



United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

Rural Utilities Service

# Environmental Assessment

## New Bonner Bridge 115 kV Line Relocation Project

Dare County, North Carolina

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative  
(North Carolina 64)

August 2017

*Adoption and Supplement to the NC 12 Replacement of Herbert C. Bonner Bridge **Environmental Assessment** prepared by U.S Federal Highways Administration and the NC Department of Transportation (May 2010)*

***Please send comments to:***

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Comments must be received by Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 5:00 PM (EST)

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## INTRODUCTION

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (Cape Hatteras Electric) of Buxton, North Carolina, plans to request long-term financing from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), for construction of the proposed New Bonner Bridge 115 kV Line Relocation Project in Dare County, North Carolina. RUS is considering financing the proposed project through an RUS-guaranteed Federal Financing Bank (FFB) loan, thereby making the proposed project a Federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Rural Development's (RD) NEPA implementing regulations, Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970).

Numerous environmental reviews for the New Herbert C. Bonner Bridge (referred to as Bonner Bridge) were conducted, spanning from 1993 to 2010 resulting in issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) and the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). As a part of these environmental reviews, the following Federal agencies were identified as cooperating agencies:

- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Park Service

Because RUS did not participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the FHWA/NCDOT's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS; 2008) and Environmental Assessment (EA; 2010), RUS is adopting and re-circulating the most recent environmental analysis document, FHWA/NCDOT's EA, for a period of 14 days in accordance with 7 CFR §1970.15(b), RD's procedures for adopting NEPA documents prepared for or by other Federal agencies. This adoption document also serves a supplement to FHWA/NCDOT's EA in that it provides an assessment of effects to the human environment associated with Cape Hatteras Electric's activities that would be located within existing and new NCDOT ROW associated with NC 12. RUS may issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) no sooner than 14 days after issuance of the NOA of a Supplemental EA in accordance with §1970.102(b)(6).

NCDOT broke ground on the new Bonner Bridge on March 8, 2016, and construction of the new bridge is on-going. A component of this work includes making improvements to NC 12 right-of-way (ROW) and relocating utility infrastructure from the location of the old bridge to the new bridge and new ROW of NC 12. To meet a construction completion schedule of September 2019 (see: [https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/bonnerbridgereplace/construction\\_schedule.html](https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/bonnerbridgereplace/construction_schedule.html)), Cape Hatteras Electric must complete its utility relocation activities by 2018.

### **Overview of Proposed Project**

As a part of the New Bonner Bridge 115 kV Line Relocation Project, Cape Hatteras Electric would complete the following activities:

- Substation Improvements to the Oregon Inlet Point of Delivery (POD) Substation located off Oregon Inlet Road and NC 12 in Dare County.
  - Installation of a station service transformer to provide back-up service during extreme weather conditions and assist in preventing the loss of power to this substation
  - Installation of new breakers and a cable riser (referred to as the North End Riser) in association with construction of the new Bonner Bridge, which requires relocation of the cooperative's 115 kV line that energizes the Oregon Inlet POD Substation.
  - The above changes in substation equipment would require expanding the facility's fence line by 15 feet to the south. In addition, construction of a temporary timber mat road up to 500 feet in length to access the substation from Oregon Inlet Road and the installation of temporary matting around the substation to stage work activities would be required. All temporarily disturbed areas around the substation would be restored to National Park Service specifications.
  
- Construction of a 3.2 mile, 115 kV line within NCDOT right-of-way along NC 12 in Dare County. Construction would be staged in three phases.
  - Northern Segment: Installation of approximately 1,645 linear feet of underground cable beginning from the Oregon Inlet POD Substation's North End Riser and continuing south to the northern end wall of the New Bonner Bridge. This work would occur in conjunction with the substation improvements and would also involve installing 115 kV cable along the existing buried concrete bank in existing NC 12 ROW; trenching and installing new duct bank within the new NC 12 ROW; and directional boring under Oregon Inlet Road and other specified locations. This portion of the proposed work has been permitted by the Department of Interior, National Park Service for activities located on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the NCDOT for activities occurring within its existing and new NC 12 ROW.
  
  - Bridge Segment: Aerial attachment of approximately 2.8 miles of 115 kV cable to the new Bonner Bridge using an aerial hangar system.
  
  - Southern Segment: Installation of approximately 370 to 382 linear feet of underground cable and overhead transmission line beginning at the South End Riser located at the Oregon Inlet Lifeboat Station and continuing north to the southern end wall of the new Bonner Bridge. This requires installing approximately 225 linear feet of trenching for a new duct bank within the new NC 12 ROW for the underground 115 kV cable; constructing 145 linear feet of overhead 115 kV line (requires 2 new poles) in NC 12 ROW; and removing 1,375 linear feet of existing overhead 115 kV line (including its 6 structures). This portion of the proposed work has been permitted by the NCDOT for activities occurring within its existing and new NC 12 ROW. The Department of Interior,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating a special use permit application from the cooperative for the activities located on the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

A map showing the location of the proposed transmission facilities (substation improvements and 115 kV cable work) is attached to this supplement.

### **Prior Federal Environmental Reviews**

The FHWA/NCDOT completed the following in association with its environmental review process:

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (1993)
- Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (2005)
- Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (2007)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (2008)
- Environmental Assessment (2010)
- Record of Decision (2010)

Concurrent with issuance of the above documents, FHWA/NCDOT consulted with the appropriate agencies consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services issued Biological and Conference Opinions. FHWA/NCDOT also executed a Programmatic Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, NC State Historic Preservation Office, and other consulting parties on November 15, 2010.

More recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and the National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore completed separate environmental analyses of Cape Hatteras Electric's proposed utility activities on lands under their agency's jurisdiction. After conducting an extensive review, which included analyzing construction and operation effects of the proposed line to lands within NCDOT's existing and new NC 12 ROW, the National Park Service issued a special use authorization in May 2017. Authorization from the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is pending issuance.

### **RUS INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS AND SUPPLEMENT**

RUS conducted an independent review of the FHWA/NCDOT's EA for the purposes of determining whether the agency could adopt the EA pursuant to 40 CFR §1506.3 and 7 CFR §1970.15(b). As a part of the review, RUS:

- Compared FHWA/NCDOT's proposed action and area of impact in the EA relative to the location of Cape Hatteras Electric's proposed utility activities that are the subject of its planned funding request to RUS



- Performed a review of the environmental documentation prepared for the Department of Interior agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge; National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore) in association with their respective special use authorizations.
- Is consulting with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office regarding RUS' compliance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Performed additional review of potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and wetlands protected under Executive Order 11990

### **Review of Proposed Project and Area of Effect as Analyzed in FHWA/NCDOT's EA and Final EIS**

In its ROD and EA, FHWA/NCDOT identified the Parallel Bridge Corridor with NC 12 Transportation Management Plan Alternative as its preferred alternative. Construction of this alternative began on March 8, 2016, and is on-going. RUS has reviewed the area of impact analyzed in FHWA/NCDOT's EA and its Final EIS in relation to the scope of Cape Hatteras Electric's activities and concluded that the majority of the cooperative's utility activities are located within the area of effect (roadway, bridge, and associated ROW) for which environmental impacts were analyzed.

Because the bridge is under construction, RUS' review focused on areas within which utility lines would be located in NC 12 ROW and on the use of aerial hanger technology to attach the transmission line cable to the new Bonner Bridge. These activities would not result in new environmental impacts that were not considered in the FHWA/NCDOT's EA. Therefore, adoption of the FHWA/NCDOT's EA is appropriate with supplementation focusing on utility work sited outside of NC 12 ROW.

### **Review of Environmental Documentation Completed by Department of Interior Agencies**

Areas of utility work sited outside of NC 12 ROW were evaluated by the Department of Interior agencies. RUS has reviewed the special use permit applications prepared by Booth and Associates, Inc. on behalf of Cape Hatteras Electric for utility activities located on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. The analysis is summarized below.

#### **Cape Hatteras National Seashore/Northern Segment**

The initial phase of construction involves hand clearing (if needed) and matting of the area around the Oregon Inlet POD Substation, the North End Riser, and a temporary access road from the substation to Oregon Inlet Road. New land disturbance to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore was minimized from 3.95 acres to 1.35 acres. Most of this would be located within NC 12 ROW or within the cooperative's existing utility ROW.

Temporary wetland impacts to this area would be approximately 0.027 acres; permanent impacts would be approximately 0.153 acres. Wetland impacts have been permitted through a

modification to NCDOT's wetlands permit dated November 6, 2015. Mitigation of the cooperative's wetland impacts are covered through implementation of NCDOT's mitigation plan (B-2500), which involves wetland restoration to a site owned by the National Park Service. Details regarding the mitigation plan are found at "Final Wetland Mitigation Plan NC 12 Replacement of Herbert C. Bonner Bridge (Bridge No. 11) over Oregon Inlet" dated January 30, 2017.

The National Park Service issued a special use authorization (#5700-021) for the cooperative's utility activities on May 15, 2017. Conditions associated with the permit include, but are not limited to:

- The park area associated with the permit will remain open and available to the public during park visiting hours; the permit does not guarantee exclusive use of an area. Permit activities will not unduly interfere with other park visitors' use and enjoyment of the area
- Permittee must steam or power wash exterior and underside of all previously used vehicles to be free of weeds, seed, debris and mud to prevent the introduction and/or spread of exotic, invasive plants. All mats brought into the park by the permittee for this project must be steamed or power washing for the same reasons. Washing/steaming shall occur outside the park.
- Permittee will access the site by using timber mats 20 feet in width from the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center Road to the substation and encircling the substation with additional matting for use of tracks and equipment servicing the substation, along a route that has been approved by the park. Measures must be taken to minimize soil and plant root disturbance and to avoid any rutting caused by vehicle or equipment at the site. Parking along paved surfaces adjacent to the site shall not disrupt or block visitor, US Coast Guard or boating traffic accessing Oregon Inlet marina.
- The permittee will ensure that no vehicle fuel, oil or other fluids escape from its vehicles on park land. Permittee is responsible for containment and cleanup required to return the site to original conditions. The permittee shall comply with all NC Department of Environmental Quality and National Park Service rules and regulations including, but not limited to the handling and storage of fuel, oil, and hazardous substances. The District Ranger must be notified of any leaks or spills. Permittee will assist the park as may be directed in fire suppression in the event permittee's activities cause a wildfire event.
- The permittee has been provided with a copy of the NCDOT B-2500 Permit and Federal Highway Easement Deed and agrees to comply with all the obligations and duties contained therein that may be applicable to the permittee in its construction and establishment of this new 115 kV cable across the new bridge. The permittee has been provided with the most recent park Hurricane Plan for the project site.

#### Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)/Southern Segment

The initial phase of construction involves hand clearing (if needed) and matting of the area around which the South End Riser would be located. Access to this area will be off NC 12 ROW. Total impacts to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore would be approximately 0.61

acres of new ROW, of which 0.45 acres would be located within NC 12 ROW. Approximately 1.89 acres of the cooperative's existing utility ROW would be abandoned, resulting in a net loss of 1.73 acres of utility easement on the Pea Island NWR. Abandoned utility easements would be returned to unencumbered refuge use.

The Pea Island NWR completed and issued a Notice of Availability for a Draft Compatibility Determination on May 25, 2017. The determination concluded the following conditions:

- The cooperative will relinquish all claims to the abandoned easement area(s); abandoned utility easement areas will be restored to a condition as good or better than adjacent, undisturbed habitat to the extent feasible and possible.
- All work is planned for Fall of 2017, avoiding peak wildlife nesting seasons; deviations from the planned work schedule, if any, would be addressed by the Refuge Manager
- The cooperative shall ensure full compliance with the terms and conditions within or attached to ROW Permit ES-0852 and all modifications or amendments thereof.

Temporary wetland impacts to this area would be less than 0.06 acres and have been permitted through a modification to NCDOT's wetlands permit dated November 6, 2015.

A special use authorization for the cooperative's utility activities is currently pending issuance.

### **National Historic Preservation Act Coordination**

RUS is consulting with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office regarding its Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Because RUS was not a cooperating agency on the FHWA/NCDOT's EA, separate Section 106 review is necessary.

As a part of their special use permit processes, the Department of Interior agencies consulted with the NC State Historic Preservation Office regarding effects that the cooperative's utilities activities may have to historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Pea Island NWR issued a finding of No Effects to Historic Places; the SHPO agreed with this finding.

RUS' action would not add to or alter the above undertakings (see 36 CFR §800.16(y)) that were subject to the reviews completed by FHWA/NCDOT or by the Department of Interior agencies.

### **Endangered Species Act Assessment and Review**

In 2008, the USFWS Ecological Services issued Biological and Conference Opinions. NCDOT coordination with the USFWS Ecological Services has been on-going. In recent communications with the USFWS Ecological Services, the cooperative agreed to abide by the terms and conditions in the Biological and Conference Opinions and to implement additional commitments specified in the special use permits issued by the Department of Interior agencies. By letter dated April 6, 2017, the USFWS Ecological Services recommended that the utility

activities would have no adverse effects to federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

### **Executive Order 11990 Review**

Wetland impacts specific to the utility line were evaluated and permitted through a modification to NCDOT's wetlands permits, with final approval issued on November 6, 2015. This modification applies to the Individual Section 404 Permit issued by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, and Individual Water Quality Certification issued by the NC Department of Environmental Quality, and a CAMA Major Development Permit. The minor modification to the permit would result in a 0.06 acre reduction in impacts due to temporary excavation and an increase in 0.22 acre in temporary wetlands impacts due to hand clearing of wetlands (for working off timber mats) in the cooperative's work area. This alternative aids the cooperative in reducing the time needed to complete its utility work, which is needed for the cooperative to provide electricity to Hatteras Island via backup generators.

## **LIMITATIONS OF RUS' ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL REVIEWS**

The federal action that RUS is considering is potential approval of financing assistance to Cape Hatteras Electric for construction of the New Bonner Bridge 115 kV Line Relocation Project. RUS's decision of whether or not to approve the requested financing assistance (i.e., loan or loan guarantee) would be made based in part on the environmental analysis detailed in this supplemental EA and a separate technical evaluation.

An adequate EA enables RUS to evaluate the environmental effects of a proposed project and fulfill its obligations under NEPA and other environmental mandates. This EA serves as a detailed written record of the environmental analysis completed for the proposed project and is intended to provide RUS officials with sufficient information to make a decision regarding the significance of the environmental impacts of its federal action. RUS is solely responsible for determining the proposed project's environmental acceptability based upon an understanding of the environmental consequences presented in this document.

Publication of this EA and any subsequent environmental findings is not a decision on a financial assistance application and therefore not an approval of the expenditure of federal funds. Issuance of this EA and its findings would conclude the agency's environmental review process in accordance with NEPA and the agency's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970). The decision to provide financial assistance is also subject to the availability of loan funds for the designated purpose in RUS' budget.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

This supplement is available to the public for a 14-day review and comment period. Comments must be received by Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 5:00 PM (EST). All comments may be submitted by e-mail to: [alexandria.anderson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:alexandria.anderson@wdc.usda.gov) or by physical mail to:

Ms. Kellie Kubena  
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff  
USDA Rural Utilities Service, WEP  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Mail Stop 1570, Room 2237-S  
Washington, DC 20250-1570

Once RUS has reviewed and evaluated comments, it will issue its environmental finding related to the proposed project. Should RUS choose to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), a notice will be published in local newspapers, informing the public of the RUS finding and the availability of the EA and FONSI.

## **Attachments to Supplement**



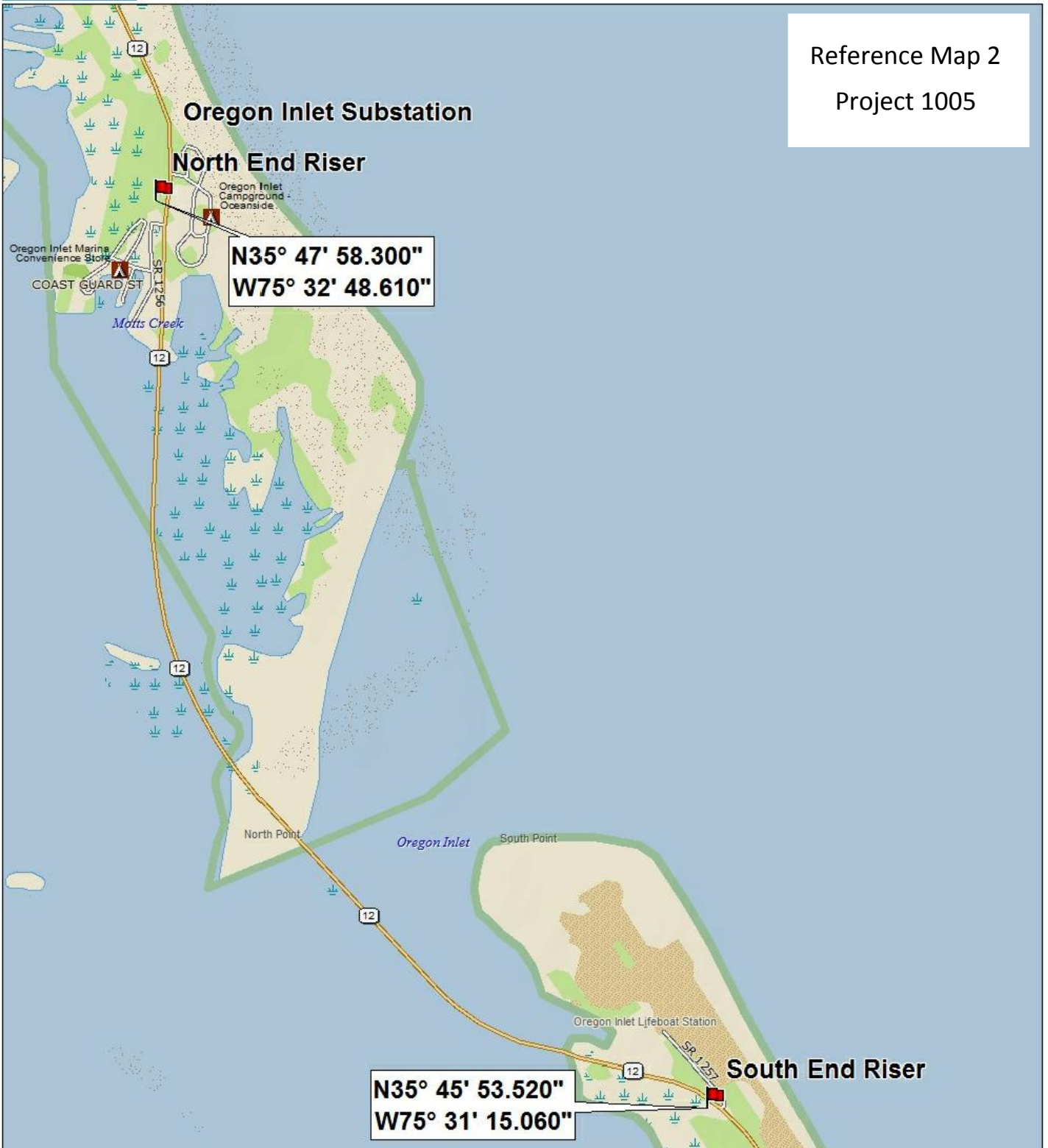
**Reference Map 1**

**Project 1120**





Reference Map 2  
Project 1005



CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA

BONNER BRIDGE  
115 kV CABLE REPLACEMENT

**Booth & Associates, Inc.**

5811 Glenwood Avenue | Raleigh, NC 27612 CONSULTING ENGINEERS NC P-0221

DWN.	MEC	DATE:	21 MAR 2017
CKD.	WPJ	APPD.	WPJ
SCALE:	1" = 2,000'		15-6803
DATE	REVISION	DATE	REVISION

DWG. NO.  
VM-1

Data use subject to license.

© DeLorme XMap® 7

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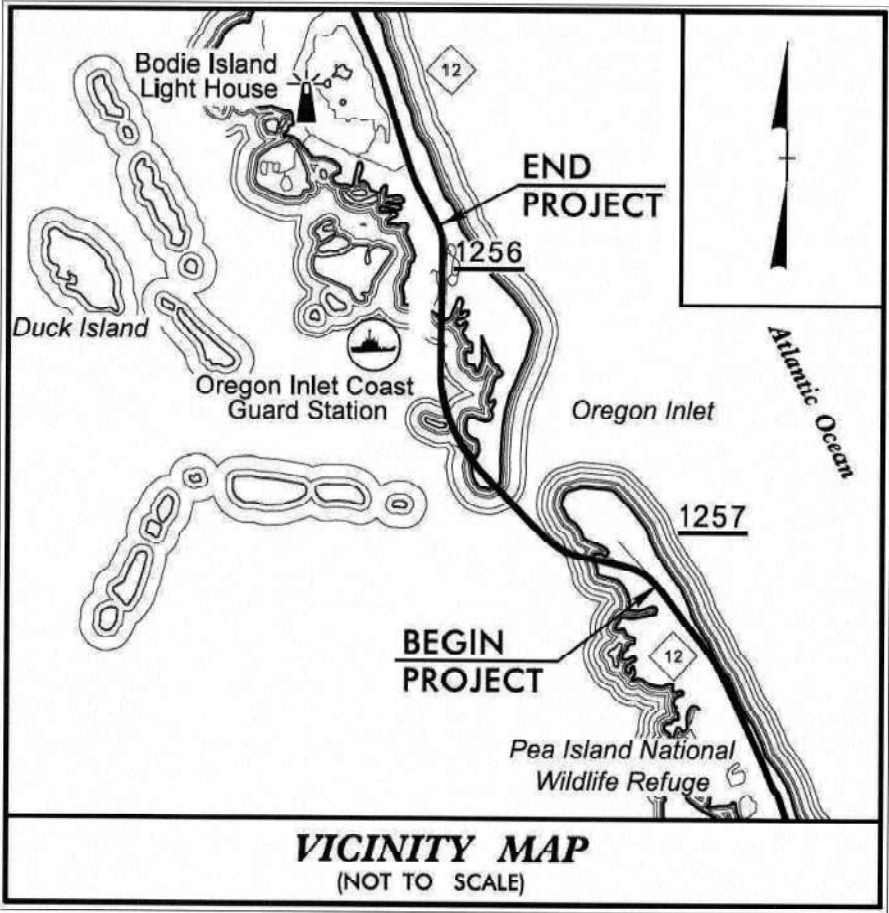


SHEET NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1 OF 6	TITLE PAGE
2-4 OF 6	PLAN AND PROFILE - NORTH OF BONNER BRIDGE
5 OF 6	PLAN AND PROFILE - SOUTH OF BONNER BRIDGE
6 OF 6	DETAIL SHEET

# CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## DARE COUNTY

LOCATION: U.S. HIGHWAY 12, NAGS HEAD TO  
RODANTHE, NORTH CAROLINA  
TIP PROJECT: B-2500 (PHASE 1)



LEGEND	
2+00	PROPOSED DIRECTIONAL BORE/DUCT BANK STATIONING (PLAN VIEW)
189+00	NCDOT PROJECT STATIONING (PLAN VIEW)
UG	UNDERGROUND 115 kV ELECTRIC (CHEC) - TO BE INSTALLED
CU	UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATIONS - TO BE INSTALLED
EU	UNDERGROUND 115 kV ELECTRIC (CHEC) - CABLE TO BE REMOVED/ABANDONED
ED	UNDERGROUND DISTRIBUTION ELECTRIC (DOMINION POWER) - TO BE RETAINED
TEL	UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATIONS - TO BE RETAINED
W	UNDERGROUND WATER LINE - TO BE RETAINED
	UNKNOWN DRAIN LINE - TO BE RETAINED
	CENTERLINE OF EXISTING OVERHEAD CHEC TRANSMISSION LINE - TO BE RETAINED
	CENTERLINE OF EXISTING OVERHEAD CHEC TRANSMISSION LINE - TO BE REMOVED
	EDGE OF EXISTING 50' WIDE CHEC TRANSMISSION EASEMENT
	PROPOSED 50' CHEC TRANSMISSION EASEMENT
	EXISTING SUBSTATION FENCE
	PROPOSED SUBSTATION FENCE EXTENSION
	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION PERIMETER FENCE
	PROPOSED TRANSMISSION STR. #12 PERIMETER FENCE
	GUY AND ANCHOR COMBINATION
	EDGE OF PAVEMENT (EXISTING)
	EDGE OF PAVEMENT (PROPOSED)
	EDGE OF SOIL ROAD (EXISTING)
	EDGE OF EXISTING HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY - TO BE RETAINED
	EDGE OF PROPOSED HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY
	EXISTING CONTOURS, 1FT INTERVAL
	PROPOSED UNDERGROUND DIRECTIONAL BORE
	PROPOSED UNDERGROUND CONCRETE DUCT BANK
	PAVED ROAD SURFACE
	PROPOSED ROADWAY FILL SECTION
	PROPOSED ROADWAY CUT SECTION
	EXISTING 50' WIDE CHEC TRANSMISSION EASEMENT - TO BE ABANDONED
	PROPOSED TIMBER MATTING

Electric Utility General Notes:

DANGER! All lines are to be considered energized unless grounded in accordance with owner's or contractor's safety regulations and procedures, whichever is more stringent.

Location of electrical lines are approximate and are intended for geographic reference only.

Base Roadway Design Plans provided to Booth & Associates, LLC by the Division of Highways, North Carolina Department of Transportation (N.C.D.O.T.) for project B-2500 (Phase 1).

Electric facilities, both existing and proposed, have been added by Booth & Associates, LLC, Consulting Engineers, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Engineering provided by Booth & Associates, LLC, covers only that work pertaining to the Electric Utility Construction as shown on these plans.

All other work shown is by others.

Engineer of record covers only work provided by Booth & Associates, LLC.

Existing and proposed electric facilities are owned by Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative, Buxton, North Carolina.

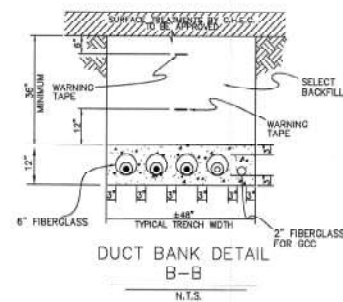
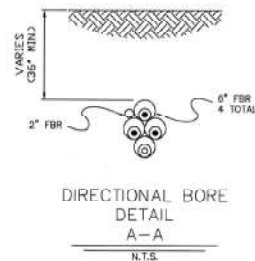


DATE	REVISIONS	NO.
03/24/17	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	0
06/08/17	REVISED SUE DATA & DUCTBANK CONFIG C-C	1

CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA  
**Booth & Associates, LLC**  
5811 Glenwood Ave. | Raleigh, NC 27606 | CONSULTING ENGINEERS, NC #40221

DWN: MCW EXD: TKB APP'D: W/PJ DATE: 03/24/2017 CAD FILE: 17B450PP

PLAN & PROFILE	
BONNER BRIDGE CABLE REPLACEMENT COVER SHEET	
SCALE: N.T.S.	SHEET: 1 OF 6

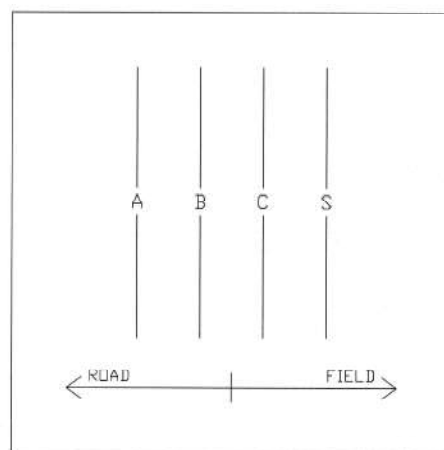


#### LEGEND

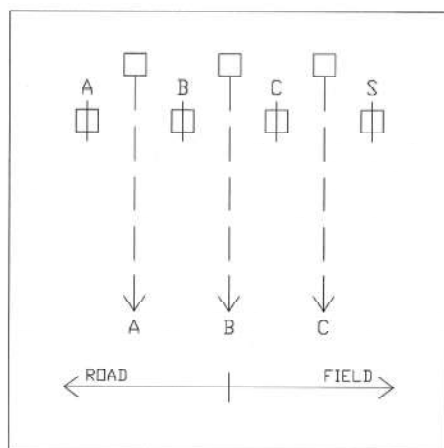
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- ⊖ PROPOSED SPARE CIRCUIT CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED GROUNDING CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT

#### NOTES

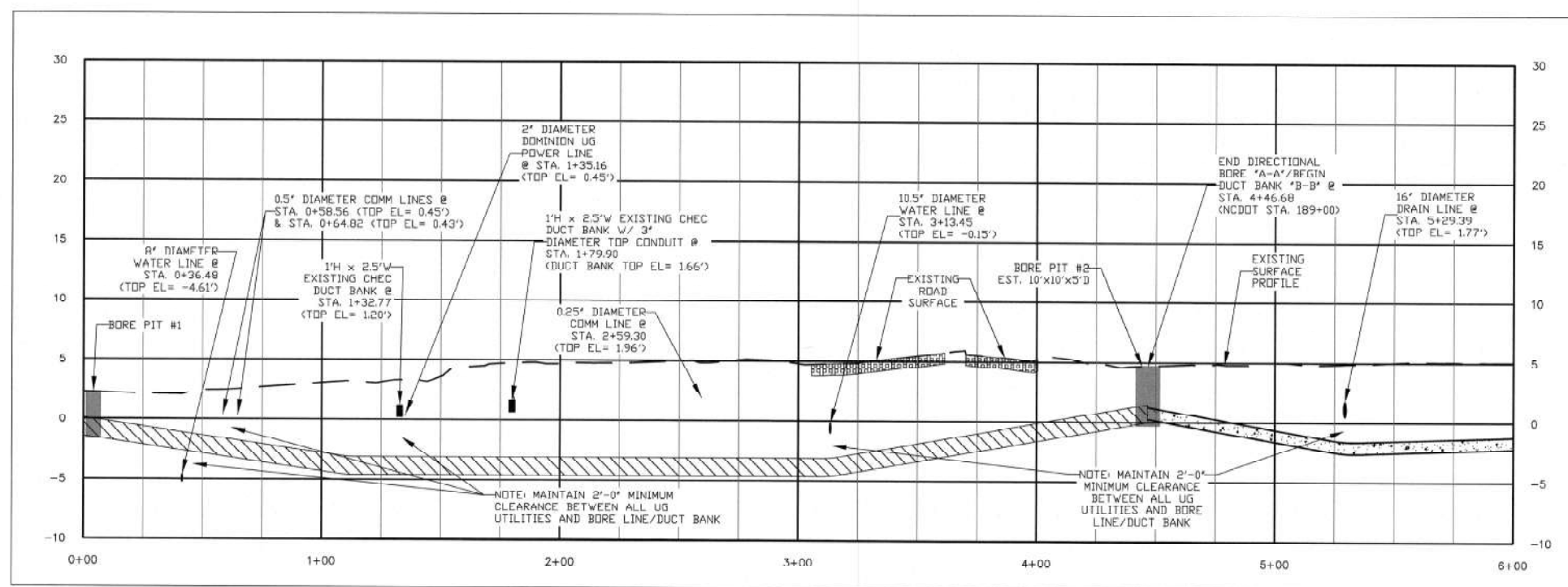
1. MAINTAIN NO LESS THAN 24\"/>



PHASING DETAIL PLAN VIEW (N.T.S.)  
DUCT BANK - B-B



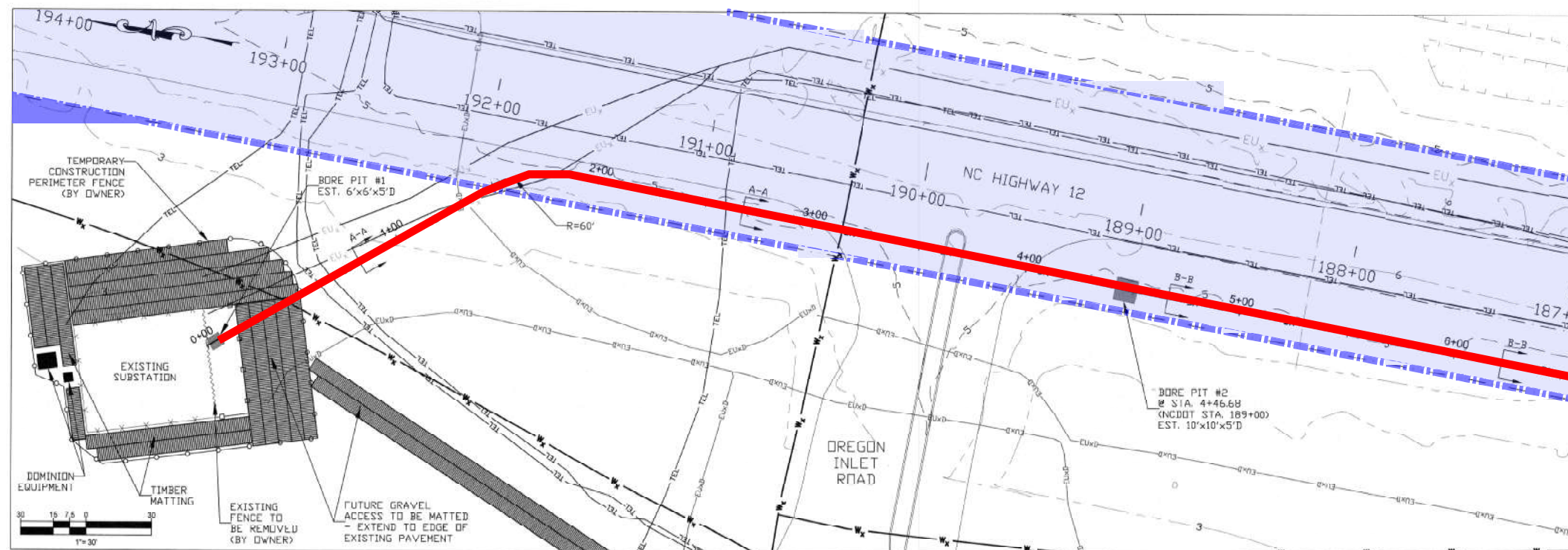
PHASING DETAIL PLAN VIEW (N.T.S.)  
OREGON INLET SUB - RISER



PROFILE VIEW

#### NOTES

1. FOREIGN UTILITIES FIELD LOCATED AND DEPTHS VERIFIED BY WITHERSRAVENEL IN MAY 2017. (JOB #2170147)
2. BORE PIT #1 DIMENSIONS ASSUMED 6' x 6'. BORE PIT #2 DIMENSIONS ASSUMED 10' x 10'.
3. DANGER ENERGIZED POWER CABLES ALONG PROPOSED ROUTE



PLAN VIEW



DATE	REVISIONS	NO.
03/24/17	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	0
06/08/17	REVISED SEE DATA & DUCTBANK CONFIG C-C	1

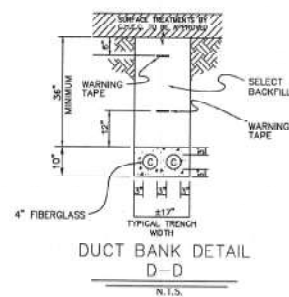
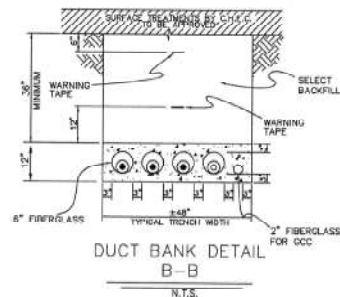
CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA  
**Booth Associates, LLC**  
5811 Clemons Ave. | Raleigh, NC 27606 | CONSULTING ENGINEERS | NC F-0221

DWN MCW CKD TKB APPD WPJ DATE 03/24/2017 CAD FILE 178430PP

PLAN & PROFILE  
BONNER BRIDGE CABLE  
REPLACEMENT - NORTH END

SCALE:  
1"=30' HORIZ.  
1"=6' VERT.  
17-0420  
2017  
SHEET  
C OF 6



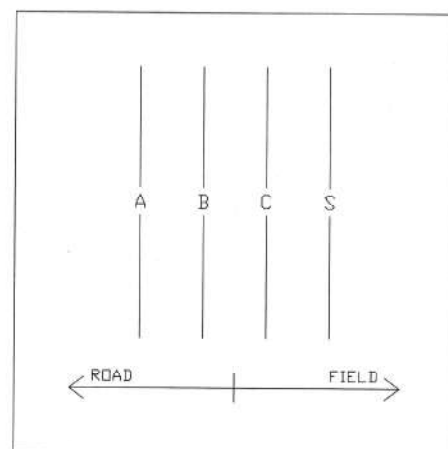


#### LEGEND

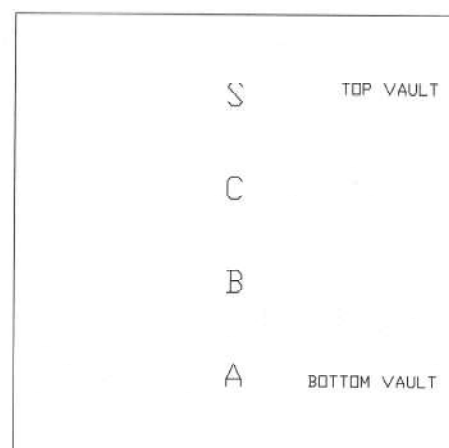
- ① PROPOSED ACTIVE CIRCUIT CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- ② PROPOSED SPARE CIRCUIT CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED GROUNDING CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED COMMUNICATION BY OTHERS

#### NOTES:

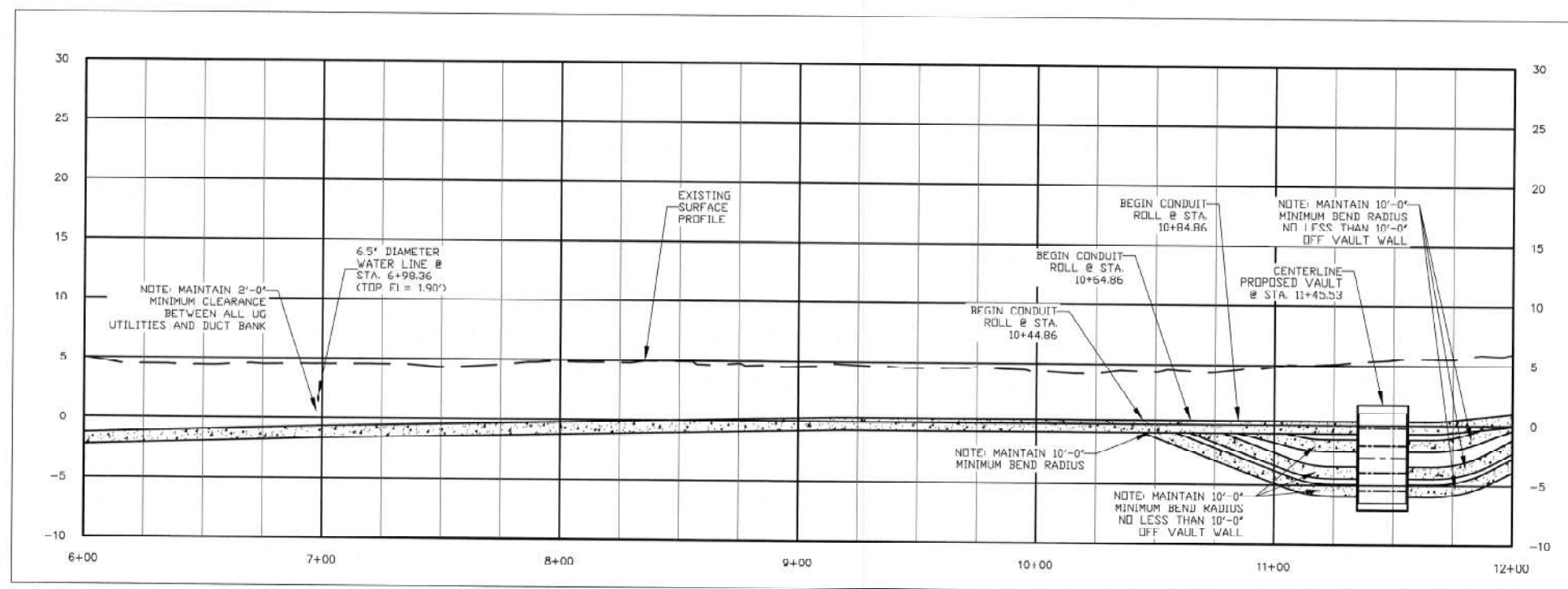
1. MAINTAIN NO LESS THAN 24" SEPARATION BETWEEN CONDUIT/DUCT BANK SURFACE AND FOREIGN UTILITIES.



PHASING DETAIL PLAN VIEW (N.T.S.)  
DUCT BANK B-D



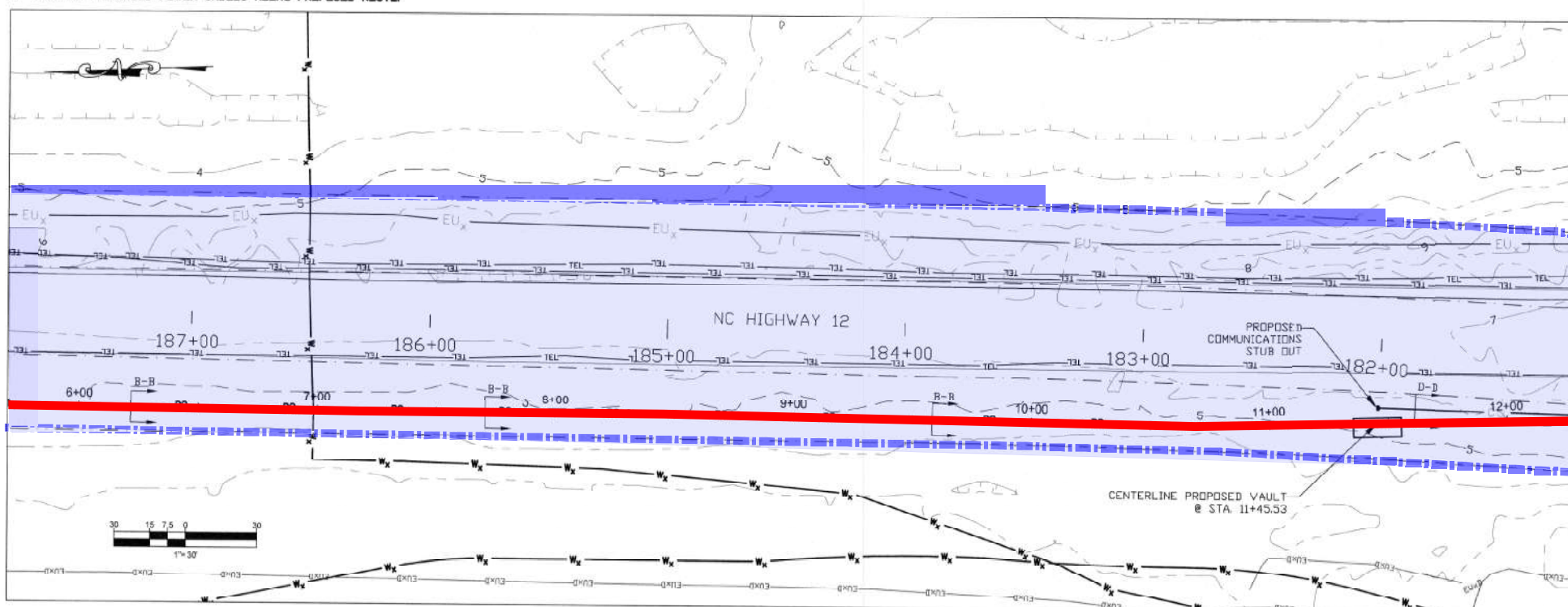
PHASING DETAIL PROFILE VIEW (N.T.S.)  
UTILITY VAULT



PROFILE VIEW

#### NOTES:

1. FOREIGN UTILITIES FIELD LOCATED AND DEPTHS VERIFIED BY WITHERSRAVENEL IN MAY 2017. (JOB #2170147)
2. DANGER ENERGIZED POWER CABLES ALONG PROPOSED ROUTE!



PLAN VIEW



DATE	REVISIONS	NO.
03/24/17	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	0
06/08/17	REVISED SEE DATA & DUCTBANK CONFIG C-C	1

CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Booth & Associates, LLC

3811 Glenwood Ave. | Raleigh, NC 27606 CONSULTING ENGINEERS NC F-0221

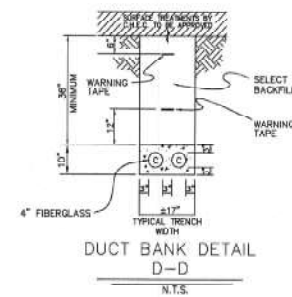
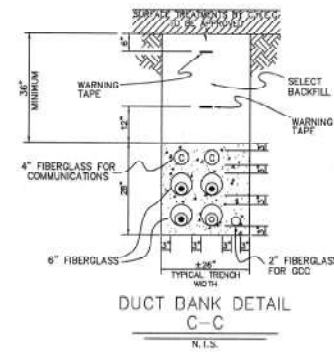
DWN: MCW CKD: TKB APPD: W.P.J. DATE: 03/24/2017 CAD FILE: 17B450PP

PLAN & PROFILE

BONNER BRIDGE CABLE  
REPLACEMENT - NORTH END

SCALE: 1"=30' HORIZ. 1"=6' VERT. 17-B450 SHEET 3 OF 6



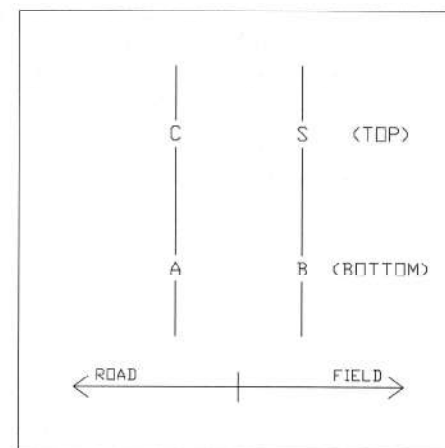


# LEGEND

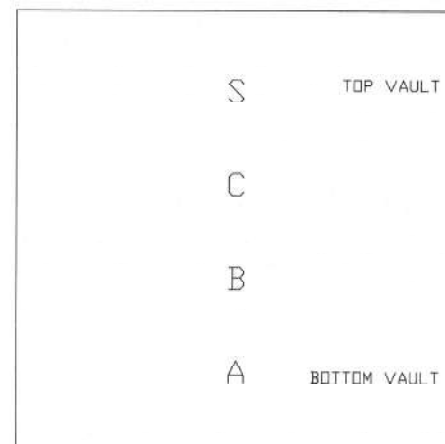
- PROPOSED ACTIVE CIRCUIT CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED SPARE CIRCUIT CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED GROUNDING CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED COMMUNICATION BY OTHERS

## NOTES:

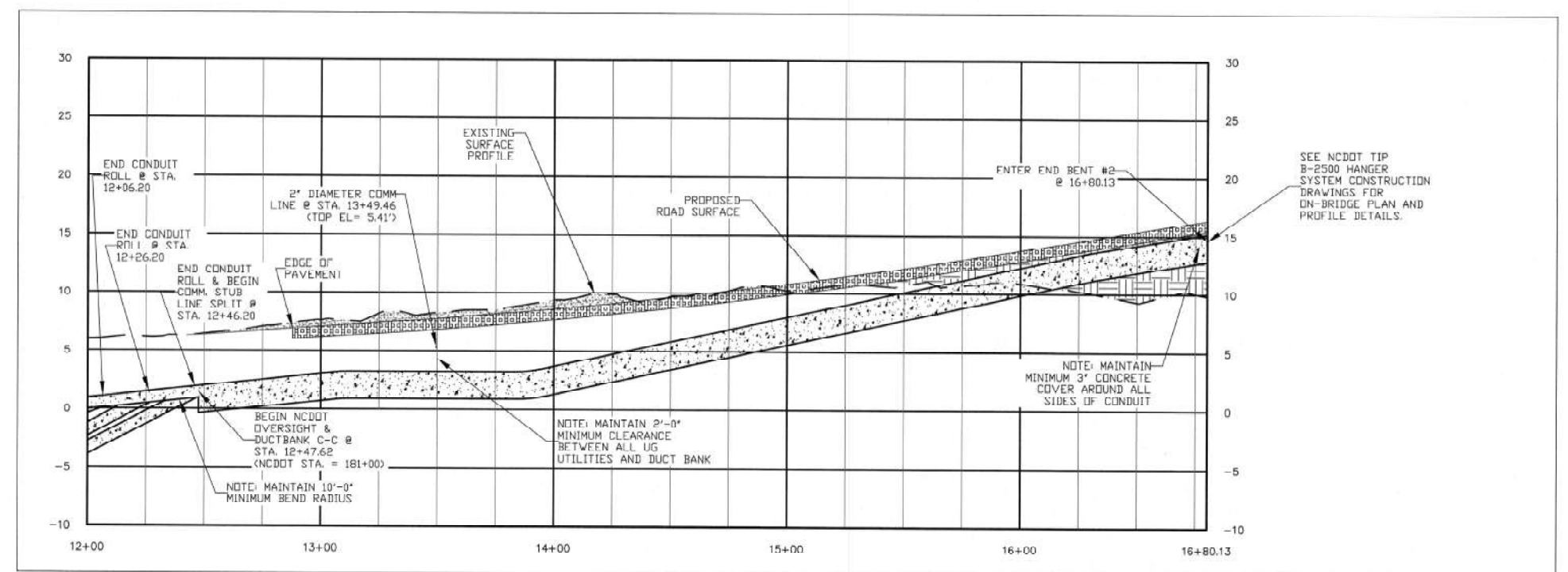
1. MAINTAIN NO LESS THAN 24" SEPARATION BETWEEN CONDUIT/DUCT BANK SURFACE AND FOREIGN UTILITIES.



PHASING DETAIL PLAN VIEW (N.T.S.)  
DUCT BANK - C-C



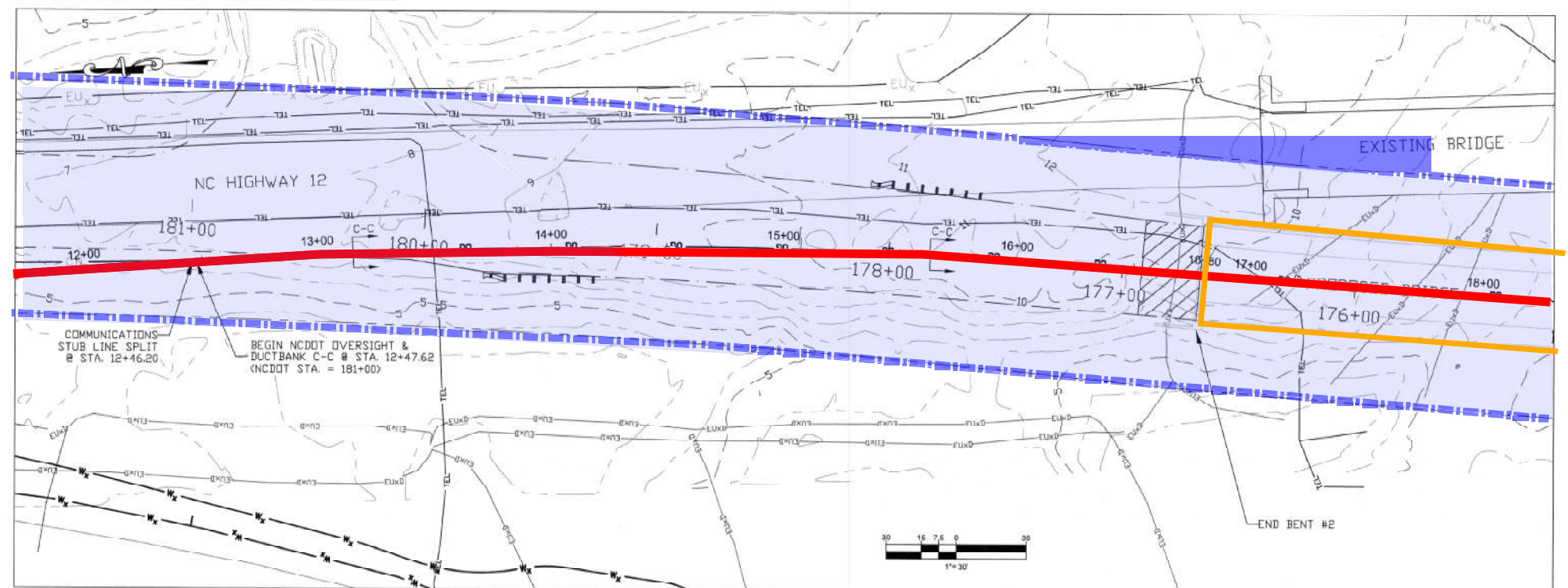
PHASING DETAIL PROFILE VIEW (N.T.S.)  
UTILITY VAULT



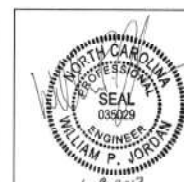
PROFILE VIEW

## NOTES:

1. FOREIGN UTILITIES FIELD LOCATED AND DEPTHS VERIFIED BY WITHERSRAVENEL IN MAY 2017. (JOB #210147)
2. DANGER! ENERGIZED POWER CABLES ALONG PROPOSED ROUTE!



PLAN VIEW



DATE	REVISIONS	NO.
03/24/17	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	0
06/08/17	REVISED SUE DATA & DUCTBANK CONFIG C-C	1

CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Booth Associates LLC

3811 Cleveland Ave. Raleigh, NC 27606 CONSULTING ENGINEERS NC F-0221

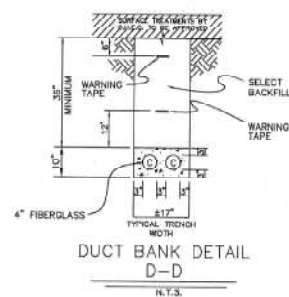
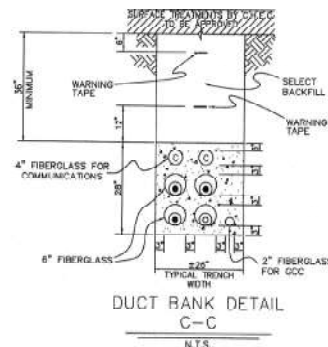
DWN: MCW CKD: TKB APPD: WPJ DATE: 03/24/2017 CAD FILE: 17B450PP

PLAN & PROFILE

BONNER BRIDGE CABLE  
REPLACEMENT - NORTH END

SCALE: 1"=30' HORIZ. 1"=6' VERT. 17-0430 SHEET: 4 OF 6



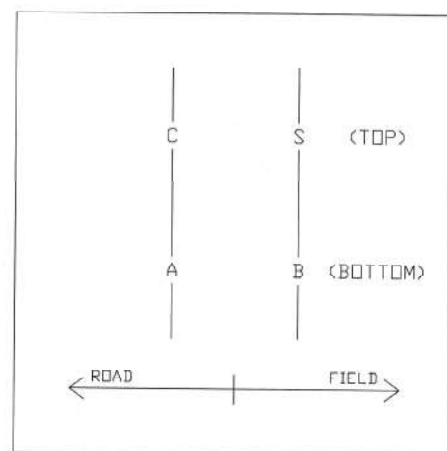


# LEGEND

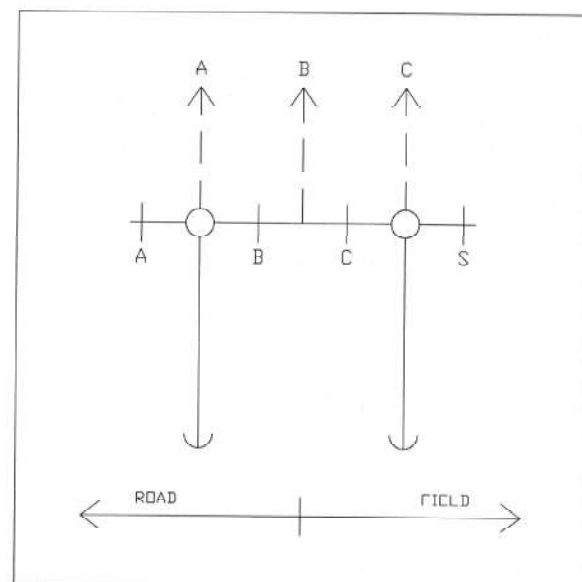
- PROPOSED ACTIVE CIRCUIT CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED SPARE CIRCUIT CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED GROUNDING CONDUCTOR IN CONDUIT
- PROPOSED COMMUNICATION BY OTHERS

## NOTES:

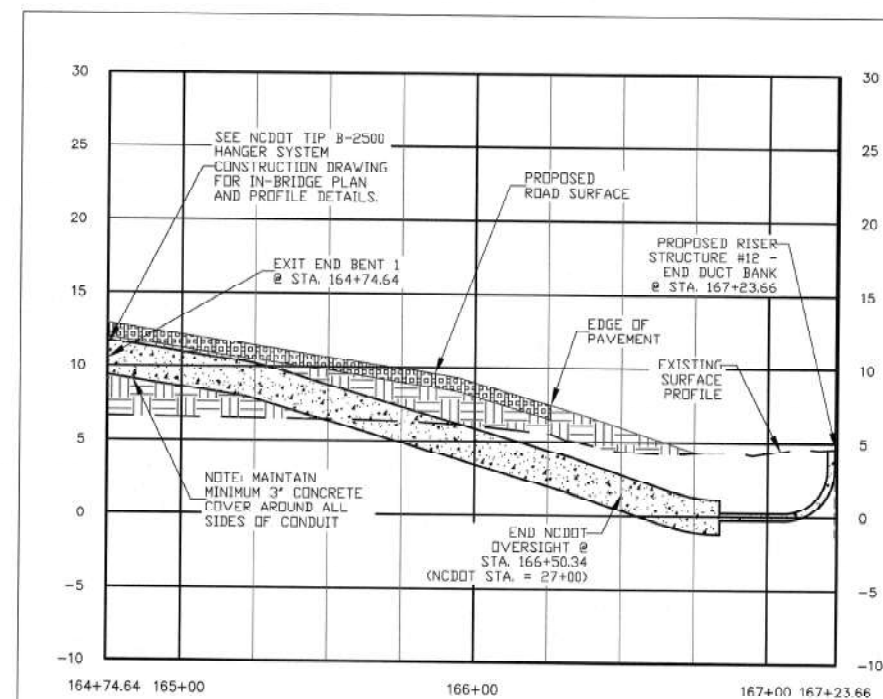
1. MAINTAIN NO LESS THAN 24" SEPARATION BETWEEN CONDUIT/DUCT BANK SURFACE AND FOREIGN UTILITIES.



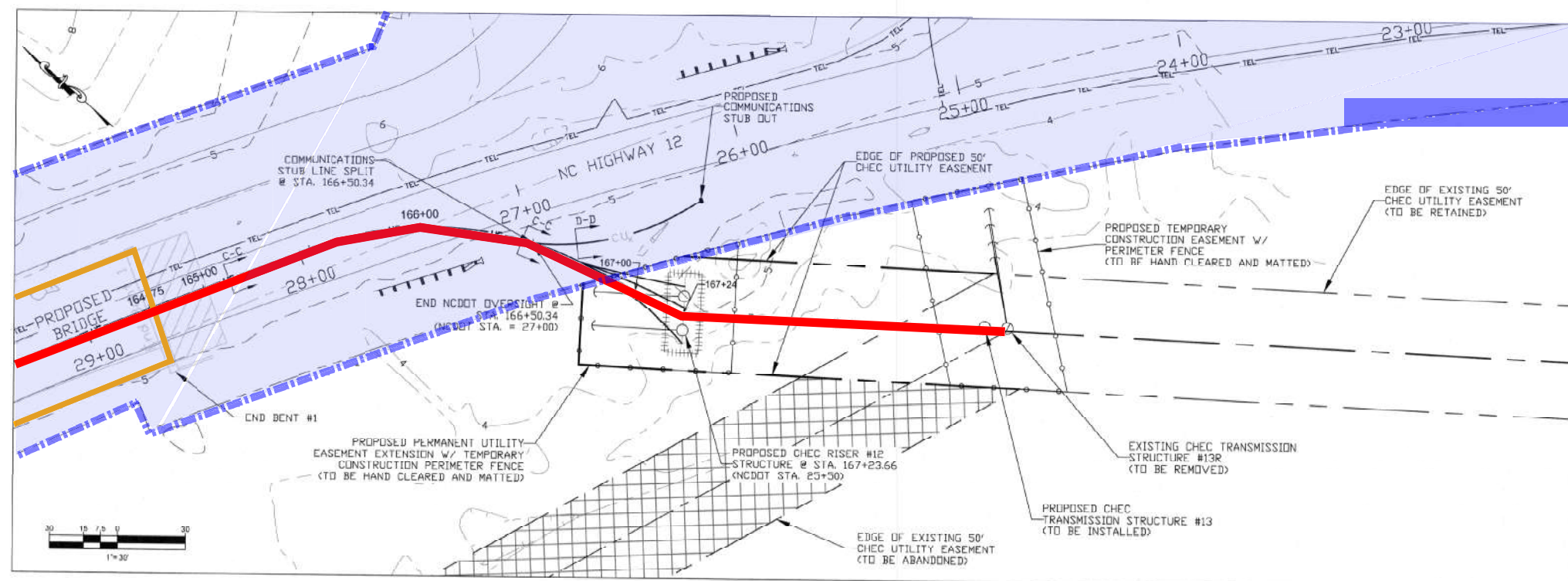
PHASING DETAIL PLAN VIEW (N.T.S.)  
DUCT BANK - C-C



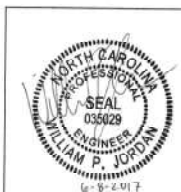
RISER PHASING DETAIL PLAN VIEW (N.T.S.)  
STR. 12 - RISER



PROFILE VIEW



PLAN VIEW

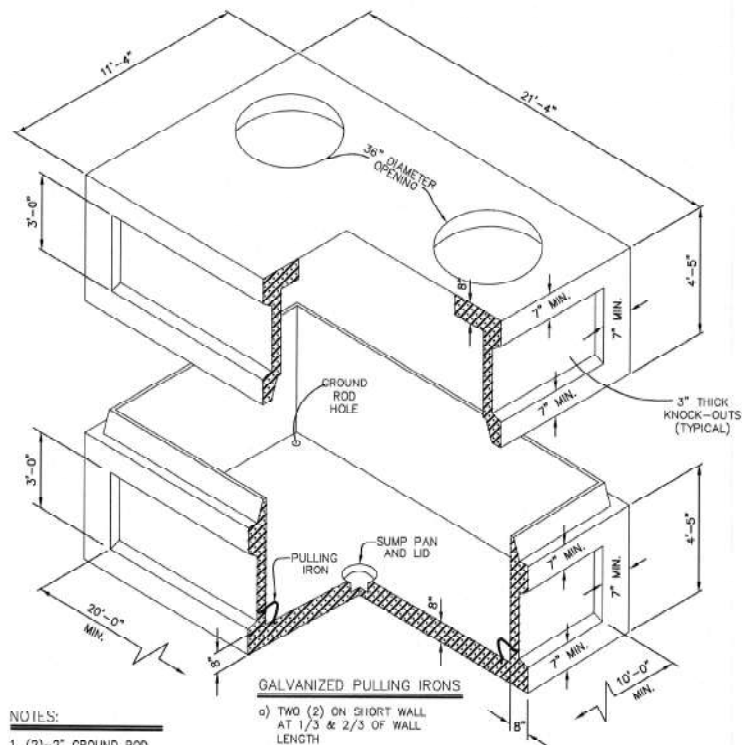


DATE	REVISIONS	NO.
03/24/17	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	0
06/08/17	REVISED SUE DATA & DUCTBANK CONFIG C-C	1

CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA  
**Booth & Associates, LLC**  
3811 Glenwood Ave. Raleigh, NC 27606 CONSULTING ENGINEERS NC F-0221

PLAN & PROFILE		
BONNER BRIDGE CABLE REPLACEMENT - SOUTH END		
SCALE: 1"=30' HORIZ. 1"=5' VERT.	17-8450 © 2017	SHEET: 6 OF 6

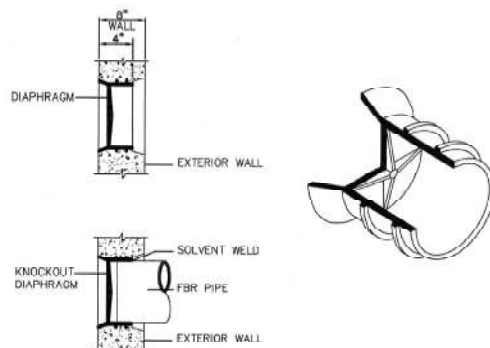
BNV MCW CKD TKB APPB W/PJ DATE: 02/24/2017 CAD FILE: 170450P



- NOTES:
- (2)-2" GROUND ROD HOLES PROVIDED
  - 7/8" PULLING IRONS ALL SIDES GALVANIZED

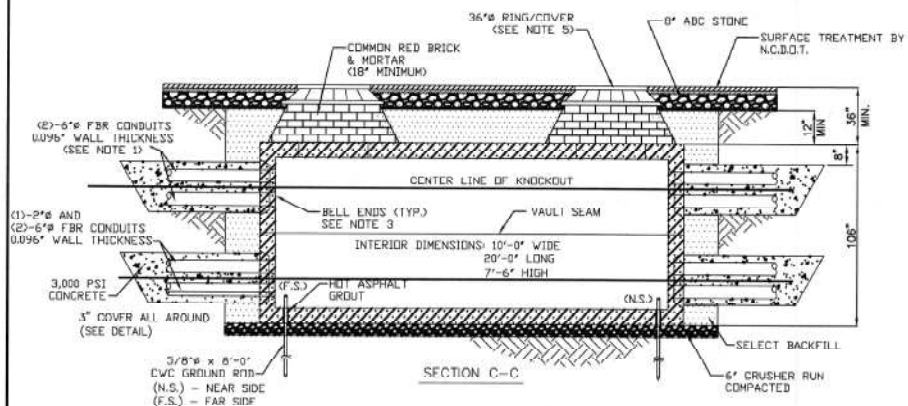
- a) TWO (2) ON SHORT WALL AT 1/3 & 2/3 OF WALL LENGTH
- b) THREE (3) ON LONG WALL AT 1/4, 1/2 & 3/4 OF WALL LENGTH

- NOTES:
- CONDUIT BENDS SHALL NOT EXIST WITHIN 10'-0" OF VAULT WALL.
  - MAINTAIN DUCTBANK OFFSET TO 1' 0" FROM INSIDE WALL TO SIDE OF DUCT.
  - ROUT SMOOTH AROUND CONDUITS AFTER CONCRETE ENCASUREMENT IS POURED. DUCTBANK SHOULD BE WATERPROOF AROUND CONDUITS. USE RTI-1 END FITTINGS ON CONDUITS.
  - VERTICAL CABLE RACK SUPPORTS TO BE INSTALLED AND MOUNTING HOLES TO BE FIELD DRILLED INTO INSIDE WALLS. INSTALL HORIZONTAL CABLE RACKS, AS REQUIRED FOR PRIMARY CABLES (BY CABLE INSTALLER)
  - VAULT RING/COVER SHALL BE ADJUSTED USING MORTAR TO MATCH GRADE OF SURFACE TREATMENT.
  - INSTALL (2)-3/4" x 10'-0" CWC GROUND RODS PER VAULT SIX INCHES (6") ABOVE VAULT FLOOR. GROUND RODS TO BE INSTALLED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION OF UPPER SECTION OF TWO-PIECE VAULT. EACH GROUND ROD SHALL BE TESTED FOR 250 ohms OR LESS.
  - INSTALL LOOP OF 4/0 AWC BARE COPPER 3" ABOVE FLOOR LEVEL OF VAULT ON ALL FOUR WALLS TO CONNECT 2-3/4" x 10'-0" GROUND RODS AND ALL PRIMARY CIRCUIT NEUTRALS.
  - CONNECT ALL CABLE RACKS TO GROUND LOOP WITH #2 AWC BARE COPPER, (BY OTHERS)
  - COORDINATE RACKING REQUIREMENTS WITH CABLE SUPPLIER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

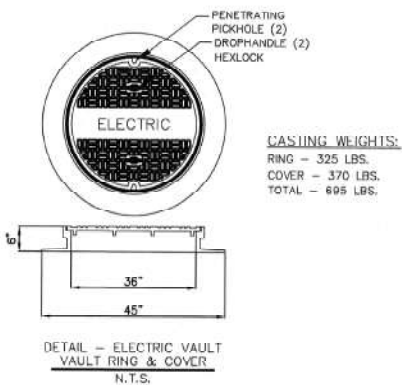


TYPICAL DUCT TERMINATOR DETAILS  
N.T.S.

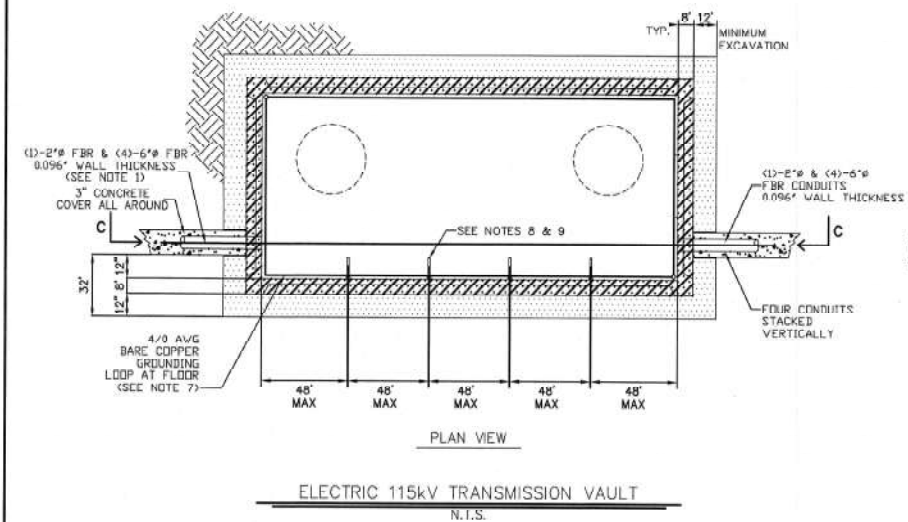
SCHEDULE	WIDTH	X	LENGTH	X	HEIGHT
INTERIOR DIMENSIONS	10'-0"	X	20'-0"	X	7'-6"
EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS	11'-4"	X	21'-4"	X	8'-10"
UTILITY VAULT (TOTAL OF 1)					
REINFORCED FOR HS20-44 BRIDGE LOAD					



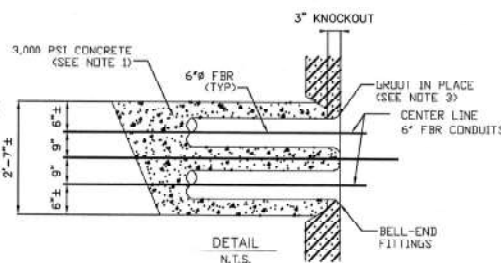
UTILITY VAULT DETAIL  
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION  
N.T.S.



CASING WEIGHTS:  
RING - 325 LBS.  
COVER - 370 LBS.  
TOTAL - 695 LBS.



ELECTRIC 115kV TRANSMISSION VAULT  
N.T.S.



DETAIL  
N.T.S.



DATE	REVISIONS	NO.
03/24/17	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	0
07/06/00/17	REVISED SUE DATA & DUCTBANK CONFIG C-C	1

CAPE HATTERAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
BUXTON, NORTH CAROLINA  
**Booth Associates, LLC**  
5811 Glenwood Ave. | Raleigh, NC 27606 | CONSULTING ENGINEERS | NC F-0221

PLAN & PROFILE		
BONNER BRIDGE CABLE REPLACEMENT DETAIL SHEET		
SCALE: N.T.S.	17'-8450 2017	SHEET: 6 OF 6

DWN MCW CKD TKB APPD WPJ DATE: 03/24/2017 CAD FILE: 17B450PP

**National Park Service**  
**Outer Banks Group**  
(Cape Hatteras NS, Wright Brothers NM & Ft. Raleigh NHS)  
**1401 National Park Drive**  
**Manteo, NC 27954**  
Telephone 252-475-9000  
Fax 252-473-2595



**Application for Special Use Permit**  
**General**

Please supply the information requested below. **Attach additional sheets, if necessary, to provide required information.** A nonrefundable processing fee of \$ waived must accompany this application unless the requested use is an exercise of a First Amendment right. You must allow sufficient time for the park to process your request. You will be notified of the status of the application and if approved, the necessary steps to secure your final permit. Your permit may require the payment of cost recovery charges and proof of liability insurance naming the United States of America as also insured.

\* **Do not** enter social security number or tax ID number unless you are specifically requested by the Park to do so, and then only one, both are not required.

Applicant Name: Mr. George Price, PE	Telephone #: 252-995-5616 x236
Organization Name: Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative	Cell phone #: 252-475-0178
Social Security or Tax ID #:	Fax#: 252-995-4088
Street/Address: 47109 Light Plant Road	Email: GeorgeP@chec.coop
City/State/Zip Code: Buxton, NC 27920	

Describe proposed activity: Please see attached letter.

Preferred Date	Preferred Location(S)	Preferred Time
01/30/2017 to 12/31/2019	Staging area near substation, trench location along DOT right of way to new bridge deck. Cable connection at end bent # 2	Weekdays 6am-8pm

Maximum Number of Participants 10 Maximum Number of Vehicles 7

List of equipment, materials and items to be brought to the site:

**Equipment:** Power utility bucket truck, concrete trucks for duct bank, directional boring rig, medium sized support trucks, trench excavator, dewatering equipment (if necessary), cable reel and pulling machine

**Materials and other items:** PVC conduit and underground transmission cable, concrete, wetland matting as approved by NPS, silt fencing, safety fencing & signs, temporary electrical riser structure (within substation), fill material (as necessary)

Individual in charge of activity onsite and authorized to make decisions related to the permitted activity if different than listed above (include cell phone number): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you visited the requested area?

☒ Y ☐ N

Is this an exercise of a First Amendment rights?

☐ Y ☒ N

The applicant by his or her signature certifies that all the information given is complete and correct, and that no false or misleading information or false statements have been given.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** This is an application only, and does not serve as permission to conduct any special activity in the park. The information provided will be used to determine whether a permit will be issued. Send the completed application along with the application fee in the form of a personal, business, bank check or money order only made payable to "National Park Service" to National Park Service at the Park address found on the top of the first page of this application.

If your request is approved, a permit containing applicable terms and conditions will be sent you. For a the permit to be valid, it must be signed by a responsible person and returned to the park or be placed in the US Mail, postage prepaid and addressed to: Superintendent, National Park Service, 1401 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954

**Notice to Customers Making Payment by Personal Check:** When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

## NOTICES

**Privacy Act Statement:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) provides that you be furnished with the following information in connection with information required by this application. This information is being collected to allow the park manager to make a value judgment on whether or not to allow the requested use. Applicants are required to provide their social security or taxpayer identification number for activities subject to collection of fees and charges by the National Park Service (31 U.S.C. 7701). Information from the application may be transferred to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, when relevant to civil, criminal or regulatory investigations or prosecutions.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** We are collecting this information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501) to provide the park managers the information needed to decide whether or not to allow the requested use. All applicable parts of the form must be completed in order for your request to be considered. You are not required to respond to this or any other Federal agency-sponsored information collection unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time it takes to read, gather and maintain data, review instructions and complete the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW (1237), Washington, D.C. 20240.

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.



## **Q CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REQUEST**

### **A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Bonner Bridge Cable Replacement Utility Easement

**Project Type:** Utility & Development

**Project Location:** Cape Hatteras National Seashore - 1401 National Park Drive, Manteo,  
Dare County, North Carolina

### **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) replacement of the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge and NC-12 Long Term Management Plan requires relocation of the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (CHEC) transmission circuit that provides service to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and communities on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands.

The existing transmission power circuit originates from the Oregon Inlet Riser Station located at the intersection of Oregon Inlet Road and NC 12 near the fishing center entrance across from Oregon Inlet Campground. The transmission circuit crosses west under NC12 and is encased in a concrete duct bank from the National Park Service (NPS) underground utility Right-of-Way Grant No. ROW-5190-82-1. The power circuit exited the underground duct bank and was attached to the existing Bonner Bridge structure that will be demolished after construction of the new Bonner Bridge. The only feasible alternative for providing uninterrupted power service is to replace the transmission circuit onto the new bridge.

The NCDOT TIP # B-2500 Phase I project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation (FEIS) certified in 2008 as well as the Environmental Assessment (EA) certified in 2010 included the National Park Service as a member of the Merger Team. Although future phases will be subject to further NEPA documentation and permits, as appropriate, the 2015 court settlement regarding the Record of Decision approved construction of Phase I of the Project. This selected alternative was determined to meet the requirements of NEPA and Section 4(f).

The DOI utility easement for the existing transmission circuit was renewed until 2005. The Bonner Bridge Replacement will require a new transmission circuit to be attached to the new bridge to maintain uninterrupted power service. Several interagency meetings were held with NCDOT, NPS, and CHEC to determine the construction route and methods that will provide the least impact to park land for the new transmission cable. The consensus was to install the new transmission circuit within the NCDOT right-of-way prior to the completion of the new bridge. The resource impacts provided in Section C for the desired cable construction methods and route were determined using the existing FEIS and EA. All applicable permits will be submitted by CHEC for the transmission circuit construction. The existing cable and duct bank will be abandoned in place to limit impacts, with the provision for removal by CHEC if required at a future date. A new DOI easement application will be processed following construction of the new transmission circuit according to the Special Use Permit (SUP) filed by CHEC in 2017.

The intent of all agencies involved is to minimize disturbance to park land, reduce potential environmental impacts, and provide a cost effective and efficient method of installing the new transmission cable onto the new bridge to continue providing electrical service to the area. Measures required by the NCDOT SUP issued in 2015 for protection of park resources will apply to future CHEC construction.

## C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER: ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM

Categorical Exclusion - C.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils or in an existing utility right-of-way.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	Potential	Issue: All construction vehicles will be pressure cleaned with water prior to arriving at and departing from the construction site to minimize the potential for introducing exotic plant species.
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	Potential	Issue: Only lights approved in the Biological Opinion and subsequent consultations are required to minimize illumination of the nesting beach and nearshore waters. Identified locations of nesting habitats will be avoided.
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	Potential	Issue: Restoration of the site will include, but not be limited to: grading, smoothing, filling, and restoring native vegetation. Wetland impacts will be mitigated in concurrence with the NCDOT approved mitigation plan.
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	Potential	Issue: Disturbance or destruction of wildlife and vegetation will be avoided to the greatest extent and any concerns will be brought to the attention of the POC immediately.
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	Potential	Issue: The Park's Cultural Resource Program Manager will be notified during construction of the presence of culturally significant objects or structures. Operations shall not injure, alter, destroy, or collect any object, structure, or site of historical, archeological, or cultural value. Should construction unearth previously undiscovered archeological resources, work will be stopped in the area of any discovery. The Permittee shall immediately contact the Park's POC.
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	

Continued on next page

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<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	Potential	Issue: Safety fencing and signage will be provided around all construction areas.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	Potential	Issue: Directional boring will be used to limit impact to Oregon Inlet Drive access for Fishing Center visitors.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	Issue: Temporary one lane access on NC12 as required during construction.
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	Potential	Issue: Barge may be required for cable installation onto new bridge. Coordination with NCDOT ongoing construction will be required for future approval if access required from park.
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	Potential	Issue: Dewatering may be required which will only occur after concrete has hardened and will be filtered before dispersion as permitted.
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	Potential	Issue: Wetland impacts will be mitigated in concurrence with the NCDOT approved mitigation plan.
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	Potential	Issue: Effects of noise, vibrations, and barriers from ongoing NCDOT construction should be provided in any updated biological opinions to implement with CHEC construction.



### SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Outer Banks Group:  
Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS, & Wright Brothers NMEM  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954  
(252) 475-9000 [caha\\_special\\_use\\_permits@nps.gov](mailto:caha_special_use_permits@nps.gov)

Name <b>George Price</b>			
Company/Organization <b>Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative</b>			
Street Address <b>47109 Light Plant Road</b>			
City <b>Buxton</b>	State <b>NC</b>	Zip Code <b>27920</b>	Country
Telephone Number <b>252-995-5616</b>	Cell Phone Number		
Fax Number			
Email Address <b>GeorgeP@chec.coop</b>			

Park Alpha Code  
**CAHA**  
Type of Use  
**Cable Installation in Existing ROW**  
Permit #  
**5700-021**

is hereby authorized to use the following described land or facilities in **Cape Hatteras National Seashore**:

The area must be restored to its original condition at the end of the permit.

The permit begins at 7:00 ☒ am / ☐ pm on 5/15/17.

The permit expires at 6:00 ☐ am / ☒ pm on 5/14/22.

SUMMARY OF PERMITTED ACTIVITY: (see attached sheets for additional information and conditions):

See "Permitted Activity" in the conditions of this permit below

Person on site responsible for adherence to the terms and conditions of the permit (include contact information)  
**As named above**

Authorizing legislation or other authority

APPLICATION FEE

PERFORMANCE BOND

LIABILITY INSURANCE

COST RECOVERY

LOCATION FEE

<input type="checkbox"/> Received	Amount
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	Amount
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Required	\$1,000,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	Insurance ACORD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Required	Amount
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required	\$





## SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Outer Banks Group:  
Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS, & Wright Brothers NMEM  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954  
(252) 475-9000 [caha\\_special\\_use\\_permits@nps.gov](mailto:caha_special_use_permits@nps.gov)

ISSUANCE of this permit is subject to the attached conditions. The undersigned hereby accepts this permit subject to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations, expressed or implied herein.

  
PERMITTEE Signature

Title: *Manager of Eng Sops* Date: *5-15-17*

  
Authorizing NPS Official

Title: Superintendent

Date: *5/15/17*

## CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT

Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this permit may result in the immediate suspension or revocation of the permit. [36 CFR 1.6(h)]

PERMITTED ACTIVITY: Construction of a temporary timber mat road 20 ft. in width as directed by the park, from Oregon Inlet Road to the existing substation; enlargement of the existing perimeter of the substation an additional 15 ft. on the south side of the station for the installation of an additional cable riser; installation of temporary matting around the substation to accommodate the work activity; the installation of a new 115 KV ground cable from the substation along the existing ROW along the existing buried cable bank to the new NCDOT ROW for HWY 12, then south within such ROW and continuing under the Oregon Inlet Road, all by linear directional boring; from that point forward, trenching and installing a new cable bank housing for the new cable to the north end of the new bridge, all within the NCDOT ROW.

1. The permittee is prohibited from giving false information; to do so will be considered a breach of conditions and be grounds for revocation: [36 CFR 2.32(a) (3)].
2. This permit may not be transferred or assigned without the prior written consent of the Superintendent.
3. The permittee shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent or designee, and shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, county and municipal laws, ordinances, regulations, codes, and the terms and conditions of this permit. Failure to do so may result in the immediate suspension of the permitted activity or the revocation of the permit. All costs associated with clean up or damage repairs in conjunction with a revoked permit will be the responsibility of the permittee.
4. The permittee is responsible for making all necessary contacts and arrangements with other Federal, State, and local agencies to secure required inspections, permits, licenses, etc.
5. The park area associated with this permit will remain open and available to the public during park visiting hours. This permit does not guarantee exclusive use of an area. Permit activities will not unduly interfere with other park visitors' use and enjoyment of the area.
6. This permit may be revoked at the discretion of the Superintendent upon 24 hours notice.
7. This permit may be revoked without notice if damage to resources or facilities occurs or is threatened, notwithstanding any other term or condition of the permit to the contrary.
8. This permit is made upon the express condition that the United States, its agents and employees shall be free from all liabilities and claims for damages and/or suits for or by reason of any injury, injuries, or death to any person or persons or property of any kind whatsoever, whether to the person or property of the Permittee, its agents or employees, or third parties, from any cause or causes whatsoever while in or upon said premises or any part thereof.





## SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Outer Banks Group:  
Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS, & Wright Brothers NMEM  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954  
(252) 475-9000 [caha\\_special\\_use\\_permits@nps.gov](mailto:caha_special_use_permits@nps.gov)

during the term of this permit or occasioned by any occupancy or use of said premises or any activity carried on by the Permittee in connection herewith, and the Permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless the United States, its agents, and employees from all liabilities, charges, expenses and costs on account of or by reason of any such injuries, deaths, liabilities, claims, suits or losses however occurring or damages growing out of the same.

9. Permittee agrees to carry general liability insurance against claims occasioned by the action or omissions of the permittee, its agents and employees in carrying out the activities and operations authorized by this permit. The policy shall be in the amount(s) as specified on page 1 of this permit and underwritten by a United States company naming the United States of America as additionally insured. The permittee agrees to provide the Superintendent with a Certificate of Insurance with the proper endorsements prior to the commencement of an activity under this permit. Permittee also agrees to require its contractors, subcontractors and agents to carry general liability insurance against claims occasioned by the action or omissions of its contractors, subcontractors, agents and employees in carrying out the activities and operations authorized by this permit. The policy shall be in the amount(s) as specified on page 1 of this permit and underwritten by a United States company naming the United States of America as additionally insured. The permittee agrees to provide the Superintendent with such Certificate of Insurance with the proper endorsements prior to the commencement of an activity under this permit.
10. Permittee agrees to deposit with the park a bond in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ from an authorized bonding company or in the form of cash or cash equivalent, to guarantee that all financial obligations to the park will be met.
11. Costs incurred by the park as a result of accepting and processing the application and managing and monitoring the permitted activity will be reimbursed by the permittee. Administrative costs and estimated costs for activities on site must be paid when the permit is approved. If any additional costs are incurred by the park, the permittee will be billed at the conclusion of the permit. Should the estimated costs paid exceed the actual costs incurred, the difference will be returned to the permittee.
12. The person(s) named on the permit as in charge of the permitted activity on-site must have full authority to make any decisions about the activity and must remain available at all times. He/she shall be responsible for all individuals, groups, vendors, etc. involved with the permit.
13. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as binding the Service to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations made by Congress or administratively allocated for the purpose of this permit for the fiscal year, or to involve the Service in any contract or other obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations or allocations.
14. If any provision of this permit shall be found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this permit shall not be affected and the other provisions of this permit shall be valid and be enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law.
15. **In the event of an emergency, dial 911. In the event of an incident that does not require emergency assistance, dial 252-473-3444.**
16. **PRECONSTRUCTION** The permittee must set up a preconstruction meeting 30 days prior to construction start date with the NPS to review permit conditions. Permittee must steam or power wash exterior and underside of all previously used vehicles to be free of weeds, seed, debris and mud to prevent the introduction and/or spread of exotic, invasive plants. All mats brought into the park by the permittee for this project must be steamed or power washed for the same reasons. Washing/steaming shall occur outside the Park. Permittee shall prepare and submit a Safety Plan for review and approval to the Park Safety Manager. The permittee shall also prepare a restoration plan to restore disturbed areas and submit the same to the park for approval prior to implementation of the project.
17. **CONSTRUCTION** All work and activities in the park by the permittee will be done in accordance with the maps,





### SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Outer Banks Group:  
Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS, & Wright Brothers NMEM  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954  
(252) 475-9000 [caha\\_special\\_use\\_permits@nps.gov](mailto:caha_special_use_permits@nps.gov)

drawings, documents and representations made or furnished to the park in support of the permittee's application for this permit. This permit does not authorize the construction of a gravel or semi-permanent road to the substation site, but will be considered in the permittee's pending application for a full ROW renewal throughout the park.

18. **PARKING AND STAGING** Permittee will access the site by using timber mats 20 feet in width from the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center Road to the Substation and encircling the substation with additional matting for use of trucks and equipment servicing the substation, along a route that has been approved by the park. Measures must be taken to minimize soil and plant root disturbance and to avoid any rutting caused by vehicle or equipment at the site. Parking along paved surfaces adjacent to the site shall not disrupt or block visitor, US Coast Guard or boating traffic accessing Oregon Inlet marina. The permittee will ensure that no vehicle fuel, oil or other fluids escape from its vehicles on park land. Permittee is responsible for any containment and cleanup required to return the site to original condition. The permittee shall comply with all State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and National Park Service rules and regulations including, but not limited to the handling and storage of fuel, oil and hazardous substances. The District Ranger (252-475-8308) must be notified of any leaks or spills. The permittee will assist the park as may be directed in fire suppression in the event permittee's activities cause a wildfire event.

19. **NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION** A CAMA permit should be provided to the park prior to the projects implementation for any impacts to CAMA wetlands. If a CAMA permit is not required by the Corps, then written documentation which states why it is not required must be provided to the park. Permittee should avoid impacting Threatened or Endangered species and plants. Any permitted activities shall be suspended immediately should any unidentified archeological or other cultural resource be encounter with the park. The park's Cultural Resource Specialist at (252) 475-9021 must be notified immediately. Trees, limbs, and shrubs will be cut and trimmed according to the best horticultural practices to protect the vegetation from disease and minimize the aesthetic impact. Disturbance of the soils and vegetation shall be limited to the footprint of each structure and immediately surrounding area.

20. **CLEANUP AND RESTORATION** Cleanup of all debris generated and removal from the site for appropriate disposal is required. Wheel ruts must be filled and smoothed over. Only park approved native seed mixtures shall be used. Within 2 years after the project is completed, the permittee will convene an agency field meeting to determine if the area has re-attained its pre-project function and growth. On-site monitoring by the park after projection completion must occur to ensure the site is restored to the entire satisfaction of the Superintendent.

21. **COMPLYING WITH EXISTING RULES AND PERMITS FOR THE SITE** The permittee has been provided with a copy of the NCDOT B-2500 Permit and Federal Highway Easement Deed and agrees to comply with all of the obligations and duties contained therein that may be applicable to the permittee in its construction and establishment of this new 115 KV cable across the new bridge. The permittee has been provided with the most recent park Hurricane Plan for the project site.

22. **CONTINING OBLIGATION TO RESTORE** Permittee has been allowed to abandon existing concrete duct banks on park land at the site for the original 115 KV cable for the Bonner Bridge and has agreed that if and when the park determines that the banks are adversely impacting the park or its natural resources, visitors, employees or the traveling public, it may require the permittee to remove then at the permittee's cost, to the entire satisfaction of the Superintendent.

23. **POST CONSTRUCTION** Once this project is completed, the permittee and the park have agreed that as-built drawings for this project will be prepared by the permittee and provide to the park, along with its application for a renewal of all of its right-of-ways throughout the park.





## General Activities Special Use Permit Application

OMB Control # 1018-0102  
Expiration Date: 06/30/2017

1

Refuge:

Address:

Attn: (Refuge Official)

E-Mail:

Phone #:

### For Official Use Only:

Permit #:

Station #:

Permit Term: from  to

Note: We do not require all information for each use. See instructions at the end of the notice and contact the refuge identified above to determine applicability of a particular item. Attach additional sheets to the application if the text spaces provided are inadequate.

1) Identify the type of Permit you are applying for: ☒ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Modification ☐ Other

### Applicant Information

2) Full Name:  3) Organization:

4) Street Address:

5) City/State/Zip:

6) Phone #:  7) Fax #:

8) E-mail:

9) List known assistants/subcontractors/subpermittees: (Only required if the assistants/subcontractors/subpermittees will be operating on the refuge without the permittee being present.)

Name/Business	Address	Phone #

### Activity Information

10) Activity type: ☐ Event ☐ Wood Cutting ☐ Group Visit ☐ Educational Activity  
☐ Cabin/Subsistence Cabin ☒ Other

Note: Depending on the activity for which you are requesting a permit, we may ask you for the following activity information. Please contact the specific refuge where the activity is being conducted to determine what information is required.

11) Specifically identify timing, frequency, and how the activity is expected to proceed:

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is requesting a SUP to conduct transmission cable relocation in conjunction with the new Bonner Bridge construction. The replacement of the bridge requires the following:

1. extend the existing overhead transmission pole line 145 linear feet,
2. install (2) new pole structures (Structures 12 and 13),
3. remove 1,375 linear feet of existing overhead 115kV transmission line,
4. remove six (6) pole structures,
5. abandon in place 735 linear feet of existing underground 115kV transmission power circuit

Construction is currently scheduled to commence August 2017. Final system tests and cleanup are scheduled before July 2018. The cable will be energized after completion of the new bridge and prior to destruction of the old bridge.

12) Activity/site occupancy timeline: (Specifically identify beginning and ending dates, site occupation timeline, hours, clean-up, and other major events.)

Construction is currently scheduled to commence August 2017. Final system tests and cleanup are scheduled before July 2018. The cable will be energized after completion of the new bridge and prior to destruction of the old bridge. Construction will coincide with current NCDOT agreed work hours within the limits specified on the attached plan drawing.

13) Expected number of participants, if applicable: Children (1-18 )  Adults  Total

14) Grade level of educational group, if applicable: Grade

15a) Will staff time/assistance be required for group activities? Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

15b) If yes, what's the anticipated time frame?

16a) Plan of Operation required? Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒ 16b) Plan of Operation attached? Yes ☐ No ☐

17) Specifically identify location(s): (GPS location(s) preferred)

Work locations are shown on the attached sheets.

18a) Is map of location(s) required? Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

18b) Is map of location(s) attached? Yes ☒ No ☐

### Insurance Coverage/License/Certifications/Permits

**Note:** Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if any type of insurance, certification(s), or permit(s) will be required. We may process this Special Use Permit while the applicant obtains them.

19) List any **insurance coverage** you have such as general liability, aviation, grounding liability, contaminants applicator, medical evacuation, or others, if required:

Insurance Type	Carrier Name	Policy Number	Copy Attached? Yes or No
N/A			

20) Identify licenses, certifications, and permits, if required:

License/Certification/Permit Type	Number (if applicable)	Issued to:	Copy Attached? Yes or No
N/A			

## Logistics and Transportation

Note: Not all information is required for each use. Please contact the specific refuge where the activity is being conducted to determine what information is required. Attach additional sheets to the application if the text spaces provided are inadequate.

21) Does activity require personnel to stay overnight onsite? Yes ☐ No ☒

22) List names of personnel involved:

List Names	List Names	List Names

23) Specifically describe all major equipment/gear and materials used, if required:

Power line "Bucket" Trucks, Crane, Cable reel, trench excavator, timber matting, silt fencing, safety fencing & signs, conduit, duct bank and concrete truck, fill material.

24a) Provide detailed information on the logistics for onsite, intersite, and/or ship-to-shore transportation to or on the refuge, if required:

NC Highway 12 will be the primary mode of transportation for the project. NC DOT and associated subcontractors will coordinate on sharing previously approved staging areas. Work will be conducted with the temporary and permanent easements indicated on the attached sheets.

24b) Provide descriptions, license plate, or I.D. numbers of vehicles used for onsite, intersite, and/or ship-to-shore transportation, if required:

Type of transportation (onsite, intersite, or ship-to-shore)	Equipment Type	License/I.D./Registration Numbers

25) Specifically describe onsite work and/or living accommodations:

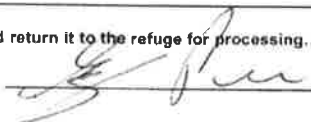
Onsite work involves installing new transmission cable in a trench encased concrete duct bank from bridge end bent #1. Old poles and wires will be removed from near the bridge within the existing easement up to the proposed aerial riser structure (pole structure #12) to be returned to the park. There will not be anyone living onsite.

26) Specifically describe onsite hazardous material storage or other onsite material storage space:

There will be no hazardous material storage on the refuge.

Sign, date, and print this form and return it to the refuge for processing.

30) Signature of Applicant:



Date of Application: 3-3-17

**U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
PEA ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION**

**Use:** Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative Request for Amendment to Right-of-Way Permit ES-0852 on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Dare County, North Carolina

**Refuge Name:** Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge)

**Establishing and Acquisition Authority (ies):** Executive Order 7864 - April 12, 1938

**Refuge Purpose(s):** “ — as a Refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife — “

**National Wildlife Refuge System Mission:**

To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

**Description of Use:**

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is requesting an amendment to their existing right-of-way (ROW) Permit ES-0852. The Permit has been amended on seven occasions since issued in 1966. CHEC is a non-profit utility providing electric service to Hatteras Island, including facilities owned and operated by Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The N. C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is in the construction phase of replacing the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge over Oregon Inlet (TIP Project B-2500, Phase I). Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (CHEC) owns and maintains a 115 kV transmission line that is currently attached to the existing bridge as it passes over Oregon Inlet. At the southern bridge terminus, the transmission line transitions from the bridge and goes underground to a riser station where it transitions to an above ground transmission line on poles within a 50 foot right-of-way (ROW). The relocated transmission line will be attached to the new bridge but at the new southern terminus it will transition back to the existing transmission line on poles on a new location. This overall new alignment requires an amendment to the existing CHEC ROW Permit ES-0852.

The project area is located within the active construction zone for the Bonner Bridge replacement project and has been subjected to intense scrutiny by various natural resource agencies. Since this relocation project is a direct result of bridge replacement, some of the regulatory documents approved for the B-2500 project are applicable to this project and will be incorporated by reference.

CHEC is preparing an Environmental Report, as required by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service. This report has been commissioned and will be completed prior to construction. None of the proposed work is scheduled to occur in an area used by listed species or other species with special designations.

Analyses conducted for this Compatibility Determination (CD) are based upon information presented in the various NEPA documents prepared by the North Carolina Department of



Transportation and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service's 2012 Revised Compatibility Determination and the 2008 Biological Opinion prepared for the Bonner Bridge replacement project. This analysis also is based upon sound professional judgment by refuge managers, ecologists, coastal geologists, and wildlife biologists.

**Availability of Resources:**

Preparation of the CD, coordination with other offices, public involvement, and assembly of the Right-of-Way Permit package requires substantial Refuge staff time. Consultation with the Division of Ecological Services Raleigh Field Office and an Intra-Service Section 7 Endangered Species Act Biological Evaluation will be necessary, as endangered species occur in the project vicinity. Cultural and archaeological resource consultation is also required. Some resources such as staff time and transportation expenses will be required for monitoring the project during construction. Expenditures for equipment, facilities, improvements, maintenance, or other materials and supplies are not anticipated for this project.

**Anticipated Biological Impacts of Use:**

At the new southern terminus the relocated transmission line will transition back to the existing transmission line on poles on new location. To minimize impacts, the new ROW will be cleared by hand if any clearing is necessary. Mats will be used when traversing Refuge land to minimize impacts to the substrate and vegetative communities. The old ROW will be abandoned and will revert back to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. All work is planned for the Fall of 2017 thereby avoiding peak wildlife nesting seasons. Deviations from this planned work schedule, if any, will be addressed by the Refuge Manager.

As a result of the utility easement relocation, the combined effects on refuge lands are that about 0.61 acre of new ROW will be established and about 1.89 acres of ROW abandoned. Of the 0.61 acre of new ROW, 0.45 acre will be co-located in an easement 10 feet wide within the NCDOT ROW. New CHEC ROW outside of any other easement is 0.16 acre. This results in a net return to the Refuge of 1.73 acres of land. The net effect is there will be no net loss in habitat quantity or quality of refuge lands from relocation of this distribution line. Over time there should be a net gain in habitat quality as the abandoned row will naturalize into native plant communities.

Short Term Impacts

There will be short term impacts resulting from construction, including the use of some construction equipment and disturbance of the existing grassland/shrub habitat type. The greatest impact will result in traversing the ROW with construction equipment to either construct new line or remove the old line. These areas will be maintained mostly as a grassland/shrub community within the new ROW. Within a relatively short period of time, wildlife displaced during construction will resume full use of the area. Some bird strikes with electric lines will likely continue, although increases in the number and frequency are not expected since the line will not change in function or capacity and will not be relocated over emergent wetlands or open water on the Refuge. A positive for this relocation project is there will be far less aerial transmission line (1,650 linear feet) than currently existing on the Refuge.

Long-term Impacts

Long-term impacts from the relocation will include those associated with maintaining the ROW in a plant community that will not jeopardize the utility poles during prescribed burns. In most cases this will result in a grassland community similar to existing habitat at the project site. Bird

strikes with the electric lines will continue but should decrease as there will be considerably less aerial transmission line. The magnitude and frequency of use at the project site is not expected to increase in the future.

#### Cumulative Impacts

The utility corridor ROW will be in addition to the NC 12 Highway ROW. The old utility ROW will be abandoned and all utility equipment, materials, and debris will be removed. There should be a net positive change in the amount of refuge land affected by the utility ROW as the abandoned ROW will revert to the Refuge. Other utility lines will be co-located within the NC 12 ROW or the CHEC ROW.

**Public Review and Comment:** Notice of availability for the Draft Compatibility Determination was released on May 25, 2017 to local newspapers, the Dare County Public Library, and was posted on the Refuge web page as well as the information desk in the Gateway and Pea Island Visitor Centers for a period of no less than 14 days. Comments received will be incorporated in Appendix II along with responses as appropriate.

#### **Determination:**

☐ Use is Not Compatible

☒ Use is Compatible With the Following Stipulations

**Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:** These stipulations were prepared to ensure that the Refuge purpose and the NWRS mission can be achieved with the proposed utility ROW modifications. Stipulations include:

1. Abandoned utility easement areas shall be restored to a condition as good or better than adjacent, undisturbed habitat to the extent feasible and possible.
2. CHEC shall relinquish all claims to the abandoned easement area(s).
3. CHEC shall ensure full compliance with all terms and conditions within or attached to Right-of-Way Permit ES-0852 and all modifications or amendments thereof.
4. Monitoring and control of exotic and invasive species is required. Stipulation #8 of Permit ES-0852 prohibits the use of herbicides and pesticides without prior approval by the Regional Director. Notice shall be provided to the Refuge so as to allow sufficient time for coordination and necessary approvals before applying any herbicide, pesticide, or any other chemical control agent.
5. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the conservation and protection of migratory birds from harm or harassment within the Refuge and the Presidential Proclamation Boundary (Migratory Bird Treaty Act {MBTA: 16 USC § 703 et seq.}). This Proclamation established certain lands and waters within and adjacent to, and in the vicinity of the Refuge as a closed area for the sole purpose of preventing harm to or harassment of migratory birds. In the event that construction is initiated during the wildlife nesting season surveys will be done by Refuge staff to assess nesting activity. If nests are found they will be clearly marked and construction/maintenance activities shall



be modified as directed by the Refuge Manager or designee to protect wildlife nesting activities.

6. Fifteen terms and conditions are specified in 50 CFR 29.21-4. By reference, these terms and conditions are hereby considered to be a part of this Compatibility Determination and will be included (or minor variations thereof) in the ROW Permit.
7. Prior to beginning construction, CHEC shall provide proof that all other required Federal and State permits were acquired.

**Justification:** The proposed changes in utility ROW and relocation of utility lines will result in minimal and mostly short-term impacts on refuge biological resources. Similarly, the change in ROW will neither materially interfere with nor detract from the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System or the purpose for which the Refuge was established. CHEC will employ many strategies to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive areas during construction and maintenance. These actions will minimize the level of impact on the Refuge resources. Assuming full compliance with the Stipulations in this CD, the terms and conditions in ROW Permit ES-0852 and subsequent modifications and amendments, there should be no net loss in habitat quantity or quality with this ROW permit modification.

**NEPA Compliance:**

Categorical Exclusion   X  .  
Environmental Assessment       .  
Environmental Impact Statement       .  
FONSI       .

**References**

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative. 2017. Environmental Report for Proposed Facilities Associated with Amendment No. 1 and No. 2 to the 2017-2020 Construction Work Plan. Booth & Associates, Raleigh, NC. 134 pp.

Federal Highway Administration & North Carolina Department of Transportation. 2010. Record of Decision for NC 12 Replacement of Herbert C. Bonner Bridge (Bridge No. 11) over Oregon Inlet. Federal-Aid No. BRS-2358(15). NCDOT Project Definition: 32635. TIP Project No. B-2500. Dare County, North Carolina

Federal Highway Administration & North Carolina Department of Transportation. 2013. Environmental Assessment for Pea Island Long-Term Improvements Bonner Bridge Replacement Project Phase IIa. Federal-Aid No. BRNFH-0012(55). NCDOT Project Definition: 32635. STIP Project No. B-2500A. Dare County, North Carolina

Riggs, S. R., Ames, D. V. , Culver, S. J. , Mallinson, D. J., 2011b, The Battle for North Carolina's Coast: Evolutionary History, Present Crisis & Vision for the Future. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 142 pp.

Mandatory 10- or 15-Year Re-evaluation Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Raleigh ES Field Office

Post Office Box 33726

Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

April 6, 2017

Liz Ward  
Booth & Associates, LLC  
5811 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 109  
Raleigh, NC 27612

Re: Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative – Dare County, NC

Dear Mrs. Ward:

This letter is to inform you that the Service has established an on-line project planning and consultation process which assists developers and consultants in determining whether a federally-listed species or designated critical habitat may be affected by a proposed project. For future projects, please visit the Raleigh Field Office's project planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pp.html>. If you are only searching for a list of species that may be present in the project's Action Area, then you may use the Service's Information, Planning, and Consultation System (IPaC) website to determine if any listed, proposed, or candidate species may be present in the Action Area and generate a species list. The IPaC website may be viewed at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. The IPaC web site contains a complete and frequently updated list of all endangered and threatened species protected by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)(Act), a list of federal species of concern<sup>1</sup> that are known to occur in each county in North Carolina, and other resources.

Section 7 of the Act requires that all federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative), in consultation with the Service, insure that any action federally authorized, funded, or carried out by such agencies is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally-listed endangered or threatened species. A biological assessment or evaluation may be prepared to fulfill that requirement and in determining whether additional consultation with the Service is necessary. In addition to the federally-protected species list, information on the species' life histories and habitats and information on completing a biological assessment or evaluation and can be found on our web page at <http://www.fws.gov/raleigh>. Please check the web site often for updated information or changes.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "federal species of concern" refers to those species which the Service believes might be in need of concentrated conservation actions. Federal species of concern receive no legal protection and their designation does not necessarily imply that the species will eventually be proposed for listing as a federally endangered or threatened species. However, we recommend that all practicable measures be taken to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to federal species of concern.

If your project contains suitable habitat for any of the federally-listed species known to be present within the county where your project occurs, the proposed action has the potential to adversely affect those species. As such, we recommend that surveys be conducted to determine the species' presence or absence within the project area. The use of North Carolina Natural Heritage program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys.

If you determine that the proposed action may affect (i.e., likely to adversely affect or not likely to adversely affect) a federally-protected species, you should notify this office with your determination, the results of your surveys, survey methodologies, and an analysis of the effects of the action on listed species, including consideration of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, before conducting any activities that might affect the species. If you determine that the proposed action will have no effect (i.e., no beneficial or adverse, direct or indirect effect) on federally listed species, then you are not required to contact our office for concurrence (unless an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared). However, you should maintain a complete record of the assessment, including steps leading to your determination of effect, the qualified personnel conducting the assessment, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related articles.

With regard to the above-referenced project, we offer the following remarks. Our comments are submitted pursuant to, and in accordance with, provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Based on the information provided and other information available, it appears that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, their formally designated critical habitat, or species currently proposed for listing under the Act at these sites. We believe that the requirements of section 7(a)(2) of the Act have been satisfied for your project. Please remember that obligations under section 7 consultation must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or, (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

However, the Service is concerned about the potential impacts the proposed action might have on aquatic species. Aquatic resources are highly susceptible to sedimentation. Therefore, we recommend that all practicable measures be taken to avoid adverse impacts to aquatic species, including implementing directional boring methods and stringent sediment and erosion control measures. An erosion and sedimentation control plan should be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls should be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby down-gradient surface waters. In addition, we recommend maintaining natural, vegetated buffers on all streams and creeks adjacent to the project site.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has developed a Guidance Memorandum (a copy can be found on our website at (<http://www.fws.gov/raleigh>) to address and mitigate secondary and cumulative impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources and water quality. We recommend that you consider this document in the development of your projects and in completing an initiation package for consultation (if necessary).

We hope you find our web page useful and informative and that following the process described above will reduce the time required, and eliminate the need, for general correspondence for species' lists. If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Ellis of this office at (919) 856-4520 ext. 26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete Benjamin".

Pete Benjamin  
Field Supervisor



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
*Secretary*

BRAXTON C. DAVIS  
*Director*

George Price  
Manager of Engineering & Operations  
Cape Hatteras Electrical Cooperative  
Buxton, NC 27920  
252-995-5616  
[GeorgeP@chec.coop](mailto:GeorgeP@chec.coop)

Dear Mr. Price,

I am writing in reference to our meeting on January 18, 2017 at the substation located near the Bonner Bridge in Nags Head, North Carolina. I would like to verify that we met on site to assess any environmental impacts that could potentially come from the proposed work near the aforementioned substation in regards to the Coastal Area Management Act. After review of the plan drawings and site assessment it appears that all necessary precautions have been given to avoid potential impacts to CAMA.

If you have any further questions or are in need of any further assistance pertaining to this, or any other project please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Rountree

Field Representative  
NC Division of Coastal Management  
401 South Griffin Street, Suite 300  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
252-264-3901







ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
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BRAXTON C. DAVIS  
*Director*

George Price  
Manager of Engineering & Operations  
Cape Hatteras Electrical Cooperative  
Buxton, NC 27920  
252-995-5616  
[GeorgeP@chec.coop](mailto:GeorgeP@chec.coop)

Dear Mr. Price,

I am writing in reference to our meeting on March 22, 2017 at the southern transmission line location on the south side of the Bonner Bridge near Nags Head, North Carolina. I would like to verify that we met on site to assess any environmental impacts that could potentially come from the proposed work near the aforementioned transmission lines location in regards to the Coastal Area Management Act. After review of the plan drawings and site assessment it appears that all necessary precautions have been given to avoid potential impacts to CAMA.

If you have any further questions or are in need of any further assistance pertaining to this, or any other project please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Rountree

Field Representative  
NC Division of Coastal Management  
401 South Griffin Street, Suite 300  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
252-264-3901



# **NC 12 Replacement of Herbert C. Bonner Bridge**

## **Environmental Assessment**

U.S Federal Highways Administration  
NC Department of Transportation  
(May 2010)