PUBLIC NOTICE



Comment Period Begins: March 26, 2020
Comment Period Ends: April 27, 2020
File Number: NAF-2017-0289

File Number: NAE-2017-0289 In Reply Refer To: Paul Sneeringer

Phone: (978) 318-8491

E-mail: paul.j.sneeringer@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from Joshua Schimmel, Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC), P.O. Box 995, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101. This work is proposed within the Connecticut River from West York Street in Springfield to 250 M Street Extension in Agawam, Massachusetts. Midpoint site coordinates are: Latitude 42.088405° N; Longitude -72.584748° W.

The work involves the installation of temporary structures and dredging within the Connecticut River and the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into the Connecticut River as part of the Connecticut River Sewers Crossing Project in Springfield and Agawam, Massachusetts. The purpose for this project is to install new redundant sewer crossings to the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (SRWTF) on Bondi's Island. This project is a part of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—mandated and approved Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The applicant states that it is critical to achieving the long term environmental benefit goals outlined in that CSO LTCP and the subsequent Integrated Wastewater Plan developed by the Commission.

This project includes the installation of one 72-inch sewer siphon and two 42-inch sewer force mains. The SWSC plans to install a temporary pile-supported 160-foot long by 40-foot wide work trestle extending into the Connecticut River from the Agawam shore line so that barges, construction materials, and dredged materials can be on-loaded and off-loaded. This temporary work trestle will extend approximately 86 linear feet into the Connecticut River and will be removed post-construction. The SWSC will dredge and maintain a sewer pipeline trench as well as a barge channel throughout the construction phase of this project. An estimated 26,500 cubic yards of dredged material will be removed and dewatered/treated (as necessary) at the Bondi's Island dredged material containment site. Water drained from this material will be treated before it is outfalled into the Connecticut River. Bedding stones, a pre-cast concrete revetment mat, and some suitable dredged material will be used to backfill the new sewer pipelines. Remaining portions of dredged material will be deposited at an approved upland disposal site. The entire limits of disturbance, including the upriver angled sturgeon exclusion barrier area is approximately 10.66 acres. Of this approximately 3.38 acres are the primary construction corridor where the dredging and pipe laydown occurs.

The SWSC proposes a phased work schedule, where they will maintain a construction area within one half of the Connecticut River crossing corridor at a time. The contractor will maintain pile-supported exclusion barriers, bubble curtains, etc. around the in-water construction area, in order to exclude sturgeon and other resident fish species from gaining access to the construction area. Steel pilings installed to support the western angled sturgeon exclusion barrier during Phases #1 and #3, will be left in place when the angled sturgeon

exclusion barrier is moved to the eastern half of the river during construction Phases #2 and #2.1. The SWSC proposes to microtunnel the three sewer lines from the NEW upland West York Street pump station, under the Springfield Local Flood Protection Project floodwalls, the Amtrak railroad corridor, and the Springfield bank of the Connecticut River, exiting at a temporary support of excavation area within the Connecticut River. Temporary support structures will also be installed within the Connecticut River along the Agawam shoreline as the sewer lines transition onto the SRWTF on Bondi's Island. All support of excavation structures, including the steel pilings will be removed once construction is complete.

The work is shown on the enclosed plans entitled "SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION – CONNECTICUT RIVER SEWER FORCE MAINS AND INTERCEPTOR CROSSING," on a total of 16 sheets and dated "MARCH 2020".

As part of the development of the Connecticut River Sewers Crossing Project, the SWSC has attempted to minimize direct and secondary impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States. The applicant proposes to restore underwater habitat areas post-construction. The Corps continues our evaluation of whether this project will require compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

XX Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

XX Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

XX Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408)

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (Corps), is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. The Corps will consider all comments received to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines

promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

SECTION 408 AUTHORITY: The authority to grant permission to alter (including temporary or permanent occupation, use or obstruction) any USACE civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 USC 408 ("Section 408"). A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including, but not limited to, any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344). An approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others. A permit pursuant to Section 10 and 404 shall not be granted until the Section 408 permission is issued. Through this public notice we are soliciting information necessary to inform the Corps evaluation and review.

The activities proposed herein will also require permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will permanently alter a Corps federally authorized Civil Works project known as the Connecticut River Floodwall South of Memorial Bridge Levee System. The proposed alteration involves the excavation of an approximately 30-foot-long by 45-foot-wide by 35-foot-deep launching pit approximately 20 feet east of the existing floodwall and mining three tunnels beneath the floodwall from the launching pit using microtunneling methods. One of the tunnels will have a diameter of approximately 96 inches, and the two additional tunnels will each have a diameter of approximately 48 inches. Steel pipes, having similar diameters to the mined tunnels, will be installed within the tunnels as casing pipes for installation of the smaller diameter sewer pipes (as described above). The tunnels will pass beneath the existing floodwall, the railroad tracks east of the floodwall, the riverbank, and terminate beneath the Connecticut River. The microtunneling machine will be removed from beneath the river channel by excavating within the Connecticut River, and the sewer installation will continue from the end of the tunnel to the west side of the river using a dredged excavation. The Section 408 permission is limited to the microtunneling operations beneath the floodwall. The proposed alteration is located as shown on the attached plans (see Sheet 6C).

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision under Section 408 whether to grant the requested permission to alter the USACE civil works project will be based on several factors:

- 1) Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The USACE will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs.
- 2) Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. The proposed alteration will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed alteration will be compared against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to grant permission for the proposed alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks and by the net impact of the alteration has on the public interest.
- 3) Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Essential Fish Habitat describes waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.

This project will impact over 4 acres of EFH. This habitat consists of sandy or cobble dominated sediment. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect species that use these waters and substrate. However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The Corps has reviewed the application for the potential impact on Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and their designated critical habitat pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect a listed species or their critical habitat. We are coordinating with the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on listed species under their jurisdiction and the ESA consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (XX) Permit, license or assent from State.
- (XX) Permit from local wetland agency or conservation commission.
- (XX) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

COMMENTS

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Sneeringer at **(978) 318-8491**, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS **NOT** AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Barbara Newman Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	

SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

CONNECTICUT RIVER SEWER FORCE MAINS AND INTERCEPTOR CROSSING

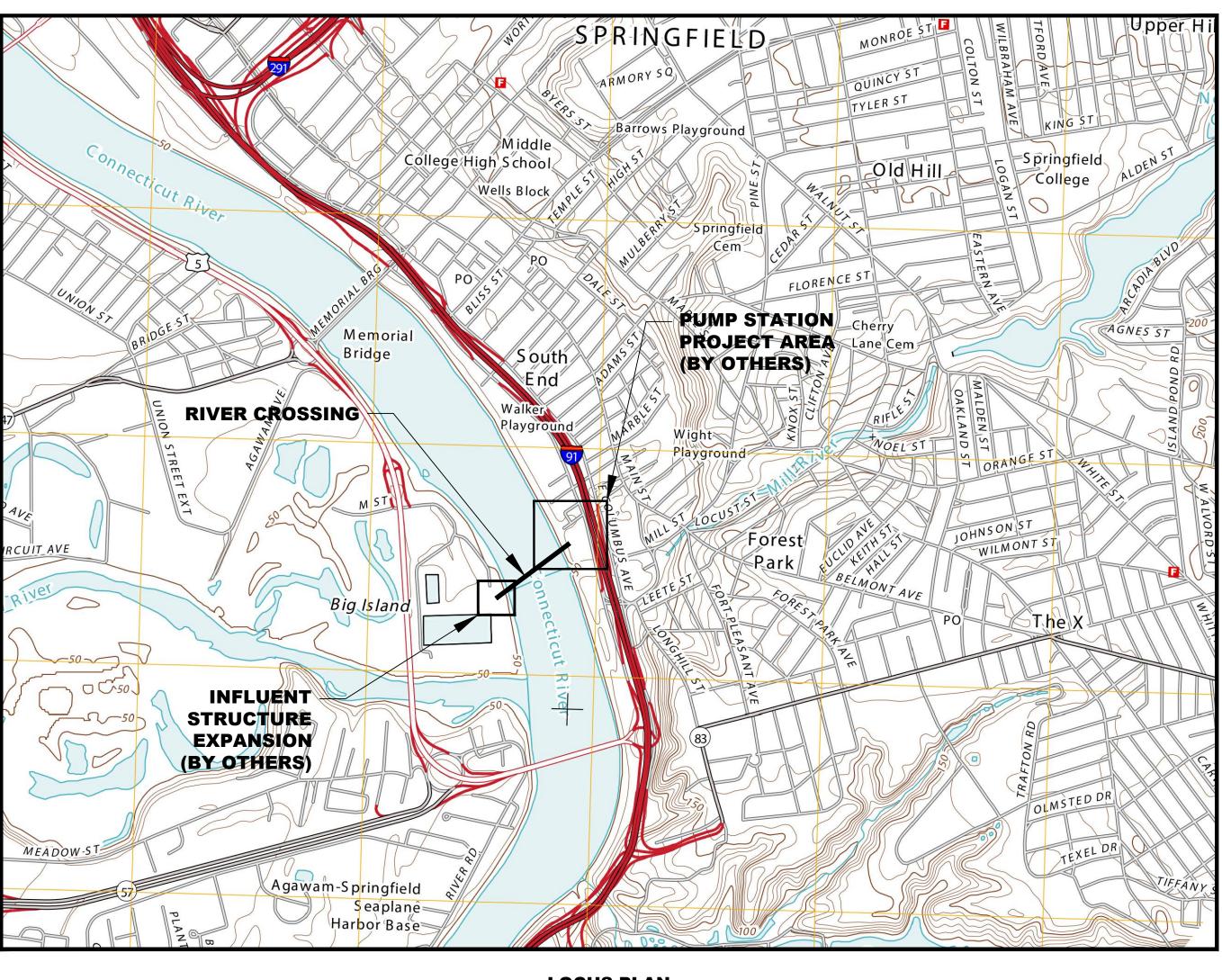
GMP 2 - PERMIT DOCUMENTS

SWSC PROJECT NO. CA-1807-18/CWSRF-4455 MARCH 2020

PROJECT DESIGN TEAM









SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:

VANESSA OTERO, CHAIRPERSON WILLIAM E. LEONARD

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

JOSHUA SCHIMMEL

LOCUS PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

PERMIT SET



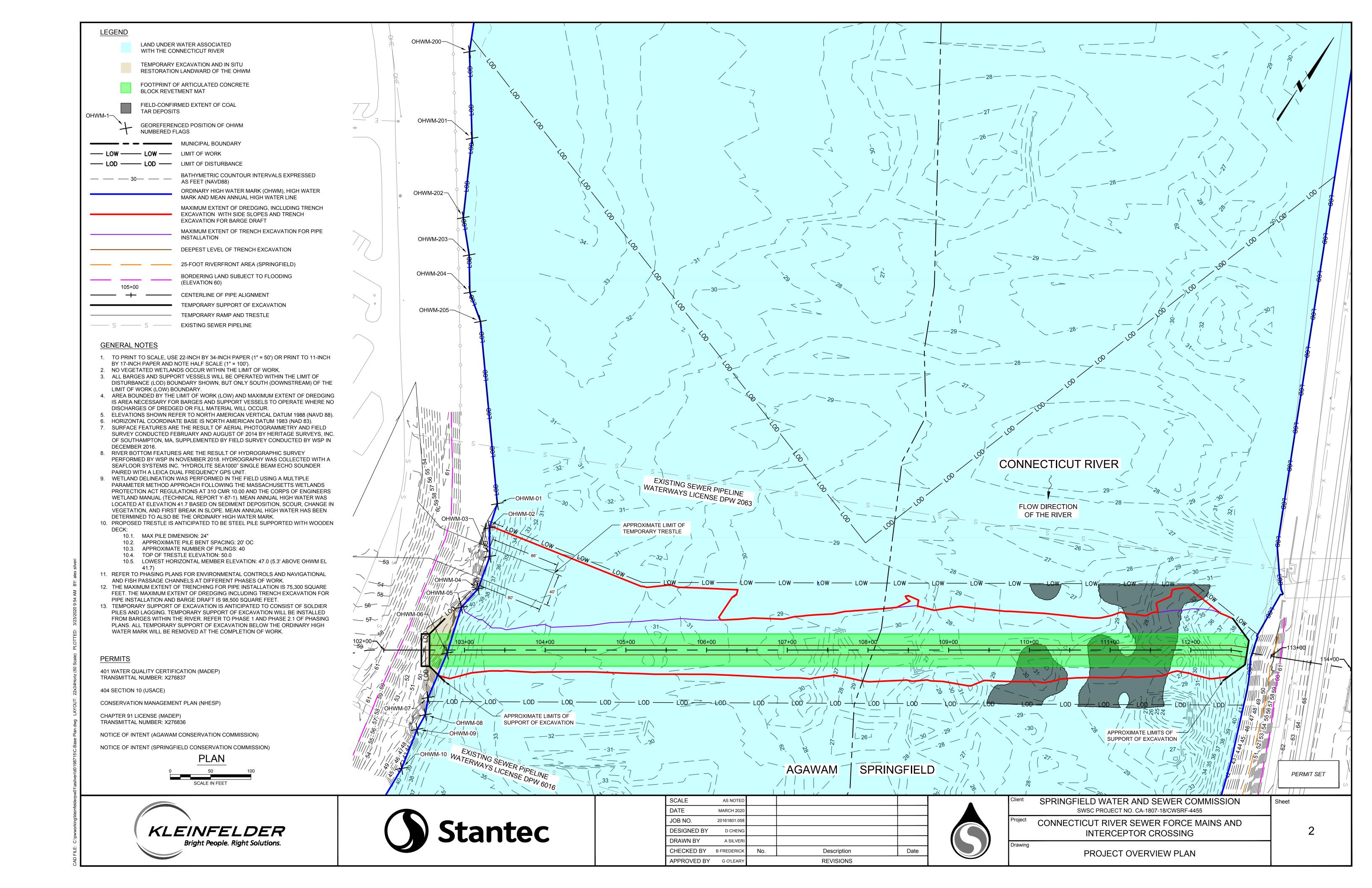


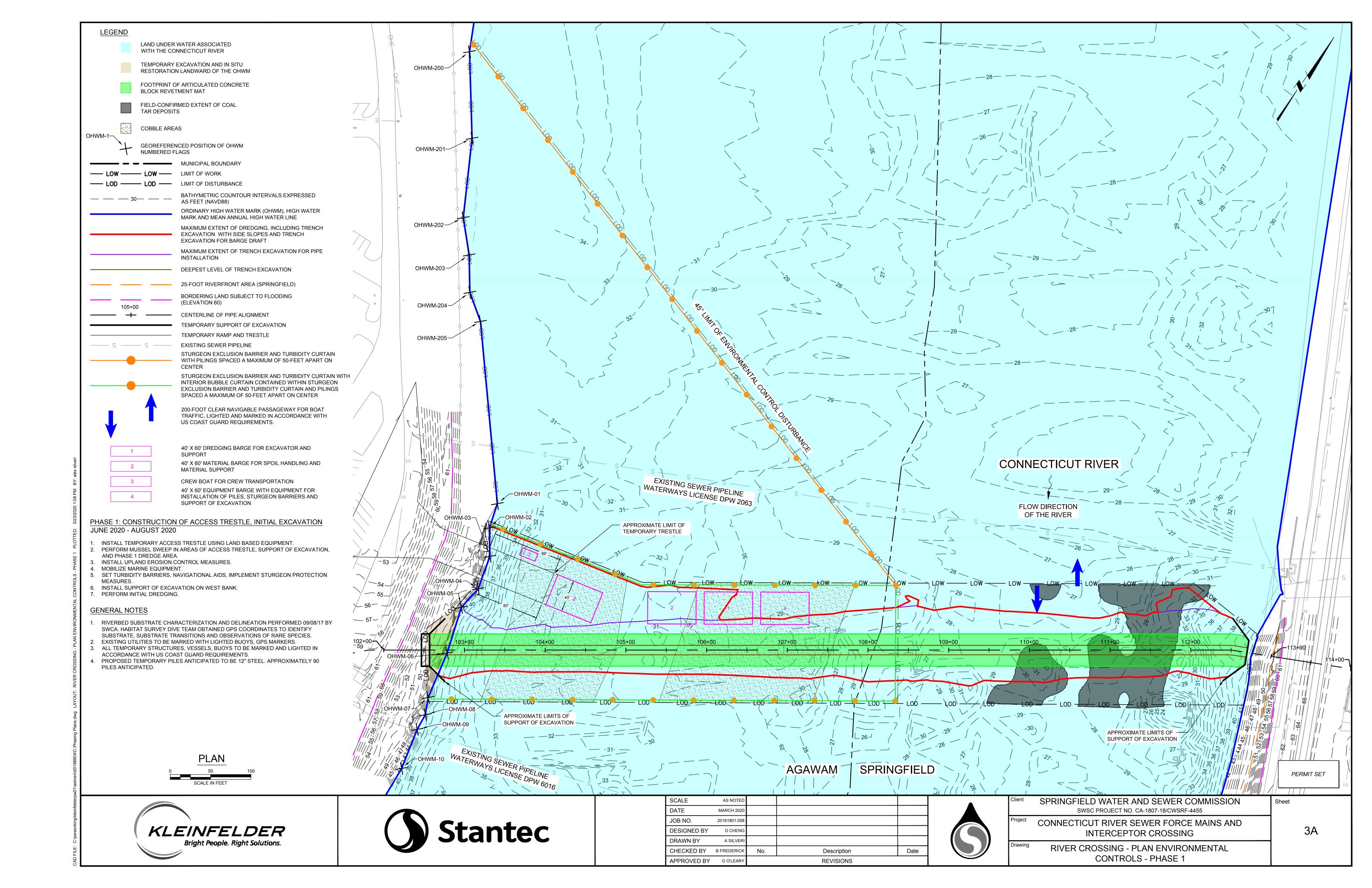
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DATE	MARCH 2020			
JOB NO.	20161801.058			
DESIGNED BY	D CHENG			
DRAWN BY	A SILVERI			
CHECKED BY	B FREDERICK	No.	Description	Date
APPROVED BY	G O'LEARY		REVISIONS	

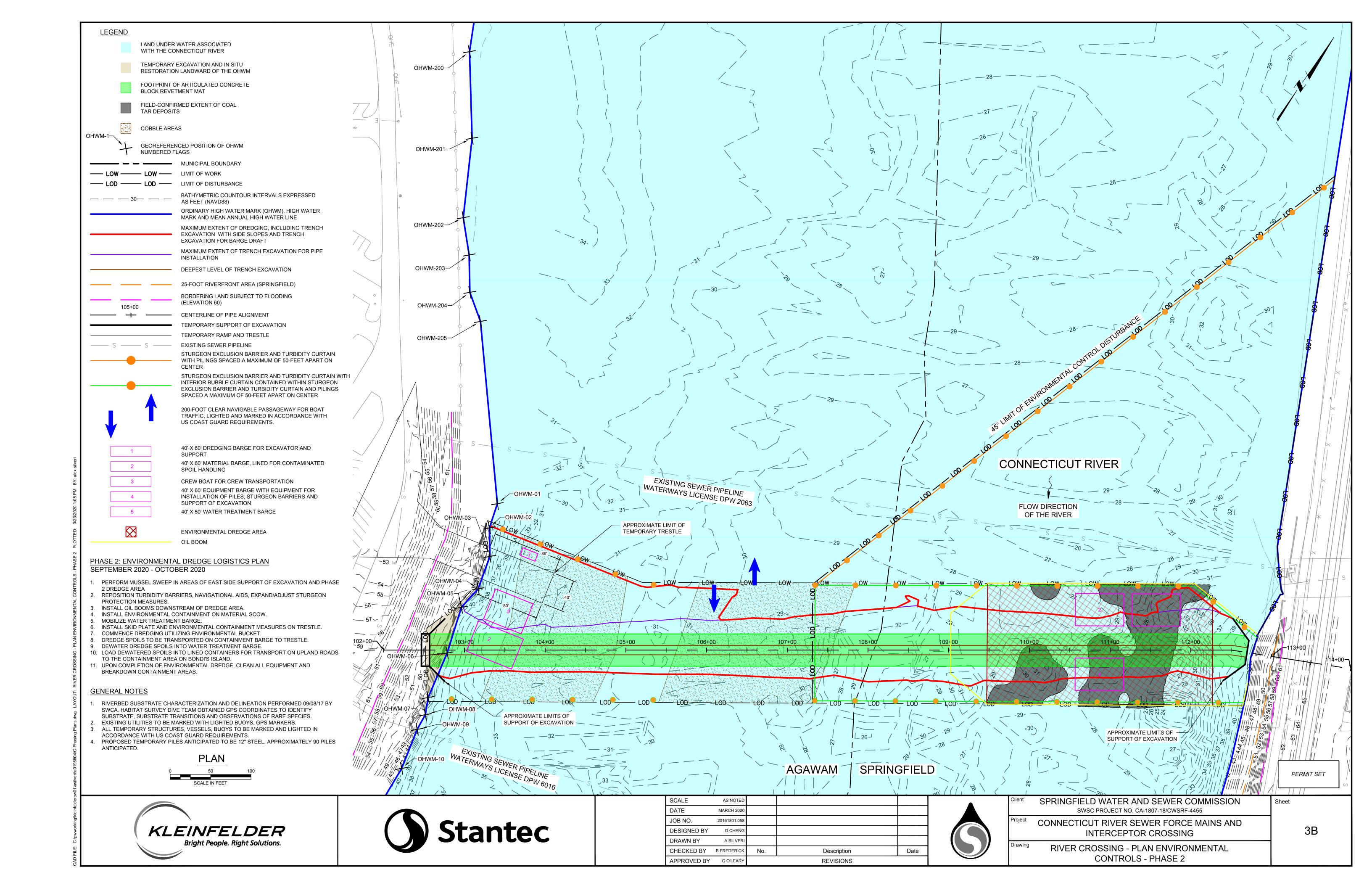


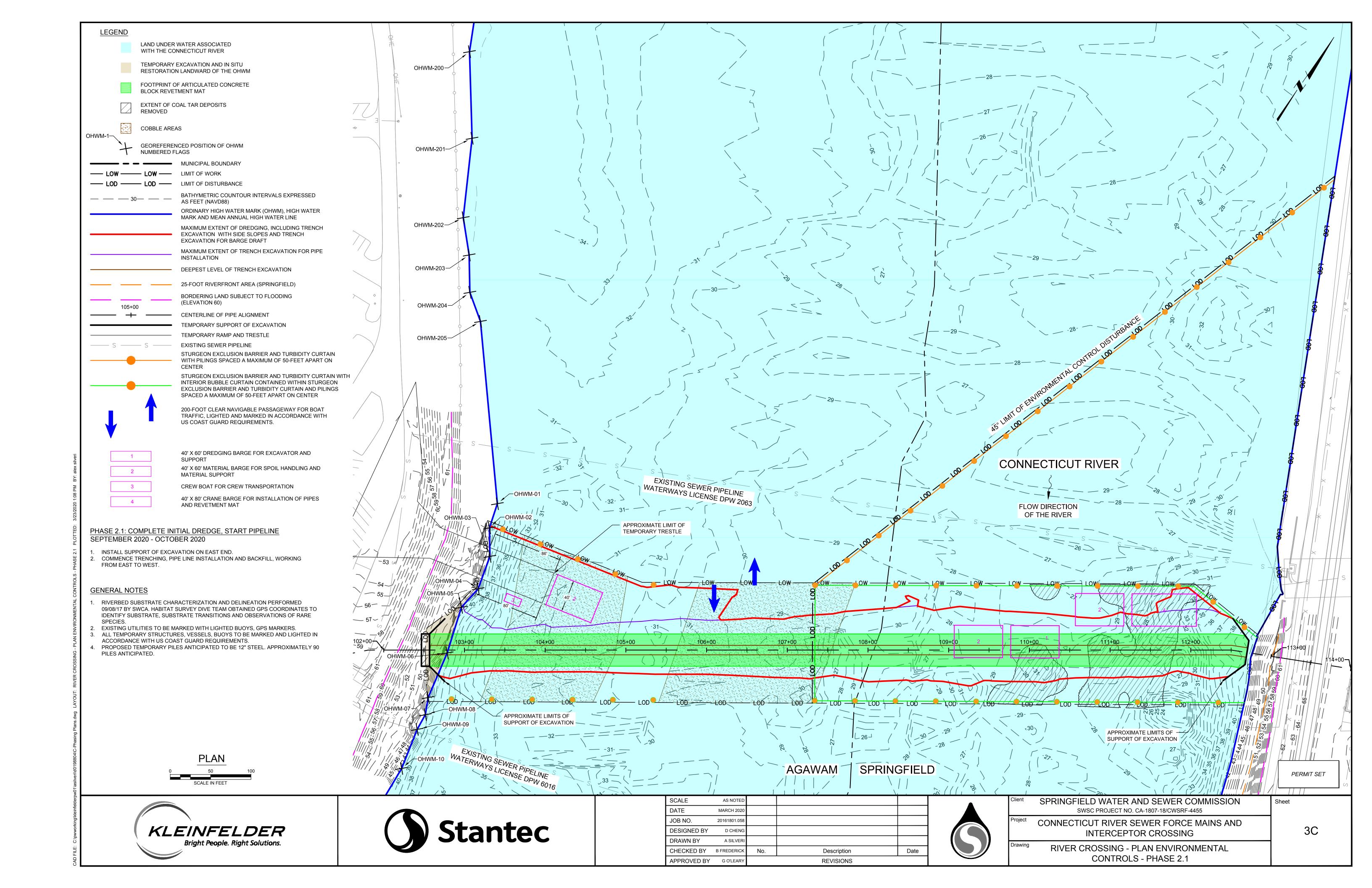
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	SWSC PROJECT NO. CA-1807-18/CWSRF-4455	
Project	CONNECTICUT RIVER SEWER FORCE MAINS AND	
	INTERCEPTOR CROSSING	
Drawing		

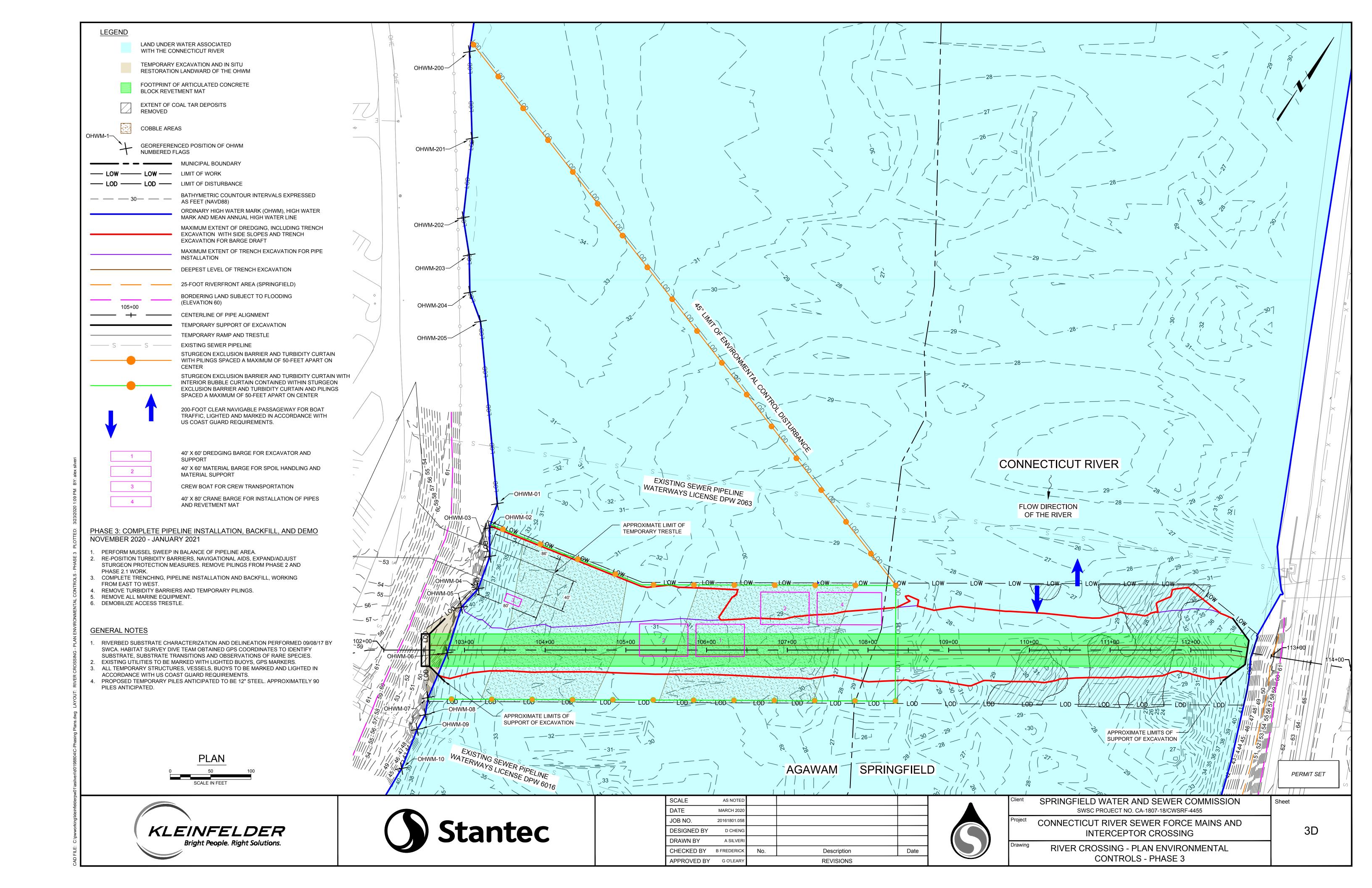
COVER AND LOCUS PLAN

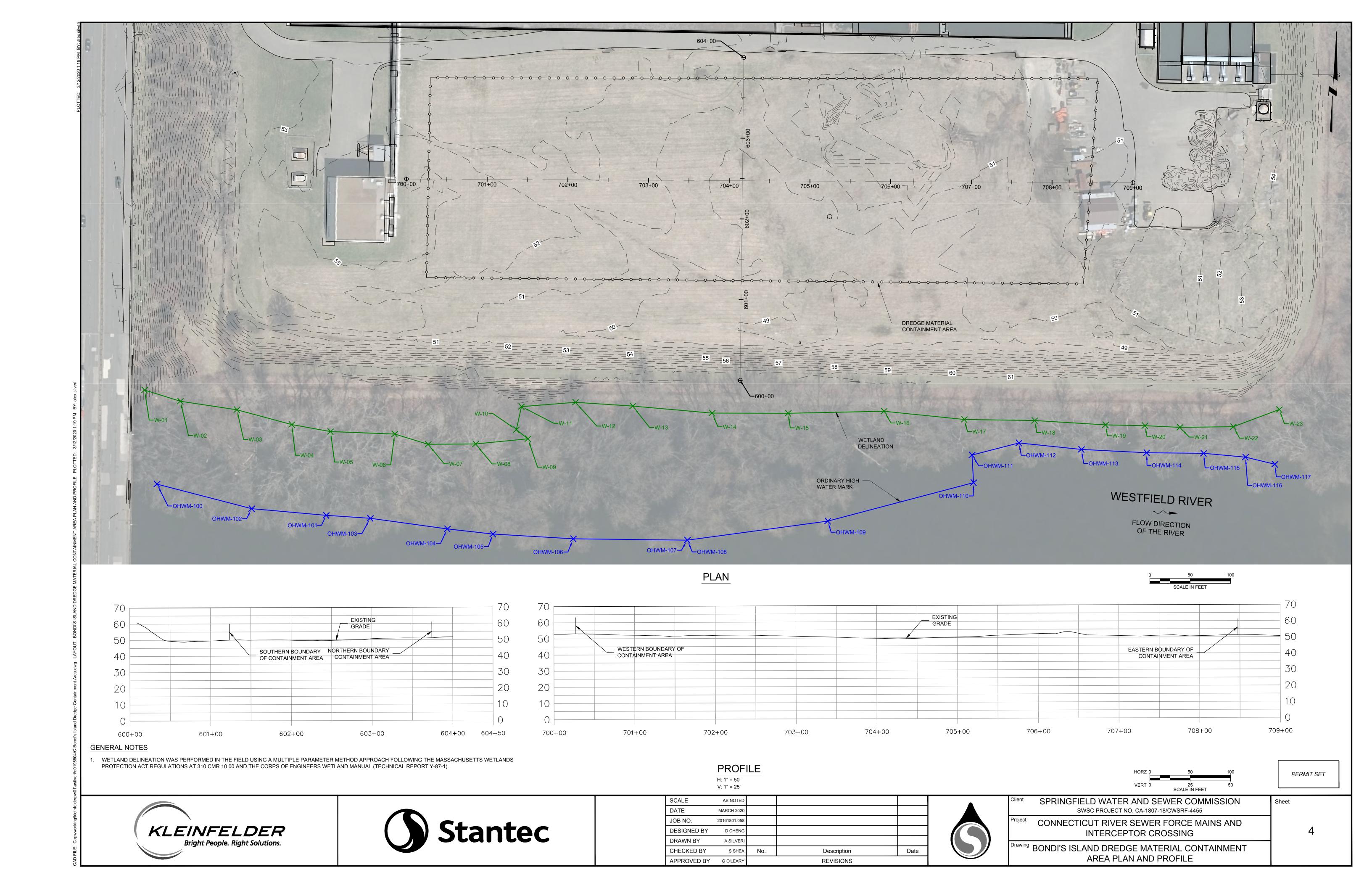


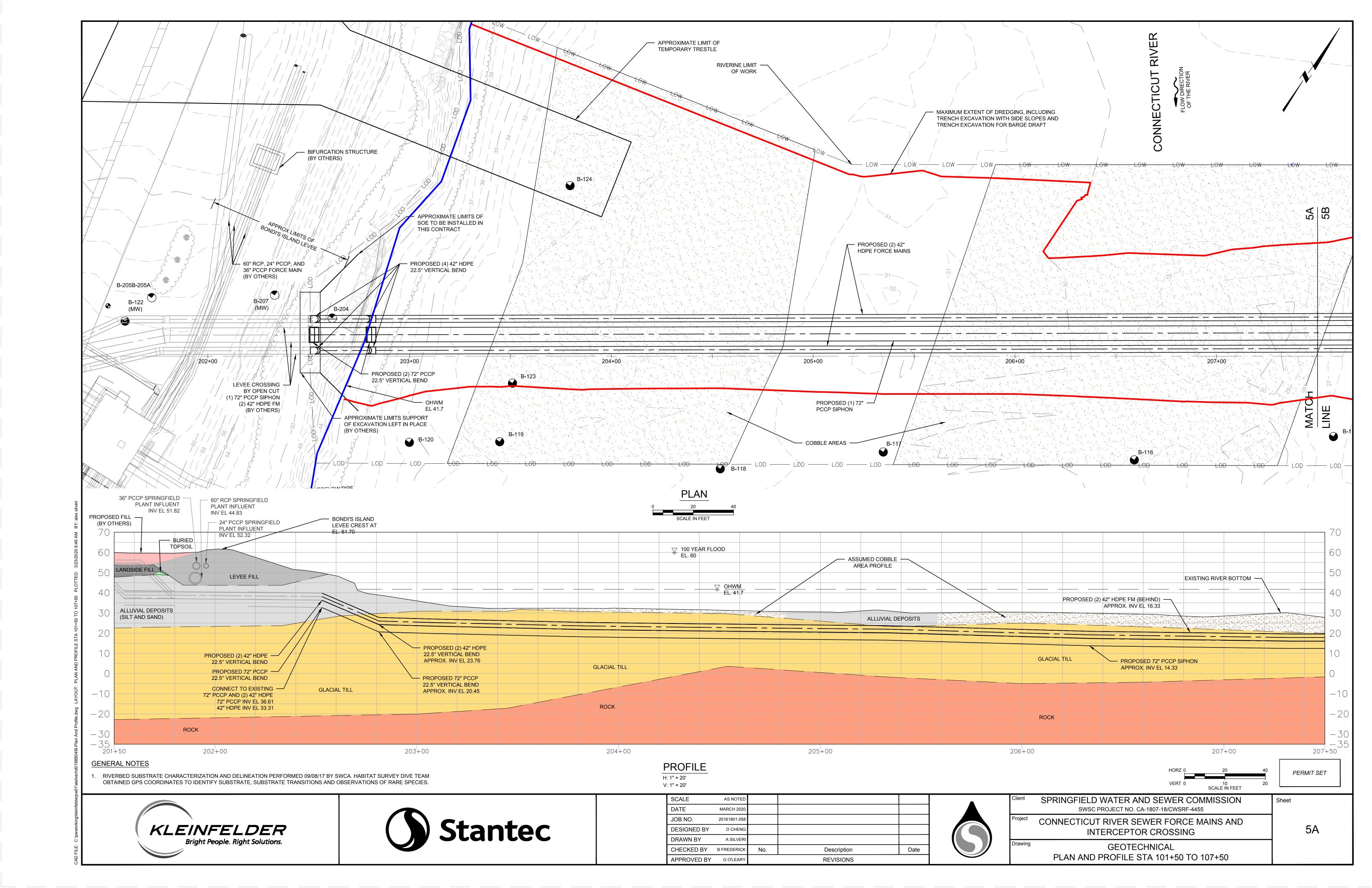


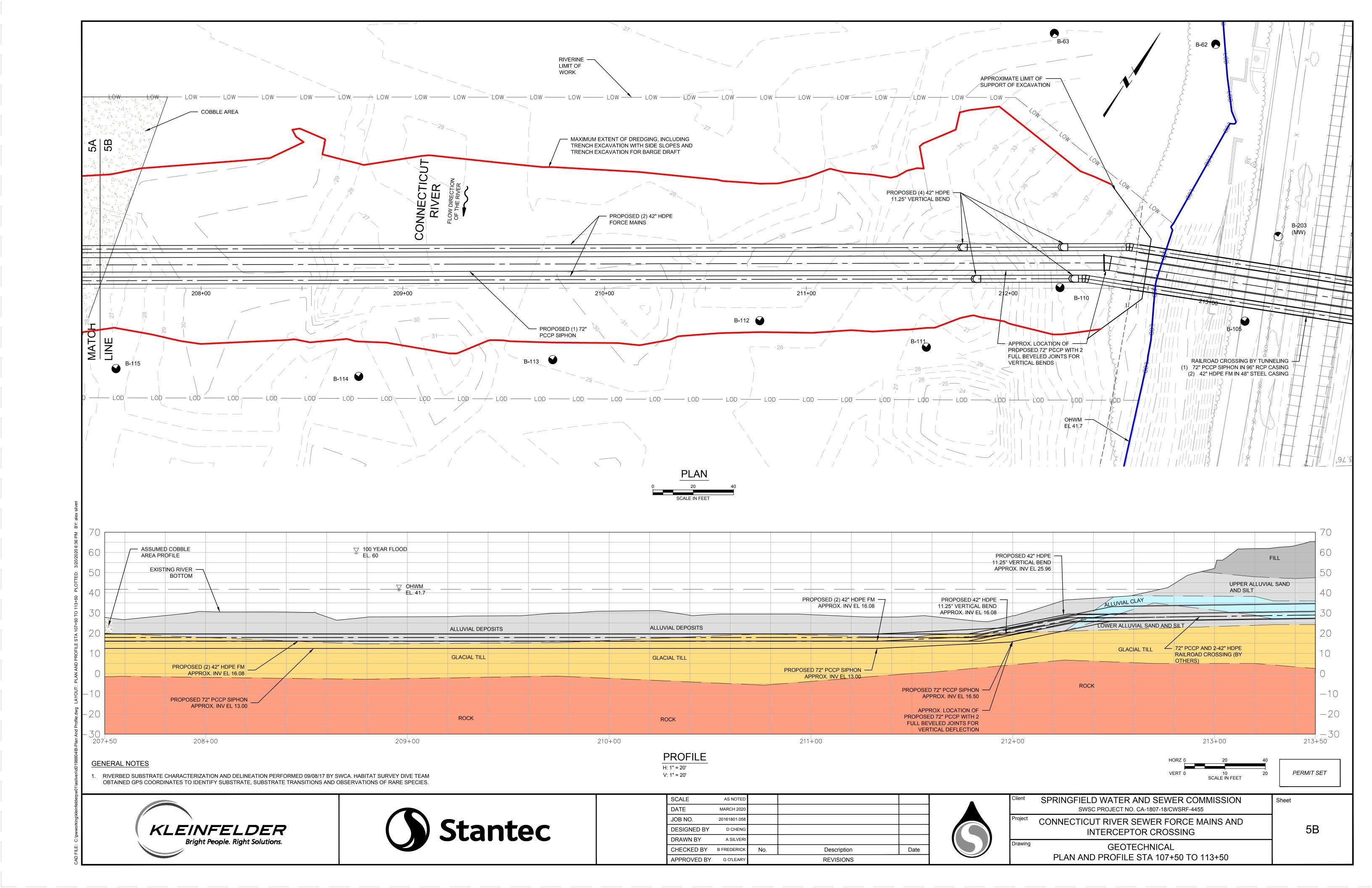


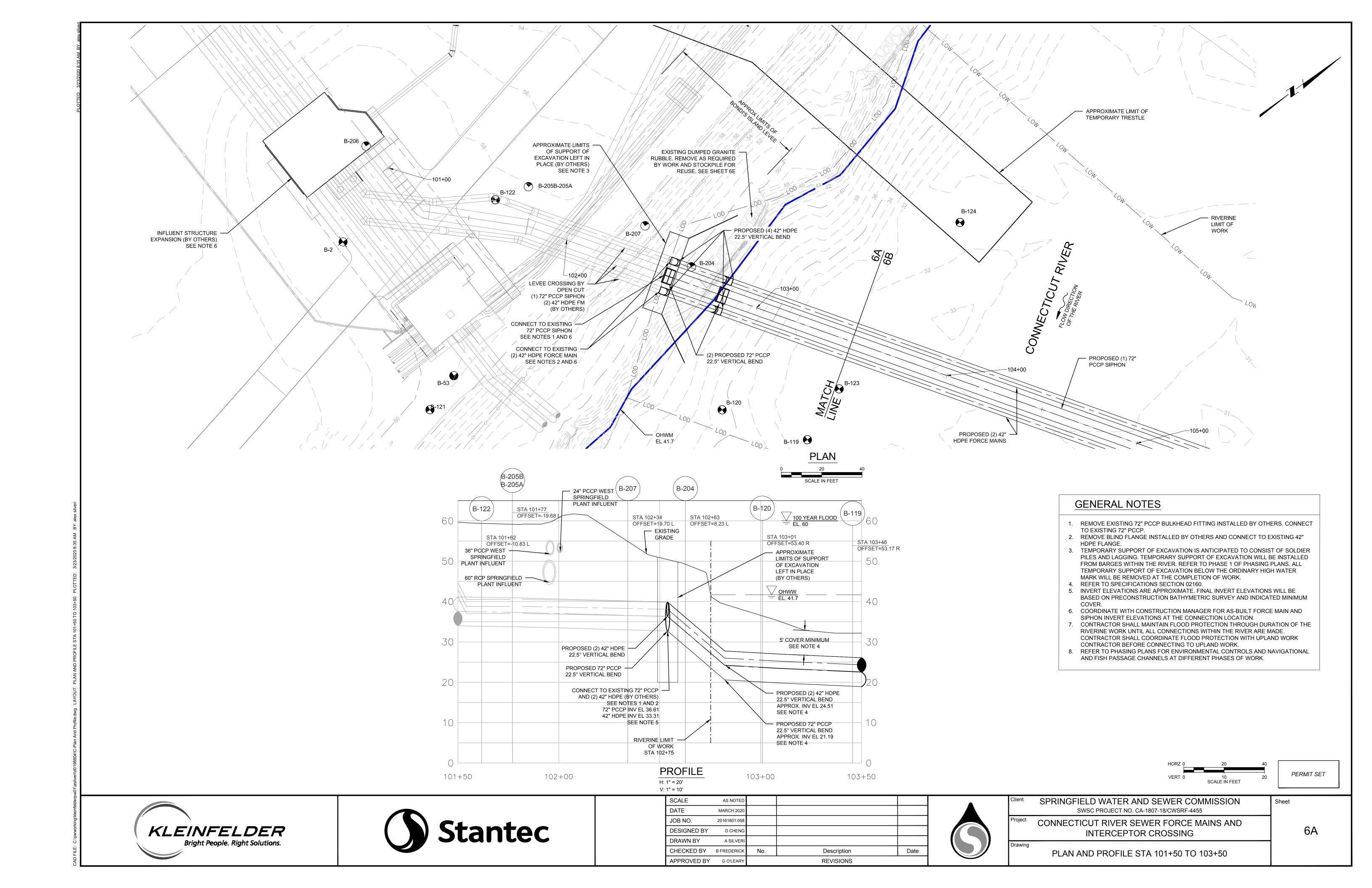


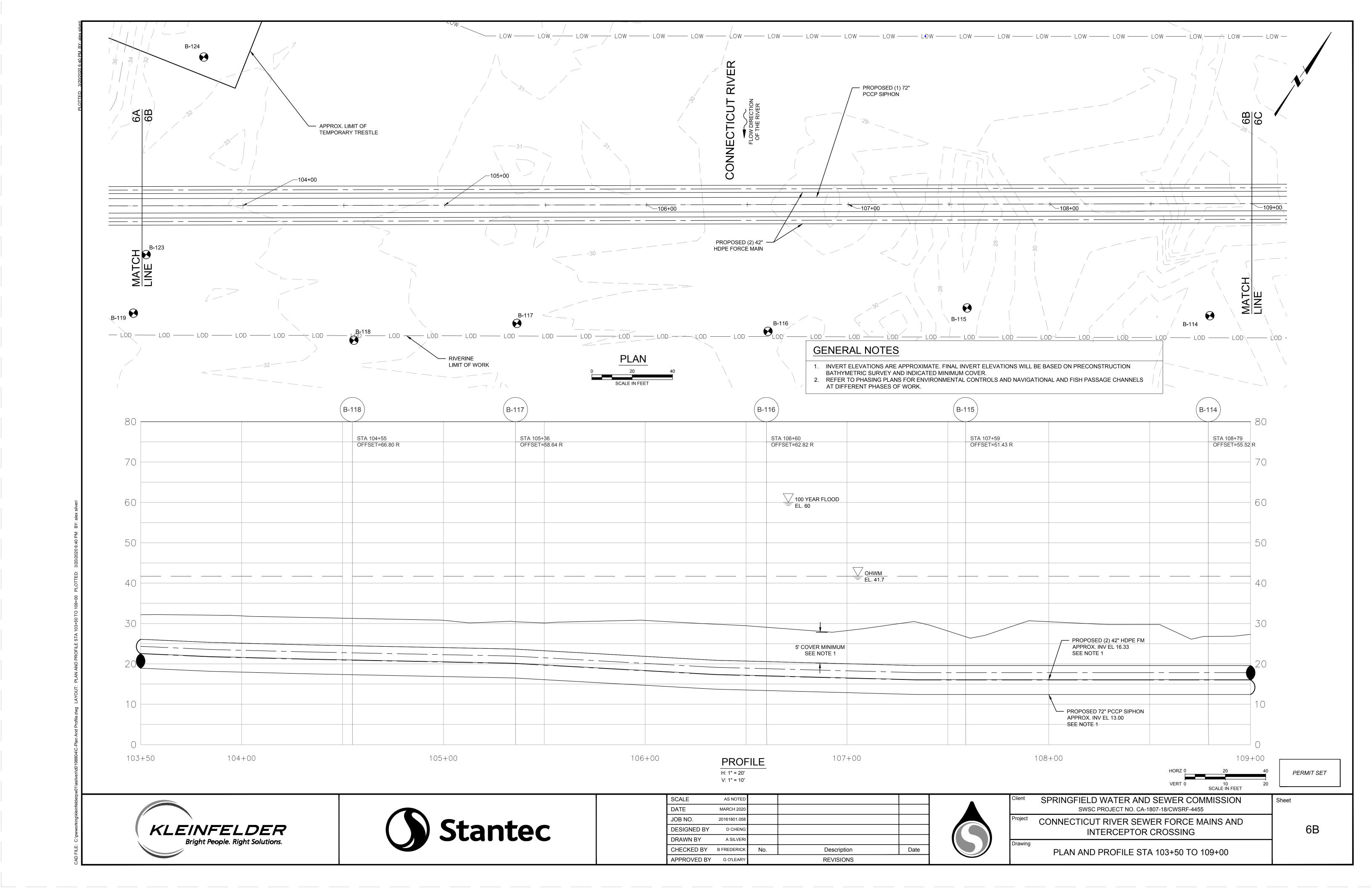


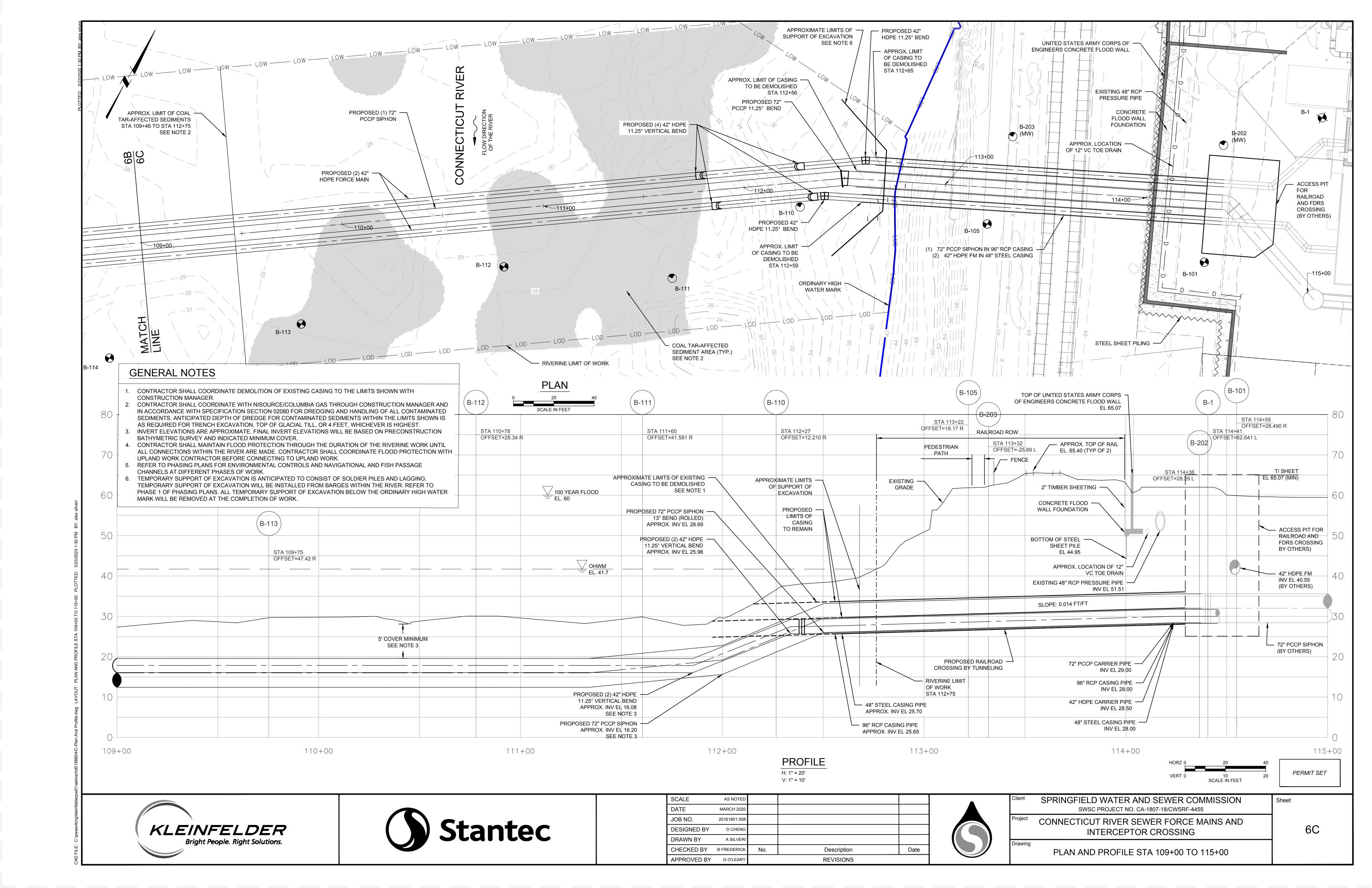


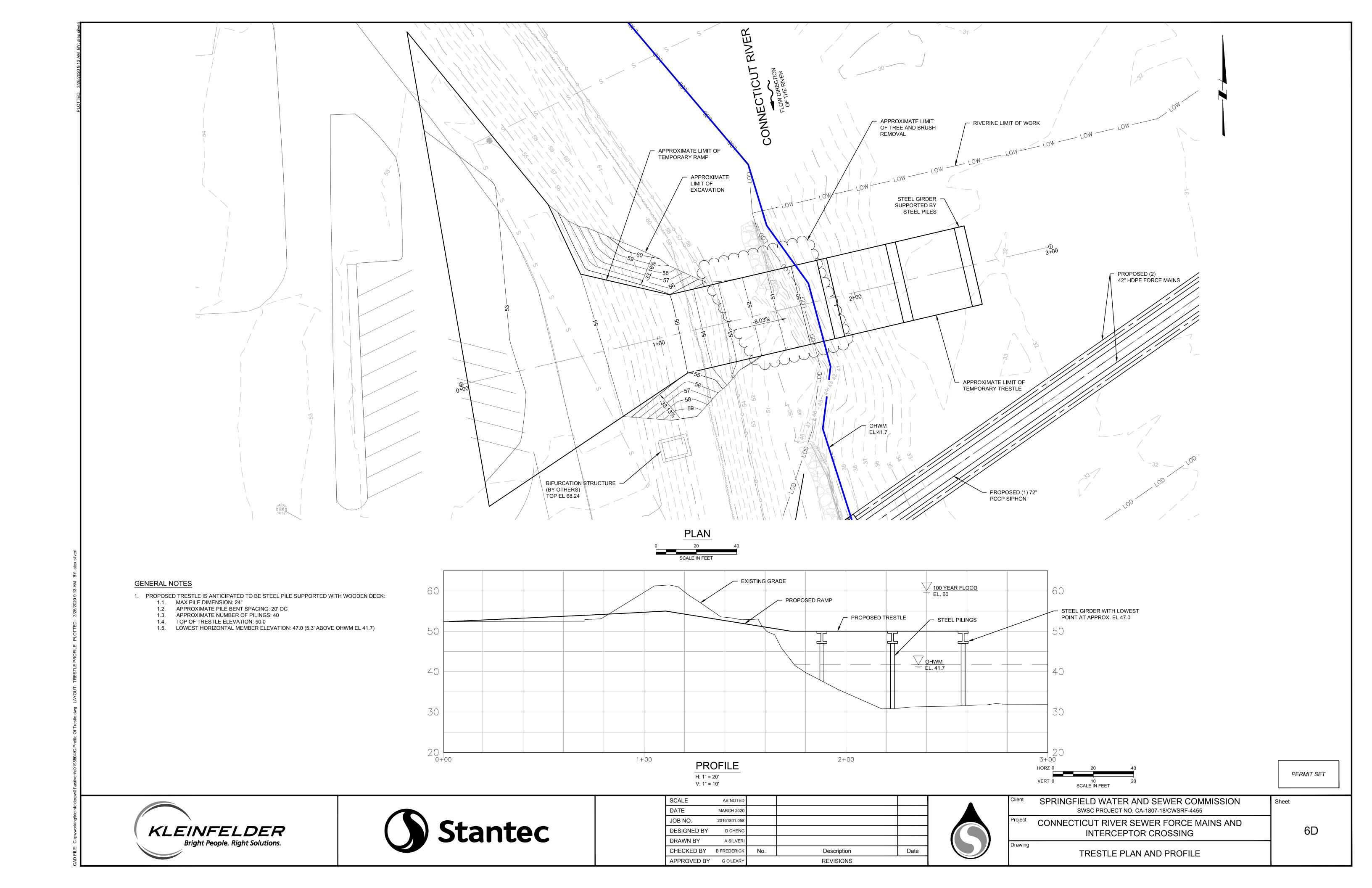


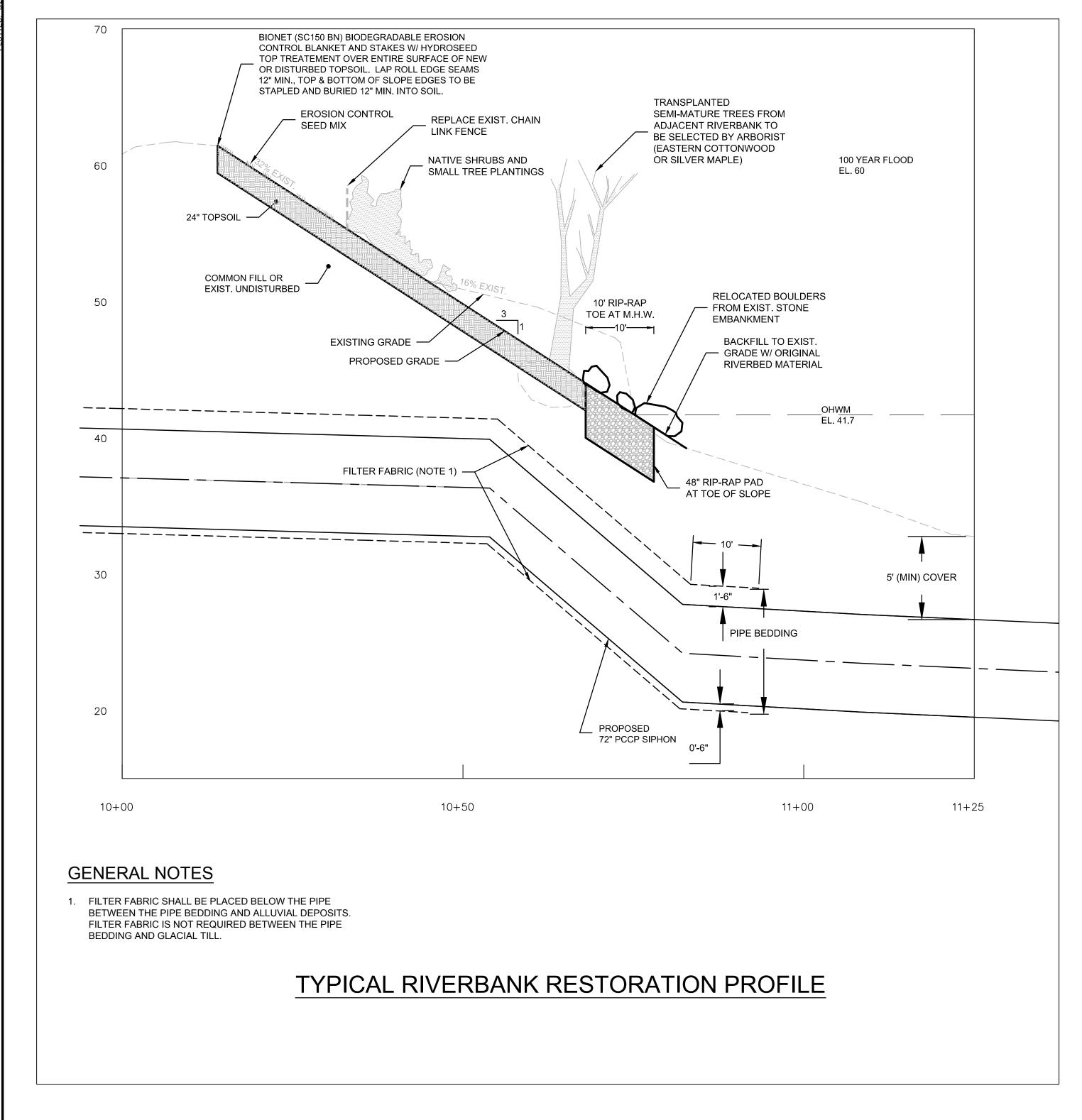








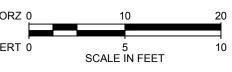




PROFILE

H: 1" = 10'

V: 1" = 5'



PERMIT SET





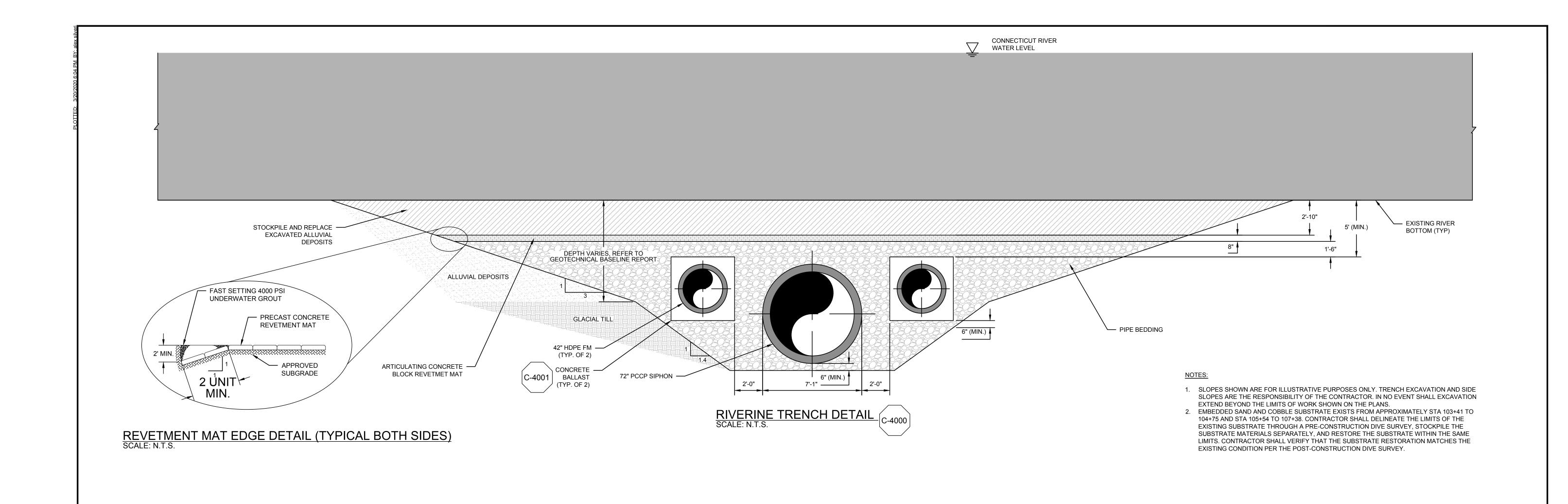
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DATE	MARCH 2020			
JOB NO.	20161801.058			
DESIGNED BY	JO			
DRAWN BY	GKM			
CHECKED BY	AAS	No.	Description	Date
APPROVED BY	JO		REVISIONS	



Client	SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION SWSC PROJECT NO. CA-1807-18/CWSRF-4455	
Project	CONNECTICUT RIVER SEWER FORCE MAINS AND INTERCEPTOR CROSSING	

RIVERBANK RESTORATION DETAIL

6E



PERMIT SET





SCALE	NO SCALE			
DATE	MARCH 2020			
JOB NO.	20161801.058			
DESIGNED BY	D CHENG			
DRAWN BY	A SILVERI			
CHECKED BY	B FREDERICK	No.	Description	Date
APPROVED BY	G O'I FARY		REVISIONS	



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INTERCEPTOR CROSSING

TRENCH DETAIL

