

US Army Corps of Engineers. Philadelphia District

Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390 ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

Public Notice

Public Notice No.

CENAP-OP-R-2016-00069-46

08 August 2020

Application No.

File No.

In Reply Refer to:

REGULATORY BRANCH

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT: Schuylkill River Development Corporation

CONTACT: Mr. Joseph Syrnick

Schuylkill River Development Corporation

2401 Walnut Street, Suite 603 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

WATERWAY: Schuylkill River

LOCATION: Between the waterward terminus of 56th Street and 61st Street, City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

ACTIVITY: To construct a 1,850 linear foot (12' wide) pedestrian trail from 56th Street to 61st Street totally on uplands. The project would include the construction of a fishing platform on top of an existing seawall structure at the edge of the Schuylkill River just downstream of 56th Street and an overlook pier approximately 1,325 feet further downstream.

The fishing platform would be constructed of a metal grate over an existing seawall, would involve the placement of five 16" outside diameter steel pipe piles for support, and would extend 3' waterward of the mean high water line.

The overlook pier would require a total of 1,264 cubic feet of fill to be discharged within 128 square feet of waterway below the high tide line for placement of 8 concrete-filled piles and 2 pile caps (i.e. 4 piles per cap). Additionally, the pile caps would require regrading of the adjacent waterway to affect proper drainage and would involve the excavation of 320 cubic feet of waterway below the high tide line (102 cubic feet below mean high water) within an area of 128 square feet below high tide (40.8 square feet below mean high water). The excavation would require placement of a temporary sandbag or stacked concrete block cofferdam below the high tide line. All excavated materials would be redistributed on site for regrading purposes. The entire overlook would extend 7' waterward of the mean high water line.

The applicant has stated that all piles would be impact hammered.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose for the structures is to allow for safe public access to the river and to provide views closer to the river.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that species listed under the Endangered Species Act or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA as amended, may be present in the action area. This office will forward this Public Notice to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service with a request for technical assistance on whether any ESA listed species or their critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity. This office will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on ESA listed species or their critical habitat and will consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service as appropriate. ESA Section 7 consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

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

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 30 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

With regard to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, this office has noted that a historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. Historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are within the permit area but will not be affected by the proposed action. A determination of "No Effect" will be coordinated with the SHPO.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary review of this application indicates that the project may have an effect on EFH. The Philadelphia District will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on EFH and will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service as appropriate. Consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

With regard to compensatory mitigation, given the minor amount of fill below the high tide line for steel pile fill (approx. 128 square feet of aquatic resource loss), no compensatory mitigation is warranted.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Programs of Pennsylvania. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact of the proposed and/or existing activity on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office, with a copy to the States' Offices of Coastal Zone Management.

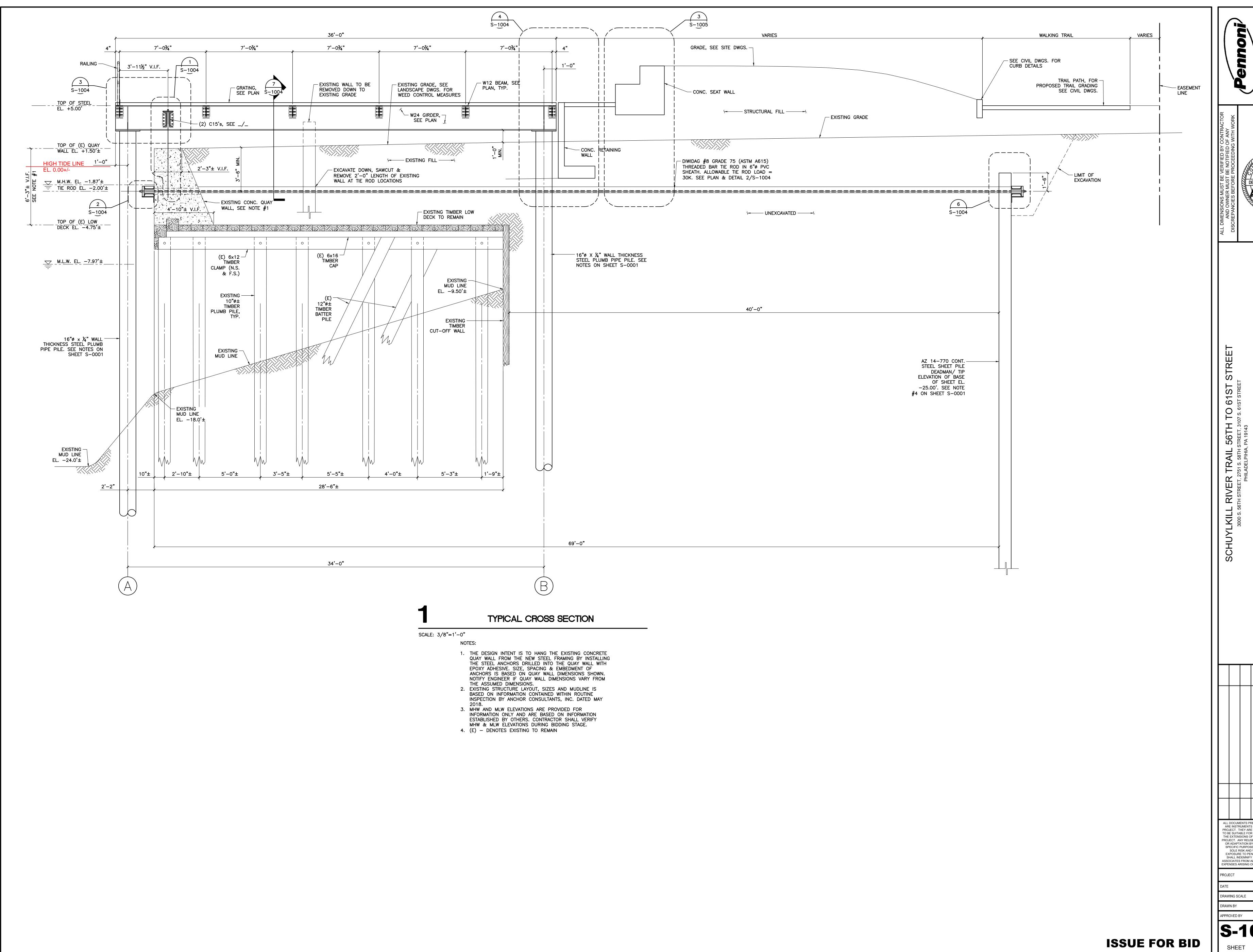
In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

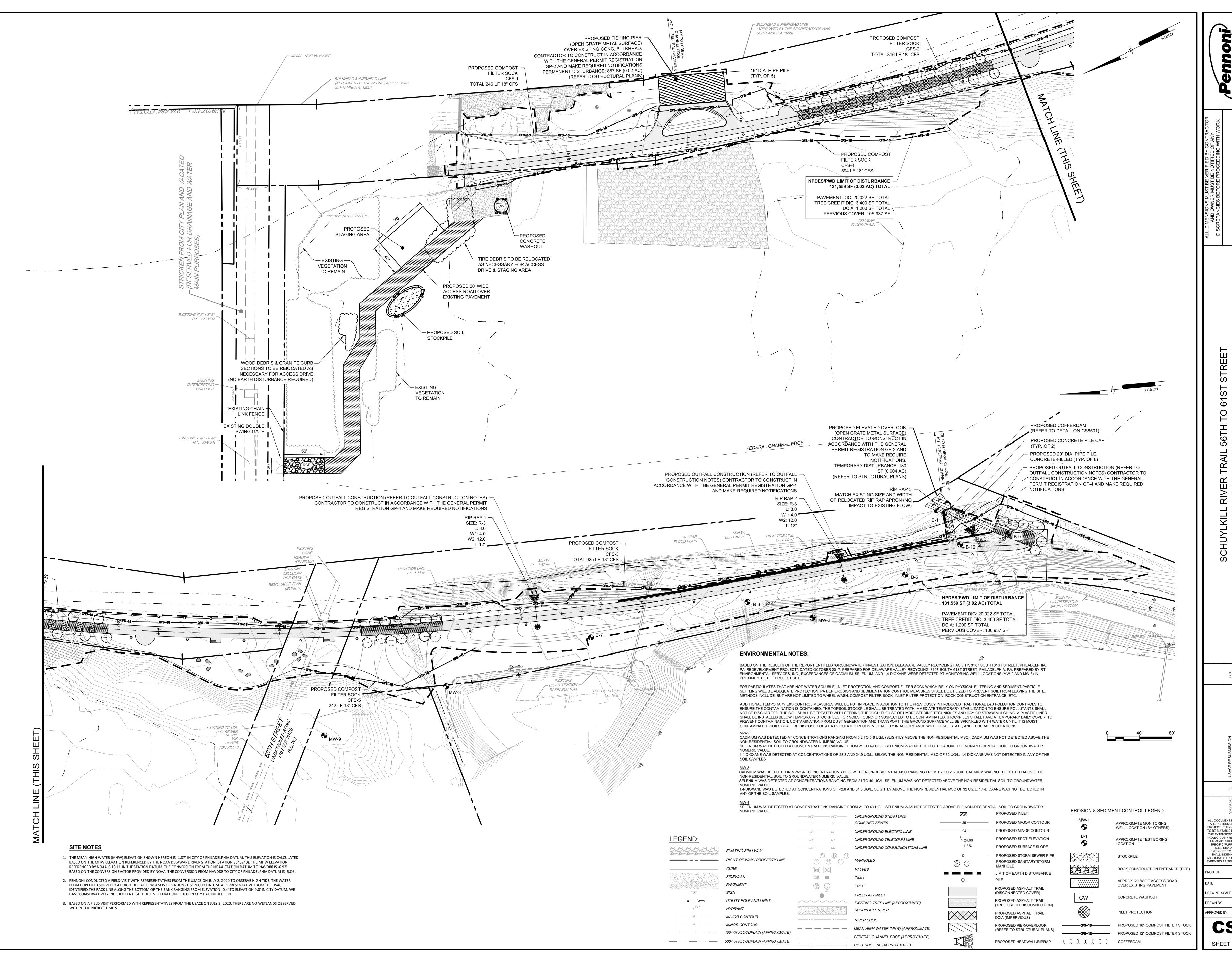
Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling 215-605-7029 or by e-mailing Mr. David Caplan of my office at David.J.Caplan@usace.army.mil.

Todd A. Schaible Chief, Regulatory Branch P:\PROJECTS\SRDC\SRDC1601 - SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL 58TH TO 61ST\DESIGN_PUBLISH\LOCATION MAP UPDATED.DWG PLOTTED: 11/1/2019 2:57:09 PM, BY: ZACH MESSERLE PLOTSTYLE: PENNONI NCS.STB, PROJECT STATUS: ---

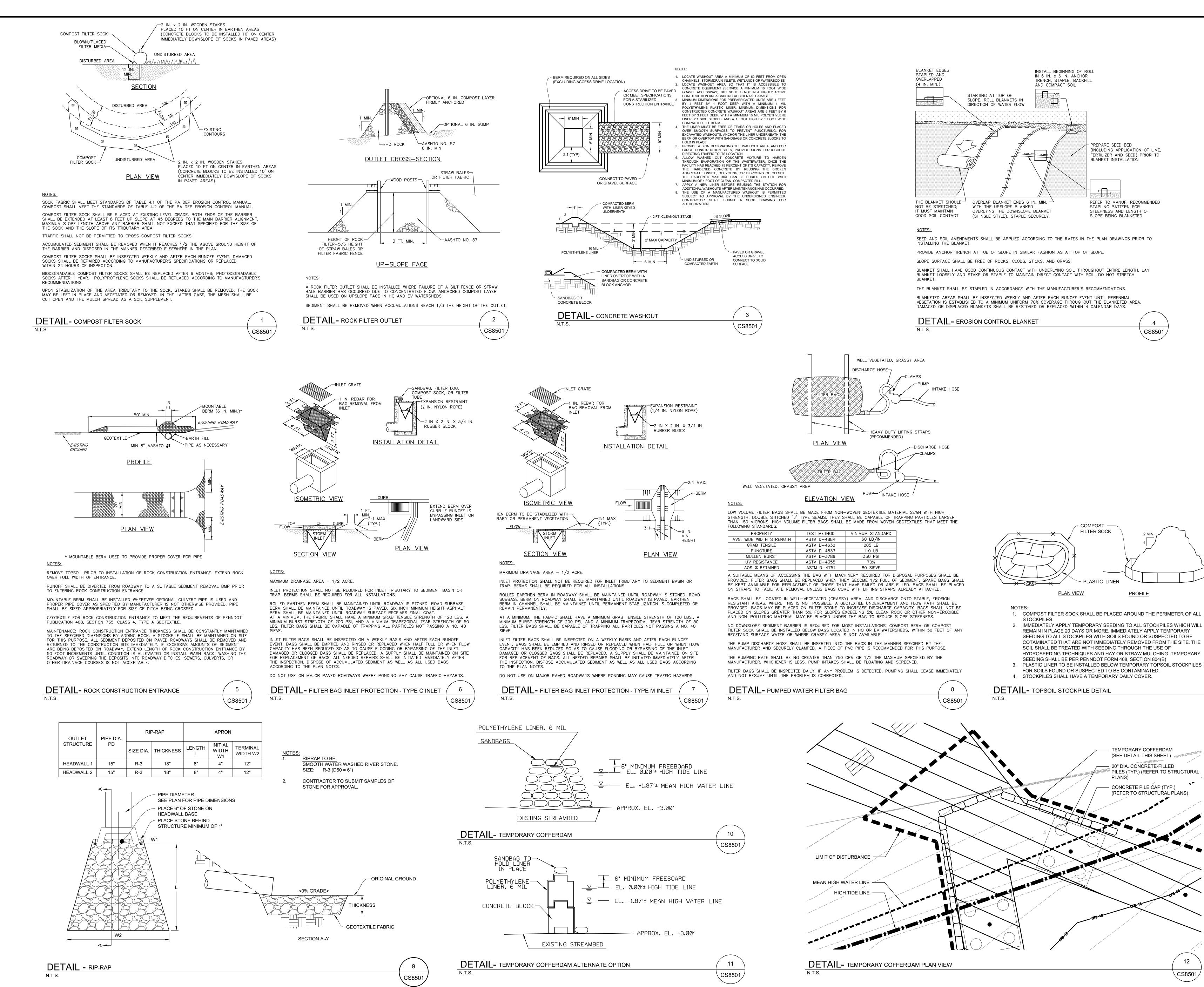


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