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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J.F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-2211

Superfund Records Center

SITE: New Bedford

BREAK: 0801

OTHER: 46266

called 5/6/95

April 25, 1996

Thomas K. Neyhart, Manager
Systems Engineering
ComElectric
2421 Cranberry Highway
Wareham, MA 02751

**Produced For The
12/96 AVX FOIA Request
New Bedford Harbor
Superfund Site**

Re: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site



SDMS DocID **46266**

Dear Mr. Neyhart,

This letter is a follow up to our meeting of last June regarding ComElectric's underwater power cables in the Acushnet River. As you may recall, EPA's proposed "phase two" Superfund remedy calls for dredging the highly polluted sediments from the River (including the area where the cables are located), and isolating them in perpetuity in shoreline CDFs (confined disposal facilities). For your information, the currently proposed locations for the three upper harbor CDFs are shown on the attached Figure 1. The location of the cable crossing area is between the northern and southern portions of CDF 1B. The location of the fourth and final CDF in the lower harbor is shown on Figure 2. Figure 3 depicts two cross-sectional views of the river and CDF 1B at the locations shown in Figure 1.

At the June 1995 meeting a number of hypothetical cable crossing solutions were discussed. The idea for installing new, ducted cables in an adjacent "clean" corridor with new tie-ins on each shore received the most discussion. However, this concept also appears to be the most expensive (roughly estimated at \$12-\$16 million). Upon further consideration, EPA would like to propose a different concept for ComElectric's review and comment.

This new concept would involve non-intrusive dredging (e.g., no moving parts in the water and no dredge "spud" anchors) over the entire cable crossing area. This would allow ComElectric to move forward with permanent installation of any new cables using the existing tie-in locations, and to access existing cables for any required maintenance. If this concept were to advance to implementation, ComElectric would obviously have an important review and comment role to ensure a safe operation. We also plan to research whether other dredging projects nationally have dealt with similar cable crossing issues, and would appreciate any information you have in this regard.



Another question we would like ComElectric's input on is whether the northern and southern portions of CDF 1B (again, see Figure 1) could somehow be joined together. This would be of great value to the Superfund remedy, but would require some kind of structure or ducting to bridge and provide access to the underlying cables. EPA realizes that there are many technical and administrative issues associated with these cable crossing issues, but believes that if we can work together in a creative, brainstorming way that we can develop a plan that all can live with.

The EPA is willing to meet again on these issues, especially once ComElectric has reviewed the enclosed material. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 573-5735 with any questions, or to set up such a meeting.

Sincerely,

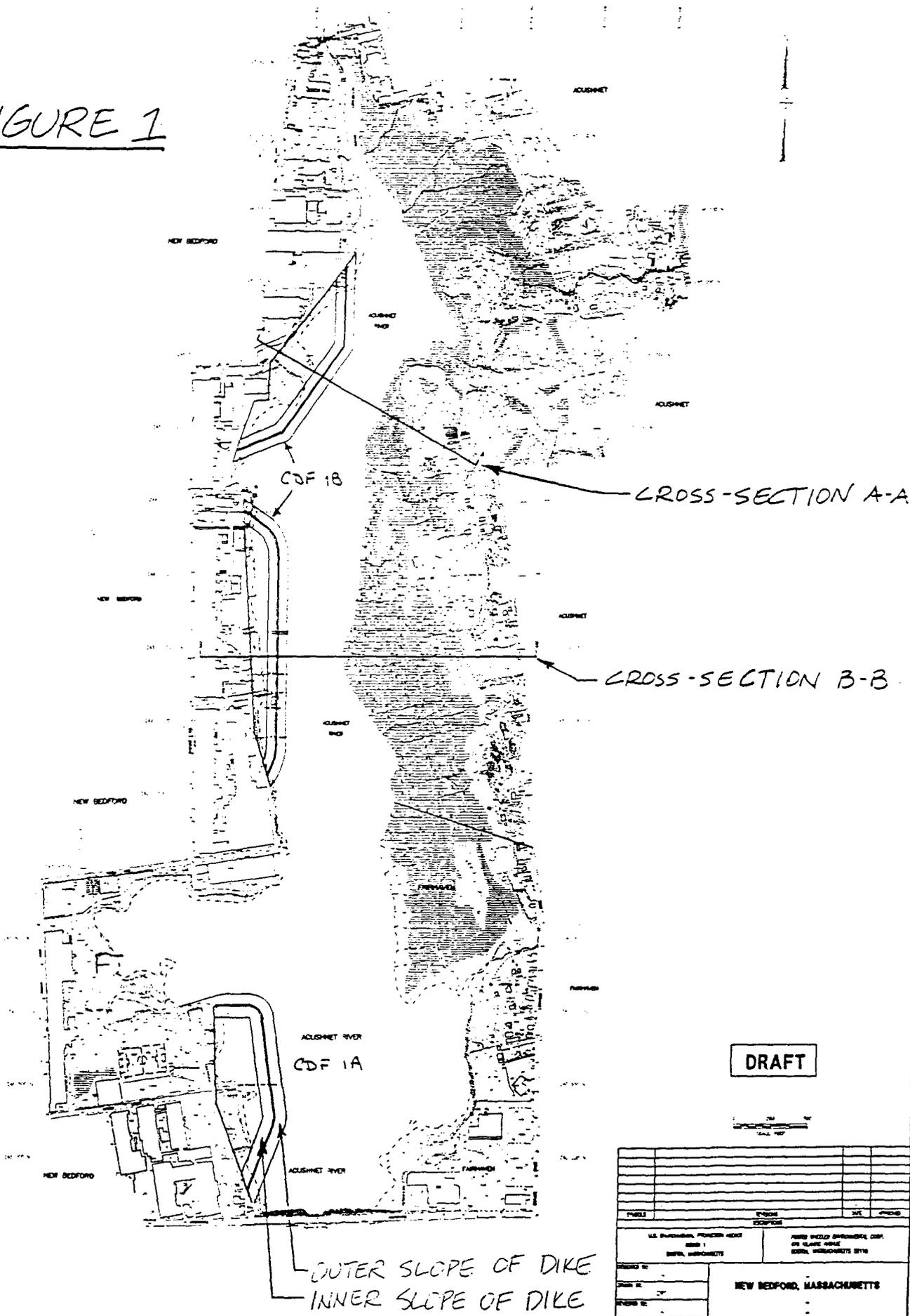
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Dickerson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Dickerson
Project Manager

Enc.

cc: C. Catri
P. Craffey
A. Fowler
M. Otis

FIGURE 1



DRAFT

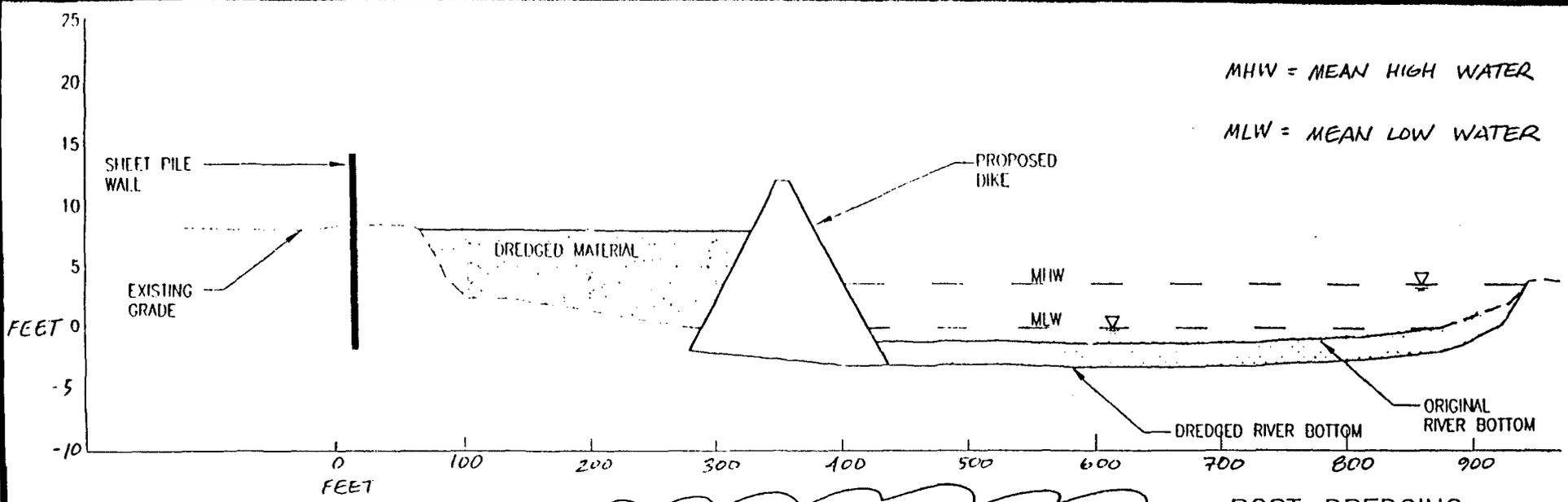
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FIGURE 2



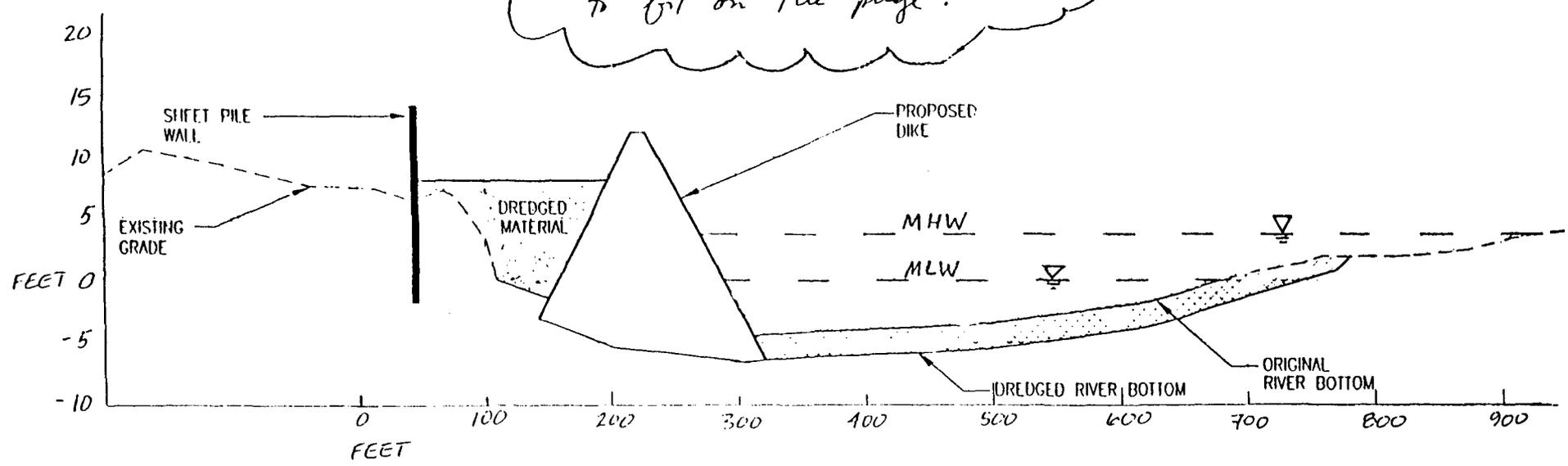
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NOTE - vertical scale exaggerated by a factor of ten in order to fit on the page!

POST-DREDGING SECTION A-A



POST-DREDGING SECTION B-B

DRAFT
3/26/96 NBH Superfund Site Community Forum
Cross-sectional Diagrams for CDF-1B