



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

March 4, 2016

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Acting Executive Director *MB*

RE: **PETITION NO. 1215** – Shagbark Lumber and Farm Supplies, Inc. petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.6 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating facility located at 21 Mount Parnassus Road, a/k/a Route 434, East Haddam, Connecticut.

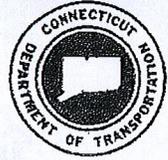
Comments have been received from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, dated March 3, 2016. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/MP/lm

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

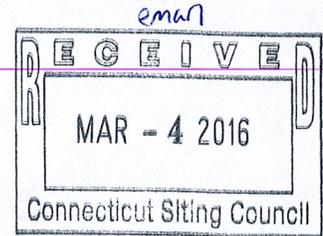


2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone:

Ms. Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

March 3, 2016



Dear Ms. Bachman:

Subject: Petition No. 1215
1.6 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility
21 Mount Parnassus Road
Town of East Haddam

The Department of Transportation has reviewed the above-mentioned Petition and offers the following comment.

The proposed project may result in a curb cut, paving, tree/brush cutting, and underground utility work on State Route 434 (21 Mount Parnassus Road), within the state right of way, therefore Shagbark Lumber and Farm Supplies, Inc. must attain a Highway Encroachment Permit in conjunction with the Connecticut General Statutes prior to performing any work within the right of way. The District 2 Permit Office will need review four complete sets of construction plans which show all work within the State highway right of way, all site work, any required easements and standard details for highway construction prior to issuing the encroachment permit.

The District 2 Permit Office will determine the bond amount, insurance coverage, maintenance and protection of traffic, inspection, roadway restoration and pavement restoration requirements. Please see attached D.O.T. Screening Check List.

Should you have any further questions, please contact, Ms. Latoya Smith, Utility Engineer (Utilities), @ (860) 594-2533.

Very truly yours,

Sohrab Afrazi
Transportation Principal Engineer
Bureau of Engineering and Construction



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Screening Checklist

Connecticut Department of Transportation

Potential Transportation Infrastructure Impacts

Connecticut Siting Council Petition # 1215

Location: 21 Mount Parnassus Road
East Haddam, CT

1. Is the proposed facility abutting the right-of-way of a State maintained highway?

No

Yes - Specify the location and show location on a detail site plan.

2. Is access for construction and maintenance of the proposed facility needed directly from a State maintained highway.

No

Yes - Identify specify needs and access location.

3. Is the proposed facility within or abutting a State owned Railroad Right-of Way?

No

Yes - Please provide an area and site plan.

4. Is the proposed facility within a two mile radius of any lands classified as preserved scenic land in accordance with CGS Section 13a-85a, "Acquisition of land adjacent to state highways for preservation and enhancement of scenic beauty and development of rest and recreation areas", or any designated scenic road in accordance with CGS Section 13b-31c, "Designation of scenic roads"?

No

Yes





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February 11, 2016

TO: Robert Hannon

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Acting Executive Director *MB*

RE: **PETITION NO. 1215** -- Shagbark Lumber and Farm Supplies, Inc. petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.6 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating facility located at 21 Mount Parnassus Road, a/k/a Route 434, East Haddam, Connecticut.

The Connecticut Siting Council has scheduled a field inspection for February 19, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. to review this petition. Interested parties should meet at Shagbark Lumber and Farm Supplies, Inc.

MB/MP

- c: Secretary of the State (via e-mail service)
Honorable Mark B. Walter, First Selectman, Town of East Haddam
Cary H. Brownell, Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of East Haddam
Thomas Wemyss, PurePoint Energy
Julia Leonardo, Shagbark Lumber and Farm Supplies, Inc.
Scott W. Jezek, Esq., Law Office of Scott W. Jezek

- Michael Sassi- Bridge Energy Services, LLC- Energy Consultant
- Scott D. Stevens- Registered Soil Scientist/ Environmental Site Assessor
- Richard Snarsky-Registered Soil Scientist and Professional Wetland Scientist

C. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Project Site is located on the south-central 10.5 acres of a 124-acre parcel owned by the Petitioner and commonly known as Shagbark Lumber. It is adjacent to the existing lumber yard on the south and the Eversource easement on the north. The Site is the location of the historic Dun-Rovin Farm which has been in continuous operation since about 1946. Petitioner currently hays approximately 100 acres and supports a small herd of beef cattle and horses for personal use.

During the past twenty years the Petitioner has expanded to first add a feed and grain store, then retail hardware sales and finally a lumber operation. Most recently, the Petitioner added a rooftop solar array to supply its own electricity. A site plan is provided as Exhibit 3. The portion of the Site dedicated to the Project is largely surrounded by other property of the Petitioner. The Site is bounded to the west by other undeveloped land of the Petitioner; to the east by an agricultural field owned by the Petitioner and the Eversource easement; to the south by the retail component of Shagbark and north by other undeveloped land of the Petitioner and the Eversource easement; and to the southwest by three single family residential homes including that of the Petitioner, Frederic Hunt, whose property is located on the Site. Exhibits 1 & 2 are land use maps which depict the surrounding land use within one thousand and five hundred feet of the site, respectively. Greater detail of the immediate vicinity surrounding the Site is shown on the Site Plan (Exhibit 3).

The Site itself is located at the northeast intersection of Connecticut Route 82 and Mount Parnassus Road, also known as Connecticut Route 434. The Site is accessible from several points on the north side of Route 434. The entrance points are currently large and wide enough to accommodate multiple tractor trailers entering the Site. Similarly, the interior driveways are already large enough to accommodate tractor trailer size vehicles. The primary access points lead across a paved parking lot to the Project. The Site is essentially bisected by the Eversource easement, running generally east to west. Petitioner's property to the north of the easement is devoted exclusively to agriculture use or is forest land. The Project and existing improvement are all south of the easement. This portion of the Site consists of approximately 10.5 acres and includes three noncontiguous regulated areas. To the far west of this area there is a wetland corridor originating off the northeast corner of the Petitioner's property. The three isolated wetland's areas are illustrated on the site plan. The latter two areas are all characterized as wetlands but are incorporated in the agricultural use of the site. The Project avoids all of these areas.

D. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

If this Project is approved by the Siting Council, PurePoint Energy will enter into an agreement with the Petitioner which will give the right to construct and develop the solar farm Site. The work will include clearing and grubbing; grading; construction of gravel access roads; layout and placement of foundation systems, racking, approximately 5,080 solar modules; 300 strings; 50 string inverters; installation of utility pads and associated electrical equipment; installation of electrical conduit, conduit supports, electrical poles, and overhead wire; and installation of a transmission line and associated transmission line tap. The access road will be twelve feet in width and maintained in accordance with local requirements to accommodate emergency vehicles and fire

trucks. Security fencing will be determined and installed where necessary. Any fencing installed will be six feet in height and avoid erosion barrier areas.

The solar panels and inverters will be mounted on a driven post racking system with a twenty degree tilt facing due south, while the lumber port panels will tilt at 10 degrees. Inverters will be mounted to the racking system, underneath the PV panels. The maximum height of the panels will be approximately 16 feet. An example of the type of panels and racking system that will be utilized is shown on the following page, Supplement 7-A.

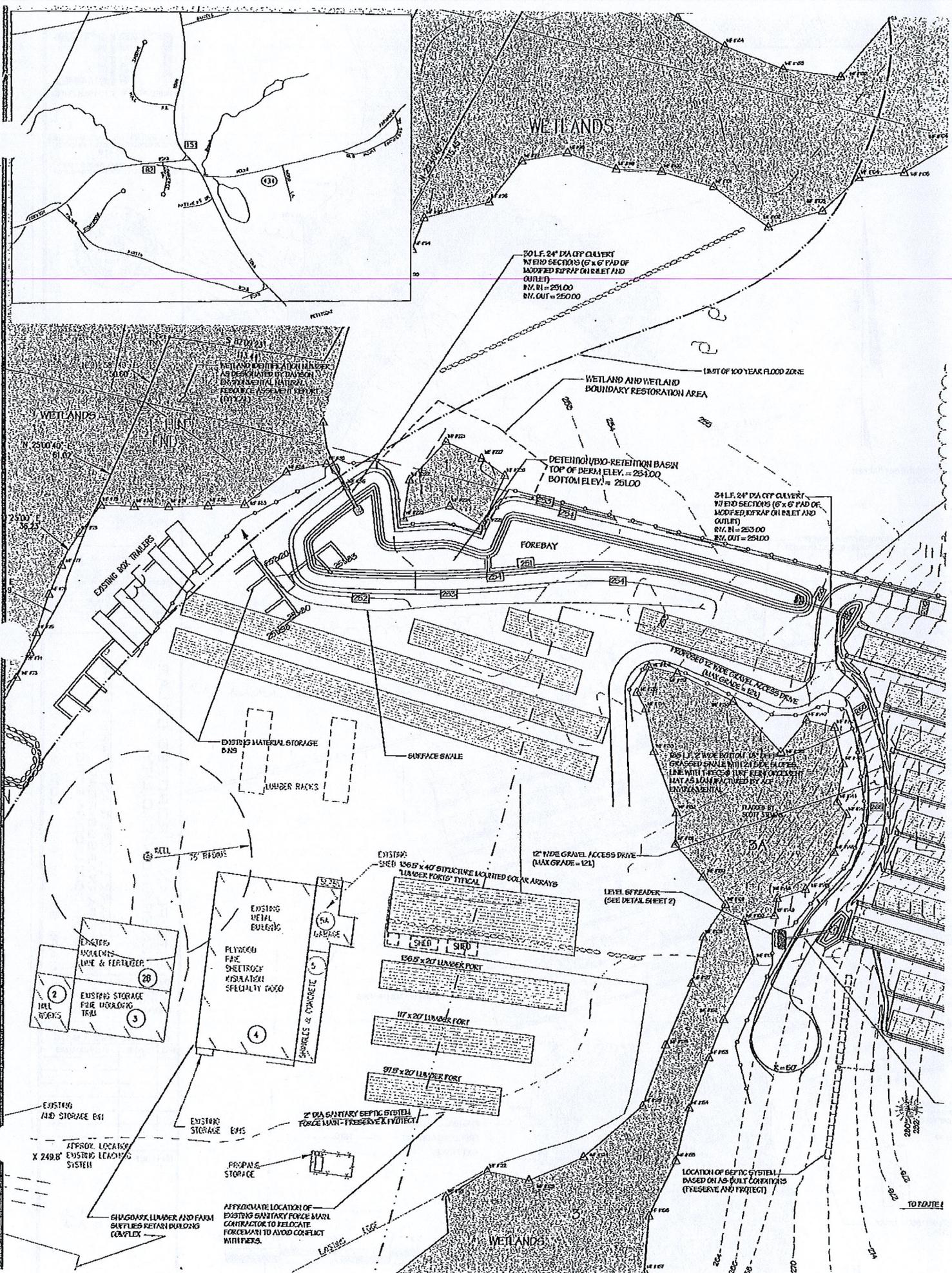
Grading is required. Limited removal of trees will be necessary to prepare the array location for equipment installation, as well as to maximize the electrical production of the system. At the end of the operational life of the Project, the Petitioner will remove all equipment (e.g. racking system, panels, inverters, electrical collection system, etc.) from the Site.

The Developer will install the facilities in the area shown on the Site Plans as Exhibit 3. The image on Supplemental 7-A is an example of a similar solar array field installed.

Project construction period is estimated at 4-6 months from Notice to Proceed.

Project Schedule:

Task	Duration
Mobilization and Site Preparation.	4 weeks
Civil Work: Road Construction, tree clearing, grading.	4 weeks
Racking and Panel Installation	4 weeks
Electrical Installation	3 weeks



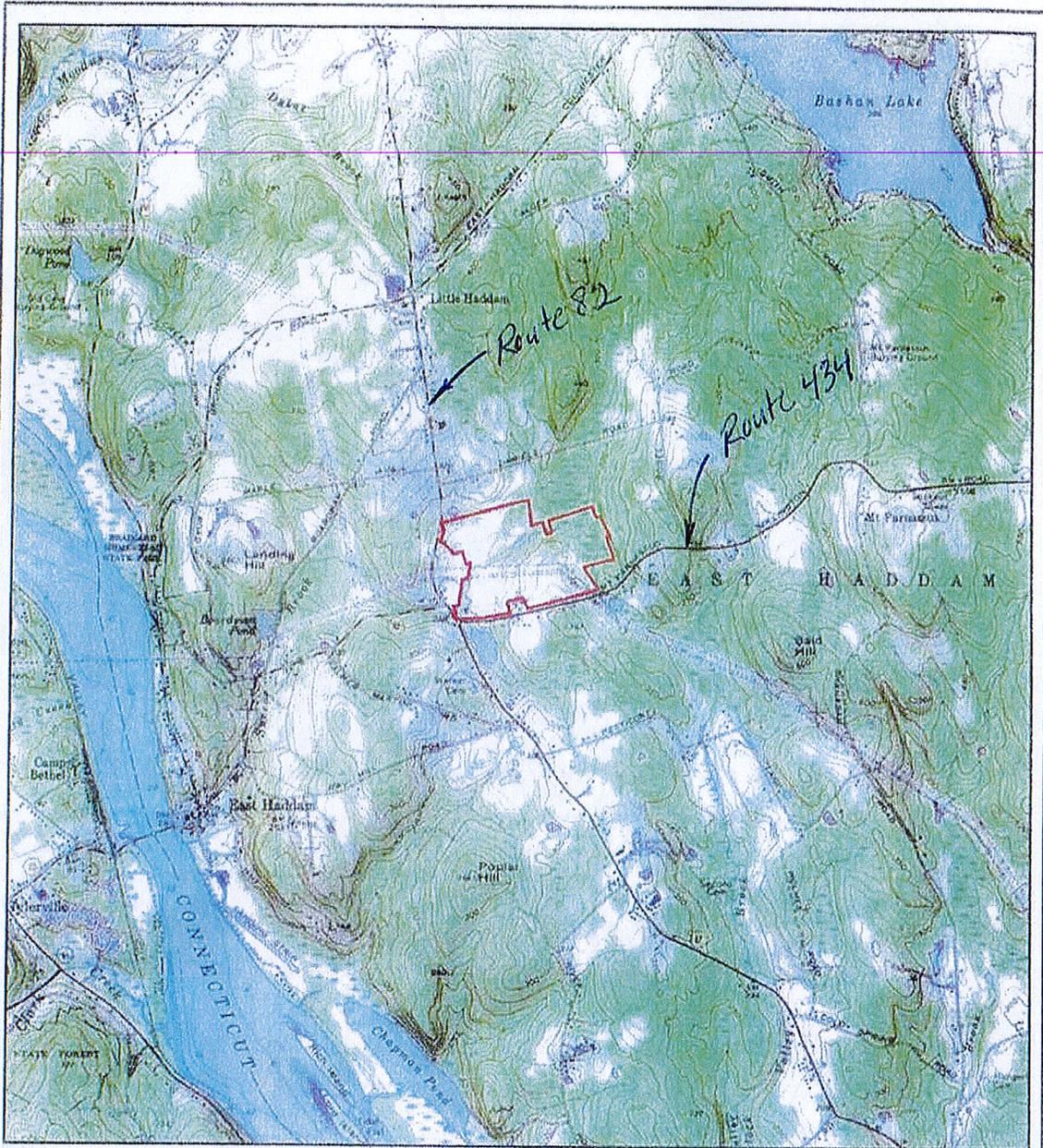


FIGURE 2
USGS Topographic Map
21 Mount Parnassus Road
East Haddam, CT

Legend

 Site Boundary

Map Description
The location and extent of features illustrated are approximate only. This map is intended for illustrative purposes only. It contains no authoritative data.

SCALE

0 1,250 2,500 Feet



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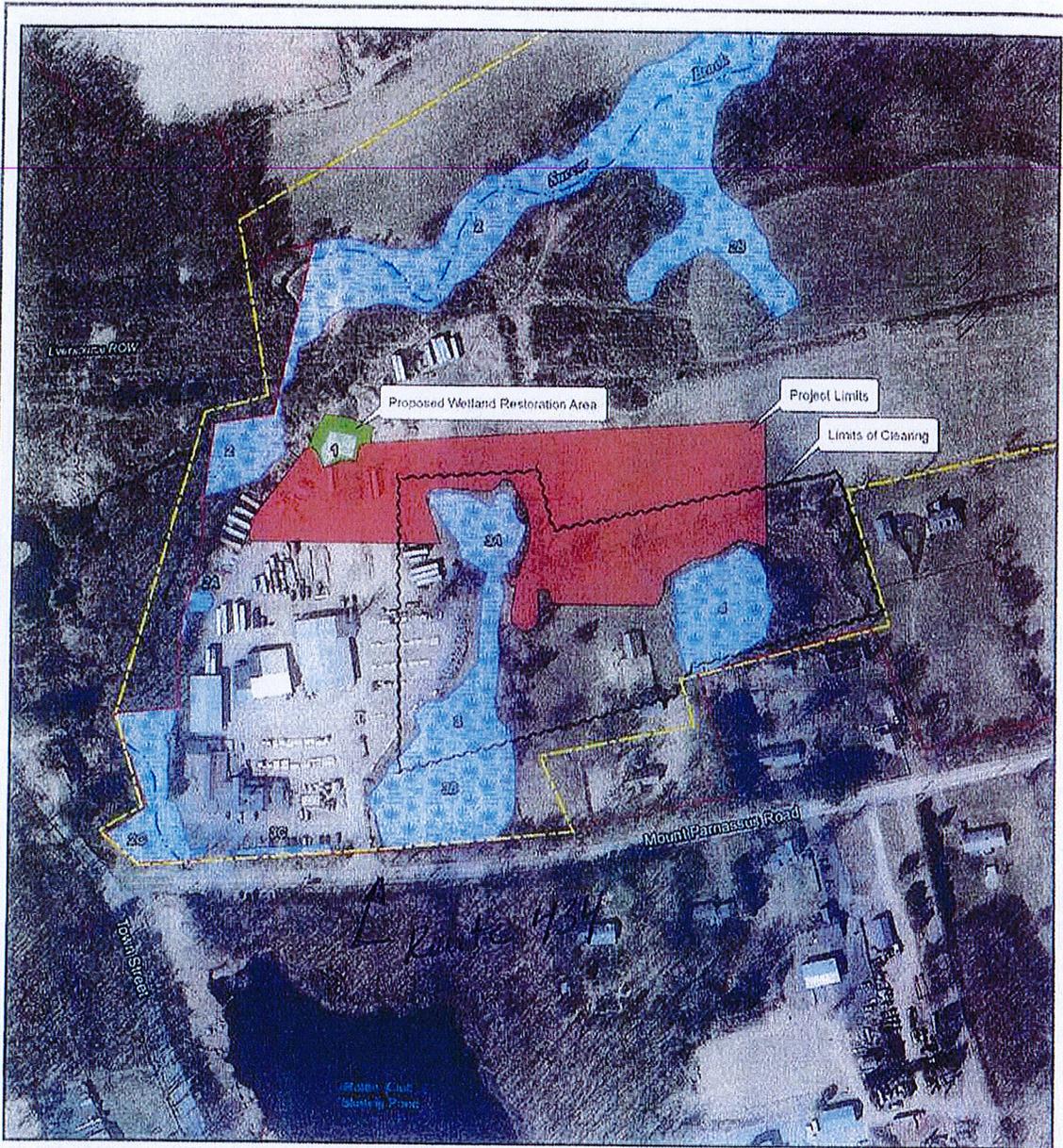
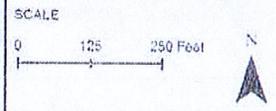


FIGURE 3
 Site Features Map
 21 Mount Parnassus Road
 East Haddam, CT

- Legend**
- Property Boundary
 - Study Area Boundary
 - Wetlands (wetland numbers indicated)
 - Project Area**
 - Limits of Clearing
 - Wetland Restoration Area
 - Limits of Construction

Map Description
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