

**U S Army Corps
of Engineers**
Huntington District

Public Notice

In reply refer to Public Notice No.
200500016

Issuance Date: May 12, 2006

Stream:
Ohio River M.P. 222 – 223

Closing Date: June 12, 2006

Please address all comments and inquiries to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District
ATTN: CELRH-OR-F Public Notice No. (*reference above*)
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Phone: (304) 399-5210

PUBLIC NOTICE: The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

REGULATORY PROGRAM: Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the Corps Regulatory Program.

SECTION 10: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States (U.S.). The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

SECTION 404: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This notice serves as the Corps of Engineers' request to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to act on Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the following application:

APPLICANTS: Columbus Southern Power Company
Ohio Power Company
American Electric Power
1 Riverside Plaza – 10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

LOCATION: The proposed project is located in jurisdictional wetlands and tributaries to the Ohio River along the right descending bank of the Ohio River between mile points 222 and 223 west of U.S. Route 33 near Big Bend in Meigs County, Ohio.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to place approximately 6,185 cubic yards of dredged or fill material into 0.55 acre of Category II wetlands (Wetlands 1, 2 & H) and 7,926 linear feet of intermittent streams (Streams 13, 14 & 15) for the purpose of constructing a landfill that would be used for solid waste and byproducts of the Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) process for a new 600-MW power plant. The power plant would be a nominal 629 MW generating station, designed for potential future expansion to a second 629 MW generating unit. The facility would use coal, potentially supplemented by regionally produced petroleum coke, to fuel the IGCC process. In this process; coal, water and oxygen would be fed into a high-pressure gasifier where the coal is partially combusted and converted into syngas. The syngas would fuel two 232 MW(nominal) combustion turbine generators, each feeding exhaust gases to its respective heat recovery steam generator (HRSG). Steam from the two HRSG's along with the steam generated in the gasification process, would be fed to one 300 MW (nominal) steam turbine generator. In addition, American Electric Power (AEP), the applicant's parent company has proposed the construction of two 345 kV electric transmission lines (i.e. two arms of a loop connection) from the proposed IGCC power plant to the existing Sporn-Muskingum River 345 kV transmission line located approximately 8 to 10 miles to the northwest in Dorcas, Meigs County, Ohio.

Other site features would include a large coal storage area, a riverfront barge unloading area, a flare stack for the controlled combustion of excess syngas during start-up and shutdown phases of operation, a 345 kV switchyard and buildings housing administration, control room, maintenance and warehouse functions.

Operation of the new IGCC facility would require approximately 1,000 barges of coal to be offloaded per year. A total of twenty-two mooring cells would be installed using interlocking sheet piling and backfilled with aggregate. The mooring cells would consist of two T-barge cells (36' diameter), one barge unloader cell (40' diameter) and nineteen mooring cells ranging from approximately 19'-23' in diameter. Loaded barges would be moored three wide and seven long, with a maximum riverward extension of 213' from the existing bank at normal pool. Empty barges would be moored four wide and five to seven long, with a maximum riverward extension of 205' from the existing bank at normal pool. The barge unloading dock would encompass 4,200' of shoreline and would require approximately 5,000 linear feet of the Ohio River to be stabilized with approximately 50,000 cubic yards of stone protection. The stone protection would encompass the entire length of the fleeting area up to the approximate 100-year flood elevation. Implementation of the proposal would include the placement of 46,400 square feet of sheet piling and 10,300 cubic yards of fill material below the ordinary high water mark of the Ohio River.

Construction and maintenance of the facility would include dredging within the Ohio River. Construction of the proposal would include dredging of approximately 320,000 cubic yards of material. Dredged material has tested clean and would be disposed off-site at an approved upland location. The applicant is also requesting authorization to perform periodic maintenance dredging within the proposed mooring area. If permitted, the proposed dredging operation would be approved for a period of 10 years. The dredging activity would be on an as needed basis, but would not occur more often

than once every five years. The applicant has anticipated a maximum of 160,000 cubic yards of material would be removed during the 10 year period to provide adequate drafting depths.

Plans of the proposal are attached to this notice.

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS: A total of 0.55 acre of jurisdictional wetlands would be filled as a result of the proposal. The project does not require access to or siting within the wetlands to fulfill its basic purpose and is considered a non-water dependent activity; therefore, the applicant is required to show that other less damaging practicable alternatives are not available that would achieve the applicant's goal. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines state that for non-water dependent activities, practicable alternatives that do not involve wetlands are presumed to be available unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. The applicant is required to provide an alternative analysis that must overcome the presumption prior to receiving authorization for the placement of fill material. The applicant has submitted the required alternative analysis and it is currently under review. No permit will be issued until our review of the alternative analysis clearly shows that upland alternatives are not available to achieve the applicant's goal.

MITIGATION PLAN: To mitigate for 0.55 acre of Category II wetland (Wetlands 1, 2 & H) impacts associated with the proposal, the applicant has conceptually agreed to create 0.86 acre of wetland by expanding existing Wetlands A and D. The mitigation wetlands would be excavated slightly below the grade of the surrounding wetlands. Wetland soil would be stockpiled and redistributed within the mitigation site to allow wetland vegetation to establish naturally through the seed-source present in the redistributed topsoil. The on-site seed source would be supplemented with an emergent wetland seed mix and suitable bare-root riparian trees to ensure good coverage and diversity. The proposed conceptual mitigation plan represents a slightly greater than 1.5:1 mitigation ratio. In addition, the remaining 1.42 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be preserved on site.

To mitigate for the impacts to 7,926 linear feet of headwater streams (Streams 13, 14 & 15), a new 7,926 linear foot channel would be constructed on-site immediately east of the proposed stream impacts. The new channel would be constructed using natural stream design with approximately 1.28 acres of riparian corridor established along the reconstructed channel. Additional compensation is proposed in the form of improvements to the channel and riparian habitat of the lower reaches of Stream 1.

Activities associated with the construction along the Ohio River would be mitigated through planting and maintenance of a 50 foot wide riparian buffer. Bank stabilization methods conducted after completion of construction would help limit riverbank erosion, stream sedimentation and the establishment of habitat for fauna.

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice.

A section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and it has been determined that there are currently no historic properties listed in the National Register in the area affected by the project. However, based on results from previous cultural resource investigations in the general project area archaeological sites 33-MS-8 and 33-MS-23, both in the area of potential effects for this project, were formally determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register. A copy of this public notice will be furnished to the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) for their review. Our office, in consultation with the OHPO and other consulting parties, will continue to evaluate the potential for adverse impacts to historic properties associated with this proposal.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES REVIEW: The project is located within the known or historic range of the following endangered species:

Indiana bat
Pink Mucket Pearly mussel
Fanshell mussel
Sheepnose mussel

The Huntington District has consulted the most recently available information and based on the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the project is not likely to adversely affect these species or designated Critical Habitat for these Federally listed species. The applicant indicated mussel surveys have been conducted and no Federally listed species were found. This survey will be furnished to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review and comment. This public notice serves as a request to the USFWS for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW AND COMMENT: Any person who has an interest that may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity. This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-331, the Regulatory Program of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other pertinent laws, regulations, and executive orders. Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404(b) (1) of the CWA. Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. 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 that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; of 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. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or

before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: 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. For accuracy and completeness of the administrative record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. 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.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period listed on page one of this Public Notice. If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

North Regulatory Permit Section - CELRH-OR-FN-200500016-5
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Please note, the names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice become part of our administrative record and, as such, are available to the public under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for your interest in our nation's water resources. If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Ms. Lee A. Pittman of the North Regulatory Section at 304-399-5210.


Ginger Mullins
Regulatory Branch

(O,WV)

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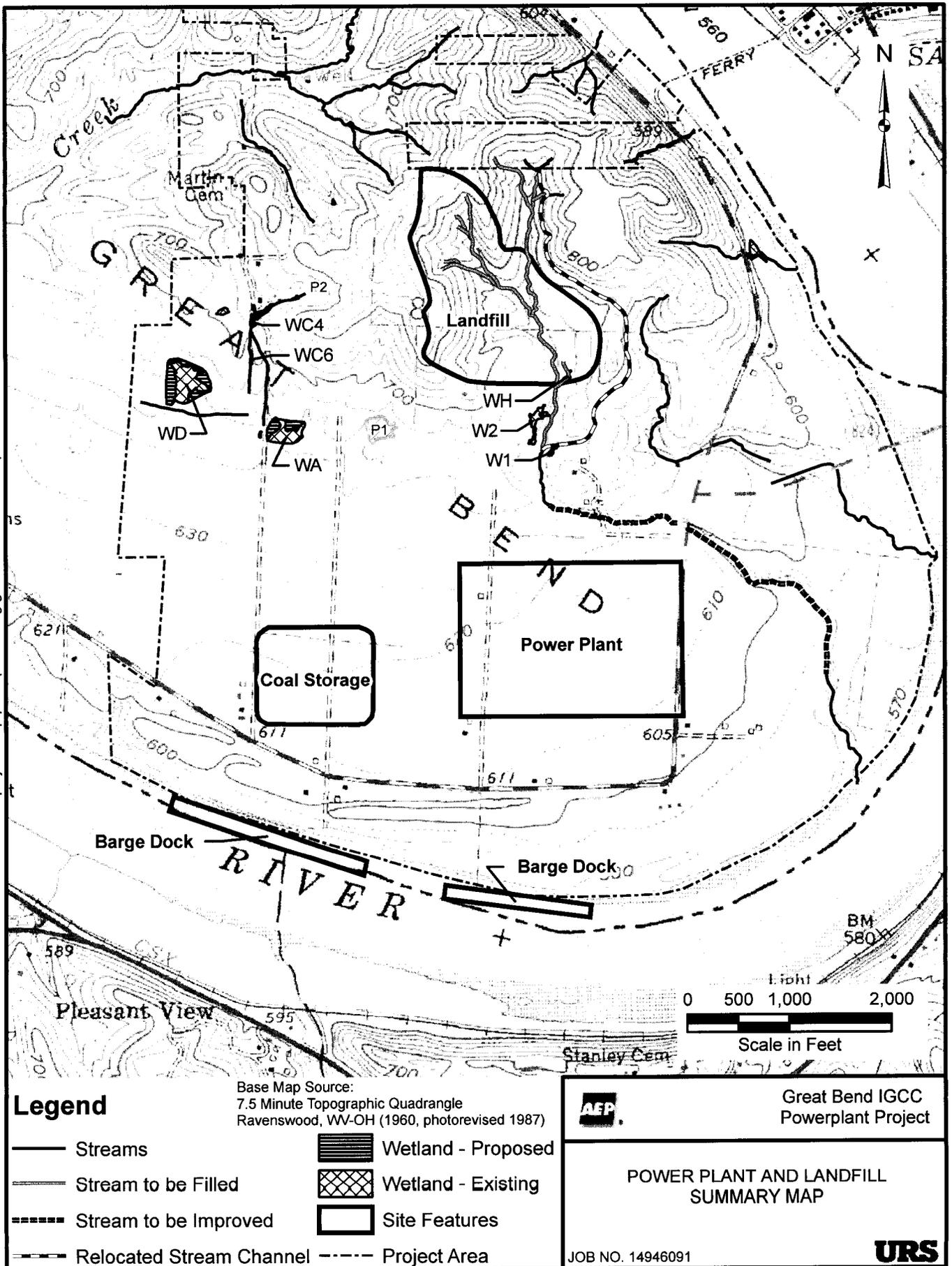


Figure 1 (11)

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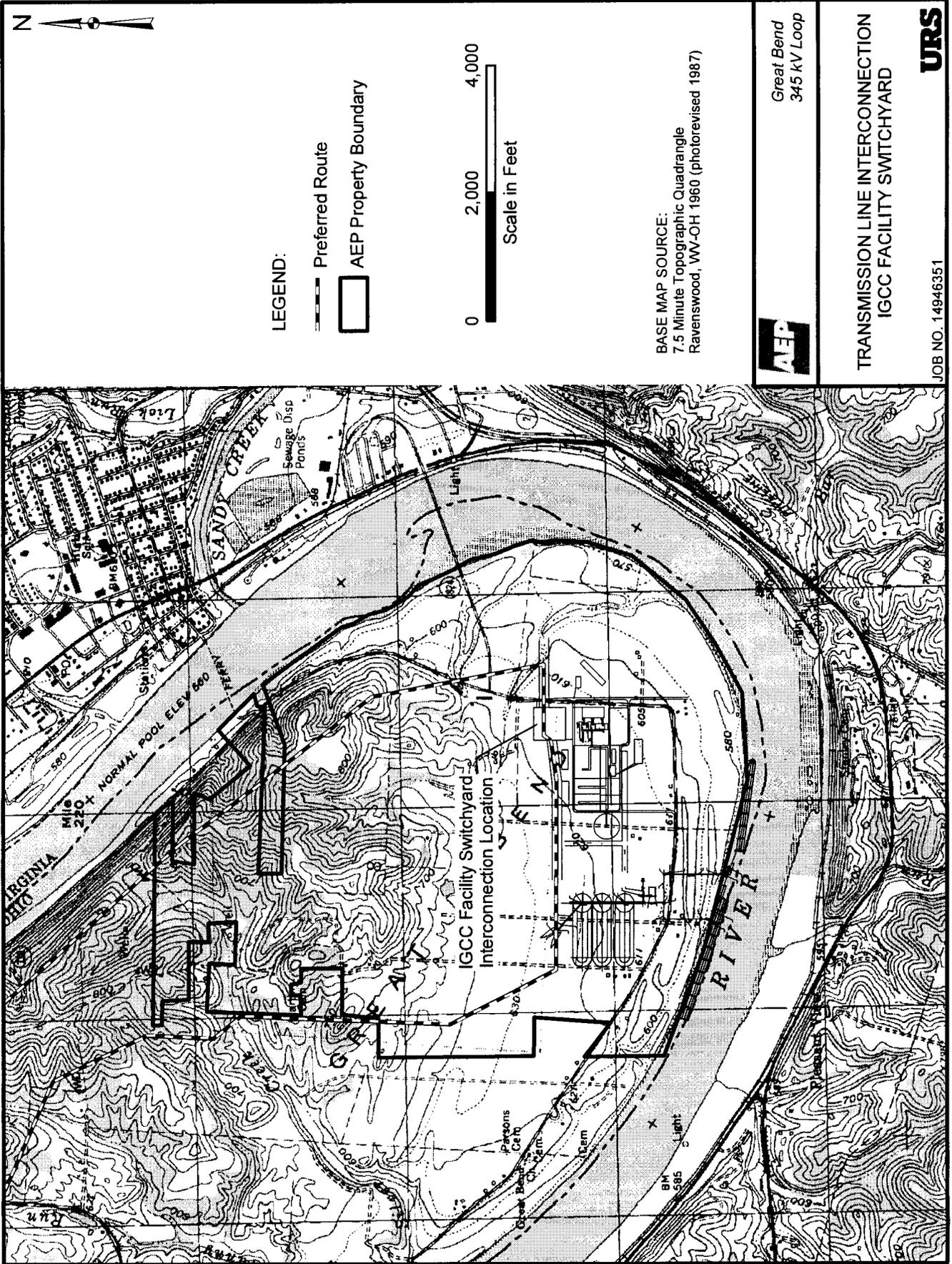


Figure 2 (11)

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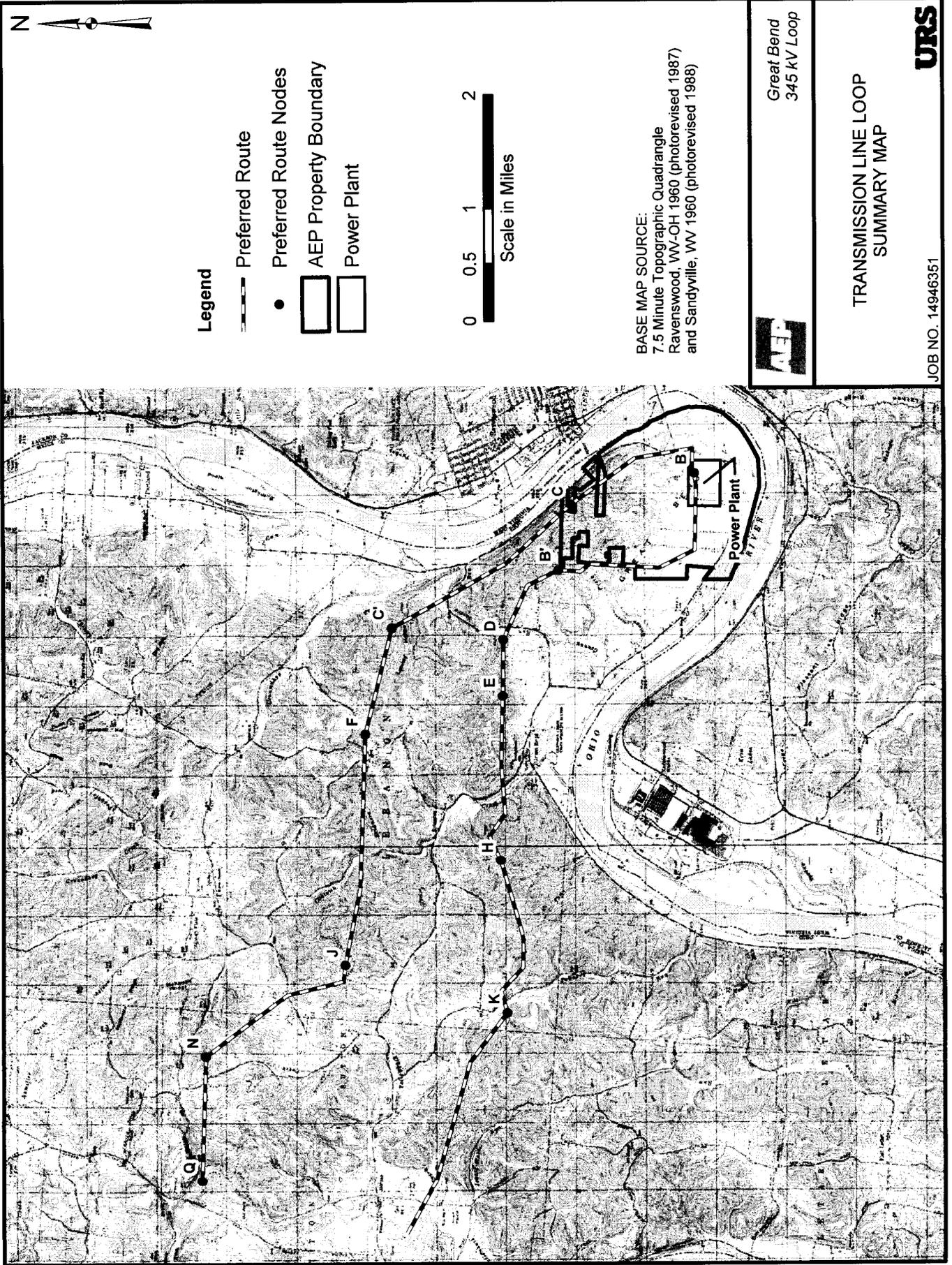
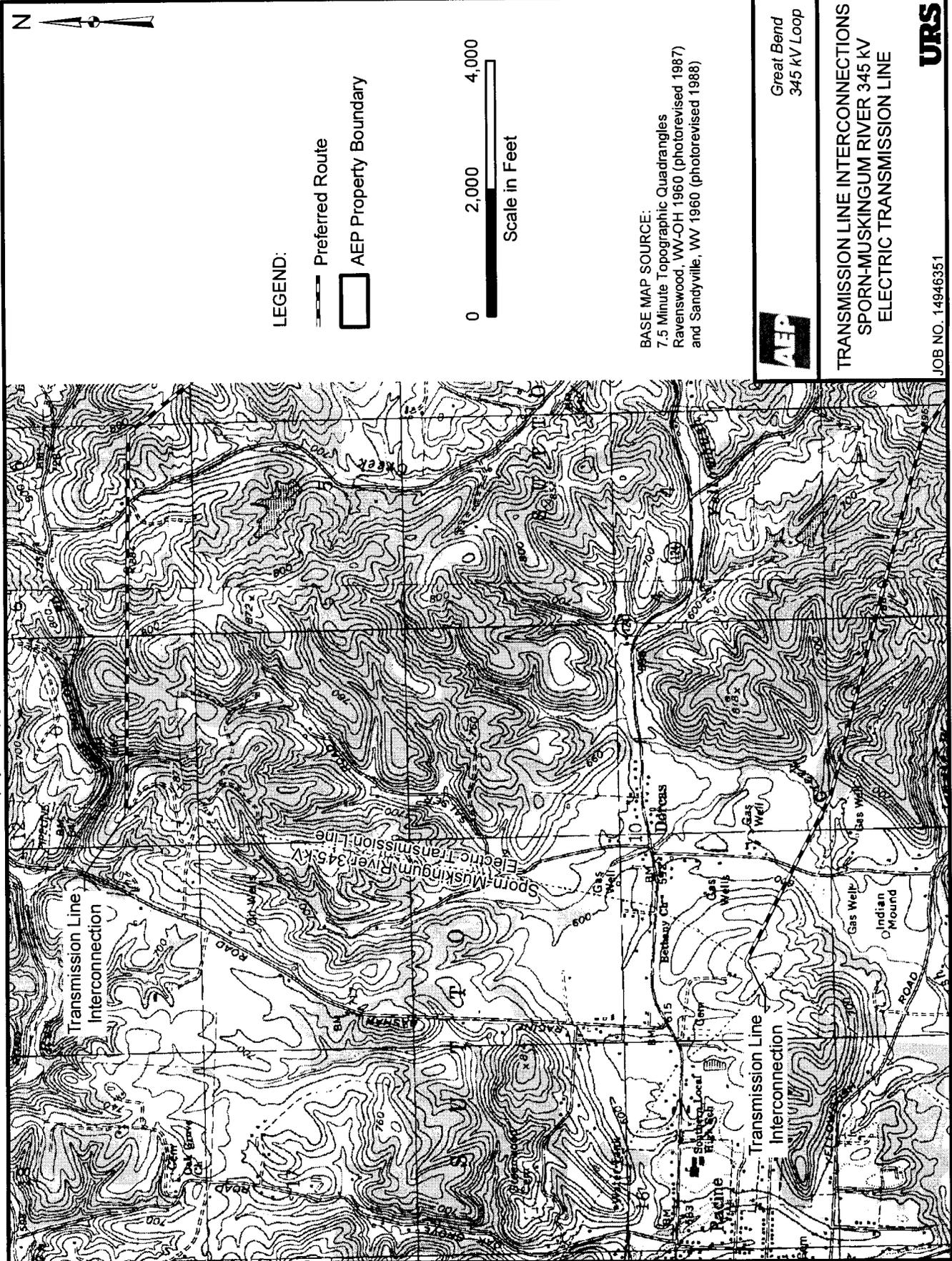


Figure 3 (11)

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LEGEND:

-  Preferred Route
-  AEP Property Boundary



BASE MAP SOURCE:
 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangles
 Ravenswood, WV-OH 1960 (photorevised 1987)
 and Sandyville, WV 1960 (photorevised 1988)



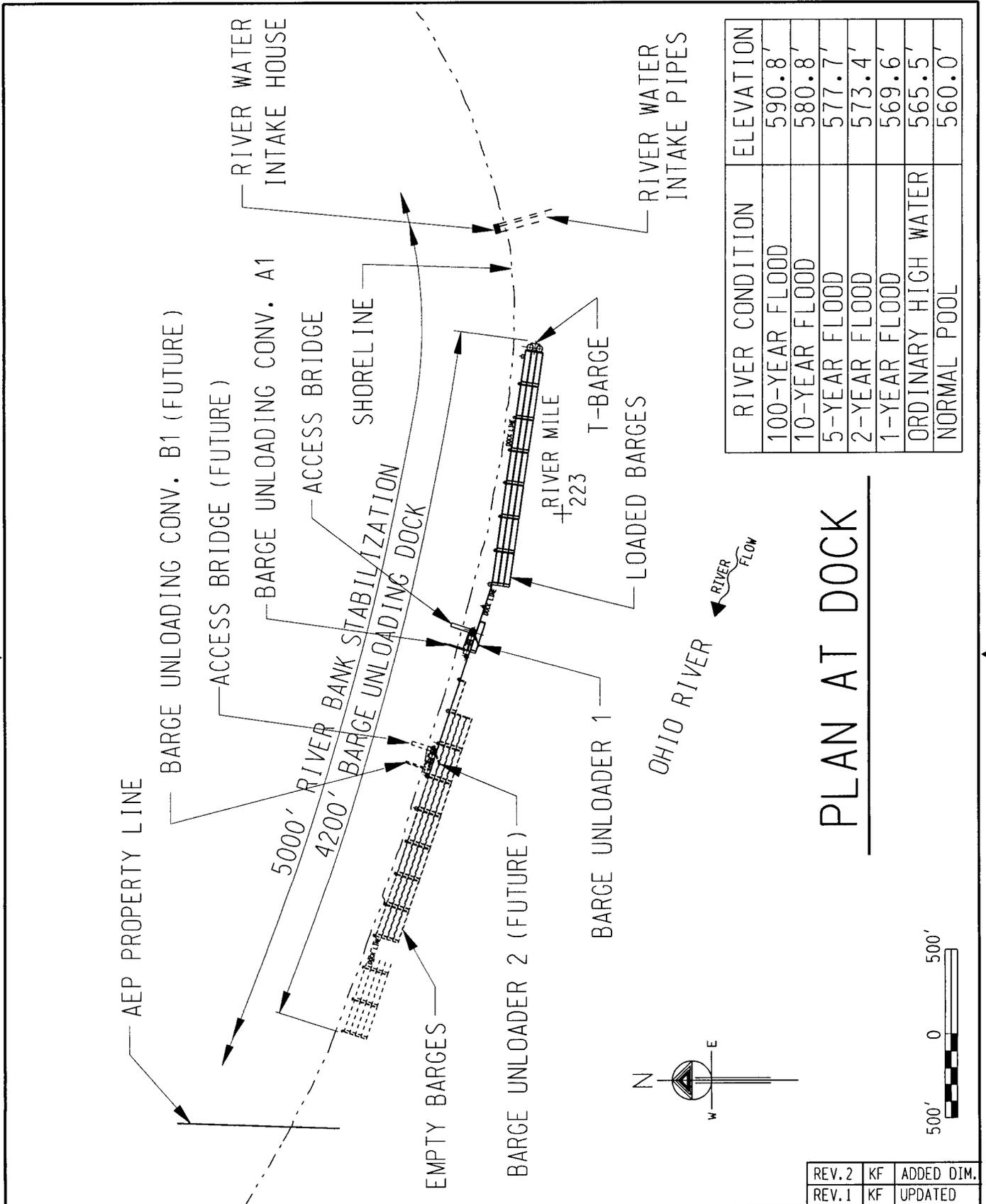
Great Bend
 345 kV Loop

**TRANSMISSION LINE INTERCONNECTIONS
 SPORN-MUSKINGUM RIVER 345 kV
 ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE**



JOB NO. 14946351

Figure 4 (11)



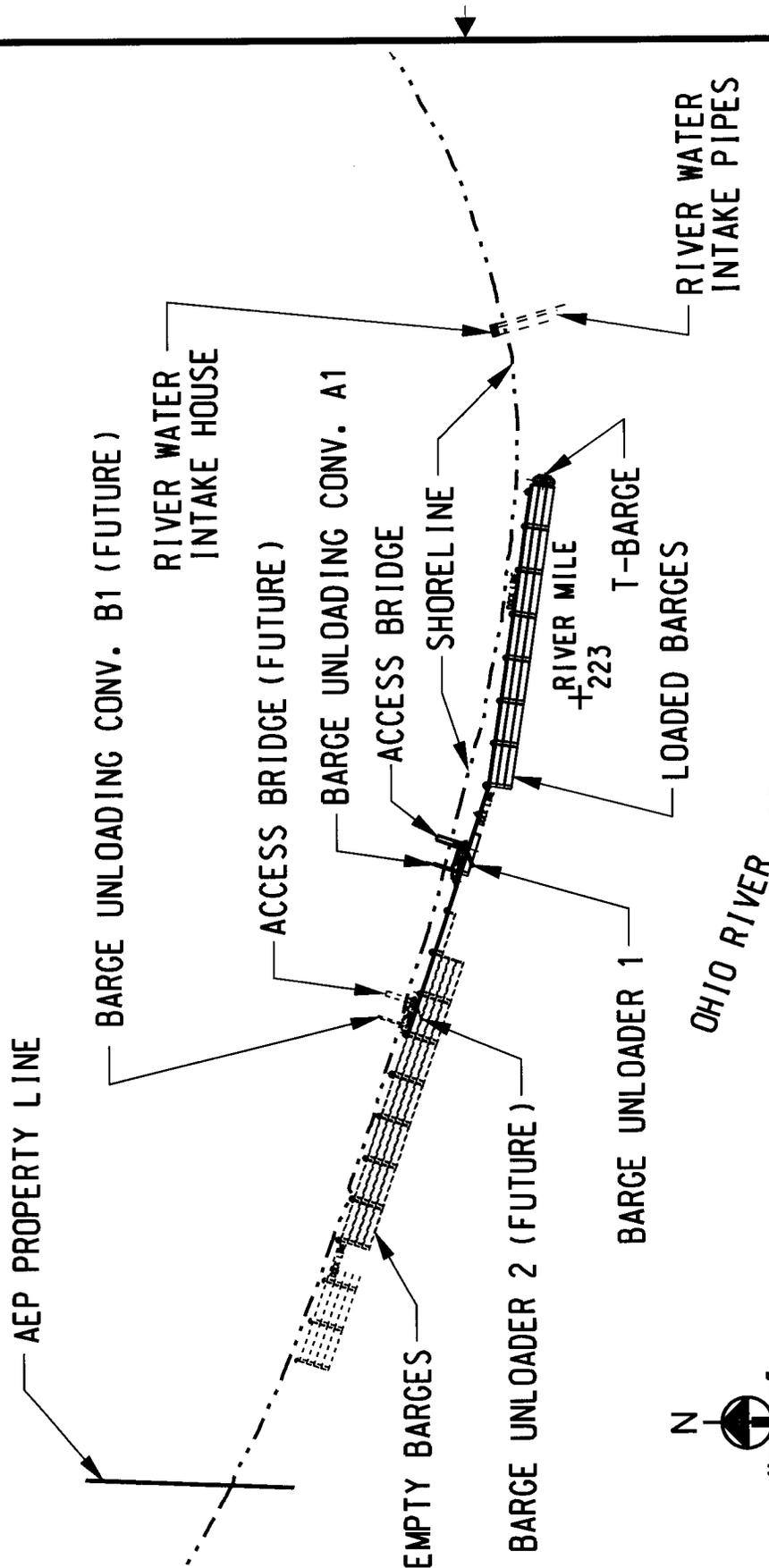
RIVER CONDITION	ELEVATION
100-YEAR FLOOD	590.8'
10-YEAR FLOOD	580.8'
5-YEAR FLOOD	577.7'
2-YEAR FLOOD	573.4'
1-YEAR FLOOD	569.6'
ORDINARY HIGH WATER	565.5'
NORMAL POOL	560.0'

PLAN AT DOCK

DRN BY: K. Fijałkowski	IGCC GREAT BEND SITE		AEP SERVICE CORP. 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA COLUMBUS, OH 43215
DATE: 12/16/05	LEBANON TWP, MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO		(REV. 2)
SCALE: AS NOTED	ENLARGED SITE PLAN		

REV. 2	KF	ADDED DIM.
REV. 1	KF	UPDATED

Figure 5 (11)

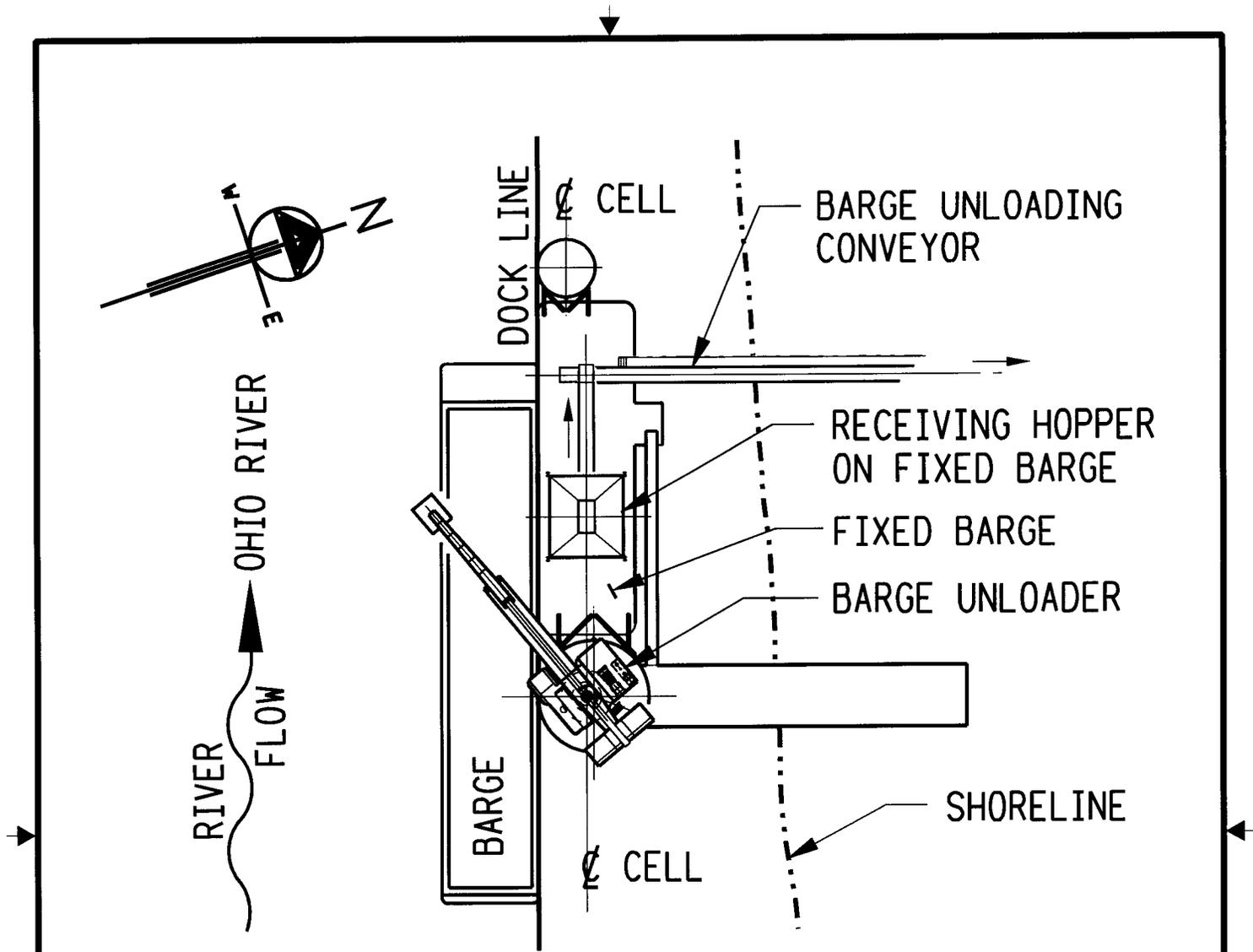


RIVER CONDITION	ELEVATION
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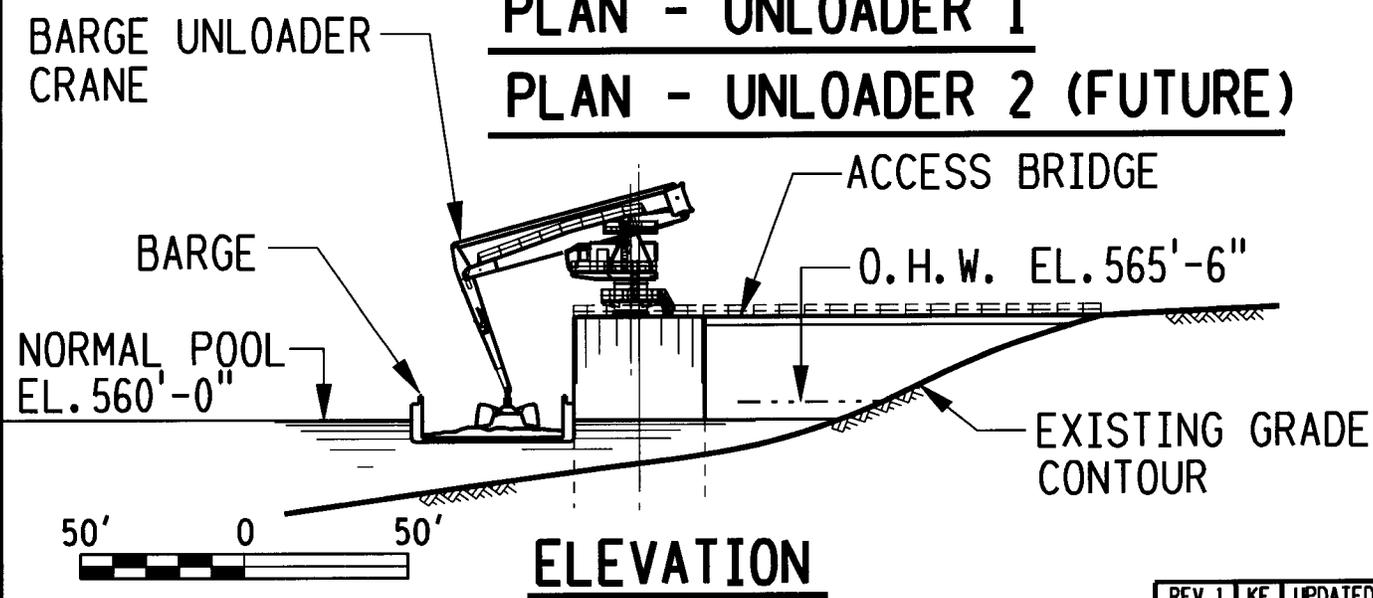
PLAN AT DOCK

DRN BY: K. Fijałkowski	IGCC GREAT BEND SITE	REV. 1 KF UPDATED
DATE: 12/16/05	LEBANON TWP, MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO	AEP AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER
SCALE: AS NOTED	ENLARGED SITE PLAN	AEP SERVICE CORP. 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA COLUMBUS, OH 43215
		(REV. 1)

Figure 6 (11)



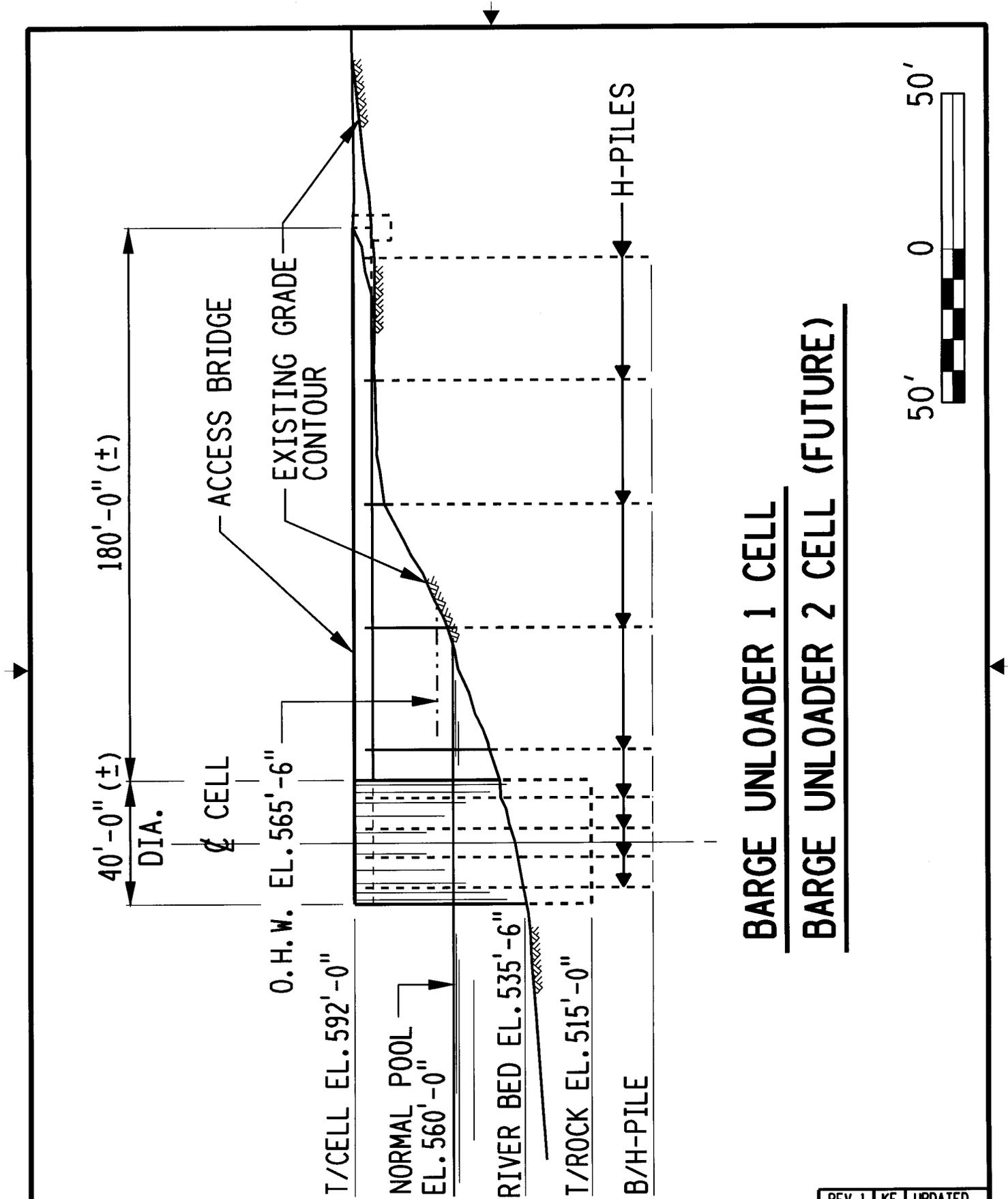
PLAN - UNLOADER 1
PLAN - UNLOADER 2 (FUTURE)



ELEVATION

DRN BY: K. Fijalkowski	IGCC GREAT BEND SITE	REV. 1	KF	UPDATED
DATE: 12/16/05	LEBANON TWP, MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO	AEP AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER		AEP SERVICE CORP. 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA COLUMBUS, OH 43215
SCALE: AS NOTED	BARGE UNLOADER GENERAL ARRANGEMENT	(REV. 1)		

Figure 7 (11)



DRN BY: K. Fijałkowski
 DATE: 12/16/05
 SCALE: AS NOTED

IGCC GREAT BEND SITE
 LEBANON TWP, MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO
 BARGE UNLOADER SUPPORT STRUCTURE - SECTION VIEW

AEP AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

REV. 1 KF UPDATED
 AEP SERVICE CORP.
 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA
 COLUMBUS, OH 43215
 (REV. 1)

Figure 8 (11)

19'-0" TO
23'-0" DIA.

Ø CELL

EXISTING GRADE
CONTOUR

O.H.W. EL. 565'-6"

T/CELL EL. 592'-0"

NORMAL POOL
EL. 560'-0"

RIVER BED EL. 531'-9"
THRU EL. 540'-2"

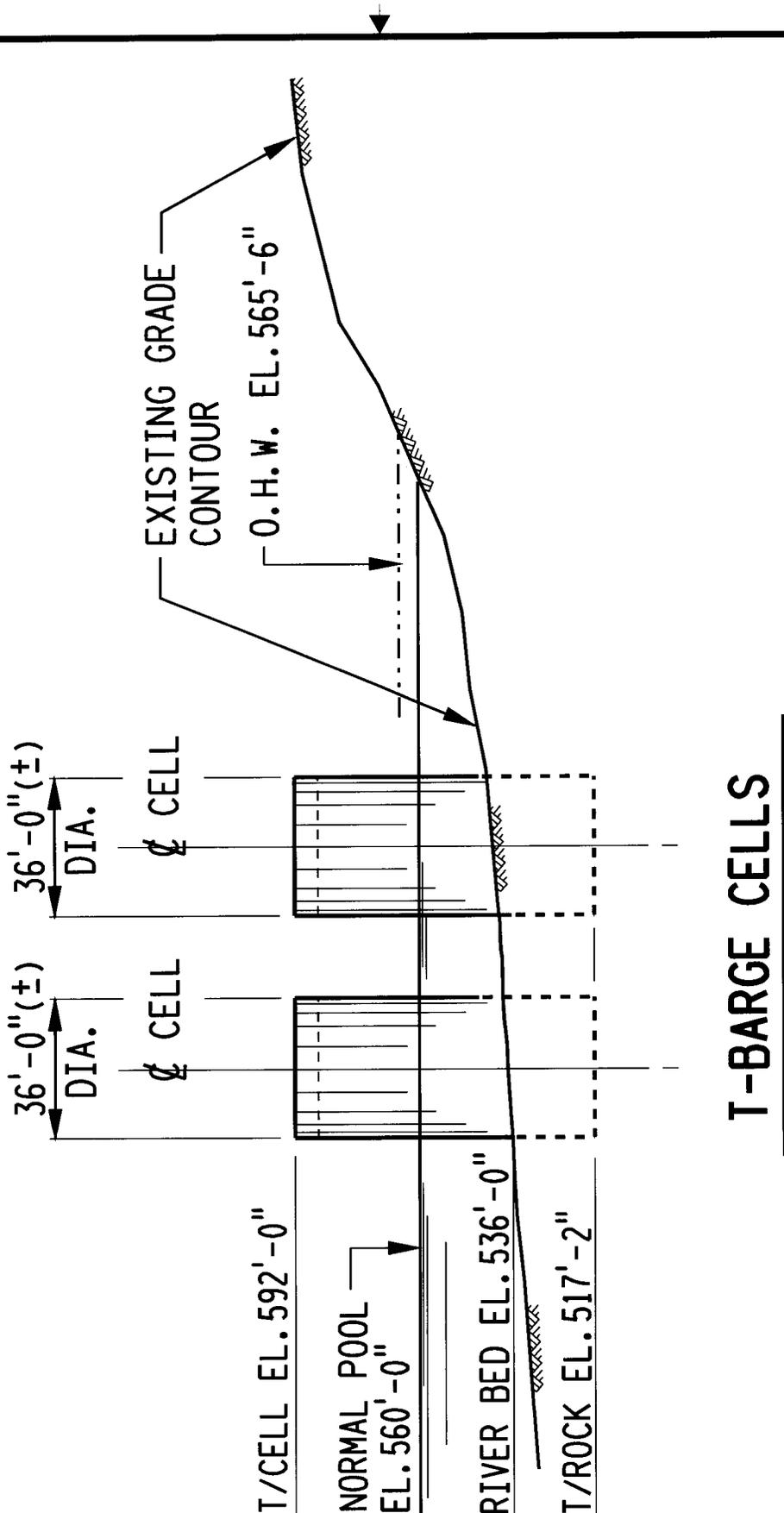
T/ROCK EL. 515'-1"
THRU EL. 519'-7"

TYPICAL MOORING CELL

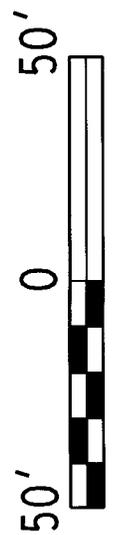


DRN BY: K. F. Jankowski	IGCC GREAT BEND SITE	AEP AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	REV. 1 KF UPDATED
DATE: 12/16/05	USGS RAVENSWOOD, W. VA. - OHIO LEBANON TWP, MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO		AEP SERVICE CORP. 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA COLUMBUS, OH 43215
SCALE: AS NOTED	TYPICAL MOORING CELL - SECTION VIEW	(REV. 1)	

Figure 9 (11)



T-BARGE CELLS



DRN BY: K. Fijałkowski	IGCC GREAT BEND SITE		REV. 1 KF UPDATED
DATE: 12/16/05	LEBANON TWP, MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO		AEP SERVICE CORP. 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA COLUMBUS, OH 43215
SCALE: AS NOTED	T-BARGE CELLS - SECTION VIEW		(REV. 1)

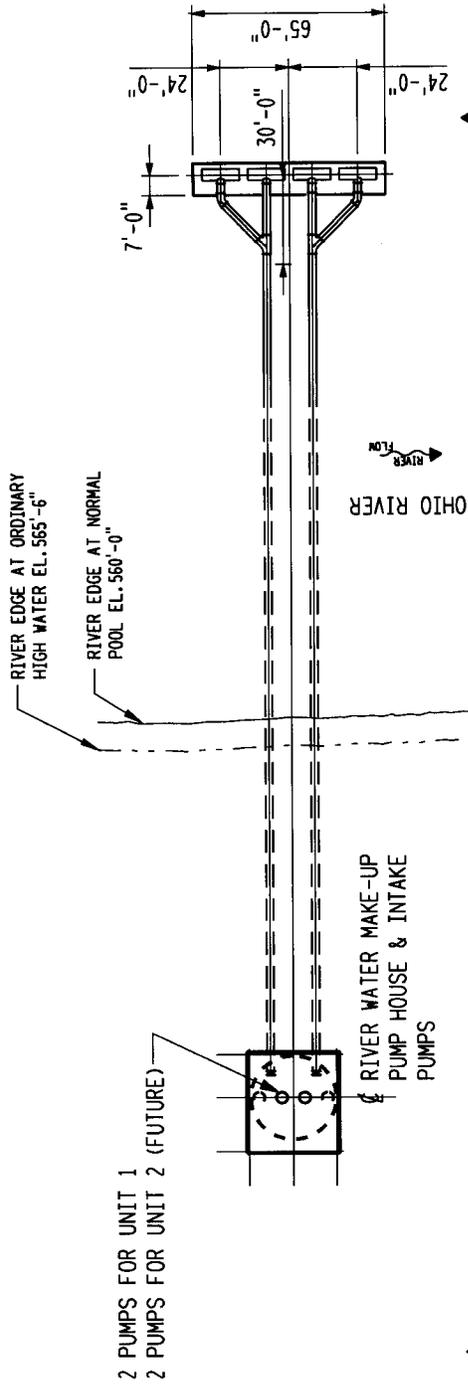
Figure 10 (11)

NOTES

1. PUMPS AND DISCHARGE PIPING BY OTHERS

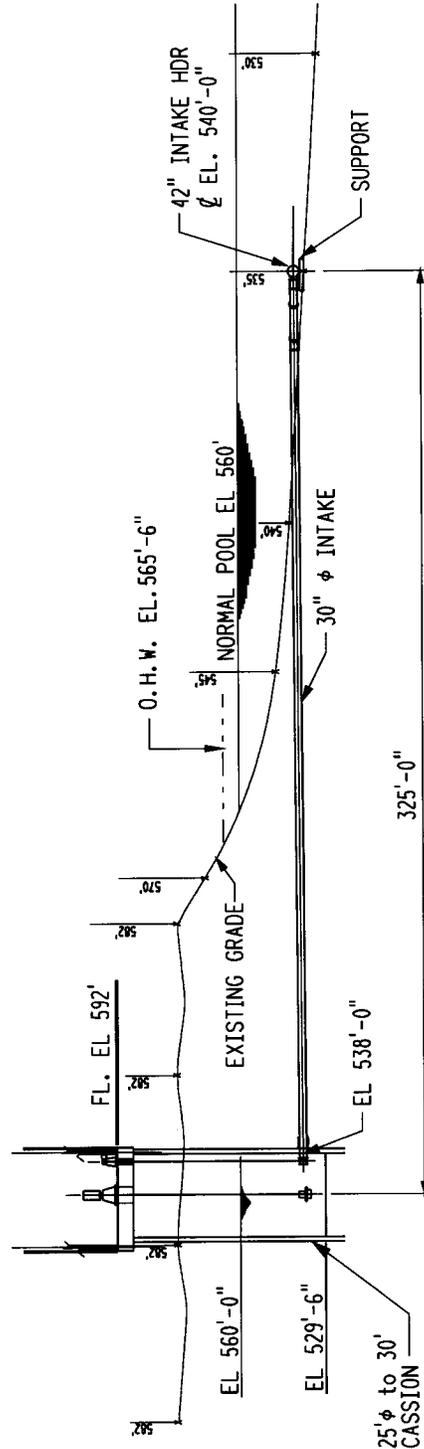
REFERENCE DRAWINGS

FIGURE NO. 3 ENLARGED SITE PLAN



PLAN

← E



SECTION E-6

DRN BY:	V. SMATHERS
DATE:	12/16/05
SCALE:	AS NOTED

PROPOSED GREAT BEND IGCC FACILITY
LEBANON TWP. MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO
ARRANGEMENT OF RIVER WATER MAKE-UP INTAKE PIPES



REV. 1	KF	UPDATED
AEP SERVICE CORP. 1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA COLUMBUS, OH 43215		
(REV. 1)		

Figure 11 (11)