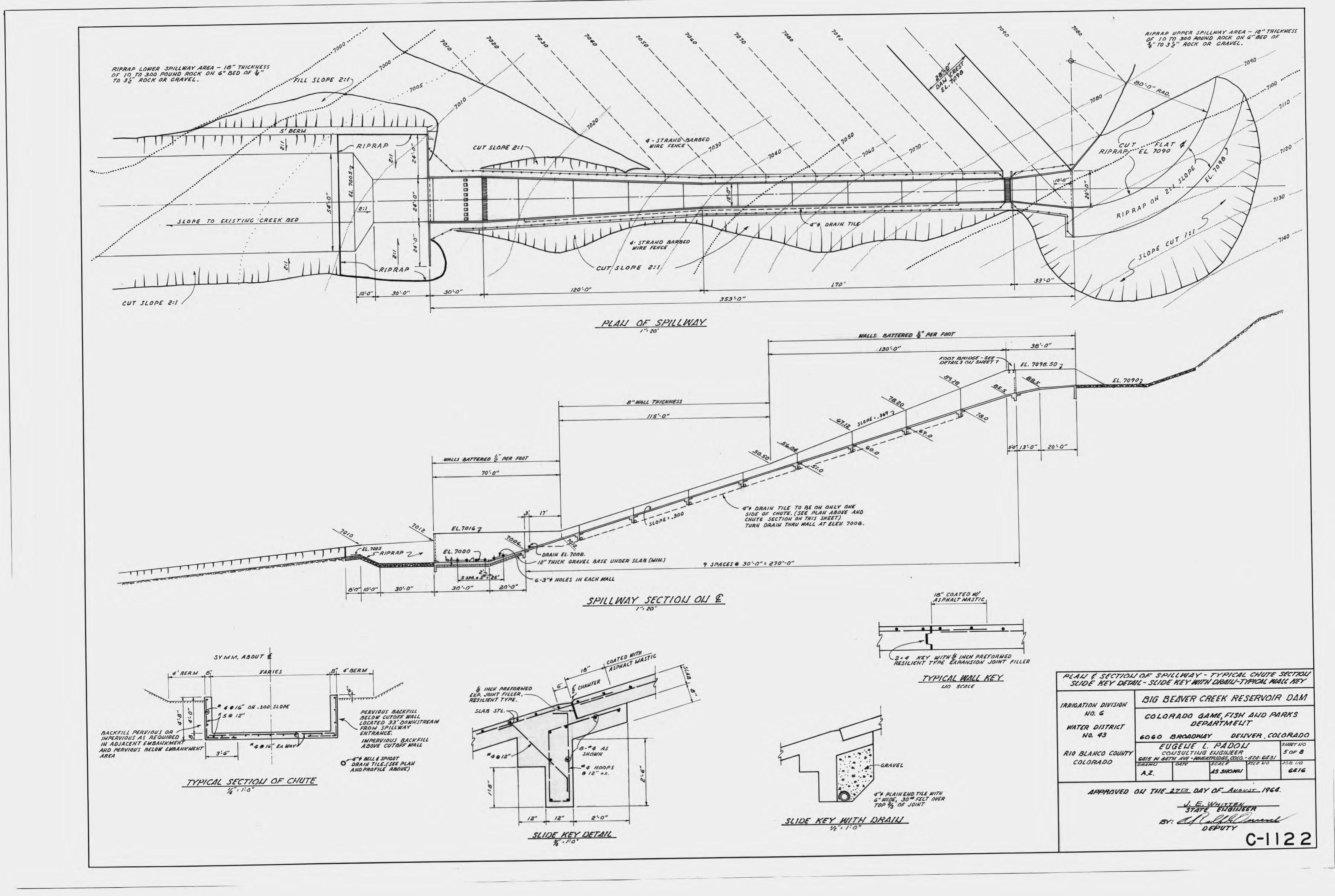
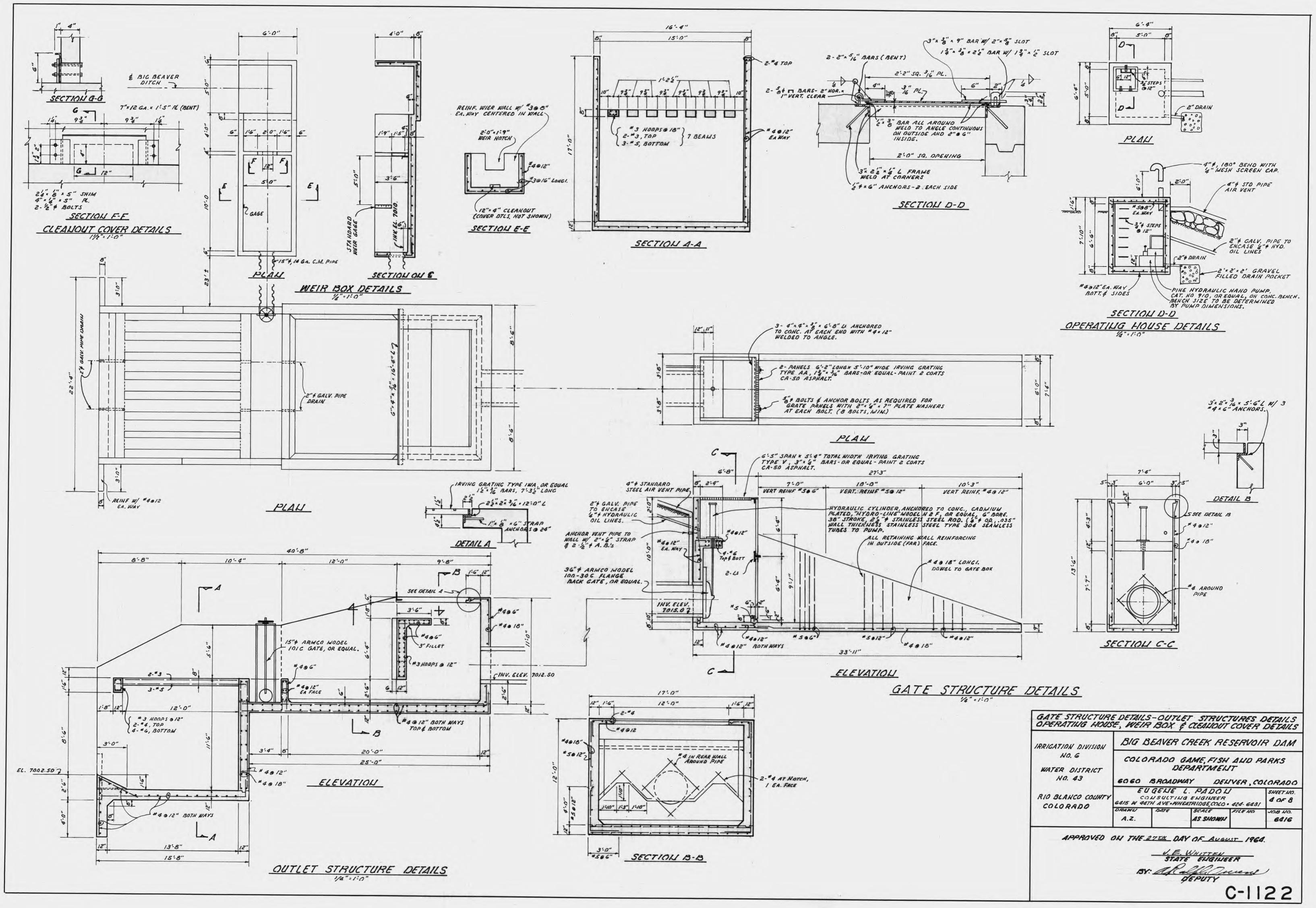
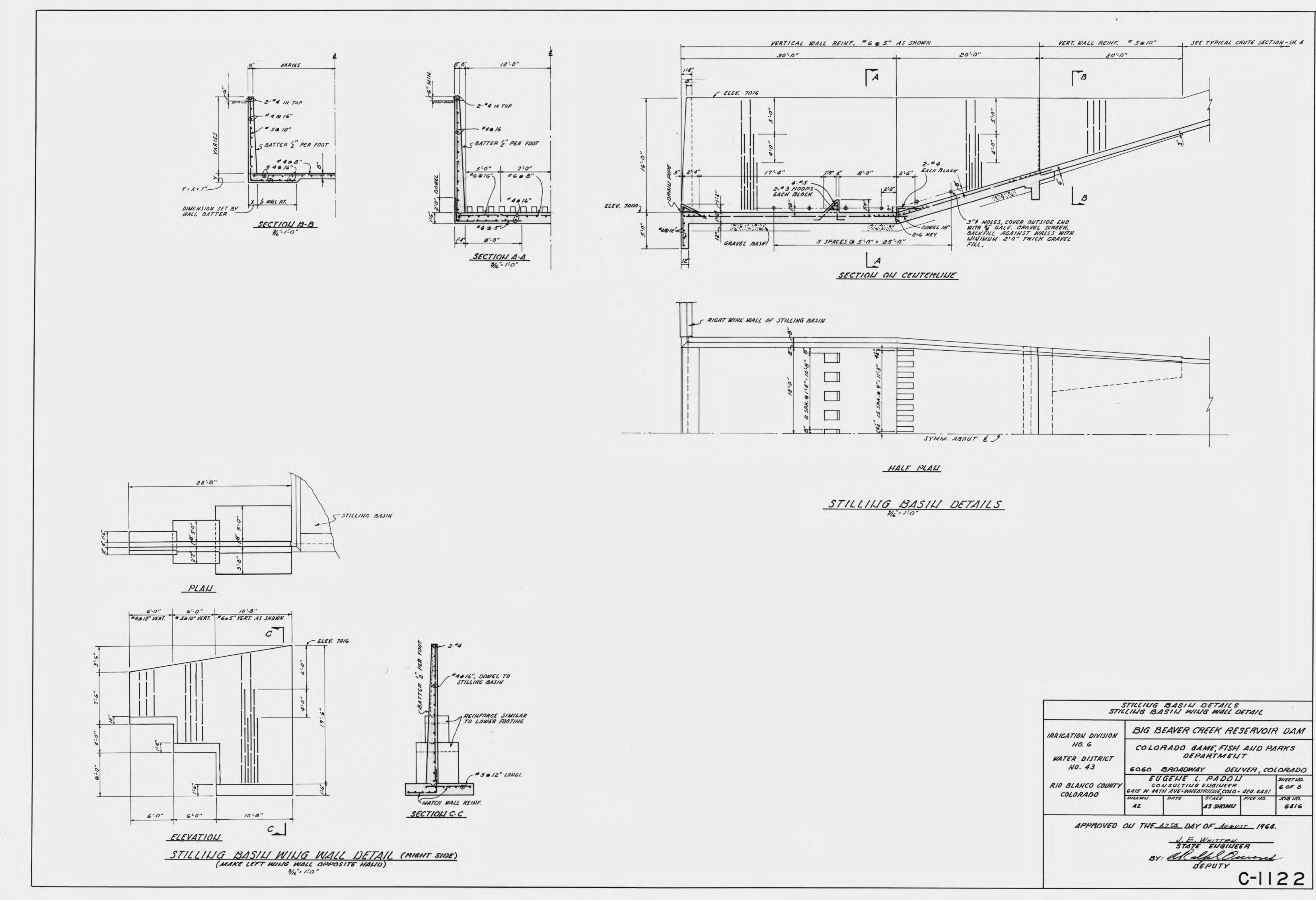


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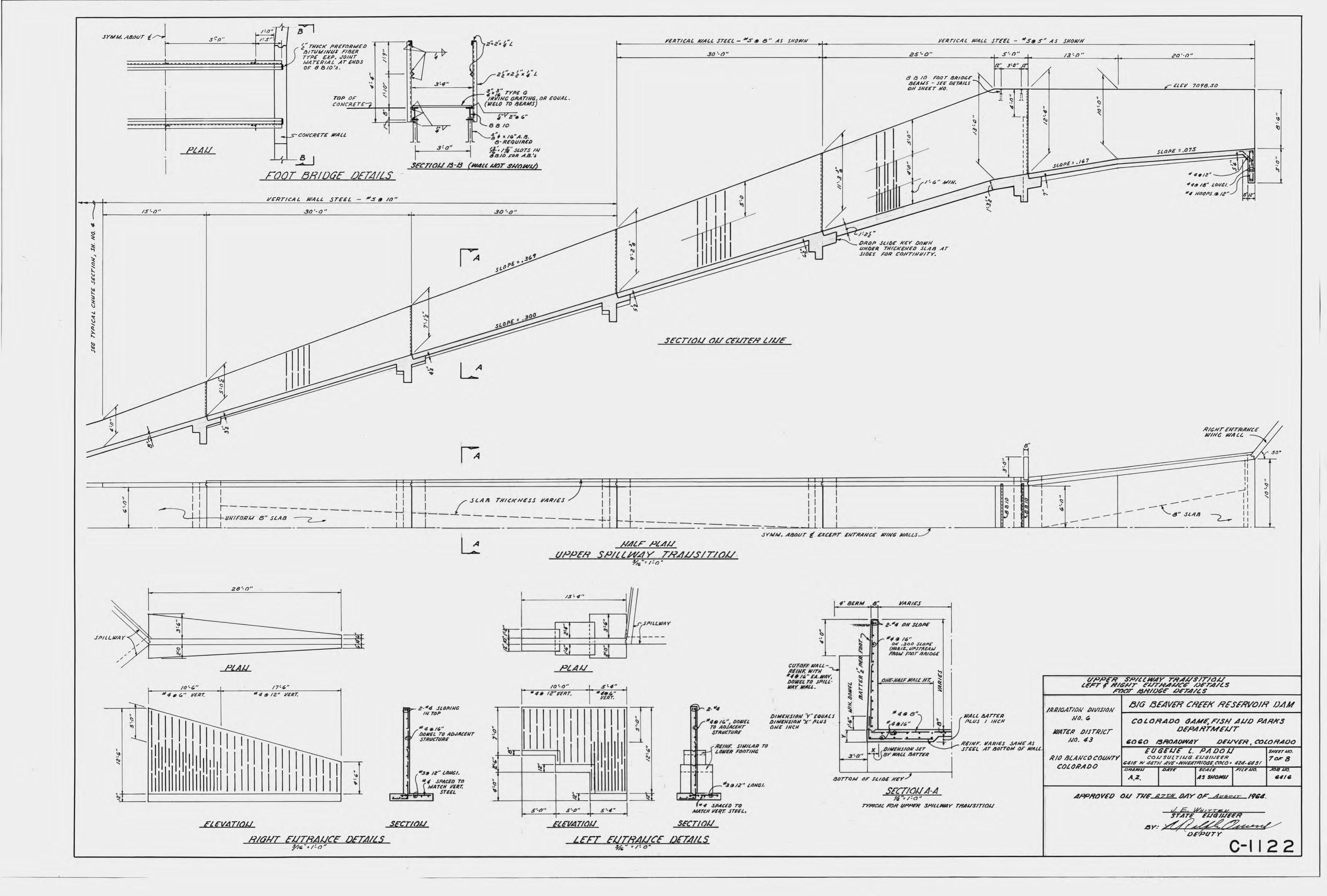
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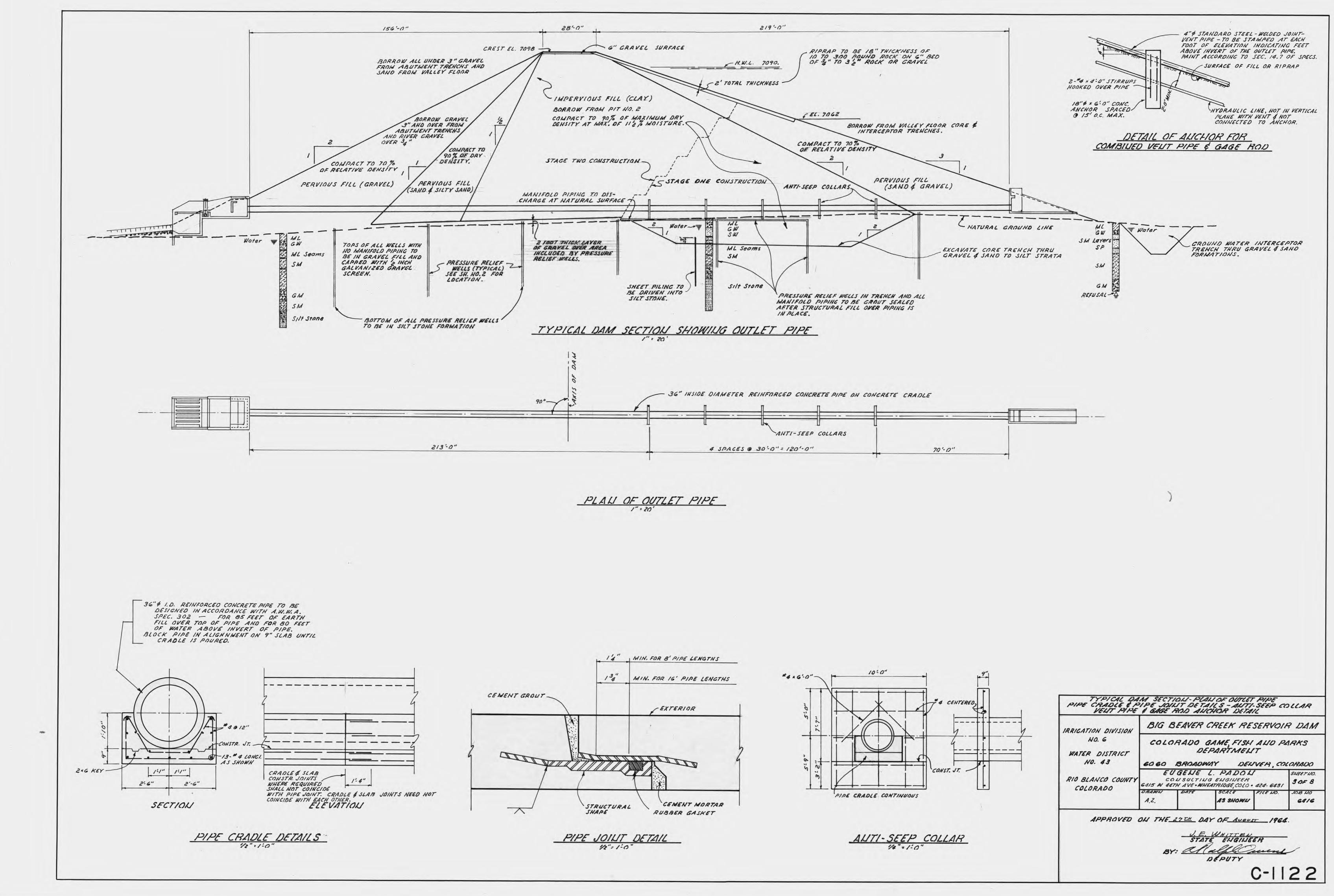


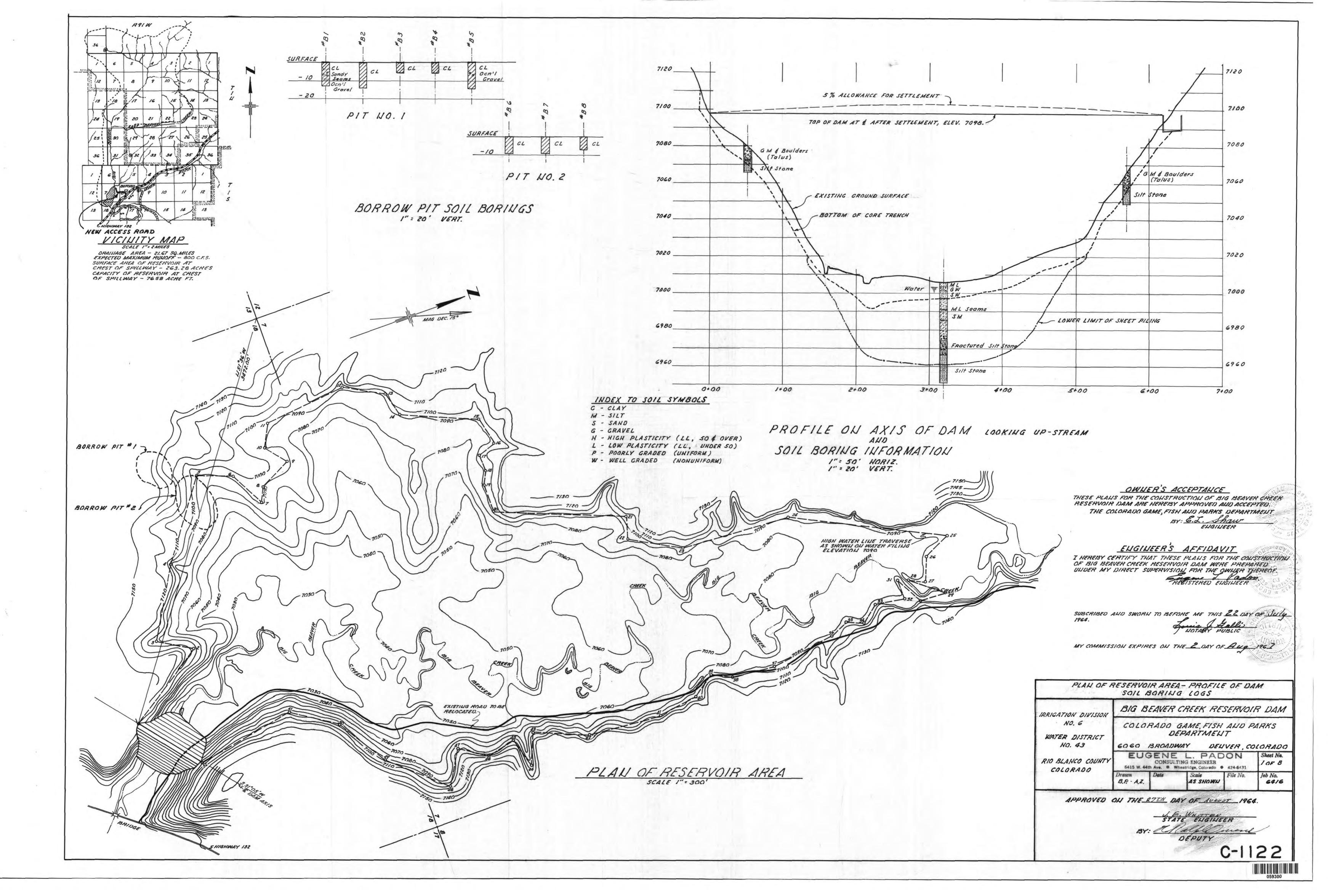


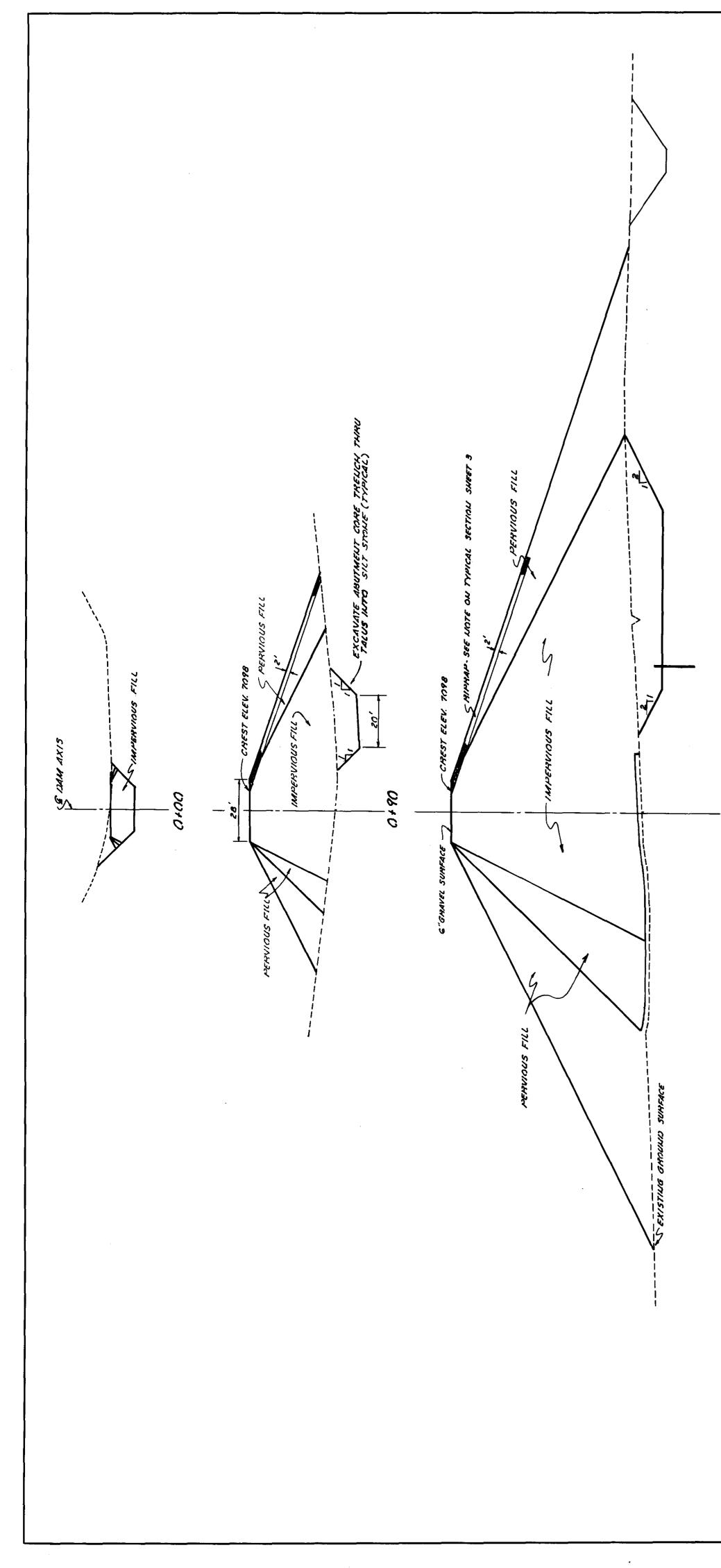


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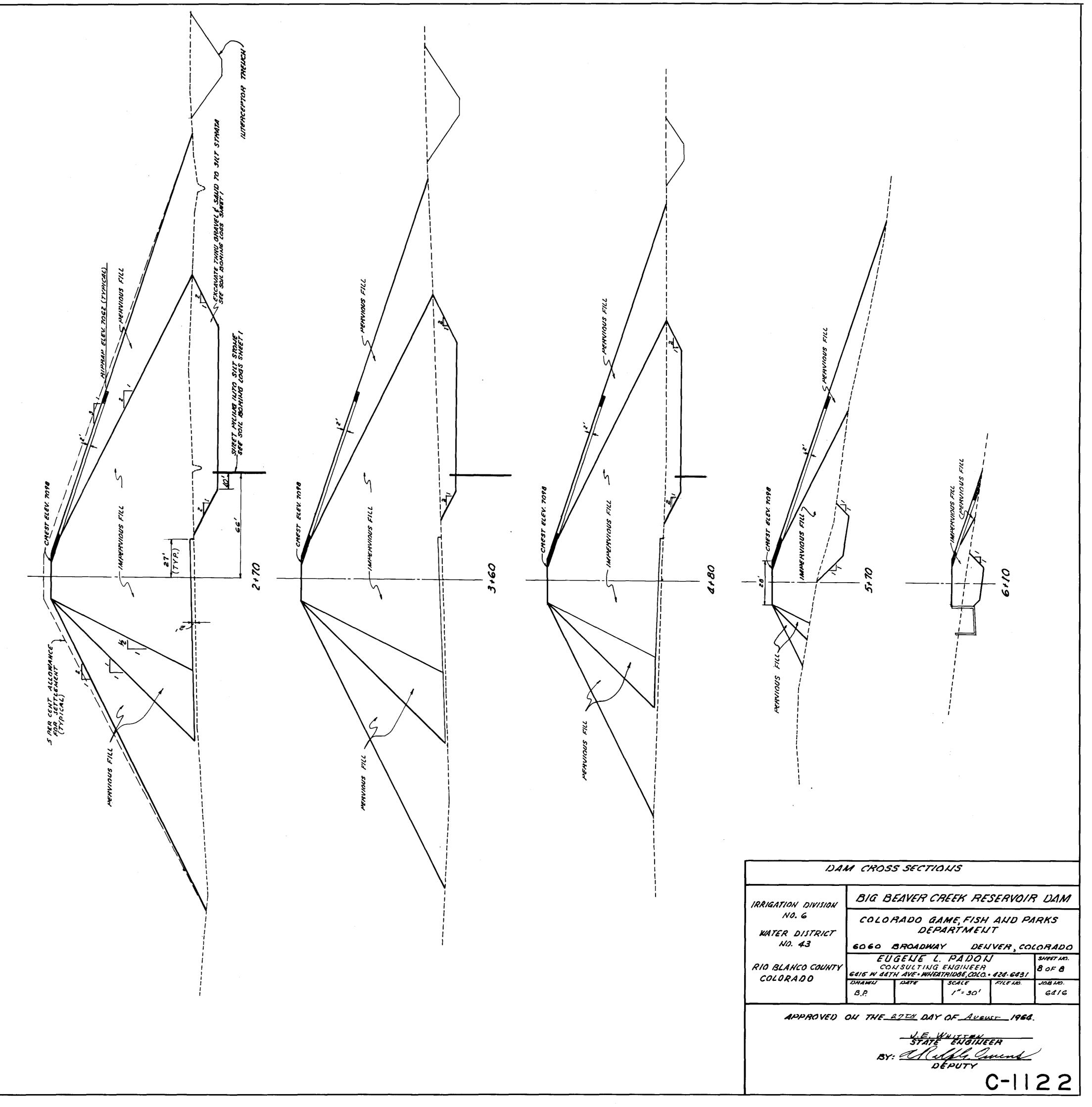


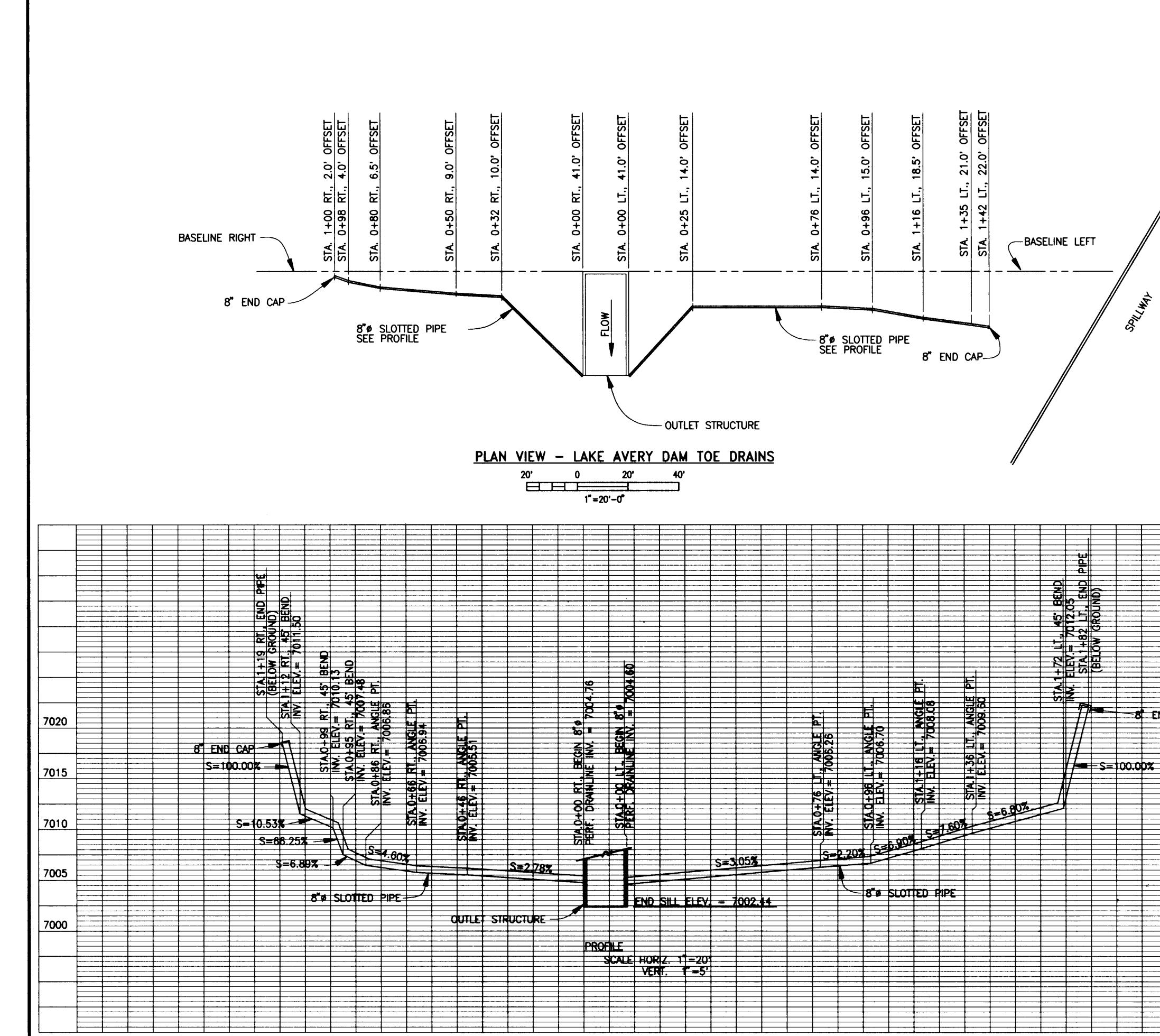






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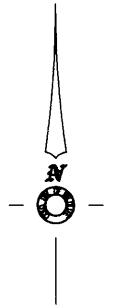


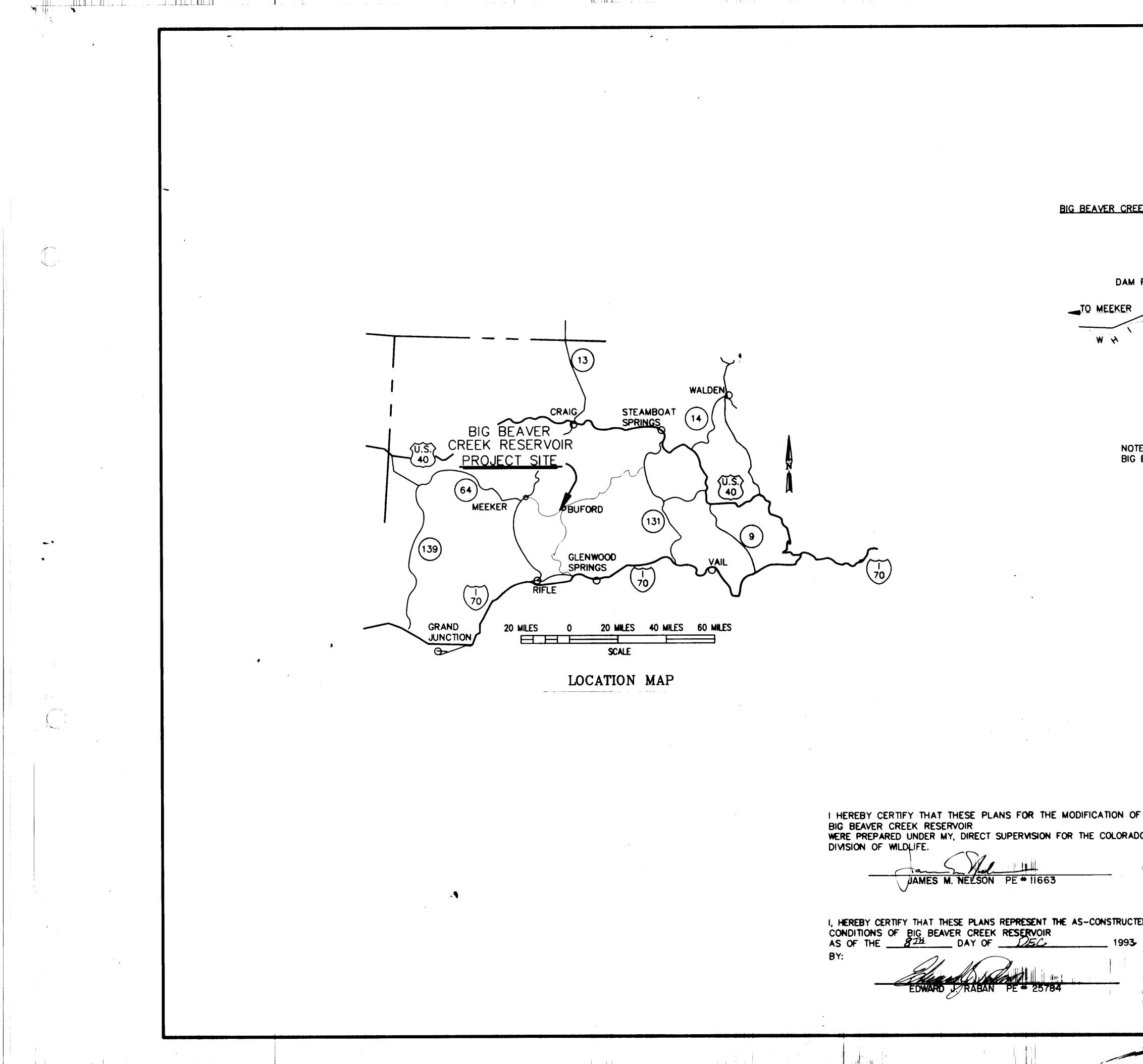


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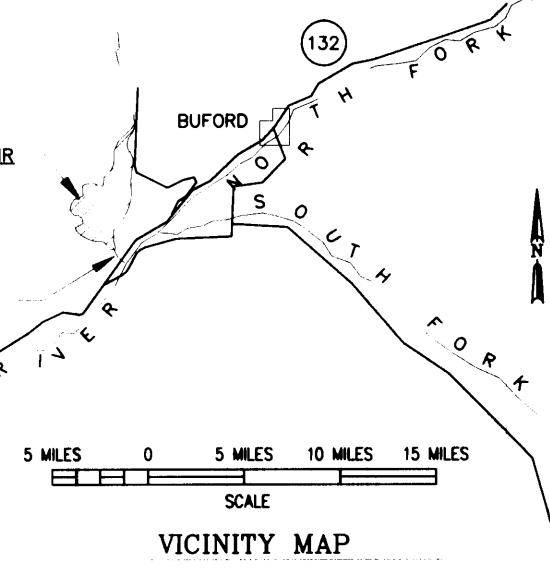


### BIG BEAVER CREEK RESERVOIR

DAM REPAIR SITE

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	JAMES M. NELSON PE # 11663	
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NOTE: BIG BEAVER CREEK RESERVOIR IS ALSO KNOWN AS LAKE AVERY RESERVOIR

# PLANS FOR THE MODIFICATION OF BIG BEAVER CREEK RESERVOIR RIO BLANCO COUNTY COLORADO

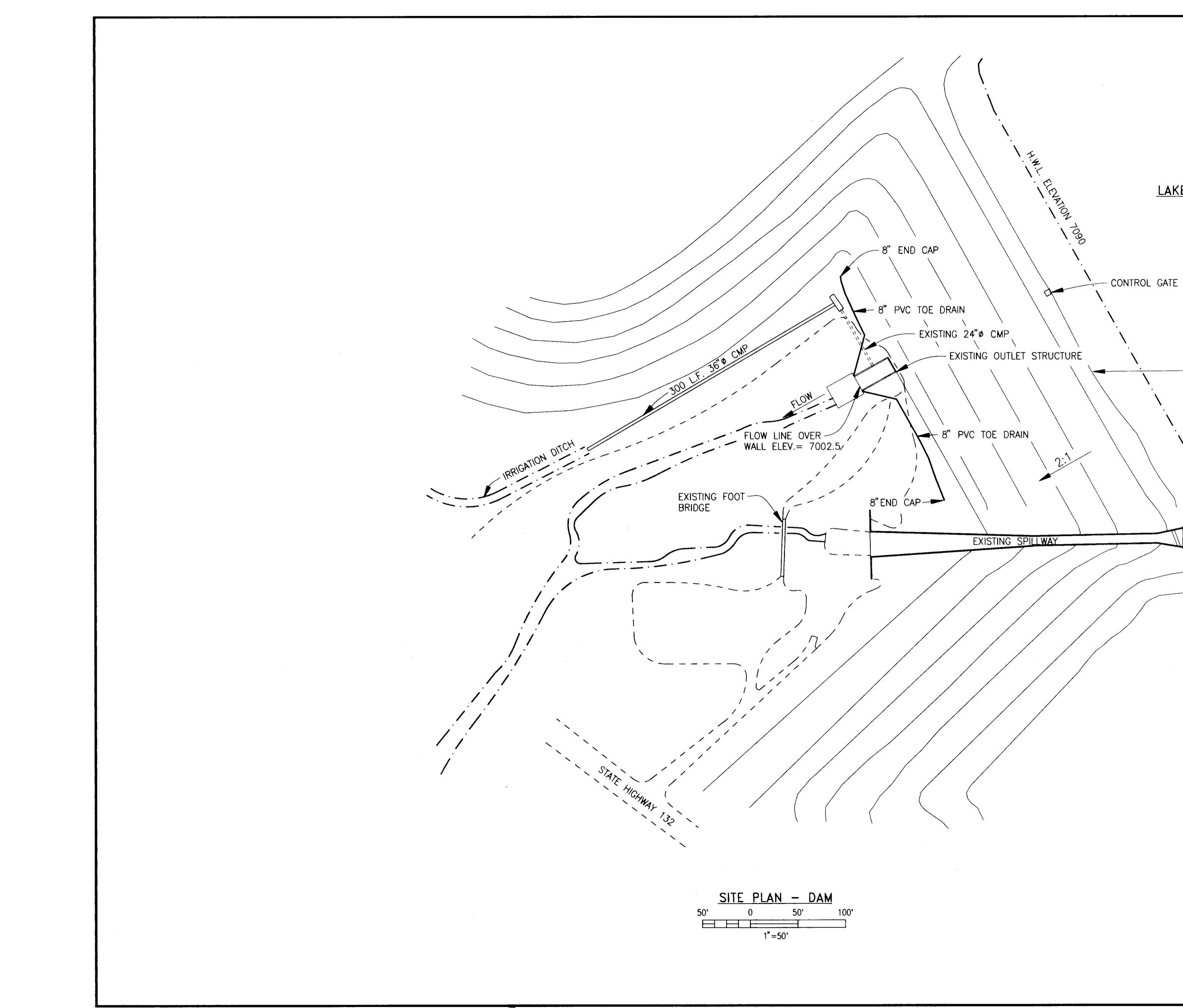
WATER DIVISION NO. 6 WATER DISTRICT NO. 43 LOCATED IN SEC. 18, T. 1 S., R. 91 W., 6th PM

SCALE AS NOTED SHEET 1 OF 5

THE COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE, OWNER, WHOSE POST OFFICE ADDRESS IS 6060 BROADWAY, DENVER, COLORADO, DOES HEREBY ACCEPT AND APPROVE THESE PLANS FOR THE MODIFICATION OF BIG BEAVER CREEK RESERVOIR BY:

MITH, CHIEF ENGINEER SHEETS APPROVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF COLORADO ON THE 3 RD DAY OF MAY 1993

BY: <u>HAL D. SIMPSON</u> STATE ENGINEER
-IN DEPUTY RICHARD STUDEN
STATE OF COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
Plans Review by:CHIEF (New Plans Branch)
Approval Recommended By:
C-1122A SHEET I OF



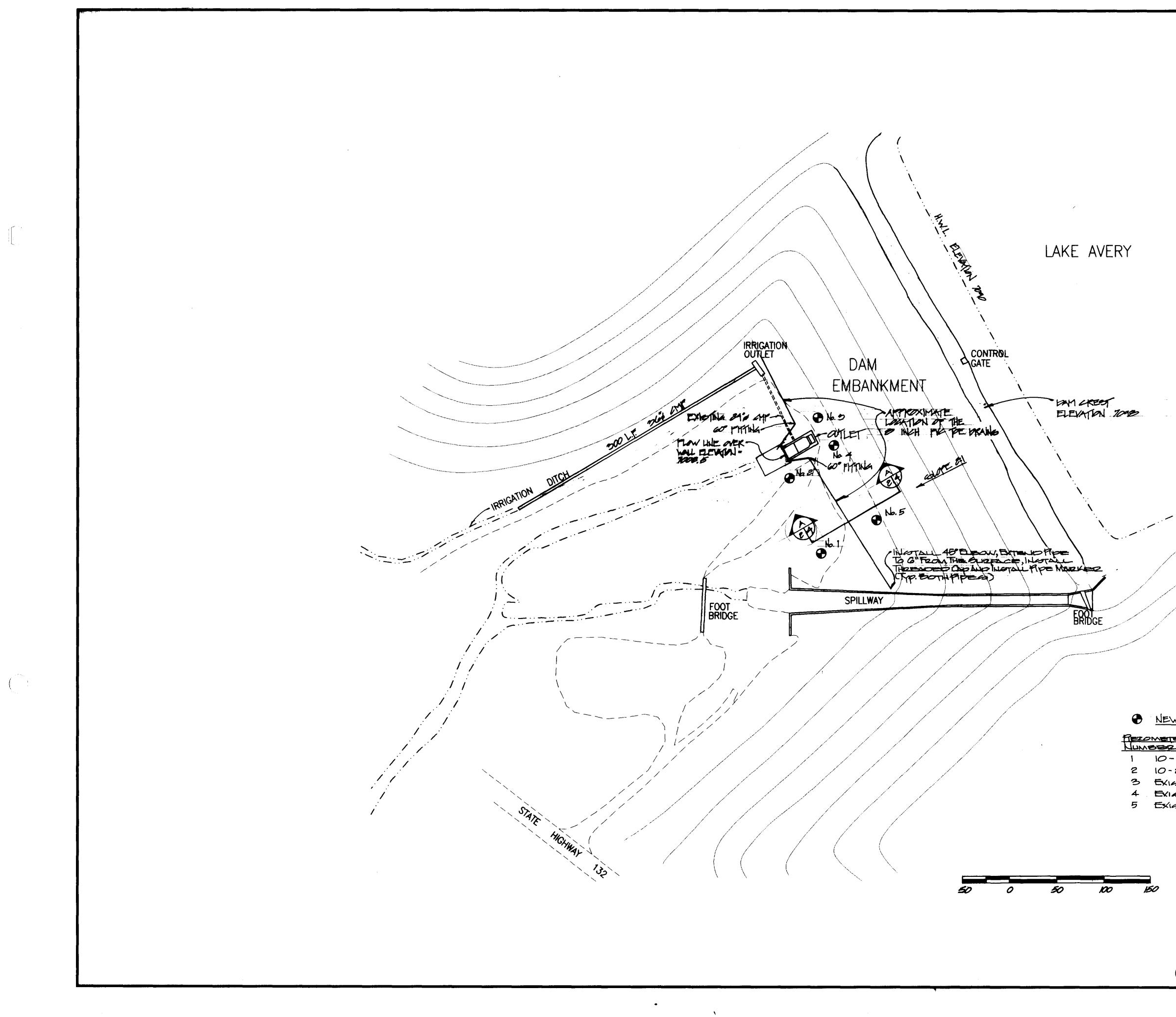
### LAKE AVERY

– DAM CREST ELEVATION 7098

STATE OF C DEPARTMENT OF NA DIVISION OF DENVER, C	TURAL RESOURCES WILDLIFE						
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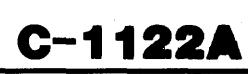
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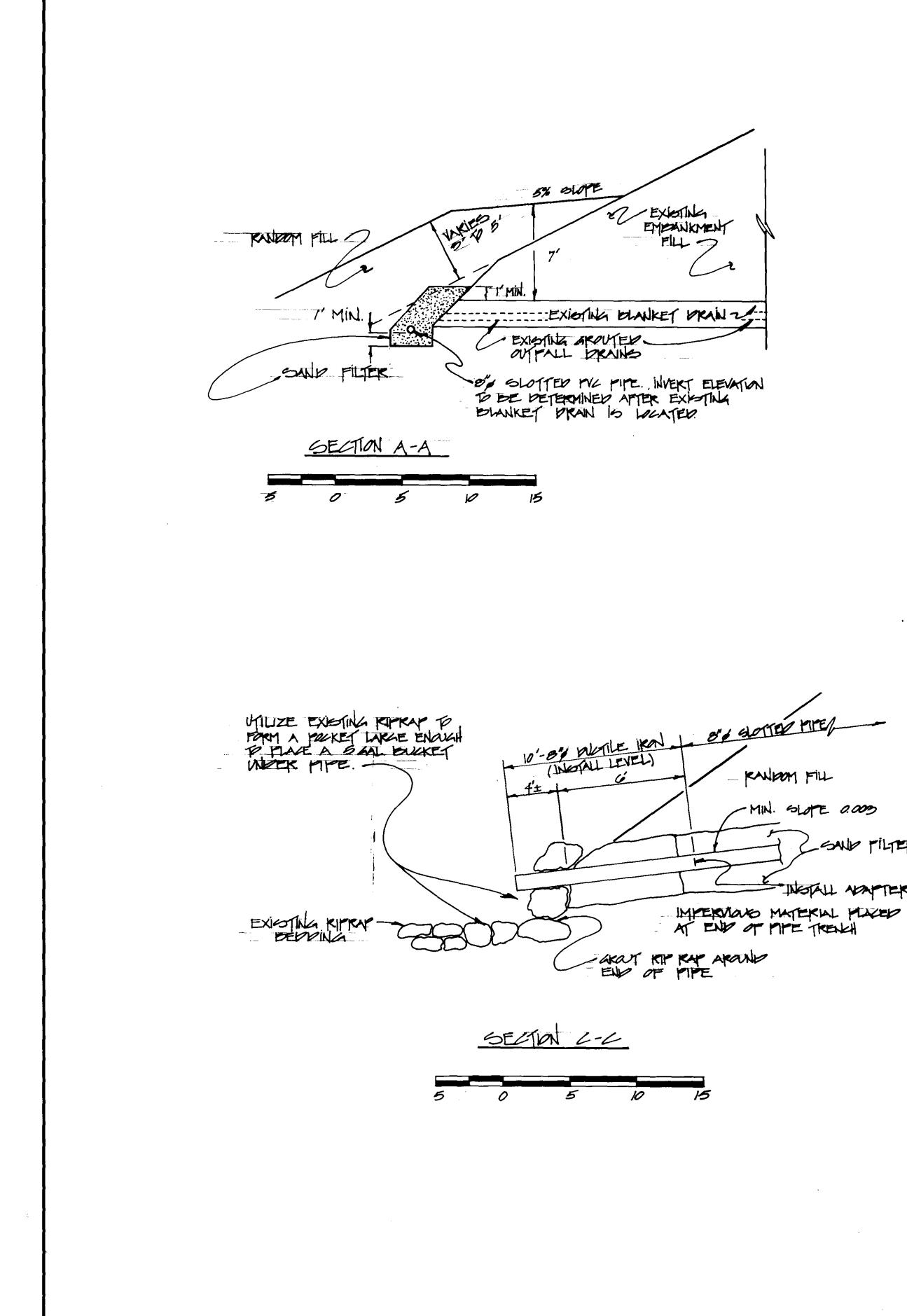
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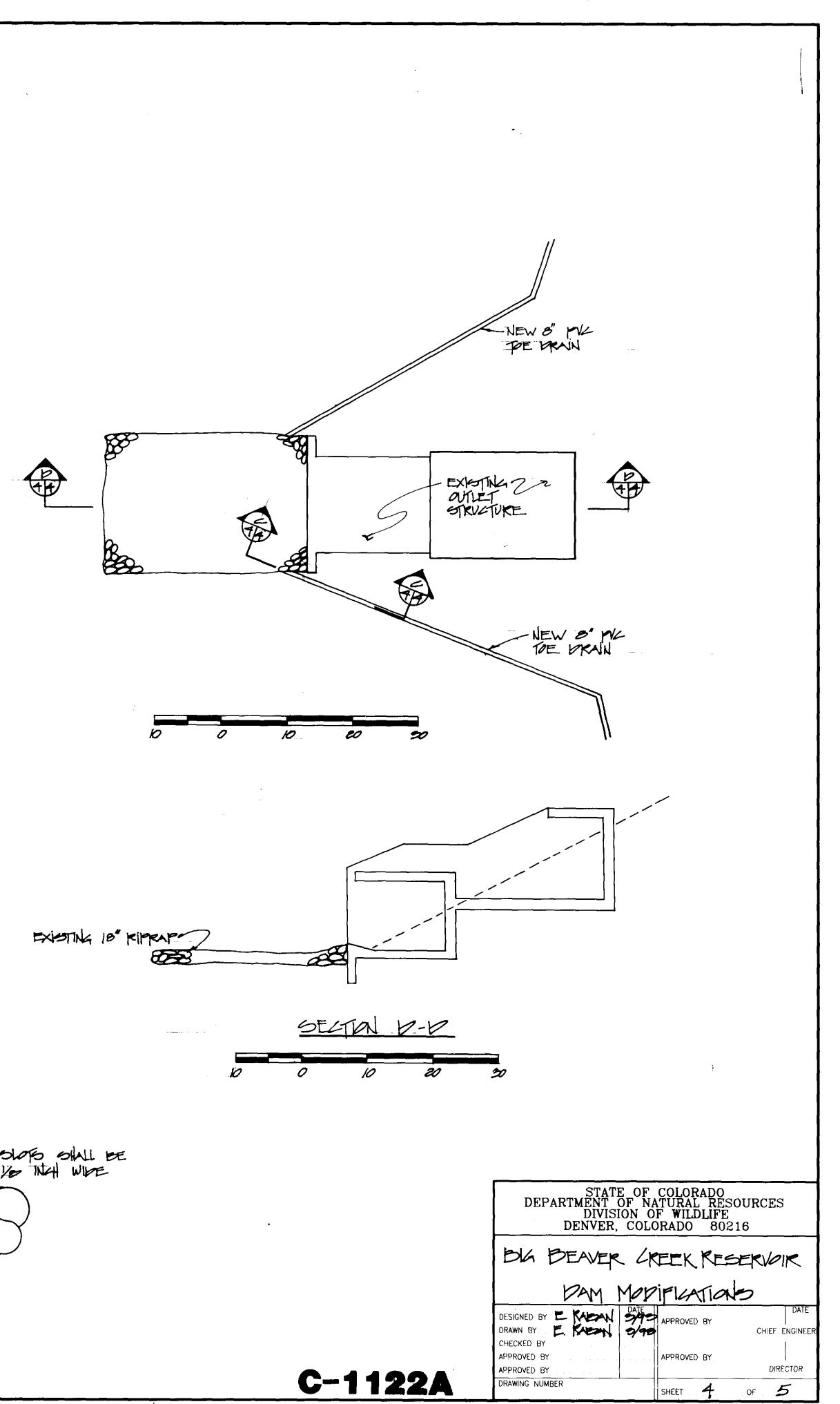


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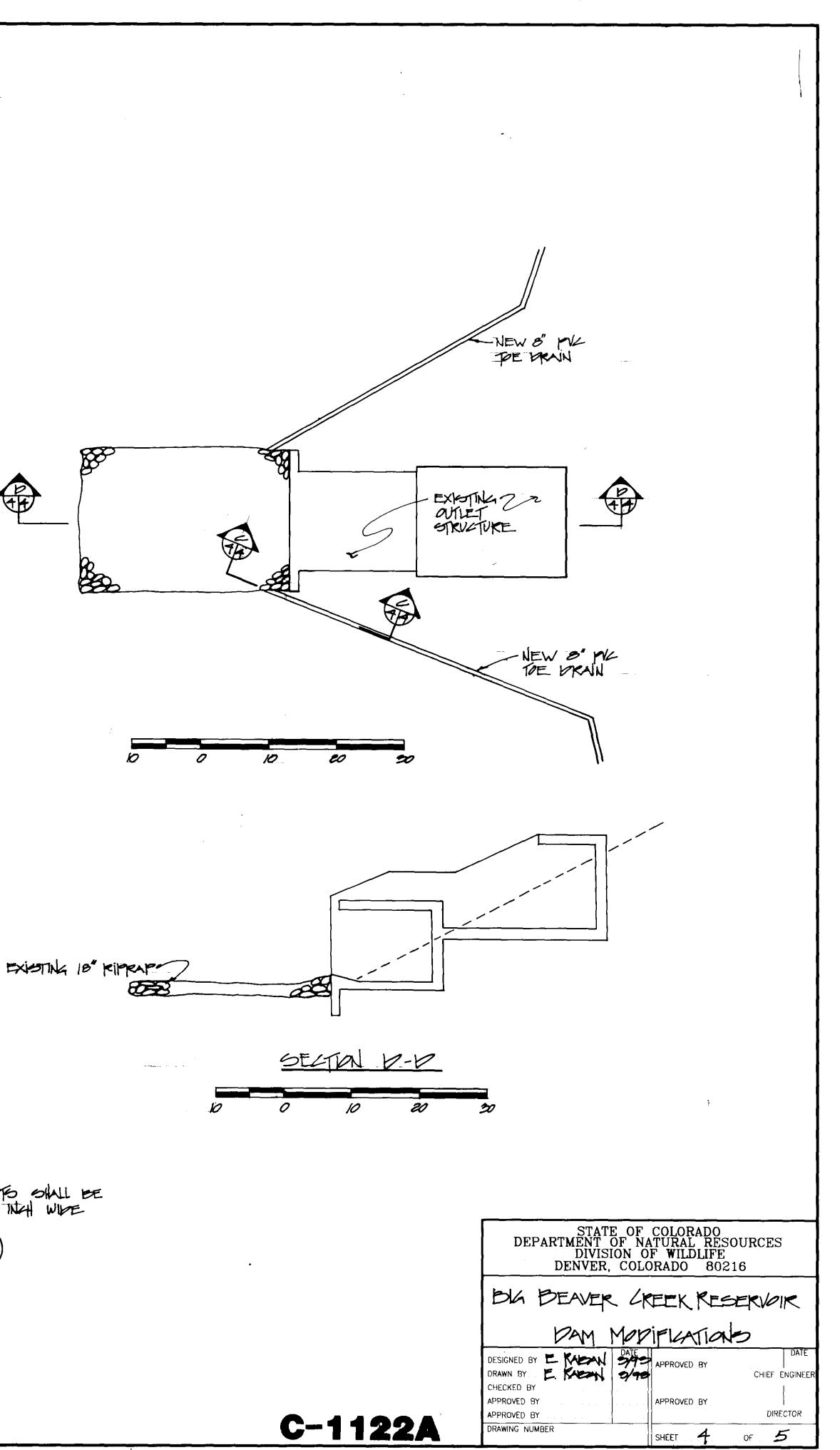
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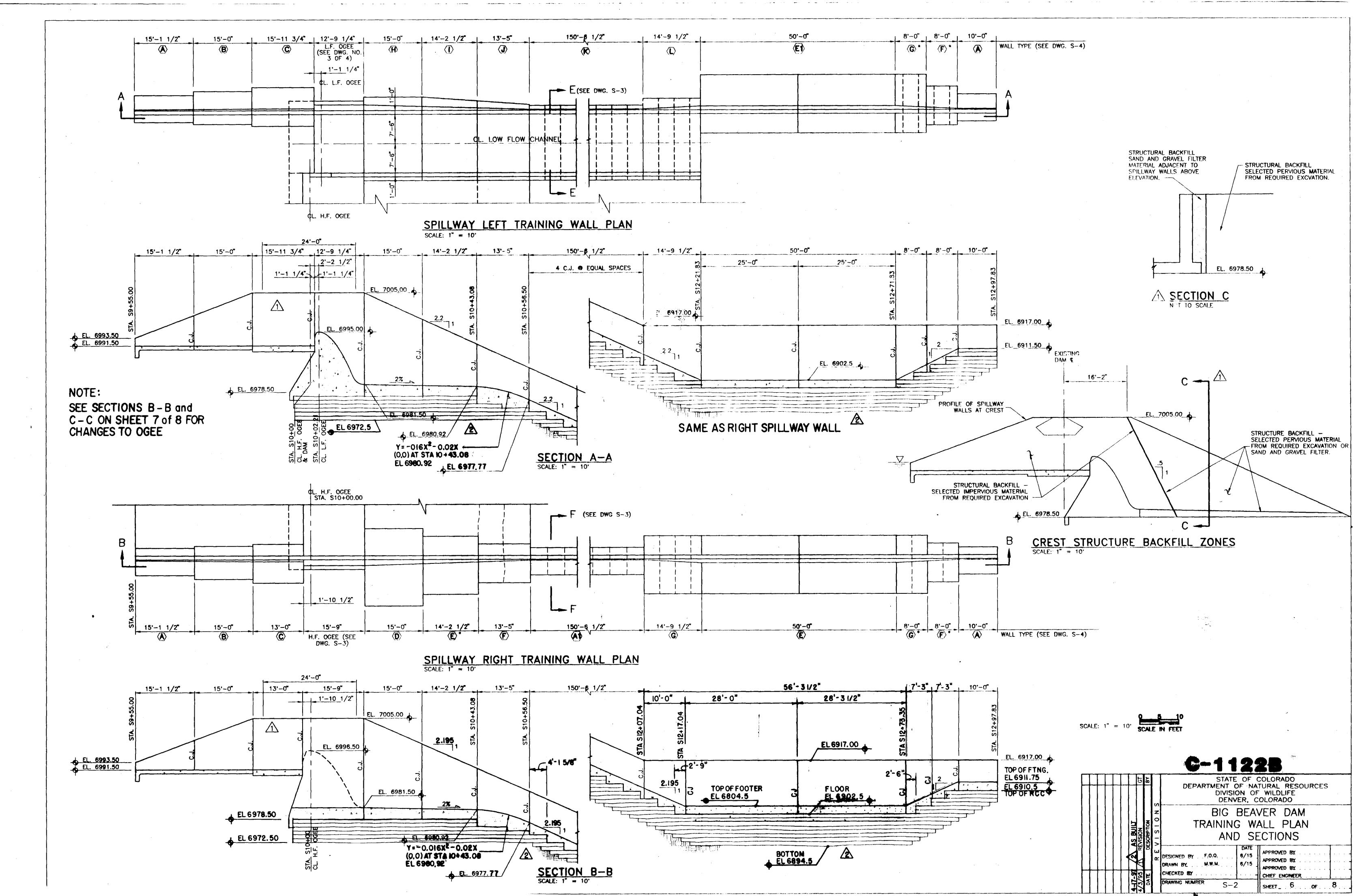
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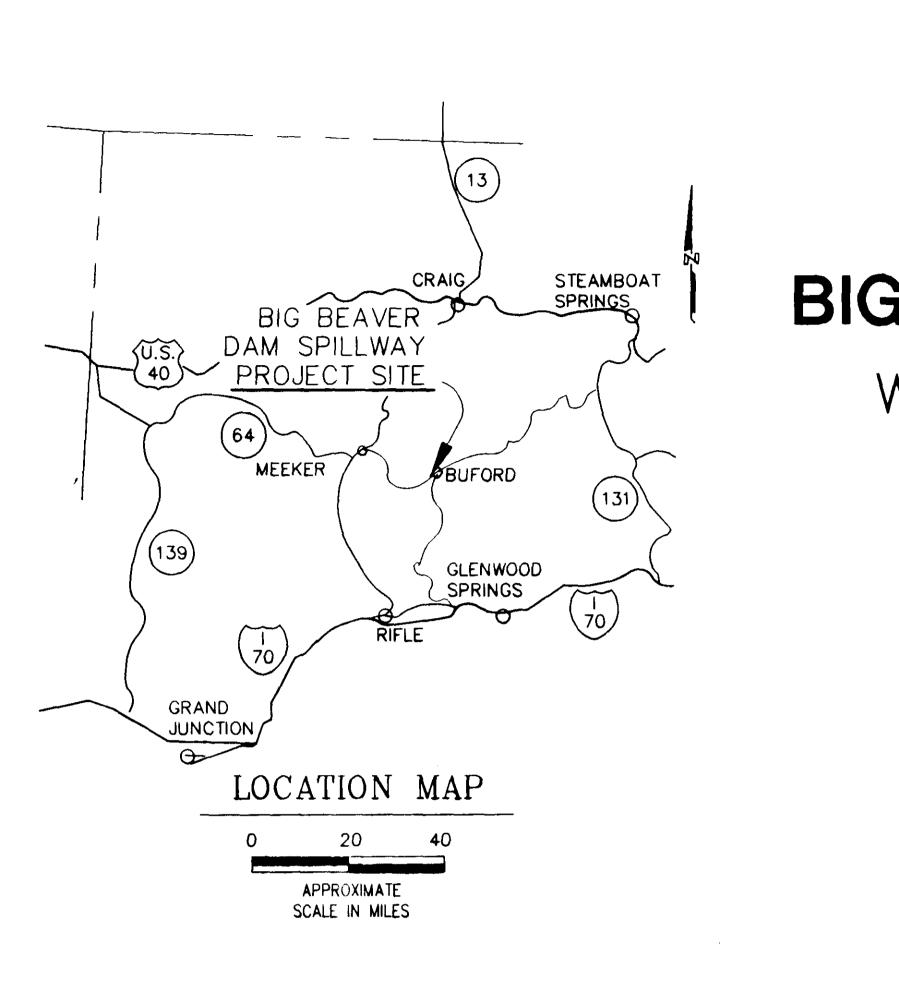
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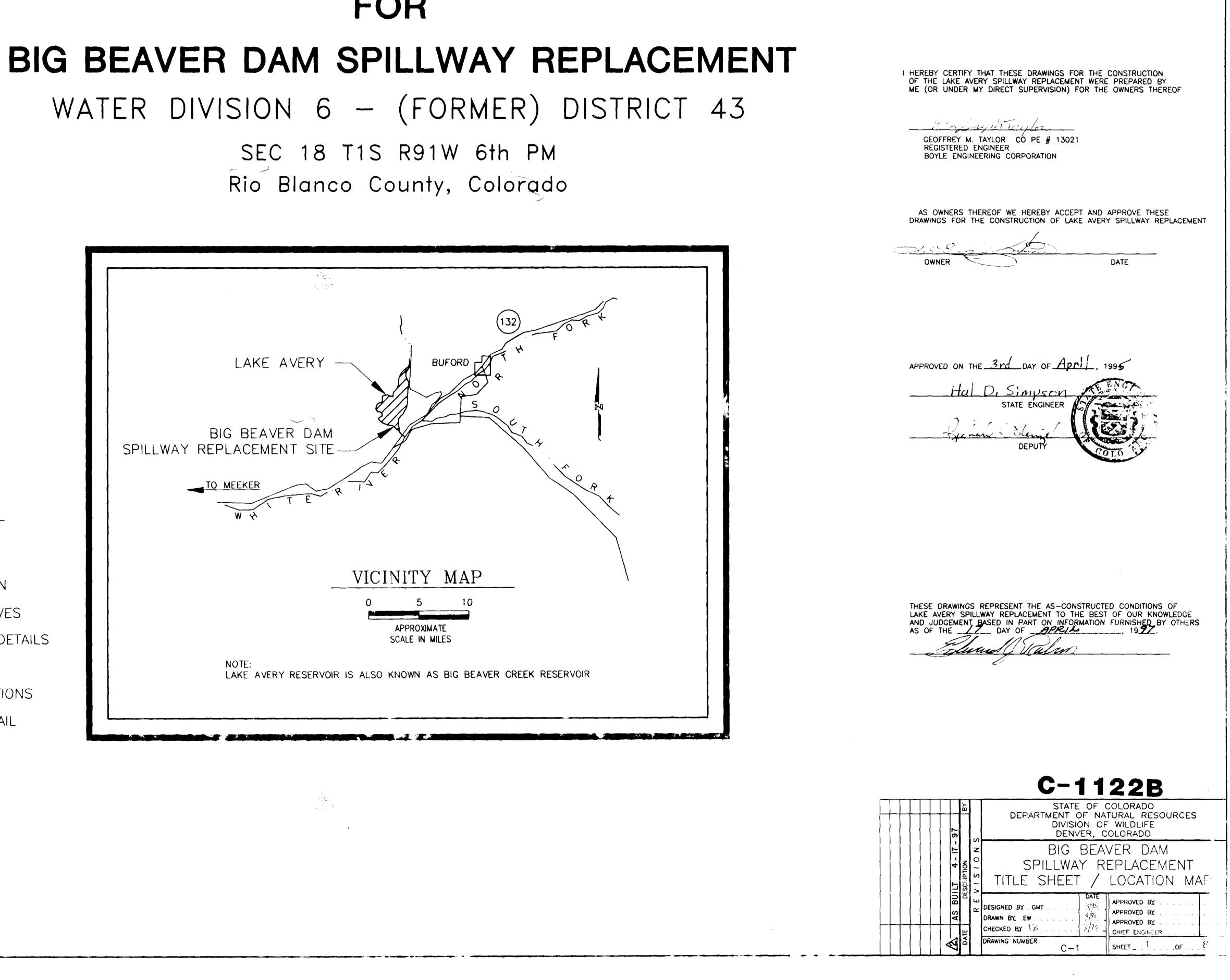




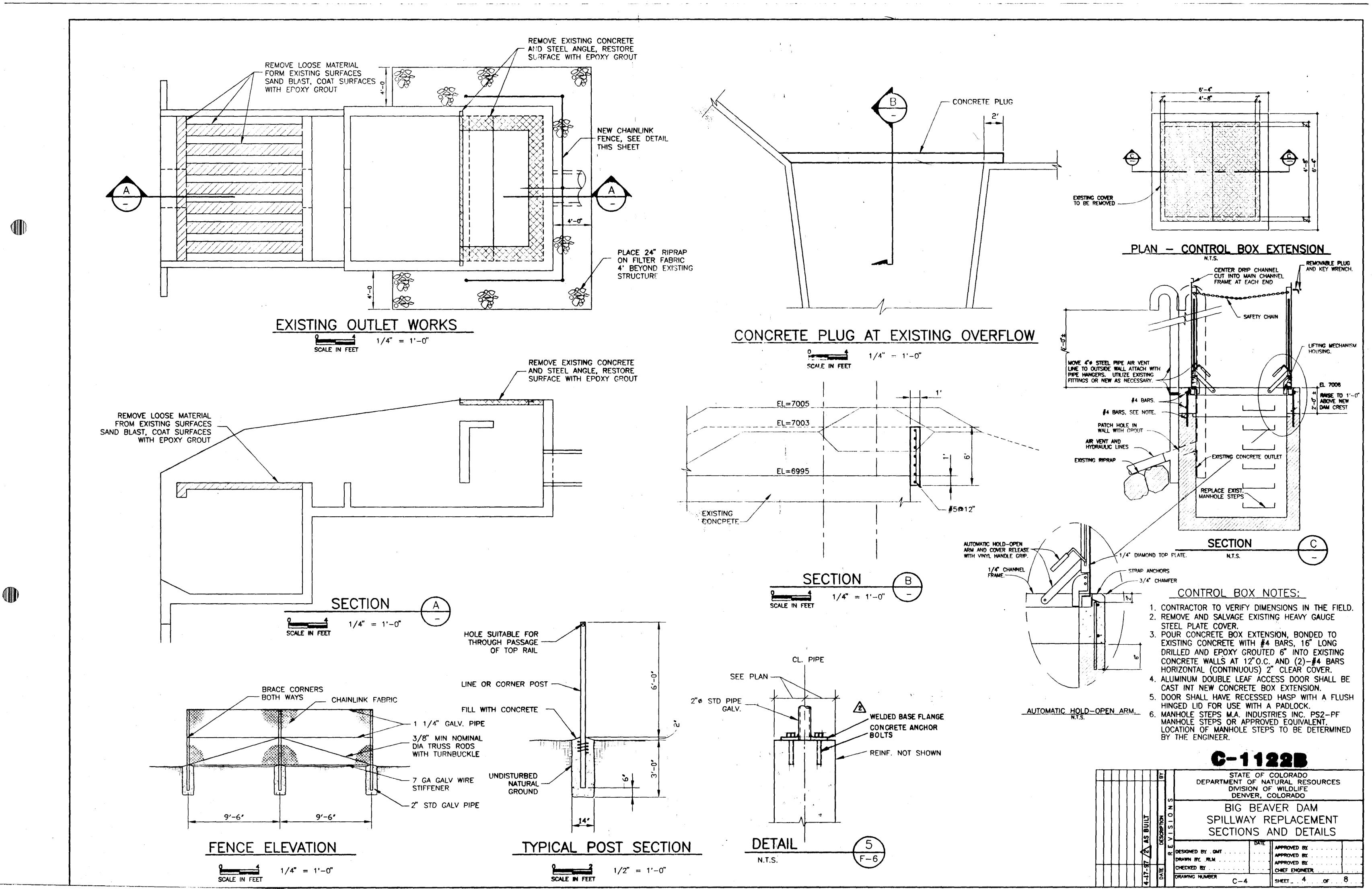
# INDEX TO DRAWINGS

DWG C-1	TITLE SHEET/LOCATION MAP
DWG C-2	SITE PLAN/BARROW SITE/SECTION
DWG C-3	PLAN AND PROFILE/RATING CURVES
DWG C-4	MISCELLANEOUS SECTIONS AND DETAILS
DWG S-1	PLAN AND SECTIONS
DWG S-2	TRAINING WALL PLANS AND SECTIONS
DWG S-3	STRUCTURAL SECTIONS AND DETAIL
DWG S-4	TYPICAL WALL REINFORCEMENT

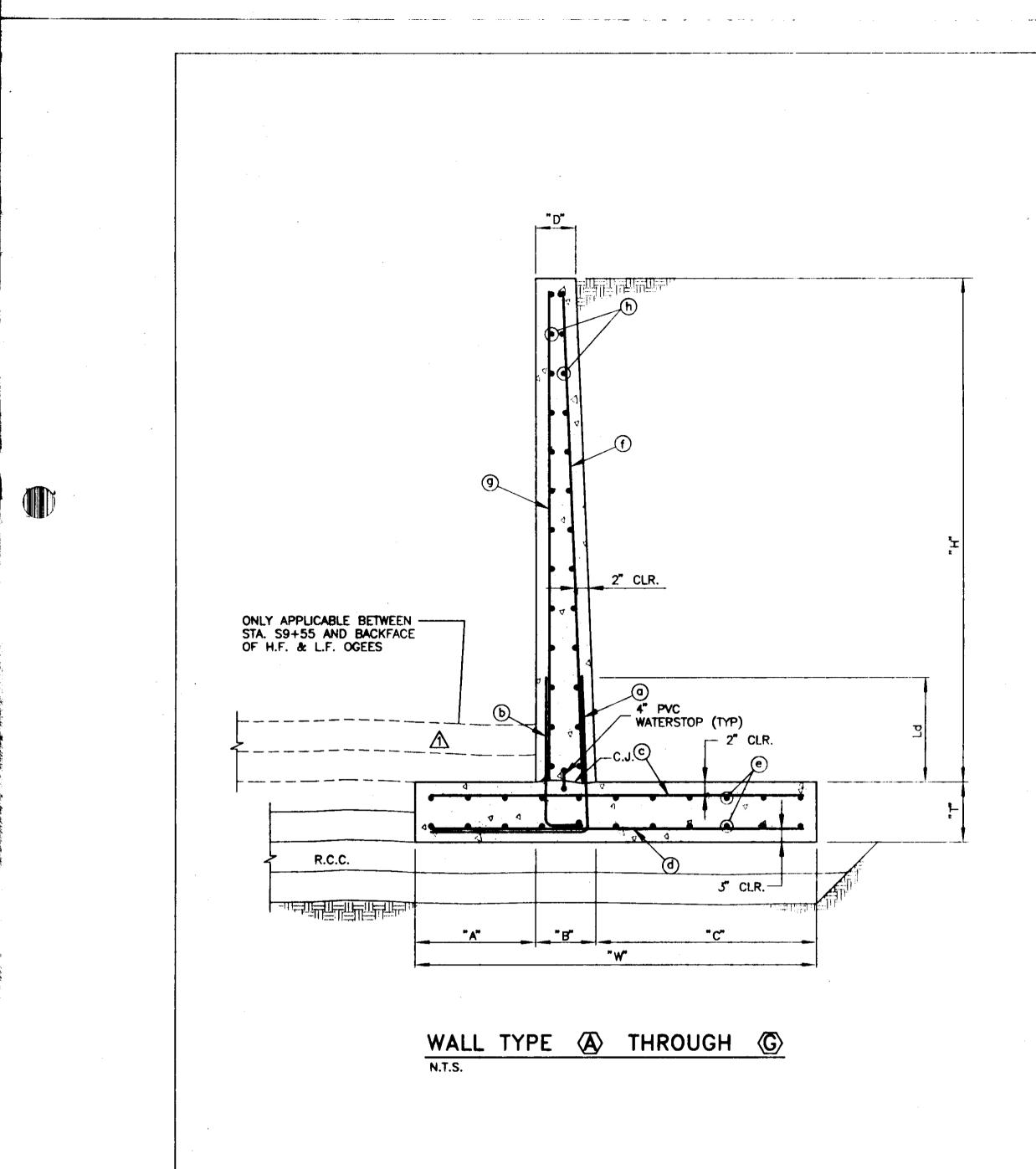
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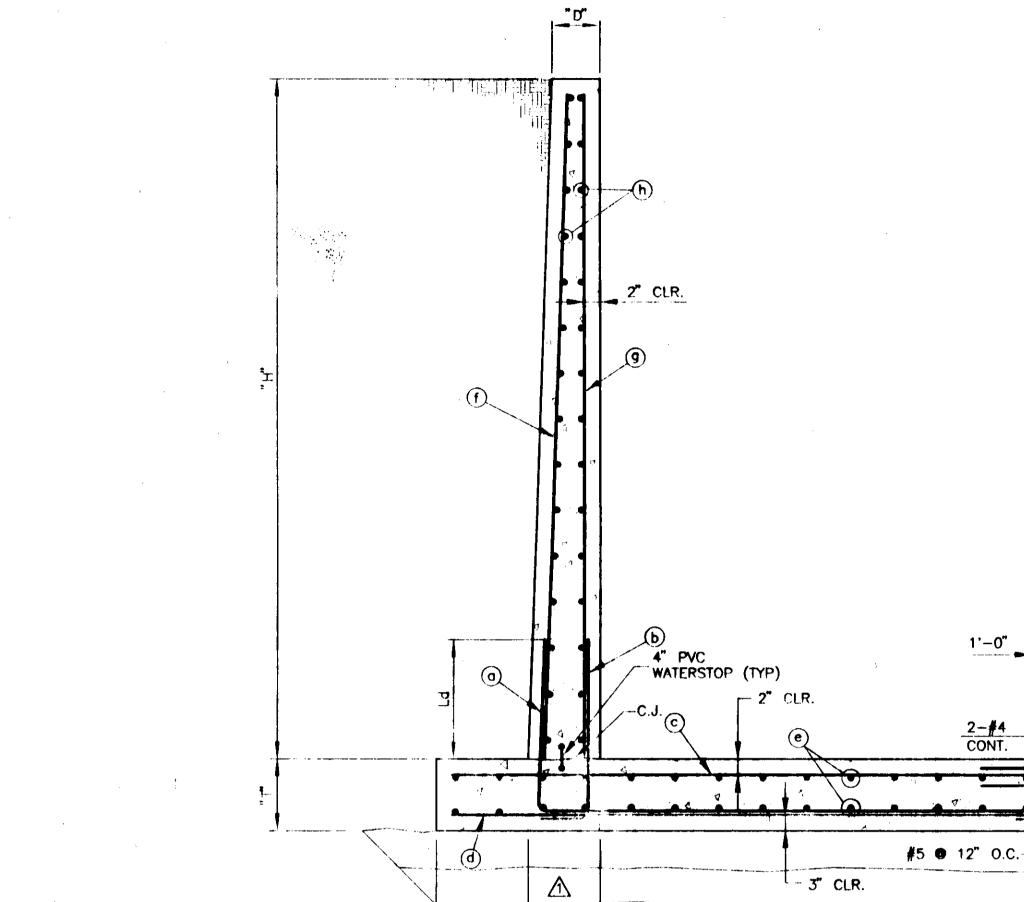


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(\*) MINIMUM DIMENSION

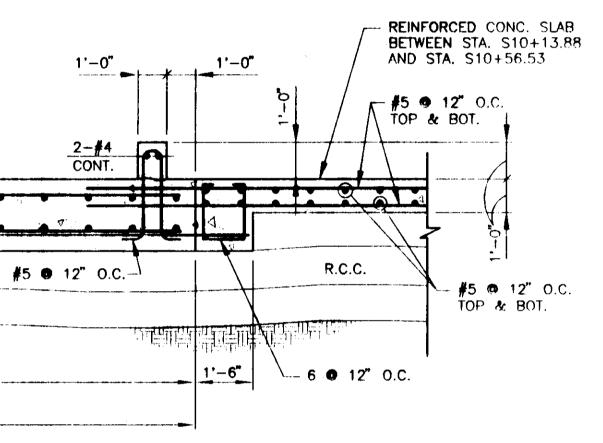
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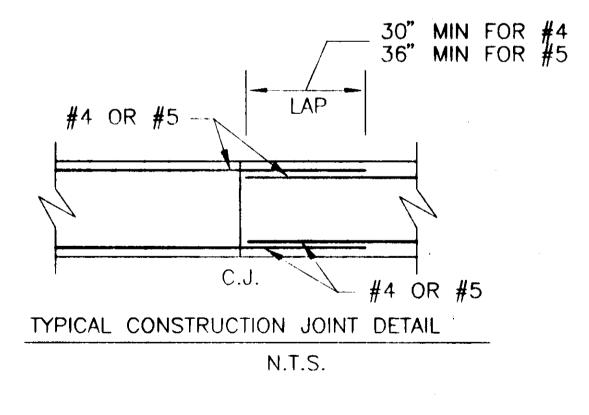
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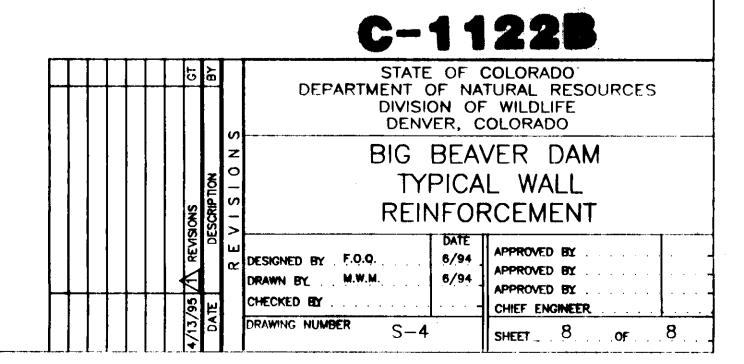


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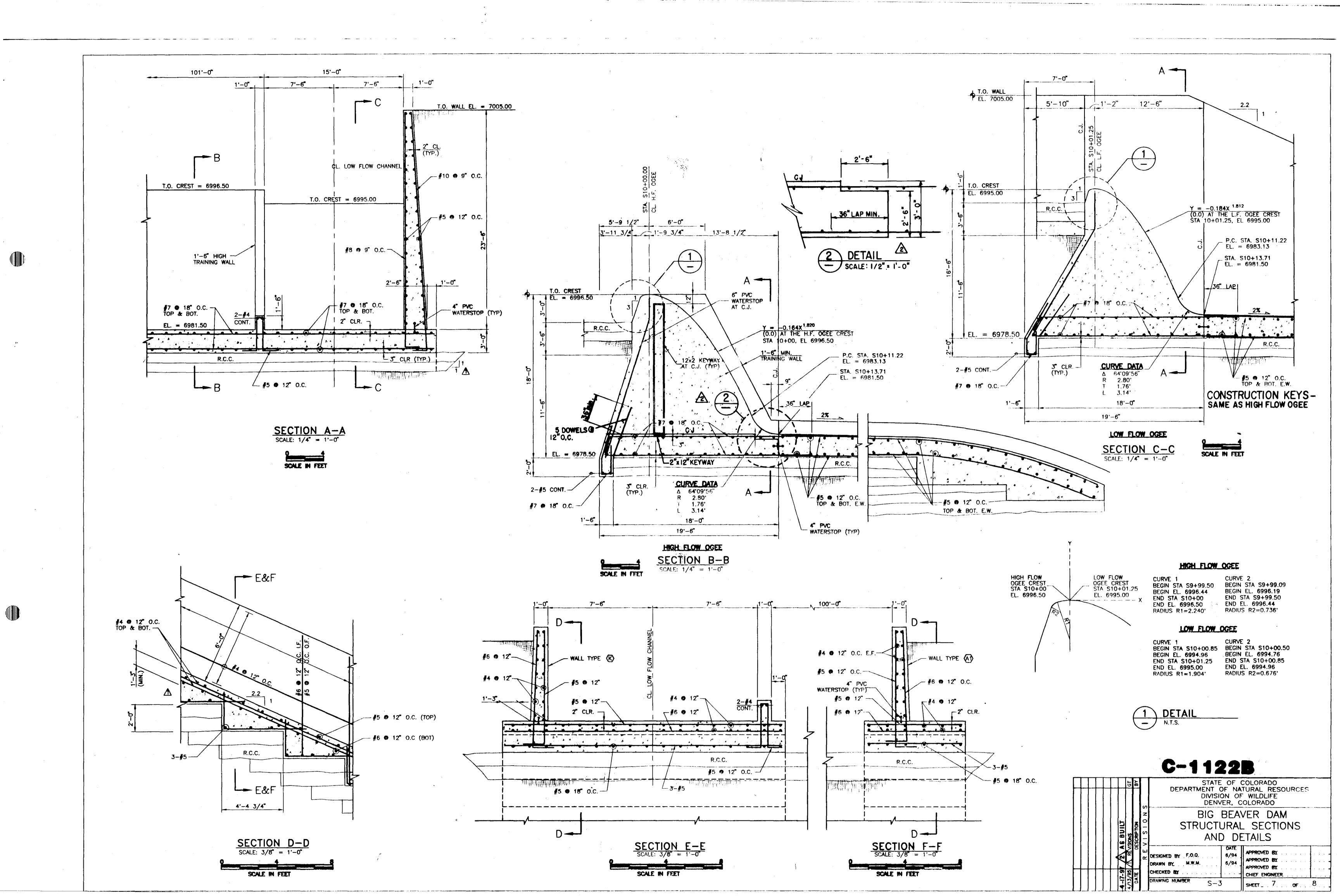
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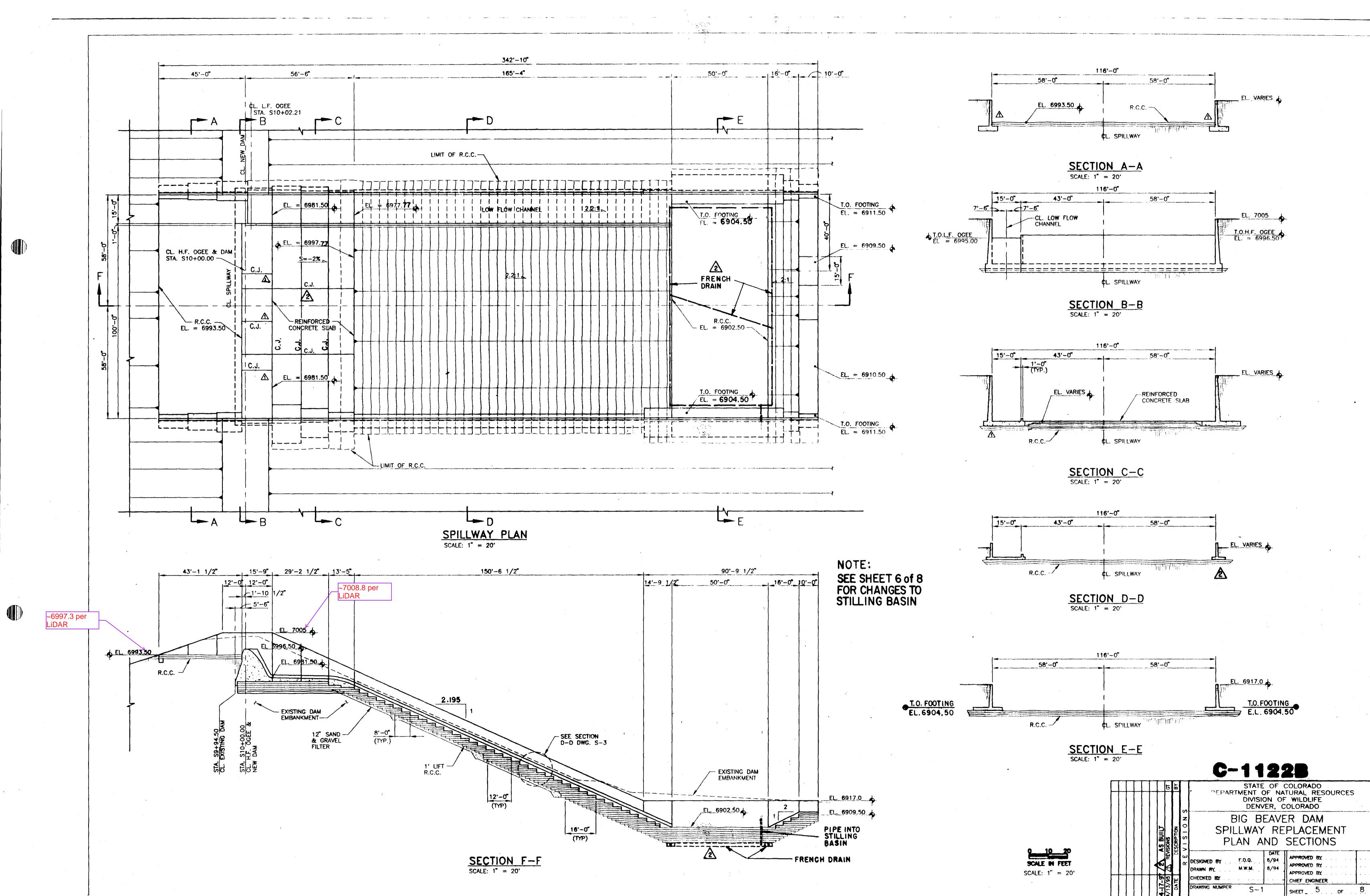


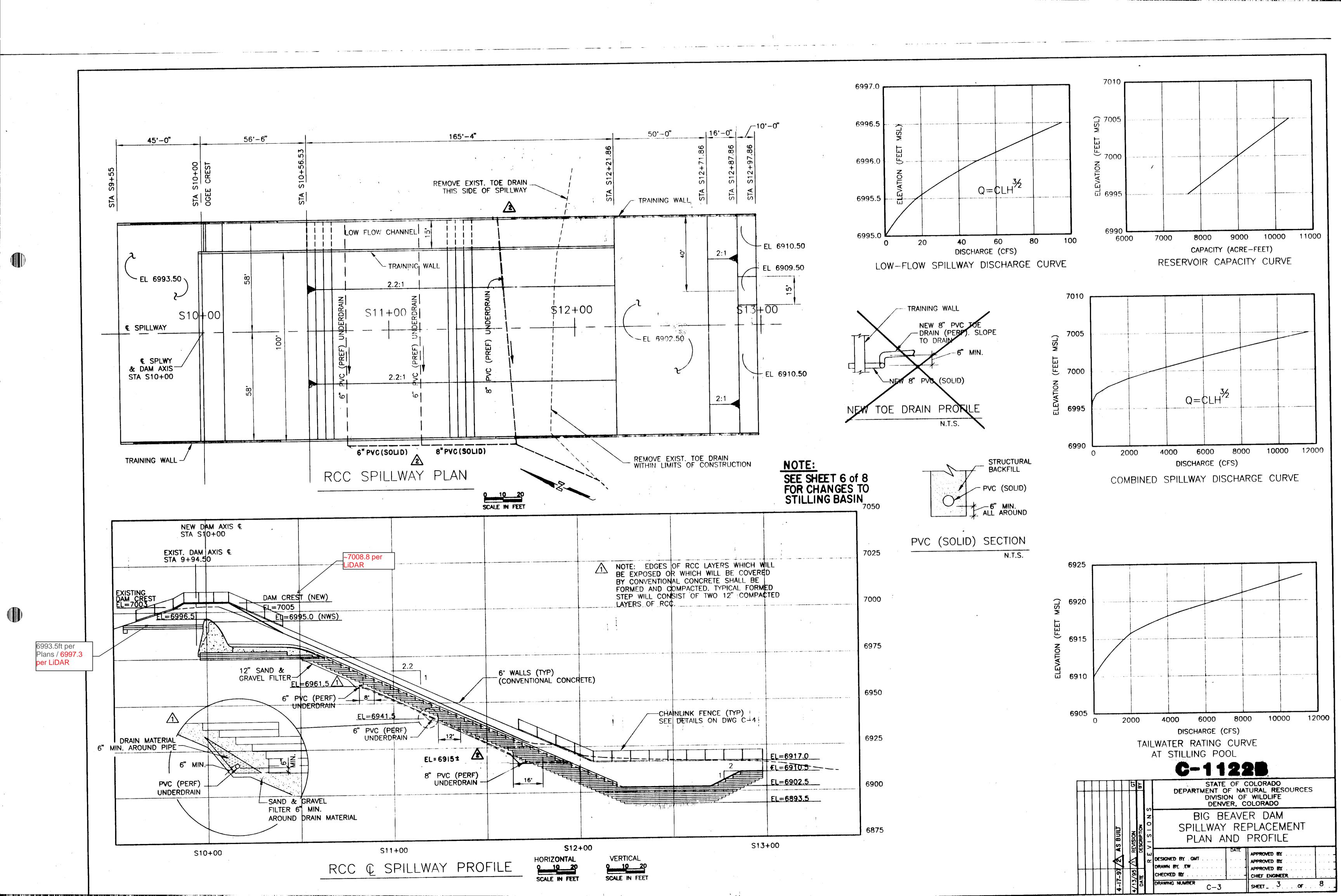


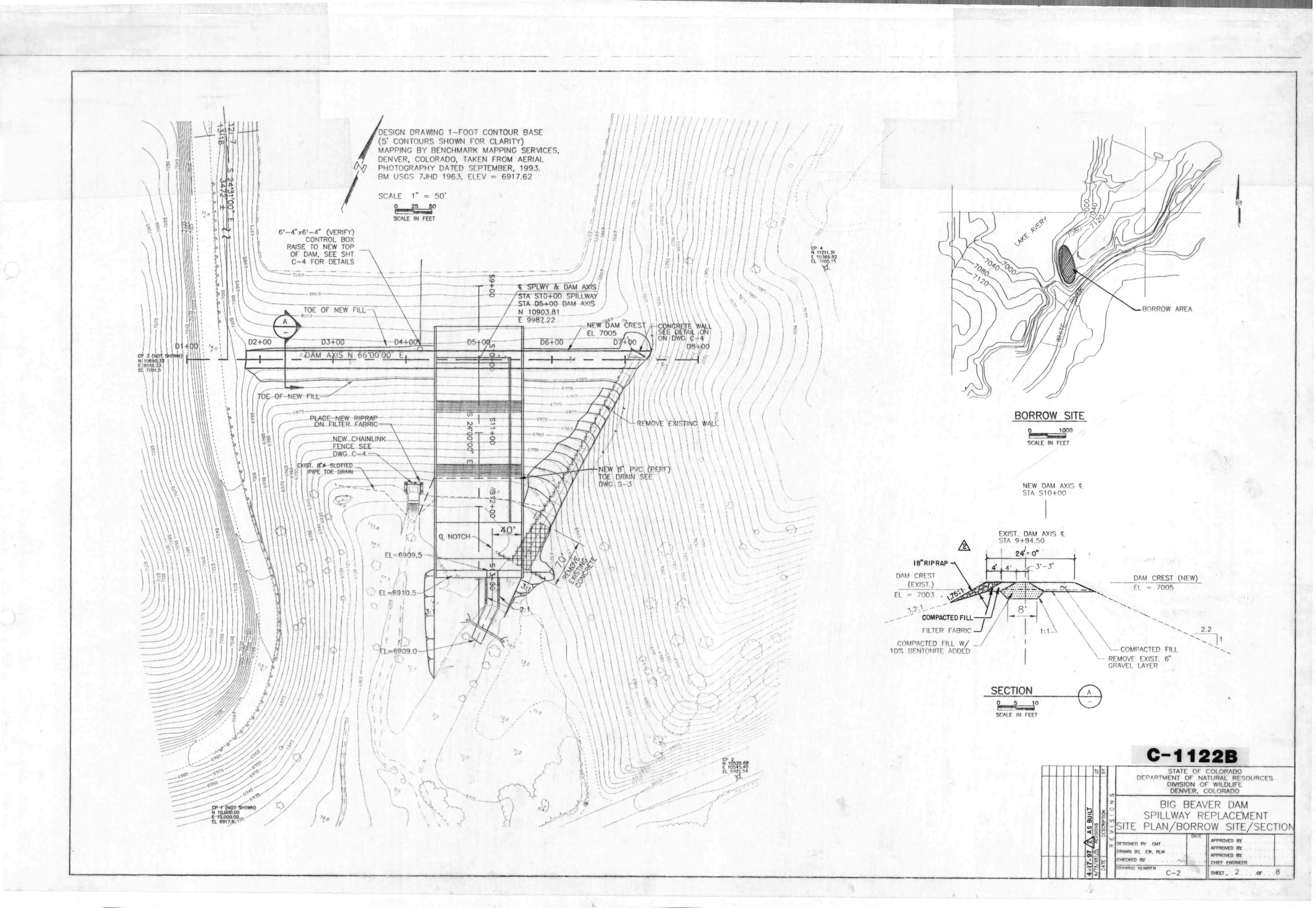


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### Memorandum

Date: 12/8/2021 To: Scott Grosscup **RE: Lake Avery Enlargement – Next Steps** 

AG Job No.: 10-118 From: Craig Ullmann

As you know our past work on a potential Lake Avery Enlargement has focused on the volume of water that could potentially be stored at the site without normal storage levels impacting the Livingston Property to the north. It is our understanding that the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District (YJWCD) is interested in further evaluation of this option. The purpose of this memo is to provide a high level outline of the steps necessary to further investigate this site. Since this structure is currently owned by CPW, we assume there will be ongoing coordination and interaction with their staff which is not specifically discussed below.

### Task 1: Dam Breach and Flood Hydrology Analysis

The existing Hydrology study for Lake Avery was completed by Boyle Engineering in 1992. In this study the dam was assumed to be a high hazard dam and the regulations at that time required the spillway to pass 75% of the Probable Maximum Precipitation event. In 2020 the Colorado Dam Safety Branch published new guidelines and criteria for the construction and modification of embankment dams in the State of Colorado. These regulations introduced the new concept of Hydrologic Hazard classification which is separate from the existing Hazard Classification. This analysis factors in the population at risk during a dam failure and the hydraulic parameters of a dam breach event below the dam in order to estimate to potential loss of life from a risk-based perspective. Based on this analysis the Hydrologic Hazard for the structure will be classified as Extreme, High, Significant, and Low depending on the potential loss of life from an overtopping dam failure of the dam. This classification will determine the required spillway capacity for the structure. While the embankment dam is classified as a High Hazard dam, Lake Avery could potentially fall under either a High or Extreme Hydrologic Hazard.

### Preliminary Dam Breach Analysis

An initial analysis of a dam breach would be performed using estimated dam breach values and an existing online tool offered by FEMA called DSS-WISE. This analysis would calculate the necessary parameters to estimate the population at risk, fatality rate, and thus potential loss of life. Using this information the likely Hydrologic Hazard could be estimated. A cursory analysis of the number of homes downstream of the dam indicates that the structure will likely fall into the Extreme category but since this has dramatic impacts on the spillway design we feel an initial analysis is warranted to verify this assumption prior to performing a Hydrology analysis.

### Flood Hydrology Analysis

Following the preliminary dam breach analysis, a Hydrology Study would be performed assuming either a High or Extreme Hydrologic Hazard classification. The purpose of this analysis would be to determine the Inflow Design Flood (IDF) of the reservoir which informs the spillway design going forward. The IDF will be utilized to determine if the current spillway is adequate in the current condition and how raising or altering the spillway would potentially impact the feasibility of the project. This Hydrology analysis would be performed according to the most up to date guidance published by the Colorado Dam Safety Division.

The deliverable for this task would be a memo describing the results of the analysis and recommendations for additional study. This memo will also briefly discuss how the hydrology of the watershed would potentially impact the design of any enlargement.

### Task 2: Feasibility Study and Cost Estimates

Our analysis of this structure has been conceptual in nature to date. Following the completion of Task 1 we would suggest performing a more detailed feasibility study of a potential enlargement. This study could evaluation a couple options, one of which would explore improvements to the existing spillway that may allow the storage of additional water by reducing the freeboard on the dam, and the other would include a full raising of the dam embankment and spillway structures.

### Geotechnical Data Review

During this study any existing geotechnical reports would be reviewed, monitoring data from the reservoir, including toe drain flowrates, would be compiled, and reviewed to determine how any existing issues with the dam could impact a potential enlargement. This task would not include any additional geotechnical field investigations but would identify what future investigations and testing work would be required should the project be pursued further. The geotechnical analysis will include slope stability modeling of the existing embankment as well as proposed enlargements in order to determine what embankment improvements might be necessary under an enlarged scenario. Soil strength parameters used in this analysis will be based on existing Geotech data and engineering judgement.

### Appurtenant Structures

This task will utilize existing LiDAR topography data and dam design documents for information regarding the dam embankment and outlet structure. Improvements and changes to the dam embankment, outlet structure, and spillway would be sketched conceptually to depict the required changes.

### Permitting

Enlargement of this structure will undoubtedly require some level of permitting through a variety of agencies. An environmental consultant would provide an outline of the likely Federal, State and Local permitting requirements for either enlargement option.

### **Opinion of Probable Cost**

Concept drawings would be used to estimate the quantities and construction costs associated with any improvements. These cost estimates could be used by YJWCD to strategize potential project funding for the two identified options. Costs would include construction as well as design and permitting costs.

### Task 3 – Financial Planning & Funding

Following the feasibility study and generation of the opinion of probable cost, the next step should involve the financial planning of the selected option. Funding for this type of multiple benefit project could include many sources such as Colorado Water Plan Grants, CWCB low interest loan, WSRF Grant, and grants through non-profit groups whose interests and goals would be supported by the construction of the additional storage.

### Task 4: Field Data Gathering

If the project continues to be pursued following the completion of the tasks above the project would then move into data gathering phase to collect necessary data needed for final design.

### Geotechnical Data

Additional geotechnical information will likely be needed prior to final design, however, the scope will be determined by the work performed in task 2 following a detailed review of existing information. Given that any existing information on the structure was collected over 50 years ago and Dam Safety regulation have evolved since that time, additional geotechnical exploration is highly likely.

### Survey

A topographic survey of the existing dam and surrounding area will be needed. This will include any existing infrastructure, property lines, existing utilities, and other pertinent information. A bathymetric survey would also likely be needed to generate an accurate stage-storage curve for the reservoir. This information would also allow CPW to estimate how much storage may have been lost due to sedimentation since the reservoir was constructed.

### Wetlands

As mentioned above, enlargement of this reservoir will require permitting through the Army Corps of Engineers due to its on-channel location. A wetlands specialist would survey any existing wetlands that would be impacted at the site and what the likely permitting path and mitigation requirements would be.

### Task 5: Final Design & Permitting

Following the collection of all necessary field data the project design could begin. This would involve preparation of detailed construction drawings and specifications for the project as well as

a *Design Report*, *Hydrology Report*, and *Hazard Classification Report* detailing the design and analysis of the proposed project. This package would be submitted to the Dam Safety Branch for review. Comments from Dam Safety are typically returned within 6 months and responses are formulated by the design engineer. During this phase the project would also enter the permitting phase of the project where all necessary permits would be pursued and obtained prior to proceeding with construction.

### Task 6: Construction

Construction of the project would follow the receipt of all permits including a final approval from Dam Safety. During construction, engineer oversight and a significant amount of QA/QC would be required. Prior to construction Dam Safety requires a construction observation and testing plan to be submitted and approved by their office prior to construction. Weekly updates would be required during construction and a final construction report that summarizes the construction process would be required upon completion of the project.

### **Timeframe and Estimated Costs**

To help the YJWCD plan the potential implementation of this project we have prepared the table below that depicts the estimate timeline and cost of each Task listed above. These estimates are subject to change as the project progresses and additional information is gathered but this at least provides some high-level information for the board to consider. The costs vary widely in the latter tasks due to the fact that the size of the final project is undetermined at this time.

Task	Time for Completion	Cost
Dam Breach and Flood Hydrology	2 months	\$15,000
Feasibility Study and Cost Estimates	6 Months	\$40,000-\$60,000
Financial Planning & Funding	3-6 Months	\$5,000-\$8,000
Field Data Gathering	3 Months	\$100,000-\$200,000
Final Design & Permitting	12-18 Months	\$200,000 - \$1 million
Construction	6-12 Months	\$3.5 - \$25 million



Date: 1/12/2024

AG Job No.: 10-118

To: Scott Grosscup <u>sgrosscup@balcombgreen.com</u> **RE: Lake Avery Preliminary Site Studies**  From: Tyler Desiderio, P.E. tylerd@applegategroup.com

Applegate was tasked by the Yellow Jacket Water Conservation District (YJWCD) to perform a preliminary Hydrology Study and Hydrologic Hazard Analysis of Lake Avery in continuation of our efforts evaluating a potential enlargement of the reservoir. These efforts were recommended as next steps in our *Lake Avery Development Memo* sent to YJWCD in 2021. The following memo summarizes our efforts, findings, and future recommendations.

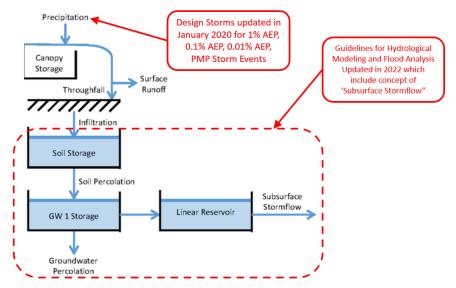
### PURPOSE, NEED, AND BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Increasing storage at Lake Avery to store YJWCD conditional rights was identified as a viable option in previous studies conducted for YJWCD. An increase in storage can be achieved by either enlarging the entire dam structure or modifying the hydraulic capacity of the spillway to justify a higher normal water level or a combination of those two efforts. Evaluating hydrologic conditions at Lake Avery is fundamental to understanding the feasibility of achieving additional storage at the site.

The existing Hydrology Study for Lake Avery was completed by Boyle Engineering in 1992. In this Study, the dam was assumed to be a high hazard dam and the regulations at the time required the spillway to route 75% of the Probable Maximum Flood event for high hazard structures. Since then, the Colorado Dam Safety Branch has enacted changes to the dam regulation landscape that is relevant to our analysis:

- **Hydrologic Hazard Analysis:** In 2020, The Colorado Dam Safety Branch has updated and re-released their *Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety and Dam Construction (Rules and Regs)*. The new *Rules and Regs* introduced the concept of Hydrologic Hazard classification which determines spillway sizing criteria for dams and reservoirs. Hydrologic Hazard classification is a risk-based analysis that quantifies the expected loss of life resulting from an overtopping dam failure during a flooding event. This concept is separate from Hazard classification which determines all other design criteria and inspection requirements for dams. Hazard classification is a deterministic analysis that estimates the potential for loss of life resulting from a sunny-day failure of a dam.
- Updated Design Storms: The standard of practice for hydrology studies of dams in Colorado has also seen recent significant changes. The Colorado Dam Safety Branch conducted extensive climate and precipitation studies, ultimately resulting in updated design storms for use to determine inflow design floods. Previously, design storms, particularly lower frequency events, were based on very general storm data applied to the entirety of the state. Now, the state is divided into distinct regions with storms of similar characteristics defined for each region, resulting in more scientifically based design storm data that considers historical precipitation records. *Guidelines for the use of Regional Extreme Precipitation Study (REPS) Rainfall Estimation Tools* contains more details on these updated design storms and how to gather that data for analysis.
- Updated Hydrological Modeling and Flood Analysis Guidelines: In 2022 the Colorado Dam Safety Branch also updated their *Guidelines for Hydrological Modeling and Flood Analysis* which impacts how inflow design floods are determined for dams in the state, and thus how spillways are sized. The new guidelines incorporate many changes to the hydrology modeling but the major difference is soil mositure accounting and subsurface stormflow mechanisms are now explicitly modeled when determining a basin's response to precipitation. The guidelines also require "Reasonableness Checks" and model calibration based on the gage records, paleo flood data, and other available flood records.

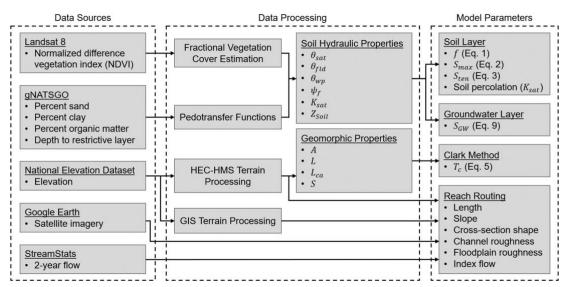
The following figure shows a simplified depiction of how basin runoff is modeled with changes to the standard of practice highlighted in **RED**.



Colorado Dam Safety branch has indicated that the changes discussed above have generally resulted in less intense inflow design storms on the West Slope and more intense inflow design storms on the Front Range and Eastern Plains compared to the previous standard of practice. This creates an opportunity for dams on the West Slope, such as Lake Avery, to increase storage without enlarging the embankment by justifying lower inflow design floods which is the main driver of our efforts.

### PRELIMINARY HYDROLOGY STUDY

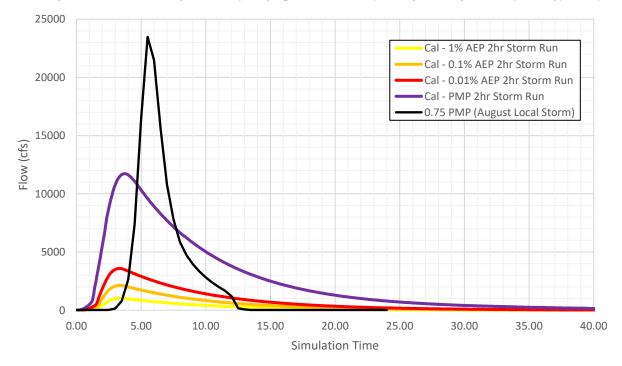
Applegate conducted a preliminary Hydrology Study per the recently updated *Guidelines for Hydrological Modeling and Flood Analysis* and *Guidelines for use of Regional Extreme Precipitation Study (REPS) Rainfall Estimation Tools*. A hydrologic model was developed utilizing HEC-HMS with input parameters determined via the *Guidelines*. The following figure shows a flow chart taken from the *Guidelines for Hydrologic Modeling and Flood Analysis* overviewing model parameters incorporated into the HEC-RAS model.



The hydrology model was refined and calibrated based on flood frequency analysis of nearby gage records performed according to *Guidelines for Determining Flood Flow Frequency Bulletin 17C* published by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The following map shows USGS stream gages near Lake Avery's basin considered in our analysis (**BLUE** dots show gage station locations while drainage basins for each are shown in **GREEN**).



Ultimately, only USGS Stream Gages 09250000(Milk Creek near Thornburgh), 0903300 (River at Budges Resort), and 09302450 (Lost Creek near Buford) were utilized for calibration as they had an adequate number of records and basin characteristics most similar to Lake Avery's drainage basin. Inflow design flood hydrographs generated from the calibrated HEC-HMS hydrology model are shown in the following chart alongside the inflow design flood hydrograph from the Boyle Engineering 1994 Hydrology Study.



Storm<br/>Characteristic1% AEP<br/>2hr Storm0.1% AEP<br/>2hr Storm0.01% AEP<br/>2hr StormPMP 2hr Storm0.75 PMP from 1994<br/>Hydrology Study

The following table summarizes storm volumes and peak flows generated from each storm.

2,129 cfs

1,473 ac-ft

Our updated preliminary Hydrology Study shows peak flows significantly less than those generated from
the inflow design flood from the Boyle Engineering's 1994 Hydrology Study. Storm volume from the 1994
Hydrology Study however is within the range of storm volumes determined from this analyis. This is
consistent with Colorado Dam Safety experience that design floods on the West Slope will generally be
less intense than design storms determined with older Hydrologic Analysis methods.

3,591 cfs

2.511 ac-ft

11,730 cfs

8.862 ac-ft

23.472 cfs

5,857 ac-ft

### PRELIMINARY HYDROLOGIC HAZARD ANALYSIS

1,031 cfs

717 ac-ft

Peak Inflow

Runoff Volume

As previously mentioned, the recently updated *Rules and Regs* now incorporate the concept of Hydrologic Hazard that determines the inflow design flood and thus spillway sizing for dams and reservoirs in Colorado. This concept classifies dams into Low, Significant, High, or Extreme Hydrolgoic Hazard Groups based on the expected loss of life and significant damage resulting from an overtopping dam failure initiated by a storm event exceeding the spillway capacity. Design rainfall events, and thus inflow design floods, are prescribed for spillway design based on the Hydrologic Hazard designation of the structure per the following table taken from the *Rules and Regs*.

Hydrologic Hazard	Consequence Criteria	Critical Rainfall
Extreme	Life loss potential greater than 1	Probable Maximum Precipitation
High	Life loss potential less than 1	0.01% AEP Storm Event
Significant	No life loss potential but significant damage expected	0.1% AEP Storm Event
Low	No life loss potential or significant damage expected	1% AEP Storm Event

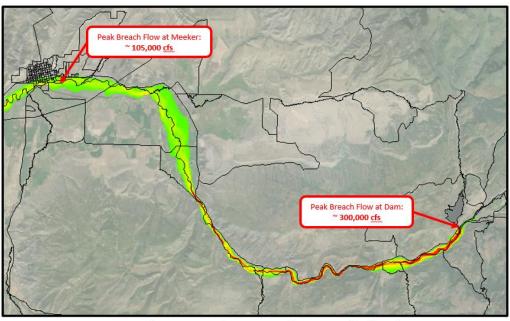
A preliminary Hydrologic Hazard Analysis was completed for Lake Avery following recommendations presented in *Guidelines for Hydrologic Hazard Analysis* and *Guidelines for Dam Breach Analysis*. Hydrologic Hazard analysis can be broken down to the following general steps:

- 1. Development of overtopping dam failure breach parameters
- 2. Breach flood modeling and routing
- 3. Consequence analysis of the resulting inundation area.

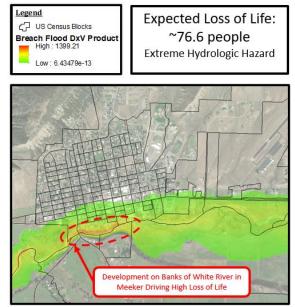
Hydrologic Hazard analysis is an iterative process started by assuming an initial Hydrologic Hazard designation and then repeating the analysis as necessary by increasing the Hydrologic Hazard rating assumption until the consequences match the criteria for that Hydrologic Hazard rating as shown in the table above.

Our analysis assumed an initial High Hydrologic Hazard rating. Breach parameters were determined per *Guidelines for Dam Breach Analysis* and input into the HEC-HMS model to generate a breach flow hydrograph. DSS-WISE Web (2D hydraulic modeling online platform hosted by FEMA) was utilized to route the breach flow hydrograph through the downstream reach. 2D model results were then used to estimate consequences resulting from an overtopping breach failure of Lake Avery.

Consequence analysis entails identifying the Population at Risk (PaR) impacted by the overtopping breach flood and then estimating Loss of Life by applying fatality rates to the PaR based on the hydraulic conditions they experience. The PaR for this analysis was determined based on US Census Block data data within the breach flood inundation area. Fatality rates were assumed from fatality rate curves published by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Loss of life was then estimated by applying fatality rate curves to the PaR based on the maximum depth-velocity products they experienced per the 2D modeling results. The following figure shows the overtopping breach flood and the resulting Loss of Life estimate.



**Overview Map of Overtopping Breach Flood** 



**Blowup of Results at Meeker** 

Our analysis estimated a Loss of Life of 76 people resulting from the overtopping failure of Lake Avery, which greatly exceeds the consequence criteria for an Extreme Hydrologic Hazard structure. We believe Lake Avery would likely receive an Extreme Hydrologic Hazard designation from the Colorado Dam Safety Branch and thus the Probable Maximum Flood is the spillway sizing criteria. Please note that the Probable Maximum Flood determined as part of our analysis is different from the 0.75 Probable Maximum Flood determined in Boyle Engineering's 1994 Hydrology Study.

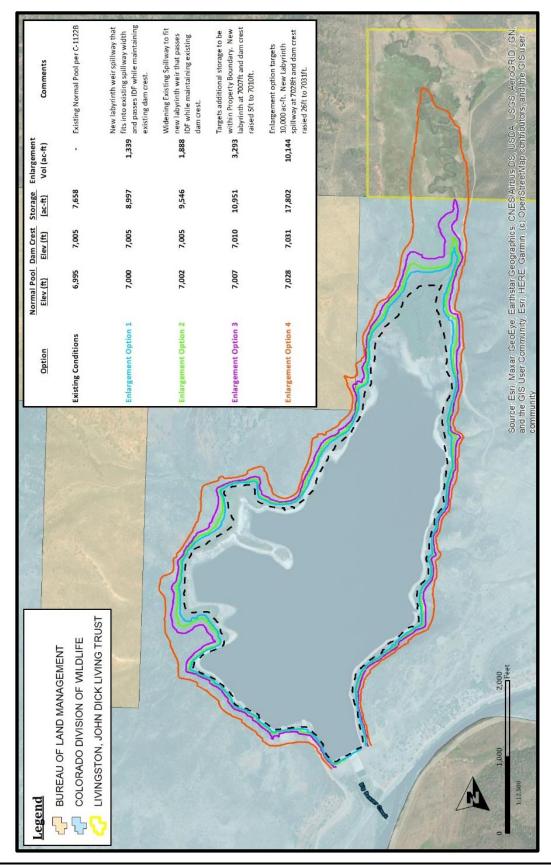
The majority of Loss of life estimated in this analysis originates from developments on the banks of the White River in Meeker impacted by severe hydraulic conditions during the breach flood. It is also worth noting that the estimated breach flows of 300,000cfs at the breach itself which attenuated to 105,000 cfs at the town of Meeker are orders of magnitude larger than peak inflow design flood values determined from the preliminary Hydrology Study. This indicates that further refinement of the inflow design flood or attempting an incremental Hydrologic Hazard analysis approach will not likely justify a lower Hydrologic Hazard rating.

### IMPLICATIONS TO LAKE AVERY STORAGE OPTIONS

Our preliminary Hydrology Study and Hydrology Hazard analyses were used to refine the potential enlargement option for Lake Avery identified in a previous study. Enlargement options take advantage of the reduced size of the inflow design flood(Probable Maximum Flood, shown as a **PURPLE** line in the hydrograph figure) to achieve additional storage by modifying the spillway configuration in addition to enlarging the dam embankment. The following 4 options were identified which are presented in order of increasing complexity and cost;

- Enlargement Option 1 proposes raising the spillway invert by 5ft and modifying the spillway with a labyrinth weir in the existing spillway width. The spillway is sized to pass the inflow design flood while maintaining the existing dam crest without enlargement. This option results in 1,339 ac-ft of additional storage.
- Enlargement Option 2 proposes raising the spillway invert by 7ft and widening the spillway with a new labyrinth weir all while maintaining the existing dam crest without enlargement. This option results in 1,888 ac-ft of additional storage.
- Enlargement Option 3 proposes raising the spillway invert 12ft with a labyrinth weir and raising the dam crest by 5ft to achieve additional storage contained within Colorado Parks and Wildlife's property boundary. This option results in 3,293 ac-ft of additional storage.
- Enlargement Option 4 proposes raising the spillway invert 33ft with a labyrinth weir and raising the dam crest by 26ft to target 10,000 ac-ft of additional storage.

These enlargement options are also shown in the Map on the following page.



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# **Big Beaver Dam/Lake Avery Expansion**

# Feasibility Study Meeting

# April 25, 2023



# <u>AGENDA</u>

Introductions
Big Beaver Dam Outlet Rehab Project Update
Lake Avery Expansion History
CPW Dam Safety Recommendations for Inclusion in the Feasibility Study
Group discussion/Questions
Next steps and path forward



# **INTRODUCTIONS**

## CPW

- Capital Development Program Manager Margaret Taylor
- Dam Safety Engineer / CPW Project Manager Eric Eisinger, P.E.
- Dam Safety Engineer / CPW Project Manager Lincoln Harberger, P.E.
- Area Wildlife Manager Bill deVergie
- District Wildlife Manager Bailey Franklin
- Assistant Area Wildlife Manager Mike Swaro
- Property Technician Cory Bullen

# Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District

Scott Grosscup

# Applegate Group

• Craig Ullmann



# **Update on the Big Beaver Dam Outlet Rehab Project**

- Large Capital Request funded this year (July 2023)
- Applying for LWCF Grant Funding in April 2024 (The project will occur regardless of this grant funding)
- Currently soliciting an RFQ for Engineering design services to be awarded and begin design in July.
- Field surveying for Cultural/Environmental Resources and Permitting this summer
- Anticipated design completion Spring 2024\*
- Begin reservoir drawdown in August/September 2024\*
- Anticipated Construction beginning in November 2024\*
- Construction completed in winter 2024/2025 in time to refill during spring runoff 2025\*

\*Note that CPW Dam Safety's Goal is to make these dates possible, but more clarity on the schedule will become available once design work begins



# Update on the Big Beaver Dam Outlet Rehab Project

This project will address the greatest known risks to dam safety - failure of the existing outlet works.

The dam is classified by the State as a High Hazard Dam, meaning that its failure would cause loss of human life downstream.

# Project Goals:

- Maintain public safety during and after construction
- Restore dam to safe operating conditions and reinstate the maximum life cycle performance of the dam
- Minimize future long-term maintenance requirements
- Minimize disruption to CPW, recreationalists, and Stakeholders' activities
- Minimize aquatic and terrestrial disruptions

\*Note that the repairs are being made based on the existing dam and infrastructure and not an expanded reservoir.



# Expansion and Safety Evaluation to Date:

- 1975 Investigation of dam raise by 93 feet and max capacity of 55,000 AF, Bureau of Reclamation
- 1984 Geotechnical Evaluation of expansion suitability, CWCB
- 1991 Seismic Refraction Survey, IECO
- 1992 Geologic Investigation, Bureau of Reclamation
- 1992/1994 Hydrology Study
- 1993 Safety Evaluation & Conceptual Designs, Bureau of Reclamation
- 1997 Subsurface Categorization during Drilling Operations, Western Engineers



General Findings Among Previous Studies:

- Incompetent dam foundation to depths of 40 feet and greater. Likely inadequate seepage cutoff measures. Extremely high pore pressures in the foundation soils
- Deep gravel terrace beginning just above crest elevation in left abutment will make positive seepage cutoff extremely difficult and costly. "Most economically attractive storage alternative... was to remove the present Avery dam and construct a new embankment"
- Indication that environmental exposure (iron bacteria) has destroyed steel pipe drains, and plausible that it has also destroyed the sheet pile seepage cutoff wall
- Lack of construction documentation and the antiquated state of the practice at the time, make dam potential failure modes more plausible



# Applegate Group

Lake Avery Enlargement - Next Steps Memo, December 8, 2021

This memo proposed a series of 6 tasks to further investigate the feasibility of expanding the storage potential, followed by planning, design and construction

- Task 1: Dam Breach and Flood Hydrology Analysis
- Task 2: Feasibility Study and Cost Estimates
- Task 3: Financial Planning and Funding
- Task 4: Field Data Gathering (Geotechnical, Surveying, Wetlands)
- Task 5: Final Design & Permitting
- Task 6: Construction

\*CPW is not aware if Task 1 has begun or was completed already. Any updates from Yellow Jacket or Applegate?



### January 10, 2023 - CPW letter consenting to Yellow Jacket conducting a Feasibility Study in coordination with CPW

The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the next steps for Yellow Jacket's feasibility study and CPW Dam Safety Program's recommendations for inclusion in the study.

CPW Dam Safety is happy to provide any available documentation that we have, but we would like to note that we are not planning significant staff involvement in the Yellow Jacket Feasibility Study.

CPW cautioned that this letter of approval for a feasibility study is to be conducted at the expense of YJWCD, and does not provide the Conservancy District authority to store its water rights in Lake Avery until any and all potential issues have been resolved to CPW's satisfaction.



# **CPW Dam Safety Program**

# **Recommendations for Inclusion in the Feasibility Study**

- Geologic and Foundation Evaluation
- Geotechnical Evaluation (stability and seepage of the existing and expanded dam)
- Feasibility Level Hydraulic Evaluation (how will the spillway and outlet function?)
- Raise Geometry Evaluation can the existing infrastructure handle the additional loads of expansion
- Hydrology/IDF how will these interact with the expanded dam?
  - (Note that CPW expects to receive new Hydrology Evaluation in summer 2023)
- Risk Downstream Consequence Evaluate the risk increase and prepare inundation map and model
  - (Note that CPW expects to receive a new CDSE in fall 2023)



# **CPW Dam Safety Program**

# **Recommendations for Inclusion in the Feasibility Study**

- Evaluate Reservoir Rim Stability and Safety
- · Identify Operational Impacts and water rights impacts
- Identify Infrastructure impacts roads, trails, boat ramps, bathrooms, etc.
- Environmental Impacts and Requirements NEPA, Cultural/SHPO, Wetlands/USACE, Floodplain, etc.
- Regulatory Involvement SEO Discussion/Coordination
- Identify Public and Private Stakeholders and Public interest and outreach
- Prepare cost estimates and schedule



# **Group Discussion/Questions?**





### Path Forward / Next Steps / Action Items

Meeting Minutes - April 25, 2023 - 10:30am-12pm

Attendees: Scott Grosscup (YJ), Craig Ullmann(AG), Tyler Desiderio (AG), CPW: Bill deVergie, Cory Bullen, Bailey Franklin, Mike Swaro, Margaret Taylor, Eric Eisinger, Lincoln Harberger

- CPW Dam Safety presented these slides and recommendations to Yellow Jacket and Applegate Group for the scope of a future feasibility study to enlarge the dam.
- Following CPW's presentation Applegate Group presented their Hydrology and Hydrologic Hazard Study work (approx. 90% complete). This work presents four preliminary options for reservoir expansion to be presented to Yellow Jacket for discussion at a future board meeting and to determine next steps, prior to moving into the feasibility study Task.
- Applegate concurred with CPW's feasibility study requirements. They noted that their contract with Yellow Jacket only includes the Hydrology/Hydrologic Hazard Study and additional funding/contracting would be needed prior to beginning the next portions of the feasibility study.
- Next step will be Applegate presenting their work to date and the four options to Yellow Jacket for discussion and to decide which option(s) to pursue with a full feasibility study.
- CPW Dam Safety offers any historical info that we have that could be helpful moving forward. Yellow Jacket/Applegate please reach out if you would like to request any of this info.
- CPW Dam Safety requests that Yellow Jacket keep us posted on progress following the Board's future review of the dam raise options with Applegate and regarding plans to move forward with a feasibility study.



### WATER AVAILABILITY

The amount of water available at each site will depend primarily upon the water rights used at that location and their relative status to the Taylor Draw hydropower rights. In order to obtain a range of water availability of the sites two scenarios were analyzed representing the highest and lowest potential yields. The high yield scenario assumes that a senior water right would be used at the storage site and agricultural system efficiencies in the basin would increase to a minimum of 30%. The water available under this scenario was calculated by pulling data from the existing StateMod files used for the Ag Needs Study. Data for the lowest yield scenario comes from the existing StateMod files for the revised Energy Needs Study which includes the Taylor Draw hydropower rights and historic irrigation efficiencies. These scenarios are not intended to be exact numbers since they don't actually model a water right priority at a given location. Rather they are intended to provide a rough estimate of the water available at the reservoir sites. The water availability data is summarized in Table 7 below.

		Scenario 1		Scenario 2		
Location	Min	Average	Max	Min	Average	Max
	(af/yr)	(af/yr)	(af/yr)	(af/yr)	(af/yr)	(af/yr)
Ripple Creek Reservoir	7,100	43,400	105,300	0	24,100	84,400
Lost Park Reservoir(native flow)	700	4,300	10,400	0	2,400	8,300
Lost Park Feeder Canal $1^{(1)}$	500	2,200	5,100	500	2,200	5,100
Lost Park Feeder Canal 2 <sup>(1)</sup>	500	2,800	6,300	500	2,800	6,300
Lost Park (with Feeder Canals)	1,700	9,300	21,800	1,000	7,400	19,800
Sawmill - Big Beaver Ck Only	4,000	21,600	49,300	0	23,100	49,100
Strawberry Creek	48,900	299,900 <sup>(2)</sup>	636,300 <sup>(2)</sup>	0	81,300	385,800
Tom Little Gulch (White River)	78,100	356,100 <sup>(2)</sup>	847,800 <sup>(2)</sup>	0	81,500	403,400
Mahogany Piceance Ck only	4,900	23,200	83,100	0	5,200	47,500
Thornburgh Reservoir <sup>(1)</sup>	6,500	21,600	51,800	6,500	21,600	51,800

(1) Water Right not in White River Basin and not subject to Taylor Draw Hydro priority; Water Right Abandoned during the course of this study

(2) Amount exceeds Rio Blanco Reservoir Decree of 131,035 acre feet

The data shown above does not account for water that will likely be required by the four federally endangered fish species on the lower White River. Currently, Taylor Draw Reservoir is required to bypass 200 cfs for environmental purposes. Future requirements may include an increase in this value as well as some requirements for peaking flows during spring runoff. Numbers presented in Table 7 assume that each project is the sole project constructed and the interference of other senior conditional decrees was not considered. The water availability of Sawmill Reservoir will need further examination during Phase II. A flow gage operated below Big Beaver Reservoir from 1956-1964 shows significantly less flow in the creek than is calculated to be available for diversion by the model. Input data for Big Beaver Creek flows will likely need to be modified in the model to better match historical conditions at this gage. Historical data imply that the amount of water physically available at this point could be half of what is shown in Table 7.