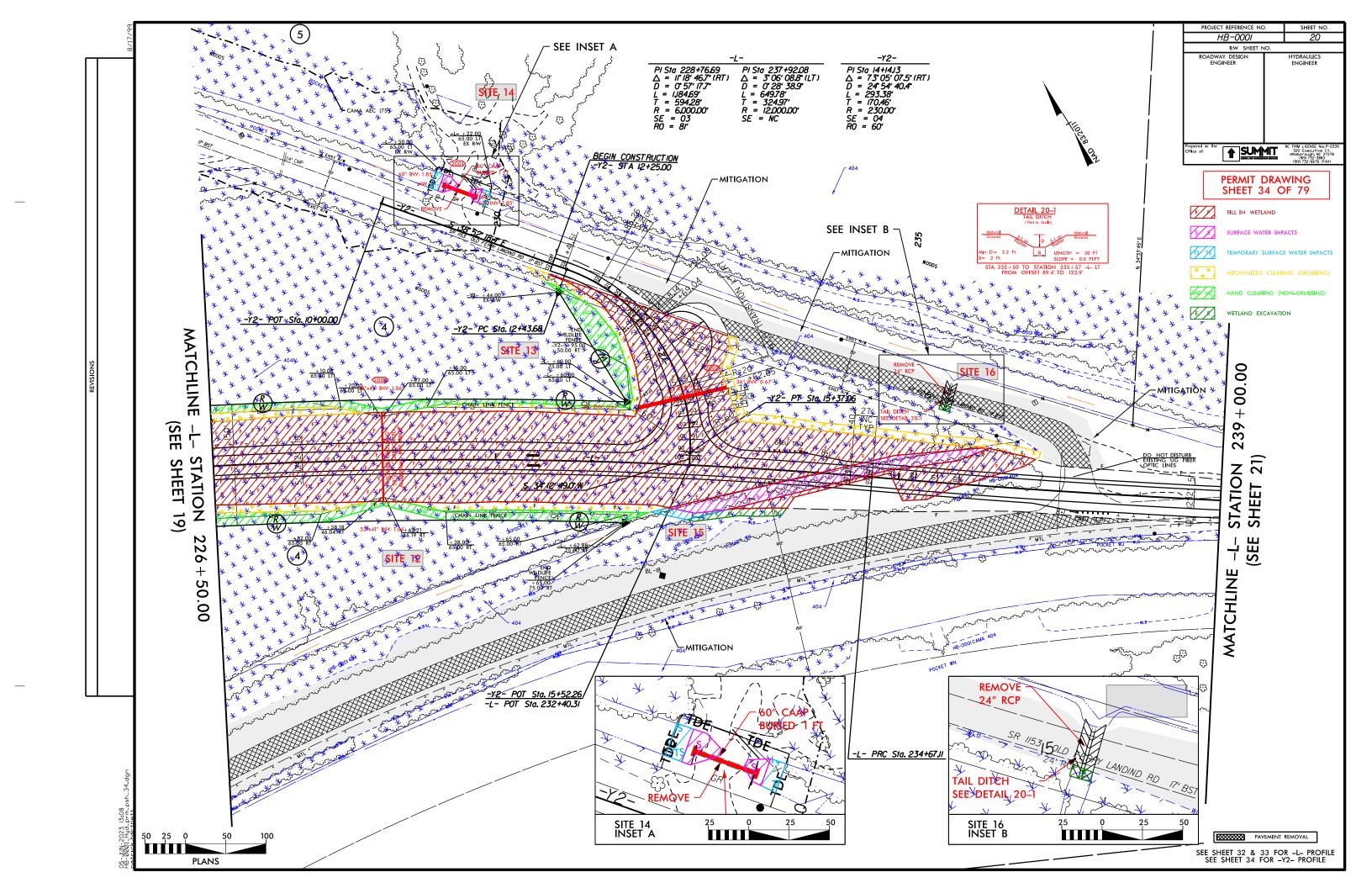


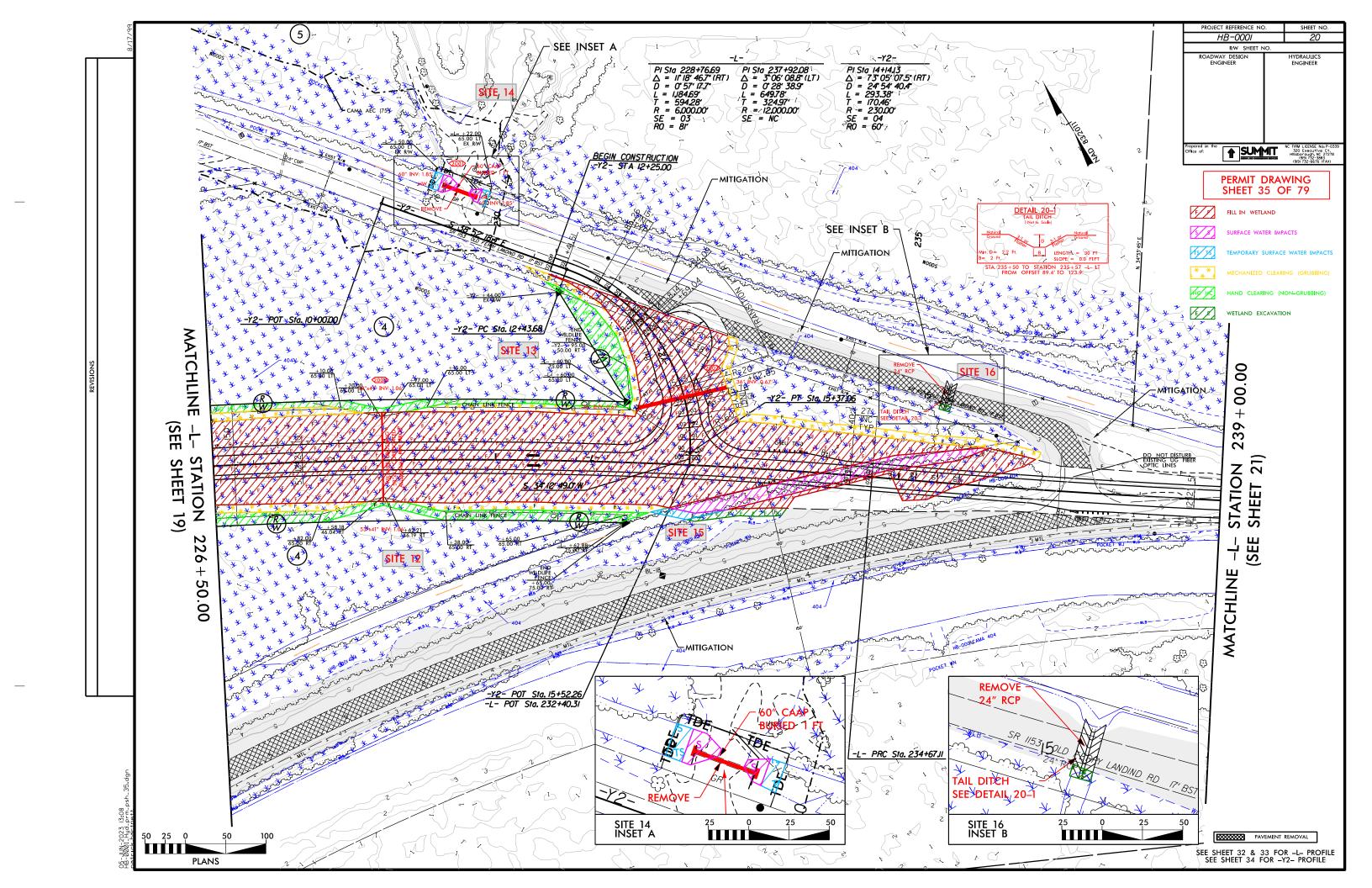


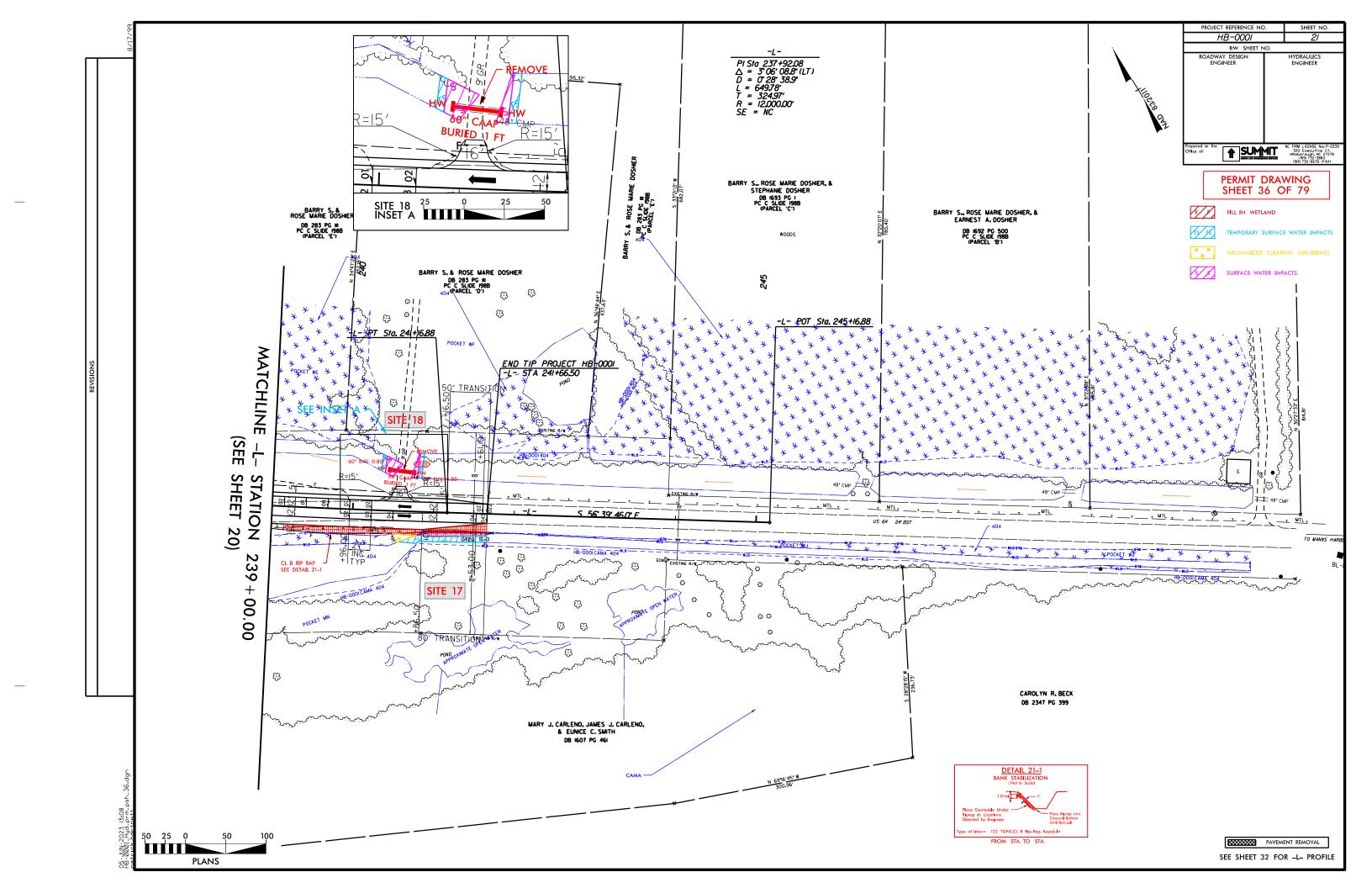


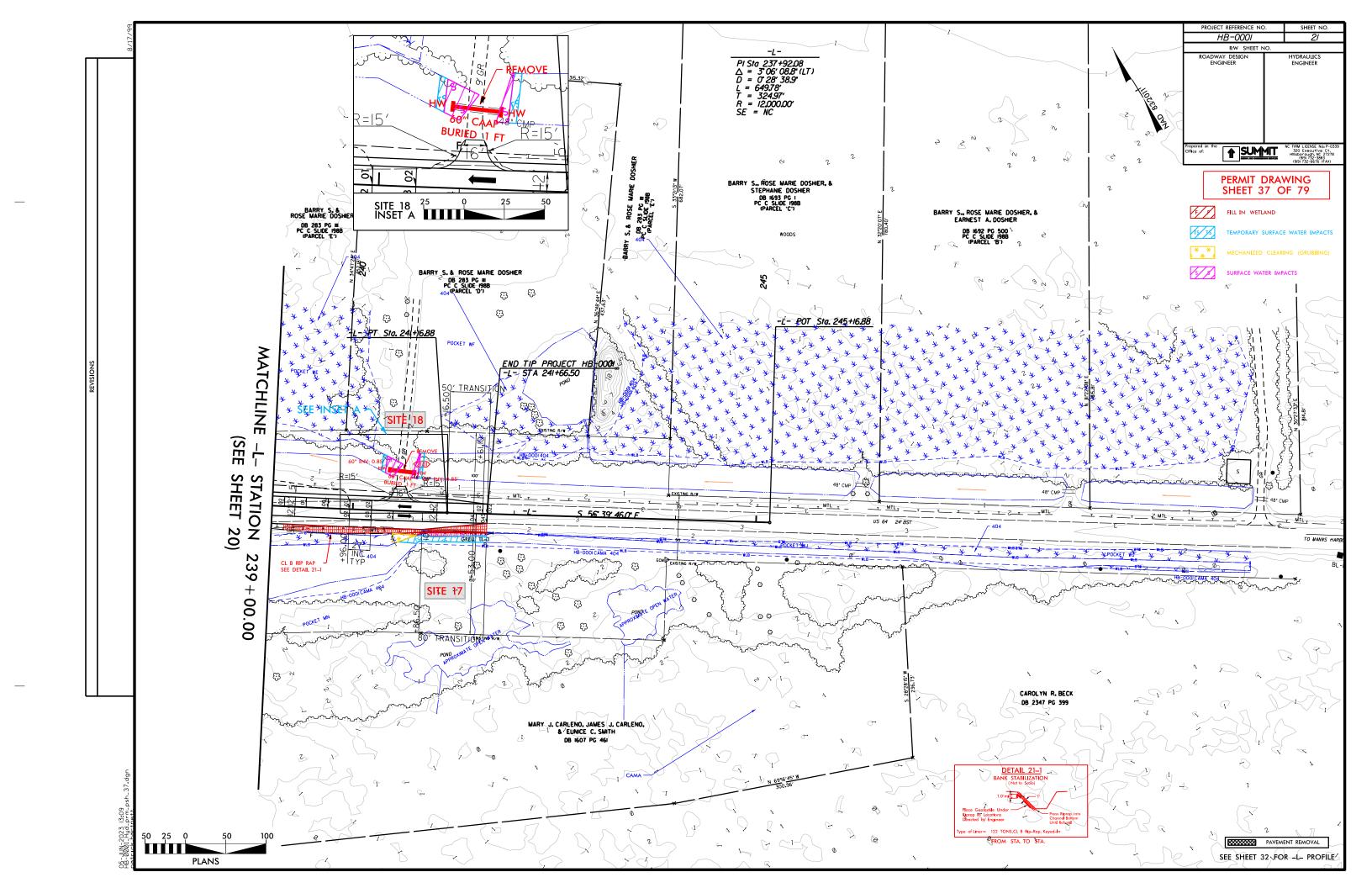


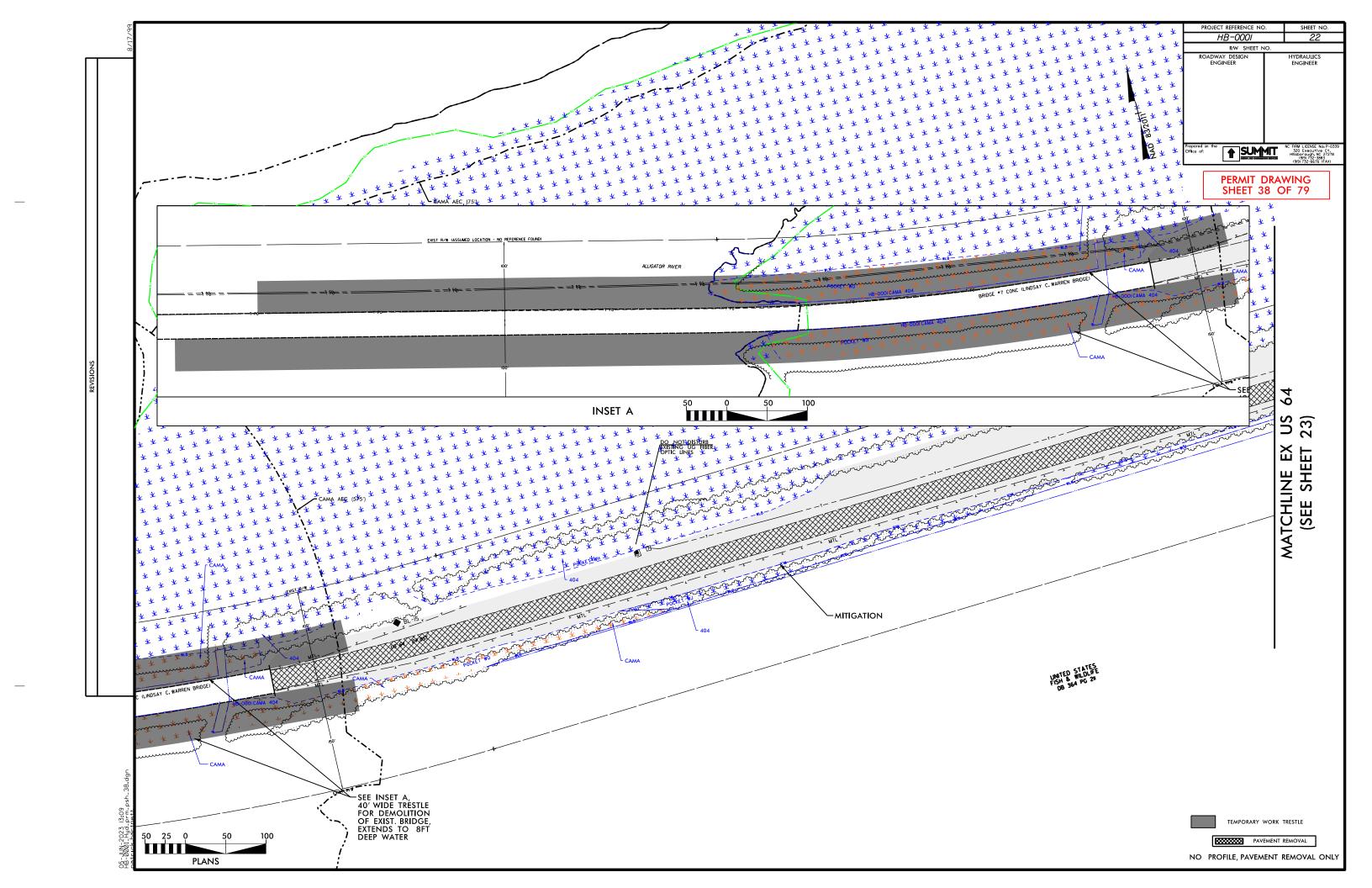


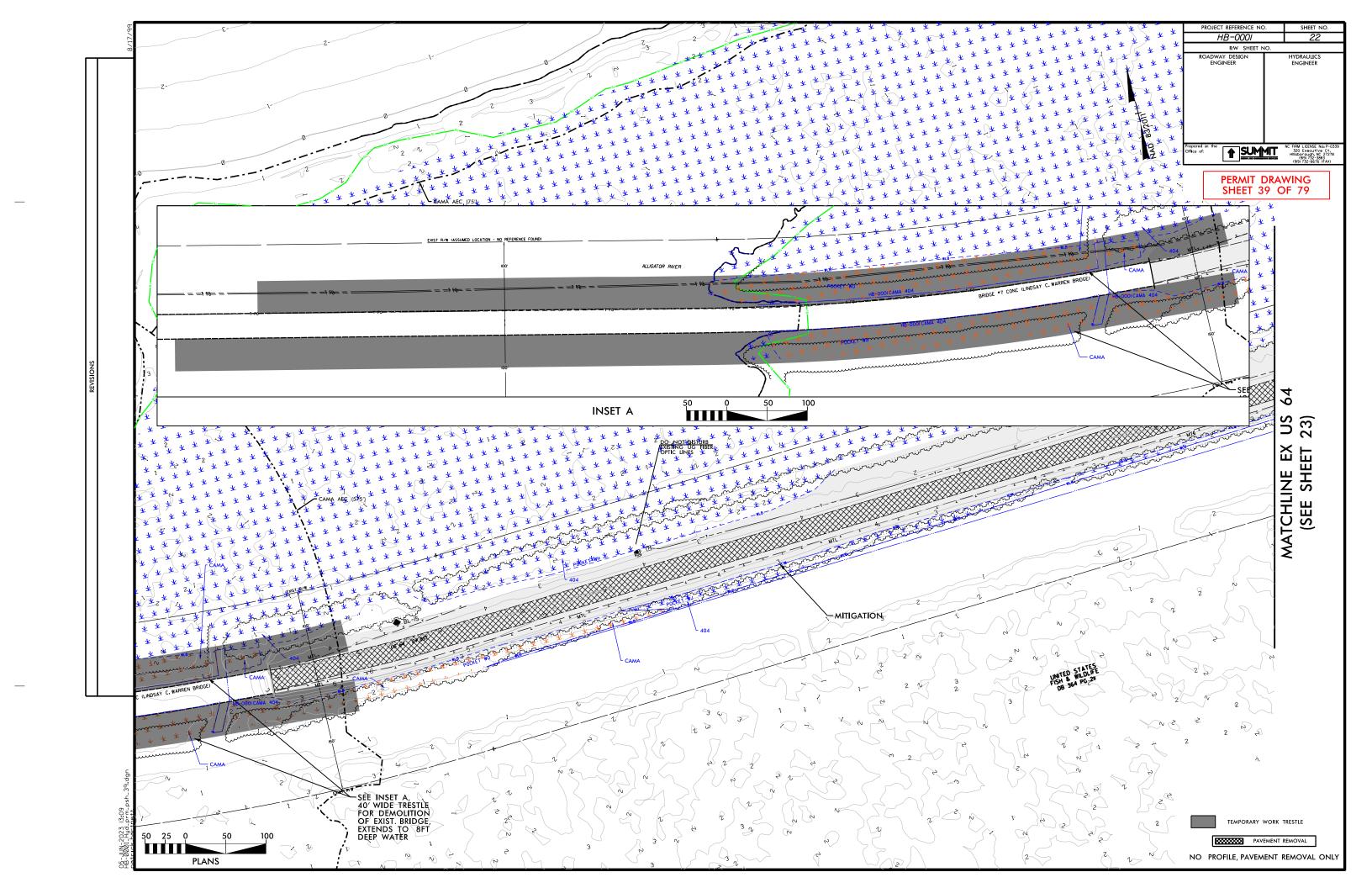


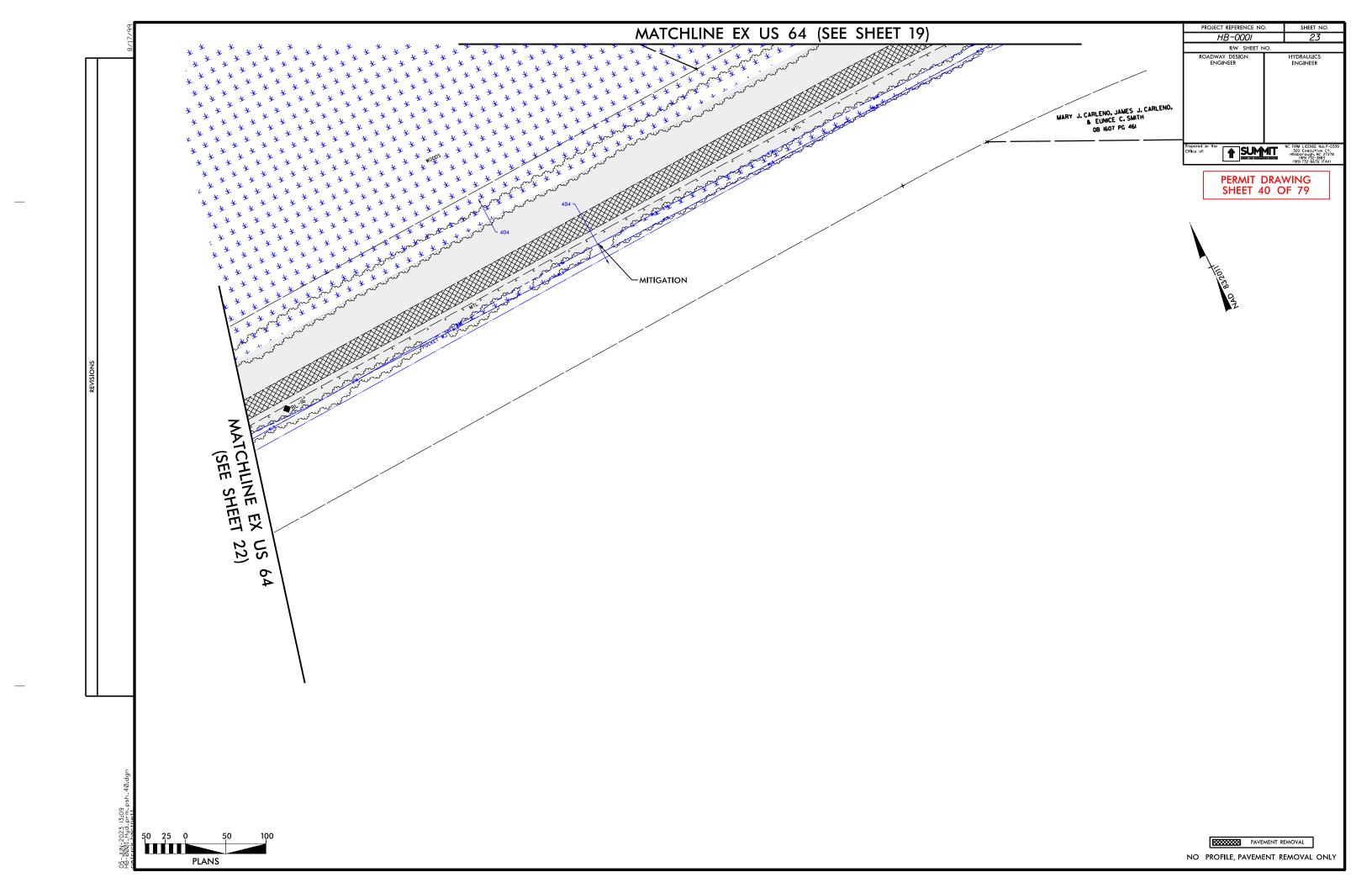


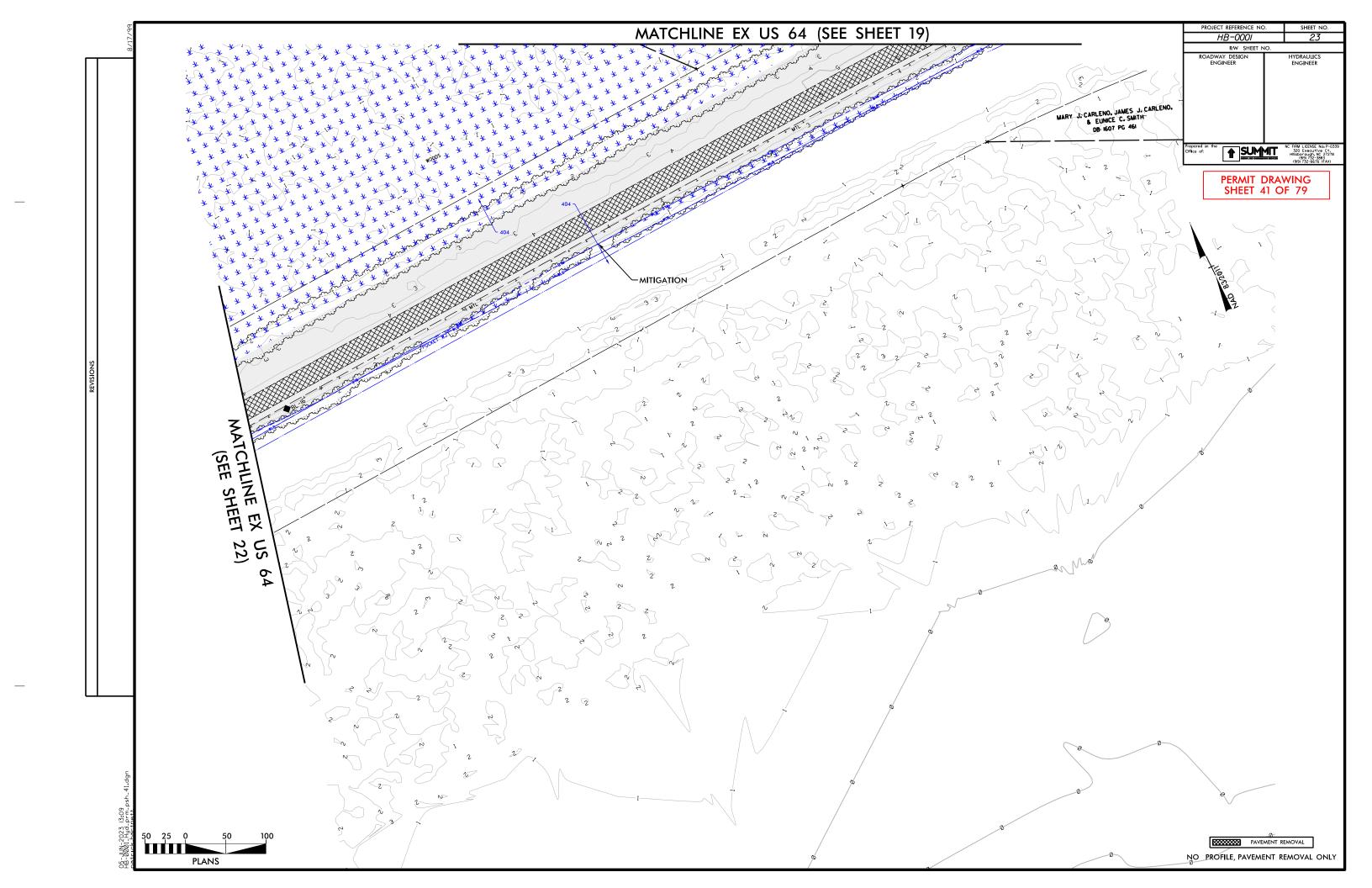










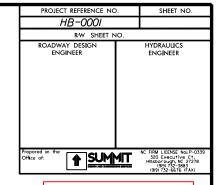


BENT TYPICAL IMPACTS FILL IN WETLAND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS \*\*NC FIRM LICENSE No: P-0
320 Executive Ct.
Hillsborough, NC 2727(
199) 732-3883
199) 732-6676 (FAX) PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 42 OF 79 S - 🛐 S S S S BENTS 1-3, 133-134 BENTS 4-39, 62-132 BENTS 40 & 61 BENTS 41-43, 58-60 44'-6" x 5'-0" 44'-6" x 5'-0" 26'-0" x 18'-0" 33'-0" x 18'-0" 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE

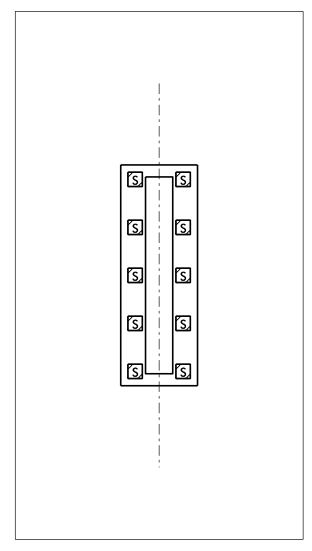
## BENT TYPICAL IMPACTS

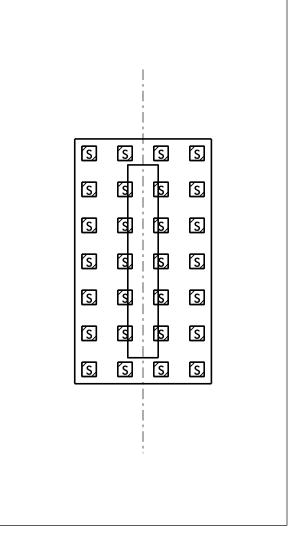


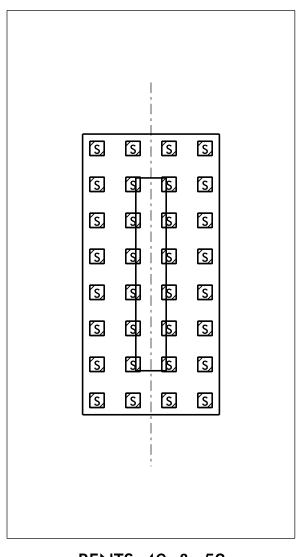
SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

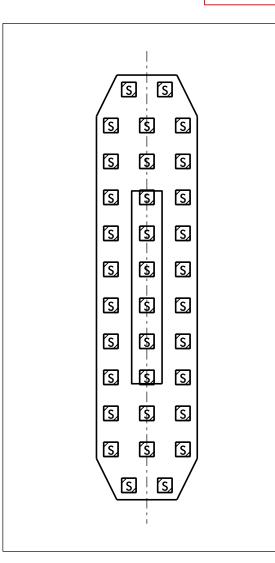


PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 43 OF 79







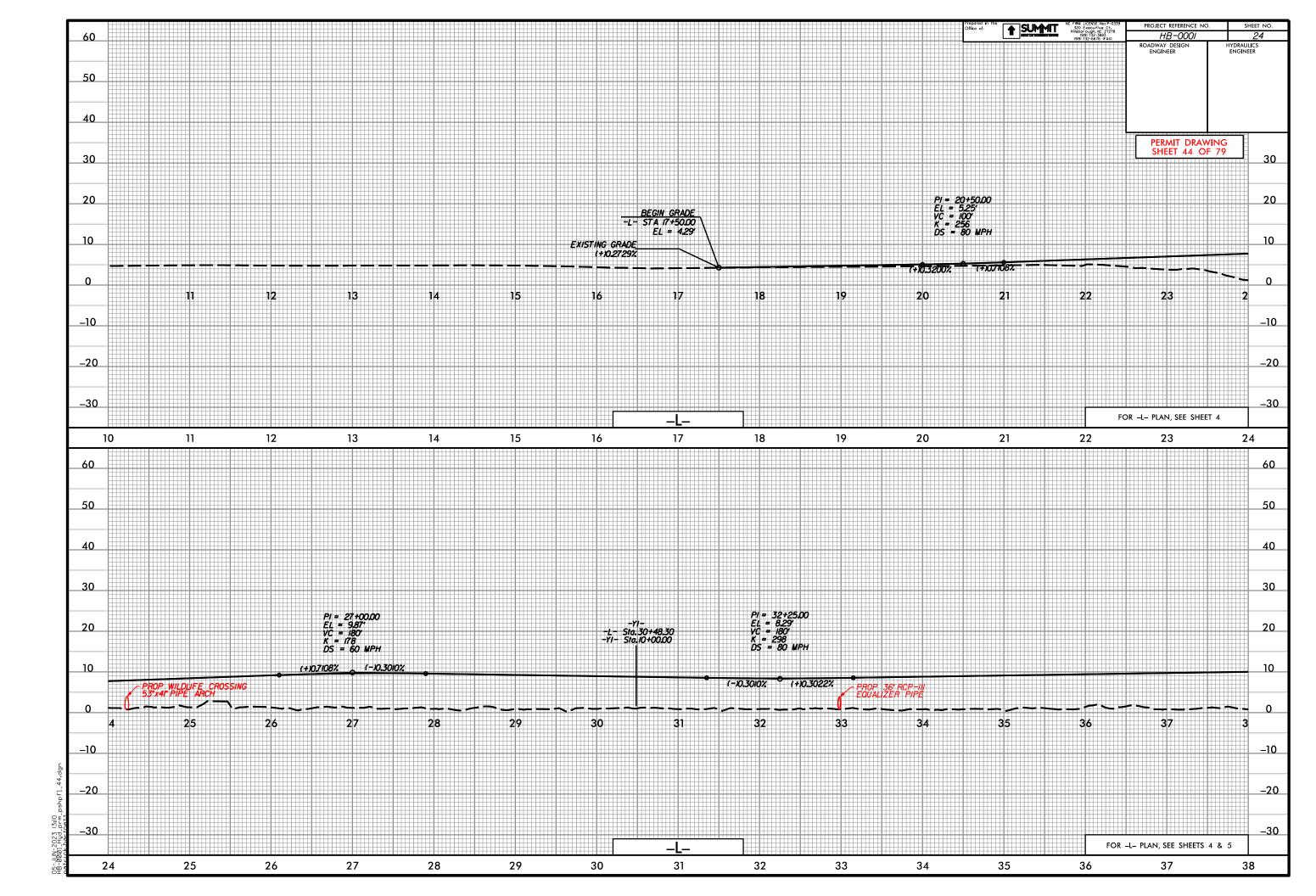


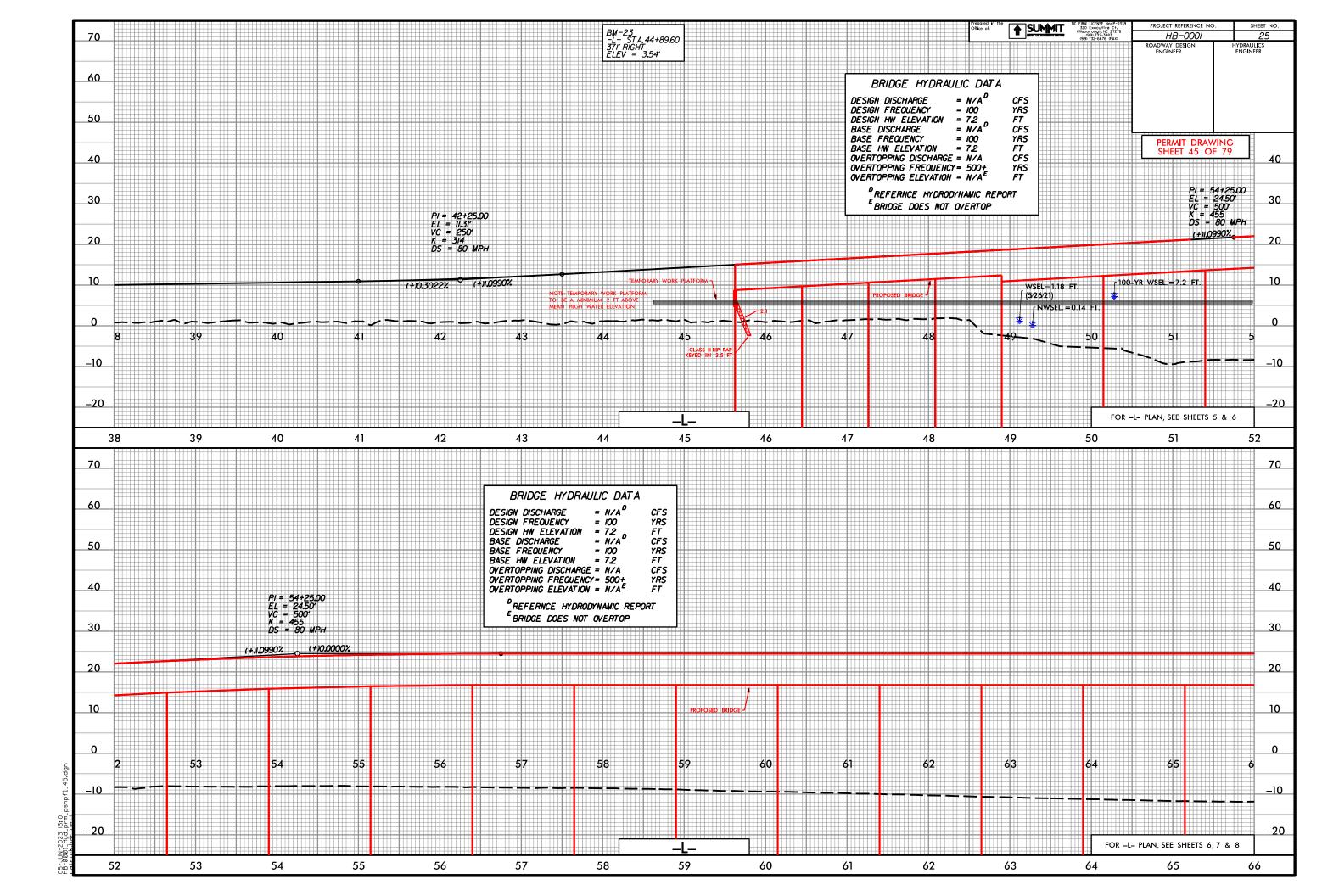
BENTS 44-46, 55-57 46'-0" x 16'-0"

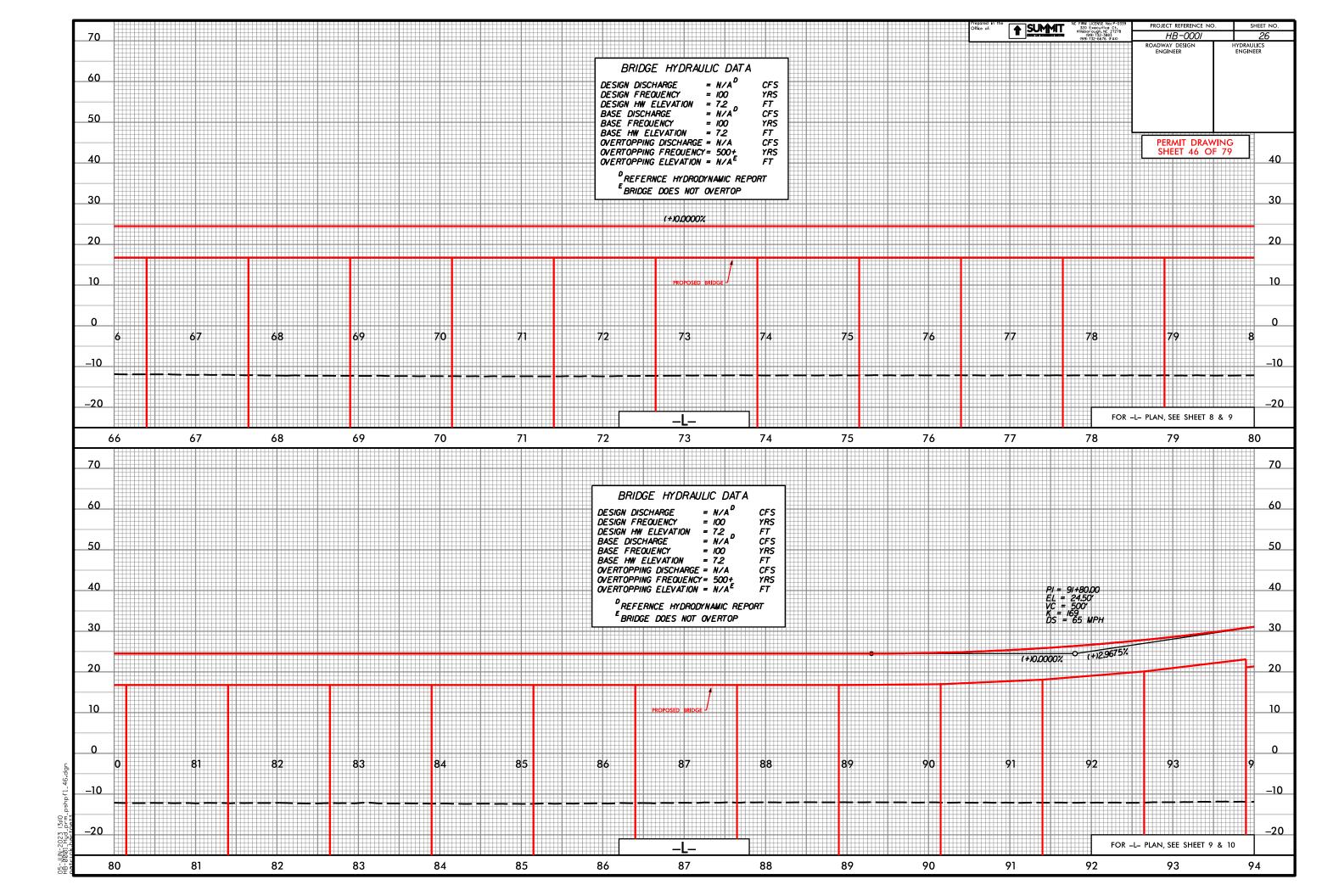
BENTS 47-48, 53-54 51'-0" x 28'-6"

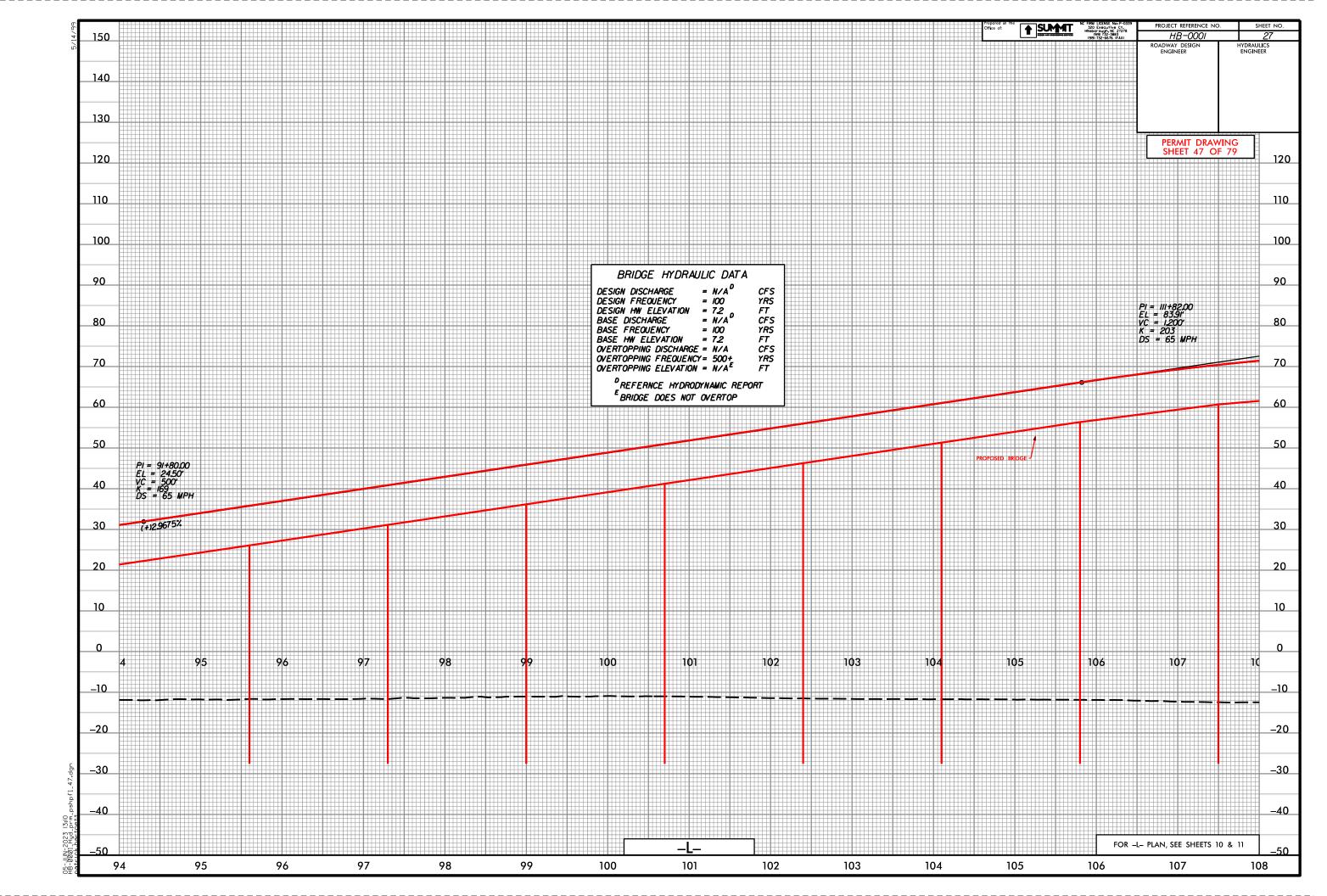
BENTS 49 & 52 58'-6" x 28'-6"

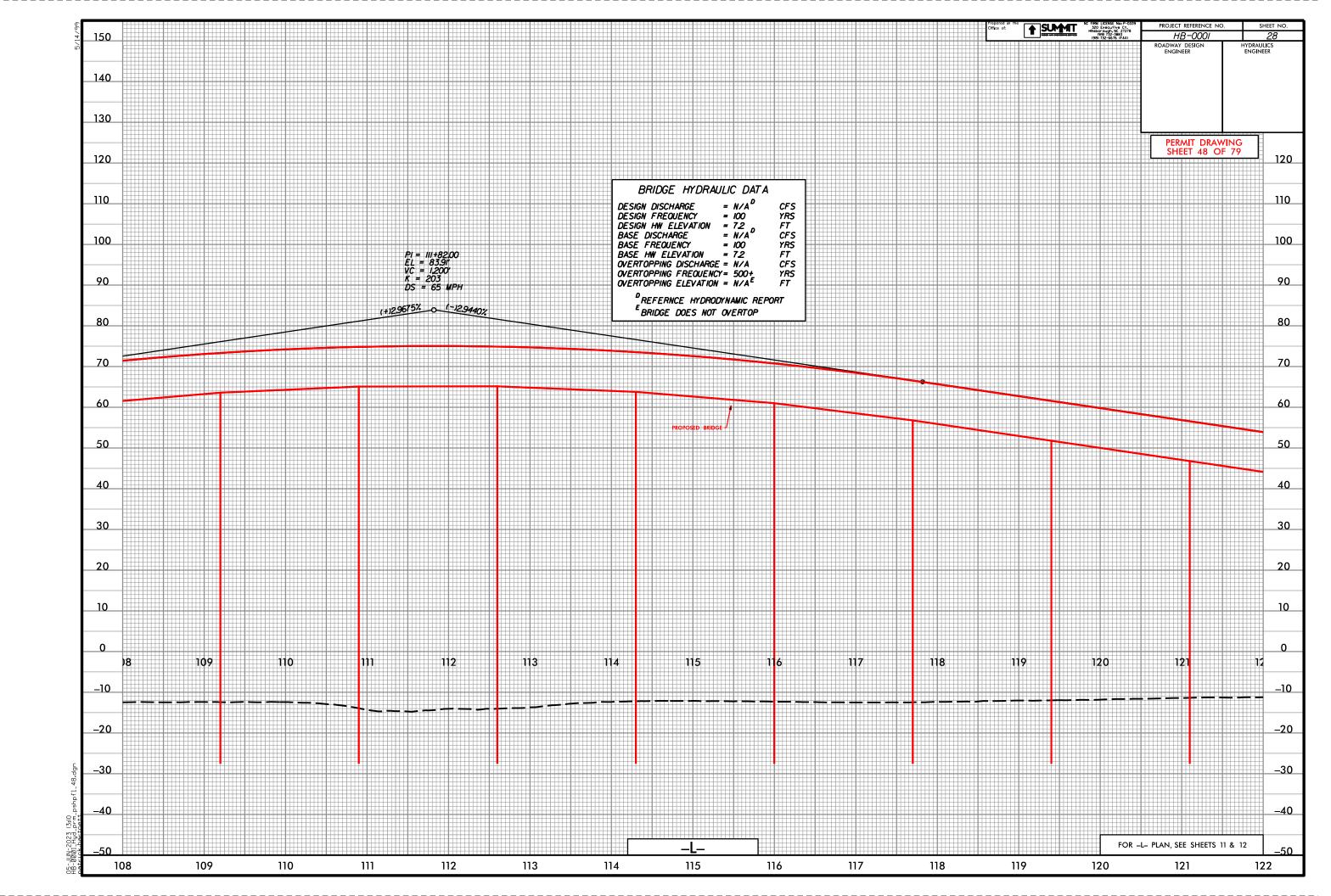
BENTS 50 & 51 88'-6" x 21'-0" 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE 36" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILE

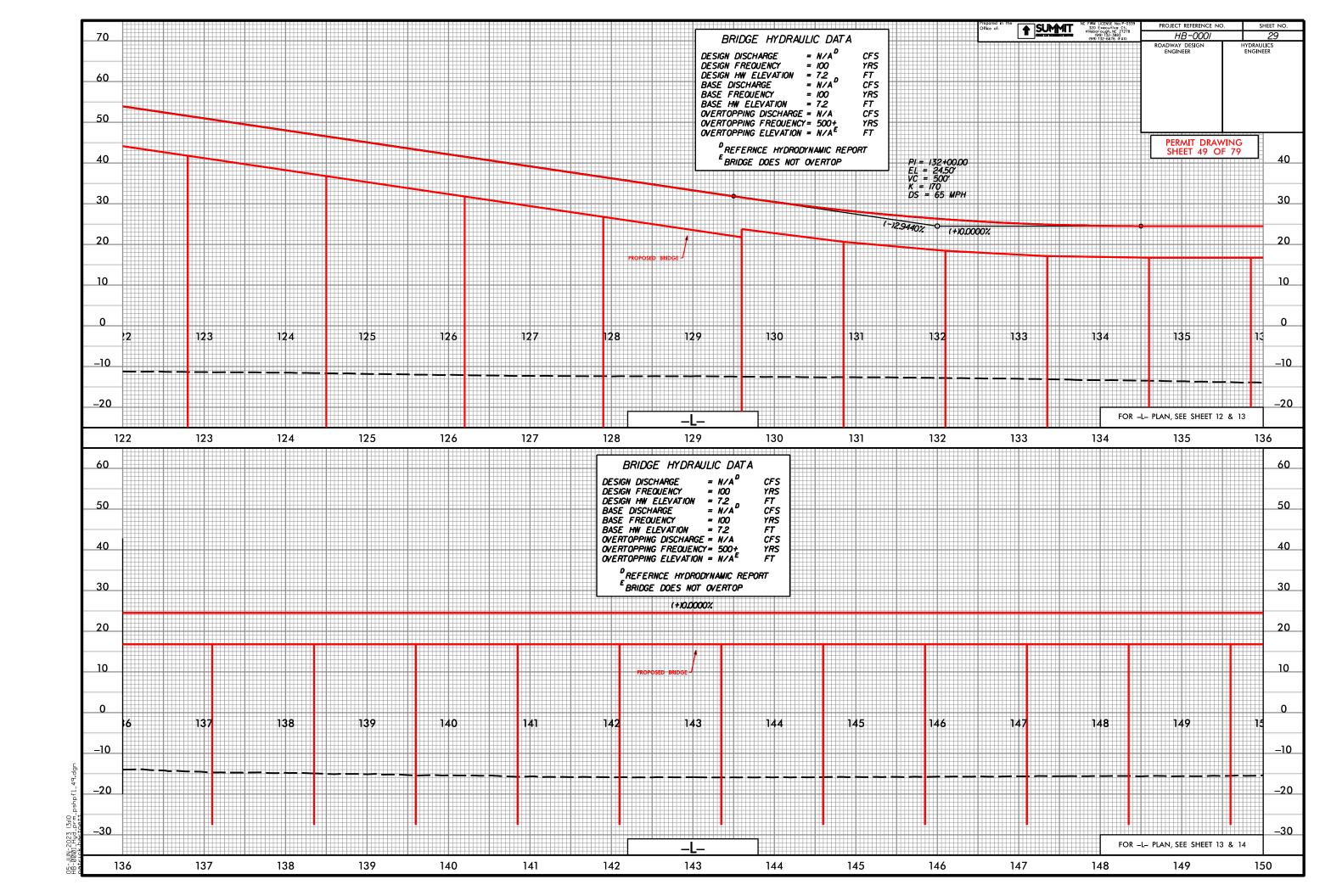


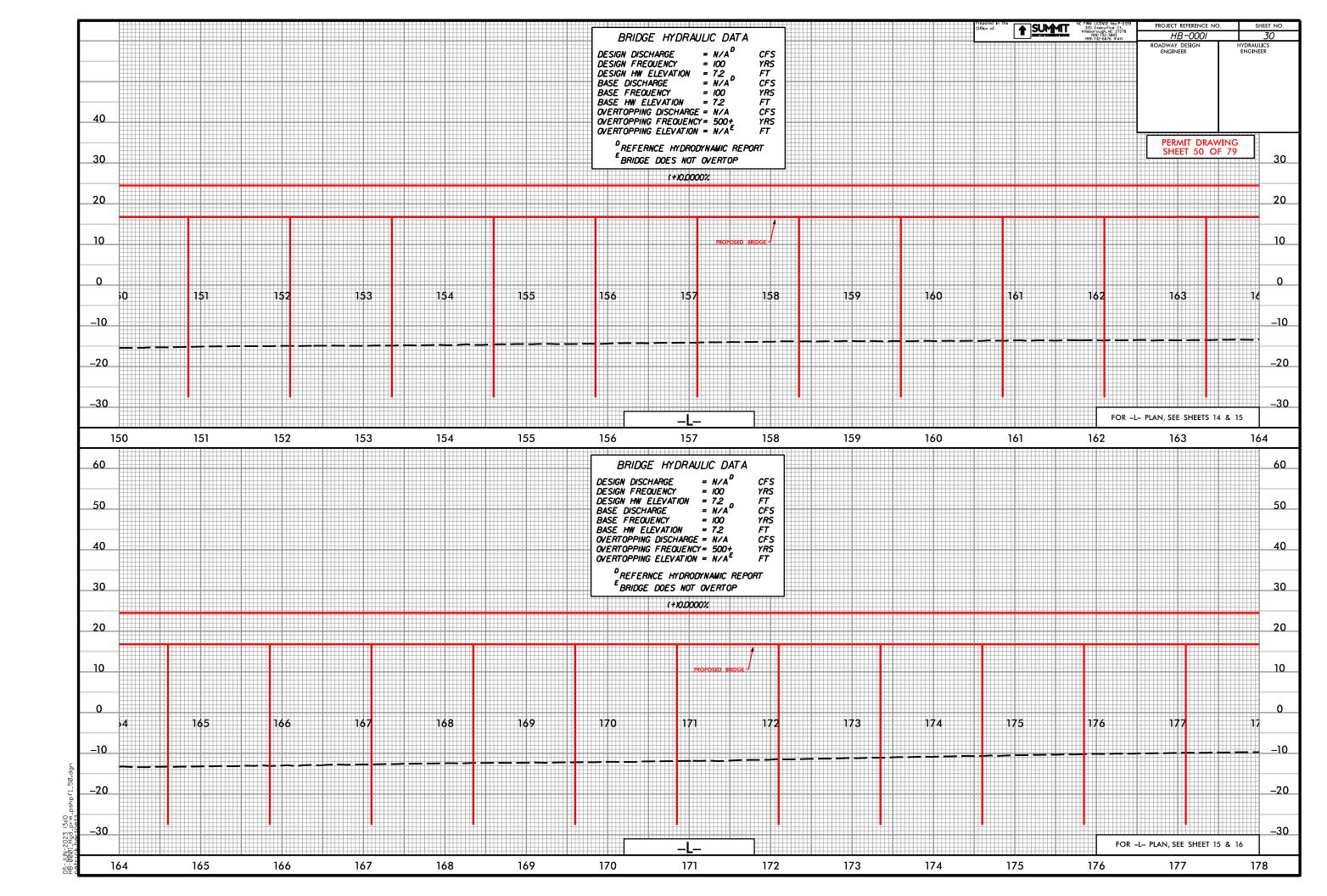


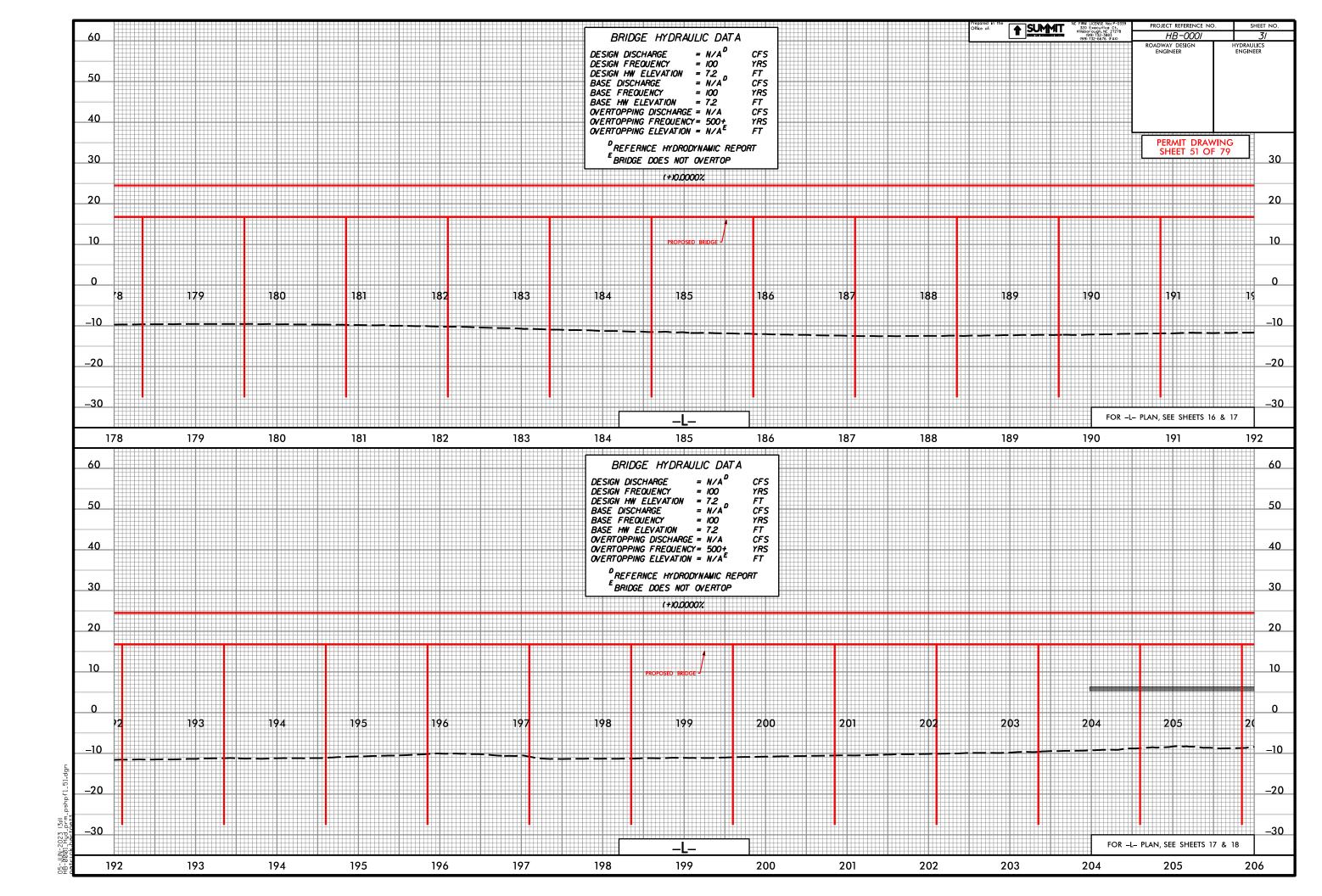


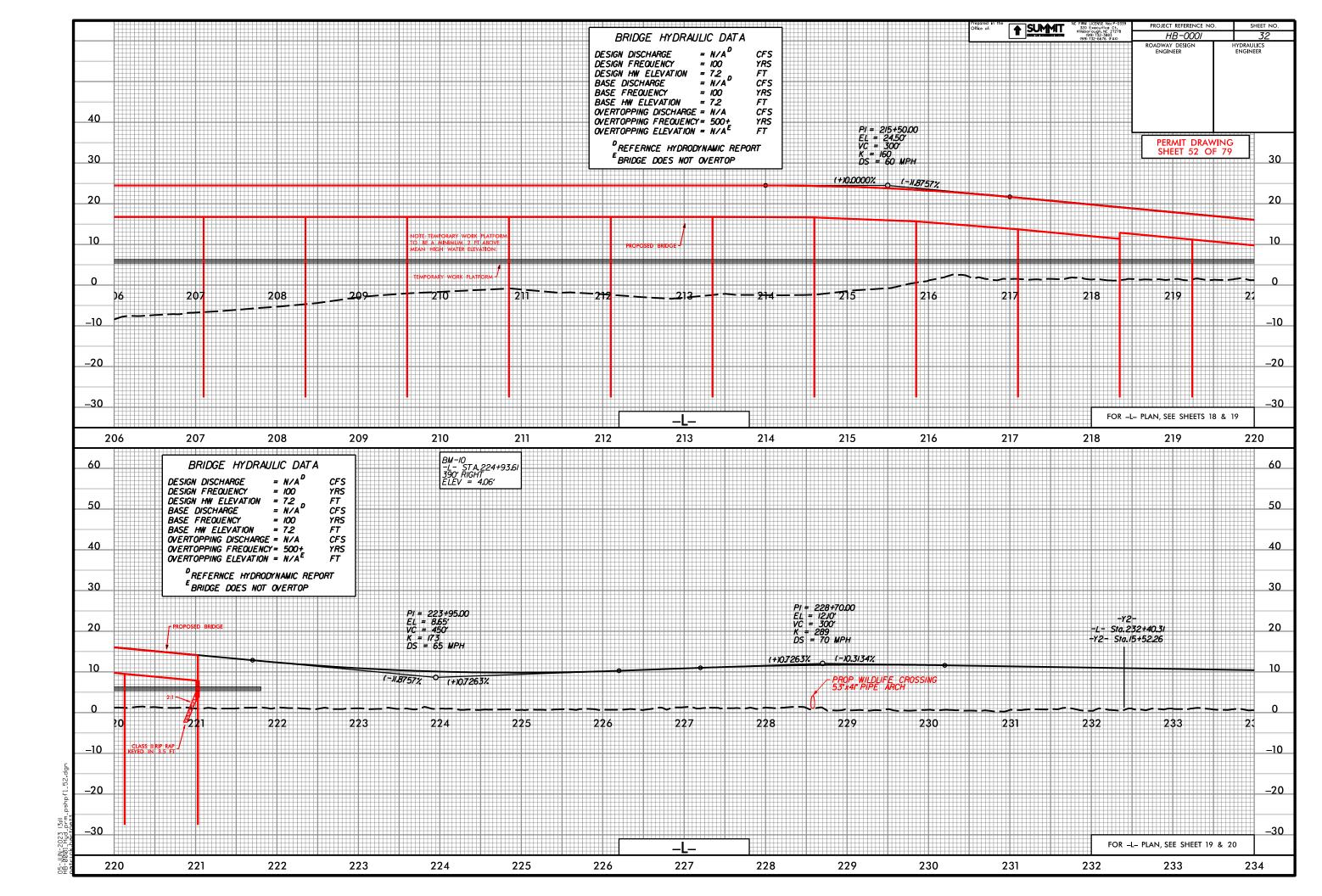


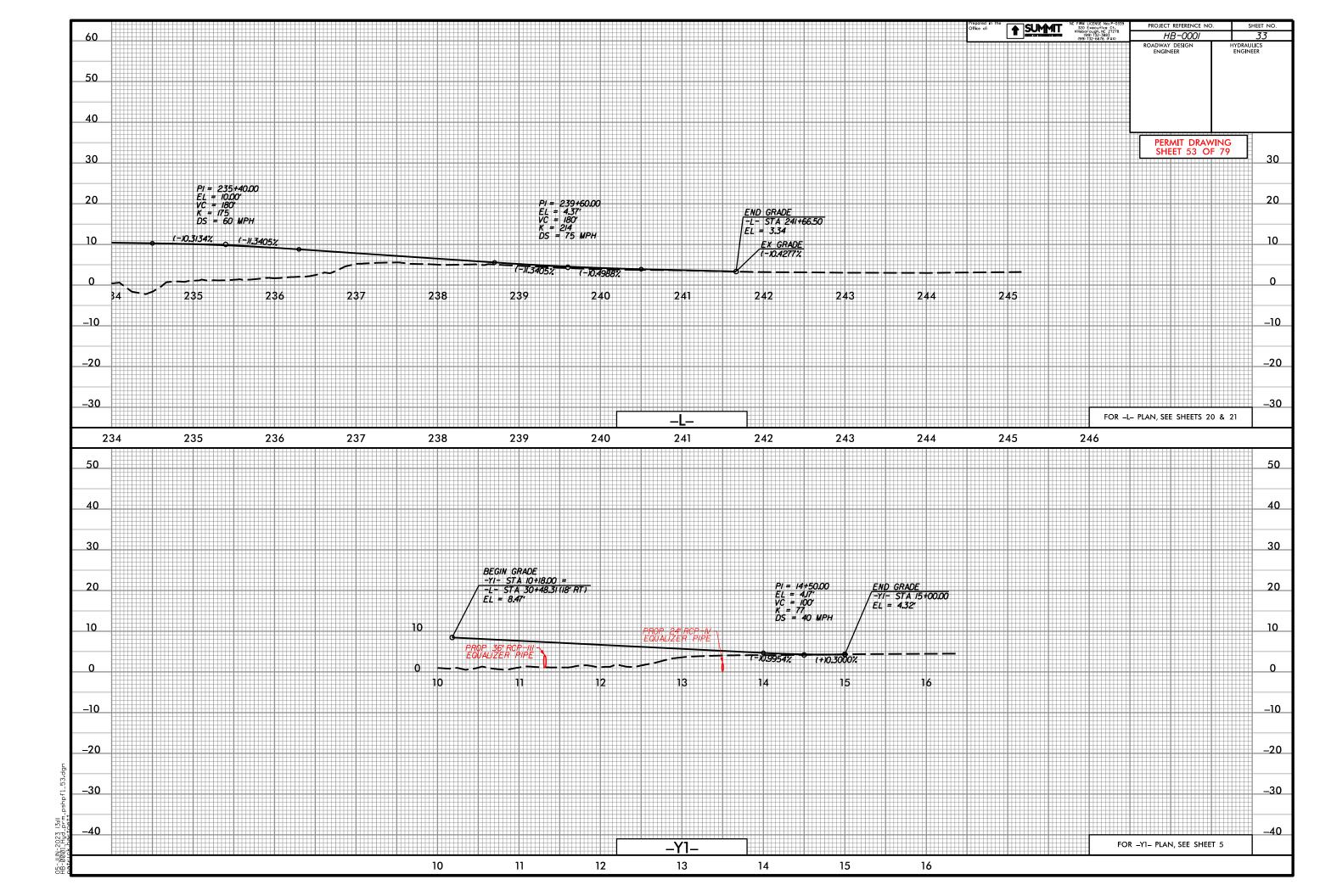


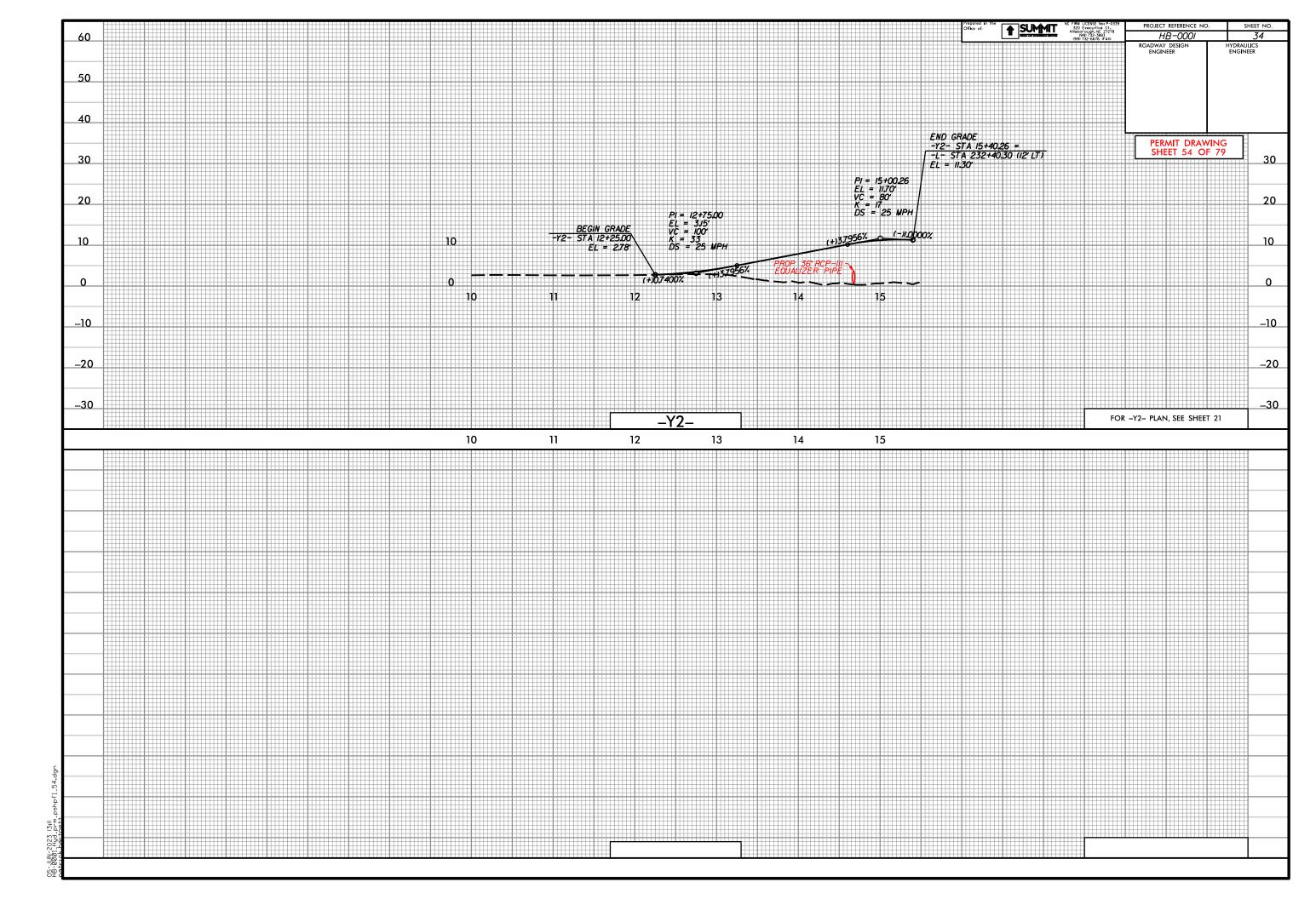


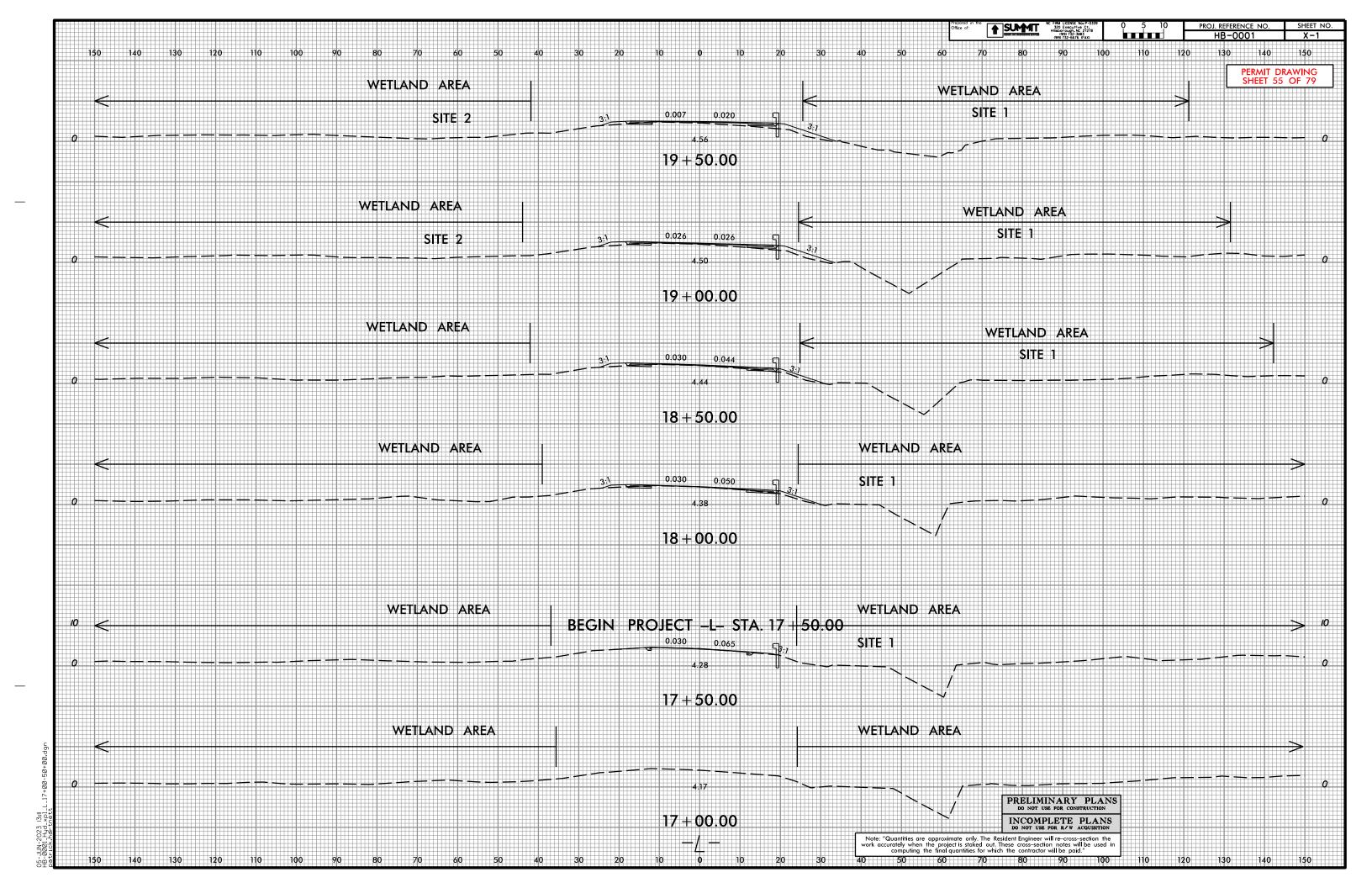


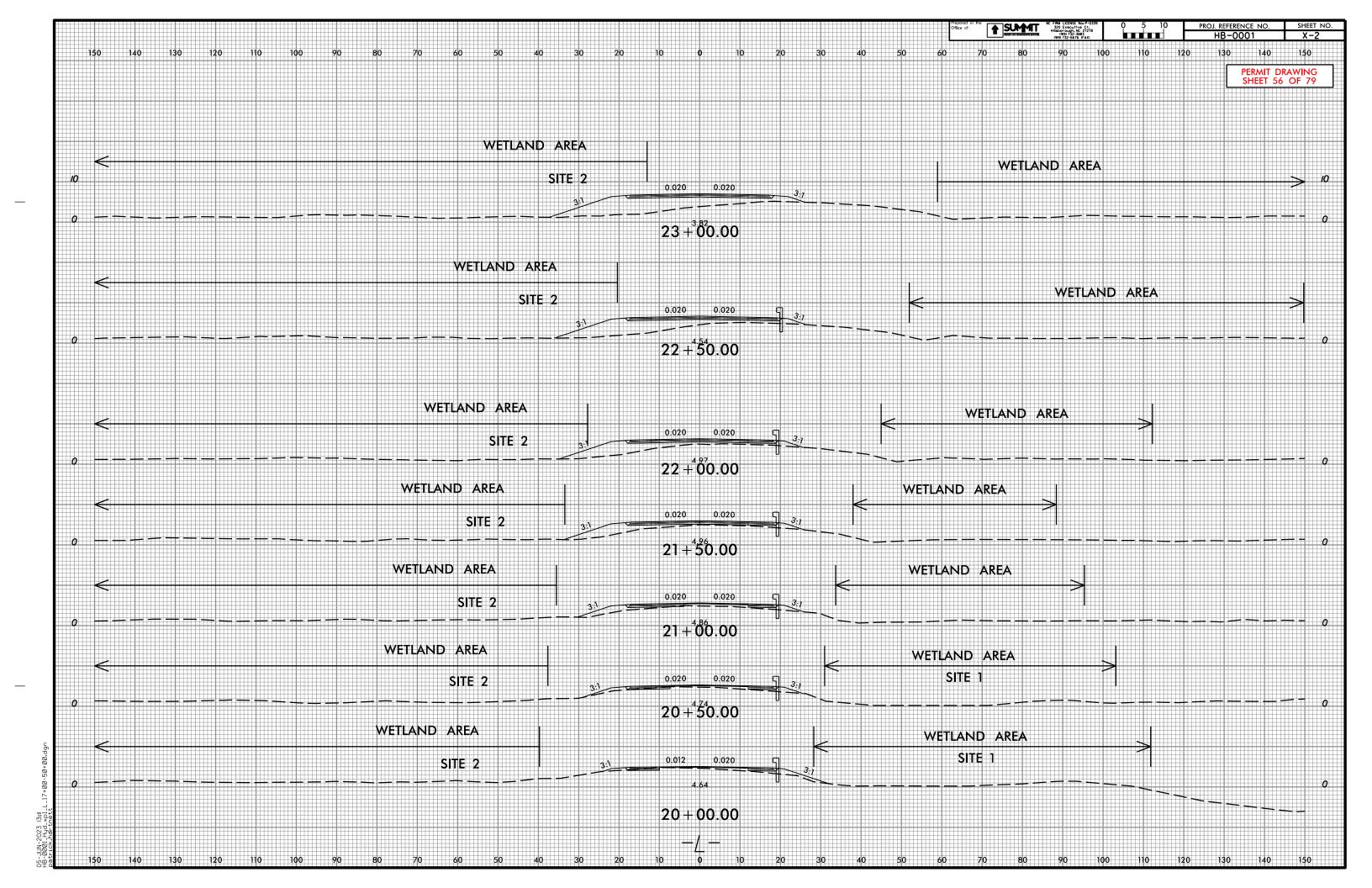


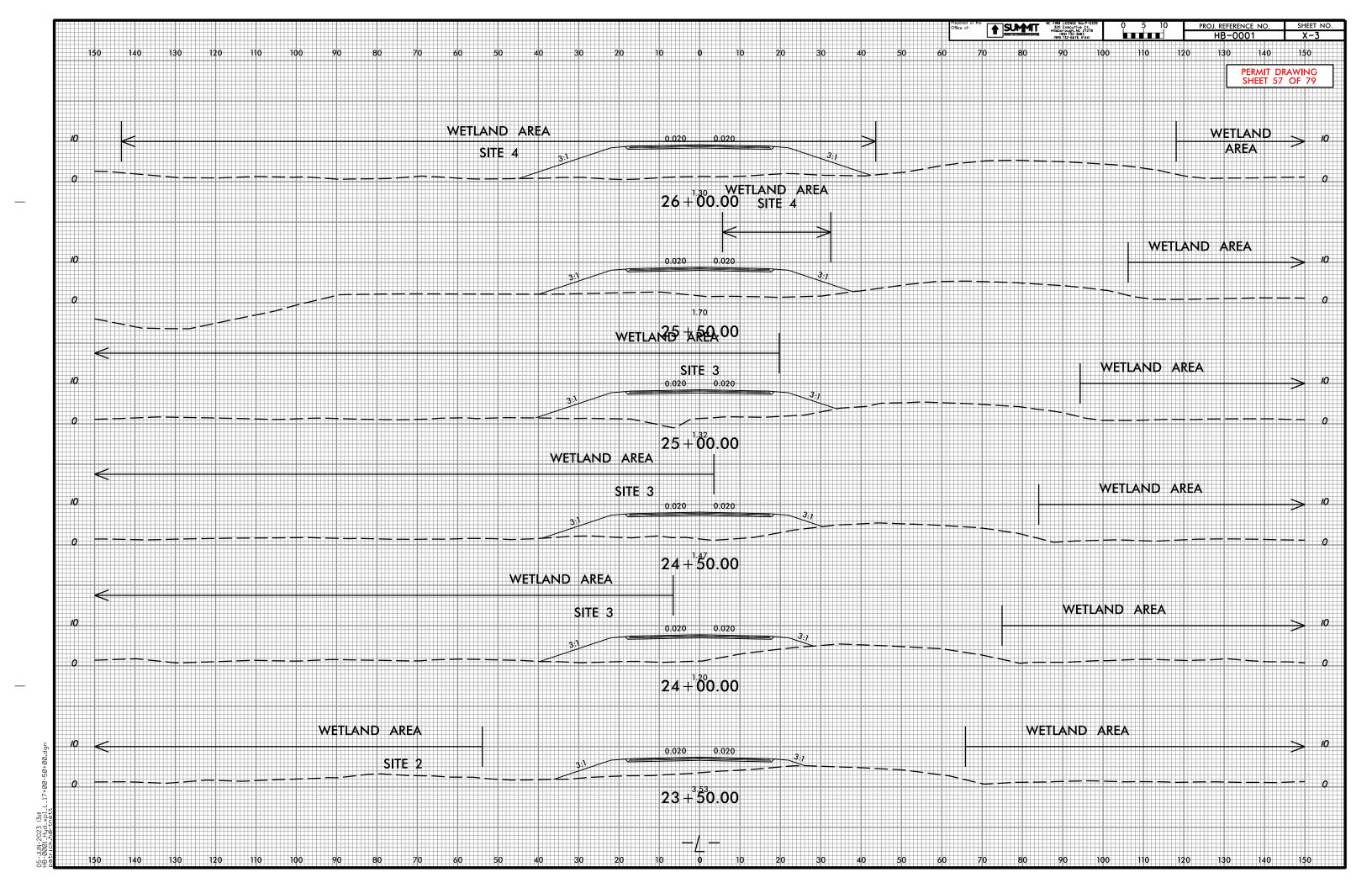


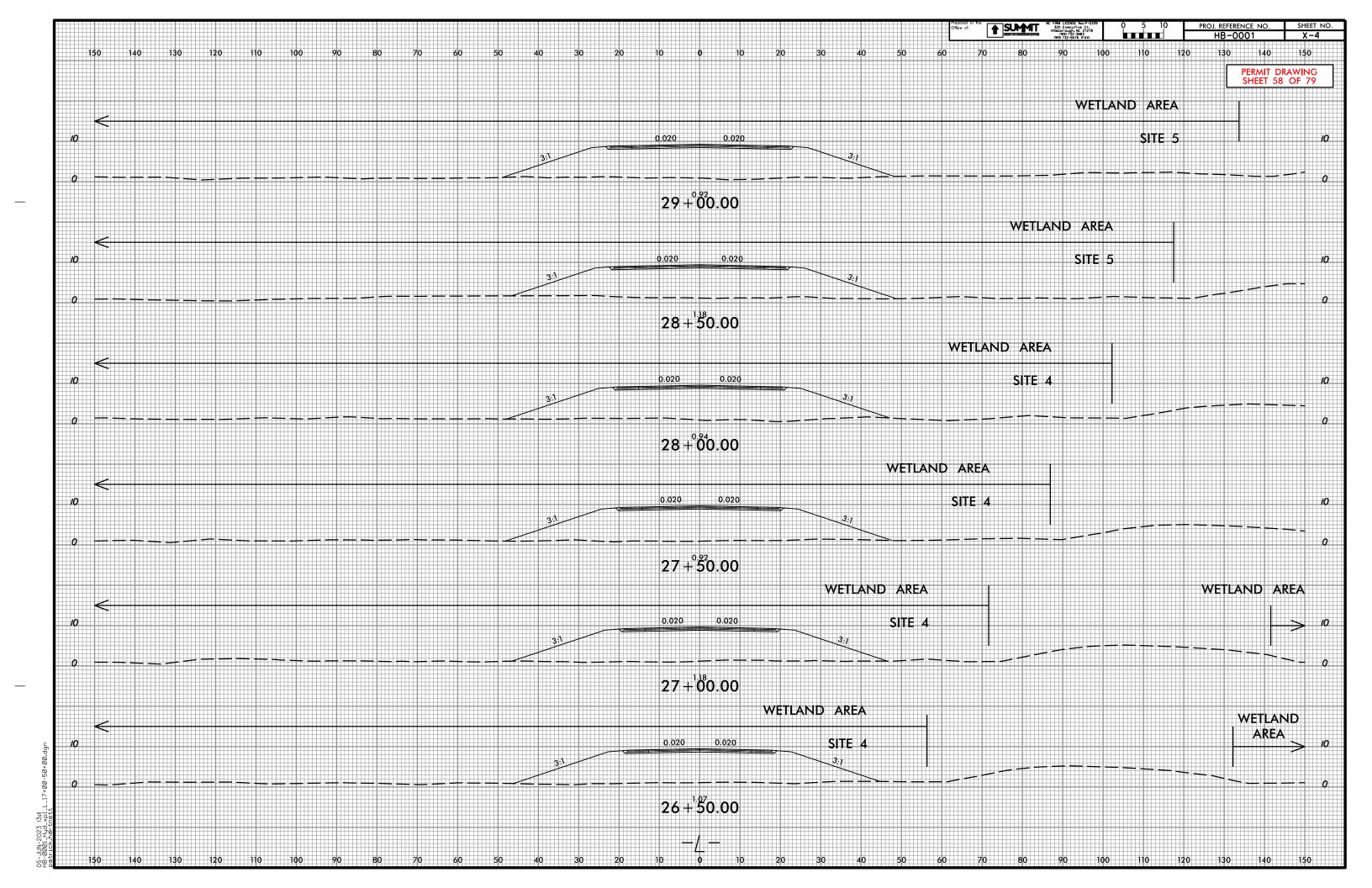


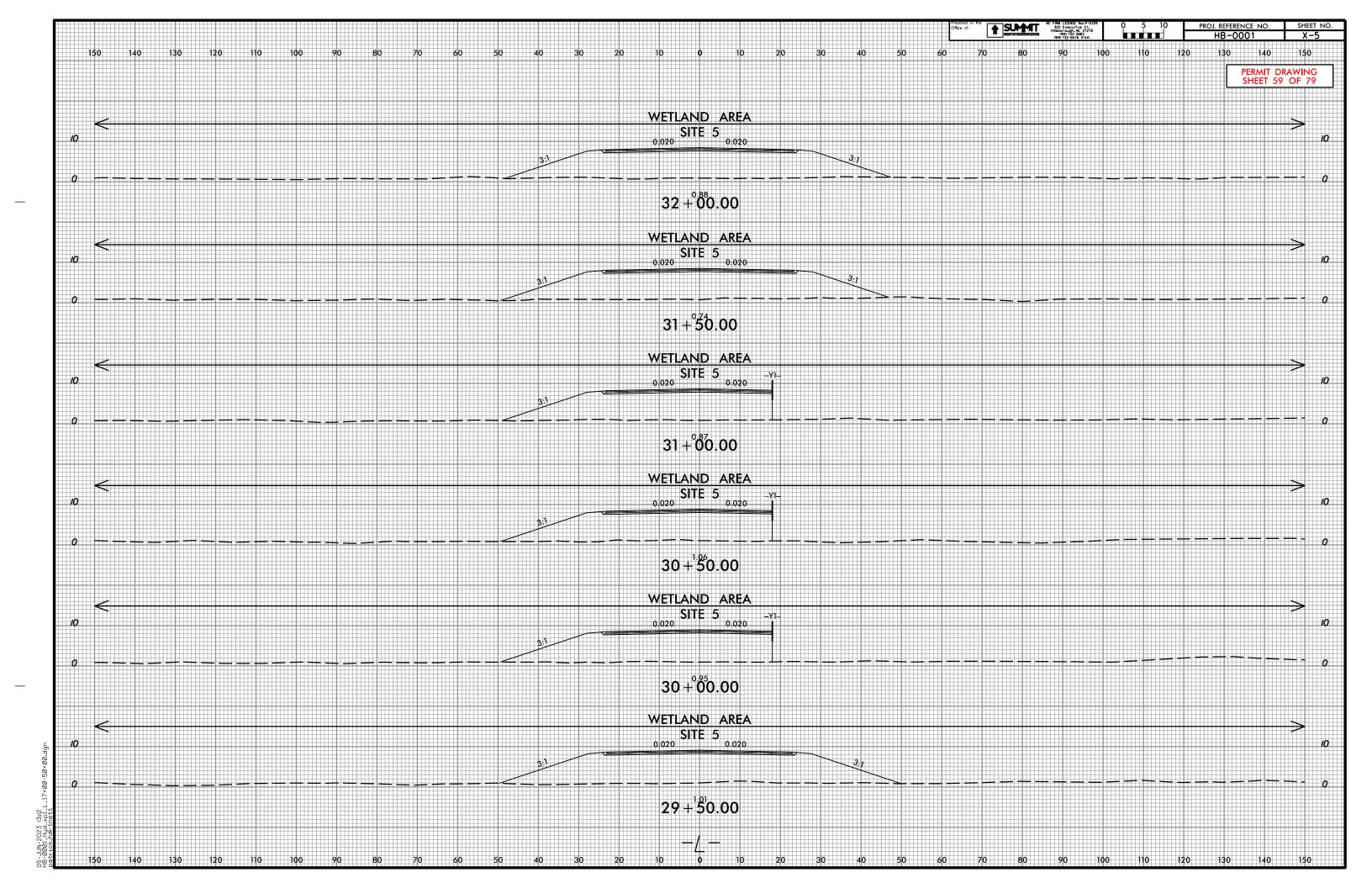


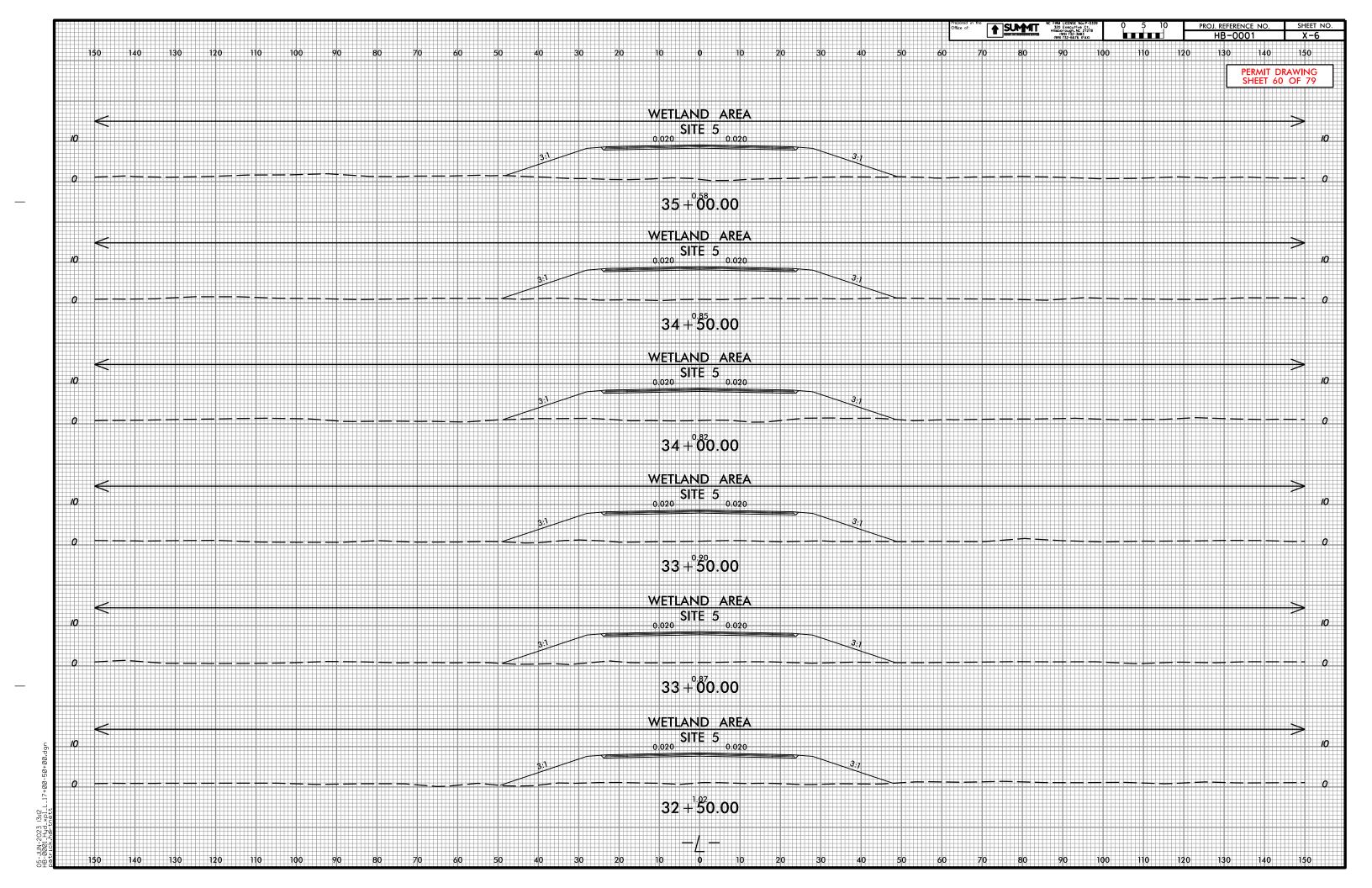


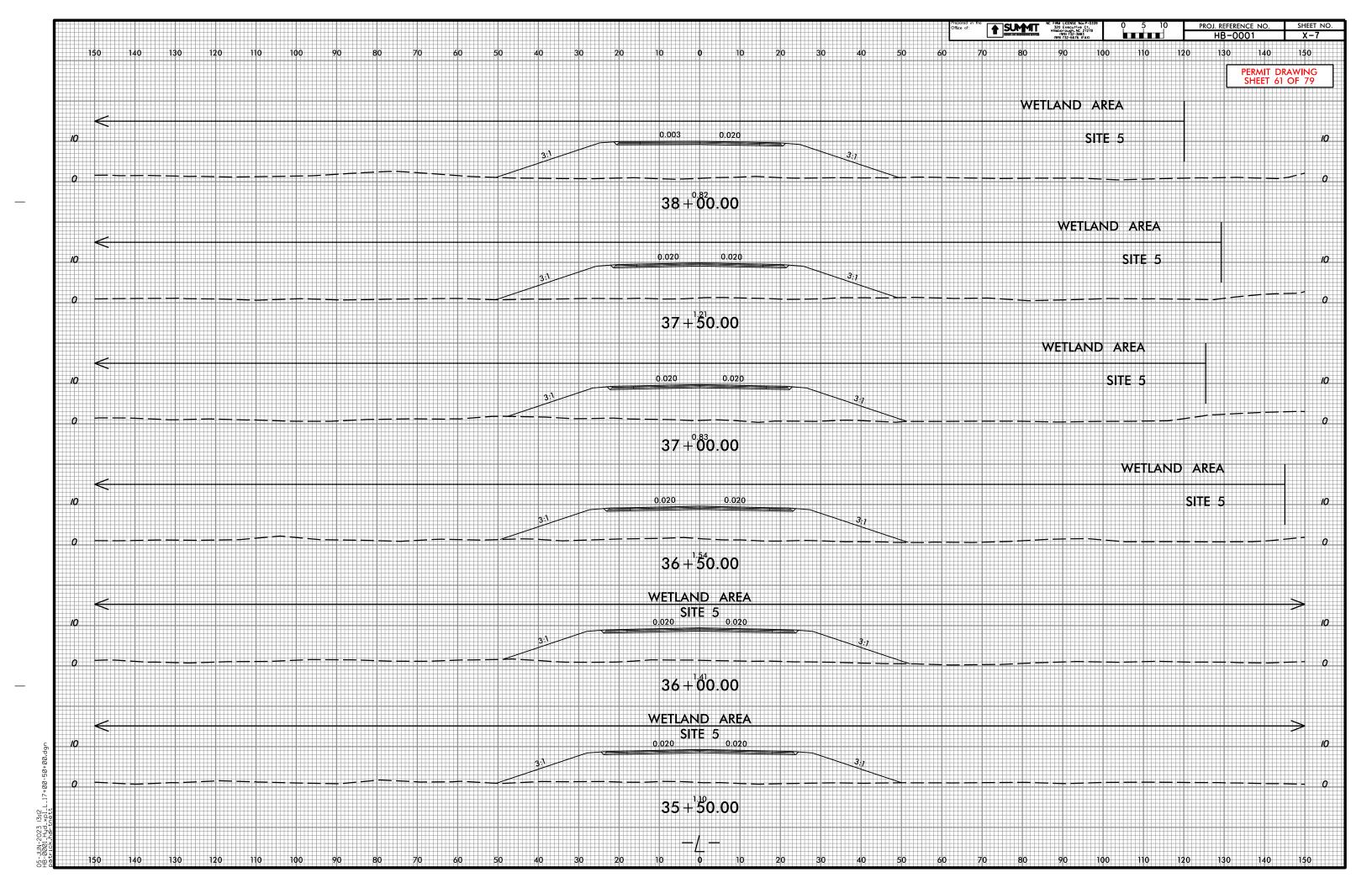


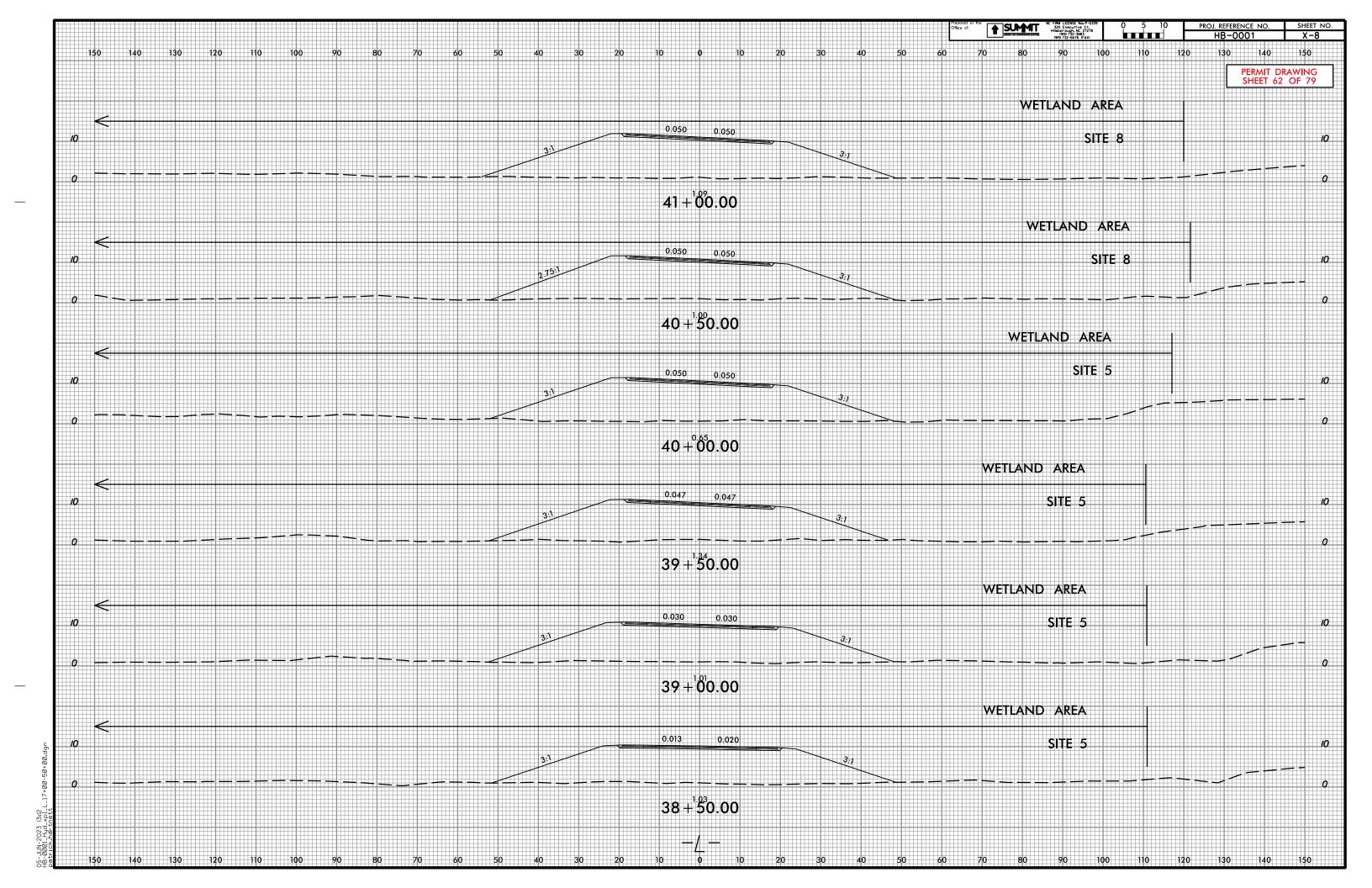


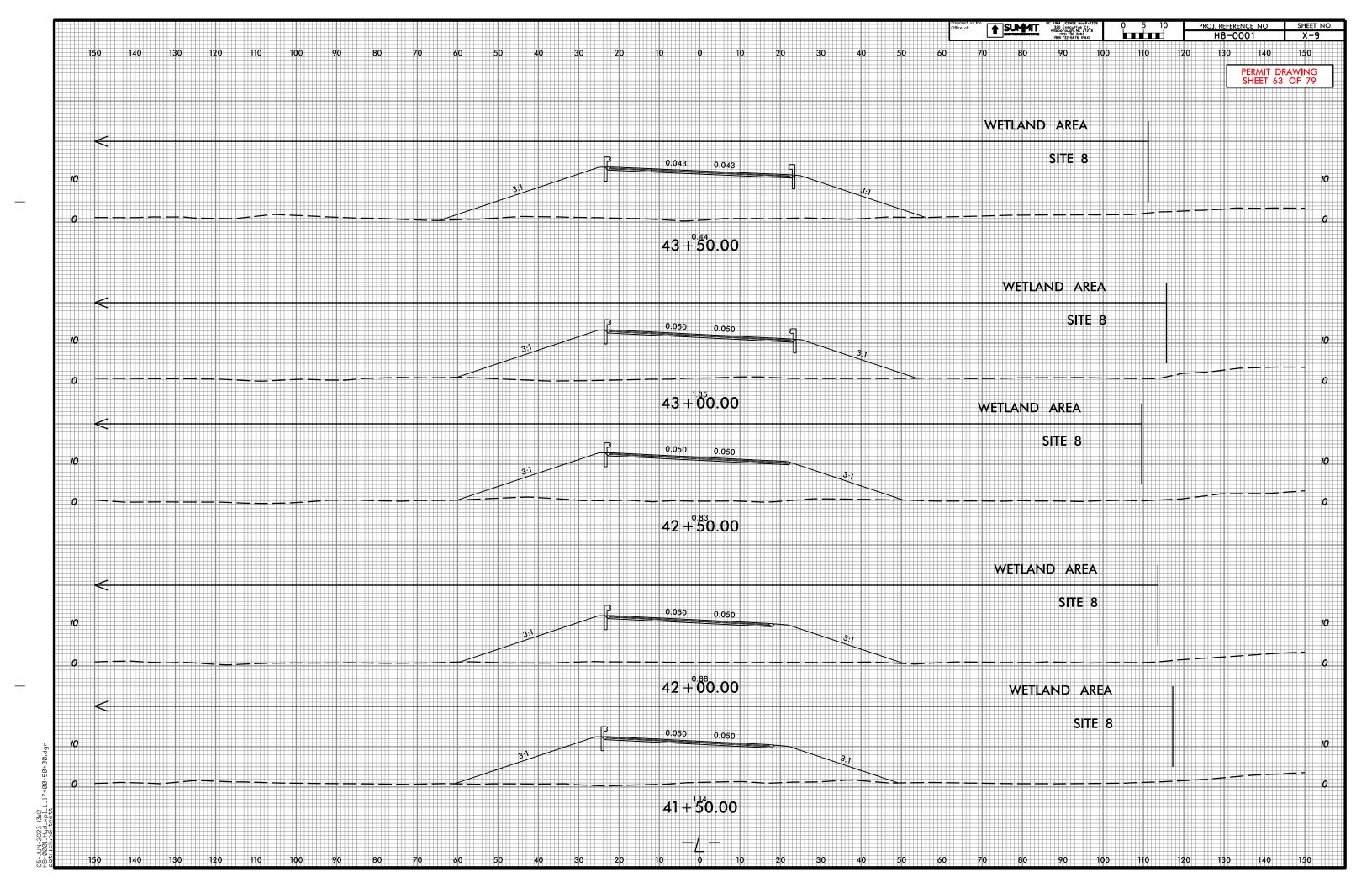


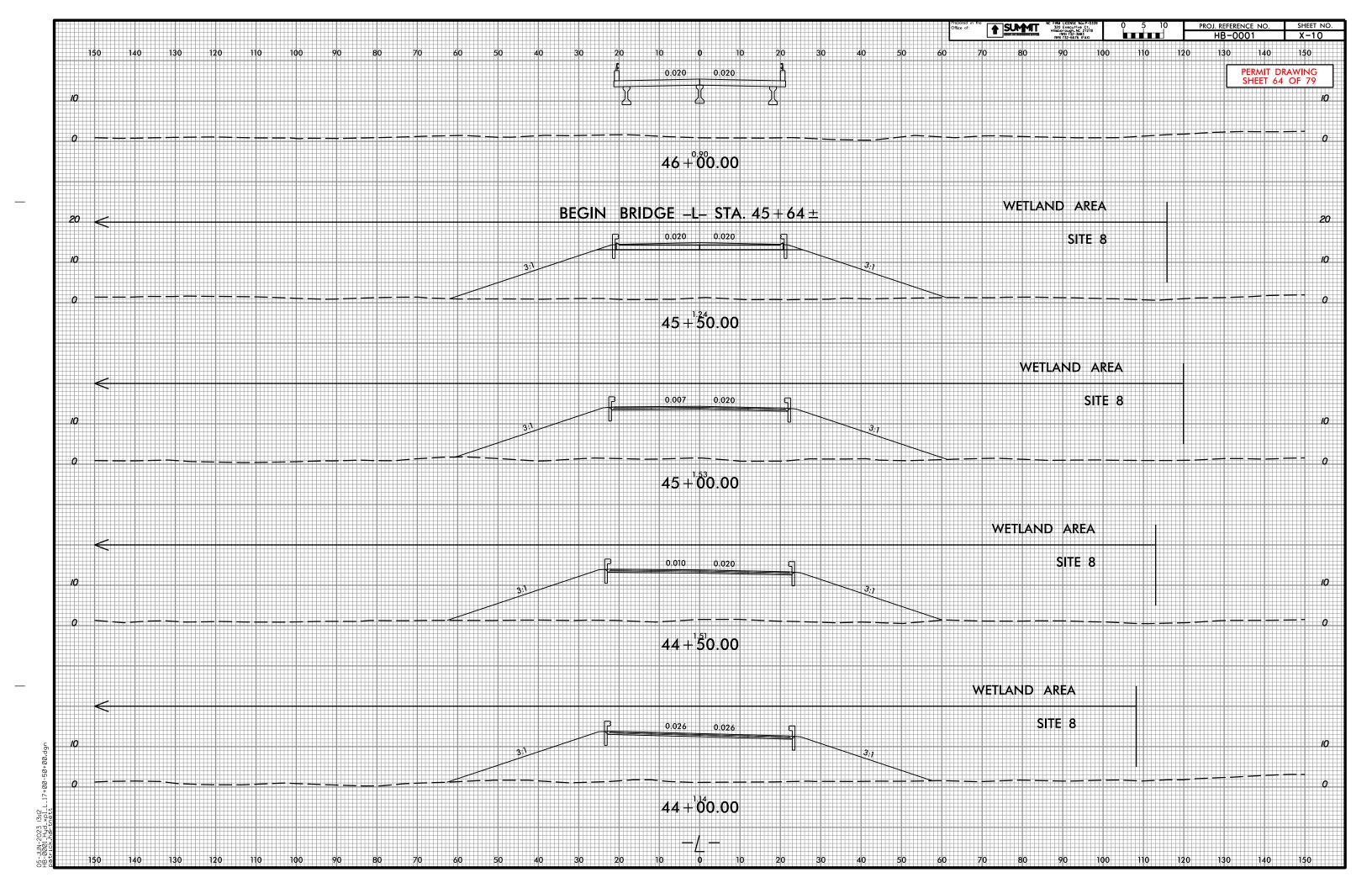


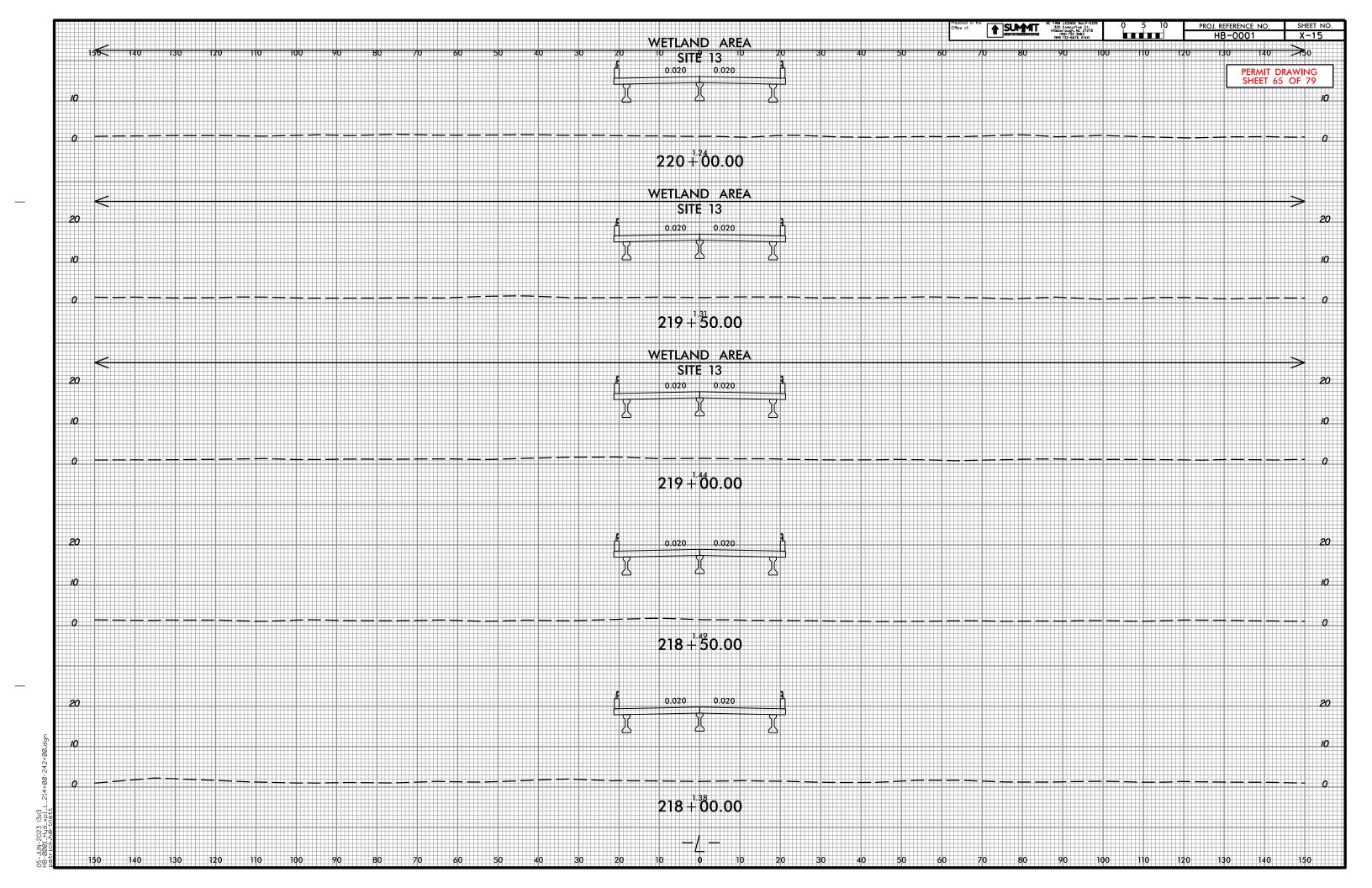


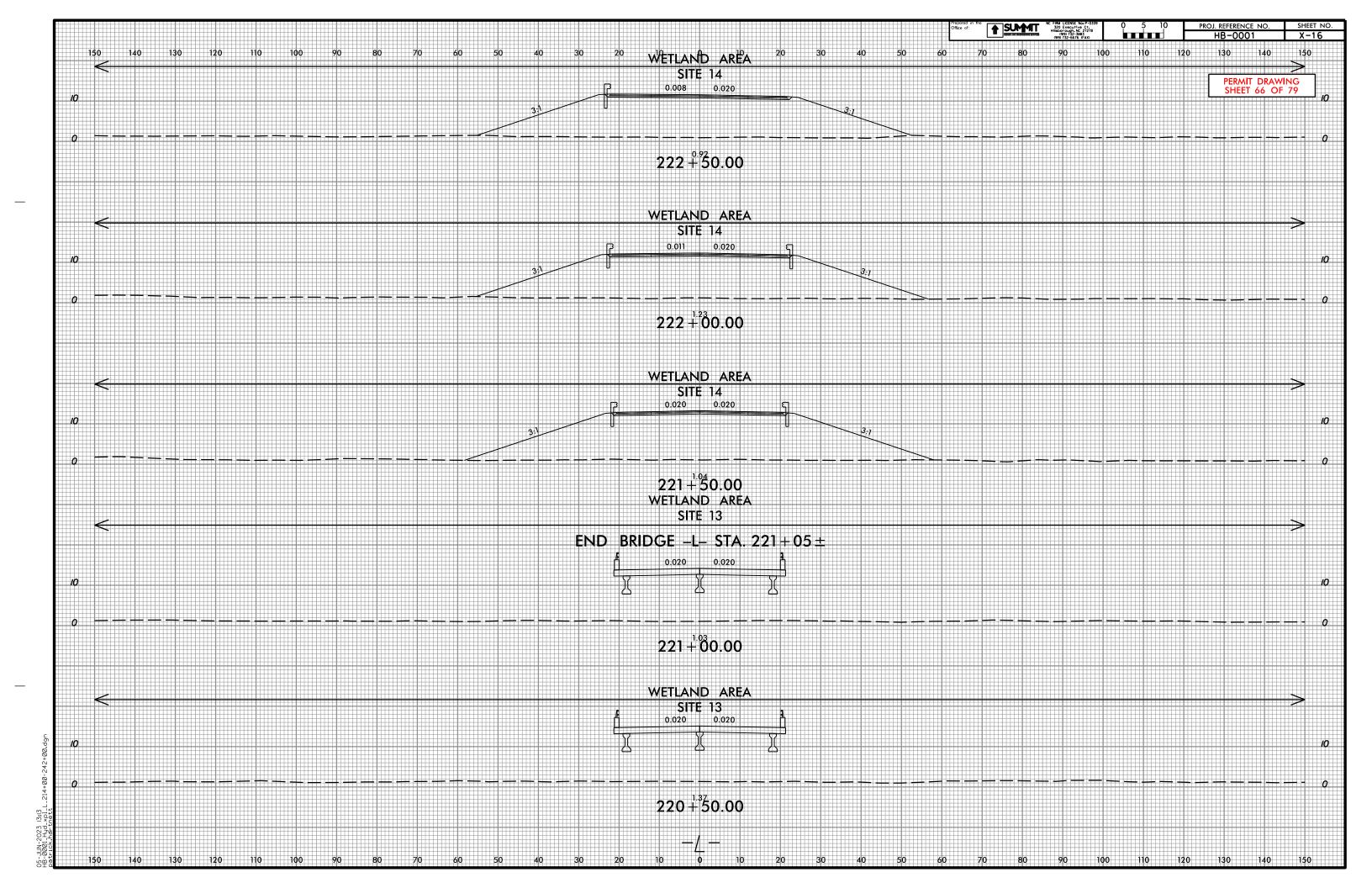


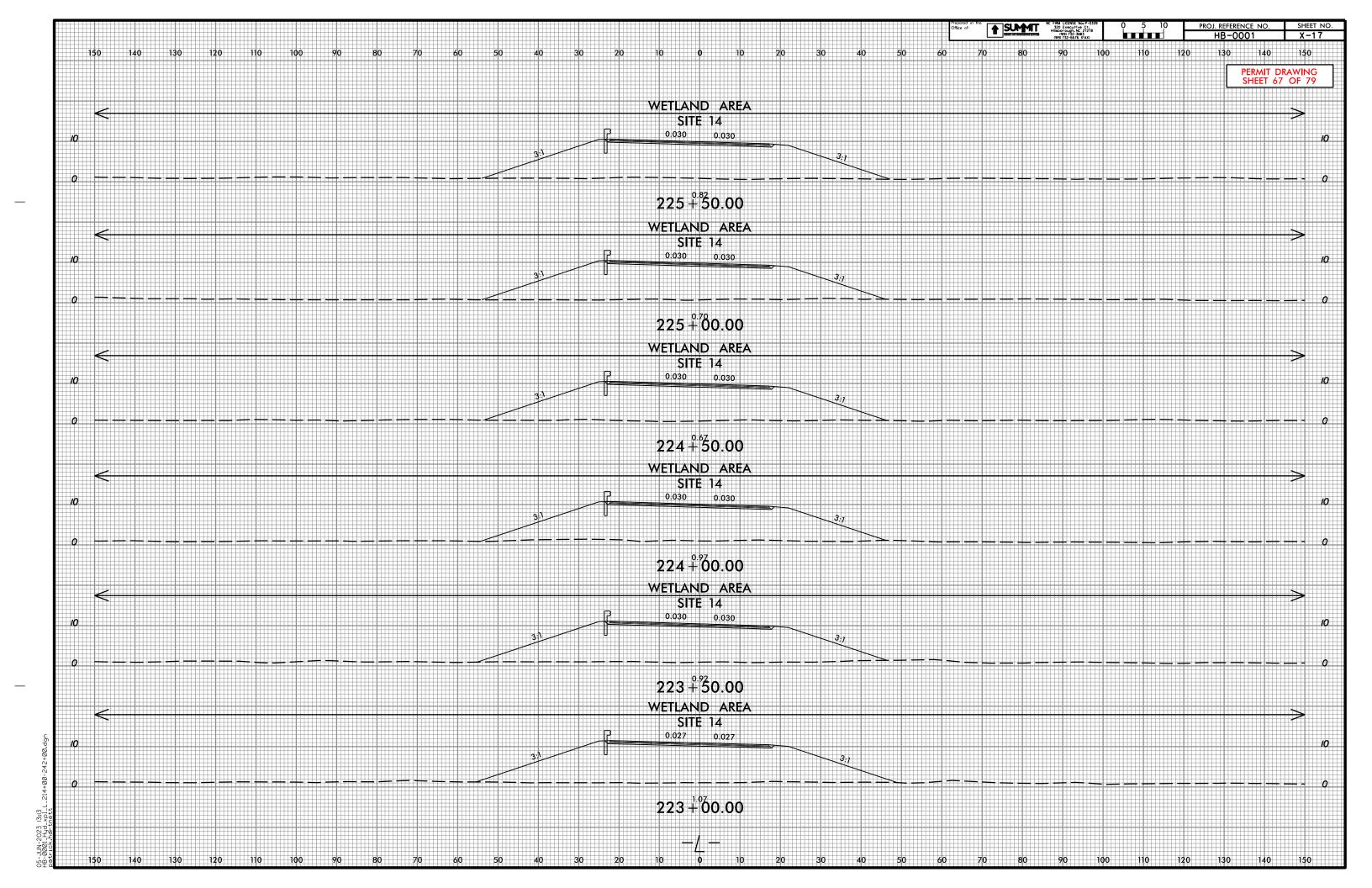


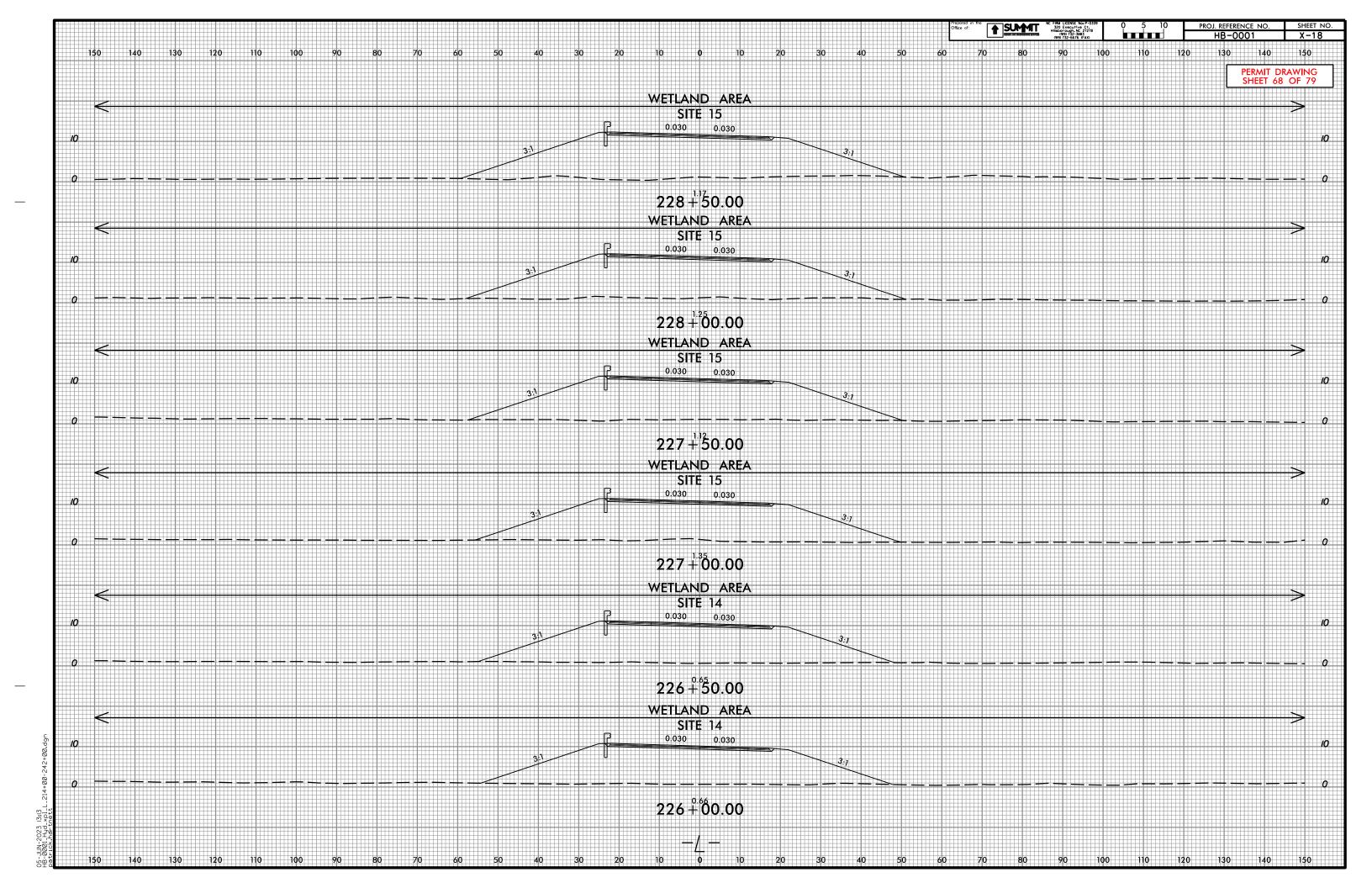


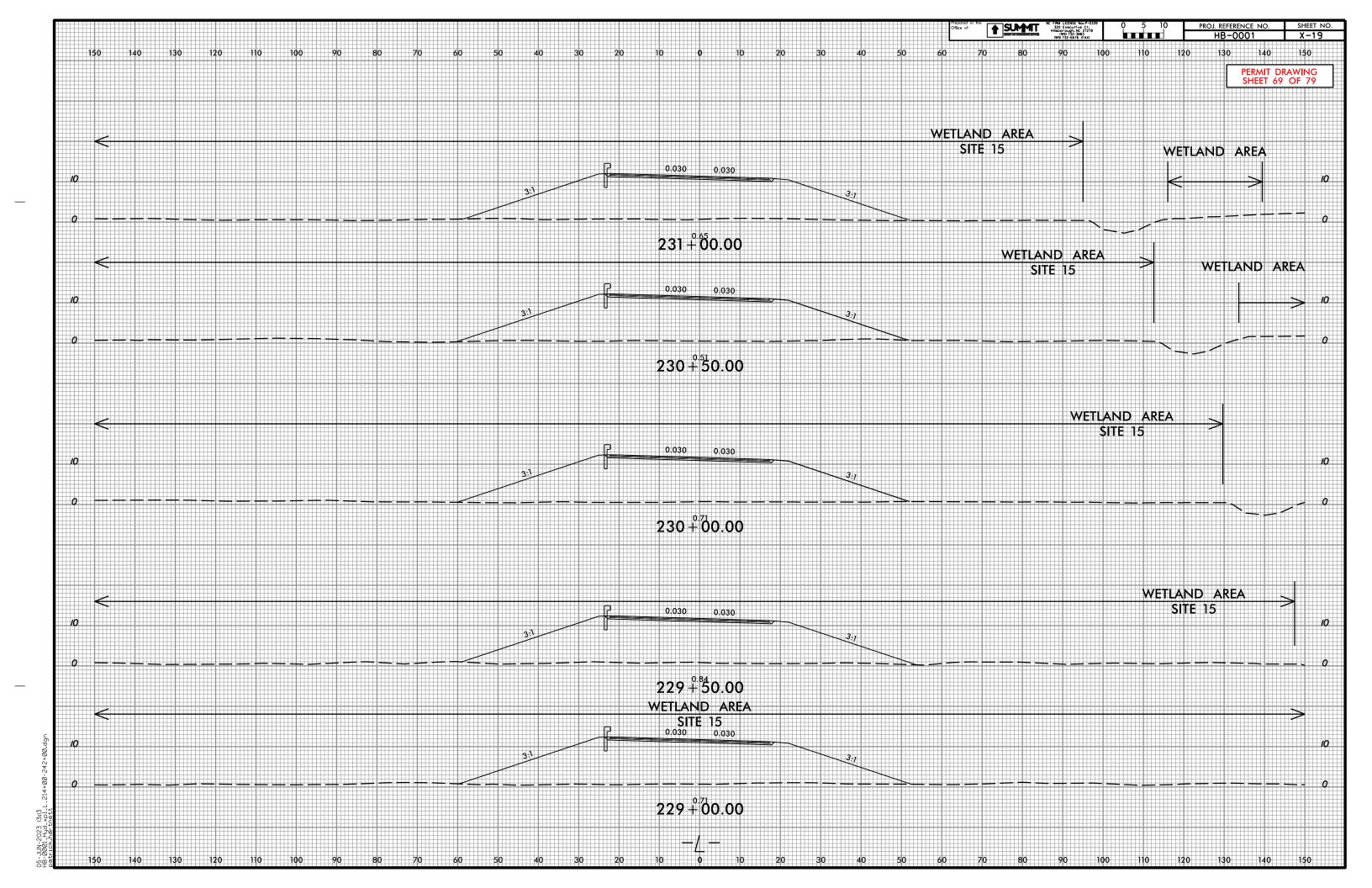


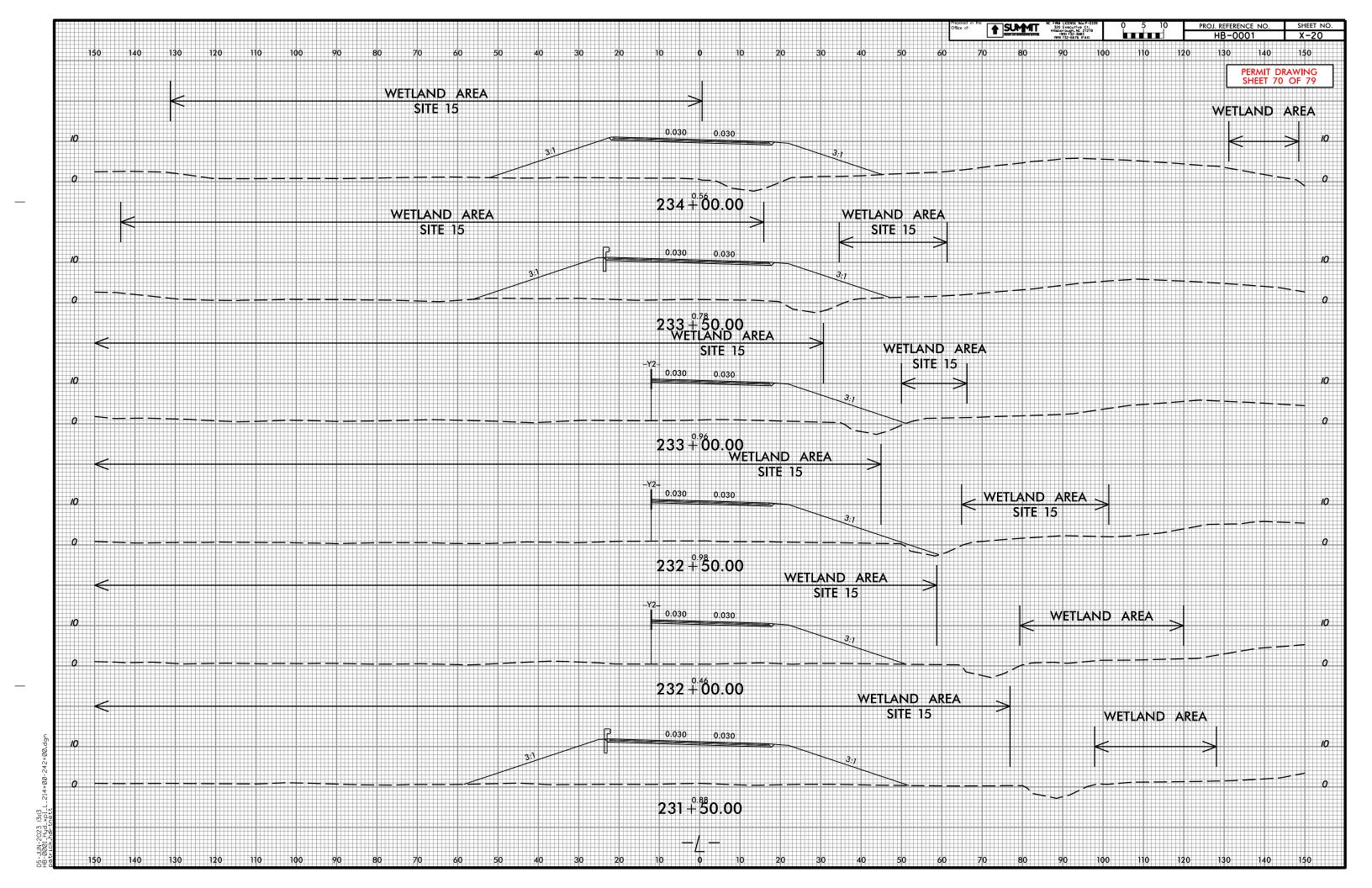


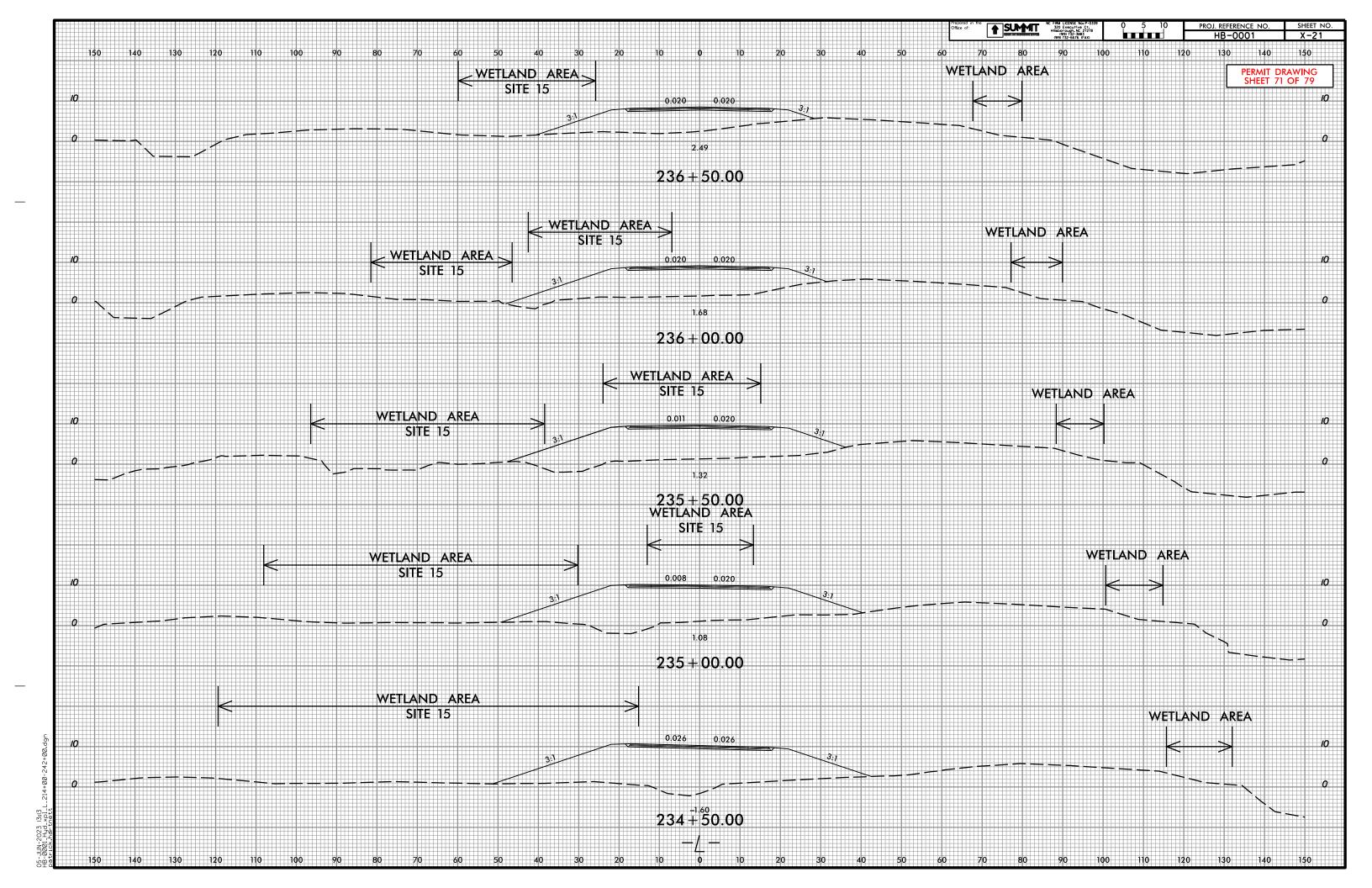


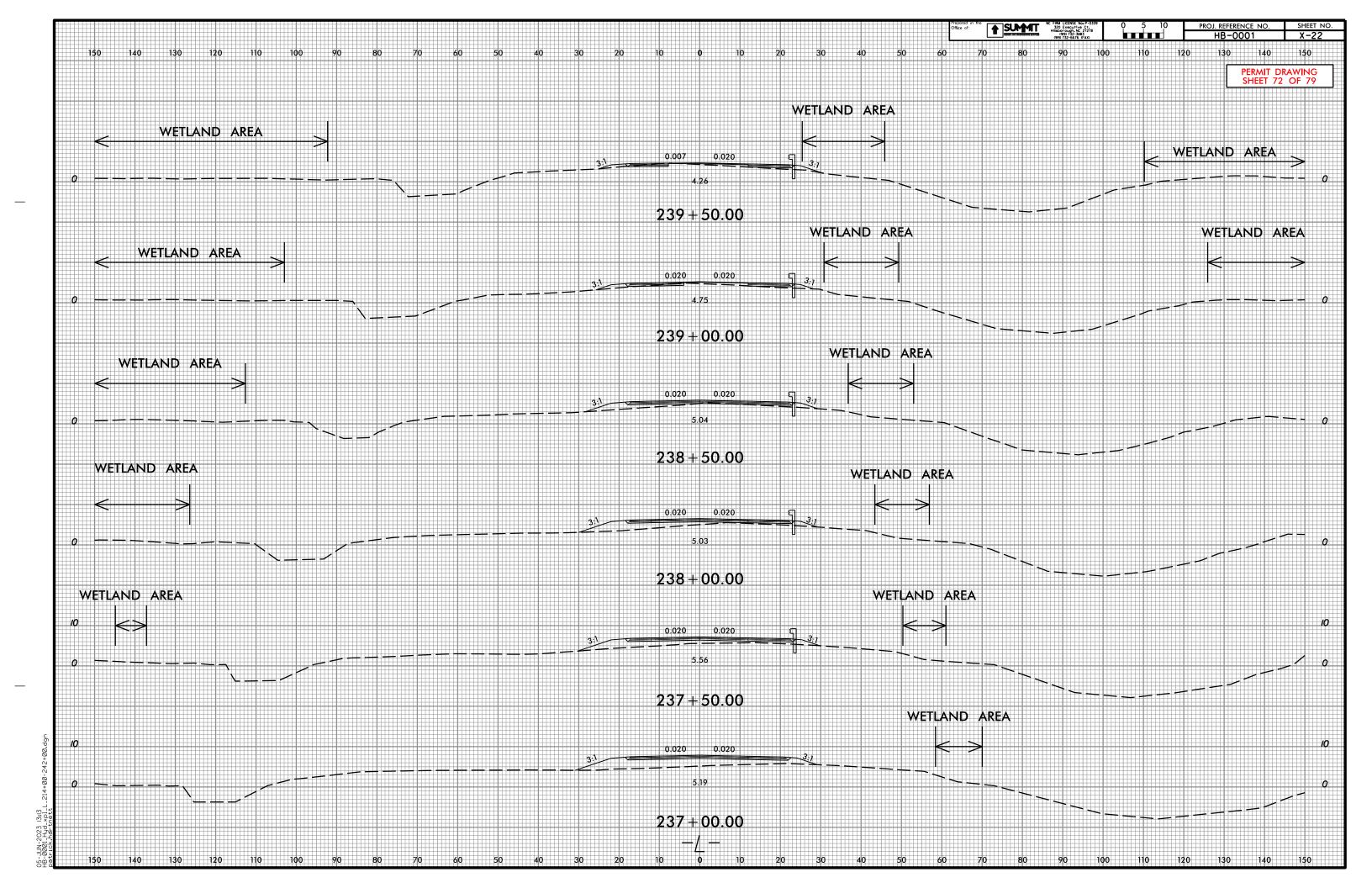


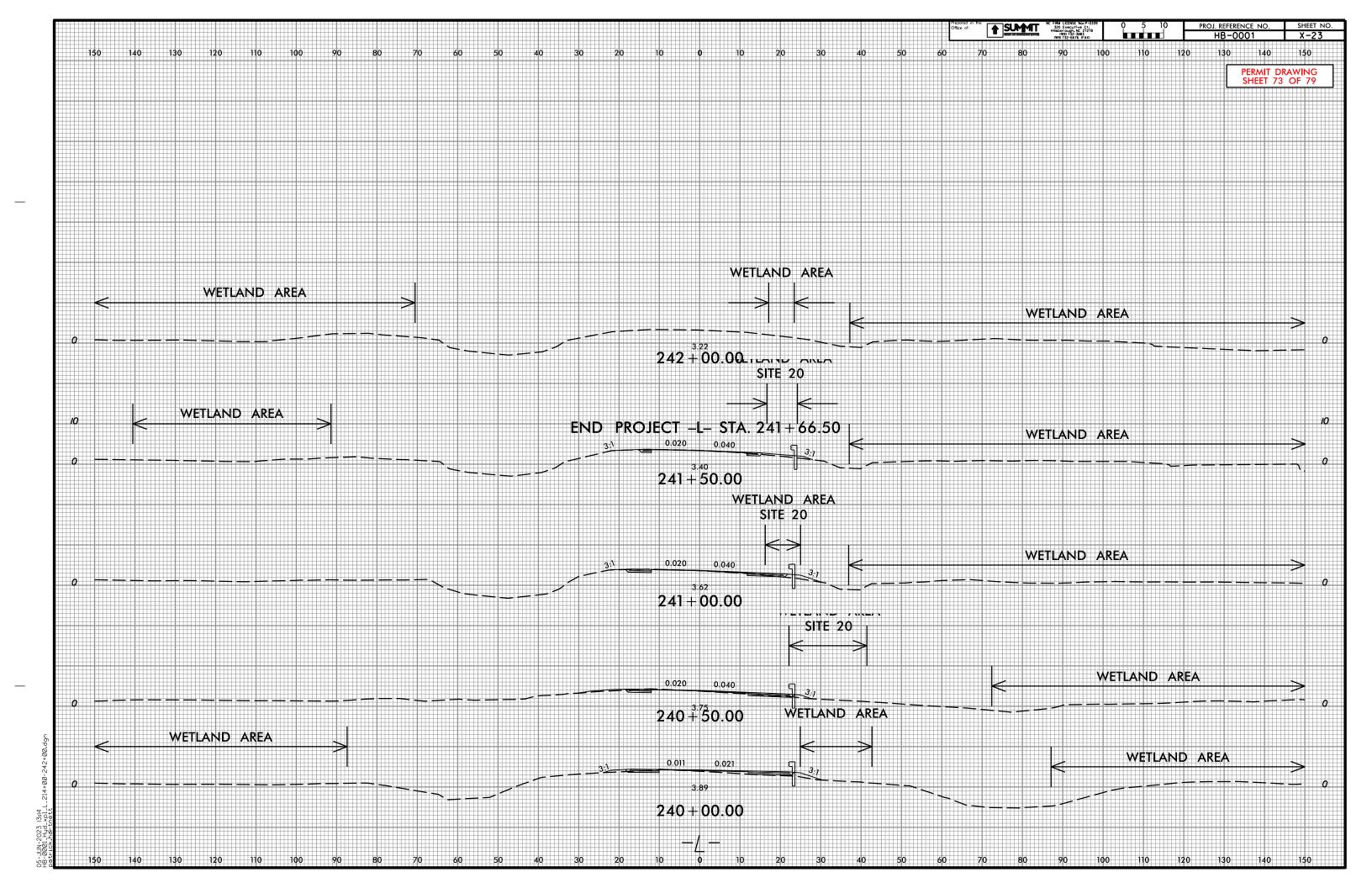


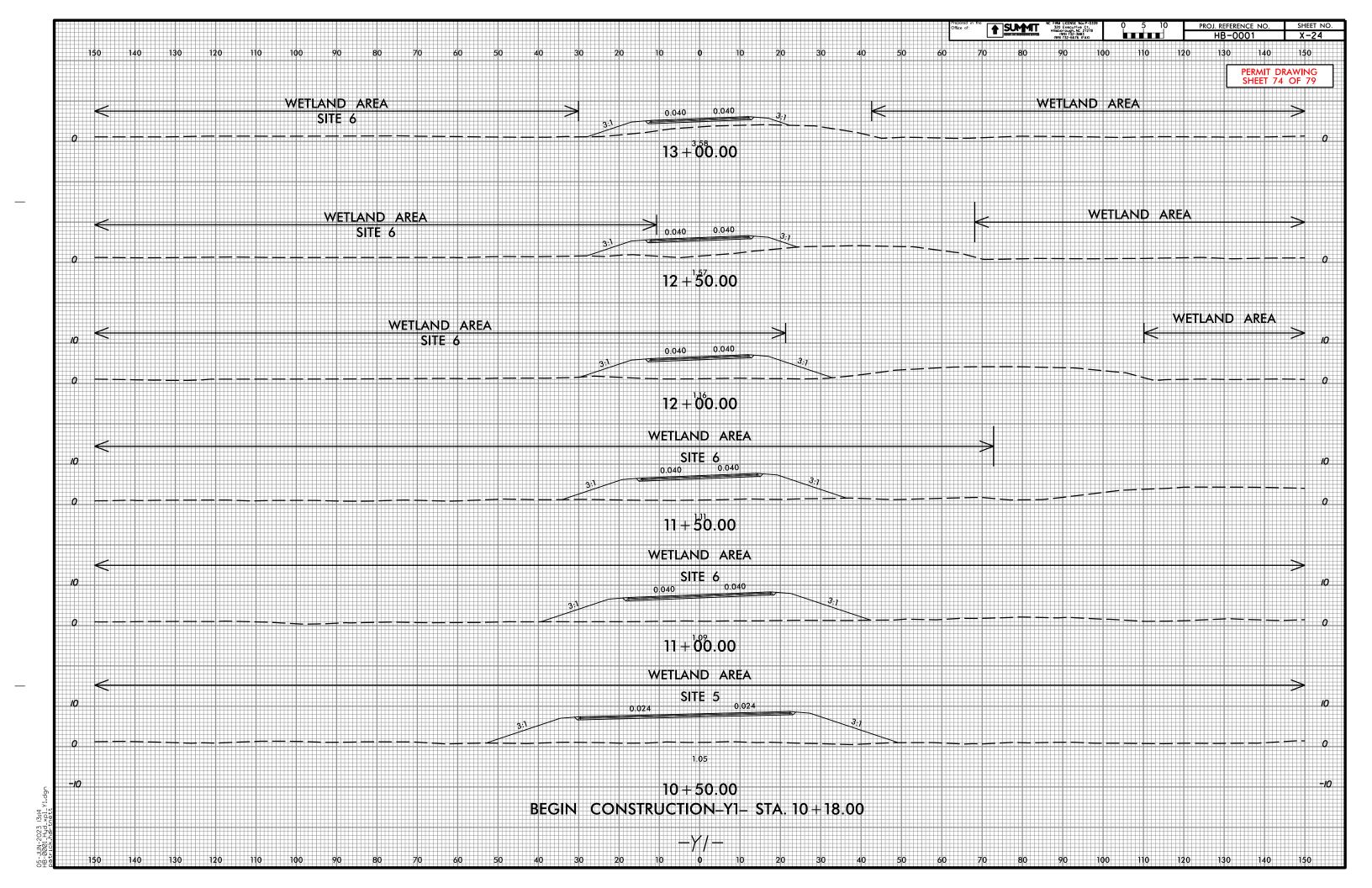


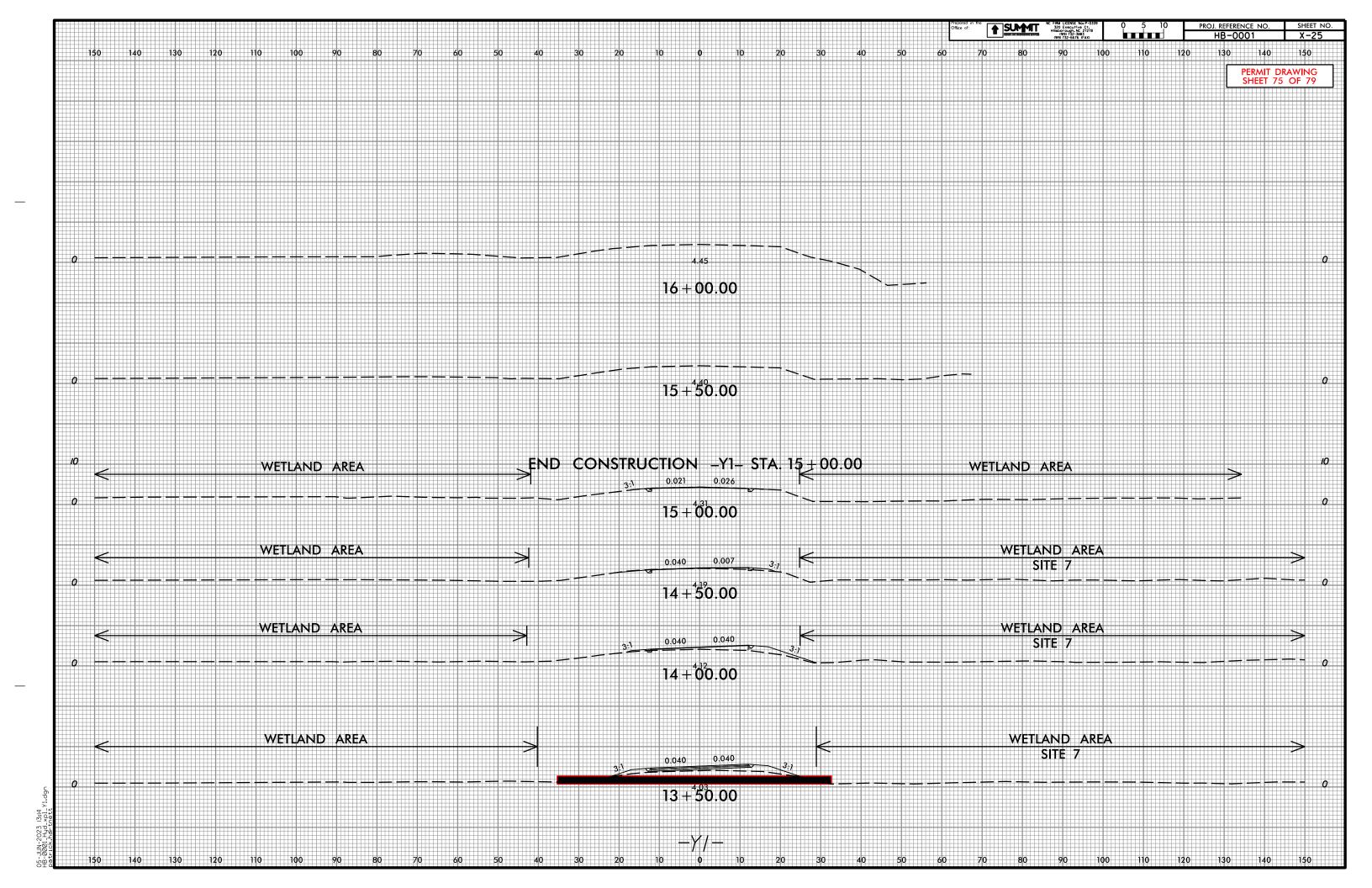


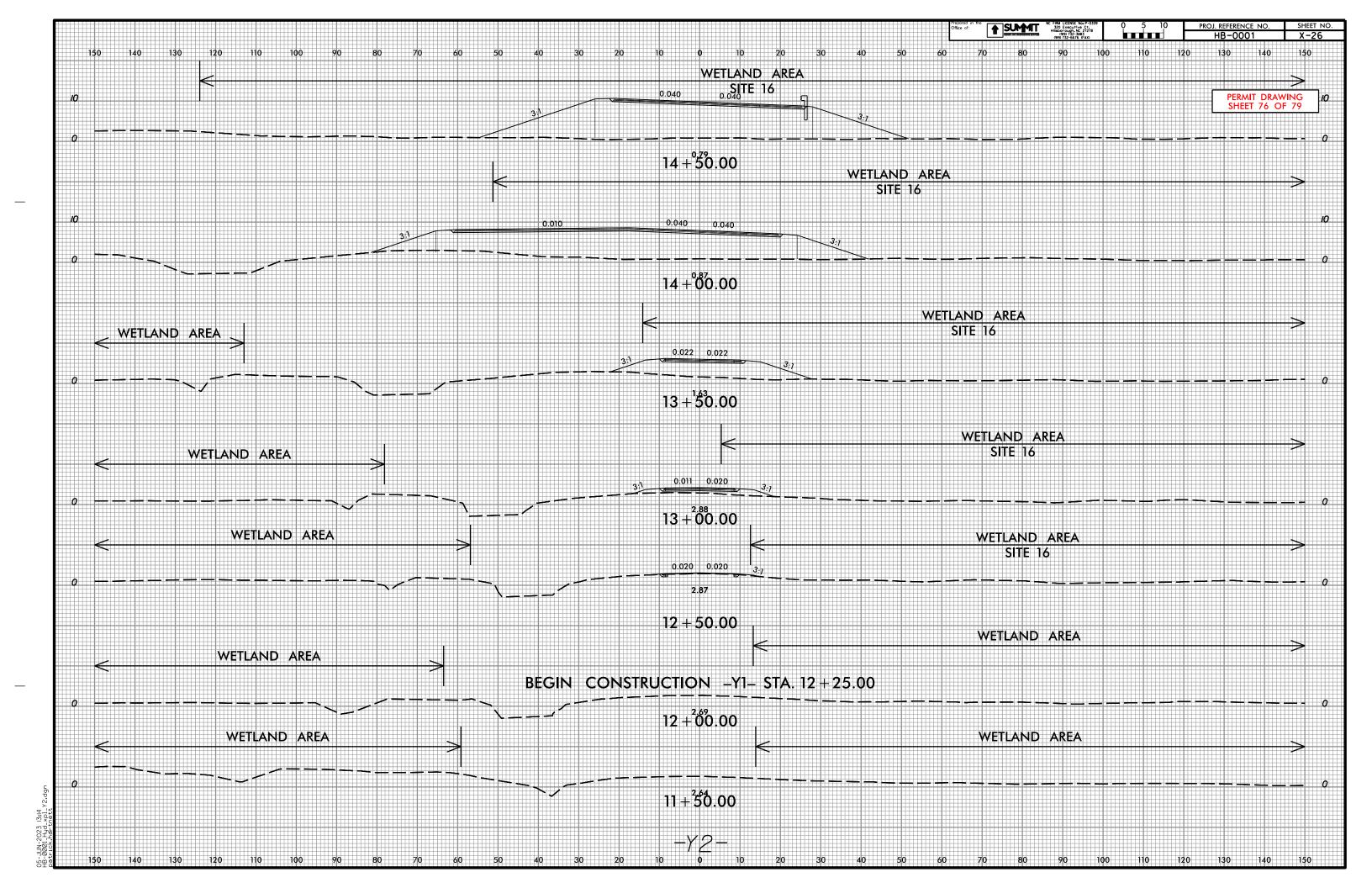


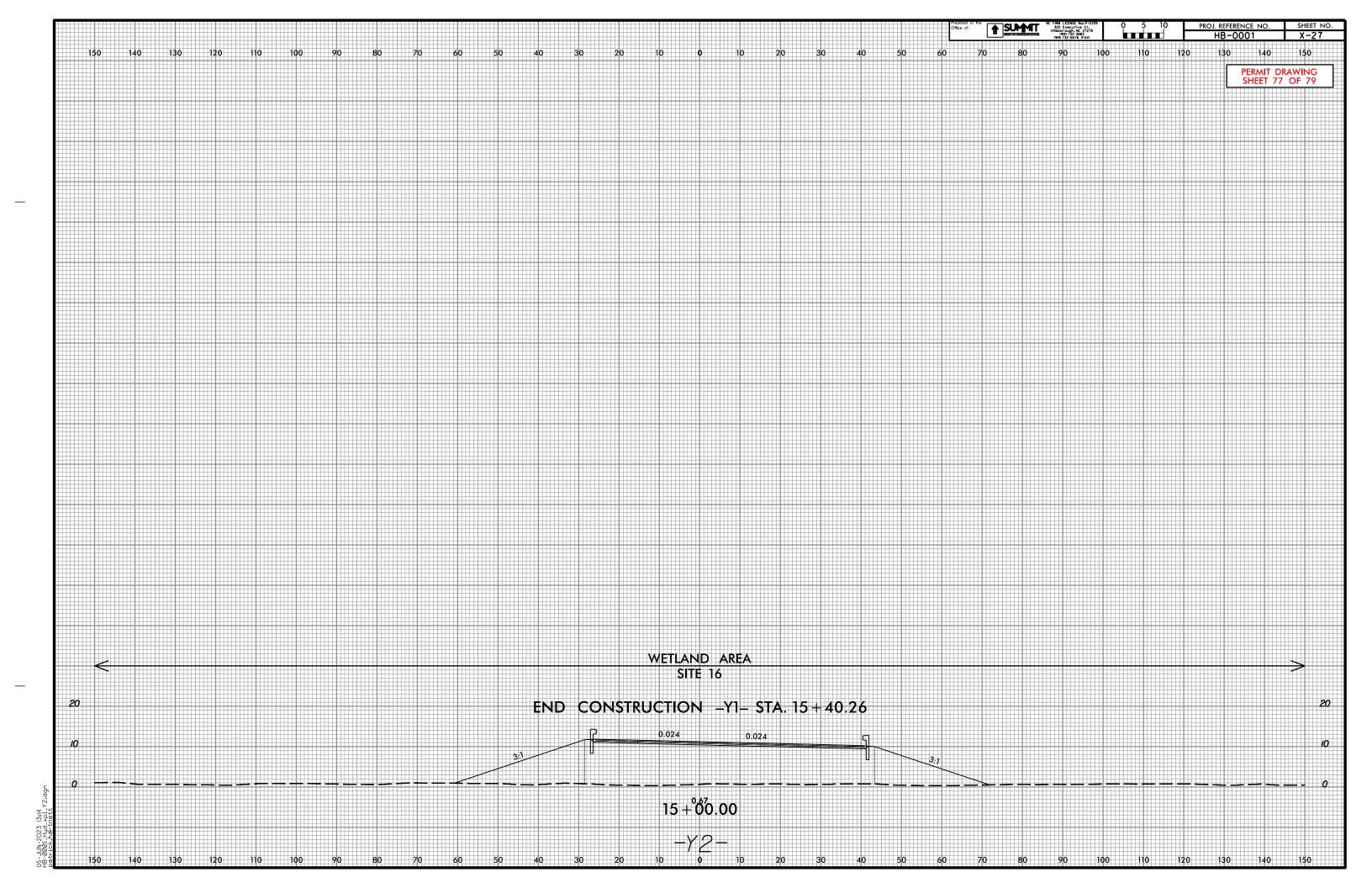












$\overline{}$						CTC		1	CLID		MADACTO	
				VVE	TLAND IMPA	1015	Hand	1	SURI	ACE WATER Existing	Existing	
			Permanent	Temp.	Excavation	Mechanized	Clearing	Permanent	Temp.	Channel	Channel	Natural
Site	Station	Structure	Fill In	Fill In	in	Clearing	in	SW	SW.	Impacts	Impacts	Stream
No.	(From/To)	Size / Type	Wetlands	Wetlands	Wetlands		Wetlands	impacts	impacts	Permanent	Temp.	Design
	(1.1511111.15)	5.25 / Type	(ac)	(ac)	(ac)	(ac)	(ac)	(ac)	(ac)	(ft)	(ft)	(ft)
1	17+58 to 20+39 -L- RT	Roadway Fill/Bank Stabilization	0.036			0.048	. /	\	0.018	. ,		
2	18+70 to 23+55 -L- LT	Roadway Fill	0.061			0.057	0.282					
3	23+67 to 25+43 -L- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	0.142				0.052	0.009	0.010			
4	25+41 to 28+00 -L- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	0.512			0.095	0.145					
5	28+00 to 40+00 -L- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	2.770			0.533	0.840					
6	10+63 to 13+22 -Y1- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	0.257			0.076						
7	13+13 to 14+56 -Y1- RT	Roadway Fill	0.002			0.021						
8	40+00 to 45+85 -L- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	1.498			0.291	0.210					
9	45+85 to 48+97 -L- LT/RT	Proposed Bridge					0.345					
10	214+68 to 220+74 -L- LT/RT	Proposed Bridge					0.621					
11	220+74 to 226+50 -L- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	1.361			0.283	0.452					
12	226+50 to 236+74 -L- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	2.082			0.293	0.235	0.139	0.012			
13	11+95 to 14+97 -Y2- LT/RT	Roadway Fill	0.324			0.073	0.086					
14	10+50 to 11+22 -Y2- LT	60" CAAP						0.011	0.010			
15	232+40 to 233+60 -L- RT	Clean Water Diversion			0.023							
16	235+43 to 235+58 -L- LT	Proposed Tail Ditch			0.002							
17	239+15 to 241+66 -L- RT	Roadway Fill/Bank Stabilization	0.004			0.004		0.008	0.017			
18	240+34 to 240+87 -L- LT	60" CAAP						0.010	0.006			
19	46+47 to 220+15 -L- LT/RT	Bent Installation	0.008					0.198				
OTALS*:			9.057	0.00	0.02	1.776	3.27	0.376	0.072	0	0	0

\*Rounded totals are sum of actual impacts

NOTES:

The following bridge bent impacts are in addition to the impact quantities shown in the table. Permanent linear stream impacts from bridge bents accounted for as longest bent length of 89 feet.

The following CAMA impacts are included in the impact quantities shown in the table. Permanent fill in CAMA wetlands total 0.026 acres. Mechanized Clearing impacts in CAMA wetlands total 0.028 acres. These impacts occur at Site 1.

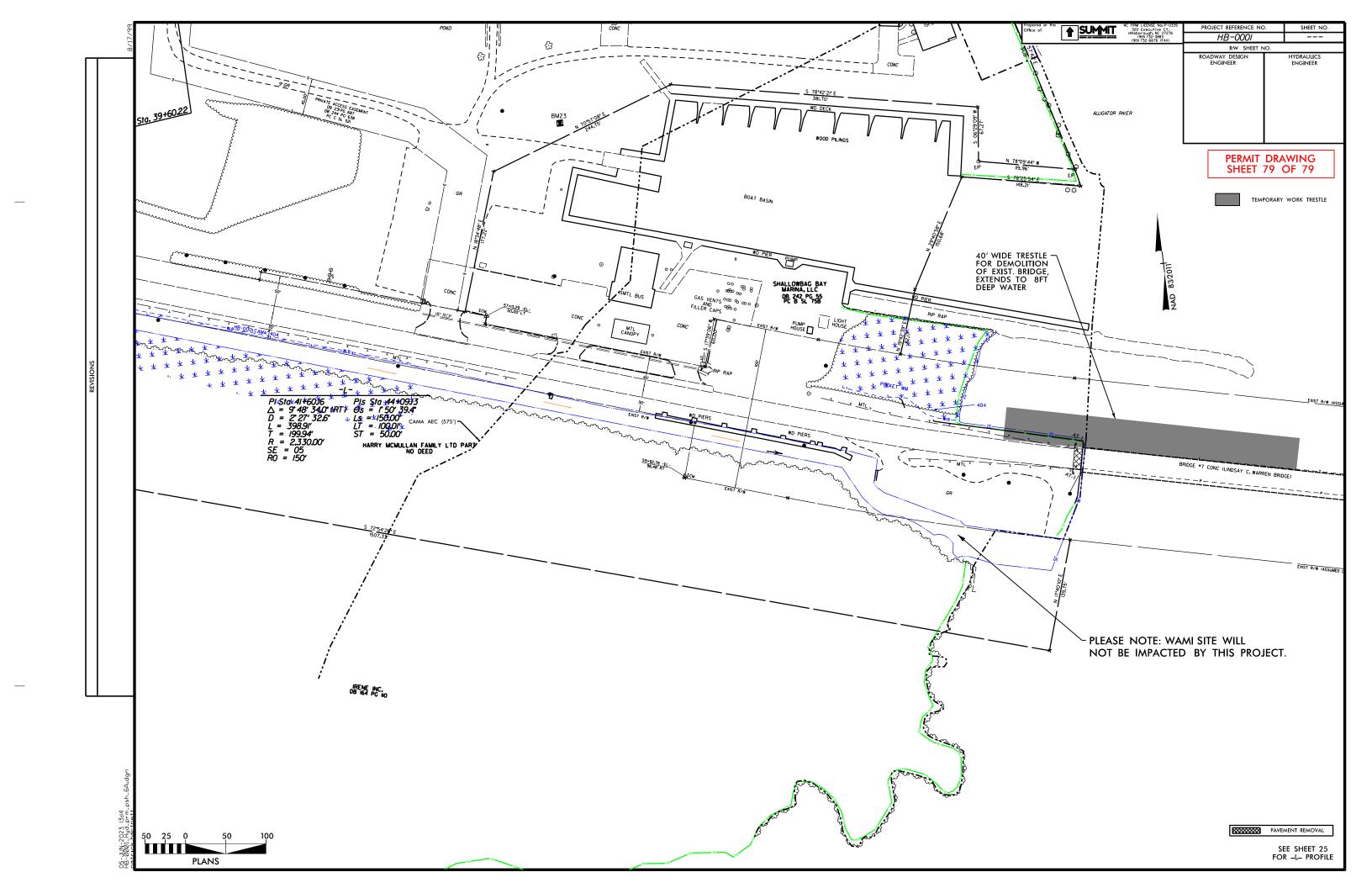
On-Site Mitigation impacts total 8.262 acres.

Please note, for sites 1, 3, 12, 14 and 18 the "Surface Water" impacts are considered "Open Water" impacts and do not have an associated impact length.

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

6/5/2023
TYRRELL/DARE COUNTIES
HB-0001
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON US-64 OVER ALLIGATOR
RIVER
SHEET 78 OF 79

vised 2018 Feb



Meeting from the Interagency 4B Hydraulic Design Review Meeting

State Project 49475.1.1 (HB-0001) in Dare/Tyrrell County

F.A. Project: NHPB-0001(156) Meeting Date: April 20, 2022 Minutes Date: June 10, 2022

#### **Team Members:**

Seth Wilcher, FHWA
Kyle Barnes, Corps of Engineers
Fritz Rohde, NOAA – NMF
Travis Wilson, Wildlife Resource Commission
Cathy Brittingham, Division of Coastal Management
Johnathan Howell, Division of Coastal Management
James Harrison, DEQ - Marine Fisheries
Greg Daisey, NCDEQ – DCM
Robert Patterson, NCDEQ-DWR

# **Support Staff/Other Attendees:**

Chris Rivenbark, NCDOT ECAP Gordon Cashin, NCDOT ECAP Paul Williams, NCDOT Division 1 Barry Hobbs, NCDOT Division 1 John Conforti, NCDOT PMU Paul Atkinson, NCDOT Hydraulics Brian Lipscomb, NCDOT Hydraulics David Hering, NCDOT Geotech Jennifer Evans, NCDOT PMU Marissa Cox, NCDOT Biological Surveys Larry James, NCDOT Utilities John Jamison, NCDOT EPU Douglass Kretchman, NCDOT Roadway Mark Staley, NCDOT Roadside Environmental James Harrison, NCDOT Roadside Environmental Tanga Sampson, NCDOT Eastern Regional Utility Craig Young, Three Oaks Engineering James Mason, Three Oaks Engineering Joanna Salvucci, Three Oaks Engineering Jason Patskoski, Three Oaks Engineering Bryan Loflin, Modjeski & Masters Jason Doughty, Modjeski & Masters Bon-Hsiang Lien, Wood Michael Lear, Wood Chien-Ting Tang, Wood Faith Jahnke, Summit Design & Engineering Brandon Johnson, Summit Design & Engineering Patrick Hartnett, Summit Design & Engineering Jerry Lindsey, Wetherill Engineering Kathy Herring, RK&K Jeff Sheldon, Moffat & Nichol

# **Project Description:**

HB-0001 is located across Tyrrell and Dare Counties and consists of replacing bridge #7 on US 64 over Alligator River. The project is approximately 4.2 miles long with approximately 0.9 miles of roadway on new location and approximately 3.3 miles of new structures.

#### **Minutes:**

The "4B" Meeting for HB-0001 was held on April 20, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM via a Microsoft Teams meeting. Patrick Hartnett provided a brief project description and proceeded through the 4B Hydraulic Redline Plans dated March 2022.

#### General:

- It was noted that the current Wetland Boundaries needed further identification between CAMA and 404 wetlands.
- The begin and end stations for the bridge deck drains are to be added to the Stormwater Management Plan.
- There may be Public Trust AEC labels missing from the current redline drainage plans.
- A USCG permit will be required.
- The proposed drainage design currently shown on the 4B plans is preliminary and subject to change as the design progresses.
- It was noted that the minimum 36" equalizer pipe size was not utilized throughout the project. This will be revised in the final design.

#### Sheet 4:

- Impacts include project fill in wetlands and potential excavation in wetlands.
- Fill in wetlands will be due to new alignment as well as proposed wildlife fence along proposed ROW.
- Potential excavation in wetlands may occur as a result of excavating through the existing alignment in order to provide access to the proposed wildlife crossing at -L- Sta. 24+25 +/-.

#### Sheet 5:

- Impacts include project fill in wetlands.
- 36" RCP equalizer pipe to be installed at -L- Sta. 33+00 +/- within the footprint of proposed fill slopes to provide wetland connectivity.
- 24" RCP equalizer pipe to be installed at -Y1- Sta. 11+50 +/- within the footprint of proposed fill slopes to provide wetland connectivity. This will be upsized to a 36" RCP in the final design.
- The necessity of an RCP equalizer pipe was questioned. It was assumed the wetland area located south of the proposed -L- alignment, east of the proposed -Y1- alignment and north of the existing alignment will expand to fill in the remaining non-wetland area enclosed by the proposed and existing alignments.

# **Sheet 6:**

- Impacts include project fill in wetlands and permanent stream impacts in a jurisdictional stream.

- The drainage networks at the begin bridge approach slab will both require riprap outlet pads in the wetland areas at the fill slope toe.
- It was noted that the shoreline stabilization shown beneath the proposed bridge may not be required as there is existing riprap along the shoreline at this location.
- It was noted the closed drainage system at the gas station along the existing alignment will most likely require a tail ditch that outlets to the wetland area near the coastline. The redline drainage plans showed a riprap outlet pad in the wetlands at this outlet point but will be revised to move the outlet pad outside of the wetland area to minimize impacts.

#### **Sheet 7-18:**

- Project impacts include permanent stream impacts in a jurisdictional stream.

#### Sheet 19:

- Impacts include project fill in wetlands and permanent stream impacts in a jurisdictional stream.
- The drainage networks at the end bridge approach slab will both require riprap outlet pads in the wetland areas at the fill slope toe.
- It was noted that the redline drainage plans did not show the updated abutment location as the end bridge location had moved. The abutment will be revised to extend to the new end bridge location.
- It was noted that the shoreline stabilization shown beneath the proposed bridge may not be required as the end bent setback is large enough to avoid shoreline stabilization issues.

#### Sheet 20:

- Impacts include project fill in wetlands and permanent stream impacts in a jurisdictional stream.
- Fill in wetlands will be due to new alignment as well as proposed wildlife fence along proposed ROW.
- Proposed wildlife crossing at -L- Sta. 228+60 +/- will also serve as an equalizer pipe to provide wetland connectivity.
- 24" RCP equalizer pipe to be installed at -Y2- Sta. 14+60 +/- within the footprint of proposed fill slopes to provide wetland connectivity. This will be upsized to a 36" RCP in the final design.
- The location of the RCP equalizer pipe was questioned as the current location is closer to the intersection with -L- than desirable. Placement is limited by proposed turn-around on -Y2- that provides school bus access to residents on Old Ferry Landing Road.
- Endwalls were recommended for the 48" RCP equalizer pipe located in the channel along -Y2- for additional stabilization.
- Proposed tail ditch along existing alignment will replace an existing 24" RCP that was observed to be completely submerged during the field investigation. The proposed tail ditch will connect the existing channels.
- ECAP inquired whether the bus turnaround could be retained at its existing location on US 64. The proposed location was selected to provide access to residents on Old Ferry Landing Road while minimizing foot traffic along US 64.

#### Sheet 21:

- Impacts include project fill in wetlands and permanent stream impacts in a jurisdictional stream.
- Endwalls were recommended for the 48" RCP equalizer pipe located in the channel along the existing alignment for additional stabilization.

# **Profile Sheets:**

- It was determined that the horizontal and vertical clearances for the proposed bridge will be labeled.

No further comments.

Meeting adjourned.



# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER GOVERNOR J. ERIC BOYETTE SECRETARY

# **Meeting Minutes**

# Merger Team Meeting – Concurrence Point 4C Permit Drawing Review

**STIP Project#: HB-0001** – U.S. 64; Replace Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7 over the Alligator River, Tyrrell and Dare Counties, NC

Meeting	April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 - 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
Date/Time/Place:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Purpose:	Merger Team Meeting – Concurrence Point 4C
Prepared By:	Patrick Hartnett, PE – Summit Design and Engineering Services

Meeting Attendees (highlighted in attendance):

Merger Team Members		
FHWA	Seth Wilcher	Seth.Wilcher@dot.gov
FHWA	Clarence Coleman	Clarence.Coleman@dot.gov
USEPA	Amanetta Somerville	Somerville.Amanetta@epa.gov
USFWS	Gary Jordan	gary_jordan@fws.gov
USACE	Kyle Barnes	kyle.w.barnes@usace.army.mil
USACE	Monte Matthews	monte.k.matthews@usace.army.mil
NCWRC	Travis Wilson	Travis.Wilson@ncwildlife.org
NCDCM	Greg Daisey	Greg.Daisey@ncdenr.gov
NCDCM	Cathy Brittingham	cathy.brittingham@ncdenr.gov
NCDCM	Jonathan Howell	jonathan.howell@ncdenr.gov
NMFS	Fritz Rhode	Fritz.Rohde@noaa.gov
NCDWR	Garcy Ward	Garcy.Ward@ncdenr.gov
NCDWR	Robert Patterson	robert.patterson@ncdenr.gov
NCDEQ	<mark>James Harrison</mark>	James.Harrison@ncdenr.gov

Mailing Address: NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT 1582 MAIL SERVICE CENTER RALEIGH, NC 27699-1582 Telephone: (919) 707-6604

Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Website: www.ncdot.gov

NCDNCR		
NC-HPO	Renne Gledhill-Earley	renee.gledhill-earley@ncdrc.gov
Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge	Scott Lanier	scott lanier@fws.gov
Albemarle RPO	Angela Welsh	awelsh@accog.org
NCDMF	Jordan Byrum	Jordan.Byrum@ncdenr.gov
NCDOT Staff		
Division	Clemmon Bridgers	cwbridgers@ncdot.gov
Division	Barry Hobbs	wbhobbs@ncdot.gov
Division	Paul Williams	pcwilliams2@ncdot.gov
Division	Randy Midgett	rmidgett@ncdot.gov
Division	Chris Rivenbark	ext-mcrivenbark@ncdot.gov
Project Management	Jennifer Evans	jenniferevans@ncdot.gov
Project Management	David Webb	dswebb1@ncdot.gov
Project Management	John Conforti	jgconforti@ncdot.gov
Project Management	Olivia Pilkington	olpilkington@ncdot.gov
Structures	David Stutts	dstutts@ncdot.gov
Roadside Environmental	David Harris	davidharris@ncdot.gov
Roadside Environmental	Mark Staley	mstaley@ncdot.gov
Environmental Policy	John Jamison	johnjamison@ncdot.gov
Environmental Policy	Mike Sanderson	jmsanderson@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis (Cultural Resources)	Matt Wilkerson	mtwilkerson@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis (Cultural Resources)	Mary Pope Furr	
Environmental Analysis (Cultural Resources)	Shelby Reap	
Environmental Policy Unit (EPU)	Colin Mellor	cmellor@ncdot.gov
Environmental Policy Unit (EPU)	Hannah Headrick	hsheadrick@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis (ECAP)	Jason Dilday	jldilday1@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis	Wes Cartner	wcartner@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis	Marissa Cox	mrcox@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis	Tyler Stanton	tstanton@ncdot.gov
Environmental Analysis	Wesley Cartner	wcartner@ncdot.gov
Roadway	Doug Kretchman	dwkretchman@ncdot.gov
Roadway	Ronald Cribbs	rlcribbs@ncdot.gov
Hydraulics	Matt Lauffer	mslauffer@ncdot.gov
Hydraulics	Andy Mcdaniel	ahmcdaniel@ncdot.gov
Hydraulics	Brian Lipscomb	blipscomb@ncdot.gov
Hydraulics	Matt York	mjyork@ncdot.gov
Geotech	Tom Santee	tgsantee@ncdot.gov
Geotech	Dean Argenbright	dargenbright@ncdot.gov
Utilities	Bo Hemphill	bohemphill@ncdot.gov
Utilities	Larry James	Imjames@ncdot.gov
Utilities	Tanga Sampson	tnsampson@ncdot.gov

Consultant Team		
Three Oaks	Craig Young	craig.young@threeoaksengineering.com
Three Oaks	James Mason	james.mason@threeoaksengineering.com
Three Oaks	Joanna Salvucci	joanna.salvucci@threeoaksengineering.com
Three Oaks	Jason Patskoski	jason.patskoski@threeoaksengineering.com
Summit Engineering	Patrick Hartnett	patrick.hartnett@summitde.com
Summit Engineering	Faith Jahnke	faith.jahnke@summitde.com
Summit Engineering	Brandon Johnson	brandon.johnson@summitde.com
Summit Engineering	Neil Dean	neil.dean@summitde.com
Moffatt & Nichol	Jeff Sheldon	JShelden@moffattnichol.com
WSP	Christopher Lee	christopher.lee3@wsp.com
WSP	Michael Lear	michael.lear@wsp.com
WSP	Brian Pease	brian.r.pease@wsp.com
WSP	Chienting Tang	chienting.tang@wsp.com
WSP	Bon Lien	bon.lien@wsp.com
Modjeski	Jason Doughty	<u>irdoughty@modjeski.com</u>
Modjeski	Bryan Loflin	BJLoflin@modjeski.com
Wetherill Engineering	Kevin Alford	kalford@wetherilleng.com
RK&K	Kathy Herring	kherring@rkk.com
Moffatt & Nichol	Justin Davenport	JDavenport@moffattnichol.com

## Minutes:

The 4C Merger Meeting for HB-0001 was held on April 20, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM via a Microsoft Teams meeting. Patrick Hartnett provided a project description and took roll call before proceeding through the 4C Permit Drawing package dated April 2023.

# General:

- Potential for on-site mitigation impacts for abandoned existing roadway sections to be added to the plans. Discussion on-going but will need to be added to the SMP and Impact Summary table.
- Impacts for the jurisdictional roadside channels to be classified as "Open Water" impacts rather than "Surface Water" impacts.
- It was noted that the Fill slope labels caused confusion with impact hatching. They should be turned off.

#### SMP:

• No comments.

#### TSH:

No comments.

# **PSH 2/3**:

• Remove easement at upstream end of 4-2 Tail Ditch

#### PSH 4/5:

- Verify equalizer pipe size is adequate.
  - Concerns about potential input due to settling pond/dredging events per USACE
  - Update invert callouts to reflect pipe size
- Revise easement at Site 7 to encompass MC impacts.

# **PSH 6/7:**

- Mechanized Clearing impacts along north side of the road need to connect to MC under bridge.
- Riprap outlet pads need to be Permanent Fill impacts.
- Concerns about Temporary Fill impacts for temporary work platform/bent installation areas
  - Schedule follow-up meeting with Division, DCM, DWR, USACE and PMU to discuss impact breakdown
- Depict landing site near Site 22 in Inset A
  - o Potentially add new PSH to permit drawings

# PSH 30/31

• Revise temporary work platform callout at Site 11.

# PSH 32/33:

- Mechanized Clearing impacts along north side of the road need to connect to MC under bridge.
- Riprap outlet pads need to be Permanent Fill impacts.

#### PSH 34/35:

- Revise wetland callout overlapping Inset B
- Add Permanent Open Water impacts for areas between 60" CAAP headwalls at Site 17

#### PSH 36/37:

- Revise Site numbering for Inset A
- Potentially extend MC impacts along bank stabilization at Site 20

### PSH 38/39:

No comments.

# PSH 40/41:

• No comments.

#### **PSH 42:**

Add legends for Temporary/Permanent Fill impacts.

#### **PSH 43:**

No comments.

#### **Profile Sheets:**

No comments.

# **XSC Sheets:**

• Revise Site callouts

# **Impact Summary Table:**

- Add Temporary Fill quantity to CAMA impacts note.
- Add Site # for bent installation.

No Further Comments.

Meeting Adjourned.

# **Biological Opinion**

# US 64 Alligator River Bridge Replacement, Tyrrell and Dare Counties, NC (STIP #HB-0001)

FWS Log #: 04EN2000-2021-F-0473



Prepared by:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Raleigh Field Office P.O. Box 33726 Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

	November 5, 2021
Pete Benjamin, Field Supervisor	Date

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# **CONSULTATION HISTORY**

This section lists key events and correspondence during the course of this consultation. A complete administrative record of this consultation is on file in the Service's Raleigh Field Office.

- **2021-01-07** The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) begin telephone and email discussions on the need for Section 7 consultation.
- **2021-05-20** The Service received a draft Biological Assessment (BA) from NCDOT.
- **2021-05-24** The Service provided comments on the draft BA to NCDOT.
- **2021-08-06** The Service received the final BA (dated 2021-07-12) and a letter (dated 2021-08-05) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requesting formal Section 7 consultation for the red-cockaded woodpecker.
- **2021-08-26** The Service provided a letter to FHWA stating that all information required for initiation of formal consultation was either included with their 2021-08-05 letter or was otherwise available.
- **2021-09-07** The Service provided the FHWA and NCDOT with a draft Biological Opinion.

# **BIOLOGICAL OPINION**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

A Biological Opinion (BO) is the document that states the findings of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), as to whether a Federal action is likely to:

- jeopardize the continued existence of species listed as endangered or threatened; or
- result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

The Federal action addressed in this BO is the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) and North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) proposed US 64 Alligator River Bridge Replacement in Tyrrell and Dare Counties, NC, STIP #HB-0001 (the Action). This BO considers the effects of the Action on the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). The Action does not affect designated critical habitat; therefore, this BO does not address critical habitat.

# **BO** Analytical Framework

A BO that concludes a proposed Federal action is *not* likely to *jeopardize the continued existence* of listed species and is *not* likely to result in the *destruction or adverse modification* of critical habitat fulfills the Federal agency's responsibilities under §7(a)(2) of the ESA.

"Jeopardize the continued existence means to engage in an action that reasonably would be expected, directly or indirectly, to reduce appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of a listed species in the wild by reducing the reproduction, numbers, or distribution of that species" (50 CFR §402.02).

"Destruction or adverse modification means a direct or indirect alteration that appreciably diminishes the value of critical habitat as a whole for the conservation of a listed species" (50 CFR §402.02).

The Service determines in a BO whether we expect an action to satisfy these definitions using the best available relevant data in the following analytical framework (see 50 CFR §402.02 for the regulatory definitions of action, action area, environmental baseline, effects of the action, and cumulative effects).

- a. *Proposed Action*. Review the proposed Federal action and describe the environmental changes its implementation would cause, which defines the action area.
- b. *Status*. Review and describe the current range-wide status of the species or critical habitat.
- c. *Environmental Baseline*. Describe the condition of the species or critical habitat in the action area, without the consequences to the listed species caused by the proposed action. The environmental baseline includes the past and present impacts of all Federal, State, or private actions and other human activities in the action area, the anticipated impacts of all proposed Federal projects in the action area that have already undergone formal or early consultation, and the impacts of State or private actions which are contemporaneous with the consultation.
- d. *Effects of the Action*. Predict all consequences to species or critical habitat caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities caused by the proposed action, which are reasonably certain to occur. Activities caused by the proposed action

- would not occur but for the proposed action. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences that occur outside the action area.
- e. *Cumulative Effects*. Predict all consequences to listed species or critical habitat caused by future non-Federal activities that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area.
- f. *Conclusion*. Add the effects of the action and cumulative effects to the environmental baseline, and in light of the status of the species, formulate the Service's opinion as to whether the action is likely to jeopardize species or adversely modify critical habitat.

# 2. PROPOSED ACTION

# 2.1. Bridge Replacement

The FHWA and NCDOT propose to construct a new fixed-span, high-rise bridge to replace the existing 2.83 mile long US 64 bridge over the Alligator River in Tyrrell and Dare Counties. The new bridge will have two lanes 12 feet wide with 8-foot paved shoulders, and the bridge approaches will have two lanes 12 feet wide with 10-foot shoulders (5 feet of the shoulders will be paved). The centerline of the new bridge will be approximately 1,380 feet north of the current centerline at its farthest point. Total project length is 4.64 miles. The old bridge will be removed. The tentative let date for construction is July 2023.

## 2.2. Conservation Measures

In April 1999, the Service, NCDOT, and The Conservation Fund entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the protection and recruitment of RCWs through the establishment of a wildlife management area in Tyrrell County, North Carolina known as the Palmetto-Peartree Preserve (P3). P3 consists of approximately 10,000 acres and was created with the primary purpose of protecting the existing RCW population, improving habitat to increase the population, and to provide NCDOT with credits to offset unavoidable impacts to RCWs from transportation projects in the Coastal Plain.

A subsequent MOU between the NCDOT and the Service concerning the status and future of RCW monitoring and conservation credits on P3 (Appendix A) was signed in December 2017. Agreements in the MOU include:

- 23 conservation credits could be used by NCDOT to offset unavoidable impacts to RCWs from future NCDOT projects.
- The 23 credits could be used at a 1:1 ratio whether the impacts were direct, indirect or cumulative.
- The 23 credits would remain available regardless of the status of the RCW population.
- The credits would not expire and would remain available to the NCDOT until debited.

In order to compensate for the potential loss of one RCW group at TYR Cluster 63, the NCDOT will debit one credit from its conservation credits at P3. Post-project, NCDOT will have 22 conservation credits remaining at P3.

# 2.3. Other Activities Caused by the Action

A BO evaluates all consequences to species or critical habitat caused by the proposed Federal action, including the consequences of other activities caused by the proposed action, that are reasonably certain to occur (see definition of "effects of the action" at 50 CFR §402.02). Additional regulations at 50 CFR §402.17(a) identify factors to consider when determining whether activities caused by the proposed action (but not part of the proposed action) are reasonably certain to occur. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- (1) past experiences with activities that have resulted from actions that are similar in scope, nature, and magnitude to the proposed action;
- (2) existing plans for the activity; and
- (3) any remaining economic, administrative, and legal requirements necessary for the activity to go forward.

In its request for consultation, the FHWA did not describe, and the Service is not aware of, any additional activities caused by the Action that are not included in the previous description of the proposed Action. Therefore, this BO does not address further the topic of "other activities" caused by the Action.

# 2.4. Action Area

The action area is defined as "all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action" (50 CFR §402.02). Delineating the action area is necessary for the Federal action agency to obtain a list of species and critical habitats that may occur in that area, which necessarily precedes any subsequent analyses of the effects of the action to particular species or critical habitats.

It is practical to treat the action area for a proposed Federal action as the spatial extent of its direct and indirect "modifications to the land, water, or air" (a key phrase from the definition of "action" at 50 CFR §402.02). Indirect modifications include those caused by other activities that would not occur but for the action under consultation. The action area determines any overlap with critical habitat and the physical and biological features therein that we defined as essential to the species' conservation in the designation final rule. For species, the action area establishes the bounds for an analysis of individuals' exposure to action-caused changes, but the subsequent consequences of such exposure to those individuals are not necessarily limited to the action area.

Figure 2.4 shows the locations of all activities that the proposed Action would cause and the spatial extent of reasonably certain changes to land, water, or air caused by these activities, based on the descriptions and analyses of these activities in Section 2.1. The action area for this BO includes the existing US 64 bridge over the Alligator River, the footprint of the new proposed bridge (located up to 1,380 feet north of the existing bridge), and a 2.55 mile radius around the existing and new bridges. The 2.55 mile radius is based upon the average dispersal distance of RCWs studied at the adjacent P3 from 1999-2014 (NCDOT 2014). This average dispersal distance is utilized in the "neighborhood" analysis (USFWS 2005) of RCW groups which may be indirectly affected.

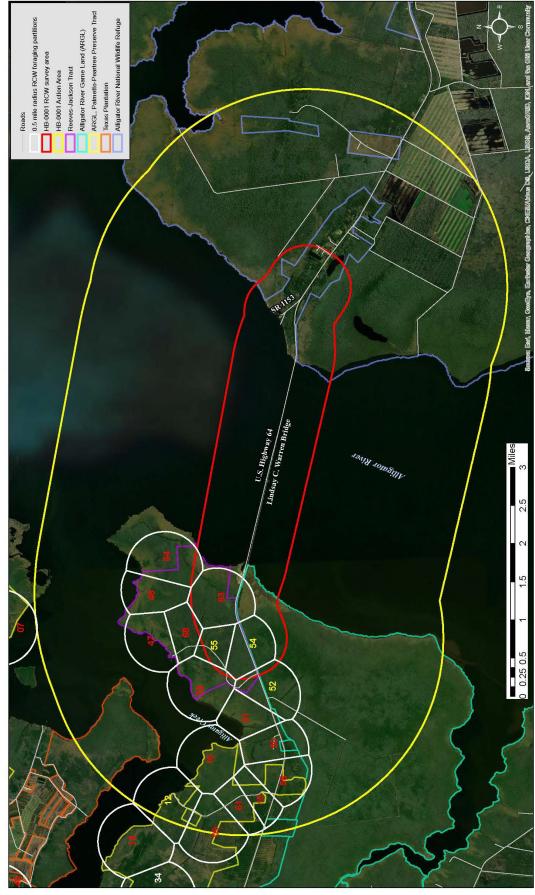


Figure 2.4 Action Area for the proposed replacement of the US 64 bridge over the Alligator River (HB-0001), Tyrrell and Dare Counties, North Carolina. The Action Area includes the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) "neighborhood," defined as the population's average dispersal distance (2.55 miles). RCW partitions with red labels were active when last updated and those with yellow labels were inactive or abandoned.

# 3. SOURCES OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

A BO must predict the consequences to species caused by future non-Federal activities within the action area, *i.e.*, cumulative effects. "Cumulative effects are those effects of future State or private activities, not involving Federal activities, that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area of the Federal action subject to consultation" (50 CFR §402.02). Additional regulations at 50 CFR §402.17(a) identify factors to consider when determining whether activities are reasonably certain to occur. These factors include, but are not limited to: existing plans for the activity; and any remaining economic, administrative, and legal requirements necessary for the activity to go forward.

In its request for consultation, the FHWA did not describe, and the Service is not aware of, any future non-Federal activities that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area. Therefore, we anticipate no cumulative effects that we must consider in formulating our opinion for the Action.

# 4. STATUS OF SPECIES

This section summarizes best available data about the biology and condition of the red-cockaded woodpecker [*Dryobates* (=*Picoides*) *borealis*, RCW] throughout its range that are relevant to formulating an opinion about the Action. The Service published its decision to list the RCW as endangered on October 13, 1970 (35 FR 16047–16048). No critical habitat has been designated for the RCW. The most recent recovery plan was published in 2003 (USFWS 2003).

# 4.1. Species Description

The RCW is a small bird measuring about eight inches in length, identifiable by its white cheek patch and black and white barred back. The males have a few red feathers, called a cockade. These red feathers usually remain hidden underneath black feathers between the black crown and white cheek patch unless the male is disturbed or excited. Females lack the red cockade. Juvenile males have a red patch in the center of their black crown. This patch disappears during the fall of their first year at which time their cockades appear (USFWS 2020a).

# 4.2. Life History

A detailed life history of the RCW can be found in Chapter 2 (pages 16-72) of the Species Status Assessment Report (USFWS 2020b).

# 4.3. Numbers, Reproduction, and Distribution

Detailed information on the numbers, reproduction, and distribution of the RCW can be found in Chapters 3 and 4 (pages 72-118) of the Species Status Assessment Report (USFWS 2020b).

# 4.4. Conservation Needs and Threats

Detailed information on the conservation needs of and the threats to the RCW can be found in Chapter 3 (pages 72-103) and Chapter 5 (pages 119-129) of the Species Status Assessment Report (USFWS 2020b).

# 5. ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

This section describes the best available data about the condition of the RCW in the action area without the consequences caused by the proposed Action.

# 5.1. Action Area Numbers, Reproduction, and Distribution

There are currently 13 active RCW clusters and 4 inactive RCW clusters that occur within the action area defined in Section 2.4. However, from the analysis of the potential effects of the Action, it was determined that only 6 active RCW clusters had the potential to be directly or indirectly affected. No data was obtained for the other clusters, and the remainder of this BO will only address these 6 clusters.

Table 5.1. Potentially affected active RCW clusters within action area.

Cluster ID	Cluster/Partition Location	<b>Partition Protected Status</b>
TYR 47	Reeves-Jackson Tract	All on protected land
TYR 48	Reeves-Jackson Tract	All on protected land
TYR 53	Reeves-Jackson Tract / private land	Partially protected
TYR 63	Reeves-Jackson Tract / Alligator	Mostly on protected land
	River Game Land / private land	
TYR 64	Reeves-Jackson Tract / private land	Partially protected
TYR 68	Reeves-Jackson Tract	All on protected land

# 5.2. Action Area Conservation Needs and Threats

Although the RCW clusters located on the Reeves-Jackson Tract (owned by The Conservation Fund) and the Alligator River Game Land (owned by North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission) are mostly protected, none of the clusters in Table 5.1 are part of an RCW Recovery Unit. However, RCW clusters located within the adjacent P3 (owned by North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission) are designated as part of the Northeast North Carolina/Southeast Virginia Essential Support Population, which is within the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain Recovery Unit. The RCWs within the action area are demographically connected to this Essential Support Population.

Suitable habitat, as described by the Recovery Plan (USFWS 2003), is essentially nonexistent in the action area, yet several RCW groups are surviving within it. RCWs nest and forage in a much wider range of habitat conditions in northeastern North Carolina than elsewhere in the species range (Carter and Brust 2004). Carter (2014) describes eight natural or man-altered vegetative communities in northeastern North Carolina that RCWs utilize for nesting and foraging. Some of these communities are dominated by non-pine species, and pines may compose less than 20% of

the canopy. Due to the use of atypical habitat, the Recovery Plan's Standard for Managed Stability (SMS) guidelines and Recovery Standard Guidelines (RSG) for foraging habitat does not apply to northeastern North Carolina (Carter and Campbell 2012, Carter 2014). Pre-project, none of the six active RCW clusters analyzed would meet the SMS guidelines or RSG outlined in the Recovery Plan. Therefore, regional SMS foraging habitat guidelines were developed for northeastern North Carolina (Carter 2014). These regional guidelines are an attempt to approximate as closely as possible the actual habitat conditions observed in northeastern North Carolina where RCWs naturally occur.

There is limited opportunity to actively manage the RCW habitat within the action area. Due to extreme wetness, lack of access, and the presence of peat soils (which can be consumed by fire), traditional RCW management activities such as prescribed burning and mechanical midstory control are severely limited (Carter and Campbell 2012, Carter 2014). Even with management, the habitat would never resemble suitable habitat as defined by the Recovery Plan. However, RCWs appear to be surviving with little to no management in most of the action area.

The action area is subject to frequent tropical storm activity, and RCWs are vulnerable to storm damage, flooding, and sea level rise. Tropical storms can kill RCWs and destroy their cavity trees. The action area is only 0-2 feet above sea level, with much of the area subject to saltwater intrusion and land subsidence due to deterioration of peat soils (USACE and NCDOT 2012). Even a modest amount of sea level rise (6 cm) would inundate most of the forest habitat within the action area (U.S. Department of Transportation 2008) thus converting it to marsh habitat. Given these conditions, RCW habitat within the action area appears transitory.

Southern pine beetle infestations of various sizes have historically affected this area over the years. The infestations can degrade foraging habitat and kill cavity trees. Combined with other stochastic events (e.g. tropical storms) and ever-present stressors such as saltwater intrusion and land subsidence, RCW clusters are at risk of being eliminated from the landscape.

# 6. EFFECTS OF THE ACTION

In a BO for a listed species, the effects of the proposed action are all reasonably certain consequences to the species caused by the action, including the consequences of other activities caused by the action. Activities caused by the action would not occur but for the action. Consequences to species may occur later in time and may occur outside the action area. Our analyses of the consequences caused by these activities follows.

# **6.1.** Cavity Tree Analysis

No RCW cavity trees will be removed, and no portion of the Action is located within 200 feet of any cavity tree.

# 6.2. Foraging Habitat Analysis (Cluster Level Analysis)

One active RCW cluster, TYR 63, will have habitat removed from its half-mile foraging partition. The pre-project foraging habitat totals for TYR 63 are 701.7 ft<sup>2</sup> of pine basal area (BA)

on 54.7 acres of suitable habitat and 266.0 ft<sup>2</sup> pine BA on 13.2 acres of potentially suitable (i.e. deficient) habitat. Pre-project, this partition is deficient in pine BA and acreage and does not meet the Regional SMS Guidelines for Northeast North Carolina (Carter 2014). Therefore the removal of any suitable or potentially suitable habitat constitutes a take of the cluster. The Action will remove 14.4 ft<sup>2</sup> of pine BA on 0.9 acre of suitable habitat. Although this habitat removal constitutes a take of the cluster as per the Regional SMS Guidelines, it is not possible to know if the RCWs will abandon the cluster or not. RCWs in other clusters in the area are persisting on less suitable and potentially suitable habitat than occurs in TYR 63.

# 6.3. Group-Level Analysis

The group-level analysis evaluates the effects of changes in group density on RCW groups which have habitat removed from their partition, but which are not "taken" at the cluster level (USFWS 2005). No other active clusters will have foraging habitat removed from their foraging partition, so no group-level analysis is necessary.

# 6.4. Neighborhood-Level Analysis

The neighborhood-level analysis addresses potential effects on the RCW groups within the action area but which are not directly affected by habitat loss within their partitions. These neighborhood effects result from demographic isolation and habitat fragmentation and are related to group density, similar to the group-level analysis. For purposes of this BO, the "neighborhood" is the same as the action area, both being based on the 2.55 mile average dispersal distance of RCWs within the adjacent P3 (NCDOT 2014). If the post-project analysis demonstrated that < 2.5 RCW groups remained within a 1.25 mile radius of the subject cluster, it is considered to be an incidental take.

The cluster-level take of active TYR 63 will reduce the RCW group density within a 1.25 mile radius of 5 active clusters (TYR 47, 48, 53, 64, and 68), but all would retain a moderate density (2.6 – 4.6 clusters within 1.25 miles) post-project based on the most current data. Therefore, no take will occur at the neighborhood level. However, it must be noted that if any active clusters around TYR 48 or 64 become inactive in the future, take would occur at the neighborhood level.

# 6.5. Population-Level and Recovery Unit-Level Analysis

No RCW clusters within the action area are part of a defined population or recovery unit, and thus their numbers are not counted towards the RCW recovery goals. Therefore, no population-level or recovery unit-level analysis is necessary.

# 7. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

In Section 3, we did not identify any activities that satisfy the regulatory criteria for sources of cumulative effects. Therefore, cumulative effects to the RCW are not relevant to formulating our opinion for the Action.

# 8. CONCLUSION

In this section, we summarize and interpret the findings of the previous sections (status, baseline, effects, and cumulative effects) relative to the purpose of the BO for the RCW, which is to determine whether the Action is likely to jeopardize its continued existence.

Thirteen active RCW clusters occur within the defined action area. Only one cluster, TYR 63, will be taken as the result of removing habitat from its foraging partition. Cluster TYR 63 does not meet the Regional SMS Guidelines for Northeast North Carolina either pre-project or post-project, therefore even the removal of a relatively small amount of foraging habitat constitutes a take of the cluster. Since other RCW clusters in the area persist on less suitable/potentially suitable habitat than TYR 63, the Action may or may not result in abandonment of the cluster. However, given the cluster's vulnerability to salt water intrusion, subsidence, and tropical storm damage, the cluster's persistence appears transitory. Cluster TYR 63 is not part of a defined population or recovery unit and thus it is not counted towards the recovery goals of the species. As compensation for take of TYR 63, one credit will be debited from NCDOT's conservation credits at P3, thus leaving 22 credits available for future debit.

After reviewing the status of the species, the environmental baseline for the action area, the effects of the Action and the cumulative effects, it is the Service's Biological Opinion that the Action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the RCW.

# 9. INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT

ESA §9(a)(1) and regulations issued under §4(d) prohibit the take of endangered and threatened fish and wildlife species without special exemption. The term "take" in the ESA means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (ESA §3(19)). In regulations, the Service further defines:

- "harm" as "an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering;" (50 CFR §17.3) and
- "incidental take" as "takings that result from, but are not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity conducted by the Federal agency or applicant" (50 CFR §402.02).

Under the terms of ESA  $\S7(b)(4)$  and  $\S7(o)(2)$ , taking that is incidental to a Federal agency action that would not violate ESA  $\S7(a)(2)$  is not considered prohibited, provided that such taking is in compliance with the terms and conditions of an incidental take statement (ITS).

For the exemption in ESA §7(o)(2) to apply to the Action considered in this BO, the FHWA must undertake the non-discretionary measures described in this ITS, and these measures must become binding conditions of any permit, contract, or grant issued for implementing the Action. The FHWA has a continuing duty to regulate the activity covered by this ITS. The protective coverage of §7(o)(2) may lapse if the FHWA fails to:

• assume and implement the terms and conditions; or

• require a permittee, contractor, or grantee to adhere to the terms and conditions of the ITS through enforceable terms that are added to the permit, contract, or grant document. In order to monitor the impact of incidental take, the FHWA must report the progress of the Action and its impact on the species to the Service as specified in this ITS.

## 9.1. Amount or Extent of Take

This section specifies the amount or extent of take of listed wildlife species that the Action is reasonably certain to cause, which we estimated in the "Effects of the Action" section of this BO. The Service anticipates that the Action is reasonably certain to cause incidental take of one active cluster of RCW (TYR 63). This incidental take will be non-lethal and indirect in nature.

# 9.2. Reasonable and Prudent Measures

The Service believes that no reasonable and prudent measures (RPMs) are necessary or appropriate to minimize the impact (*i.e.*, amount or extent) of incidental take of the RCW caused by the Action. Avoidance and minimization of RCW foraging habitat removal previously occurred during the routine project development and design process. No additional changes in design, location, scope, duration, or timing of the Action would reduce incidental take below the amount or extent anticipated for the Action as proposed. Therefore, this ITS does not provide RPMs for this species.

## 9.3. Terms and Conditions

No RPMs to minimize the impacts of incidental take caused by the Action are provided in this ITS; therefore, no terms and conditions for carrying out such measures are necessary.

# 9.4. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

In order to monitor the impacts of incidental take, the FHWA must report the progress of the Action and its impact on the species to the Service as specified in the ITS (50 CFR §402.14(i)(3)). This section provides the specific instructions for such monitoring and reporting (M&R). These M&R requirements are mandatory. As necessary and appropriate to fulfill this responsibility, the FHWA must require any permittee, contractor, or grantee to accomplish the M&R through enforceable terms that the FHWA includes in the permit, contract, or grant document. Such enforceable terms must include a requirement to immediately notify the FHWA and the Service if the amount or extent of incidental take specified in this ITS is exceeded during Action implementation.

M&R 1. <u>Cavity Tree Update and Neighborhood-Level Analysis Reevaluation</u>. If the project construction has not been let by the end 2023, an updated cavity tree survey within 0.5 mile of the project footprint must be conducted, and the status of all clusters evaluated for the neighborhood-level analysis must be reevaluated (*i.e.*, inactive vs. active). The acquired data must be submitted to the Service to confirm if the level of incidental take authorized is still appropriate.

# 10. CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

§7(a)(1) of the ESA directs Federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purposes of the ESA by conducting conservation programs for the benefit of endangered and threatened species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary activities that an action agency may undertake to avoid or minimize the adverse effects of a proposed action, implement recovery plans, or develop information that is useful for the conservation of listed species. The Service offers the following recommendations that are relevant to the RCW addressed in this BO and that we believe are consistent with the authorities of the FHWA.

- 1. NCDOT and/or FHWA could contribute funding to conduct additional RCW surveys within the previously unsurveyed portions of the Northeast North Carolina/Southeast Virginia Essential Support Population and adjacent state and private properties which may support additional RCW clusters. Data obtained from more comprehensive surveys would assist in the future status review and revision of the Essential Support Population.
- 2. NCDOT and/or FHWA could conduct or provide funding for a study of the hydrology of the adjacent P3 with the intent to reduce saltwater intrusion to help maintain RCW habitat. The feasibility of water control structure use to prevent saltwater intrusion could be assessed.

# 11. REINITIATION NOTICE

Formal consultation for the Action considered in this BO is concluded. Reinitiating consultation is required if the FHWA retains discretionary involvement or control over the Action (or is authorized by law) when:

- a. the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded;
- b. new information reveals that the Action may affect listed species or designated critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this BO;
- c. the Action is modified in a manner that causes effects to listed species or designated critical habitat not considered in this BO; or
- d. a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that the Action may affect.

In instances where the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded, the FHWA is required to immediately request a reinitiation of formal consultation.

# 12. LITERATURE CITED

- Carter, J.H. III. 2014. Revised Red-cockaded Woodpecker Standard for Managed Stability Foraging Habitat Guidelines for Northeastern North Carolina. Unpublished white paper. Dr. J.H. Carter III & Associates, Inc., Southern Pines, NC.
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- Carter, J.H. III and V. Campbell. 2012. Red-cockaded Woodpecker Distribution in Northeast North Carolina. PowerPoint presentation at information meeting on RCWs in northeastern North Carolina on November 6-7, 2012. Eastern 4-H Environmental Education Conference Center, Columbia, NC.
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- USDOT. 2008. The Potential Impacts of Global Sea Level Rise on Transportation Infrastructure, Part 1: Methodology. U.S. Department of Transportation Center for Climate Change and Environmental Forecasting. Washington, DC. Available online at <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/sea-level-rise-entire-report.pdf">https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/sea-level-rise-entire-report.pdf</a>. Accessed on August 26, 2021.
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- USFWS. 2020a. Red-cockaded woodpecker *Picoides borealis*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Atlanta, GA. Available online at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/birds/red-cockaded-woodpecker/">https://www.fws.gov/southeast/wildlife/birds/red-cockaded-woodpecker/</a>. Accessed on August 26, 2021.
- USFWS. 2020b. Species Status Assessment Report for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Version 1.3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Atlanta, GA. Available online at <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/188805">https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/188805</a>. Accessed on August 26, 2021.

# Memorandum of Understanding between

# North Carolina Department of Transportation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

THIS AGREEMENT (the "MOU") is made and entered into on the date herein below last written, by and between the STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, acting through the DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT) and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS) (hereinafter "the Parties").

#### WITNESSETH:

**WHEREAS,** the USFWS is authorized to enter into agreements with NCDOT in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (18 U.S.C. 1531, et <u>seq.</u>; as amended) (ESA), and

WHEREAS, NCDOT is authorized to enter into agreements with USFWS, and

**WHEREAS,** NCDOT implements transportation improvements across the state of North Carolina (the "Projects") which may impact the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) which is listed as a federally endangered species, and

WHEREAS, NCDOT desires to minimize the impacts of the Projects on RCW populations, and

**WHEREAS,** NCDOT and USFWS (along with The Conservation Fund, a non-profit corporation) previously entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in April, 1999 (1999 MOU) (FWS Agreement No. 1448-40181-99-K-005) with Addendum 1 entered in October 2001 and Addendum 2 in June 2003 (collectively herein referred to as the "1999 MOU"). The 1999 MOU established the Palmetto Peartree Wildlife Management Area ("WMA") in Tyrrell County, NC, which consisted of approximately 9,732 +/- acres and cost approximately \$16,300,000.00. The primary purpose of the WMA is to protect, enhance and/or preserve RCW populations to offset the loss of RCWs or their habitat associated with NCDOT Projects in the Coastal Plain.

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the 1999 MOU, a conservation easement dated April 28, 1999 was imposed on the WMA to further protect, enhance and/or preserve RCW populations and habitat and to preserve the natural environmental characteristics of the WMA.

**WHEREAS**, since its inception, the WMA has generated twenty-three (23) RCW conservation credits and ten (10) RCW creation credits which are available to NCDOT to offset RCW impacts from NCDOT Projects.

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the twenty-three (23) RCW conservation credits, NCDOT has avoided and minimized all potential effects and had no takes to RCW populations for all

projects constructed over the last 18 years within the WMA service area.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the 1999 MOU, annual monitoring of RCW populations has been performed. However, the 1999 MOU and Conservation Easement were terminated on July 7, 2015 at the agreement of the Parties (including The Conservation Fund). The WMA is currently owned by NCDOT and NCDOT is seeking a qualified entity to take over ownership and management of the WMA that is consistent with the goal of preserving the natural environmental characteristics of the WMA.

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that due to sea level rise, land subsidence, and other causes of cavity tree loss such as pine beetle infestations, the RCW population within the WMA is likely not sustainable over the long term.

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that preserving the genetic diversity of the RCW population and expanding the range is beneficial for the species.WHEREAS, the Parties agree that translocations of RCW donor birds for the augmentation of eligible populations and recipient clusters is beneficial for the species.

WHEREAS, the Parties agree to the translocation of RCW from within the WMA to locations approved by USFWS and agreed upon by both parties.

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that the clusters located within the current corridor for NCDOT's Alligator River Bridge and US Highway 64 widening are first priorities for translocation if they meet the criteria per the RCW Recovery Plan.

# **NOW THEREFORE,** the parties hereto agree as follows:

- (1) The RCW credits can be used to offset unavoidable impacts to RCWs from NCDOT Projects.
- (2) The RCW credits will be utilized only to offset unavoidable impacts of the RCW when the NCDOT can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the USFWS that there are no available or practical avoidance and minimization alternatives.
- (3) It is understood that NCDOT will consult with the USFWS concerning any Project which would affect RCWs. RCW credits from the WMA will be considered for application against those Projects which would impact RCWs and determined by USFWS not to jeopardize the continued existence of the species.
- (4) The WMA has generated twenty-three (23) RCW conservation credits for the benefit of NCDOT to offset possible future RCW impacts from NCDOT Projects. These RCW credits cannot expire, or be revoked, and will be available to NCDOT until debited. The success of the translocations will in no way affect these RCW credits.

**FURTHERMORE,** the specific obligations of the respective parties to the Memorandum of Understanding are set forth below:

- (A) The USFWS will:
  - (1) Grant NCDOT 23 RCW conservation credits from the establishment of the WMA.

These credits cannot expire, or be revoked, and will remain available to NCDOT until debited regardless of the status of the WMA RCW population.

- (2) Agree that NCDOT may use the 23 RCW conservation credits at a 1:1 ratio regardless of whether the RCW impacts are direct, indirect, or cumulative for any future RCW consultations for NCDOT projects.
- (3) Agree that if future NCDOT Projects, requiring compensation, occur within the boundaries of the WMA, then the WMA may be utilized to off-set those losses, with the available credits reduced by the number of incidental takes by the project.
- (4) Agree to coordinate and assist with any translocation of RCWs from within the WMA.

# (B) NCDOT will:

- (1) Continue to provide RCW ground monitoring for 2017 and 2018 as provided in previous years.
- (2) Fund the translocation of RCWs by an approved third party under the direction and guidance of the USFWS.
- (3) Provide annual data collection reports of RCW activity in the WMA to the USFWS for two years.
- (4) In any event, NCDOT will provide funding of no more than a total of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for ground monitoring and translocation efforts.

Amendment or modification of this Memorandum of Agreement may be proposed at any time but will not be adopted unless agreed to by all parties in writing.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the parties hereto have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed as of the date below last written.

SIAI	FOF	NORTH CAROLINA, rough the DEPARTMENT	
actin	ıg th	rough the DEPARTMENT	OF TRANSPORTATION
Ву: _	X		Date: 12-12-17
Its:_		Duly Auth	orized.

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting through the U. S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

By: Jan		Date:_	12.4.17
Its:	, Duly Authorized.		

# MARCH 3 1850

# **United States Department of the Interior**

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Raleigh Field Office Post Office Box 33726 Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

# GUIDELINES FOR AVOIDING IMPACTS TO THE WEST INDIAN MANATEE Precautionary Measures for Construction Activities in North Carolina Waters

The West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), also known as the Florida manatee, is a Federally-listed endangered aquatic mammal protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C 1461 *et seq.*). The manatee is also listed as endangered under the North Carolina Endangered Species Act of 1987 (Article 25 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the lead Federal agency responsible for the protection and recovery of the West Indian manatee under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Adult manatees average 10 feet long and weigh about 2,200 pounds, although some individuals have been recorded at lengths greater than 13 feet and weighing as much as 3,500 pounds. Manatees are commonly found in fresh, brackish, or marine water habitats, including shallow coastal bays, lagoons, estuaries, and inland rivers of varying salinity extremes. Manatees spend much of their time underwater or partly submerged, making them difficult to detect even in shallow water. While the manatee's principal stronghold in the United States is Florida, the species is considered a seasonal inhabitant of North Carolina with most occurrences reported from June through October.

To protect manatees in North Carolina, the Service's Raleigh Field Office has prepared precautionary measures for general construction activities in waters used by the species. Implementation of these measure will allow in-water projects which do not require blasting to proceed without adverse impacts to manatees. In addition, inclusion of these guidelines as conservation measures in a Biological Assessment or Biological Evaluation, or as part of the determination of impacts on the manatee in an environmental document prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, will expedite the Service's review of the document for the fulfillment of requirements under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. These measures include:

- 1. The project manager and/or contractor will inform all personnel associated with the project that manatees may be present in the project area, and the need to avoid any harm to these endangered mammals. The project manager will ensure that all construction personnel know the general appearance of the species and their habit of moving about completely or partially submerged in shallow water. All construction personnel will be informed that they are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatees.
- 2. The project manager and/or the contractor will advise all construction personnel that

there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

- 3. If a manatee is seen within 100 yards of the active construction and/or dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions will be implemented to ensure protection of the manatee. These precautions will include the immediate shutdown of moving equipment if a manatee comes within 50 feet of the operational area of the equipment. Activities will not resume until the manatee has departed the project area on its own volition (i.e., it may not be herded or harassed from the area).
- 4. Any collision with and/or injury to a manatee will be reported immediately. The report must be made to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (ph. 919.856.4520 ext. 16), the National Marine Fisheries Service (ph. 252.728.8762), and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (ph. 252.448.1546).
- 5. A sign will be posted in all vessels associated with the project where it is clearly visible to the vessel operator. The sign should state:

CAUTION: The endangered manatee may occur in these waters during the warmer months, primarily from June through October. Idle speed is required if operating this vessel in shallow water during these months. All equipment must be shut down if a manatee comes within 50 feet of the vessel or operating equipment. A collision with and/or injury to the manatee must be reported immediately to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (919-856-4520 ext. 16), the National Marine Fisheries Service (252.728.8762), and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (252.448.1546).

- 6. The contractor will maintain a log detailing sightings, collisions, and/or injuries to manatees during project activities. Upon completion of the action, the project manager will prepare a report which summarizes all information on manatees encountered and submit the report to the Service's Raleigh Field Office.
- 7. All vessels associated with the construction project will operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- 8. If siltation barriers must be placed in shallow water, these barriers will be: (a) made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled; (b) secured in a manner that they cannot break free and entangle manatees; and, (c) regularly monitored to ensure that manatees have not become entangled. Barriers will be placed in a manner to allow manatees entry to or exit from essential habitat.

Figure 1. The whole body of the West Indian manatee may be visible in clear water; but in the dark and muddy waters of coastal North Carolina, one normally sees only a small part of the head when the manatee raises its nose to breathe.

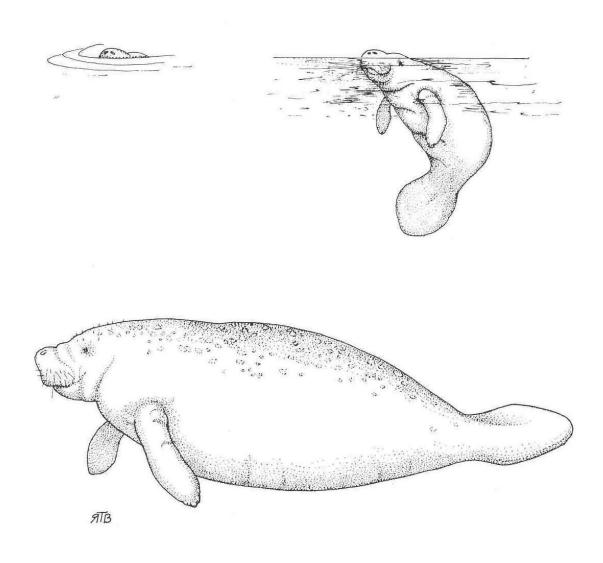


Illustration used with the permission of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences. Source: Clark, M. K. 1987. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Fauna of North Carolina: Part I. A re-evaluation of the mammals. Occasional Papers of the North Carolina Biological Survey 1987-3. North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences. Raleigh, NC. pp. 52.

From: Fritz Rohde - NOAA Federal < <a href="mailto:ritz.rohde@noaa.gov">ritz.rohde@noaa.gov</a>>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 3:30 PM **To:** Cashin, Gordon E < gcashin@ncdot.gov>

Subject: [External] Re: US 64 bridge over Alligator River, Dare and Tyrell Counties

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.

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I sure am getting tired of working out of my tiny apartment in Morehead City! 

Nothing has changed regarding the sturgeon occurrence or rather lack of in that river.. Still MANLAA

Take care Fritz

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 3:26 PM Cashin, Gordon E <gcashin@ncdot.gov> wrote:

Fritz,

As you know, this bridge was part of a large widening project on US 64 from Columbia to Mann's Harbor, TIP R-2544 & R-2545. NCDOT has revised plans to replace just the bridge. We are getting ready to start updating the natural resource information within a much smaller study area around the LEDPA from the project EIS. The goal is to complete a CE for just the bridge replacement.

Coordination took place with yourself and St. Petersburg regarding both sturgeon species in the 2012-2014 timeframe. I believe things were left at MANLAA, due to Alligator River not being critical habitat, and there not being any known occurrences of either species near the project. Is there any updated information about sturgeon in the area? Can you think of anything else we need to be thinking about as we get this ball rolling again?

I don't have ready access to all our documents working from home, but can dig them up if you need anything.

I hope you are keeping well in these crazy times,

Gordon Cashin

Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.



June 7, 2021

Mr. Tyler Stanton North Carolina Department of Transportation 1020 Birch Ridge Drive Raleigh, NC 27610

Re: HB-0001 – US 64 Replacement of Bridge Number 7 over Alligator River - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Survey Findings Report May 2021

Dear Mr. Stanton,

RK&K is pleased to provide you with this findings-report from the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) survey for the HB-0001 bridge project for May 2021. Biologists assessed the study area on May 26, 2021.

#### **Project Area Description**

The proposed bridge project is located over the Alligator River at the Tyrrell (west) and Dare (east) county boundary. The proposed bridge project study area spans 4.83 miles. The SAV study area spans the open water and is approx. 3.17 miles long and 500 feet wide (Figure 1). Throughout the project study area, water depths range from the shoreline (0 foot) to approximately -10 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). The substrate within the project area consists of sand and hard bottom. The west side area immediately adjacent to the shoreline had 90%+ coverage of root mass, stumps, logs, and debris. This area was assessed; however, habitat was very limited. The east side had large open areas of sandy/hard bottom substrate with scattered root mass, stumps, logs, and debris.

# **Project Methodology**

A survey to determine presents or absence of sub-aquatic vegetation (SAV) was performed within the SAV study area beginning at the shoreline and extending out to -6 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) levels. This survey was performed utilizing marine sonar imaging and side-scan technology along with snorkeling and tactile methods. The in-water survey time consisted of 6 man hours.

Pre-fieldwork assessment of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality SAV data layer (1981-2015) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Estuarine Benthic Cover GIS data layer was used to determine potential locations of SAV beds. No historical data recorded within the SAV study area (Figure 3).

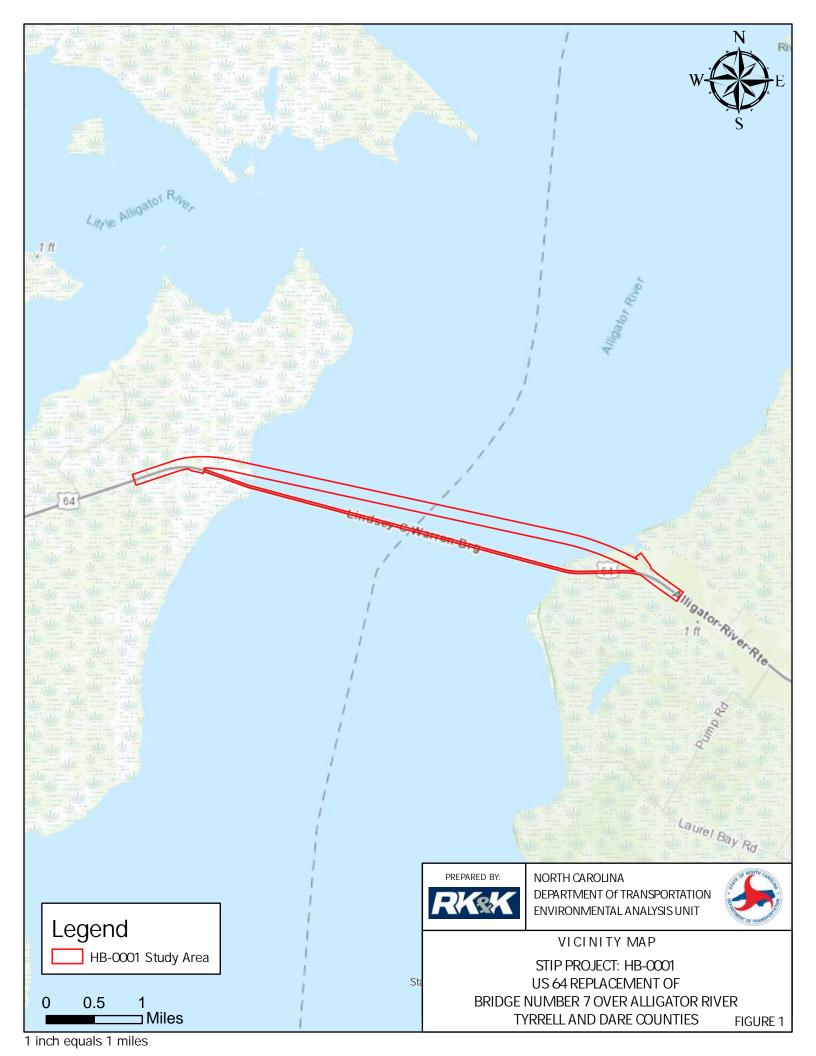
#### **Project Results**

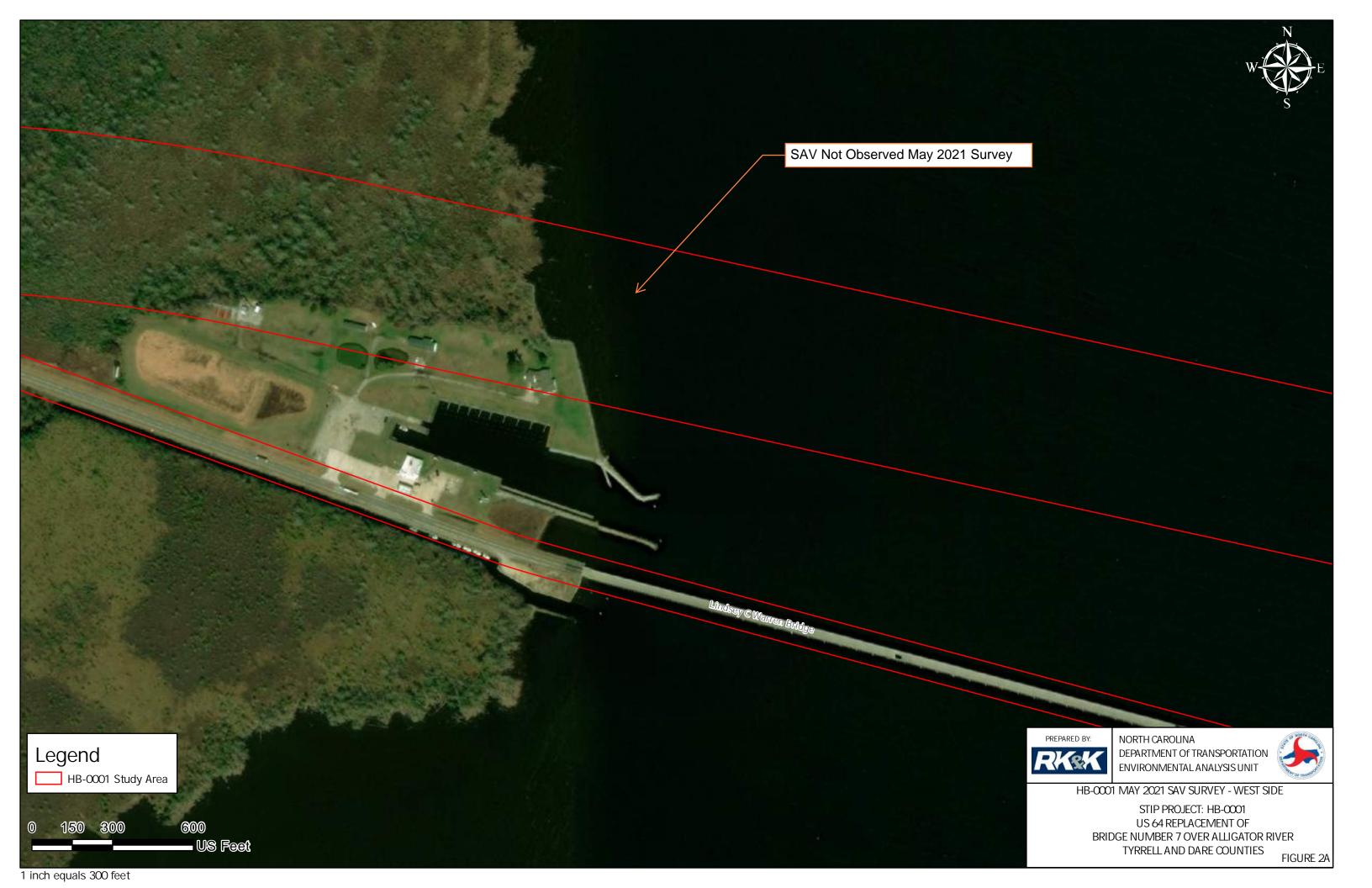
No live and/or rooted SAV was located within the project study area. Dead SAV was observed floating on the water surface and washed ashore. In consideration of local SAV presence, potentially within 1-mile of the project area, it is recommended that future surveys be conducted.

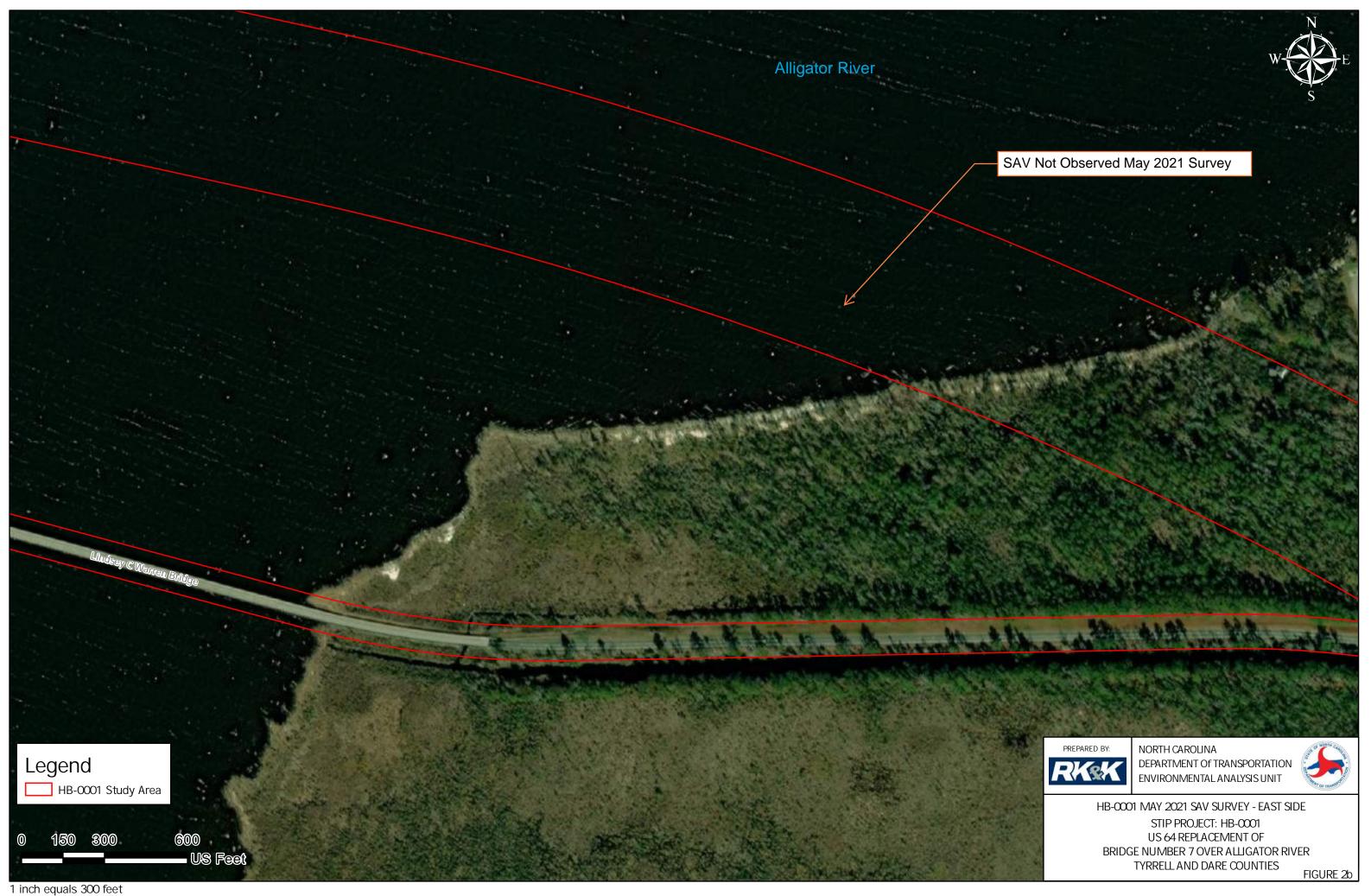
Please let us know if you have any questions concerning our findings. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with these services.

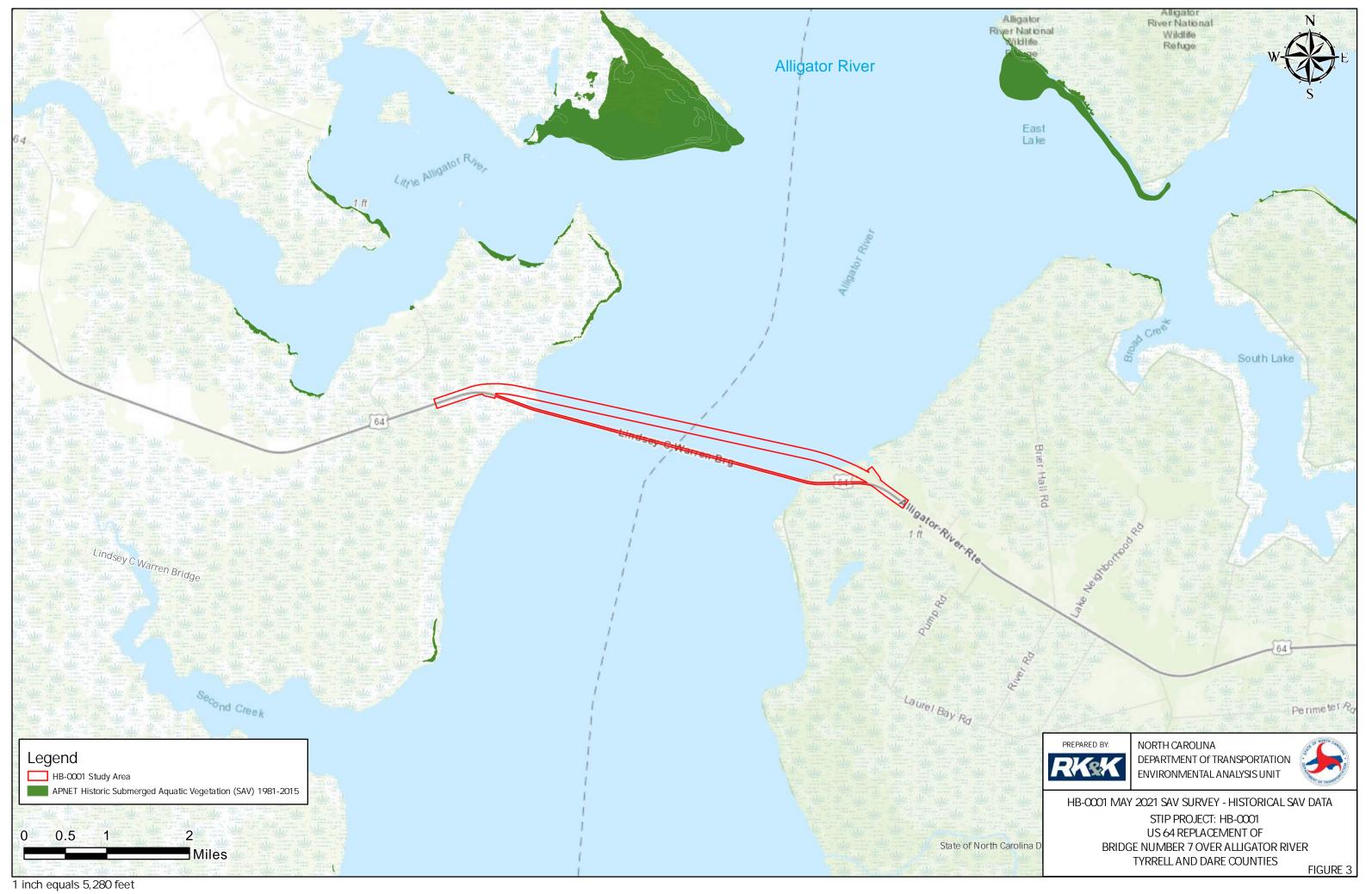
Sincerely,

Pete Stafford, PWS









# MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER FOR

# REPLACEMENT OF TYRRELL COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 7 ON US 64 OVER THE ALLIGATOR RIVER IN TYRRELL AND DARE COUNTIES NORTH CAROLINA NCDOT TIP HB-0001 FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. NHPB-0001(156)

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has determined that Transportation Improvement Project HB-0001 - the replacement of the structurally deficient, two-lane Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7/Lindsey C. Warren Bridge on US 64 over the Alligator River in Tyrrell and Dare Counties (the Undertaking) will have an adverse effect upon Bridge No. 7, a swing-span bridge determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (historic property); and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has consulted with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the SHPO and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on June 2, 2016, for the Proposed Widening of US 64 from 0.9 Miles East of Columbia to US 64 near Manns Harbor (R-2544/R-2545) and Replacement of Bridge No. 7 (HB-0001) in Tyrell and Dare Counties; and

WHEREAS, since the signing of the 2016 MOA, NCDOT has decided to only proceed with HB-0001; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding for the Undertaking has changed from state to federal, making FHWA the lead federal agency; and

WHEREAS, NCDOT has participated in the consultation and been invited by FHWA and the SHPO to be a signatory to this MOA; and

WHEREAS, FHWA has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) of the adverse effect and the Council has declined to comment or participate in the consultation,

**NOW, THEREFORE,** FHWA, NCDOT, and the North Carolina SHPO, agree that the Undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations to take into account the effects of the Undertaking on the historic property.

#### **STIPULATIONS**

The FHWA and NCDOT will ensure that the following measures are carried out:

# I. Photographic Recordation

Prior to the initiation of construction, NCDOT will record the existing conditions of the Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7/Lindsey C. Warren Bridge in accordance with the attached Historic Structures and Landscape Recordation Plan (Appendix A). The SHPO will have ten (10) days in which to comment on the adequacy of the recordation. If the SHPO does not respond within the ten (10) days, the documentation will be considered acceptable. Copies of the documentation will be deposited in the files of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) and NCDOT's Historic Architecture Group.

# II. Design of Replacement Structure and Decorative Panels

NCDOT will ensure the following elements are incorporated into the design and construction of the new bridge:

- 1. Two-bar metal rail.
- 2. Four stand-alone, decorative panels and their support structures, placed within the bridge approaches at the four corners of the bridge and behind the guardrail, the specifications for these are as follows:
  - a. Each panel shall be no smaller than the four feet by five feet.
  - b. The panels shall be made of stainless steel or other material that is easily maintained and durable.
  - c. The panels shall be traffic-facing.
  - d. Each panel shall feature a unique artistic rendering of the animals found in the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge or surrounding area for which NCDOT has taken or will take extra measures to protect them and/or their habitat.
  - e. The design, materials, and installation of the panels and support structures will be in keeping with NCDOT's current public art policy.
  - f. The NCDOT Project Manager will coordinate with HPO and the USFWS's Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge on the artwork for the panels.
  - g. Draft artwork, renderings, and plans shall be reviewed and agreed upon by the signatories prior to approval of the final panel artwork, manufacture, and installation of the panels.

## **III. Unanticipated Discoveries**

A. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.11(a), if NCDOT identifies additional cultural resource(s) during construction and determines them to be eligible for the NRHP, all work shall halt within the limits of the NRHP-eligible resource(s) and the FHWA and North Carolina SHPO contacted. If after consultation with the Signatories additional mitigation is determined necessary, the NCDOT, in consultation with the Signatories, will develop and implement appropriate protection/mitigation measures for the resource(s).

B. Inadvertent or accidental discovery of human remains will be handled in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes 65 and 70.

# IV. Dispute Resolution

Should any of the Parties to this Agreement object within (30) days to any plans or documentation provided for review pursuant to this MOA, the FHWA shall consult with the objecting party(ies) to resolve the objection. If the FHWA or the objecting party(ies) determines that the objection cannot be resolved, the FHWA will forward all documentation relevant to the dispute to the Council. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of all pertinent documentation, the Council will either:

- 1. Provide the FHWA with recommendations, which the FHWA will take into account in reaching a final decision regarding the dispute, or
- 2. Notify the FHWA that it will comment pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.7(c) and proceed to comment. Any Council comment provided in response to such a request will be taken into account by the FHWA in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.7(c)(4) with reference to the subject of the dispute.

Any recommendations or comments provided by the Council will be understood to pertain only to the subject of the dispute; the FHWA's responsibility to carry out all the actions under this agreement that are not the subject of the dispute will remain unchanged.

## V. Amendments

Should any of the Signatories to this MOA believe that its terms cannot be carried out or that an amendment to the terms must be made, that party(ies) shall immediately consult with the other party(ies) to develop amendments in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(c)(7). If an amendment cannot be agreed upon, the dispute resolution process set forth in Stipulation IV will be followed.

#### VI. Termination

Any of the Signatories may terminate the MOA by providing notice to the other parties, provided that the parties consult during the period prior to termination to seek agreement on amendments or other actions that would avoid termination. Termination of this MOA will require compliance with 36 CFR 800. This MOA may be terminated by the execution of a subsequent MOA that explicitly terminates or supersedes its terms.

#### VII. Duration

Unless terminated pursuant to Stipulation VI above, this MOA will be in effect until FHWA, in consultation with the other Signatories, determines that all its terms have satisfactorily been fulfilled or if NCDOT is unable or decides not to construct the Undertaking.

Execution of this MOA by FHWA, NCDOT, and the North Carolina SHPO, its subsequent filing with the Council and implementation of its terms is evidence that FHWA has afforded the Council an opportunity to comment on the Undertaking, and that FHWA has taken into account the effects of the Undertaking on the historic property.

# Federal Highway Administration By: Olaren V. Olenan J. for John F. Sullivan III, P.E. Date: \_\_\_8/31/2021

**Division Administrator** 

**AGREE:** 

# **AGREE:**

**North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer** 

Ramona Bartos

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

# **AGREE:**

North Carolina Department of Transportation		
By: Philip S. Harris III	Date:	8/31/2021
Phillip S. Harris, P.E.	-	
Environment Analysis Unit Head		
North Carolina Department of Transportation		

FILED:	
By:	Date:
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	

#### APPENDIX A

# Historic Structures and Landscape Recordation Plan For The Replacement of Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7 Tyrrell County North Carolina NCDOT TIP HB-0001

# **Photographic Requirements**

- Representative pictures of the Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7/ Lindsay Warren Bridge
  including elevation and oblique views of the swing span, mechanics of the wingspan,
  and the controller booth.
- Drone photographs showing the bridge within its setting and details of the swing span, its mechanics, and operator's booth seen from above the river, itself.

# **Photographic Format**

- Color digital images (all views) shot with a SLR digital camera with a minimum resolution of 6 megabyte pixels, at a high quality (preferably RAW) setting, to be saved in TIF format as the archival masters and labeled according to the State Historic Preservation Office standards.
- Drone photographic standards if different from above
- File names for each image should follow the format:

# SS# ResourceName DateofPhoto InitialsofPhotog-FrameNo.tif.

- Printed inventory (photolog) of the images should be provided as a table with the file name and description for each image including subject, location, date, and photographer information for each image.
- Contact sheets should be printed on premium quality, bright white paper (24lb) or photo paper with a maximum of nine images per sheet. The back of the contact sheet should have the following information written in archival black ink.

**NCDOT TIP#** 

NCHPO ER#

**NCDOT Photorecordation for MOA** 

**Survey Site Number and Name of Property** 

**Road Name** 

Vicinity or Town

**County** 

## Photographer's Name and Date of Photography

- A labeled map with a key to the shots and photographs should be included in the documentation.
- The individual images, photolog, and map should be saved electronically on compact disc labeled similar to the contact sheets.

## **Copies and Curation**

• One (1) set of all above mentioned photographic documentation, including the compact disc of labeled images, will be deposited with the North Carolina Office of

Archives and History/Historic Preservation Office to be made a permanent part of the statewide survey and iconographic collection.

• One (1) set of contact sheets shall be deposited in the files of the NCDOT's Historic Architecture Group.

Onsite Wetland Mitigation Plan Replacement of Alligator River Bridge Tyrell/Dare Counties TIP HB-0001 WBS No. 49475.1.1 June 16, 2023

# **1.0 BASELINE INFORMATION**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace the 2.83-milelong Lindsay C. Warren bridge number 7 on U.S.64 over the Alligator River in Tyrrell and Dare Counties (TIP Project HB-0001). The bridge replacement will replace the existing swing-span bridge with a modern two-lane, fixed span, high-rise bridge on new location just north of the existing bridge (Figure 1). HB-0001 will span approximately 4.6 miles in length.

HB-0001 is located within the Pasquotank River basin, Hydrologic Unit 03010205, the coastal plain physiographic region of North Carolina. The topography within the project vicinity is flat to very gently sloping, with level floodplains along the Alligator River. Elevations within the study area range from 0ft to 10ft above sea level, and areas near the shoreline of Alligator River are subject to lunar and wind tides. Land use in the project vicinity consists primarily of vast wetlands associated with the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge and other conservation properties, along with a few residential homes near US 64 and water access facilities for recreational and commercial uses.

Within the study area of HB-0001, only one drainage canal and two types of jurisdictional wetlands were identified. The chosen alternative for this project will permanently impact 0.050 acres of Coastal Marsh wetlands along with 10.73 acres of Riparian Wetlands.

# 2.0 SITE SELECTION

HB-0001 was reviewed for potential onsite wetland restoration along portions of the existing causeway of US 64 which will be abandoned. On the west side of the Alligator River, approximately 0.15 miles (0.75 acres) of existing causeway will be abandoned (Figure 2a). On the east side, approximately 0.70 miles (7.50 acres) will be abandoned (Figure 2b). Once closed to traffic, causeway fill material can be removed, and the corridor returned to the natural elevations of the adjacent wetlands.

Extensive wetlands occur throughout the existing US 64 corridor outside of NCDOT Right-of-Way. Natural wetland communities tend to occur as gradual gradients between Tidal Freshwater Marsh near the shoreline of Alligator River and Riverine Swamp Forest farther from the shoreline. Tidal Freshwater Marsh communities are more frequently subjected to tidal flooding and are vegetated with tall grasses and herbs such as black needlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*), sawgrass (*Cladium mariscoides*), smooth rush (*Juncus effusus*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), and phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), with a few scattered woody stems. These communities

transition gradually to Riverine Swamp Forest with increasing woody stem height and density, as flooding frequency diminishes. Riverine Swamp Forest communities are dominated by trees and shrubs, such as pond pine (*Pinus serotina*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), and wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*).

NCDOT is proposing to restore this natural wetland community gradient by removing the existing causeway on abandoned portions of US 64 to match the elevations of the adjacent wetlands. The existing natural wetlands adjacent to the fill slopes ranged in elevation from approximately 0-1 feet above mean sea level, with the Tidal Freshwater Marshes tending to occur at the lower end of this gradient (up to approximately 0.75 feet msl) and the Riverine Swamp Forests occurring at the upper end of the wetland elevation gradient. The existing causeway elevation of US 64 ranges from approximately 2-3 feet above mean sea level, which will necessitate the removal of approximately 35,000 cubic yards of material. Determination of the final target elevations of the wetland communities and the quantities of fill material to be removed will be calculated during the design phase, once detailed elevation surveys are completed.

# **3.0 SITE PROTECTION INSTRUMENT**

The proposed mitigation site is located within the current NCDOT Right-of-Way for US 64. After US 64 is realigned for HB-0001, abandoned portions of the US 64 corridor will be blocked from continued transportation use. While under NCDOT ownership, NCDOT will manage the site to prohibit all use inconsistent with its use as mitigation property, including any activity that would materially alter the biological integrity or functional and educational value of the site, consistent with the mitigation plan. Several permit agencies (NCDCM, USACE, NCDWR) have recommended that the eastern portion of the proposed mitigation site be transferred to the adjacent Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge after close-out. NCDOT will pursue this option following site close-out, assuming that USFWS is amenable and that there are no legal impediments to transfer. Proposed causeway removal on the western side of HB-0001 is adjacent to private property. NCDOT will be required to protect the mitigation site in perpetuity by virtue of the HB-0001 permit authorizing impacts to jurisdictional wetlands. Therefore, should NCDOT transfer the mitigation site to a third-party recipient, protection measures will be enacted to guarantee that the site's wetland functions and values are maintained.

The site is designated on the plan sheets as a mitigation area and will be placed on the Environmental Analysis Unit Mitigation GeoDatabase. This database is provided to all NCDOT personnel as a record of mitigation sites and their attributes, including location and prohibited activities.

# **4.0 OBJECTIVES**

The goal of this mitigation project is to remove approximately 35,000 cubic yards of fill material from portions of the existing US 64 corridor to restore Tidal Freshwater Marsh and Riverine

Swamp Forest wetlands. Preliminary estimates indicate that approximately 0.50 acres of Tidal Freshwater Marsh wetland and 7.75 acres of Riverine Swamp Forest wetlands can be restored, though precise natural community boundaries may be difficult to define given the gradual hydrologic transition which characterizes the area. Final quantities and determination of restored area will be refined during project design, monitoring, and close-out. Overall, removing fill material from the existing causeways will allow NCDOT to offset approximately 8.25 acres of the wetland impacts associated with HB-0001 at the actual impact site. Once construction for the new bridge has been completed, traffic will be removed from the existing highway, the fill material will be graded down to the target wetland elevation, and the site will be planted with native species representative of the natural wetland community. Restored wetland community gradients will be reflective of the impact areas of HB-0001 and the adjacent wetlands outside of the ROW.

# 5.0 MITIGATION WORK PLAN

The restoration site will be constructed in conjunction with TIP HB-0001, once the bridge is completed and traffic diverted to the new facility. The designated restoration areas along the abandoned US 64 corridor will be graded to match target elevations of the adjacent wetland communities. As such, target elevations for the restoration area will exhibit a gradual elevation gradient from lower sections near Alligator River to higher sections farther away. Final target elevations for excavation will be determined during the design phase. In addition, the NCDOT Geotechnical Unit will perform borings to determine the characteristics of the substrate material at the proposed target elevations. If it is determined that the subsurface material at this elevation is inappropriate for planting, additional grading may be necessary to undercut the restoration area and backfill with suitable topsoil to the target elevation of the adjacent wetland communities. If needed, NCDOT will coordinate any proposed undercutting with the permit agencies during the design phase of the proposed mitigation project.

Areas targeted for Tidal Freshwater Marsh wetlands based on adjacent natural community vegetation will be planted on 3 ft. centers with marsh grass plugs at a density of 4,840 plants per acre. Species planted will be black needle rush (*Juncus roemerianus*), smooth cord grass (*Spartina alterniflora*), and salt meadow cordgrass (*Spartina patens*), depending upon availability.

Areas targeted for Riverine Swamp Forest wetlands will be planted 6 feet to 10 feet with random spacing averaging 8 feet on center. Approximately 680 trees per acre will be planted. Species planted will include (based on availability) pond pine (*Pinus serotina*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), overcup oak (*Quercus lyrate*), swamp black gum (*Nyssa biflora*), and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*).

Invasive phragmites is present in wetland communities outside of NCDOT Right-of-Way and may encroach on the mitigation site following construction. NCDOT will attempt to control phragmites during the monitoring period to limit its prevalence on the site and to enhance the survival of planted target species. However, complete control of phragmites is likely to be unrealistic during the monitoring period and especially after close-out.

# **6.0 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

The vegetation component of the Tidal Freshwater Marsh wetlands will be deemed successful if the following criteria are met:

- 1) At year five, the average of all vegetative monitoring plots should have a scale value of 5 (>75% vegetative cover) consisting of wetland herbaceous species, not including any invasive species.
- 2) A minimum of 70% of the plots shall contain the target (planted) species.

The vegetation component of the Riverine Swamp Forest wetlands will be deemed successful based on the survival rate of planted seedlings. A 320 stems per acre survival criterion for planted seedlings will be used to determine success for the first three years. The required survival criterion will decrease by 10% each year after the third year of vegetation monitoring (i.e. for an expected 290 stems per acre for year 4 and 260 stems per acre for year 5).

# 7.0 MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

# 7.1 Tidal Freshwater Marsh Monitoring

The monitoring requirements for the Tidal Freshwater Marsh portions of the restoration site will follow the National Marine Fisheries Service guidance, which is as follows:

Target elevations will be verified during construction to ensure the restoration area achieves the same hydrologic regime as the adjacent Tidal Freshwater Marsh wetlands. The quantitative marsh vegetation monitoring will be accomplished in accordance with the draft guidelines for "Site Monitoring Surveys for Emergent Marsh Mitigation", established by the National Marine Fisheries Service, through the evaluation of randomly distributed 1 square meter plots located by GPS within the site.

NCDOT will perform the monitoring described above for five years or until the site is deemed successful.

## 7.2 Riverine Swamp Forest Monitoring

The monitoring requirements of the Riverine Swamp Forest portions of the restoration site will be as follows:

Target elevations will be verified during construction to ensure that the restoration area achieves the same hydrologic regime as the adjacent Riverine Swamp Forest. The quantitative forest

vegetation monitoring will be accomplished utilizing fifty feet by fifty feet (50' x 50') monitoring plots that will be established upon completion of the site grading and planting.

NCDOT will monitor the site for a minimum of five years or until the site is deemed successful.

# **8.0 OTHER INFORMATION**

N/A

# 9.0 DETERMINATION OF CREDITS

NCDOT is proposing to offset approximately 8.25 acres of wetland impacts with coastal marsh/riparian wetland restoration as mitigation for some of the permanent wetland impacts associated with HB-0001. Final credit quantities will be refined through the design, monitoring, and close-out phases of the project. An as-built report will be submitted within 60 days of completion of the project. The final determination of amount of mitigation will be based upon successful completion of the monitoring requirements and meeting of the performance standards.

# 9.1 CREDIT RELEASE SCHEDULE

NCDOT proposes immediate, full release of the proposed wetland restoration credits as on-site mitigation for some wetland impacts associated with HB-0001. Final credit quantities will be approved at project close-out.

# 10.0 GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA

NCDOT proposes to use the restoration credits exclusively as onsite wetland mitigation for HB-0001.

## 11.0 MAINTENANCE PLAN

Once monitoring is completed and the site is closed out, it will be placed in the NCDOT Stewardship Program for long term maintenance and protection.

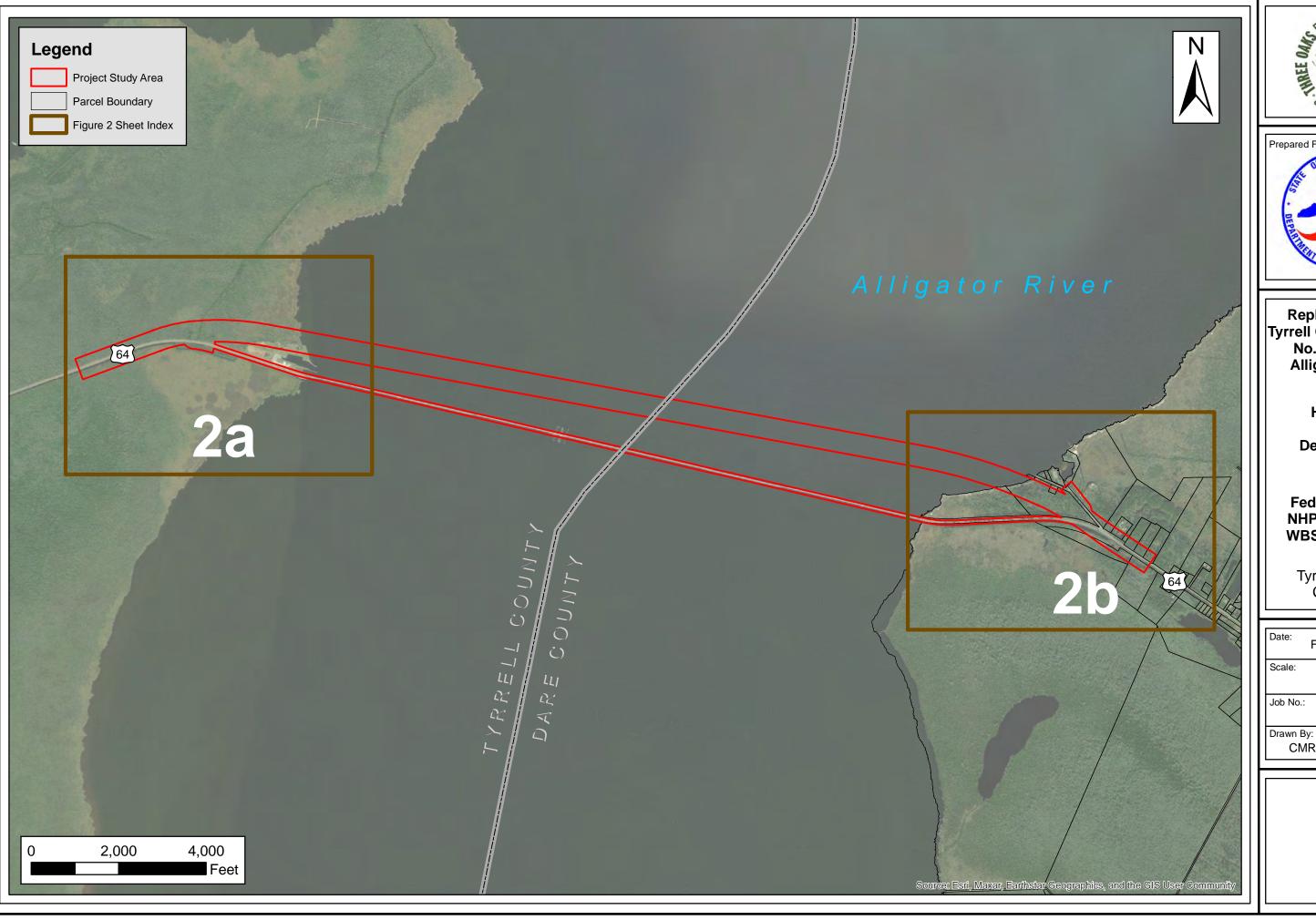
If an appropriate third-party recipient (i.e. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge) is identified in the future, then transfer of the property will include a conservation easement or other measure to protect the natural features and mitigation value of the site in perpetuity.

## 12.0 LONG TERM ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The restoration area will be managed by the NCDOT and protected from impacts according to the mitigation plan. Encroachments into the area will be investigated and appropriate measures taken to minimize any negative effects. In the event that unforeseen issues arise that affect the management or mitigation value, a remediation plan will be developed by NCDOT in coordination with the permit review agencies.

# **13.0 FINANCIAL ASSURANCES**

NCDOT is held by permit conditions associated with HB-0001 to preserve the coastal marsh/riparian wetland restoration area. NCDOT has established funds for each project and within each Division to monitor the mitigation site and to protect it in perpetuity.







Replace U.S. 64 Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7 over the Alligator River.

> HB-0001 **Project** Design Map

Federal Aid No. NHPB-0001(156) WBS # 49475.1.1

Tyrrell & Dare Counties

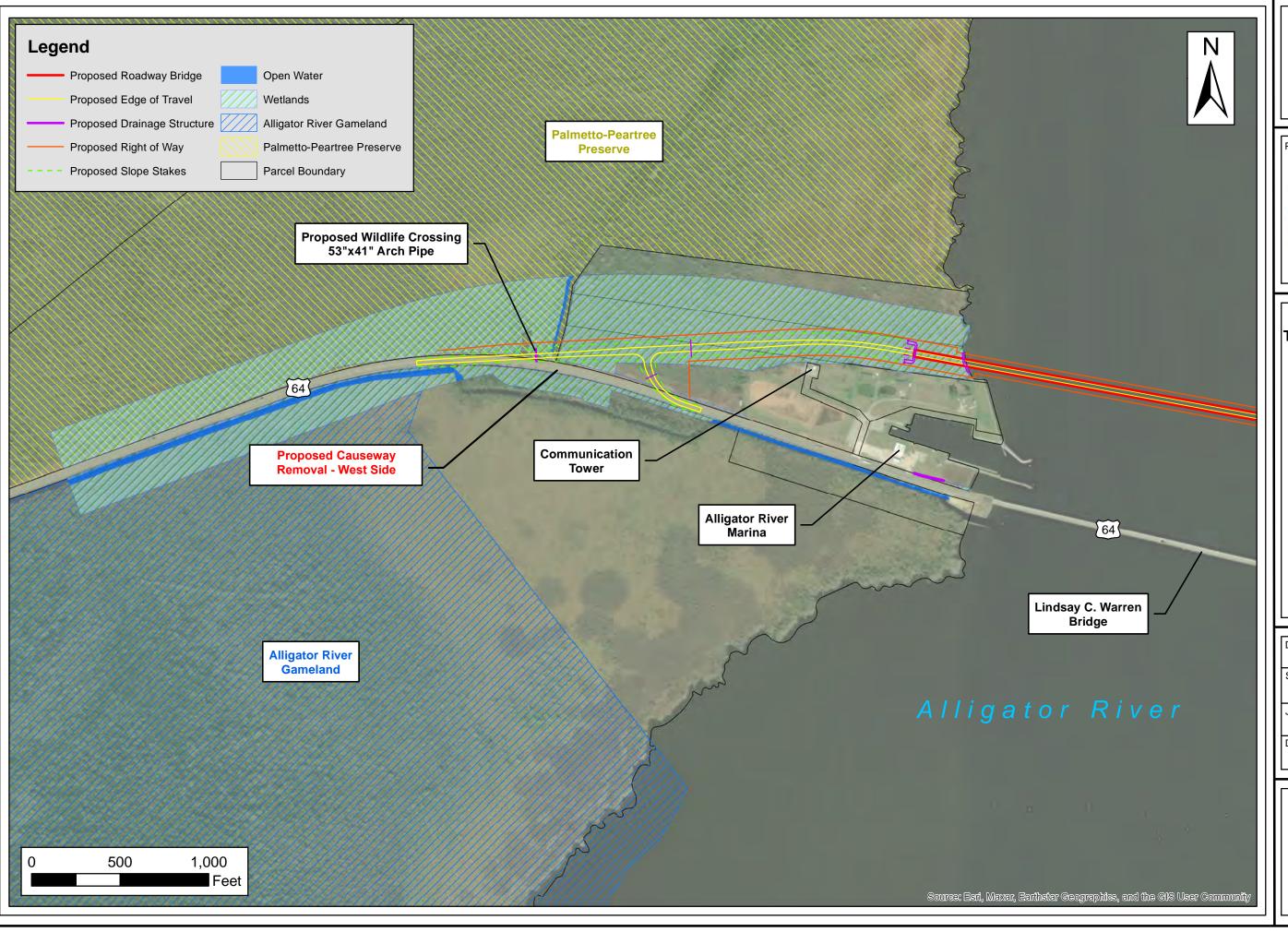
February 2023 Scale: As Shown Job No.: HB-0001

CMR

Figure

Checked By:

JSM







Replace U.S. 64 Tyrrell County Bridge No. 7 over the Alligator River.

> HB-0001 Project Design Map

Federal Aid No. NHPB-0001(156) WBS # 49475.1.1

Tyrrell County

Date: May 2023

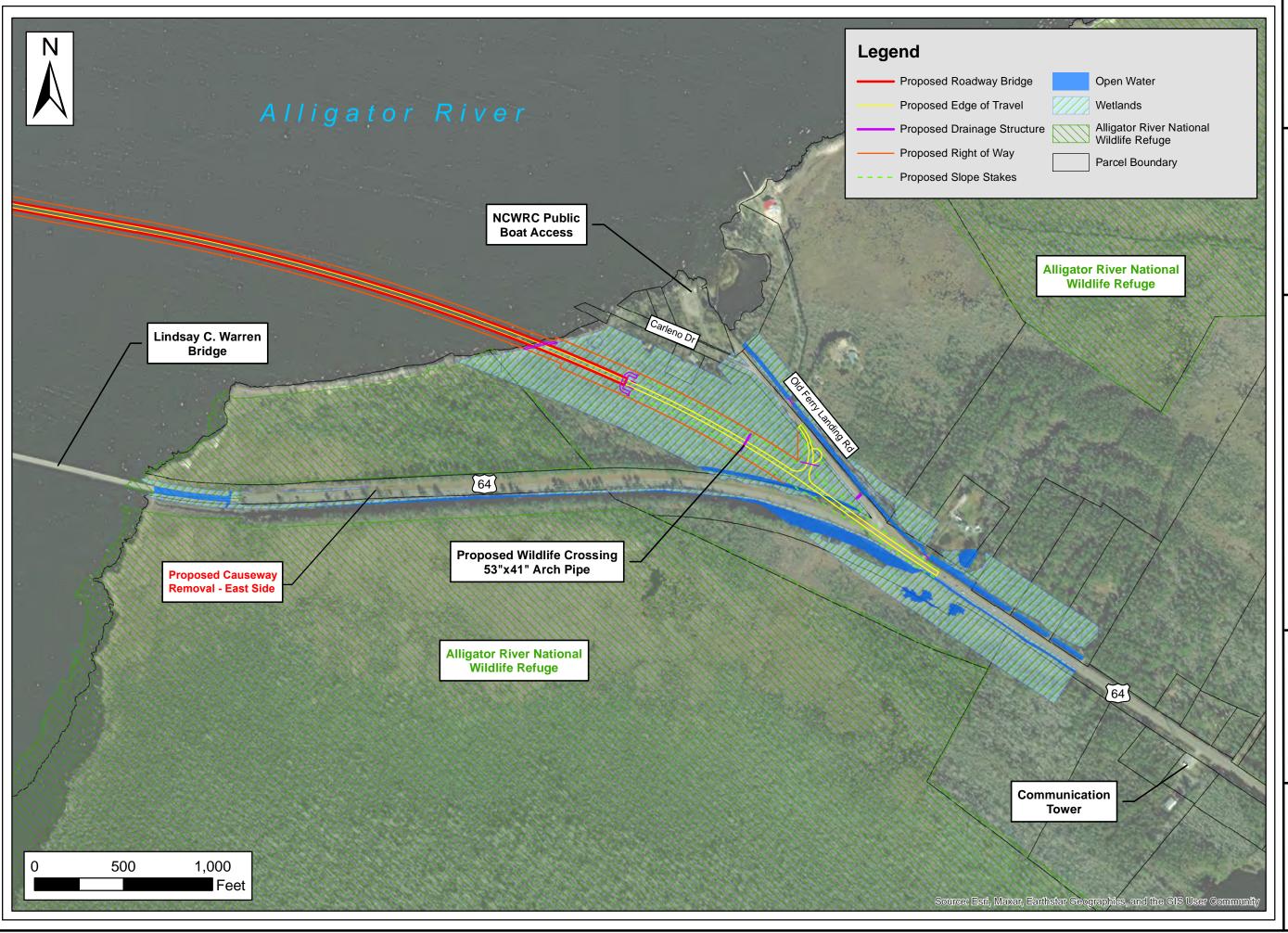
Scale: As Shown

Job No.: HB-0001

Drawn By: Checked By: CMR JSM

Figure

2a







Replace U.S. 64
Tyrrell County Bridge
No. 7 over the
Alligator River.

HB-0001 Project Design Map

Federal Aid No. NHPB-0001(156) WBS # 49475.1.1

Dare County

Date: May 2023

Scale: As Shown

Job No.: HB-0001

Drawn By: Checked By: CMR JSM

Figure 2b