

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

Public Notice

In Reply to Application Number
NAB-OPR-M (DP&L Hebron Substation to N. Salisbury
Substation - Rebuild) 2017-61747

PN 18-59

Comment Period: October 30, 2018 to November 30, 2018

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. AT THIS TIME, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED.

The Baltimore District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)**, as described below:

APPLICANT: Delmarva Power & Light Company (DP&L)
A subsidiary of Exelon Corporation
C/o Ms. Kim Teoli
P.O. Box 9239
Newark, Delaware 19714-9239

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: In nontidal wetlands draining to the Nanticoke River from Hebron to Manokin, Wicomico County, Maryland.

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE: To rebuild approximately 6.25 miles of existing overhead electrical transmission line, within the existing maintained right-of-way (ROW), beginning at the Hebron Substation located at the intersection of West Church Road and Old Railroad Road, in Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland and ending at the North Salisbury Substation located off Richardson Road and East Road, in Manokin, Wicomico County, Maryland (Circuit No. 6708) as follows: to emplace temporary construction matting for construction utility line access to upgrade and replace 126 existing wooden pole structures with steel monopoles. The project would result in total permanent impacts to approximately 96.21 square feet (0.0022 acres) of nontidal wetlands for emplacing 10 steel monopoles and temporary impacts to approximately 106,496.29 square feet (2.44 acres) of nontidal wetlands for emplacing temporary interlocking composite matting at each line structure. All pole structures removed would be hauled off-site to an upland (non-wetland) disposal site.

The purpose of the project is to rebuild the existing electrical utility line infrastructure for line integrity and to prevent power outages for improved regional reliability. The work would be achieved by removing and replacing older existing wooden pole structures with new steel monopole structures.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION STATEMENT: As part of the planning process for the proposed project, steps were taken to ensure avoidance and minimization of impacts to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable. The majority of the project impacts are temporary in duration and are a result of emplacing temporary interlocking composite matting for construction vehicle access within the existing maintained utility line ROW easement. The permanent impacts are due to placing new steel monopole structures in close proximity to the

original pole structure positions within nontidal wetlands to keep the centerline of the transmission line from deviating from the existing ROW. Due to the linear nature of the project and the route being limited to the existing ROW, there are few options available for complete avoidance. Of the 126 proposed replacement pole structures, only 10 poles are proposed in nontidal wetlands. Existing access roads currently used during regular ROW maintenance activities would be utilized to the greatest extent possible. Temporary construction access within wetlands was designed to be the minimum width required for construction vehicle access. All agricultural ditch crossings would be bank-to-bank span with no permanent impacts to channel or flow. All of the poles located within nontidal wetlands would be 3.5-foot in diameter and are designed to be self-supporting to withstand forces necessary to pull wire when new wire is installed through the rebuild circuit.

MITIGATION STATEMENT: The applicant has proposed to remediate all temporary construction access impacts following completion of the work. Compensatory mitigation is not being proposed by the applicant for the permanent loss of approximately 96.21 square feet (0.0022 acres) of nontidal wetlands at this time. The permanent impacts are under 1/10th of an acre of loss.

All work is proposed to be completed in accordance with the attached plan(s) and work description. If you have any questions concerning this matter, or would like to submit written comments, please contact: Mr. Jason R. Peters, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Easton Field Office, Talbottown Shopping Center
218 N. Washington Street, Suite 51, (410) 820-8550, Jason.R.Peters@usace.army.mil.

The decision whether to authorize this project will be based on an evaluation of probable impacts 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 which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

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. 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 provided will become part of the public record for this action. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Regulatory Branch, Easton Field Office, Talbottown Shopping Center 218 N. Washington Street, Suite 51, Easton,

Maryland, 21601, within the comment period specified above.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 04-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). This project does not lie in or adjacent to EFH as described under the MSFCMA

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Any written comments concerning the work described above which relate to water quality certification must be received by the Wetlands and Waterways Program, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. The 401 certifying agency has a statutory limit of one year to make its decision.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: The applicant has certified in this application that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the State's federally-approved Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). By this public notice, we are requesting the State's concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency certification statement. Public comments relating to consistency must be received by the Coastal Zone Division, MDE, Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland, 21230-1708, within the comment period as specified above. It should be noted that Maryland's CZMP has a statutory limit of six (6) months from the date of this public notice in which to make its consistency determination.

The applicant must obtain any State or local government permits, which may be required.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: A preliminary review of this application using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC online screening tool indicates that the proposed work will not affect any Federal listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended. The project location and vicinity is not mapped as critical habitat for any known Federally-listed threatened or endangered species under USFWS' jurisdiction. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located at the site of the proposed work. Currently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit. As the evaluation of this proposal continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

The evaluation of the impact of this project on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request, which must be in writing, must be received by the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers, Baltimore District, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Regulatory Branch, Easton Field Office, Talbottown Shopping Center, 218 N. Washington Street, Suite 51, Easton, Maryland, 21601, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. Also it must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected by this activity and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected.

It is requested that you communicate this information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and not being known to this office, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

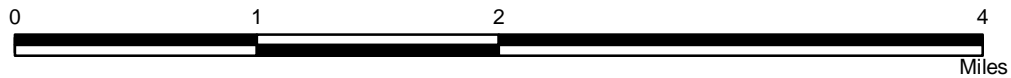
KATHY B. ANDERSON
Chief, Maryland Section Southern



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 Project Corridor

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N



Delmarva Power & Light

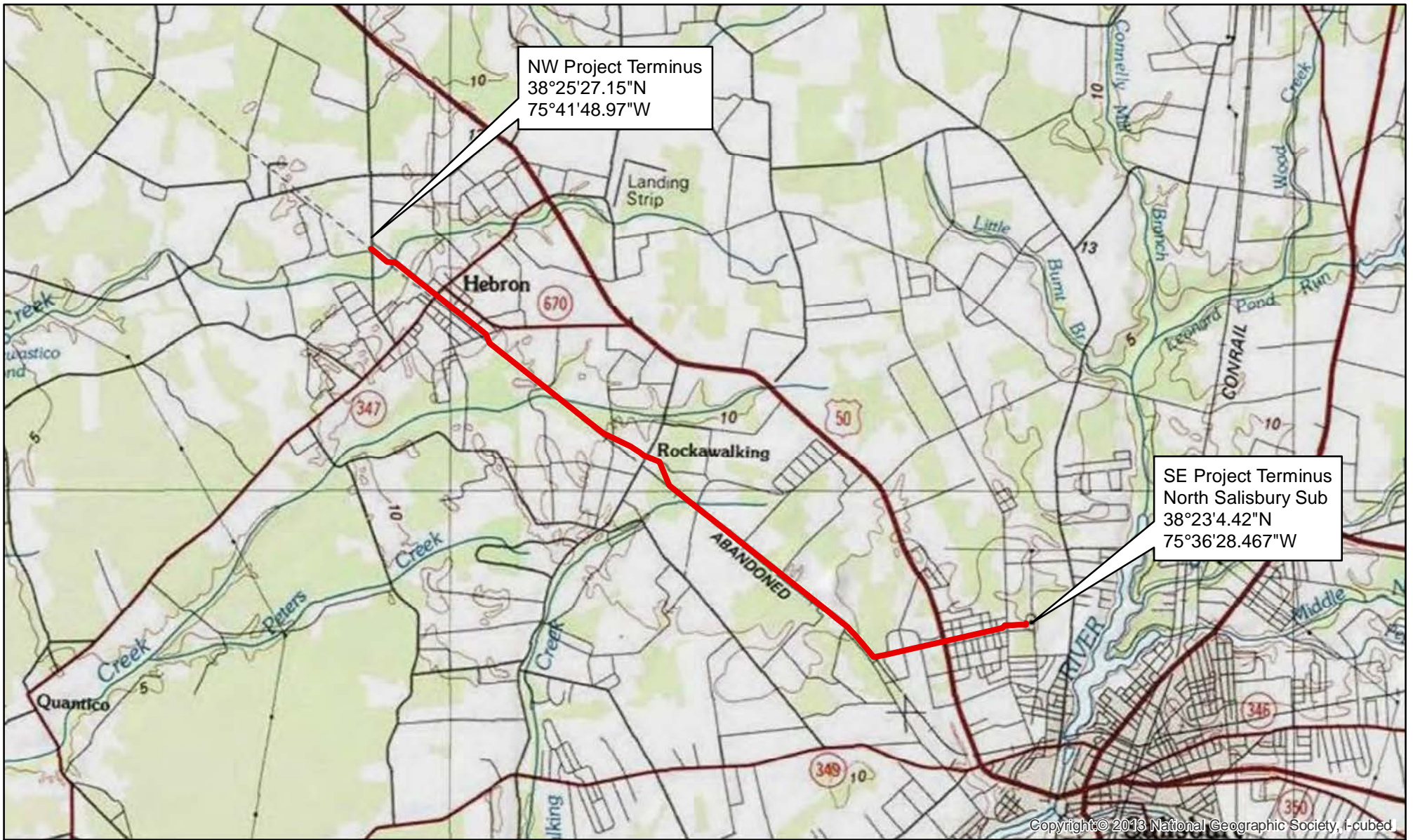
Hebron to North Salisbury
Aerial Map



111A North Gold Drive
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
P: 609.259.8200

Date: 8/23/17

Figure 1



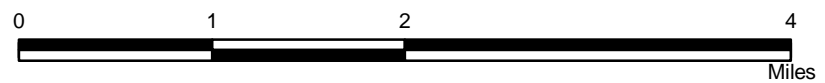
NW Project Terminus
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 75°41'48.97"W

SE Project Terminus
 North Salisbury Sub
 38°23'4.42"N
 75°36'28.467"W

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 Project Corridor

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N



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Hebron to North Salisbury
 USGS Topographic Map

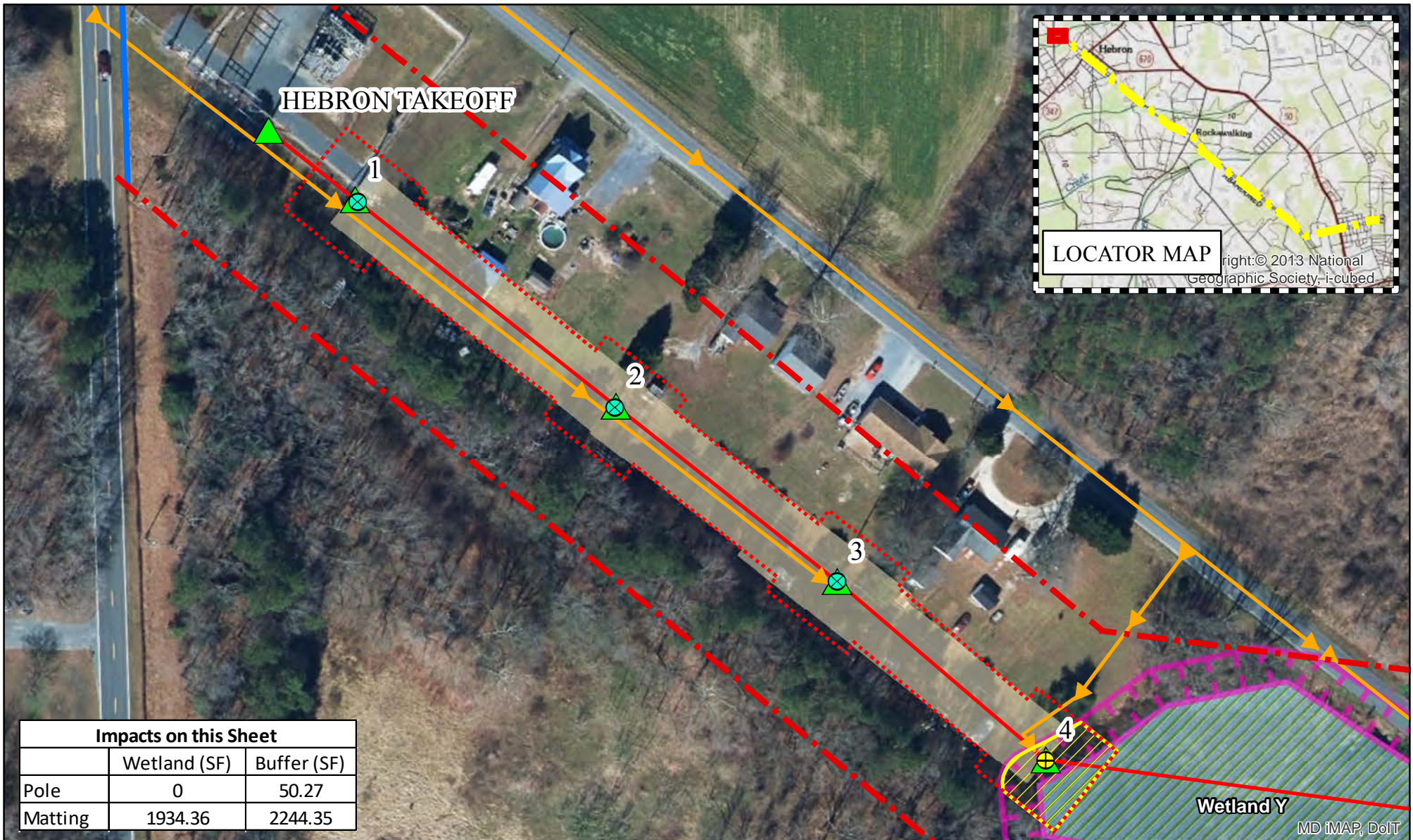


111A North Gold Drive
 Robbinsville, NJ 08691
 P: 603.856.8644

Date: 8/23/17

Figure 2

HEBRON TAKEOFF



Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	0	50.27
Matting	1934.36	2244.35

1972 Tidal Wetlands Boundary Downloaded From MERLIN and Digitized by Sovereign Consulting Inc.

Borings Not Drawn to Scale

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N



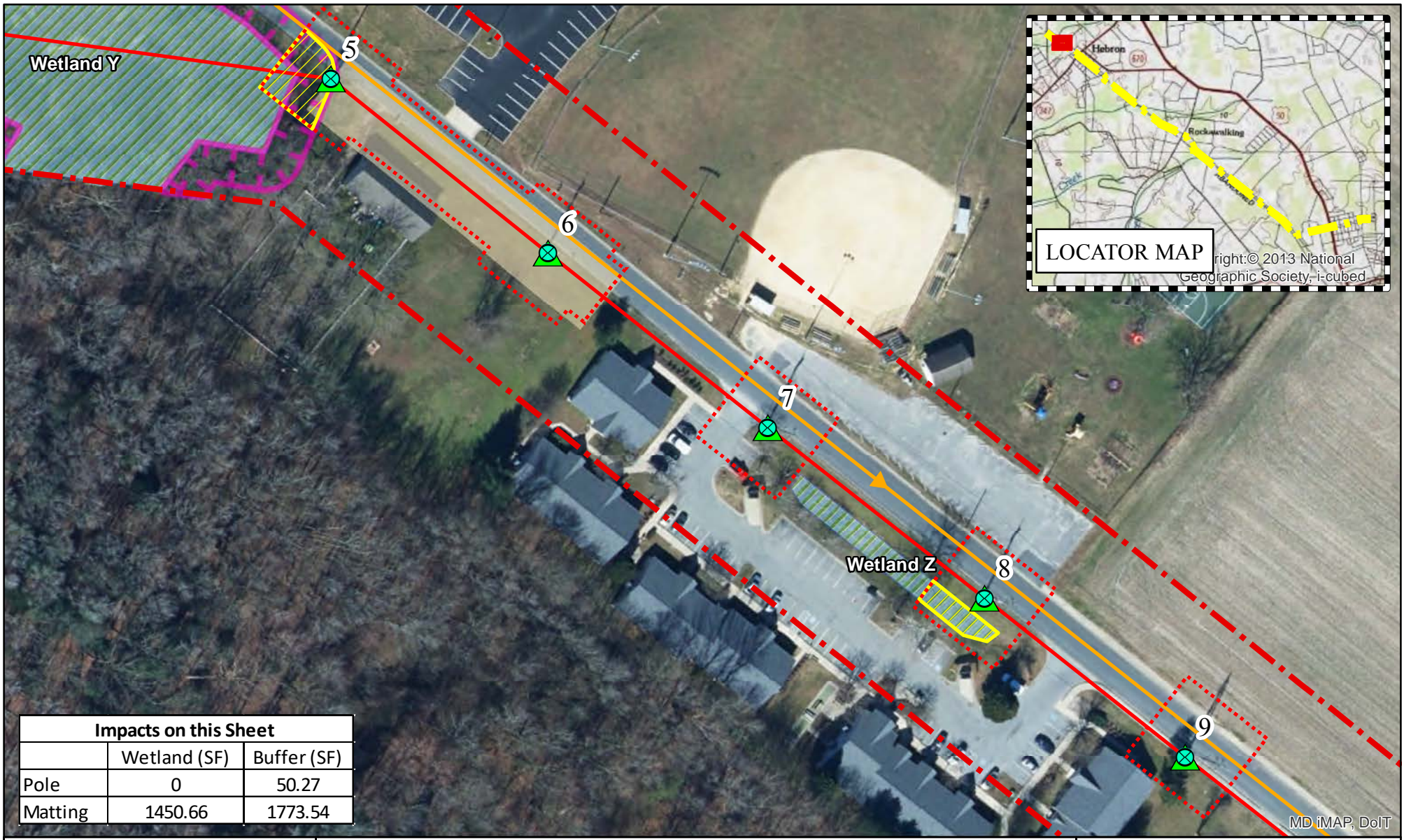
- ⊗ Non-regulated Pole Replacement
- Temporary Bridge
- ⊙ Wetland Pole Replacement
- ▨ Delineated Wetlands
- ⊕ Wetland Buffer Pole Replacement
- ▨ 25' Non-tidal Wetland Buffer
- ➔ Access Path
- Ditch
- - - Project ROW
- ▨ Pull Pad Locations
- ▨ Temporary Construction Matting
- Structure Center Line
- ▲ Existing Pole Locations
- ⋯ Limit of Disturbance

Delmarva Power & Light

Hebron to North Salisbury Pole Replacement Permit Plans



50 West Welsh Pool Road, Suite 6
 Exton, PA 19341
 P: 610-524-8124



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Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	0	50.27
Matting	1450.66	1773.54

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Borings Not Drawn to Scale

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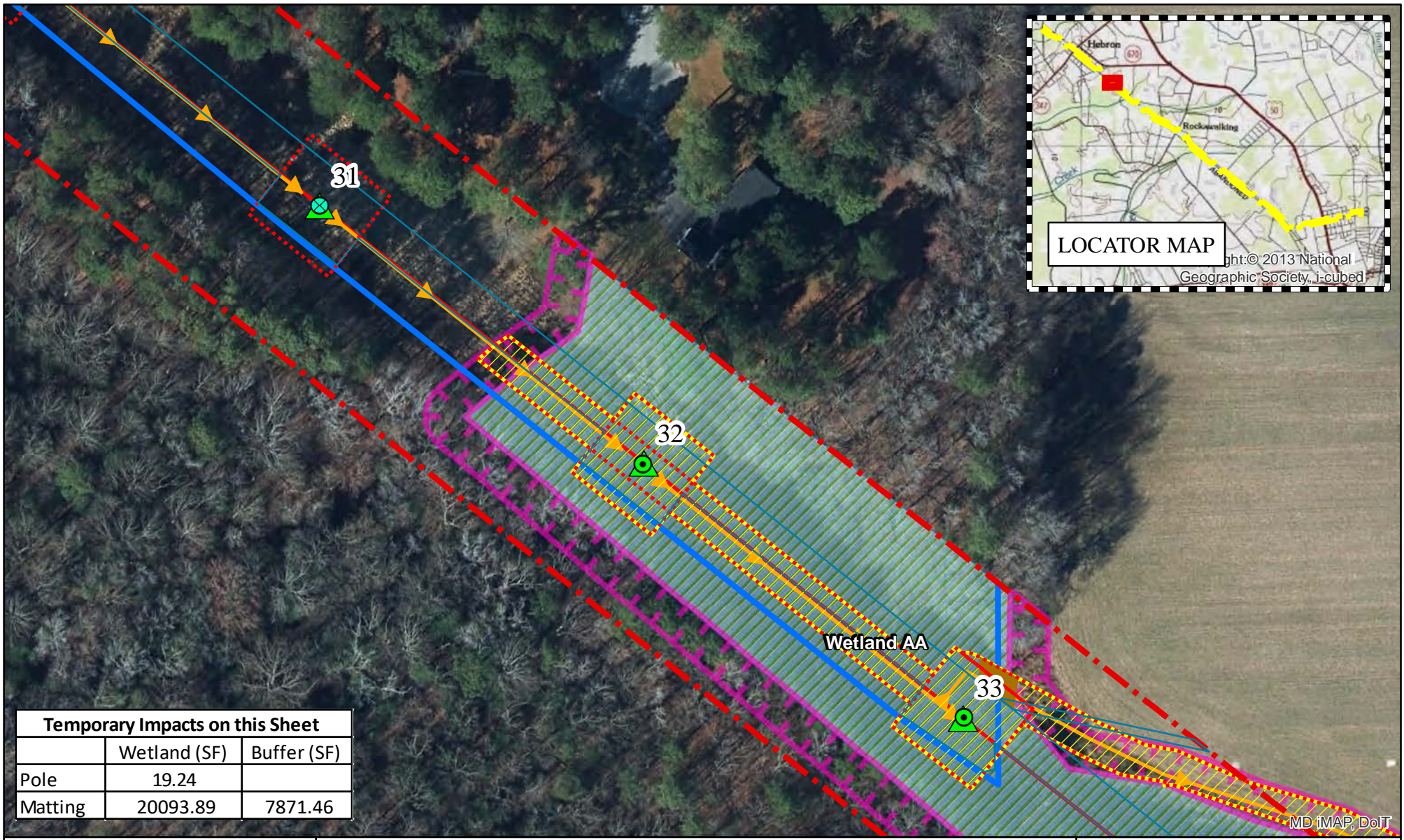


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Temporary Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	19.24	
Matting	20093.89	7871.46

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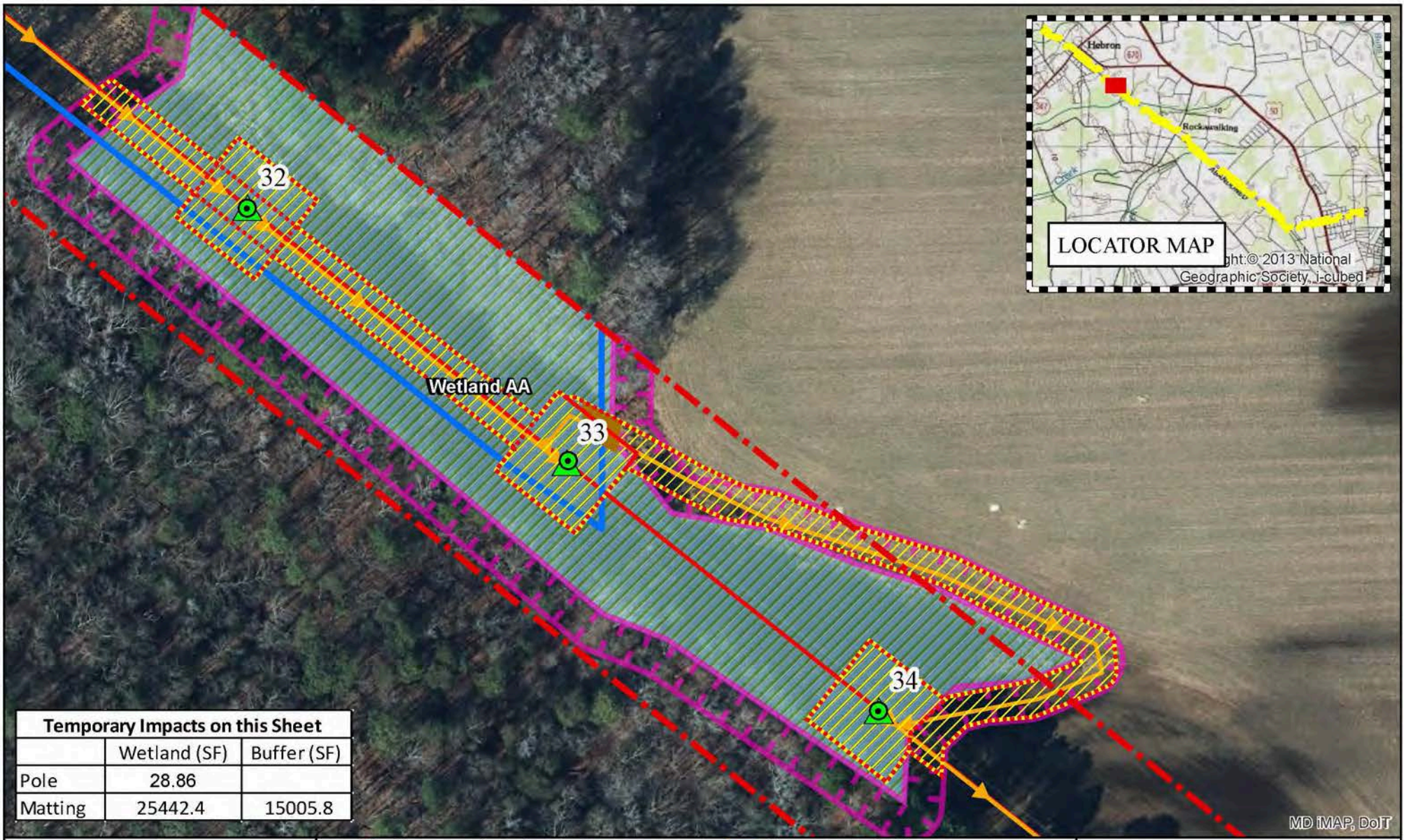
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Hebron to North Salisbury
Pole Replacement Permit Plans



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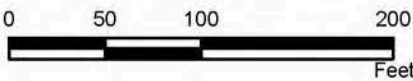


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Pole	28.86	
Matting	25442.4	15005.8

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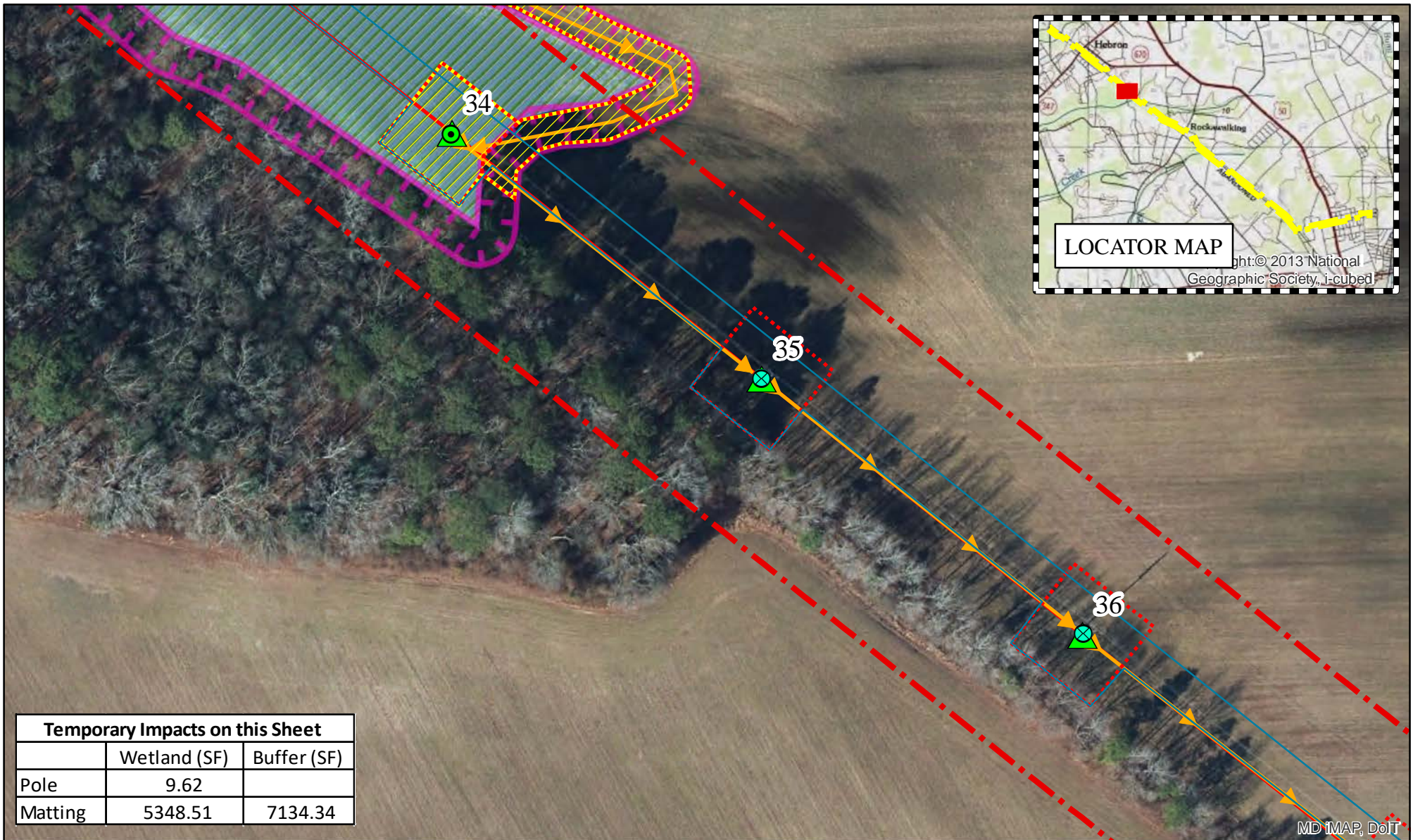


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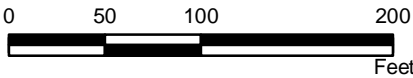


Temporary Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	9.62	
Matting	5348.51	7134.34

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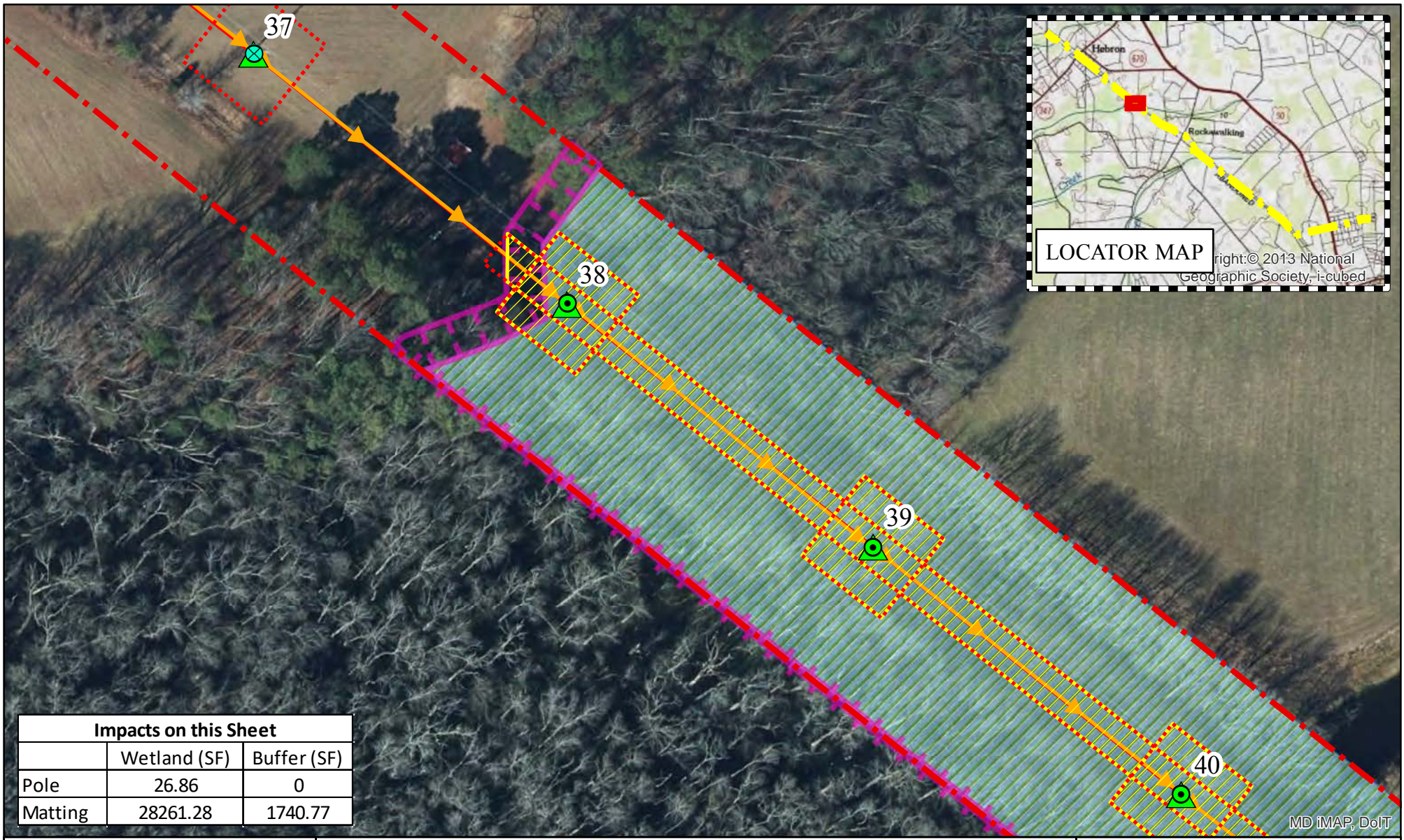


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Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	26.86	0
Matting	28261.28	1740.77

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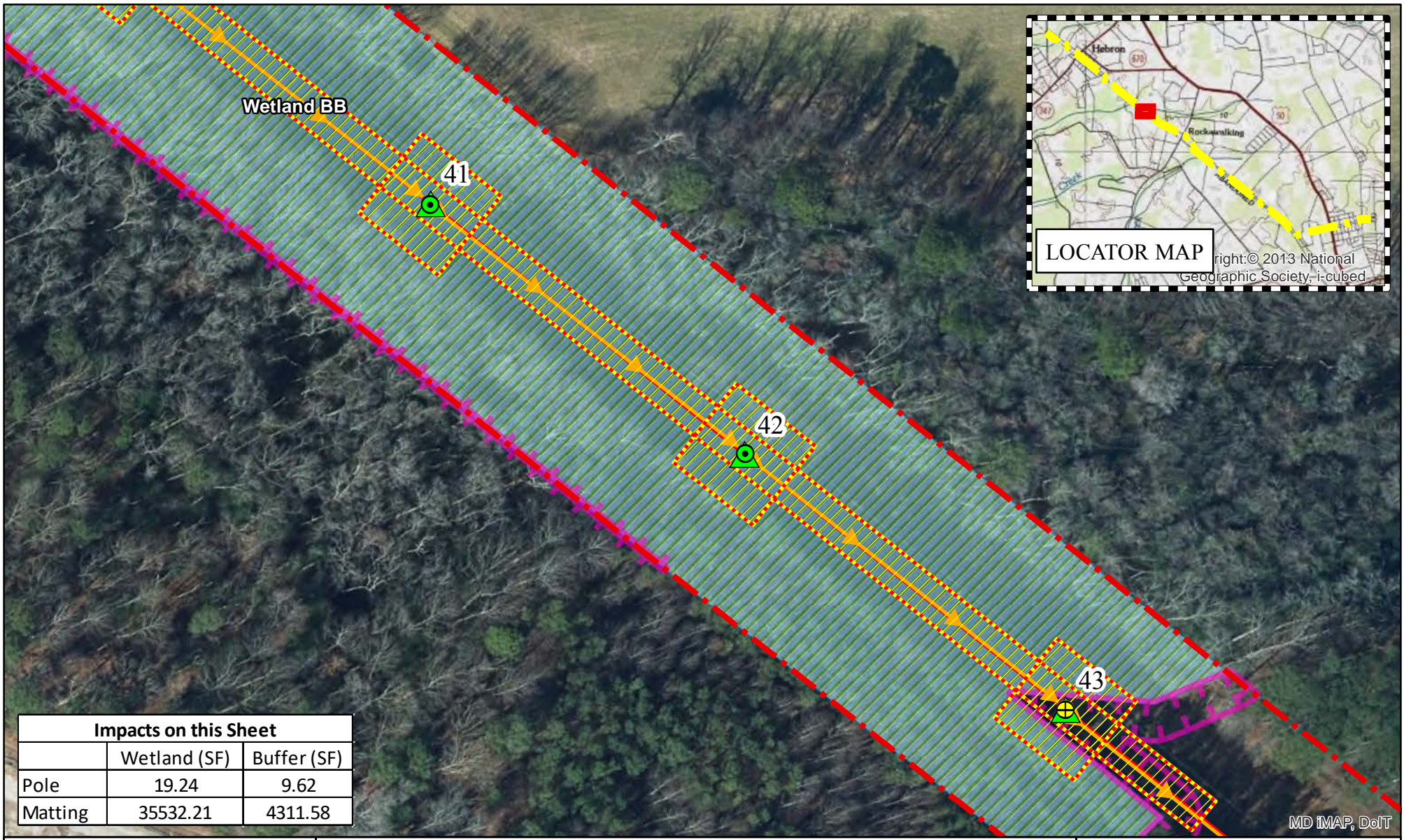


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Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	19.24	9.62
Matting	35532.21	4311.58

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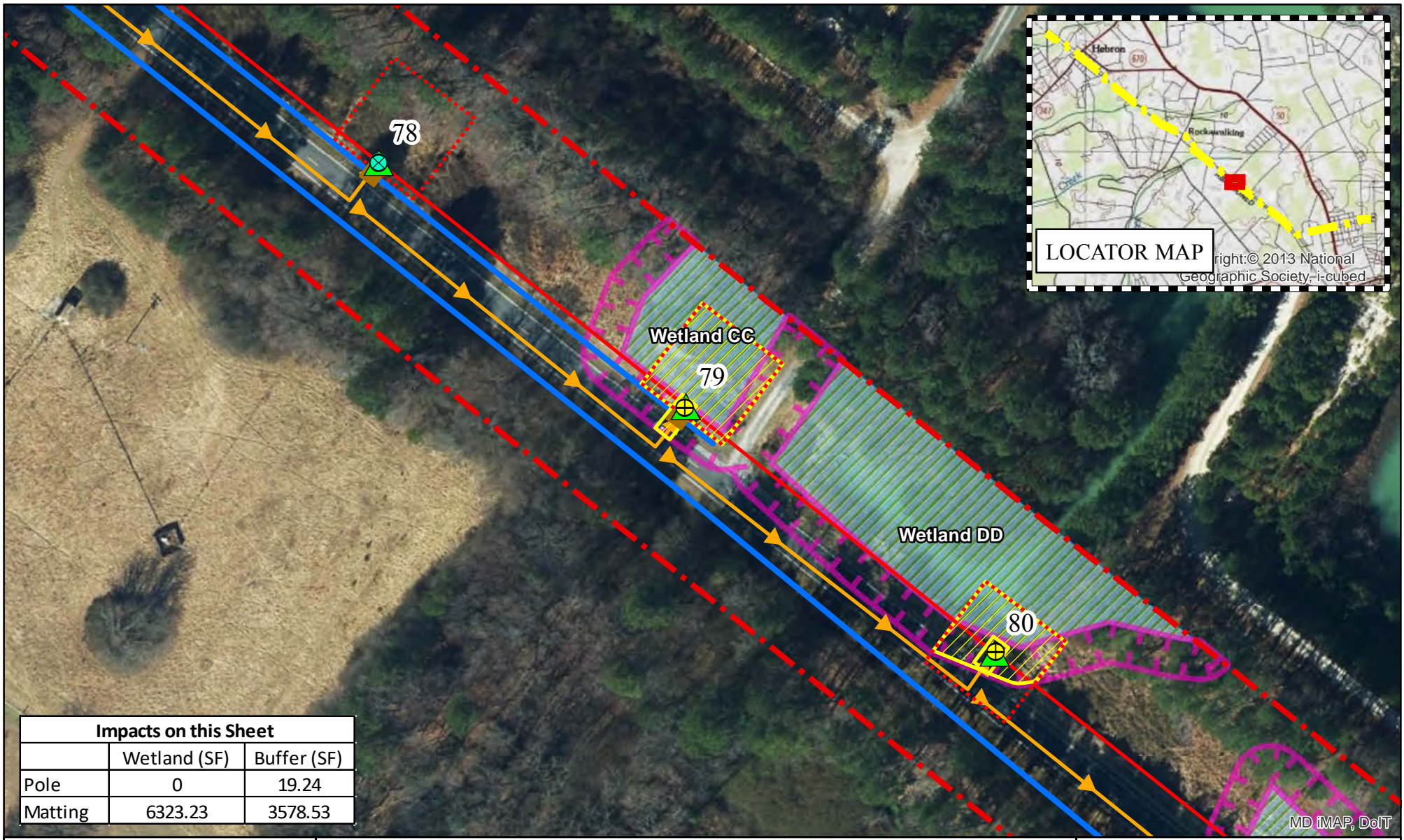


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Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	0	19.24
Matting	6323.23	3578.53

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Delmarva Power & Light

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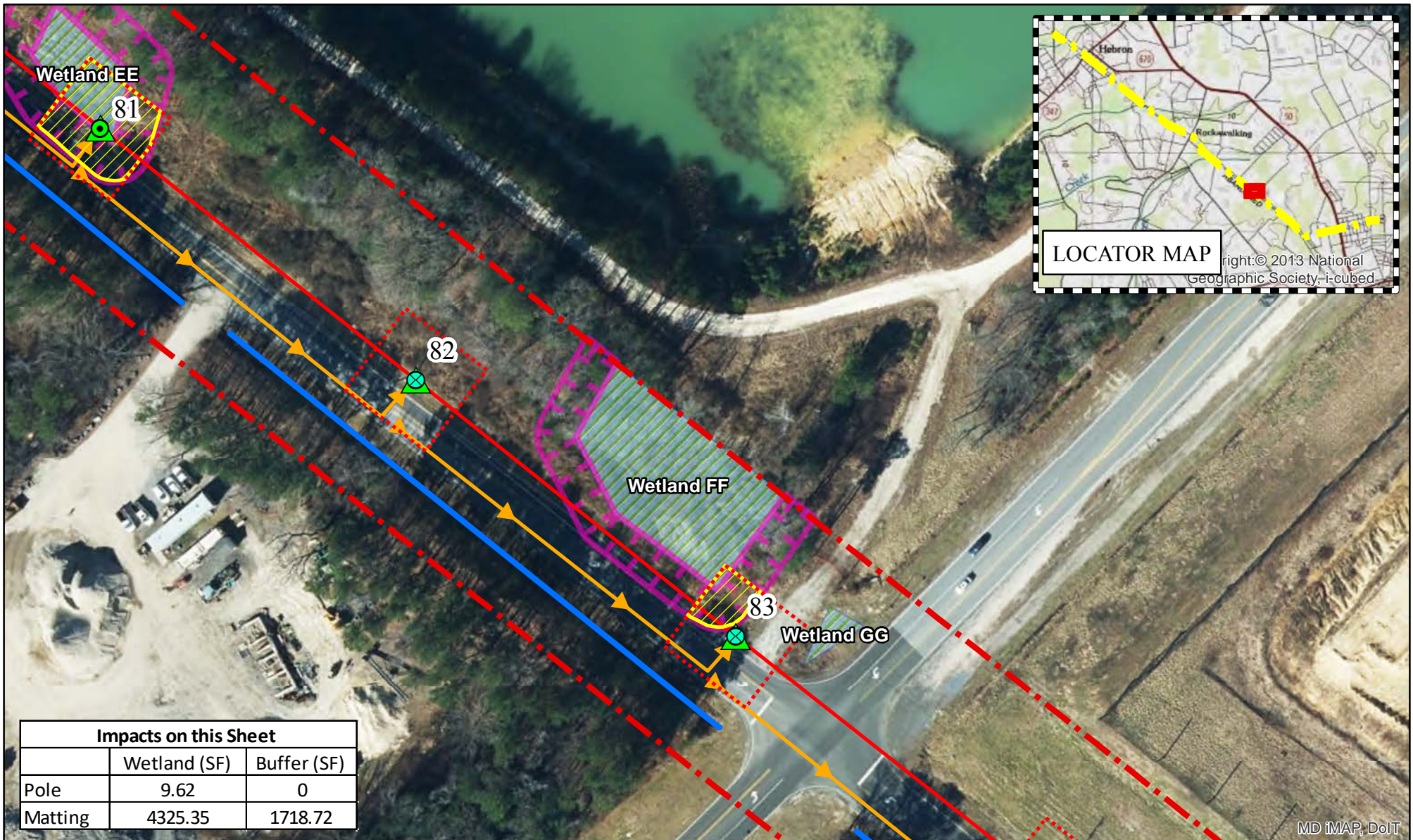


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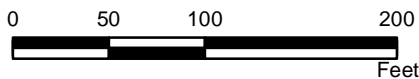
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Impacts on this Sheet		
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Pole	9.62	0
Matting	4325.35	1718.72

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Delmarva Power & Light

Hebron to North Salisbury Pole Replacement Permit Plans

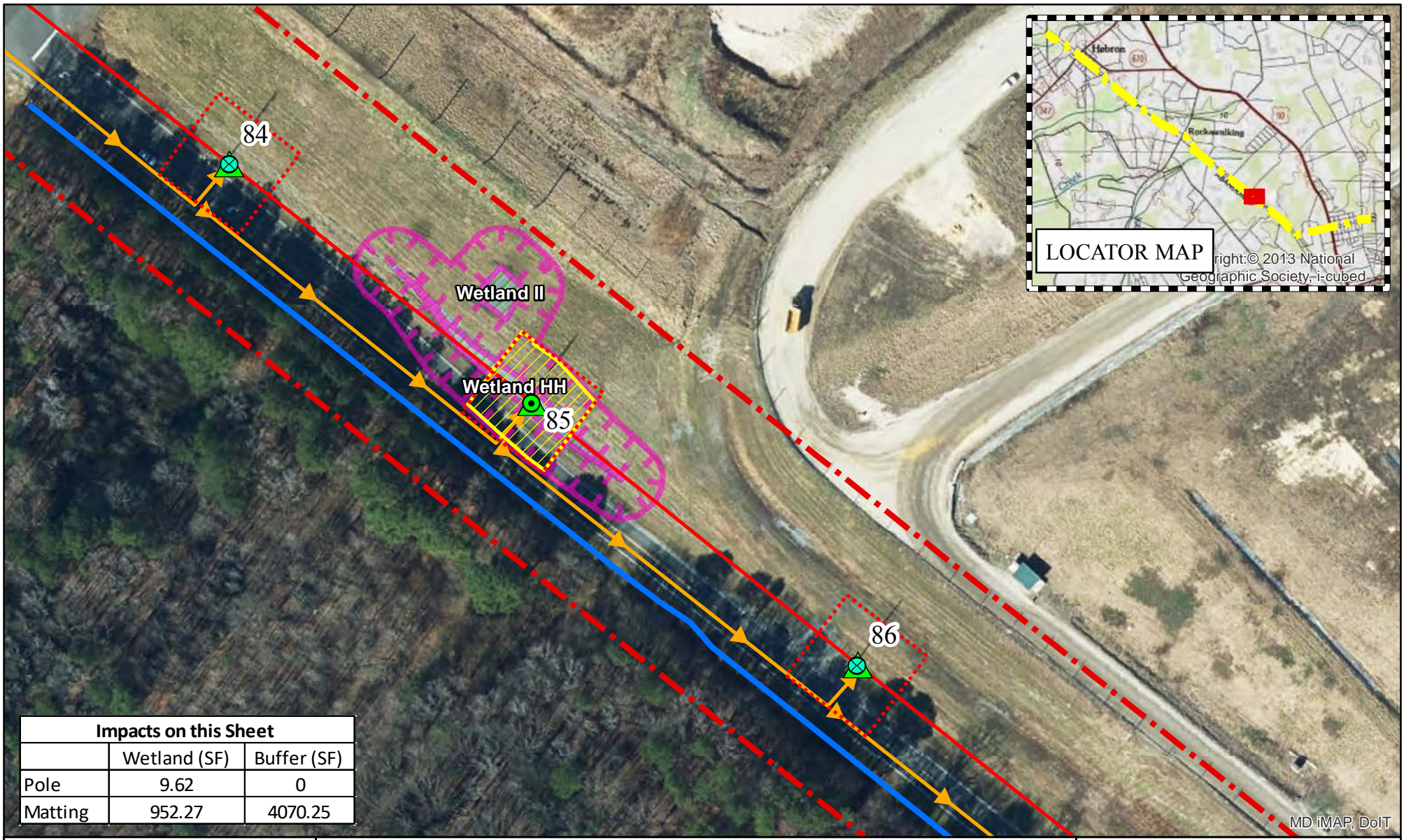


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Impacts on this Sheet		
	Wetland (SF)	Buffer (SF)
Pole	9.62	0
Matting	952.27	4070.25

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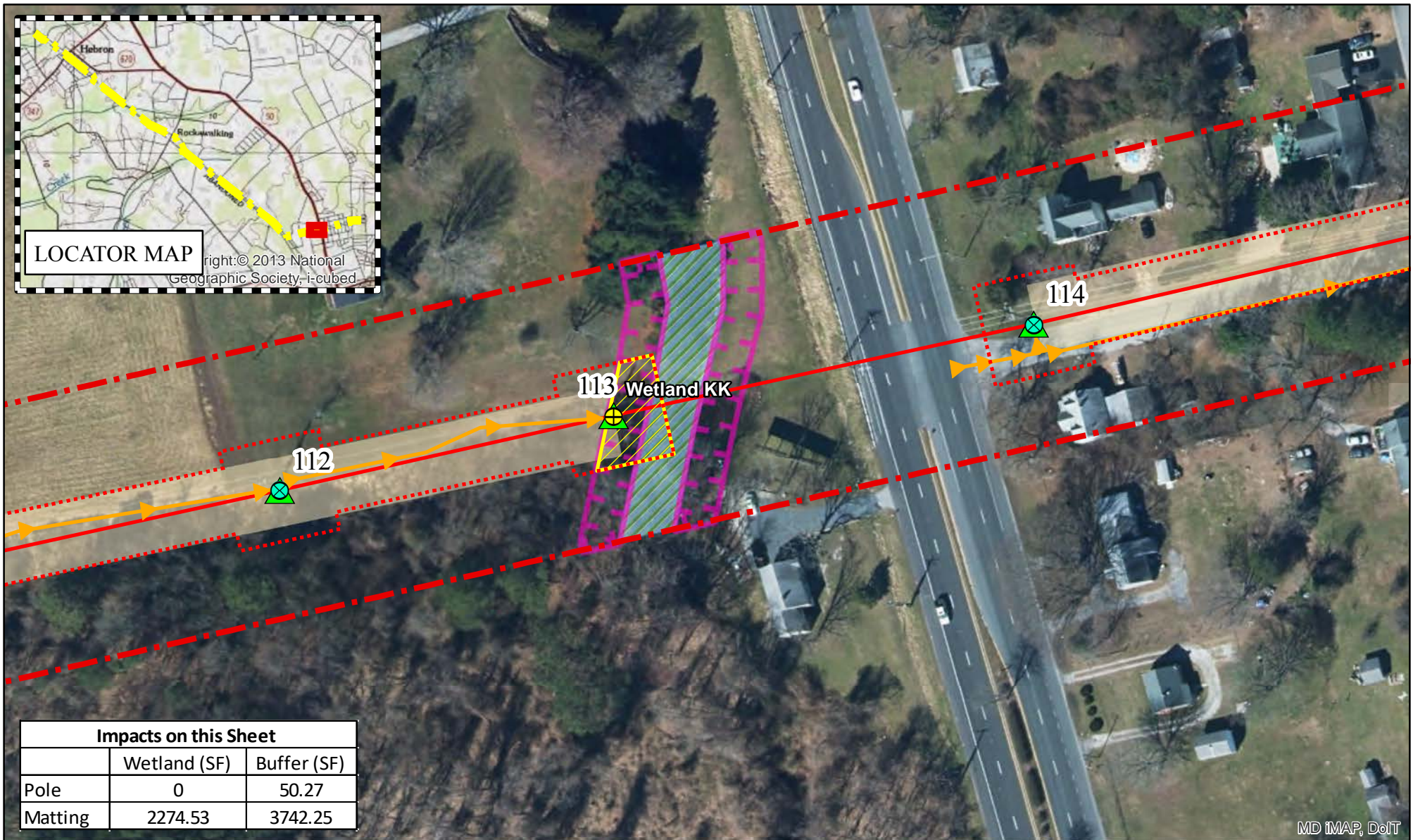


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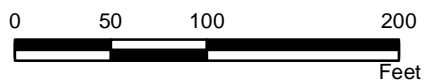


Impacts on this Sheet		
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Pole	0	50.27
Matting	2274.53	3742.25

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