EVERSOURCE ENERGY

247 Station Drive
Westwood, MA 02090

July 28, 2016

New Bedford Conservation Commission
133 William Street #312
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Commissioners,

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) respectfully submits this letter to provide the Conservation Commission with notification regarding the scheduled routine repair and maintenance of existing access roads. This repair will be within the limits of the existing Right-of-Way (ROW). The ROW enters into New Bedford, MA from the western border with Dartmouth, MA and runs east into Acushnet, MA. (See the enclosed Project Plans).

Access roads are a critical part of Eversource's facilities as they provide safe access for the necessary equipment and personnel to be able to travel to existing electric transmission towers and lines for maintenance and repair. Well maintained access roads play an important role in Eversource's ability to restore power in a timely manner, especially during hazardous and storm conditions. In addition, well maintained access roads allow for a clearly defined pathway for Eversource's equipment to travel along the ROW.

Eversource is planning to perform this access road work in accordance with the provision of the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL 131-40) that allows for "maintaining, repairing, or replacing, but not substantially changing or enlarging an existing and lawfully located structure or facility used in the service of the public and used to provide electric...services" without filing a Notice of Intent.

Wetland scientists from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) have completed wetland delineation along the previously identified segments of ROW to help facilitate this work. Wetland resource area boundaries and associated buffer zones are shown on the Project Plan set attached to this letter for your review.

Summary of Access Road Maintenance Activities

The proposed access road maintenance work will occur along portions of existing access roads within the ROW. The attached Project Plans show the location of the existing access roads to be maintained as part of Eversource's 2016 Access Road Maintenance Program. The proposed maintenance work will primarily occur in non-jurisdictional upland areas; however work may also occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and/or 200-Foot Riverfront Area. These roads will be maintained to Eversource's standards as depicted on the enclosed "Typical Gravel Access Section" detail. Swamp mats will be utilized to cross vegetated wetlands as necessary to access upland locations for road work. Enclosed, please find details for typical straw wattle erosion control barriers and swamp mats to be used as Best Management Practices (BMPs). The following bullets provide an overview of the proposed maintenance.

- An erosion control barrier (straw wattle) will be installed between existing vegetated wetland areas and the maintenance work prior to any grading activities. These erosion control barriers will be removed once gravel material is placed on the road and the area is permanently stabilized.

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- Existing overgrown vegetation, rocks, or obstructions on the edges of the existing access roads will be cleared to restore the road to a minimum twelve (12) feet in width (See attached specification for typical access road cross-section).
- Existing access roads will be maintained in their current location.
- Existing access road gravel material will be used as appropriate to re-grade the road cross-sectionally and longitudinally to provide a smooth suitable base.
- A top layer of processed gravel, stone or trap rock will be installed to a compacted thickness of at least three inches.
- In low areas where consistent puddling occurs within the existing roadway, a conductor pipe may be installed to allow water to equalize on either side of the road, to prevent water from running over the road causing washout. No equalizer pipes will be installed within existing vegetated wetland areas.
- In locations where unavoidable access is required through vegetated wetland, swamp mats will be temporarily installed to facilitate access only. The swamp mats will not remain in place for longer than three months.
- Upon removal of swamp mats, areas will be allowed to re-vegetate naturally. Additional restoration efforts will be implemented if necessary at the discretion of a wetland specialist.

This work is scheduled to begin at the end of July and may continue through the fall of 2016. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Denise Bartone at Denise.Bartone@eversource.com or 781-441-8174. Otherwise the work will be completed as presented herein.

Very truly yours,

Denise Bartone
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Enclosures: Project Plans
Erosion Control Details
Swamp Mat Details
Access Road Cross-Section

Path: \\NHBEDATA\gislib\NSTAR\2016_AccessRoads\Town_Notification\ROW 143\ROW143_NewBedfordNotification.mxd

- Existing Structure
- Approximate ROW Limits
- Wetland Resource Areas
- 100-foot Wetland Buffer
- 200-foot Riverfront Area
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation
- NHESP Certified Vernal Pool
- NHESP Potential Vernal Pools
- 2-ft Contour Interval
- 10-ft Contour Index
- Town Boundaries
- No Grading Zone. Gravel Only
- Existing Access - Previously improved road; gravel or compacted base. Maintain/repair with similar material, do not widen unless authorized by Eversource
- Existing Access - Permit/Eversource Approval Required
- Existing Access - No Work Required
- Erosion Control Barrier
- Swamp Mat Access

0 200 400 Feet

Source:
Eversource: Structures, approximate ROW.
VHB: Delineated Wetland Edges, Access Roads.
MassGIS: Town Boundaries, NHESP, 2013 Imagery.

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ROW 143
2016 Access Road Program
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June 2016

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IVY ROAD

BIRCHWOOD DRIVE

PHILLIPS ROAD

NEW BEDFORD

Swamp Mat Access Area 3,413 SF

#636 Industrial Sub

HERITAGE DRIVE

HERITAGE COURT

PURITAN WAY

PILGRIM WAY

HERITAGE DRIVE

SAMUEL BARNET BOULEVARD

DUCHAINE BOULEVARD

SAMUEL BARNET BOULEVARD

Existing Structure
Approximate ROW Limits
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100-foot Wetland Buffer
200-foot Riverfront Area
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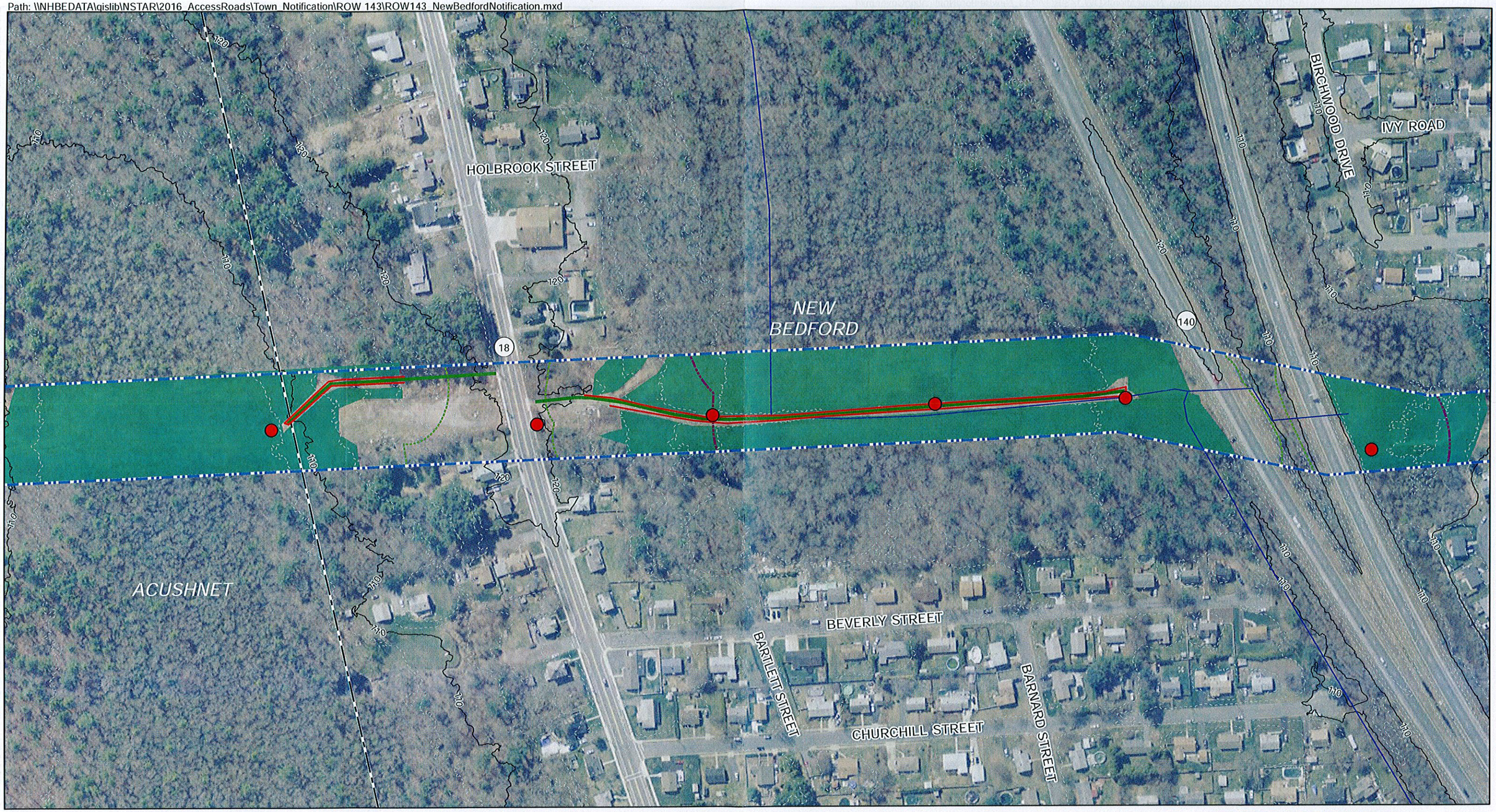

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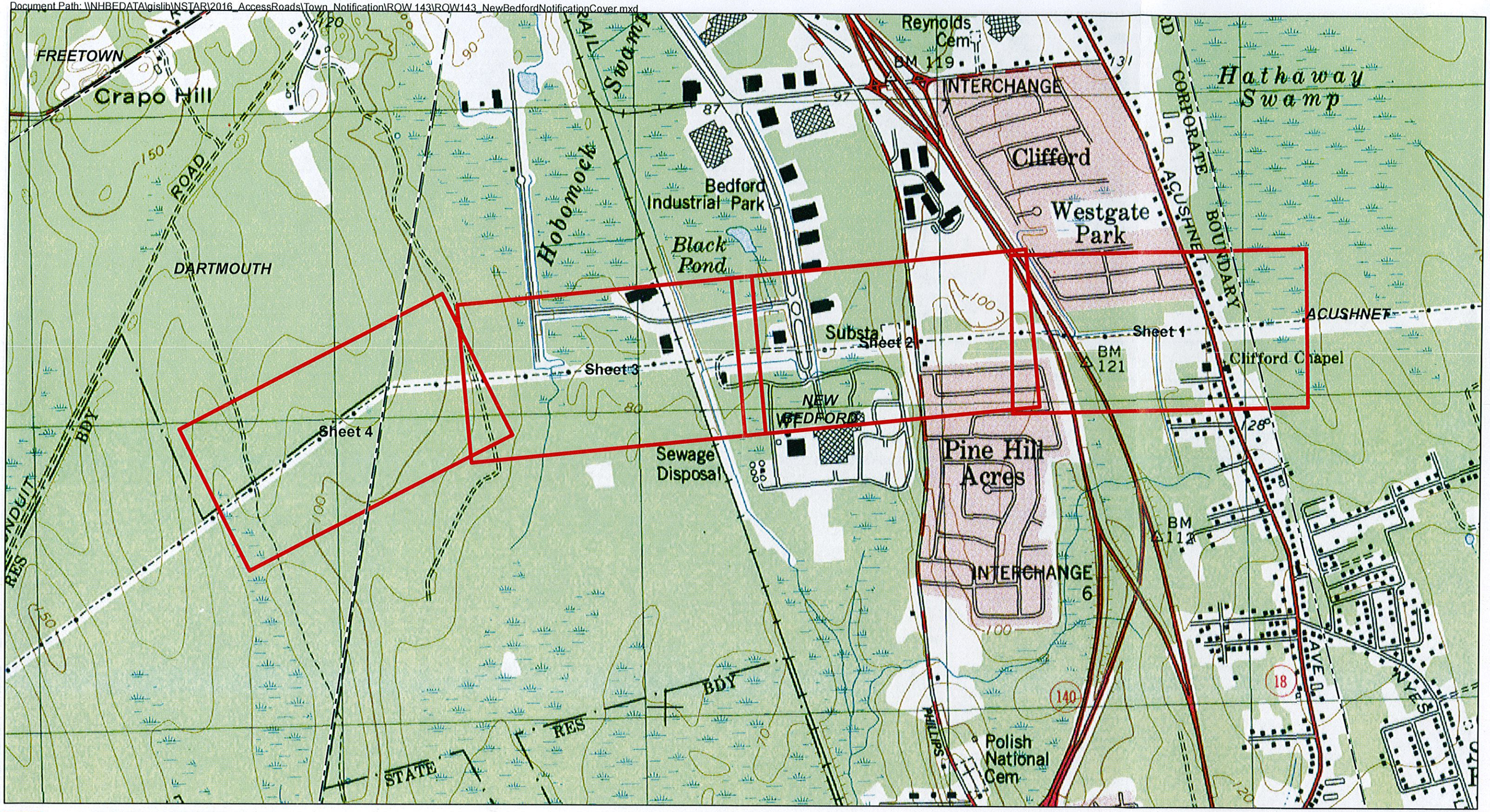

Sheet Index

ROW 143 Approximate Limits

Town Boundaries

0 1,500 3,000 Feet

Source: MassGIS, VHB

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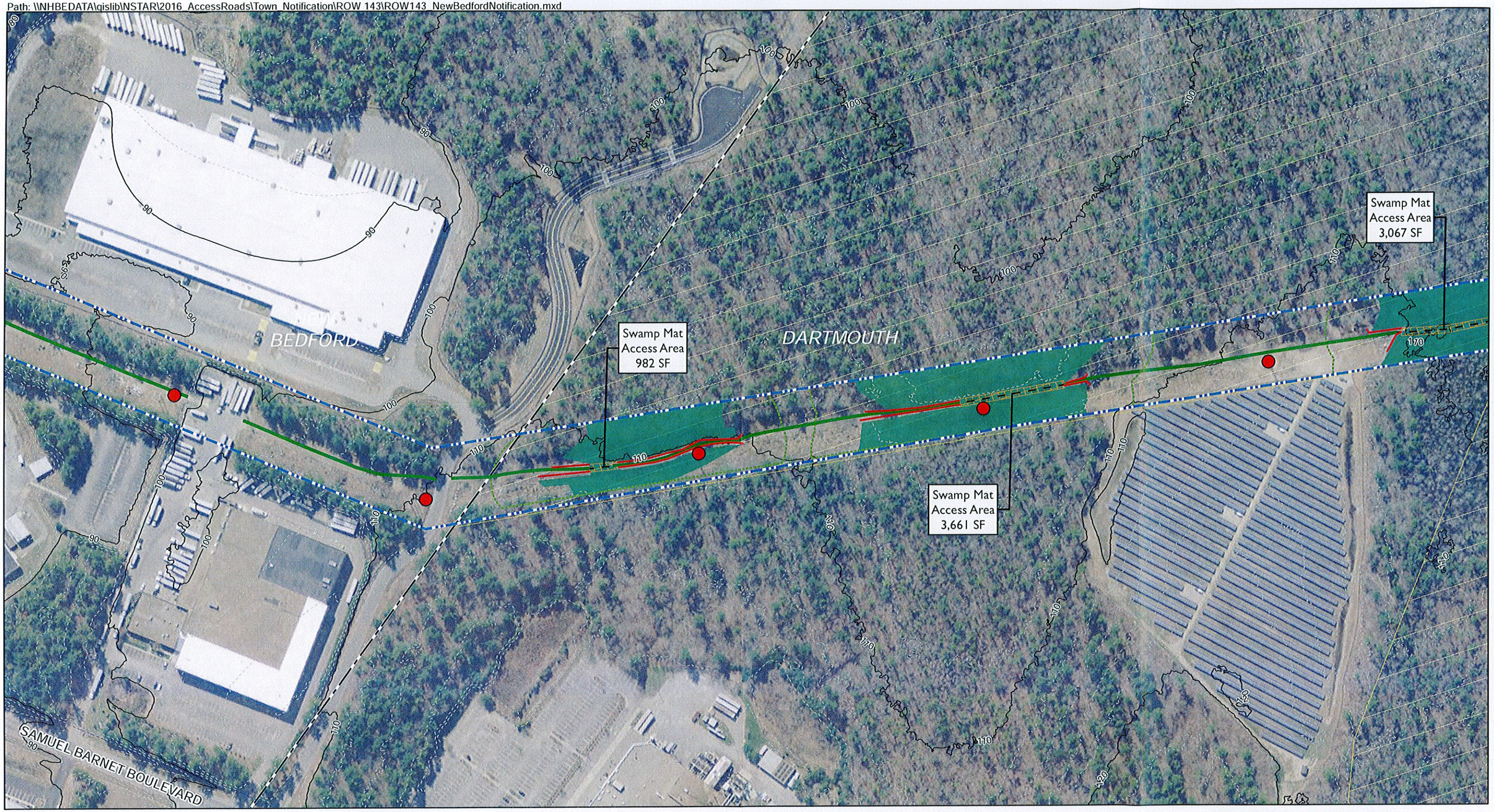

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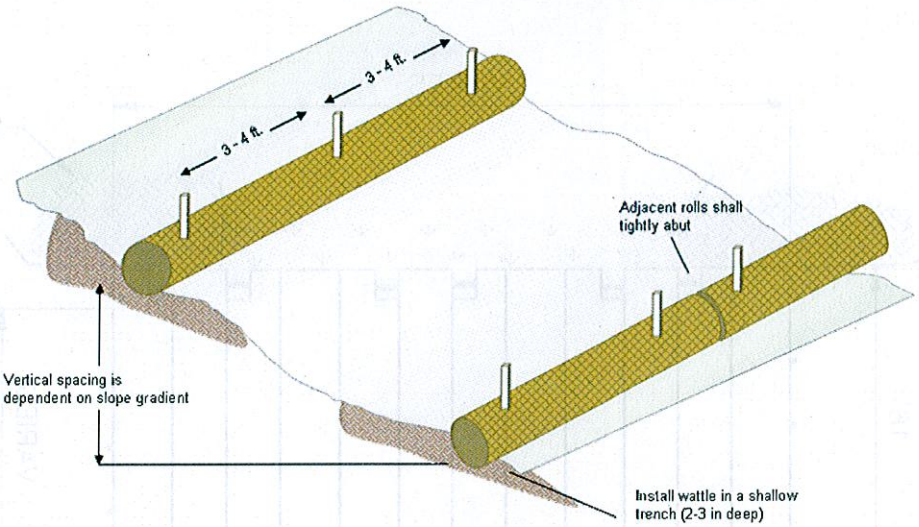
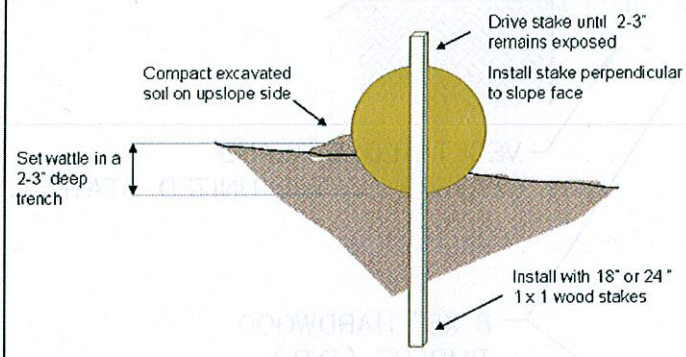
Straw Wattle Installation Guide

NORTH AMERICAN GREEN®

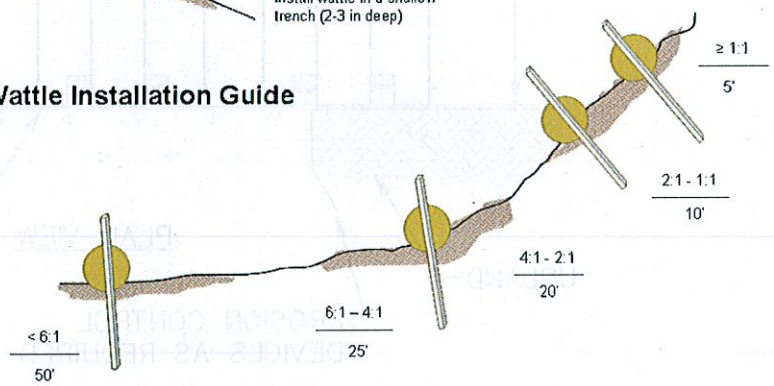
A tensar. Company



Typical Wattle Installation Guide



Entrenchment Detail



Typical Wattle Spacing based on Slope Gradient

1. BEGIN AT THE LOCATION WHERE THE WATTLE IS TO BE INSTALLED BY EXCAVATING A 2-3" (5-7.5 CM) DEEP X 9" (22.9 CM) WIDE TRENCH ALONG THE CONTOUR OF THE SLOPE. EXCAVATED SOIL SHOULD BE PLACED UP-SLOPE FROM THE ANCHOR TRENCH.

2. PLACE THE WATTLE IN THE TRENCH SO THAT IT CONTOURS TO THE SOIL SURFACE. COMPACT SOIL FROM THE EXCAVATED TRENCH AGAINST THE WATTLE ON THE UPHILL SIDE. ADJACENT WATTLES SHOULD TIGHTLY ABUT.

3. SECURE THE WATTLE WITH 18-24" (45.7-61 CM) STAKES EVERY 3-4' (0.9 - 1.2 M) AND WITH A STAKE ON EACH END. STAKES SHOULD BE DRIVEN THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE WATTLE LEAVING AT LEAST 2-3" (5-7.5 CM) OF STAKE EXTENDING ABOVE THE WATTLE. STAKES SHOULD BE DRIVEN PERPENDICULAR TO SLOPE FACE.

North American Green Straw Wattles are a Best Management Practice (BMP) that offers an effective and economical alternative to silt fence and straw bales for sediment control and storm water runoff.

Guidelines are provided to assist in design, installation, and structure spacing. The guidelines may require modification due to variation in soil type, rainfall intensity or duration, and amount of runoff affecting the application site.

To maximize sediment containment with the Straw Wattle, place the initial structure at the top/crest of the slope if significant runoff is expected from above. If no runoff from above is expected, the initial Straw Wattle can be installed at the appropriate distance downhill from the top/crest of the slope. The final structure should be installed at or just beyond the bottom/toe of the slope. Wattles should be installed perpendicular to the primary direction of overland flow.

Straw Wattles are a temporary sediment control device and are not intended to replace rolled erosion control products (RECPs) or hydraulic erosion control products (HECPs). If vegetation is desired for permanent erosion control, North American Green recommends that RECPs or HECPs be used to provide effective immediate erosion control until vegetation is established. Straw Wattles may be used in conjunction with blankets, mats, and mulches as supplemental sediment and runoff control for these applications. Like all sediment control devices, the effectiveness of the Straw Wattle is dependent on storage capacity.

For additional installation assistance, please contact North American Green's Technical Services Department at 1 -800-772-2040

14649 Highway 41 North, Evansville, Indiana 47725
1-800-772-2040 www.nagreen.com

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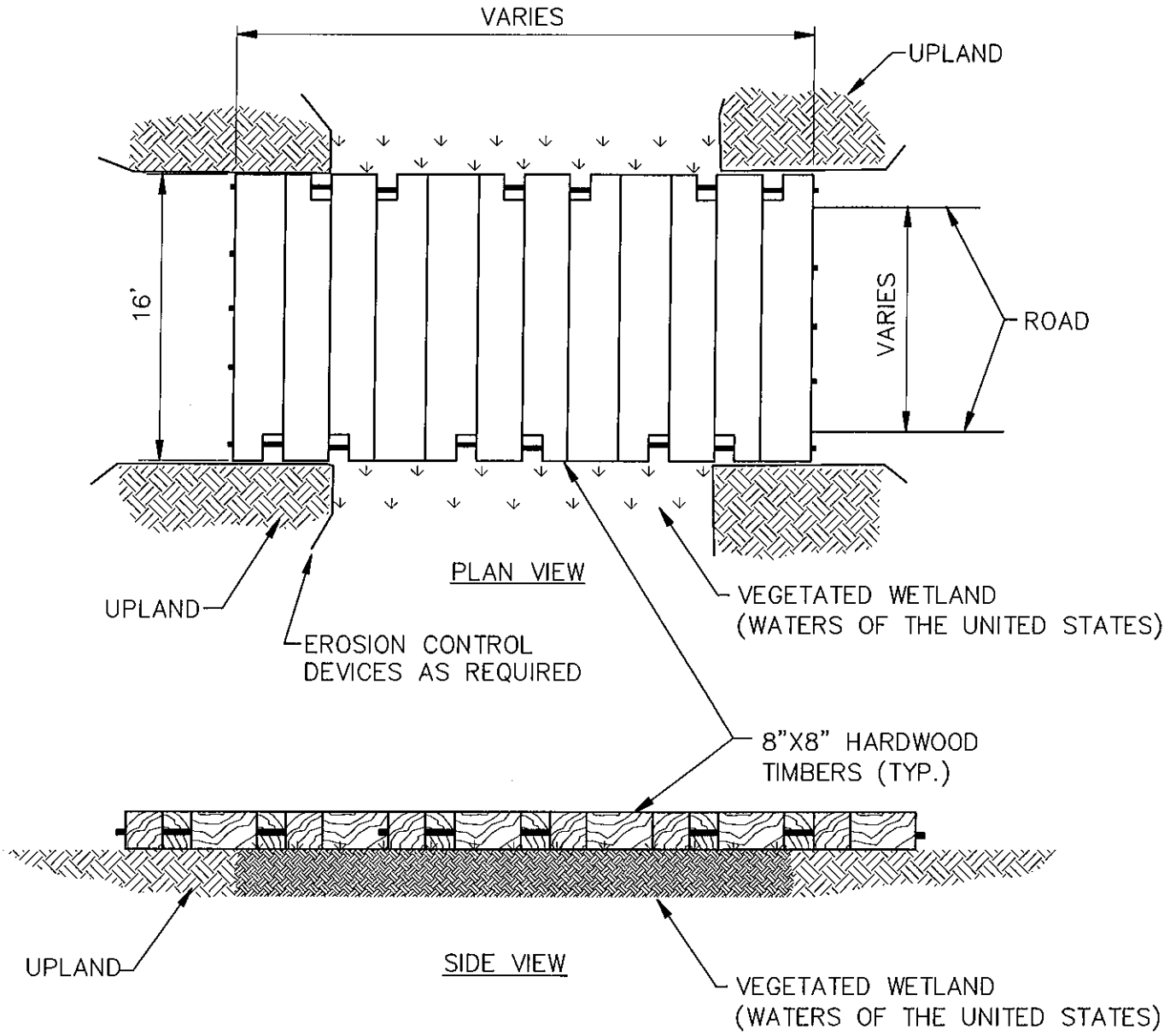
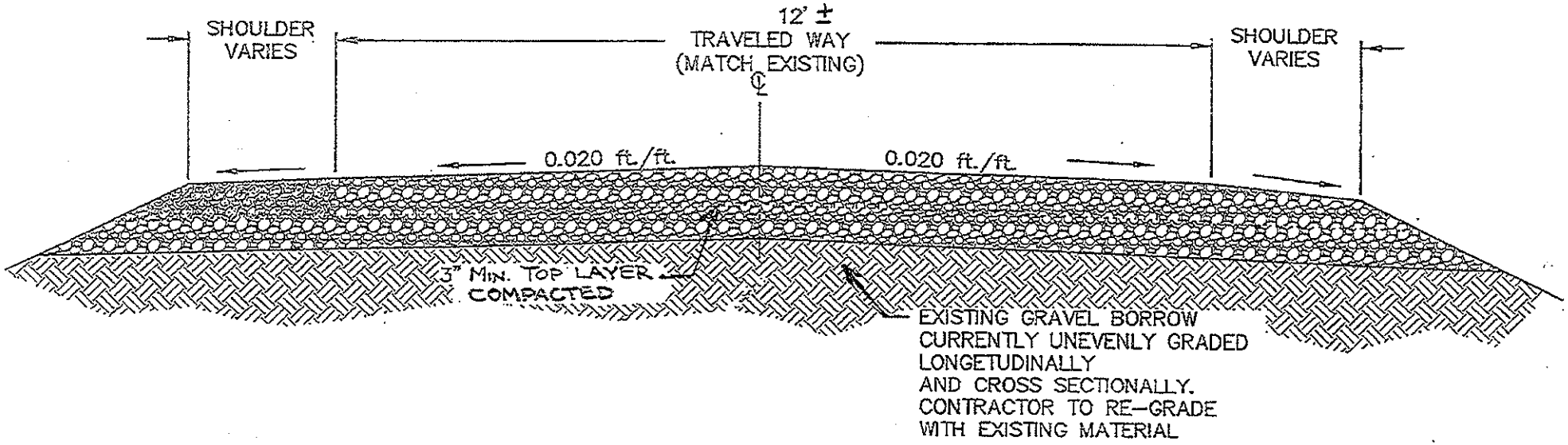


SWAMP MAT

NOT TO SCALE

NSTAR ELECTRIC GAS



TYPICAL GRAVEL ACCESS SECTION

NOT TO SCALE