



#### **HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION**

Drains Pond System CCR Surface Impoundment Coal Creek Station Great River Energy

Submitted To: Great River Energy

Coal Creek Station 2875 Third Street SW

Underwood, North Dakota 58576

Submitted By: Golder Associates Inc.

44 Union Boulevard, Suite 300 Lakewood, Colorado 80228

October 13, 2016

1649586





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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Purpose

Golder Associates Inc. (Golder) has prepared the following History of Construction for the Drains Pond System CCR surface impoundment (Drains Pond System) at Great River Energy's (GRE's) Coal Creek Station (CCS). The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) Rule, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 257, promulgated April 17, 2015 and effective October 19, 2015, requires compilation of the information specified in §257.73(c) to detail the construction history of CCR facilities no later than October 17, 2016 for facilities with either height of 5 feet or more and a storage volume of 20 acre-feet, or a height of more than 20 feet.

#### 1.2 Site Background

CCS is located in McLean County, approximately 10 miles northwest of Washburn, North Dakota. The Drains Pond System consists of three cells. The Drains Pond System has approximately 17.5 acres of lined surface impoundment, of which approximately 7 acres was composite-lined in 1993. The remainder of the Drains Pond System was composite-lined in 2015. The Drains Pond System is used as a dewatering/storage facility for CCRs including bottom ash, pulverizer rejects, and economizer ash. It is also part of the plant process water storage inventory, acting as a clarifier for process water conveyed with CCRs and plant drains that enter the impoundment. Bottom ash, pulverizer rejects, and economizer ash are conveyed to the west cell with the center and east cells acting as clarifier and process water control facilities. The center and east cells do not directly receive CCR materials

#### 2.0 OWNER, OPERATOR, AND UNIT IDENTIFICATION (40 CFR §257.73(C)(1)(I))

CCS (and the Drains Pond System) is currently owned and operated by Great River Energy (GRE).

Corporate Address:

Great River Energy 12300 Elm Creek Boulevard Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

Coal Creek Station Address:

Great River Energy Coal Creek Station 2875 Third Street SW Underwood, North Dakota 58576

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDH) Division of Waste Management is the environmental regulatory body for the CCR facilities at CCS. The Drains Pond System is currently permitted with the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDH) under Permit Number 0033.





#### 3.0 HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION

#### 3.1 Location of Unit (§257.73(c)(1)(ii))

The Drains Pond System is located in Section 17 of Township 145 North, Range 82 West, in McLean County, North Dakota. Figure 1 shows the location of the Drains Pond System on the most recent USGS topographic map, and Figure 2 shows the location of the Drains Pond System on a recent aerial photograph.

#### 3.2 Purpose (§257.73(c)(1)(iii))

The Drains Pond System is used as a dewatering/storage facility for CCRs including bottom ash, pulverizer rejects, and economizer ash. It is also part of the plant process water storage inventory, acting as a clarifier for process water conveyed with CCRs and plant drains that enter the impoundment.

#### 3.3 Watershed Information (§257.73(c)(1)(iv))

The Drains Pond System is located within the following Hydrologic Unit (Watershed-Based Performance Management Using Hydrologic Unit, ND 2016) per the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Hydrologic Unit 12 Subwatershed 101301010701 Weller Slough-Coal Lake Coulee (40,582 acres).

#### 3.4 Foundation Information (§257.73(c)(1)(v))

The location of the Drains Pond System was originally characterized by Burns & McDonnell in 1973. A geotechnical investigation was completed by Black & Veatch in 1977 and a hydrogeologic study was performed for CCS by Barr Engineering in 1982. The foundation soils of the Drains Pond System consist of native soils (sandy and silty-clay) and embankment fill materials sourced from nearby native soils (sandy and silty clay). The area was disturbed during original plant construction in the late 1970's, which resulted in the presence of fill materials near the surface. Sandy lean clays dominant the existing natural soils with an effective cohesion of 500 pounds per square foot (psf) and an effective friction angle of 19 degrees (based on shear strength testing).

Four piezometers and one monitoring well were installed near the Drains Pond System in June 2014. The geotechnical investigation report summarizing these borings is included in the 2015 permit modification (GRE 2015a) and is summarized below. In general, borings directly under the proposed area for the Drains Pond System (DP-A and DP-D) show approximately 15 feet of "fill" material underlain by lean clay and/or fat clay consistent with the native soils.

Geotechnical testing was performed on samples collected during the 2014 field investigations. Atterberg Limits tests on grab samples showed soils between depths of 5 feet and 15 feet in DP-A and DP-D (directly under the proposed Drains Pond expansion) had plasticity indices ranging from 30 to 51. Moisture/Density testing was also evaluated for grab samples from DP-A and DP-D. Maximum dry densities ranged from 68 pounds per cubic foot (pcf) to 104 pcf with optimum moisture contents between 18% and 40%.





#### 3.5 Materials and Site Preparation (§257.73(c)(1)(vi))

The Drains Pond System encompasses three cells: west cell, center cell, and east cell.

#### 3.5.1 East Cell

The east cell of the Drains Pond System was originally part of the South Ash Pond, which was built in the late 1970s on a foundation of re-compacted site soils (glacial tills) and put into service in 1979. In 1981, the South Ash Pond was taken out of service to reconstruct the clay liner and was put back into service from 1982 until 1987, at which point CCR materials were removed. The South Ash Pond was then divided into Ash Pond 91 and Ash Pond 92 in 1988 and the east cell of the Drains Pond was separated from Ash Pond 91 by an embankment.

The east cell of the Drains Pond System was lined in 1993 and the liner system consists of an upper component of 40-mil thick high density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane liner and a lower component of a minimum of 2 feet of compacted clay (CPA 1993). Clay fill was placed a minimum of two feet thick in horizontal loose lifts of no more than 7 inches in thickness and compacted to above the optimum moisture content and to at least 95% maximum density as determined from a Standard Proctor (CPA 1993). Testing conducted on the clay liner during construction consisted of grain size distribution, Proctor compaction curves, Atterberg limits, and field density and moisture testing. Field density measurements ranged between 95% and 100%. The liner is overlain with 1 foot of sand.

#### 3.5.2 Center Cell

The center cell of the Drains Pond System was constructed in 2015 on native soils (sandy and silty-clay) and embankment fill materials sourced from nearby native soils (sandy and silty clay). The embankments of the facility were constructed of native soils compacted in six-inch loose lifts to 95% of the standard Proctor compaction effort and between +3% and -3% of the standard Proctor optimum moisture content. The center cell of the Drains Pond System has a bottom liner system consisting of (from bottom to top, Golder 2016c):

- 2 feet of compacted clay rich material with a hydraulic conductivity of 1x10<sup>-7</sup> cm/sec
- 60-mil HDPE geomembrane liner
- 2 feet of protective cover

Compacted clay rich material was compacted in 6-inch loose lifts to a minimum of 95% of the standard Proctor compaction effort at a minimum degree of saturation of 75% per project specifications.

#### 3.5.3 West Cell

The west cell of the Drains Pond System was constructed in 2015 on native soils (sandy and silty-clay) and embankment fill materials sourced from nearby native soils (sandy and silty clay). The embankments of the facility were constructed of native soils compacted in 6-inch loose lifts to 95% of the standard Proctor





compaction effort and between +3% and -3% of the standard Proctor optimum moisture content. The west cell of the Drains Pond System has a bottom liner system consisting of (from bottom to top):

- 2 feet of compacted clay rich material with a hydraulic conductivity of 1x10<sup>-7</sup> cm/sec
- 60-mil HDPE geomembrane liner
- Geocomposite drainage layer
- Geosynthetic clay liner (GCL)
- 60-mil HDPE geomembrane liner
- 2 feet of protective cover

Compacted clay rich material was compacted in 6-inch loose lifts to a minimum of 95% of the standard Proctor compaction effort at a minimum degree of saturation of 75% per project specifications.

#### 3.6 **Detailed Dimensional Drawings (§257.73(c)(1)(vii))**

Permit Drawings for the Drains Pond System are included in Appendix A and show facility dimensions, drainage pathways, and facility surroundings (CPA/UPA 1992 and Golder 2015a).

The center and east cells of the Drains Pond System operate with a minimum freeboard of approximately 2 feet to the top of the liner system (4 feet to the top of the embankment) and a design freeboard of approximately 6 feet. The west cell of the Drains Pond System operates with a minimum freeboard of approximately 2 feet to the top of the liner system (3 feet to the top of the embankment) and a design freeboard of approximately 4 feet.

A run-on analysis was performed as part of the inflow design flood control system plan (Golder 2016a) indicating that the Drains Pond System is operated with adequate freeboard to contain the 24-hour, 100year storm event.

#### 3.7 Instrumentation (§257.73(c)(1)(viii))

There is currently no instrumentation in the Drains Pond System.

#### 3.8 Area-Capacity Curves (§257.73(c)(1)(ix))

Elevation-capacity information for the Drains Pond System during normal operation is shown in Figure 3. Areas were calculated using as-built topography and design grades. CCR capacities are approximate and were calculated using an average end area method. CCR capacities shown on Figure 3 do not include CCRs that will be placed above the embankments of the cells of the Drains Pond System after the facility is de-watered and closed (see Closure/Post-Closure Plan, Golder 2016b). At closure, the total inventory of CCR in the Drains Pond System is approximately 417,000 cubic yards: 126,000 cubic yards in the west cell, 63,000 cubic yards in the center cell, and 228,000 cubic yards in the east cell.





#### 3.9 Spillways and Diversion Features (§257.73(c)(1)(x))

There are no spillways associated with the Drains Pond System. Existing controls are in place to monitor water levels in the Drains Pond System and limit potential overtopping of the impoundment. The operational inflow to the facility (besides precipitation) includes hydraulically conveyed bottom ash, pulverizer rejects, and economizer ash material into the west cell, plant drains water into the center cell, and process water and run-off from the Upstream Raise CCR Surface Impoundment and Ash Pond 91 CCR Surface Impoundment into the east cell. Water from the west cell decants through pipelines to the center cell. These pipes are designed to maintain the west cell of the Drains Pond System at a constant elevation approximately two feet below the top elevation of the geomembrane liner when the bottom ash conveyance system is operating at capacity. The center cell and east cell of the Drains Pond System are connected via three 24-inch cross-over pipelines, which are designed to maintain these cells at approximately the same elevation during maximum expected flow conditions (i.e., when the bottom ash conveyance system is active).

Existing controls in place to monitor the water levels in the Drains Pond System include monthly observations of water levels by CCS lab personnel, and daily observations by CCS operations personnel. Additional observations are noted by GRE employees familiar with site ash conveyance and handling equipment and operations of the hydraulic ash conveyance systems. After large storm events, CCS personnel evaluate site conditions, including impoundment water levels, and are able to adjust operations to maintain water levels below design maximum elevations. Should water levels within the Drains Pond System reach above desired operating levels, GRE has operating procedures to pump water to the plant for reuse, to site evaporation ponds or to an underground injection well.

#### 3.10 Construction Specifications and Provisions (§257.73(c)(1)(xi))

The following documents contain the specifications, construction quality assurance reports, and provisions for operation of the Drains Pond System.

- The final report for the foundation, liner, and embankment construction completed in 1993 on the east cell of the Drains Pond System (CPA 1993).
- The geomembrane quality assurance services documentation performed in 1993 on the east side of the Drains Pond System (Golder 1993).
- The construction specifications for the 2015 Coal Combustion Residual Facility Construction (Golder 2015b).
- The construction quality assurance documentation for the foundation, liner and embankment construction completed in 2015 (Golder 2016c),
- The operations plan for Drains Pond, Evaporation Ponds 91, 92, 93, and 94 (Golder 2015c).



#### 3.11 Record of Structural Instability (§257.73(c)(1)(xii))

No record of structural instability has been noted for the Drains Pond System. Weekly Inspections are performed by site personnel and annual inspections are performed by a registered professional engineer.



Craig Schuettpelz, PE Senior Project Engineer



#### 4.0 CLOSING

Golder Associates Inc. has prepared the above History of Construction for the Drains Pond System CCR Surface Impoundment at Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station. Based on our review of the available information, to the extent feasible, this report provides the information required by 40 CFR § 257.73(c)(i) through (xii), as related to the construction of the Drains Pond System CCR Surface Impoundment.

**GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC.** 

Todd Stong, PE

Senior Engineer/Associate

TS/CS/rjg

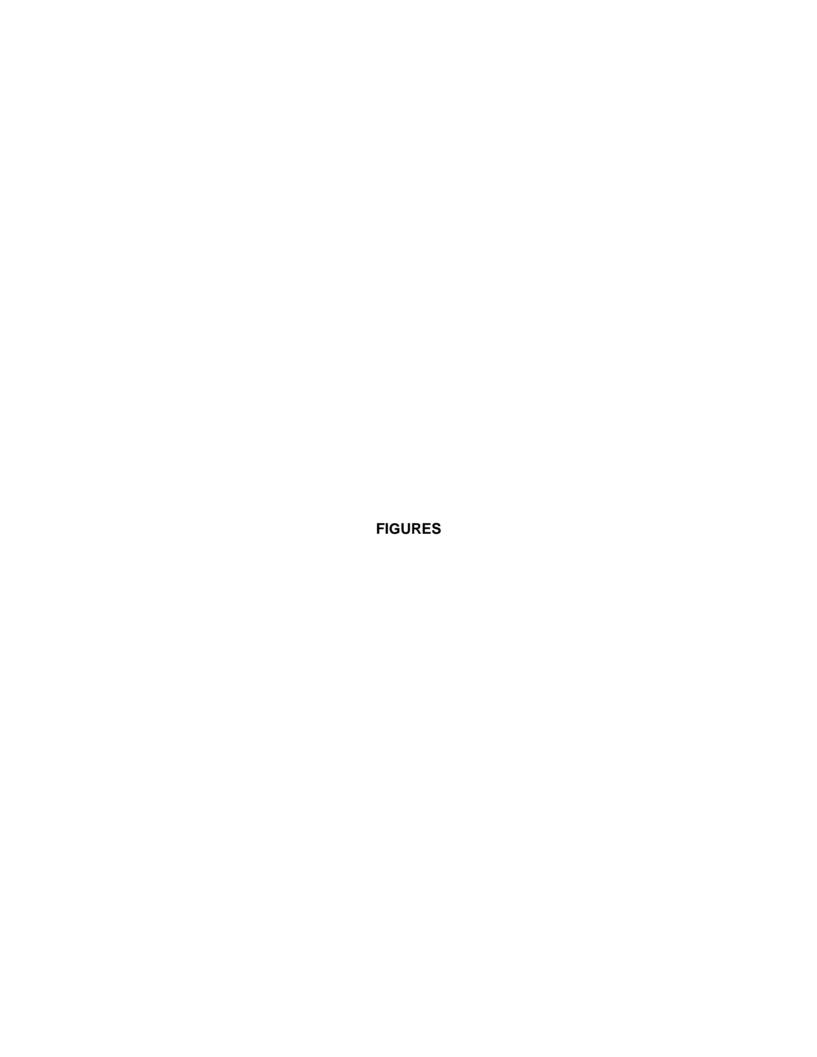
#### 5.0 REFERENCES

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- Black & Veatch. 1978. South Ash Pond Geotechnical Data. March.
- Burns & McDonnell. 1973. Report on the Environmental Analysis for a North Dakota Power Supply Project. July.

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- Golder. 1993. Geomembrane Quality Assurance Services Ash Pond 91 and Drains Pond. November.
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- Golder. 2015c. Operations Plan for Drains Pond, Evaporation Ponds 91, 92, 93, and 94 Permit No. SP-033. February.
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- Golder. 2016c. Construction Quality Assurance Documentation and Certification Drains Pond Expansion. June.
- ND. 2016. North Dakota Hub Explorer, North Dakota Geographic Information Systems. Retrieved: September 30, from https://www.nd.gov/itd/statewide-alliances/gis.





1. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP WAS COMPILED FROM THE FOLLOWING USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLES:
UNDERWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA (2014)
WASHBURN NE, NORTH DAKOTA (2014)
WASHBURN, NORTH DAKOTA (2014)
WASHBURN SW, NORTH DAKOTA (2014)

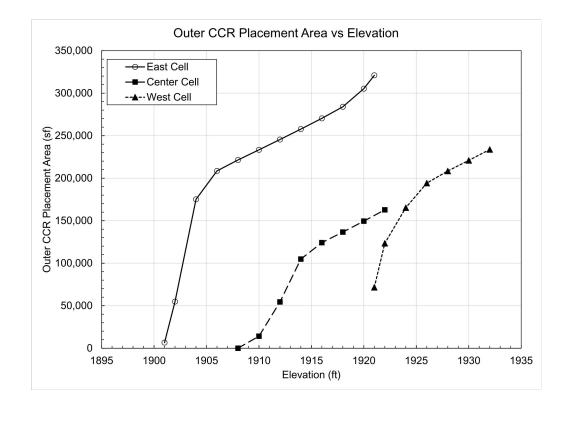


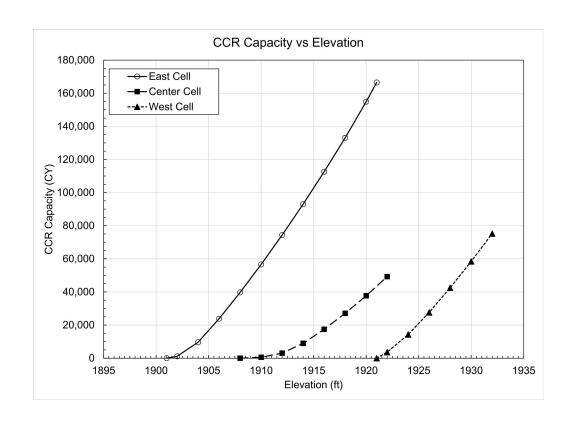
DRAINS POND SYSTEM SITE LOCATION (USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS)





DRAINS POND SYSTEM SITE LOCATION (AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH)





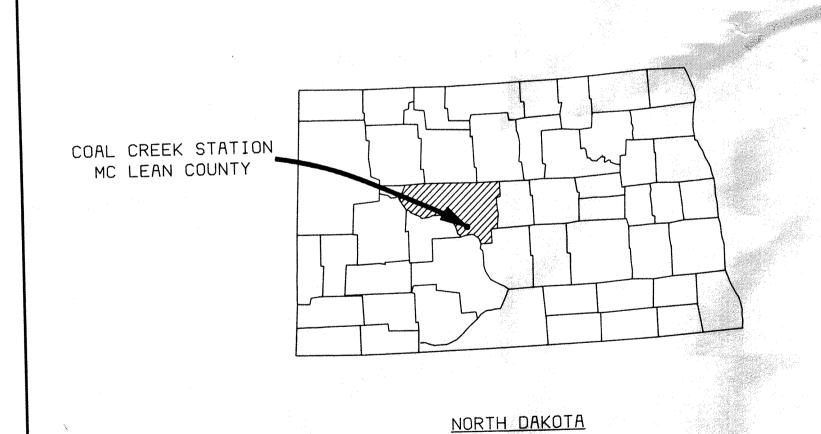
APPENDIX A DESIGN DRAWINGS

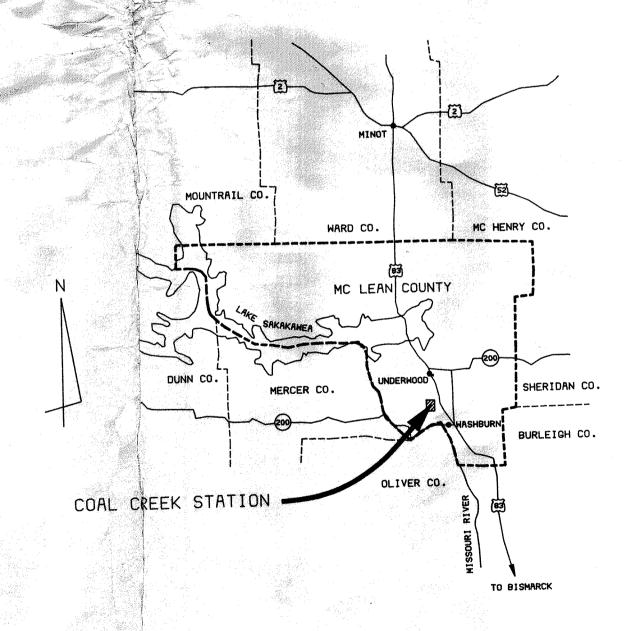
APPENDIX A-1 DRAINS POND SYSTEM DESIGN DRAWINGS (CPA/UPA 1992)

## COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION UNITED POWER ASSOCIATION

COAL CREEK STATION UNDERWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA

COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION 14615 LONE OAK ROAD EDEN PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55344 UNITED POWER ASSOCIATION
HIGHWAY 10
ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA 55330





SITE LOCATION MAP

92G213-1	EXISTING GROUND EVAPORATION POND 93
920213-2	LAYOUT — TOP OF SUBGRADE EVAPORATION POND 93
920213-3	LAYOUT - TOP OF BROWN CLAY EVAPORATION POND 93
92G213-4	LAYOUT - TOP OF GRAY CLAY EVAPORATION POND 93
92G213-5	LAYOUT - TOP OF SAND EVAPORATION POND 93
92G213-6	LAYOUT - TOP OF BOTTOM ASH EVAPORATION POND 93
92G213-7	EXISTING GROUND ASH POND 91
920213-8	LAYOUT - TOP OF SUBGRADE ASH POND 91
92G213-9	LAYOUT - TOP OF BROWN CLAY ASH POND 91
92G213-10	LAYOUT - TOP OF GRAY CLAY ASH POND 91
92G213-11	LAYOUT - TOP OF SAND ASH POND 91
92G213-12	LAYOUT - TOP OF ROCK ASH POND 91
920213-13	LAYOUT - TOP OF BOTTOM ASH ASH POND 91
92G213-14	LAYOUT - DRAIN SYSTEM ASH POND 91
92G213-15	PIPE ROUTING ALONG POND 94 TO POND 93
92G213-16	TYPICAL SECTIONS AND DETAILS
92G213-17	TYPICAL SECTIONS AND DETAILS
920213-18	PLAN VIEW-EVAP. POND 92 OUTLET & SEWAGE LINE DETAI
92G213-19	DETAILS MISCELLANEOUS
92G213-20	DEWATERING, PERFORATED PIF

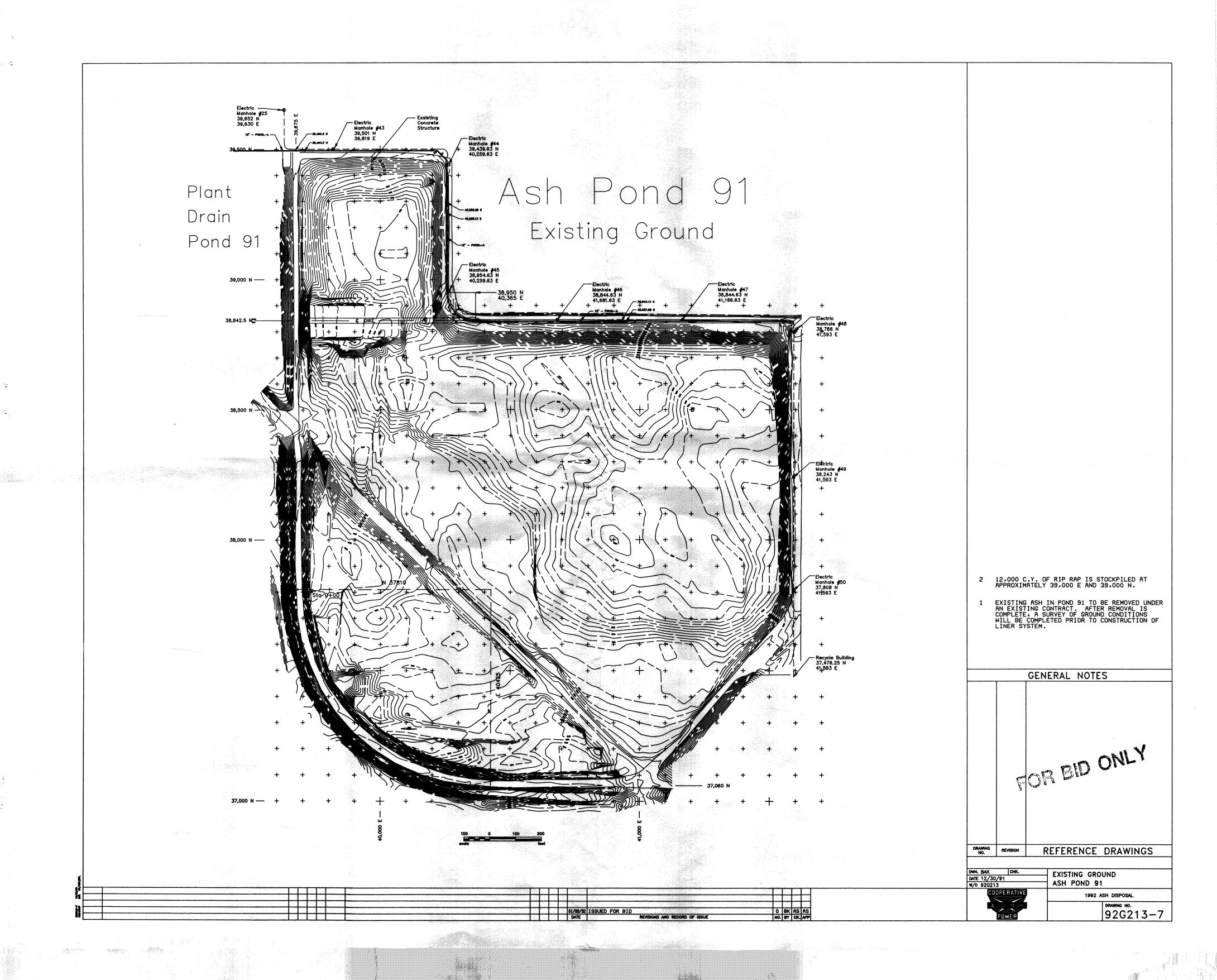
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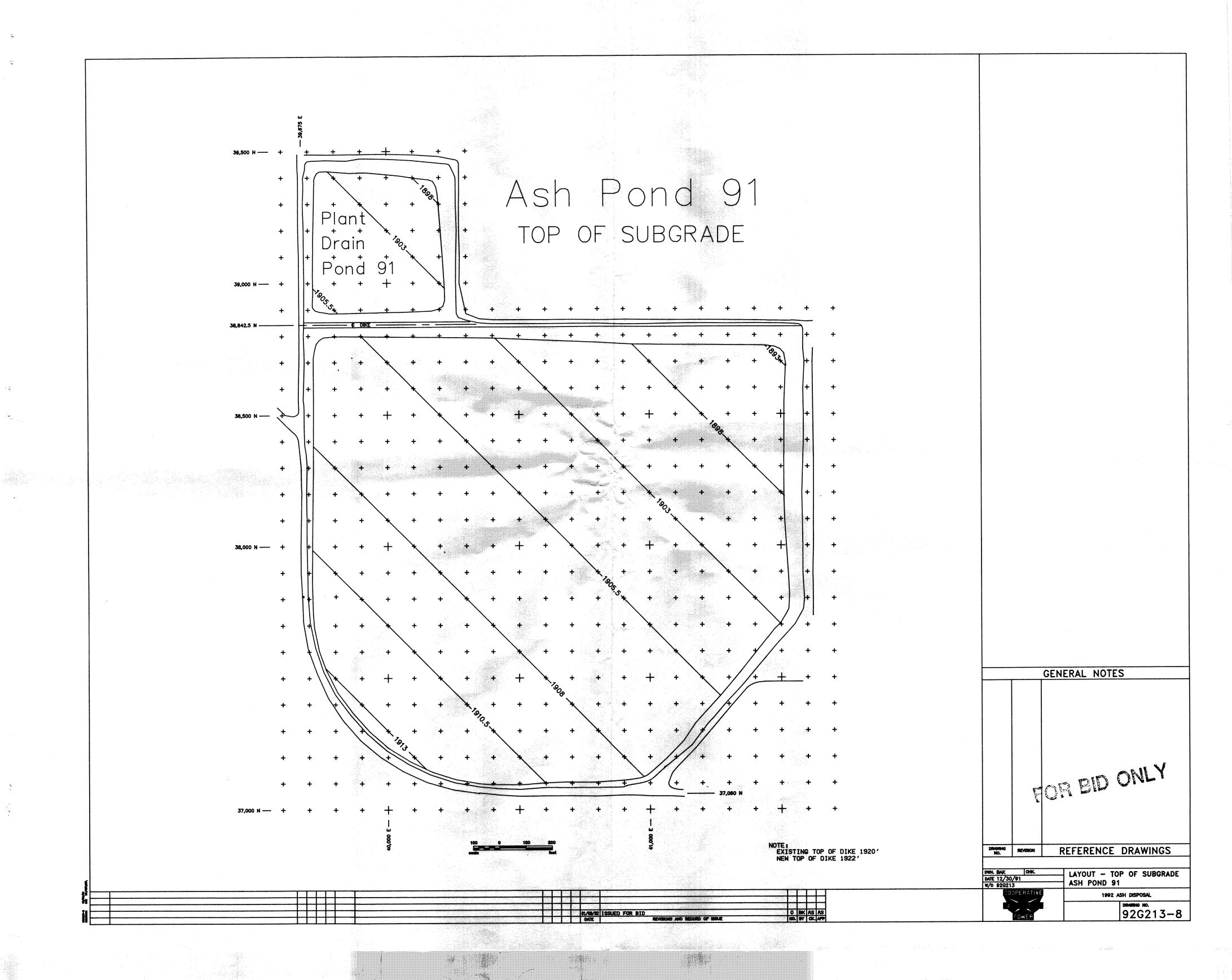
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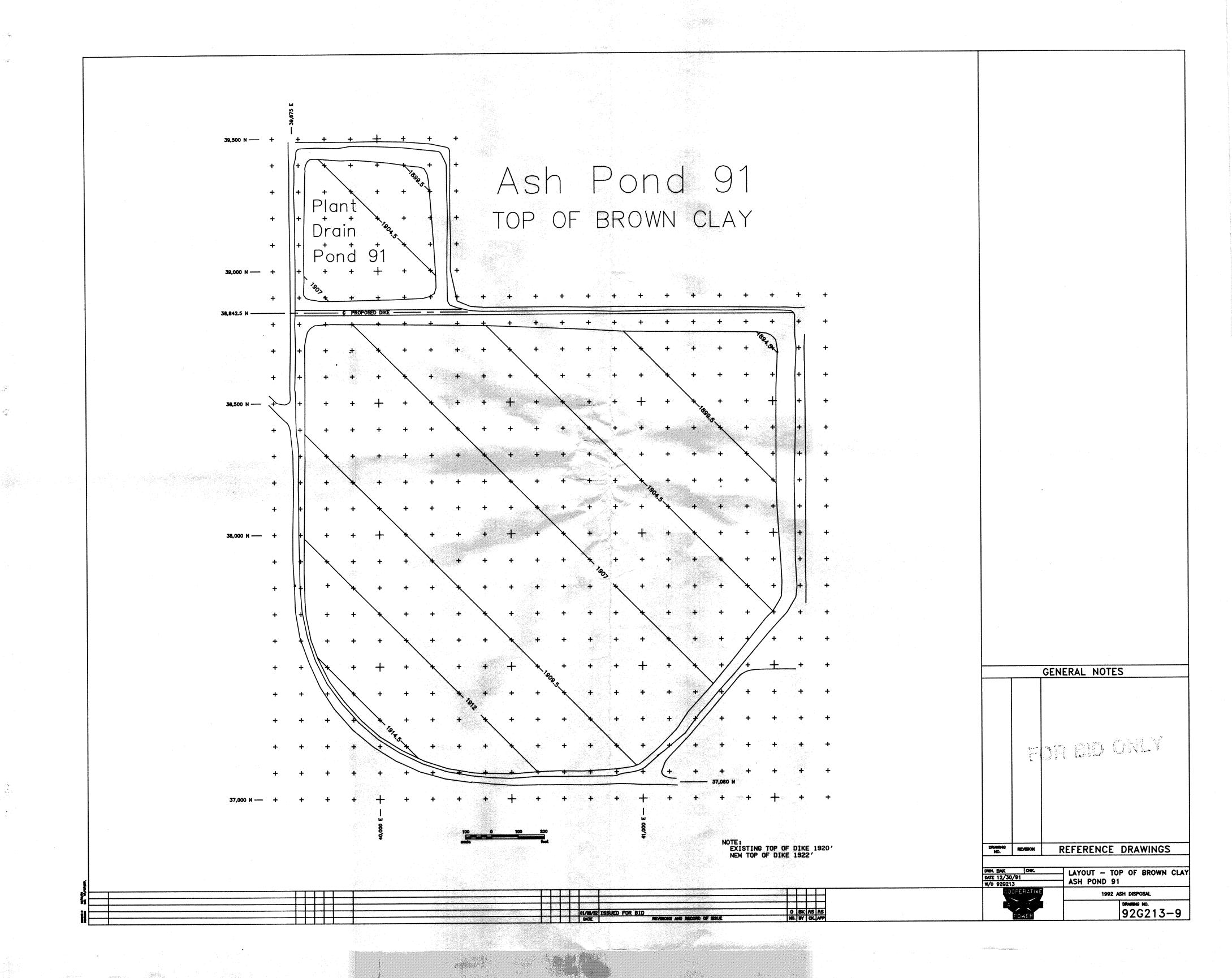
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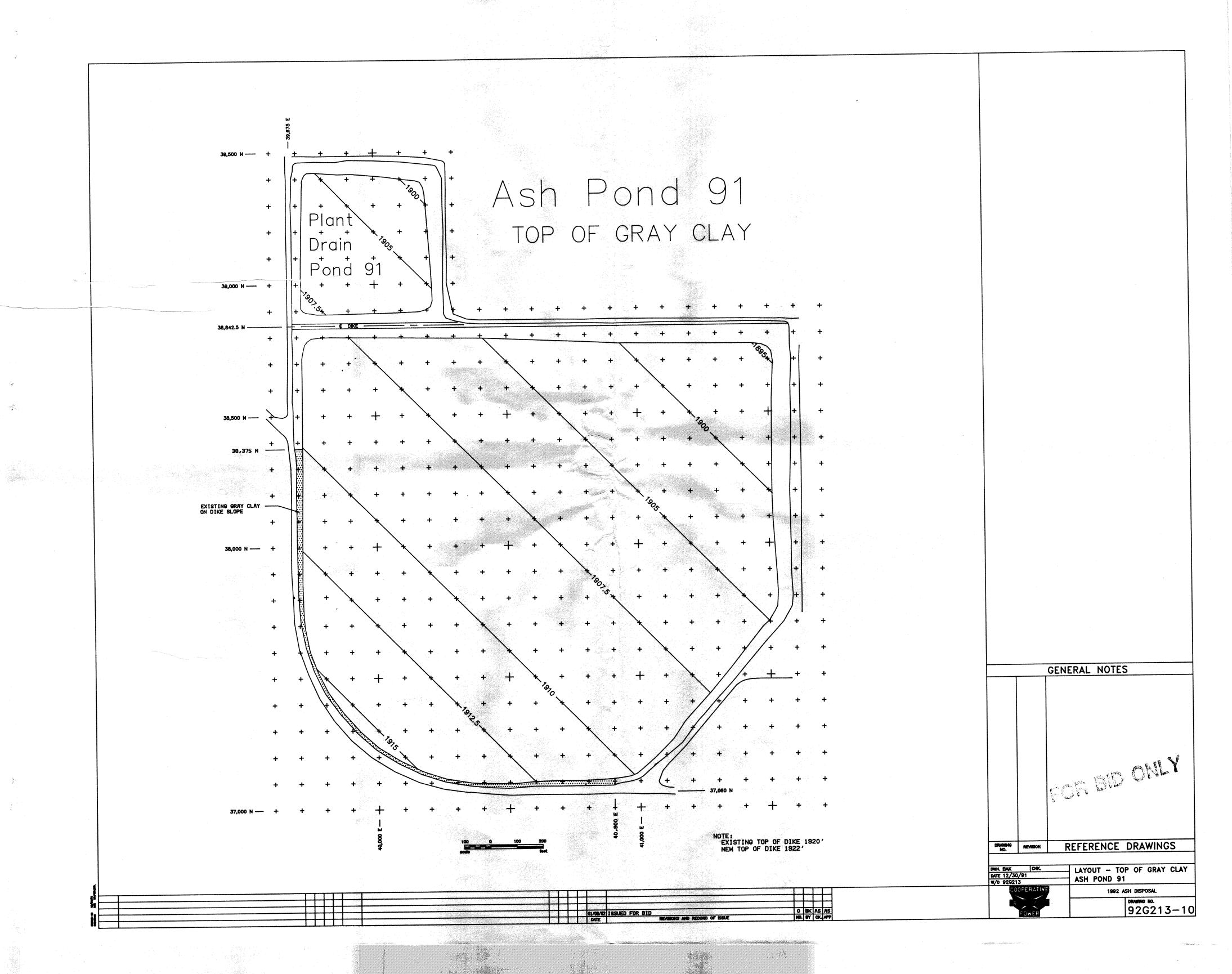
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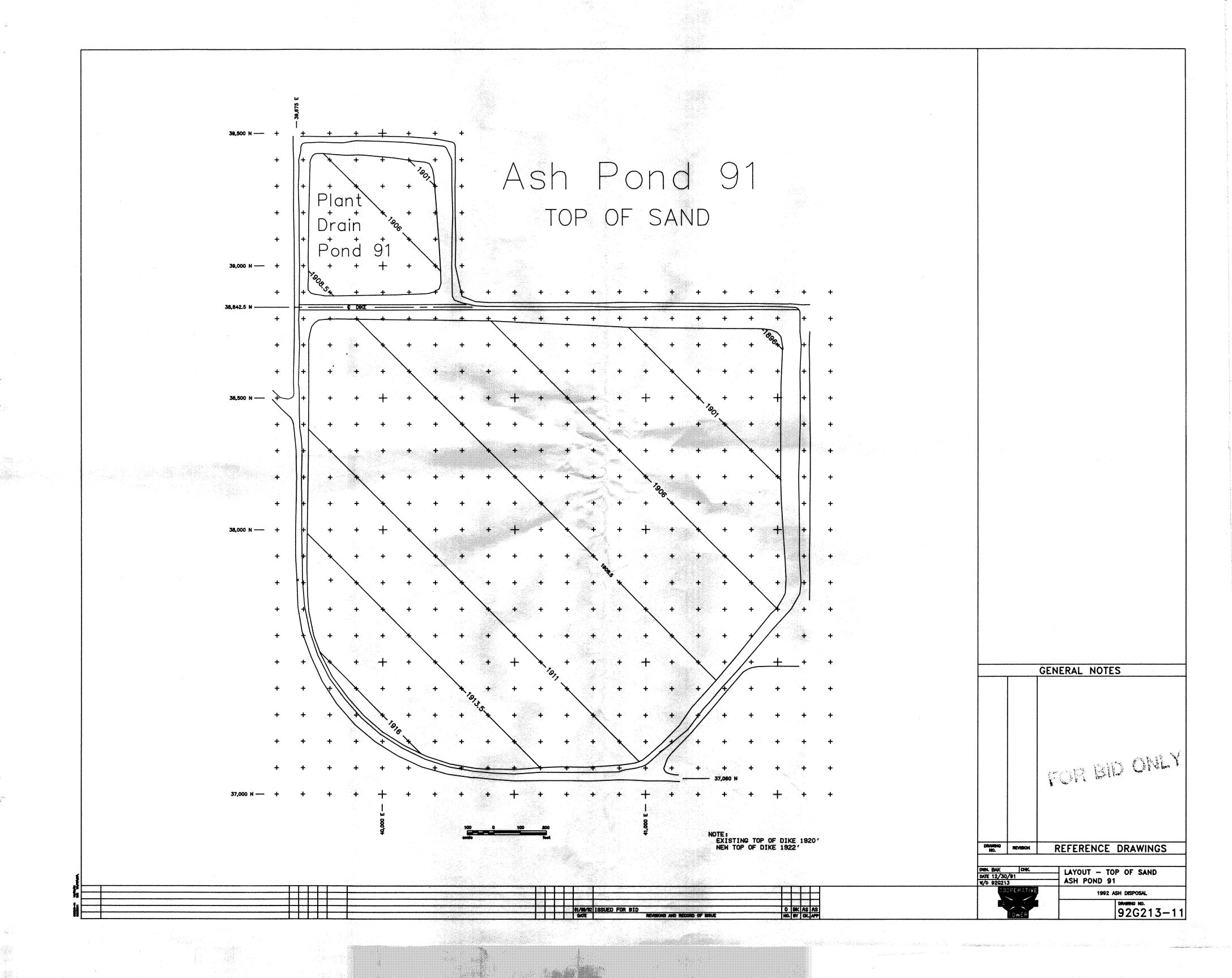
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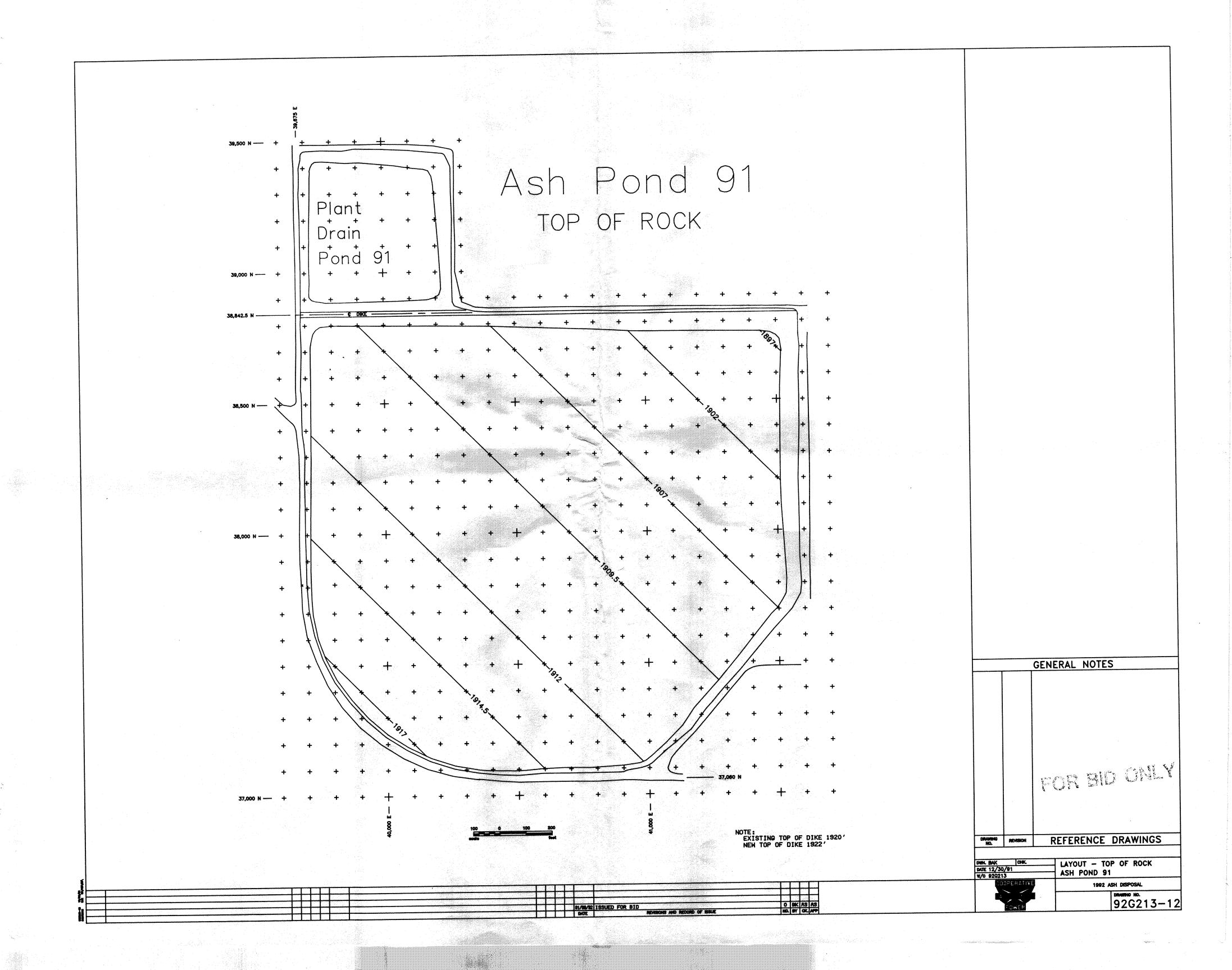


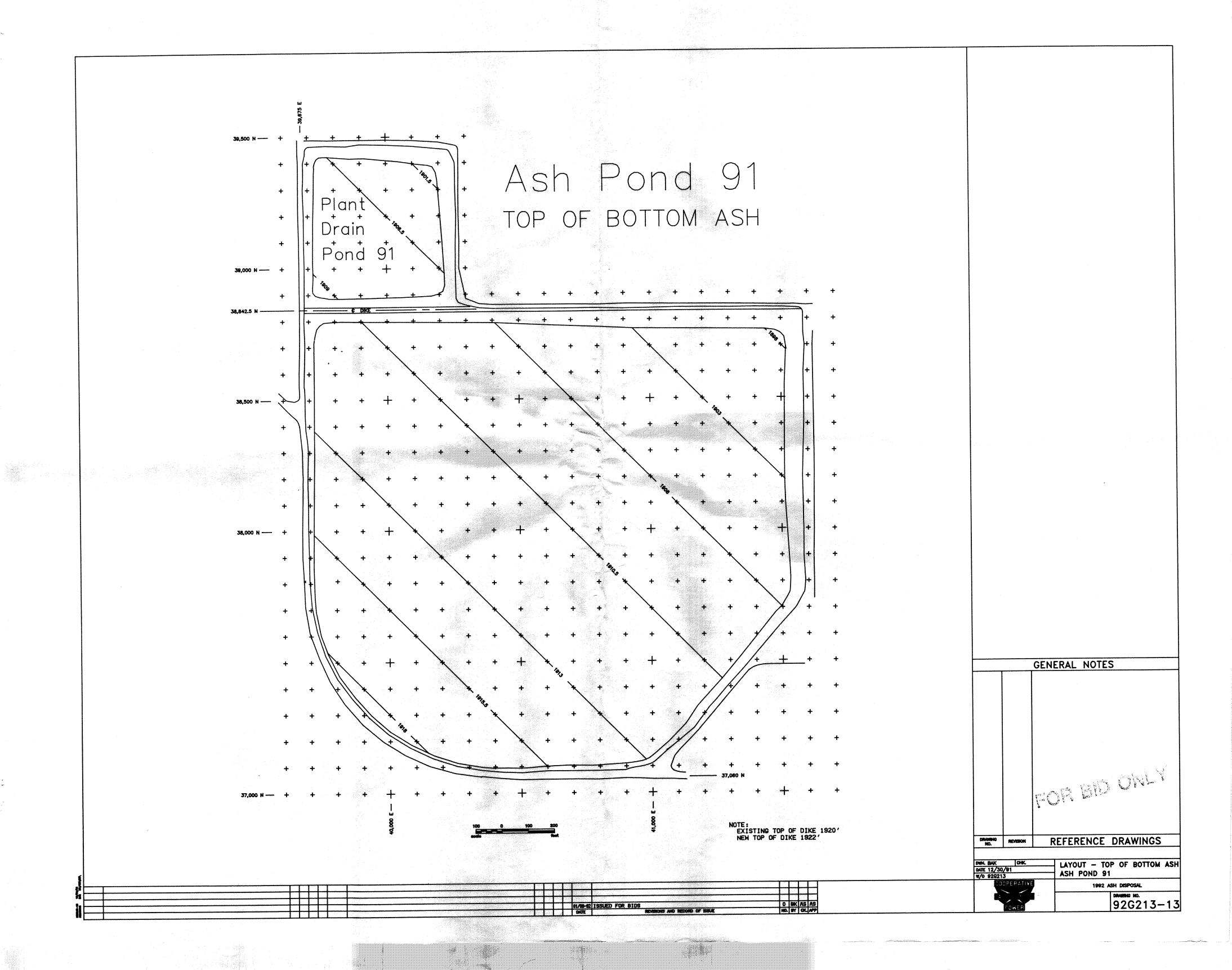


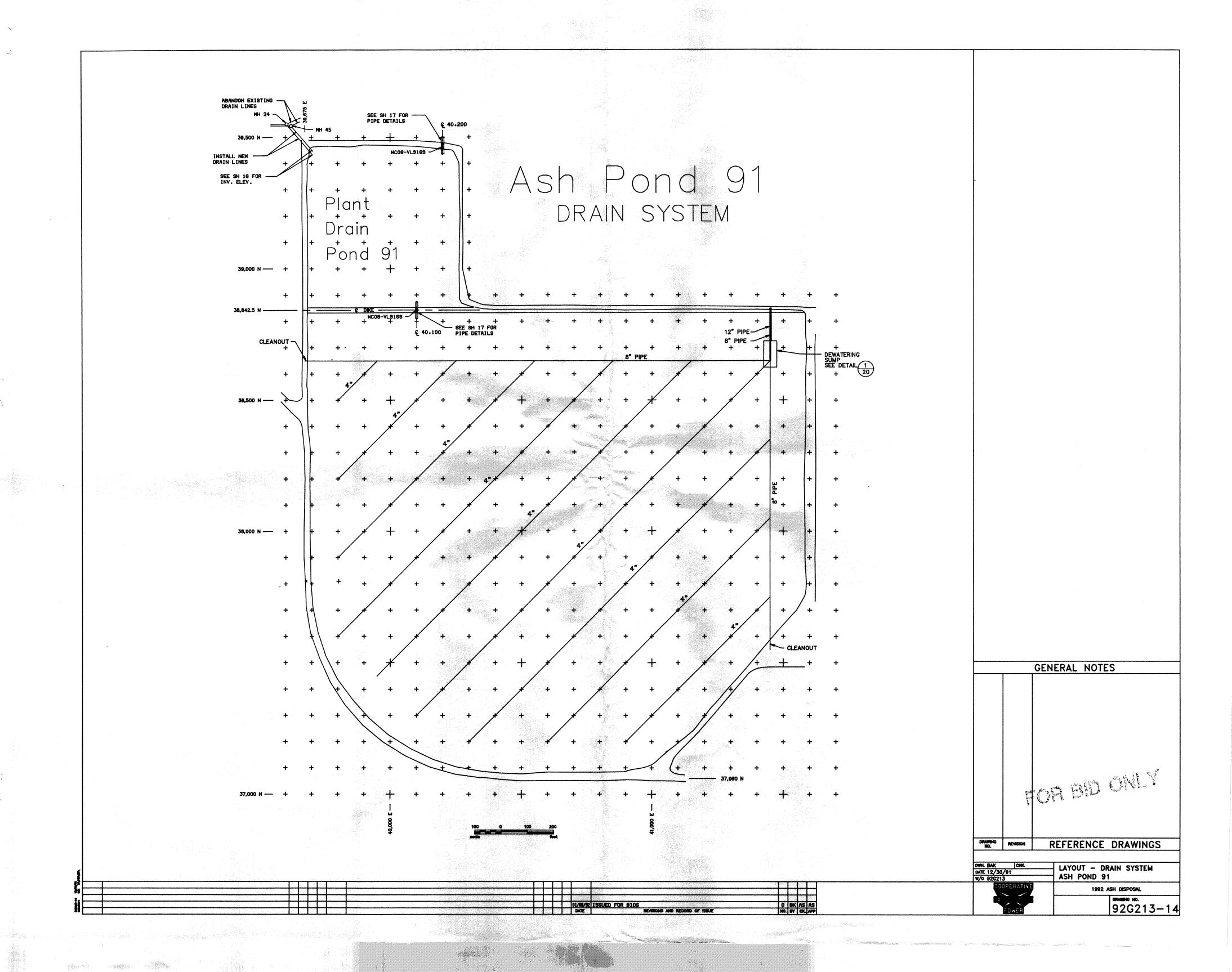


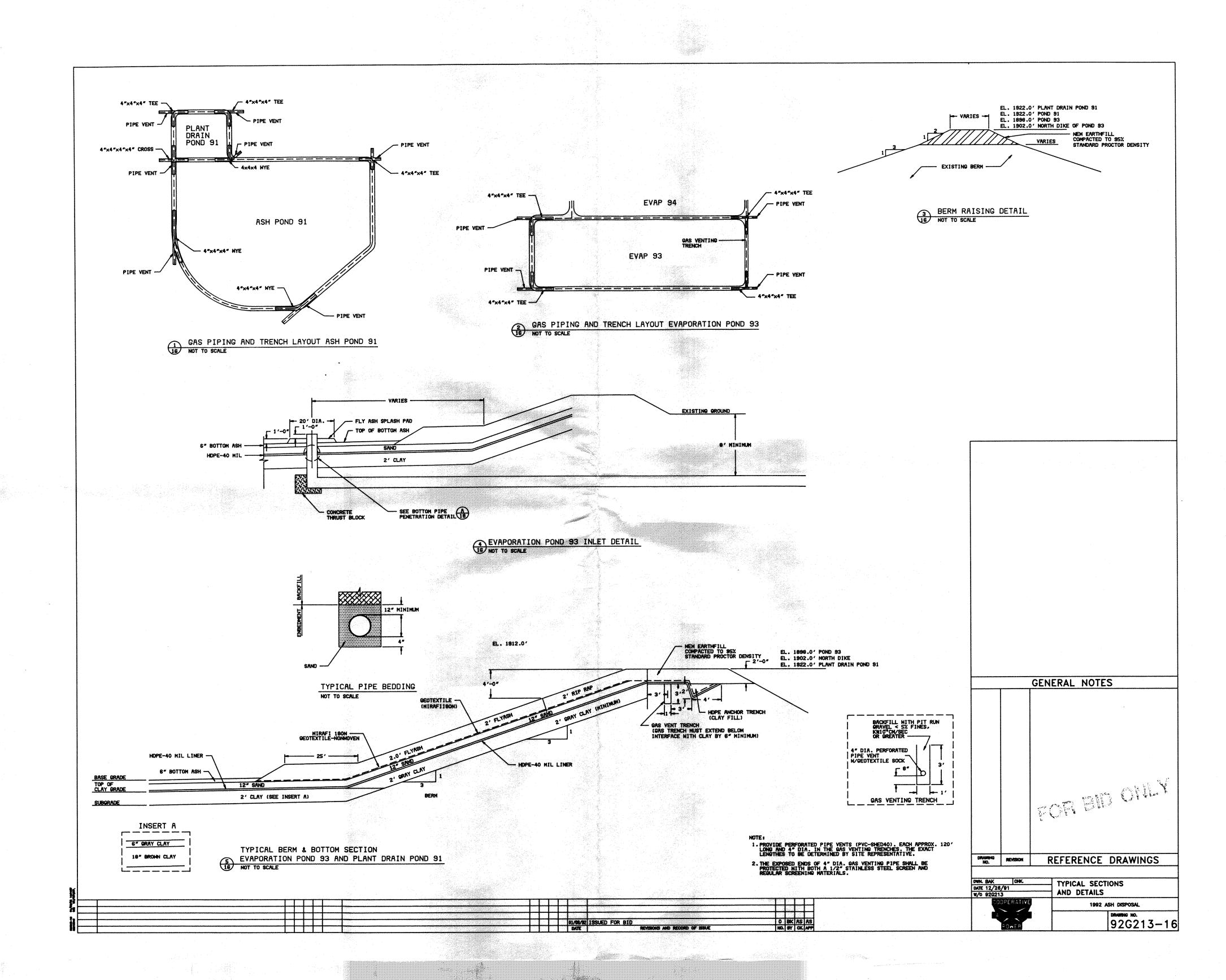


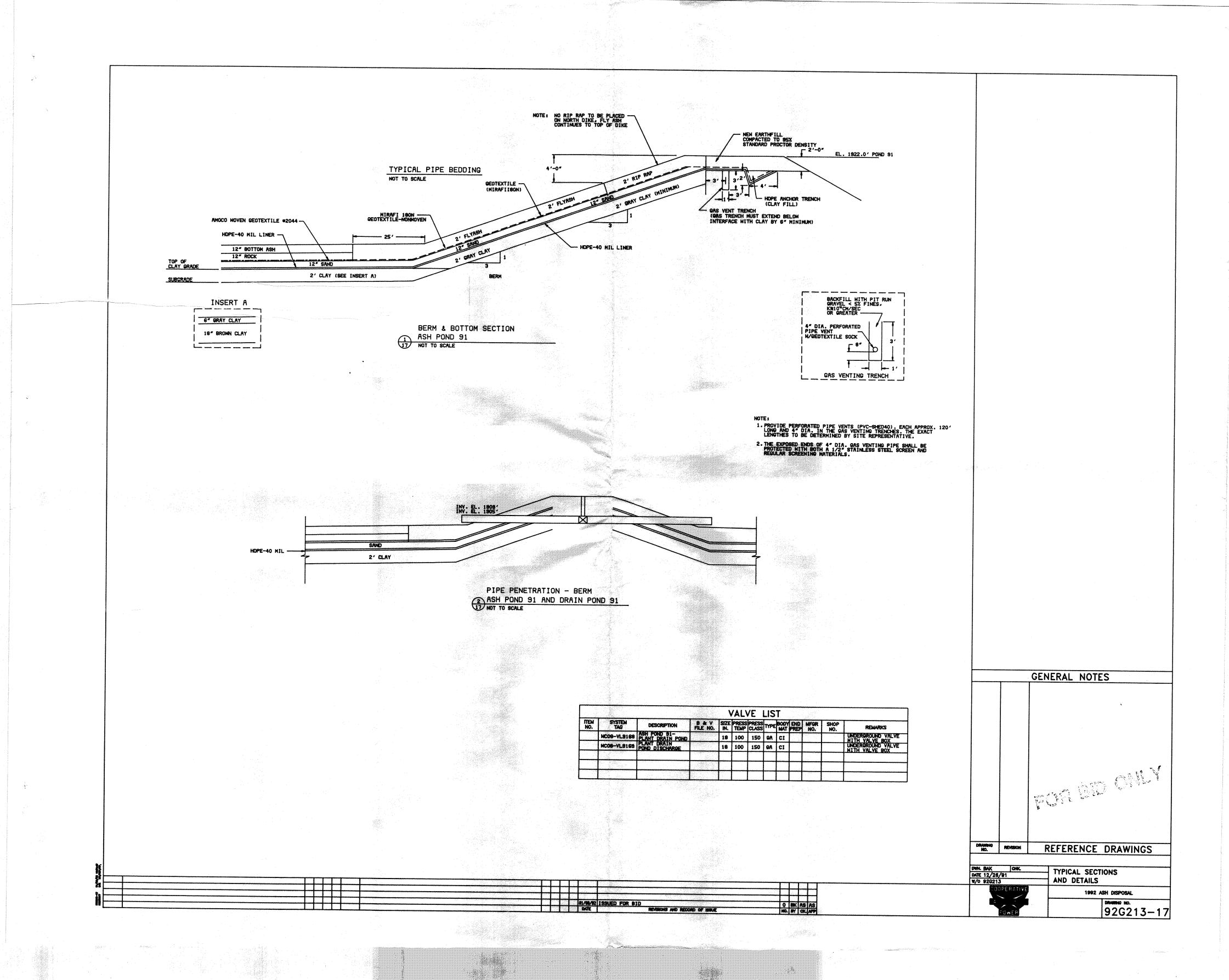


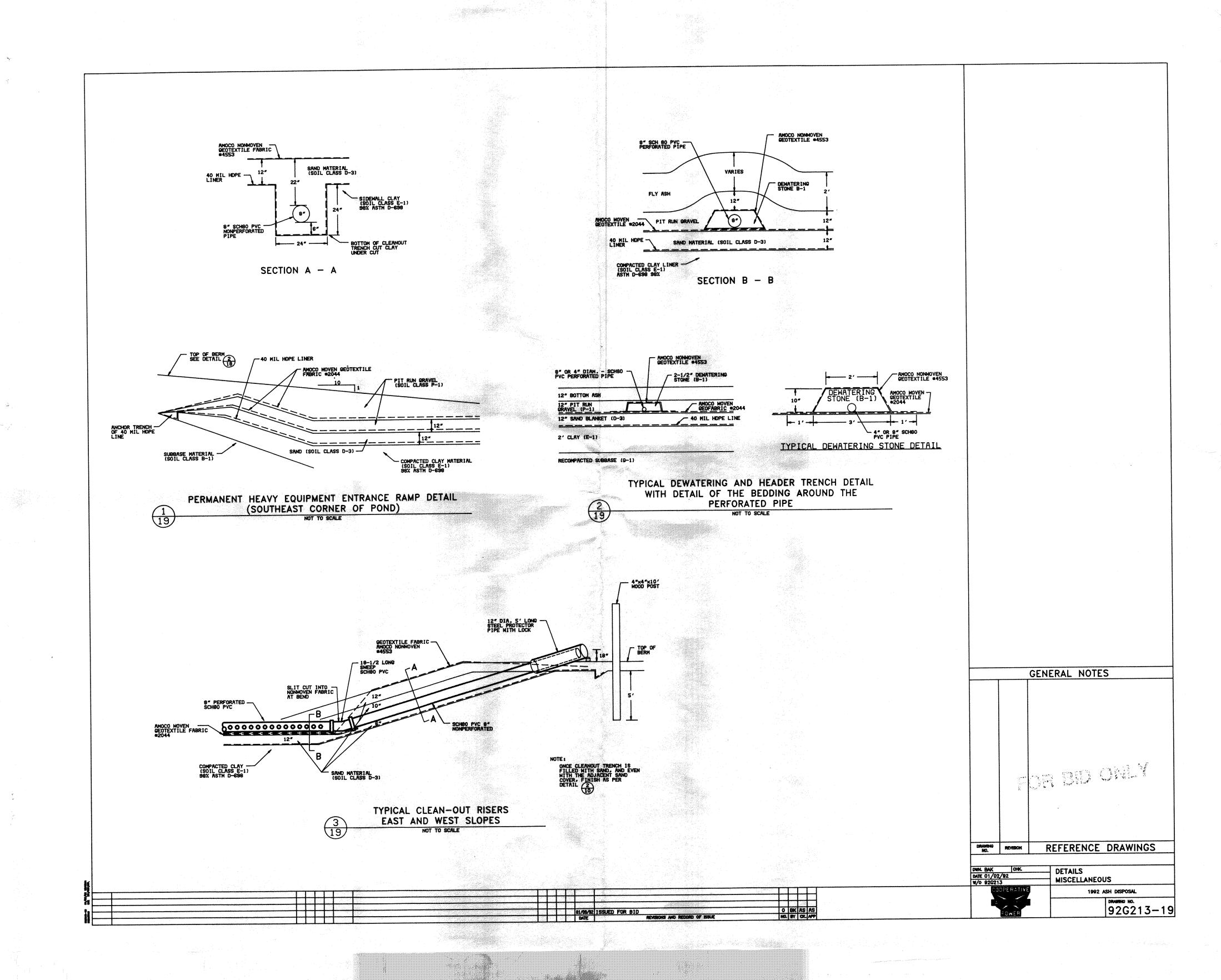


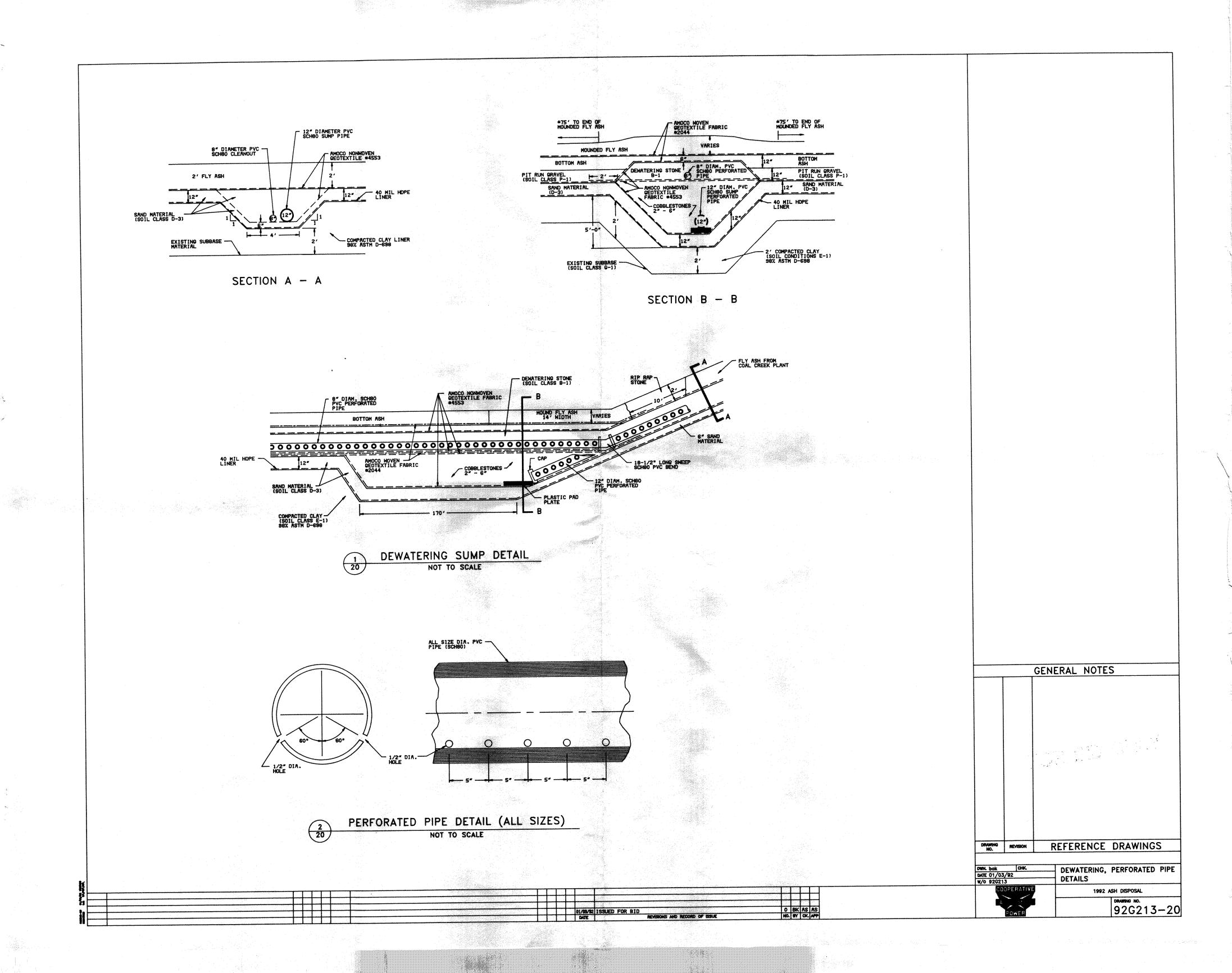


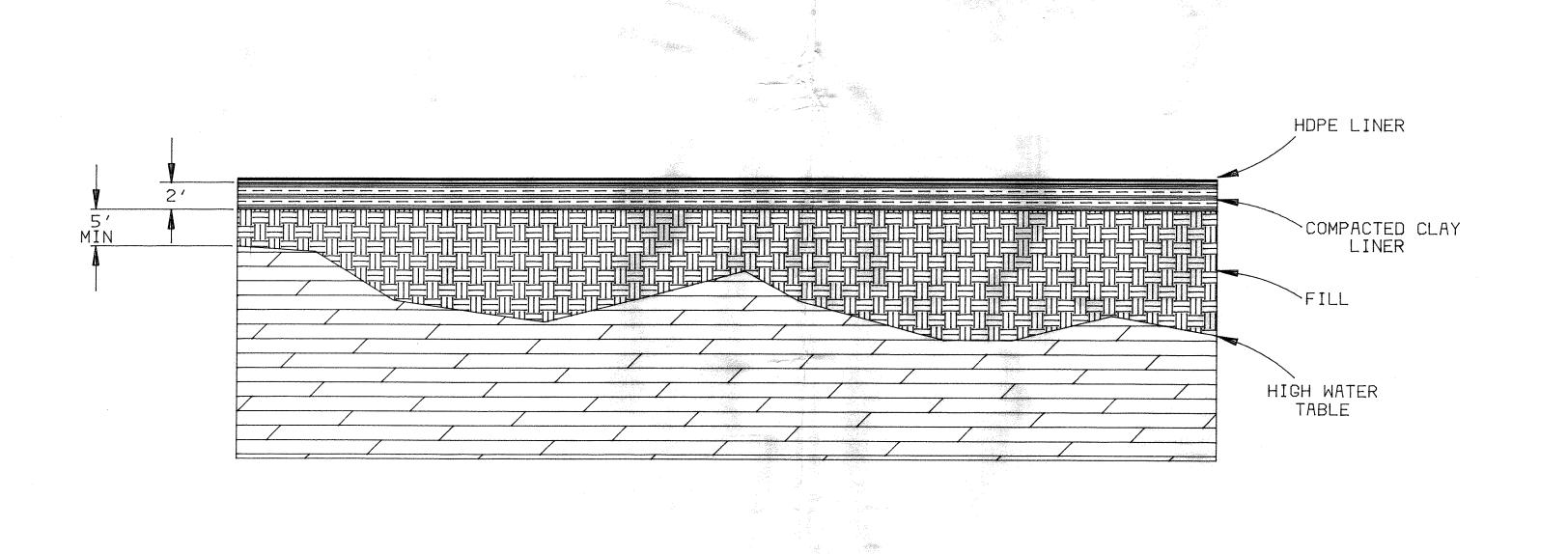






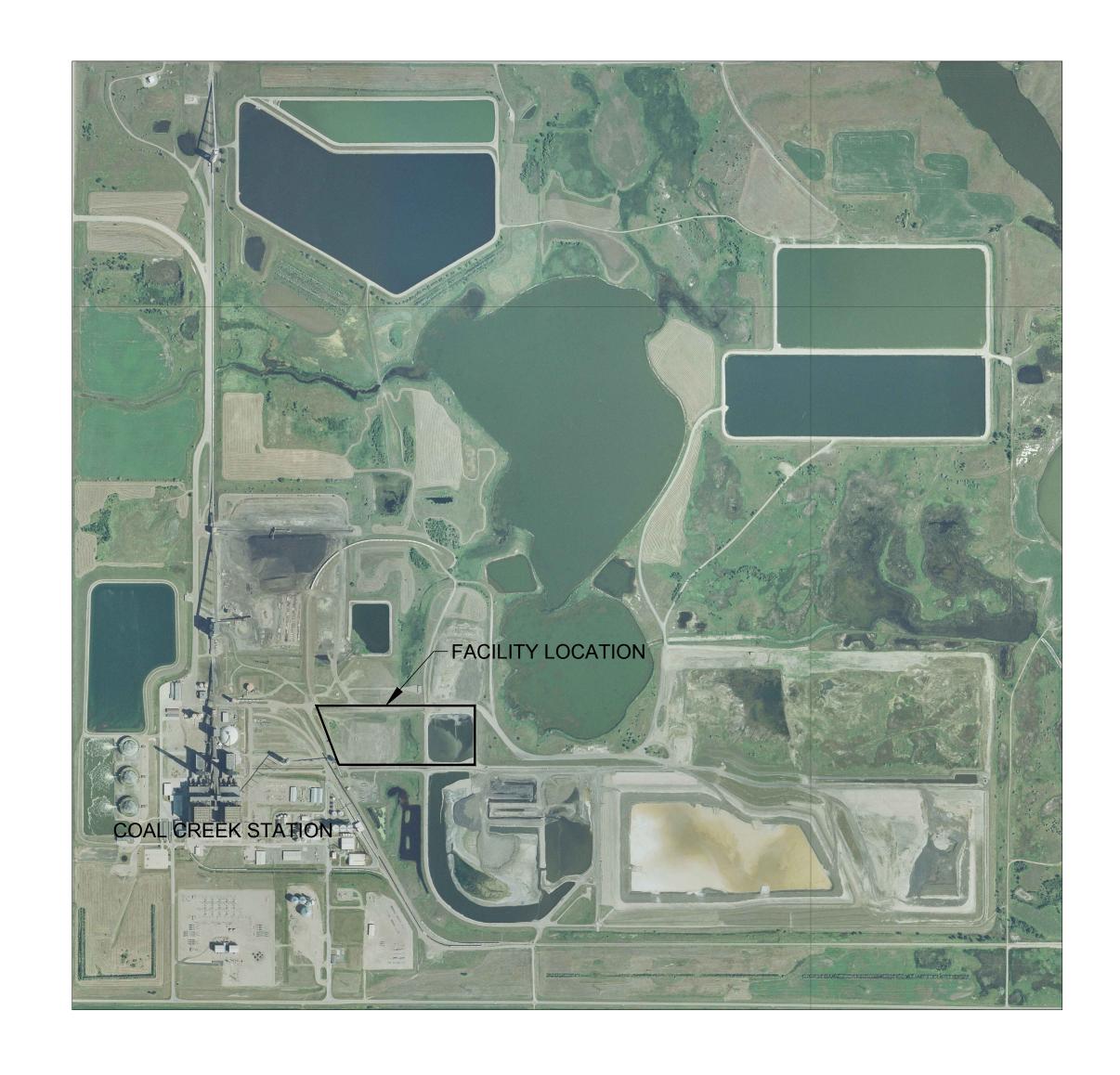






APPENDIX A-2 DRAINS POND SYSTEM LATERAL EXPANSION PERMIT DRAWINGS (2015A)

# GREAT RIVER ENERGY PERMIT NO. 033 MODIFICATION DRAINS POND EXPANSION



### Prepared for:



Coal Creek Station Underwood, North Dakota

Prepared by:



Golder Associates Inc. 44 Union Boulevard, Suite 300 Lakewood, Colorado USA 80228

DRAWING LIST				
DRAWING NO.	TITLE	REVISION		
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3	PROPOSED TOP OF LINER	В		
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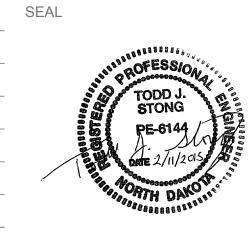
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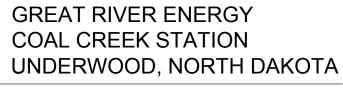
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Rev. YYYY-MM-DD DESCRIPTION

PREPARED DESIGN REVIEW APPROVED





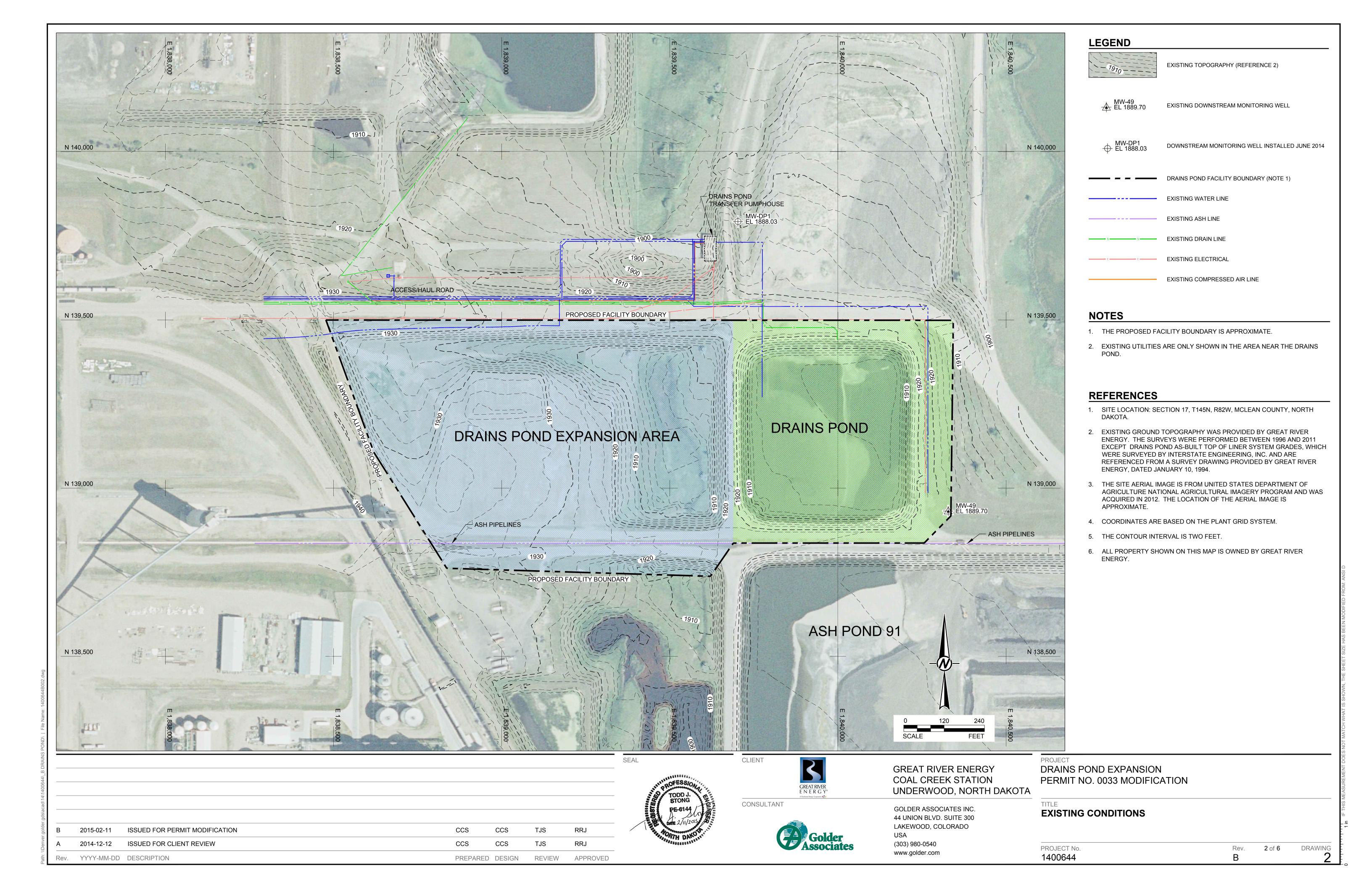


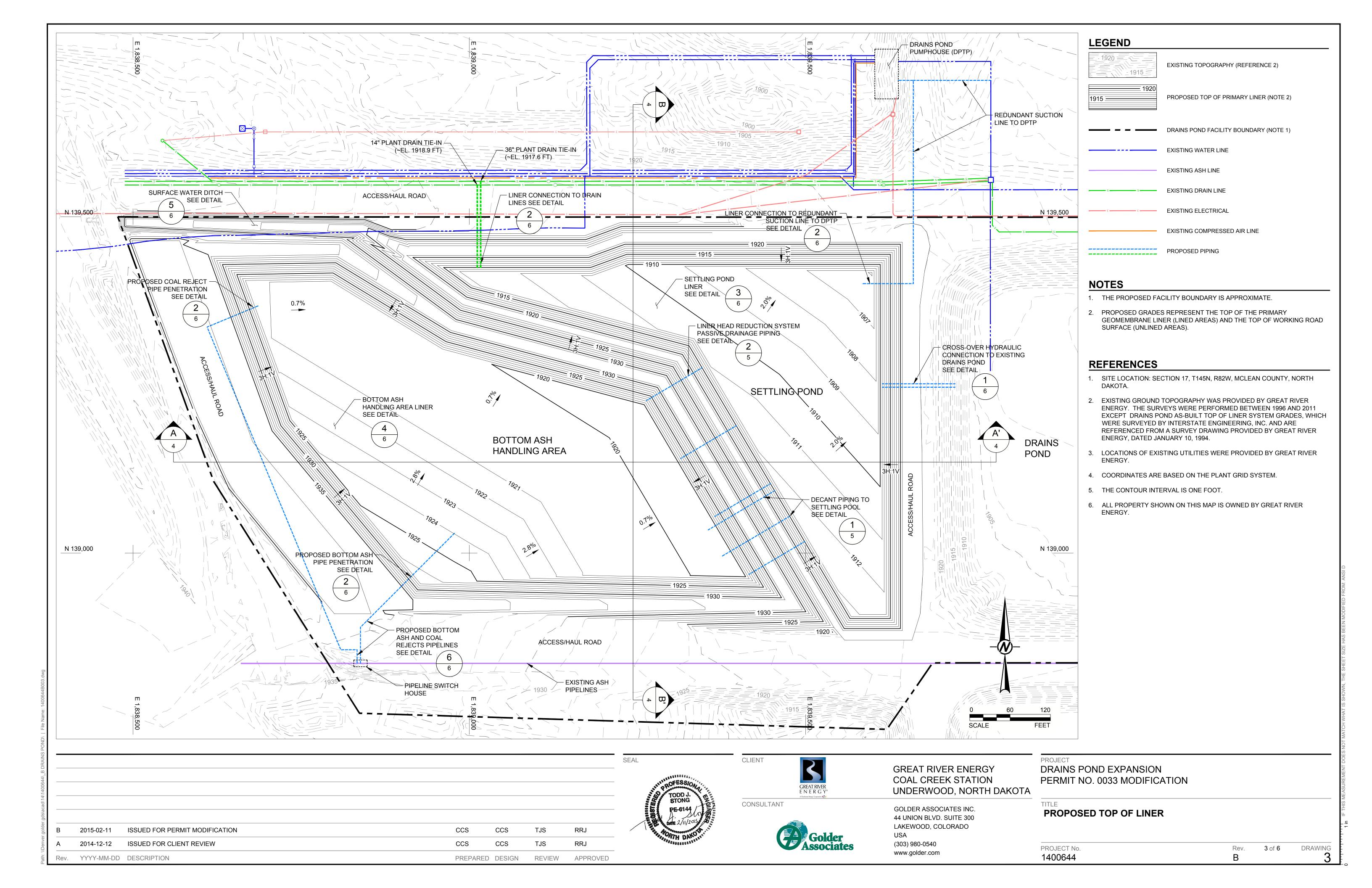
GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC. 44 UNION BLVD. SUITE 300 LAKEWOOD, COLORADO USA (303) 980-0540 www.golder.com

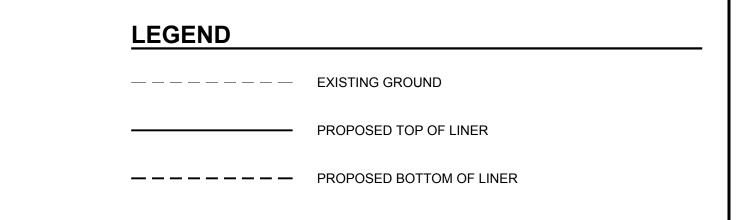
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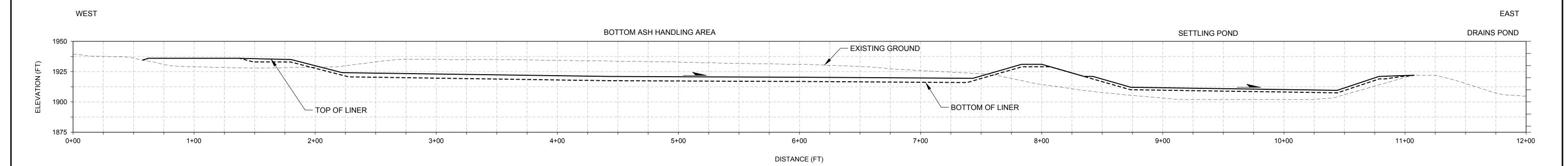
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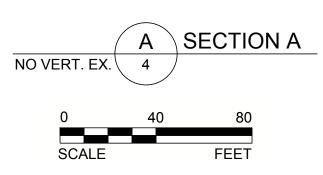
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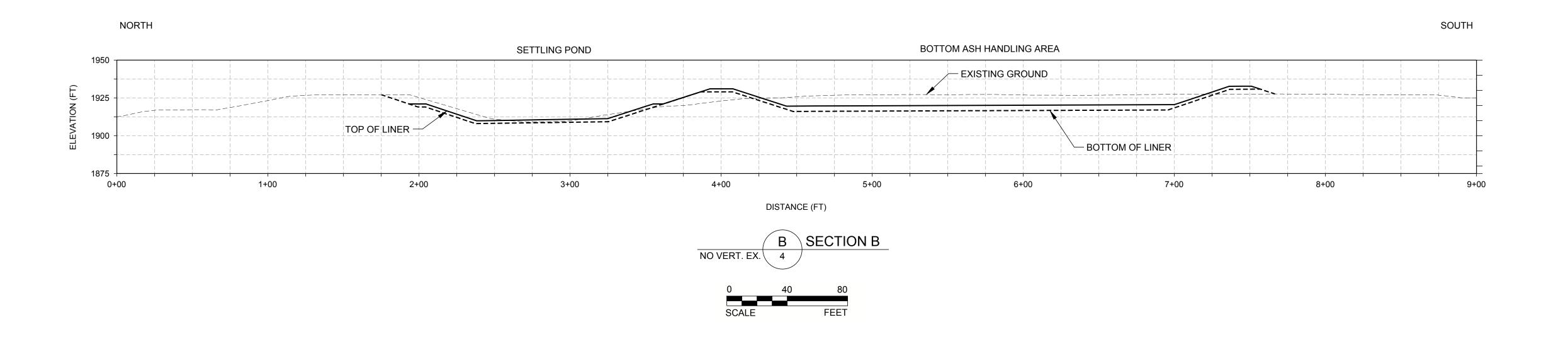












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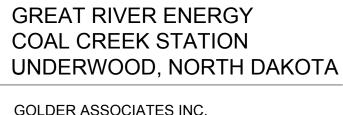


SEAL



CONSULTANT



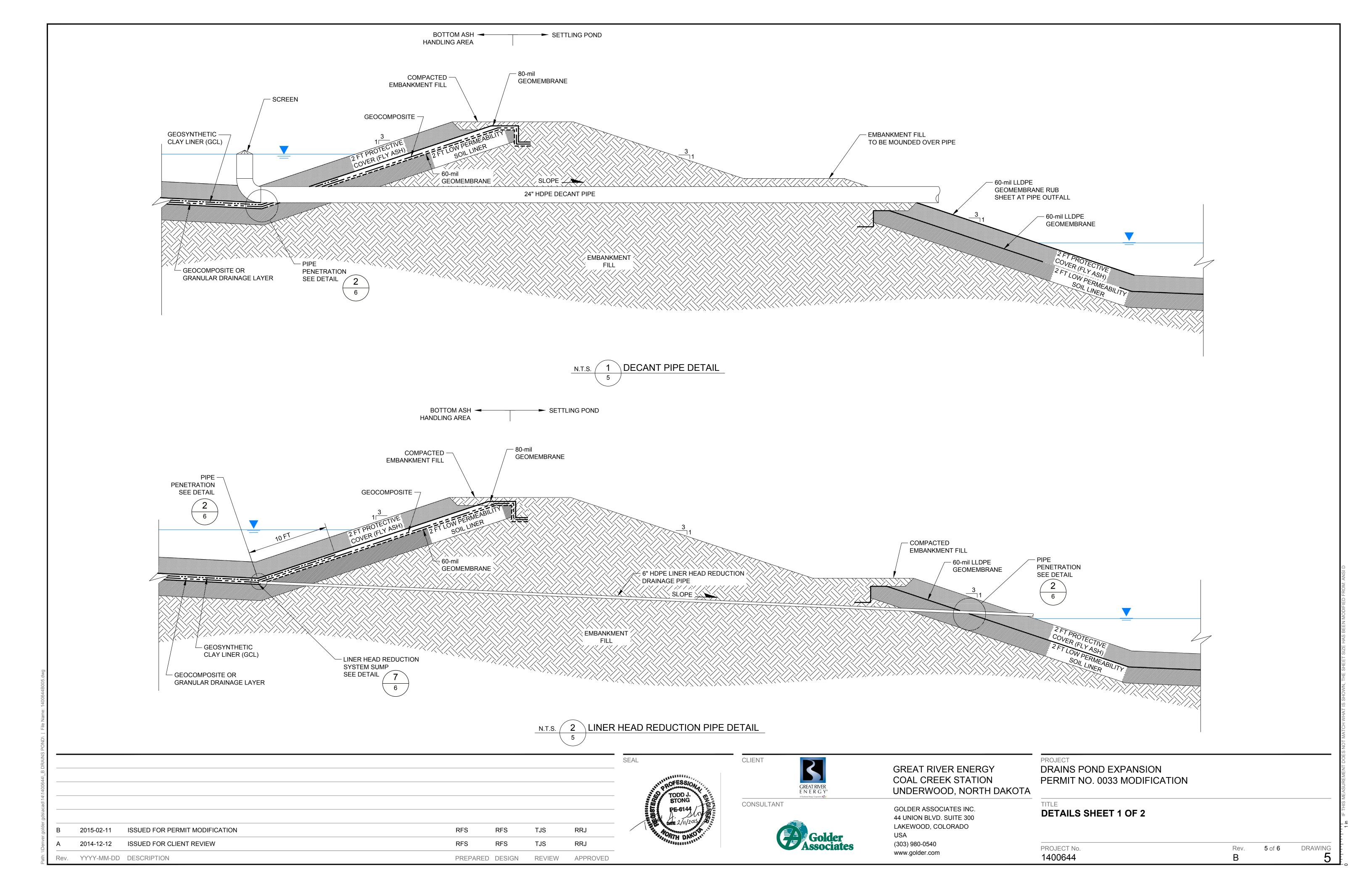


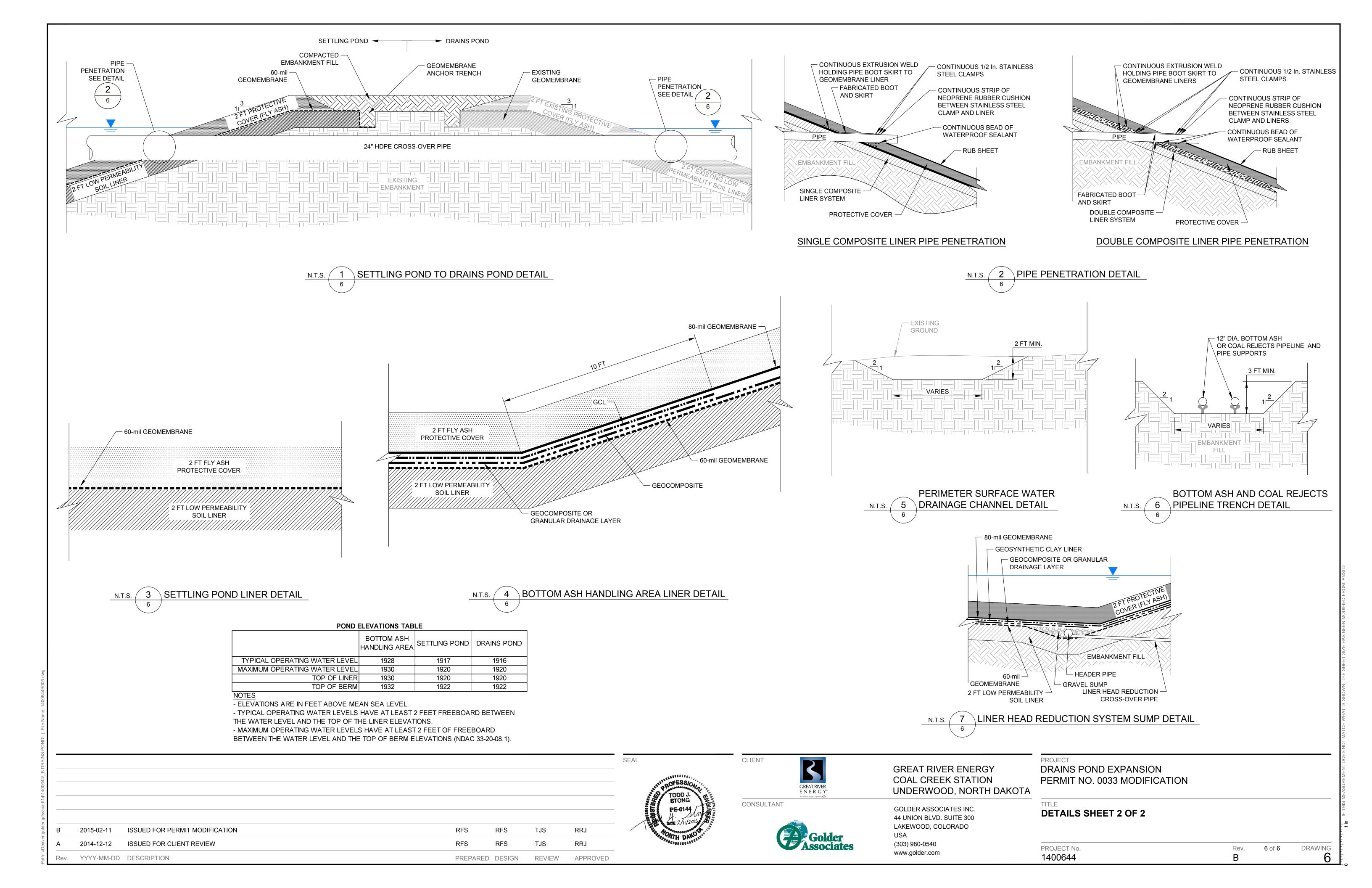
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PROJECT	
DRAINS POND EXPANSION	
PERMIT NO. 0033 MODIFICATION	)[

TITLE **CROSS SECTIONS** 

PROJECT No.	Rev.	4 of 6	DRAWING
1400644	В		<u>4</u>





At Golder Associates we strive to be the most respected global group of companies specializing in ground engineering and environmental services. Employee owned since our formation in 1960, we have created a unique culture with pride in ownership, resulting in long-term organizational stability. Golder professionals take the time to build an understanding of client needs and of the specific environments in which they operate. We continue to expand our technical capabilities and have experienced steady growth with employees now operating from offices located throughout Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America and South America.

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