

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers New York District Jacob K. Javits Federal Building New York, N.Y. 10278-0090 ATTN: Regulatory Branch

In replying refer to: Public Notice Number: NAN-2023-00838-WCC Issue Date: Expiration Date:

To Whom It May Concern:

The New York District, Corps of Engineers 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).

- APPLICANT: New York City Economic Development Corporation One Liberty Plaza New York, New York 10006
- ACTIVITY: Shoreline Maintenance along Northshore Waterfront Esplanade Park to the Staten Island September 11 Memorial
- WATERWAY: Upper New York Bay
- LOCATION: St. George, Borough of Staten Island, Richmond County, City of New York, New York

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

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

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 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.

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ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND EMAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. Comments provided will become part of the public record for this permit application. All written comments, including contact information, will be made a part of the administrative record, available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof, may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any person may request, in writing, before this public notice expires, that a public hearing be held to collect information necessary to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons why a public hearing should be held. It should be noted that information submitted by email is considered just as carefully in the permit decision process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the lead federal agency for this project and is responsible for coordinating review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FEMA's preliminary determination is that the activity for which authorization is sought herein may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. FEMA initiated consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on December 21, 2023.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA/FS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed work, fully described in the attached work description, could cause the disruption of habitat for various lifestages of some EFH-designated species. FEMA submitted an EFH assessment to NMFS initiating consultation on December 21, 2023, and made the preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effects are not likely to be substantial.

FEMA has advised that the scope of work falls within the allowances defined in the New York Statewide Agreement between FEMA and NYSHPO. Therefore, formal consultation Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is not required for this project.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act 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 and the applicant will obtain a water quality certificate or waiver from the appropriate state agency in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to a permit decision.

Pursuant to Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456 (c)], for activities under consideration that are located within the coastal zone of a state which has a federally approved coastal zone management program, the applicant has certified in the permit application that the activity complies with, and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent

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with, the approved state coastal zone management program. By this public notice, we are requesting the state's concurrence with, objection to, or waiver of the applicant's certification. No permit decision will be made until one of these actions occur. For activities within the coastal zone of New York State, the applicant's certification and accompanying information is available from the Consistency Coordinator, New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront Revitalization, Coastal Zone Management Program, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231, Telephone (518) 474-6000. Comments regarding the applicant's certification, and copies of any letters to this office commenting upon this proposal, should be so addressed.

In addition to any required water quality certificate and coastal zone management program concurrence, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

• New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice. Please send all comments and questions concerning this application to <u>carolyn.m.courtien@usace.army.mil</u>.

In order for us to better serve you, please complete our Customer Service Survey located at <u>http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/CustomerSurvey.aspx</u>.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <u>http://www.nan.usace.army.mil</u>.

FOR AND IN BEHALF OF Stephan A. Ryba Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

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WORK DESCRIPTION

The permit applicant, New York City Economic Development Corporation, has requested Department of the Army (DA) authorization to rehabilitate 2,200 linear feet of concrete retaining wall, reconstruction of three existing stormwater outfall headwalls along the retaining wall, and inkind removal and replacement of a 2,200 linear foot riprap revetment in Upper New York Bay in the St. George's neighborhood in the Borough of Staten Island, Richmond County, City of New York, New York. The proposed work would involve the following:

Waterfront Esplanade:

Rehabilitation of an approximately 2,200 foot-long, waterfront esplanade bulkhead between the North Shore Esplanade Park to the west and the State Island September 11th Memorial to the east.

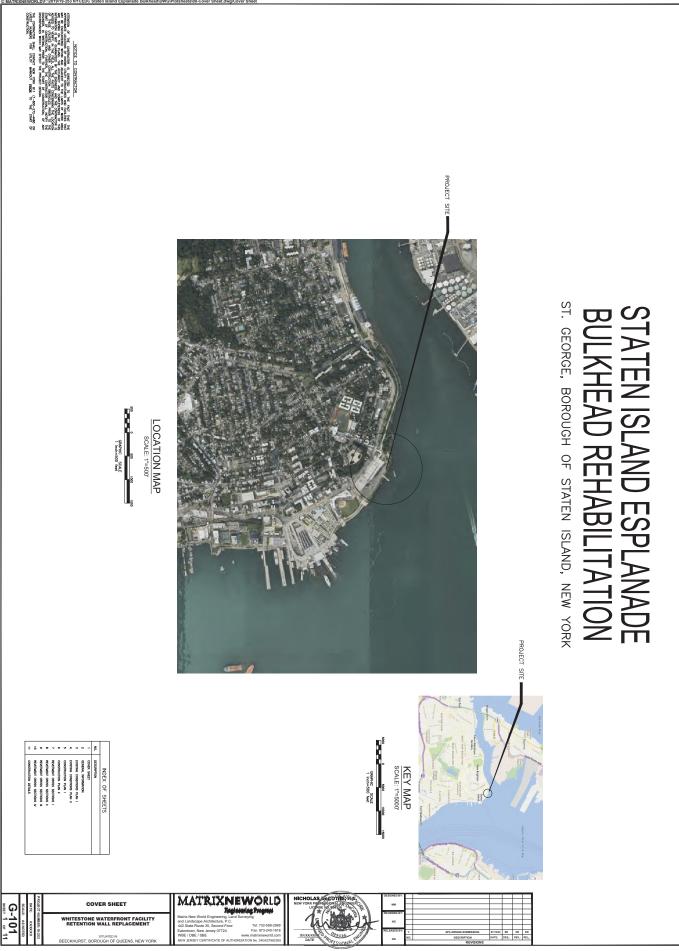
<u>Retaining Wall:</u> The project involves the rehabilitation of approximately 2,200 linear feet of an existing 5-foot high, 1.5-foot thick "L-shaped" concrete retaining wall with rock revetment. The existing 2,200 linear foot concrete retaining wall, reinforced with #4 epoxy-coated rebar, would be improved with cast-in-place concrete enhancements and backfilled to height.

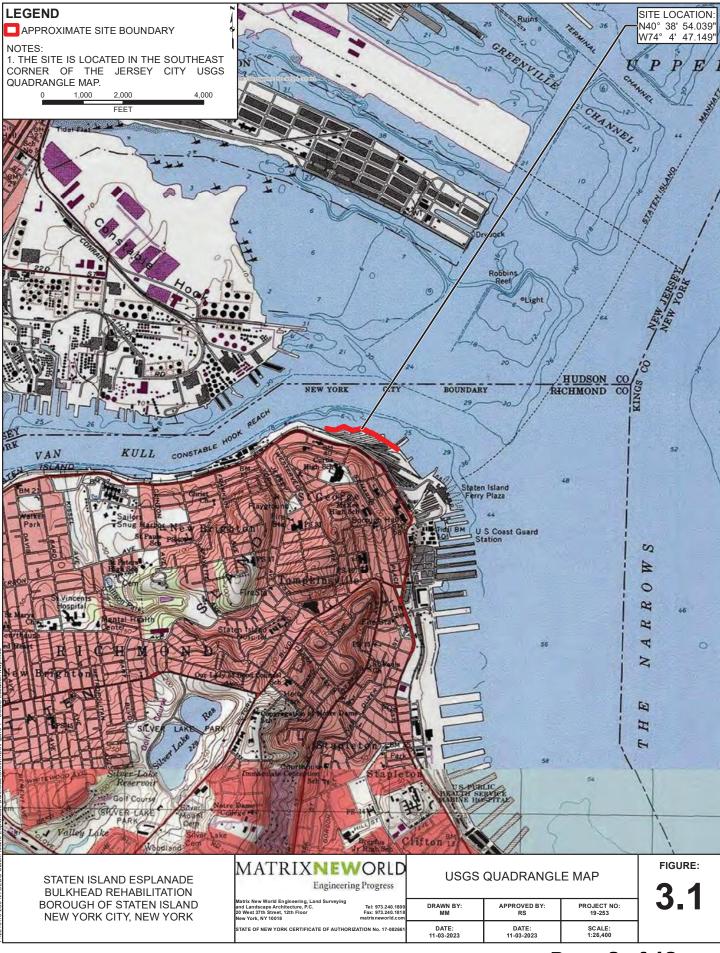
<u>Rock Revetment/Riprap</u>: Proposed shoreline arming (i.e., rock revetment) adjacent and seaward of the concrete retaining wall involves the in-kind removal and replacement of 3-foot 10-inch thick stone riprap (24" diameter armored stone) along the entire 2,200 linear foot stretch of retaining wall. A 1-foot thick area of bedding stone would be installed beneath the proposed rock revetment to allow for water filtration to underlying soils. In total approximately 10,820 square feet of existing revetment will be removed and reconstructed.

<u>Outfall:</u> Reconstruction of the headwalls of 3 existing New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) stormwater outfalls, in-kind. The reconstructed outfall headwalls would be shaped to promote improved function and better scour protection from silting.

The applicant has stated that they have avoided, minimized, and mitigated for potential impacts proposed to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, the applicant proposes to remove existing debris and fill from the waterway along the project area resulting in a net increase of open water areas. Best Management Practices and mitigation measures will be utilized including the use of a turbidity barrier as practicable, and designing the project to result in a net zero discharge of fill

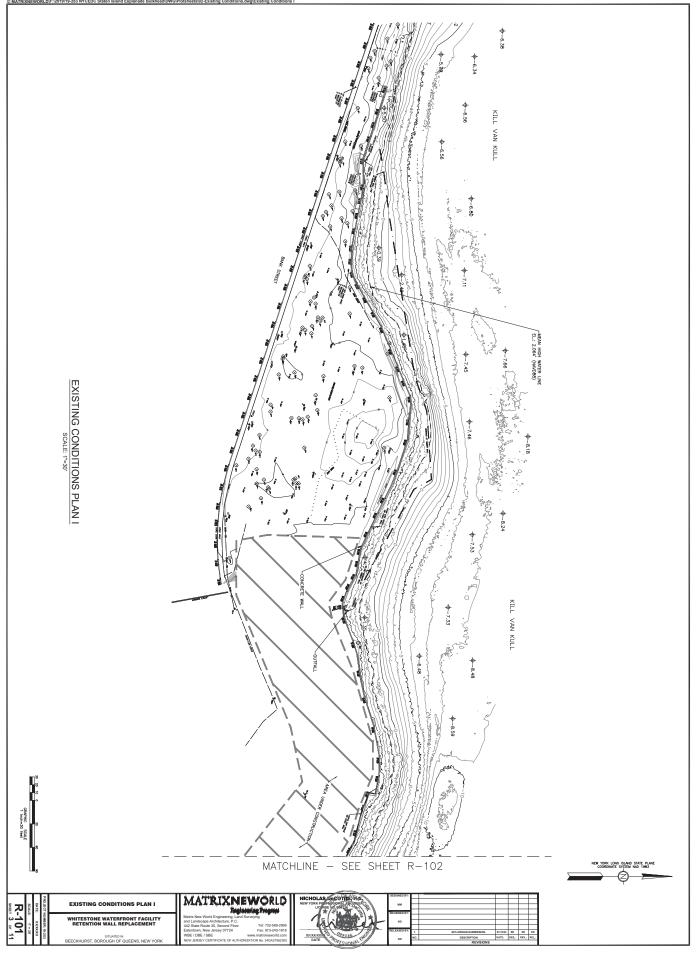
The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate portions of the waterfront infrastructure damaged by Superstorm Sandy and increase resilience from storm surge flooding and sea level rise.

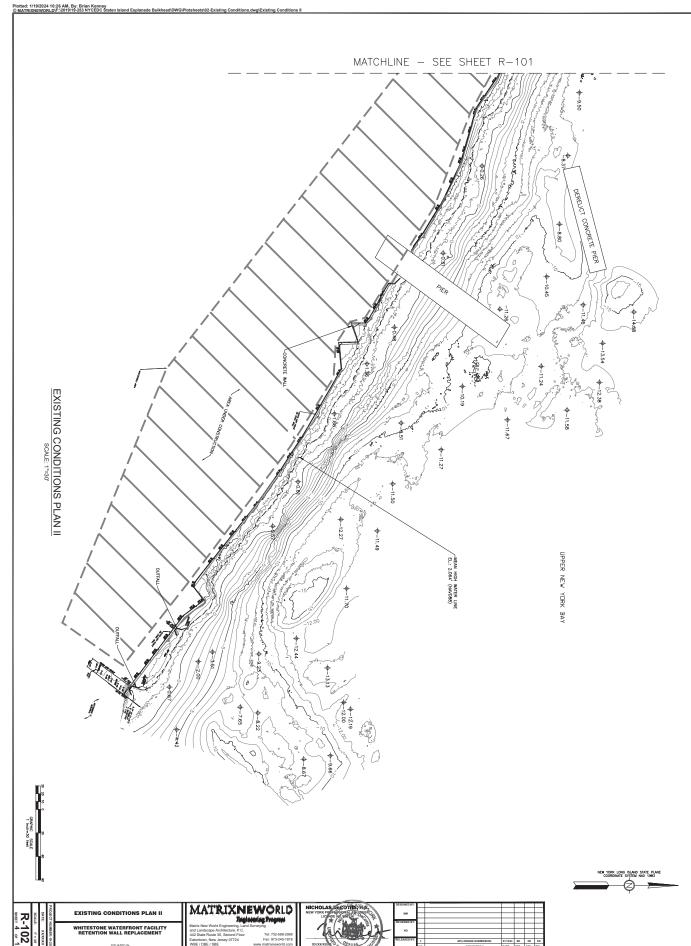


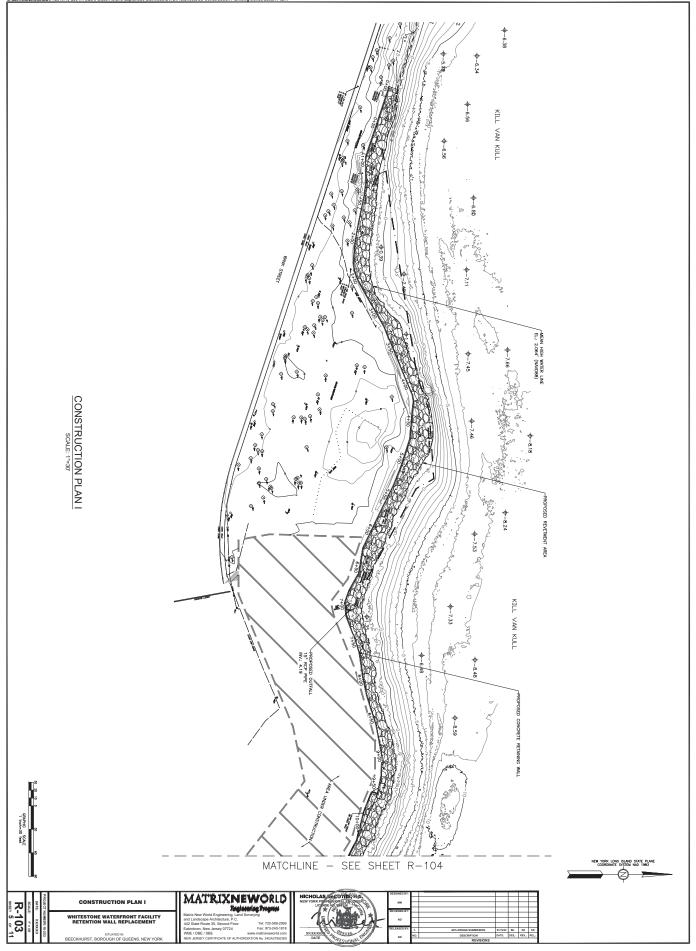




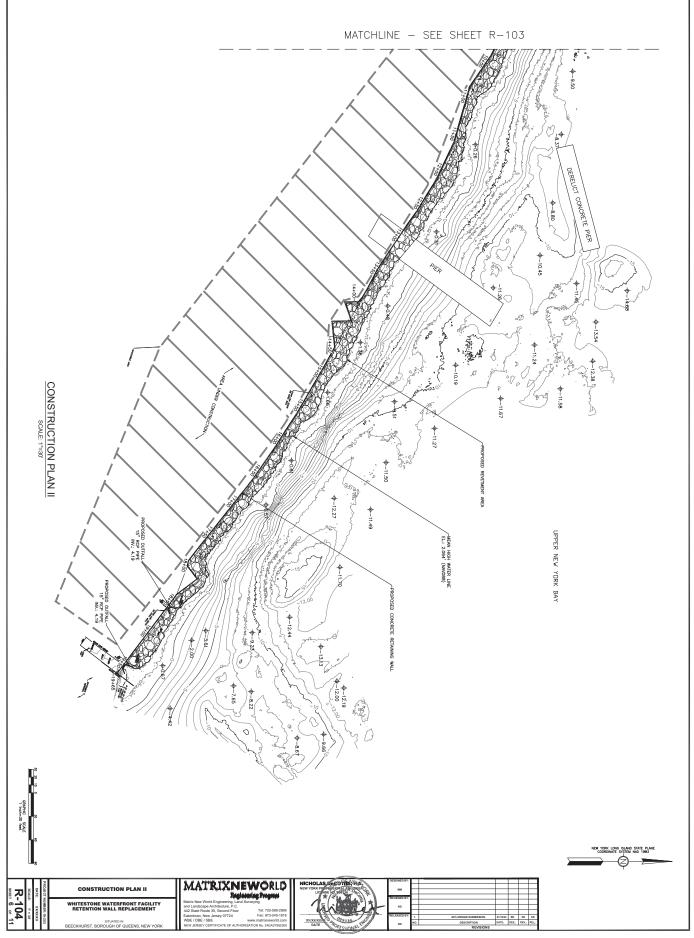
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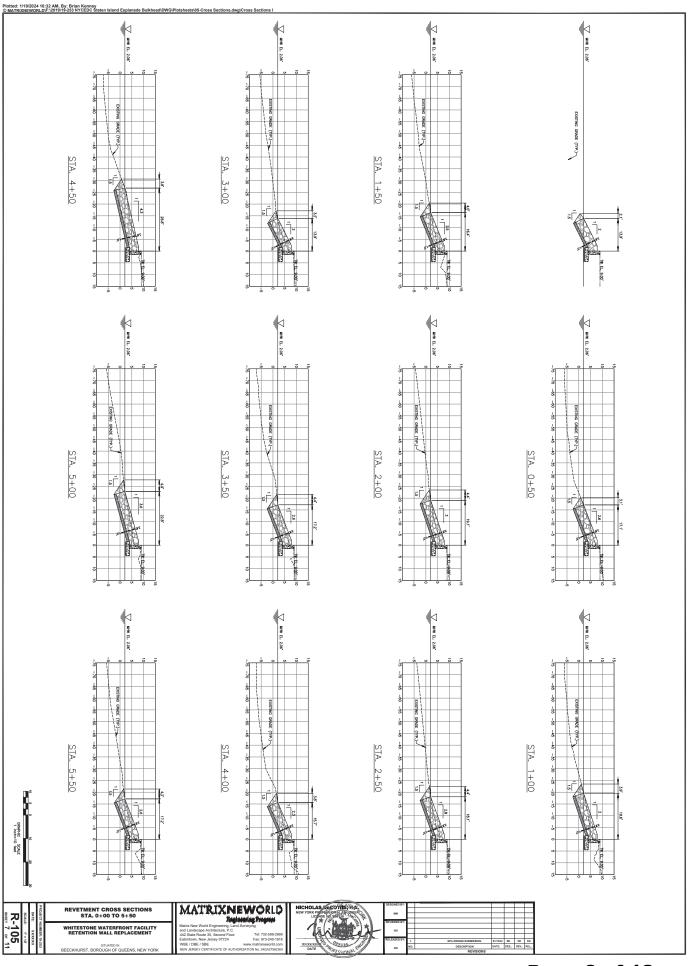


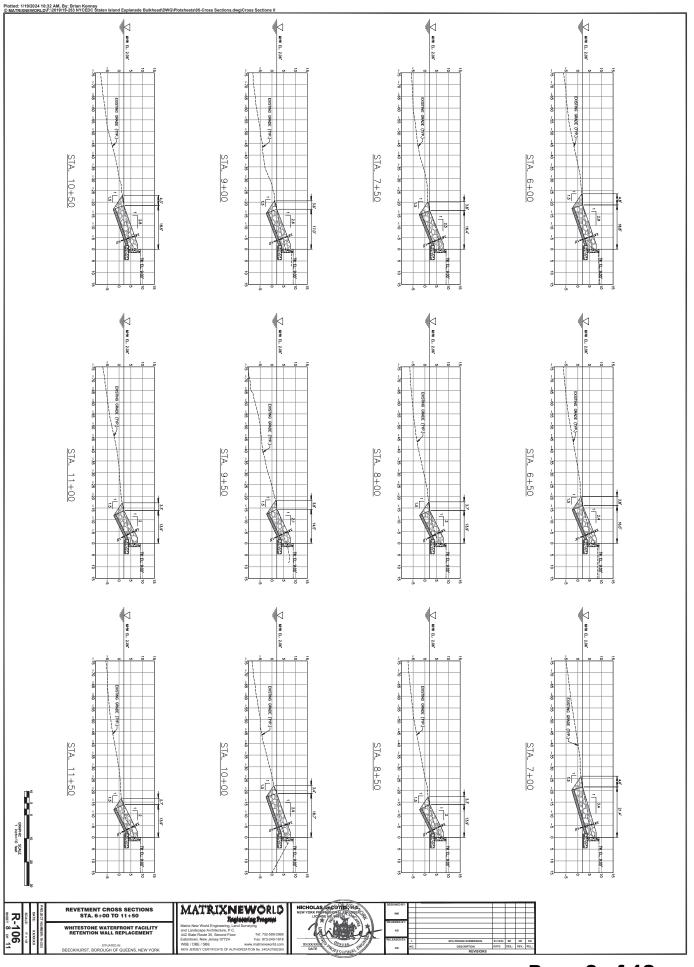




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