US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755
Telephone (206) 764-3495
ATTN: Jonathan Smith, Project Manager

Public Notice Date: October 12, 2004
Expiration Date: November 12, 2004
Reference: 200400909
Name: TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army (DA) permit in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for certain work in waters of the United States described below and shown on the enclosed drawings.

APPLICANT – TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC
Mr. Richard DeBolt
913 Big Hanaford Road
Centralia, Washington 98531

Telephone: (360) 330-8118

LOCATION – In wetlands and streams in drainages of Packwood Creek, an unnamed tributary to South Fork Hanaford Creek, and upper headwaters of Mitchell Creek near Centralia, in Lewis and Thurston Counties, Washington.

WORK – Place fill, mechanically land-clear, and/or excavate a total of 18.97 acres of emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands, and 32,777 linear feet of seasonal and perennial streams (see summary table below). Kopiah Excess Spoils Area (KESA) Project: Place six million cubic yards of fill material generated by coal mining in the Kopiah Project Area on top of 11.61 acres of palustrine emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetland and 3,421 linear feet of Packwood Creek. Mechanically land-clear, excavate topsoil, and then place fill material generated by Kopiah Project Area coal mining activities on 17,617 linear feet of headwater seasonal and perennial tributaries to Packwood Creek and Mitchell Creek. During reclamation phase re-grade fill material to final contours, place topsoil, reforest, and create a new stream channel in the Kopiah Project Area. Pond 47 and Mining Project: Construct an earthen dam and berms, and excavate ponds for sediment trapping facilities in 6 acres of palustrine emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands and stream channel in an unnamed tributary to South Fork Hanaford Creek. Periodically, dredge the ponds to remove accumulated sediment. Mechanically land-clear, excavate topsoil, and then mine coal in 1.36 acres of palustrine emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands and 11,739 linear feet of headwaters seasonal tributaries to the unnamed tributary to South Fork Hanaford Creek. During reclamation phase backfill and re-grade slopes to final contours, place topsoil, reforest, and create a new stream channel in the Kopiah Project Area similar to the pre-mine unnamed tributary to South Fork Hanaford Creek.

Table: Summary of Proposed Wetland and Stream Impacts, and Mitigation (acres or linear feet).

Wetland or Stream Type	KESA Losses	Pond 47 & Mining Losses **	Combined Losses	Proposed Mitigation
Emergent Wetland	5.18 ac	4.80 ac	9.98 ac	10.2 ac Pit 20
Scrub-Shrub Wetland	1.82 ac	2.56 ac	4.38 ac	12.4 ac Pit 20
Forested Wetland	4.61 ac	0.00 ac	4.61 ac	8.2 ac Pit 20
				12.0 ac Big Hanaford Cr
Open Water	0.00 ac	0.00 ac	0.00 ac	23.9 ac
Total Wetlands	11.61 ac	7.36 ac	18.97 ac	66.7 ac
Packwood Creek	3,421 lf	--	3,421 lf	3,200 lf Big Hanaford Cr ***
Perennial Streams	1,630 lf	0 lf	1,630 lf	-- ***
Seasonal Streams	15,987 lf	11,739 lf	27,726 lf	-- ***
Total Streams	21,038 lf	11,739 lf	32,777 lf	3,200 lf ***

**Note: Figures do not include the 2.75 or more acres of indirect wetland impacts downstream of Pond 47.

*** Note: During reclamation phase, two main stem streams will be re-created.

PURPOSE – To continue to provide coal to fuel operation of the Centralia Steam Electric Generating Plant. The plant is located on the edge of TransAlta's 14,450-acre coal mining area, which is a federally permitted mine that has been in operation since the 1970's.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Proposed permit duration: 15 years. Under DA permit number 200300461, the applicant has already constructed facilities that could trap sediment from the small area of spoil disposal proposed in the Mitchell Creek drainage. Until reclamation is completed, the effects of mining activities on water quality, and the presence and operation of the proposed Pond 47 dam to minimize adverse impacts to downstream water quality are likely to alter streamflow conditions, and de-water at least 2.75 acres of wetland downstream of dam in the unnamed tributary to South Fork Hanaford Creek and the South Fork Hanaford Creek. The applicant would conduct mining and reclamation activities in accordance with the TransAlta Centralia Federal Mine Permit No. WA-0001E issued by U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in December 1985, as subsequently updated and amended.

MITIGATION – As permanent mitigation for temporal loss of aquatic functions (until reclamation is complete and functioning), the applicant proposes to create 54.7 acres of open water and wetland habitat at Pit 20, and restore 12.0 acres of riparian wetlands on pastureland along Big Hanaford Creek outside the OSM mining boundary for a total of 66.7 acres. TransAlta would also restore 3,200 linear feet of former streambed and bank of Big Hanaford Creek within the riparian wetland. Pit 20 is an old mining pit where wetlands have begun to develop along portions of the shoreline. Under its OSM mining permit, TransAlta presently plans to fill and reclaim Pit 20 as forested upland. In addition to mitigation proposed for this permit application, during the final stage of reclamation TransAlta would re-create main stem stream channels and contiguous wetlands to replace the filled/mined portions of the main stems of Packwood Creek and the unnamed tributary to South Fork Hanaford Creek.

ENDANGERED SPECIES – The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) threatened, has been listed in the state of Washington, and occurs in the proposed project area. The following listed species may also occur in the project area: Coastal/Puget Sound bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), threatened;

northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), threatened; marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), threatened; Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*), threatened; gray wolf (*Canis lupis*), endangered; grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), threatened; golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*), threatened; Kincaid's sulphur lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus ssp. Kincaidii*), threatened; Nelson's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*), threatened. The U.S. Department of Interior, OSM is the lead agency for ESA consultation, and will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required under Section 7 of the ESA.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) – The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect EFH. EFH for Pacific salmon occurs in the project area. The proposed action would impact approximately 1 acre of EFH for these species. The U.S. Department of Interior, OSM is the lead agency for a determination regarding EFH, and will consult with the NMFS if necessary.

CULTURAL RESOURCES - The U.S. Department of Interior, OSM is the lead agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office as appropriate. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties: an historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No sites determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places were found to exist within the permit area.

The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments, Federal, State, and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

PUBLIC HEARING - Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION - The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, 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, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

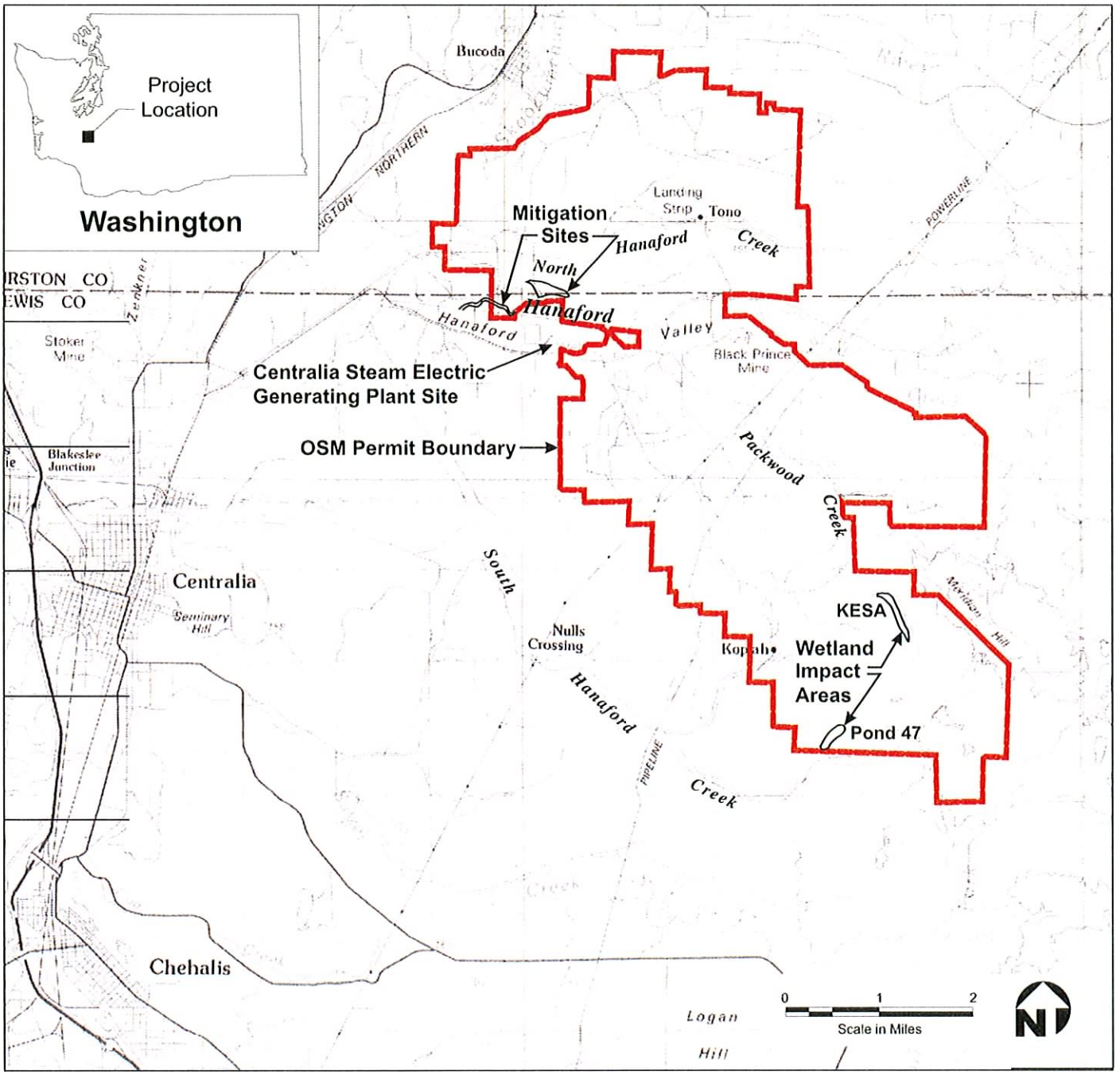
The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. This evaluation will include an alternatives analysis.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION - The State of Washington is reviewing this work for compliance with the applicable State and Federal water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD – Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. All e-mail comments should be sent to Jonathan.Smith@nws02.usace.army.mil. Conventional mail comments should be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Post Office Box 3755, Seattle, Washington, 98124-3755. Both conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commentor's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Please include the following name and reference number:

TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC
200400909

Encl
Drawings (16)



SOURCE: USGS 15-minute topographic map, Centralia, Washington, dated 1980

Vicinity Map

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal site (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Sections 25

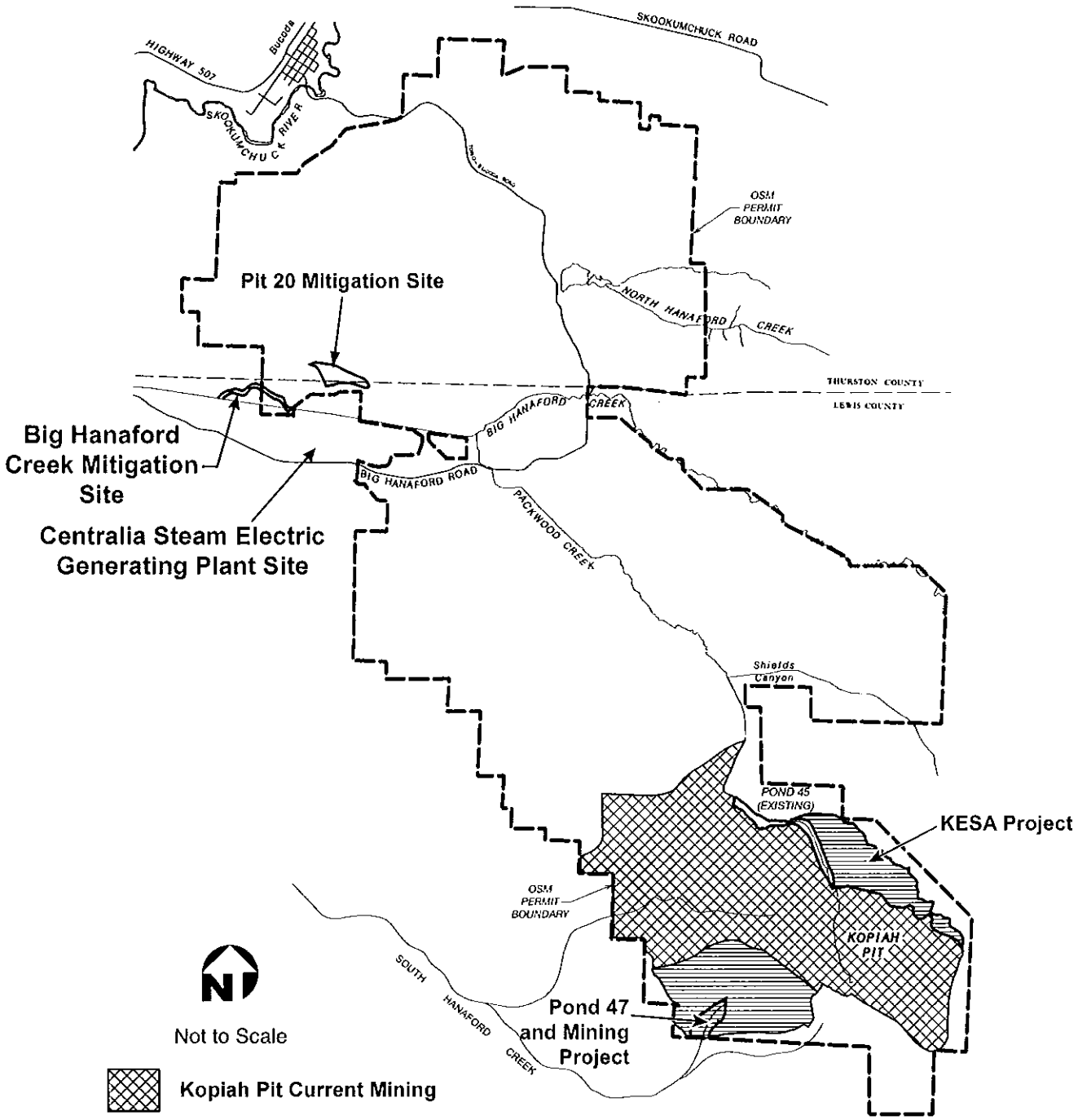
NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis **STATE** WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC

Sheet 1 of 16 **DATE** 10/07/04

COE Reference Number 200400909



Kopiah Pit Current Mining

KESA and Pond 47 Projects

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal site (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Sections 25

Kopiah Project Area

Note: All material removed from Kopiah Excess Spoils Area Project (KESA) and the Pond 47 and Mining Project (Pond 47) will remain in the Kopiah Project Area.

NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis **STATE** WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC

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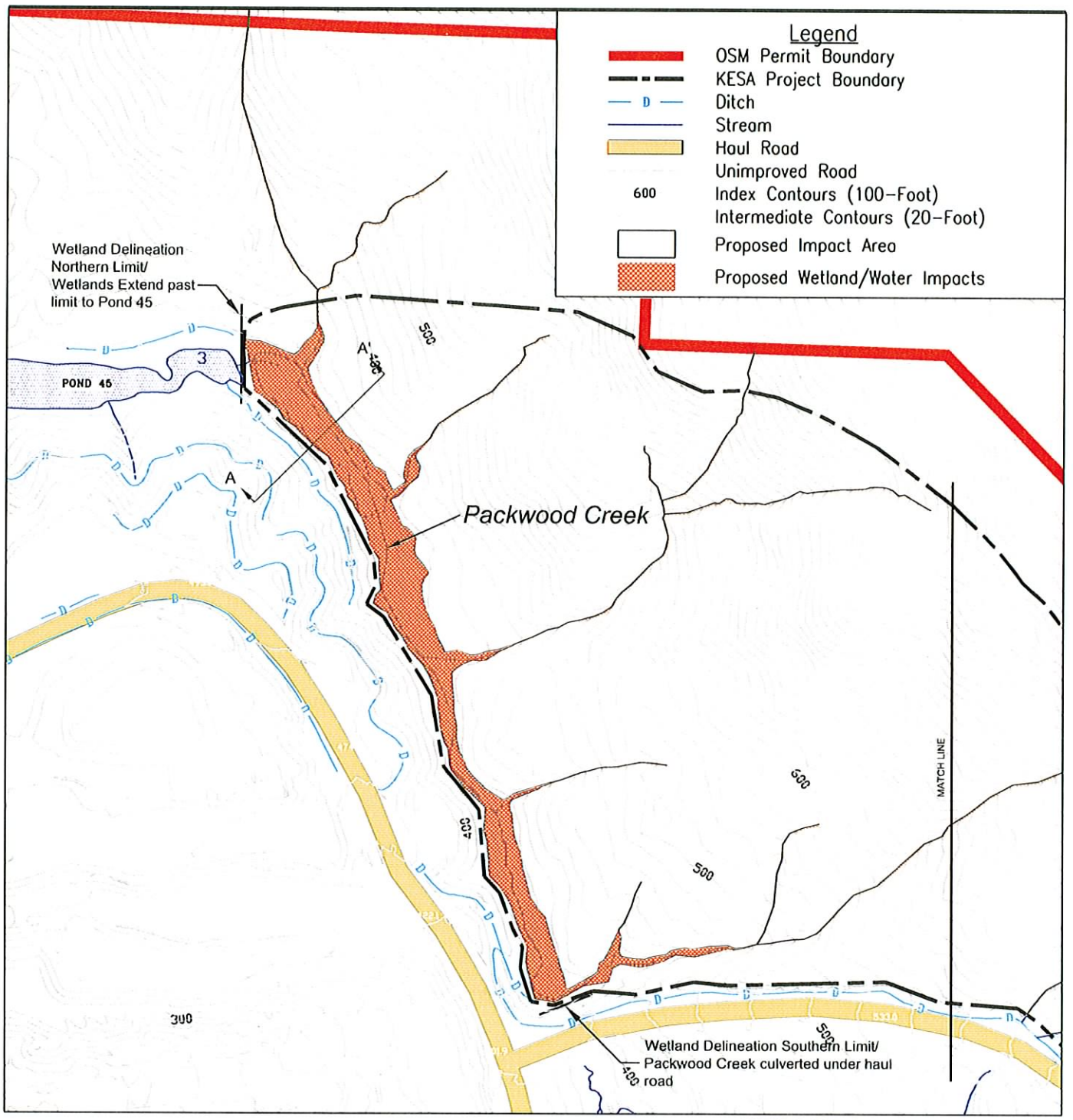

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

N W E S

0 300 600
Scale In Feet

KESA PROJECT AREA (WEST)

TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT AREA
1) Wetlands - 11.61 acres
2) Packwood Creek - 3,421 linear feet
3) Seasonal Streams - 0.59 acres; 15,987 linear feet
4) Perennial Streams - 0.04 acres; 1,630 linear feet

NEAR Centralia
COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA
APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

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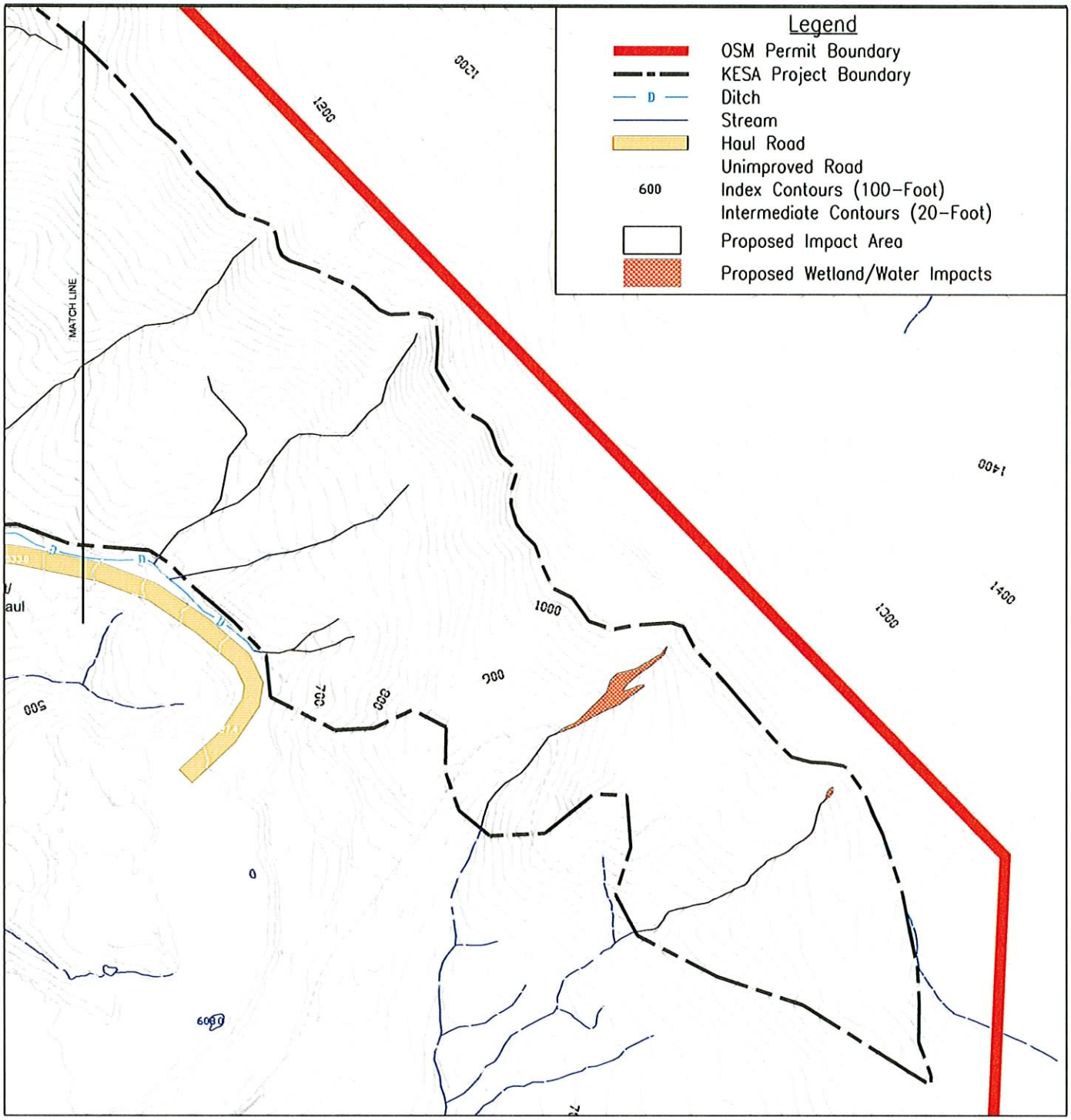
COE Reference Number 200400909



PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

0 300 600
Scale In Feet

KESA PROJECT AREA (EAST)

TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT AREA
1) Wetlands - 11.61 acres
2) Packwood Creek - 3,421 linear feet
3) Seasonal Streams - 0.59 acres; 15,987 linear feet
4) Perennial Streams - 0.04 acres; 1,630 linear feet

NEAR Centralia
COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA
APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

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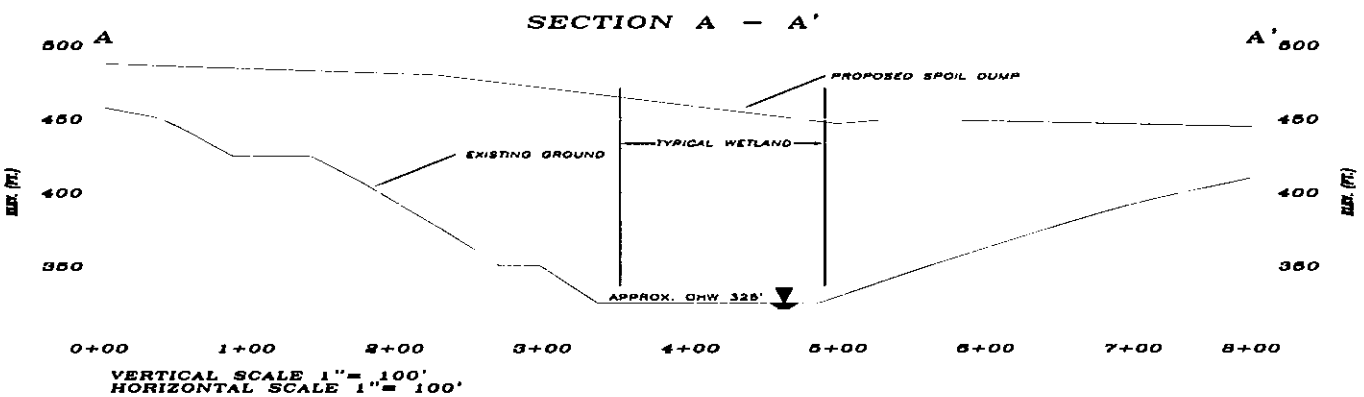
COE Reference Number 200400909



PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

KOPIAH EXCESS SPOIL AREA (KESA)
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION A-A'

NEAR Centralia
COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA
APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

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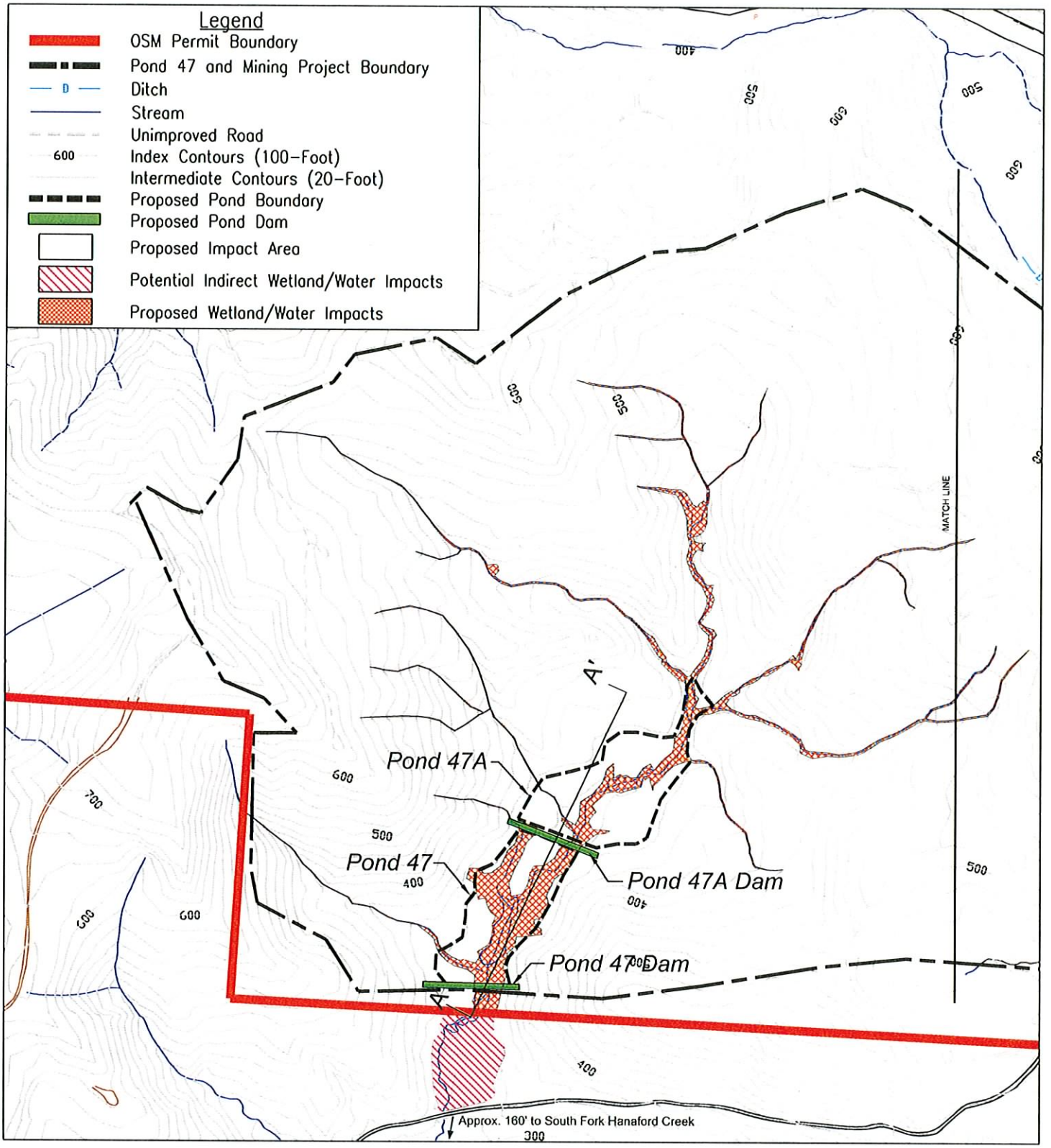


PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

0 300 600
Scale In Feet

POND 47 AND MINING PROJECT AREA (WEST)

NOTE: ALL STREAMS AND WETLANDS SHOWN ON THIS MAP WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT

TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT AREA

1) Wetlands - 7.36 acres (w/in OSM Permit Boundary); 2.75 acres (outside of OSM Permit Boundary)
2) Seasonal Streams - 0.49 acres; 11,739 linear feet (w/in OSM Permit Boundary)

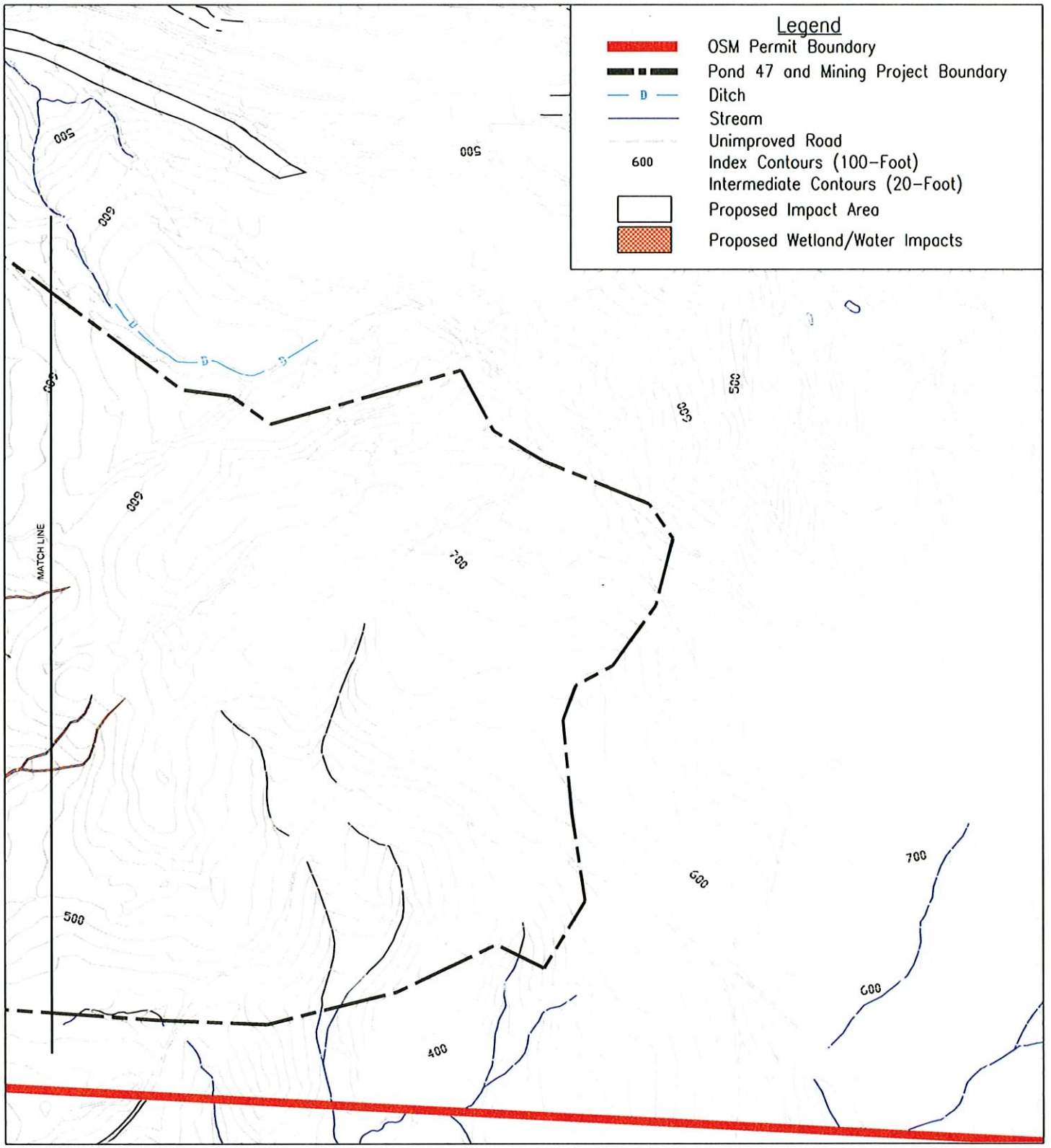
NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

SHEET 6 of 16 DATE 10/07/04

COE Reference No. 200400909



PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

N W E S

0 300 600
Scale In Feet

POND 47 AND MINING PROJECT AREA (EAST)

NOTE: ALL STREAMS AND WETLANDS SHOWN ON THIS MAP WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT

TOTAL WETLAND IMPACT AREA

1) Wetlands - 7.36 acres (w/in OSM Permit Boundary); 2.75 acres (outside of OSM Permit Boundary)
2) Seasonal Streams - 0.49 acres; 11,739 linear feet (w/in OSM Permit Boundary)

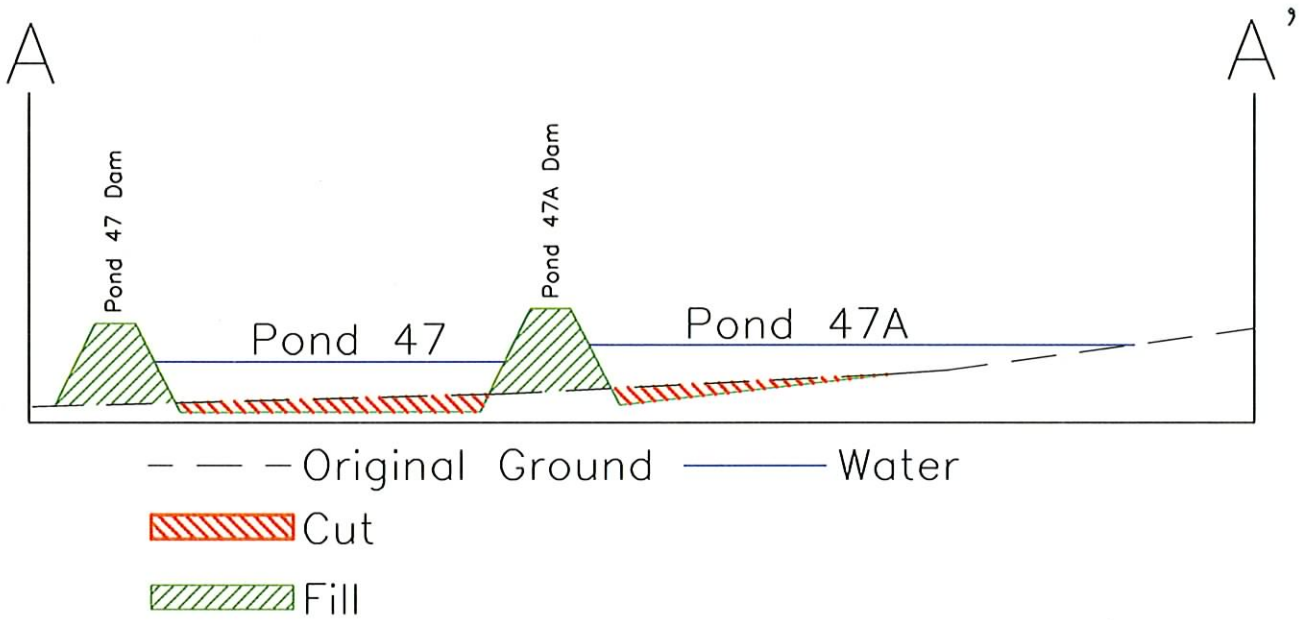
NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

SHEET 7 of 16 DATE 10/07/04

COE Reference No. 200400909



PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

Not to Scale

POND 47 CONCEPTUAL CROSS SECTION

NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

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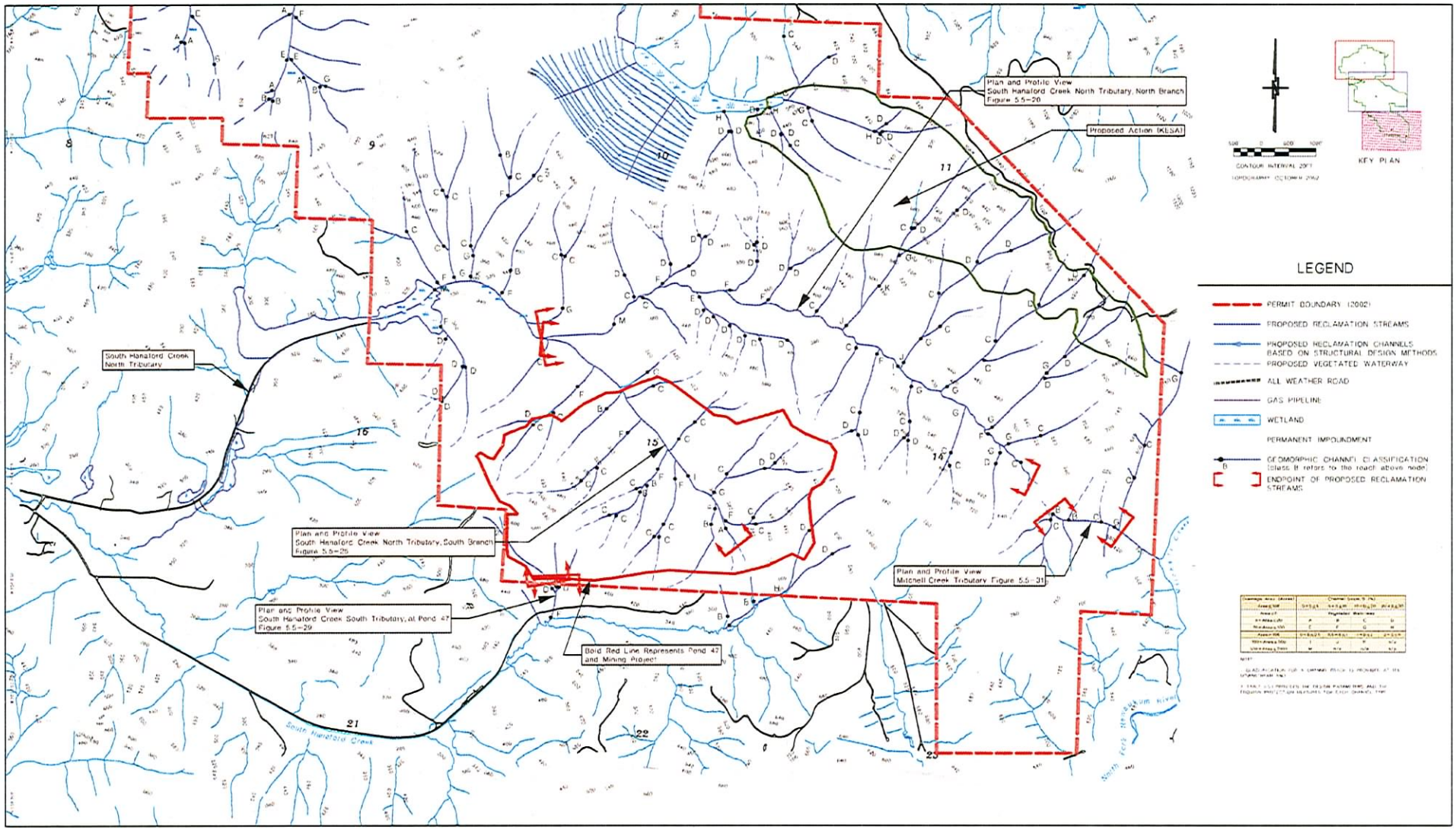

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal site (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Sections 25

Conceptual Post Reclamation Plan

NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis **STATE** WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC

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DATE 10/07/04

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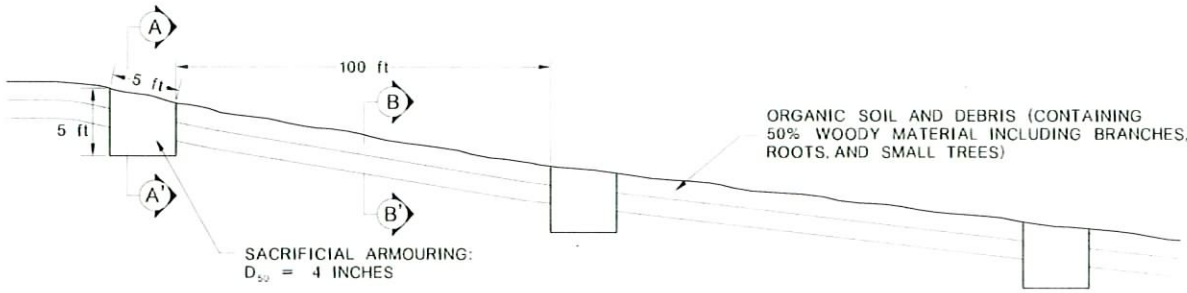
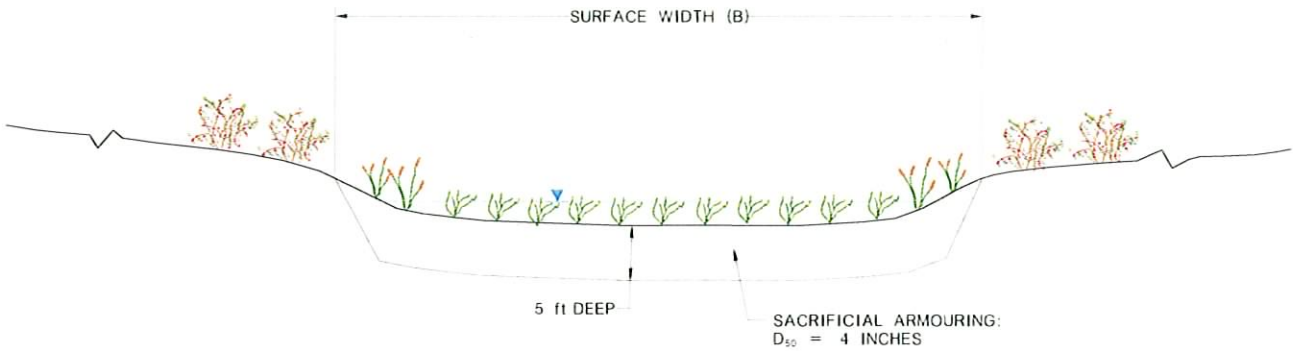
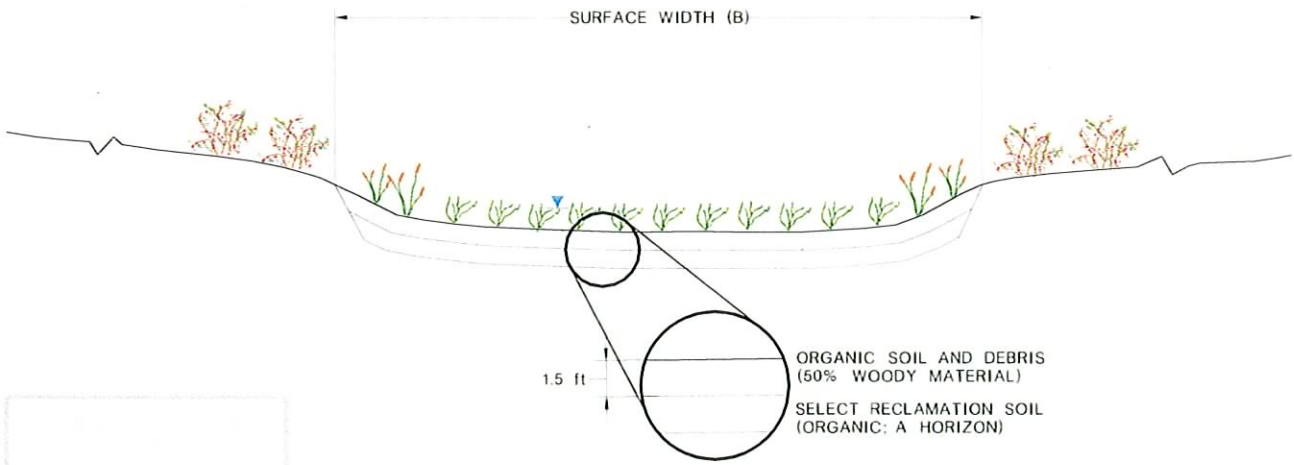


TYPICAL PROFILE



TYPICAL SECTION A–A'



TYPICAL SECTION B–B'

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal site (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Sections 25

KESA Typical Cross Section

NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis **STATE** WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC

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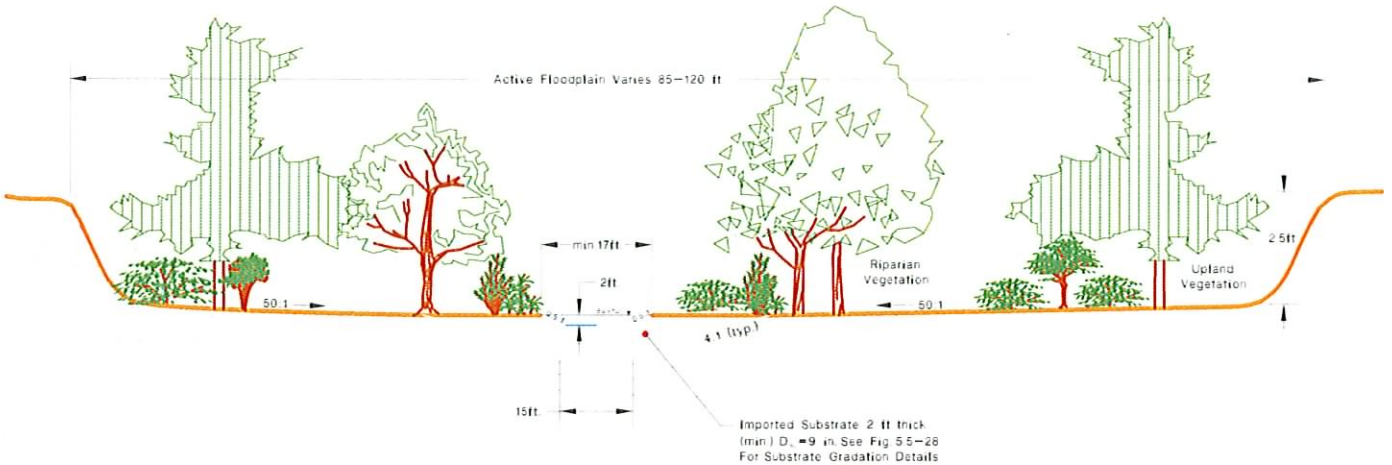
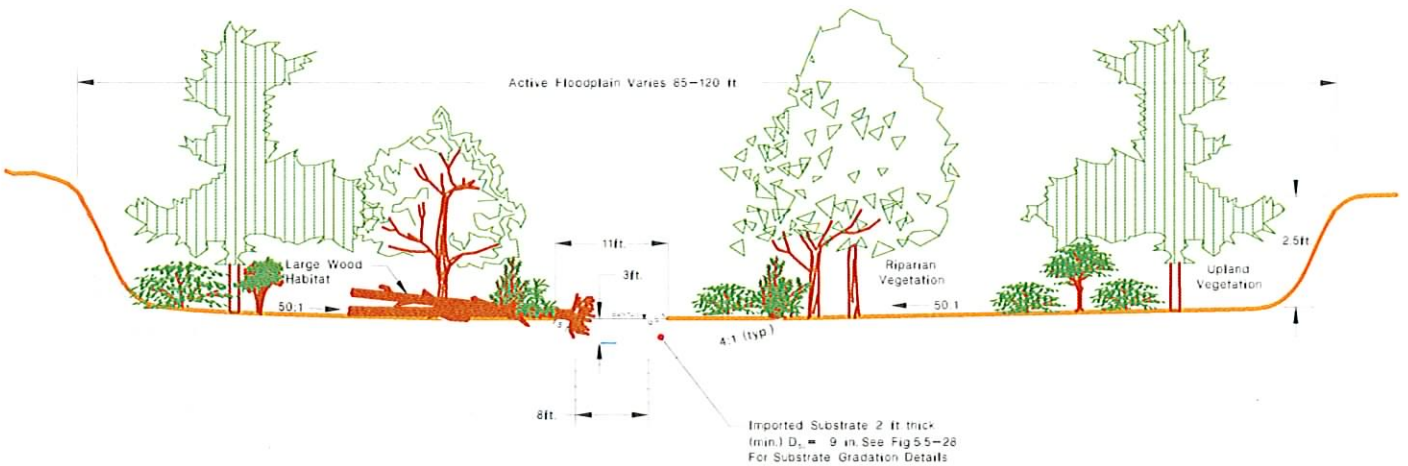


Riffle Habitat



Pool Habitat

NOTE
Assume Riffle Governs Channel Design.
View Looking Down Stream.

C.G.ft/ft	Sinuosity	*L(ft.)	*MA(ft.)	*RC(ft.)
0.0125	1.5	120–170	85–120	26–73

* See Appendix (Channel Geometry for Descriptions)

C.G. = Channel Gradient
L = Meander Wave Length
MA = Meander Amplitude
RC = Radius of Curvature

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal site (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Sections 25

Pond 47 Typical Cross Section Flowing North

NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis **STATE** WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC

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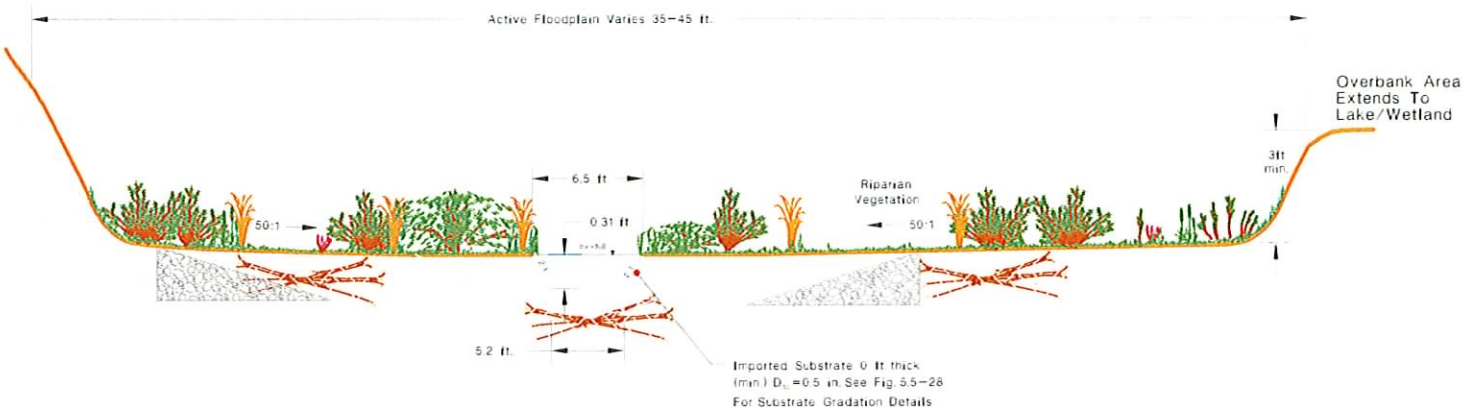


Riffle Habitat

Note: View Looking Downstream

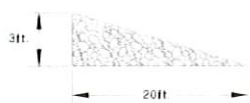
Note:
Not to Scale
Conceptual
Restoration Plan Not
for Construction.

NOTE:
Assume Riffle Governs Channel Design.
View Looking Down Stream.

C.G ft/ft	Sinuosity	*L(ft.)	*MA(ft.)	*RC(ft.)
0.1	>1.2	45–65	35–45	10–30

* See Appendix (Channel Geometry for Descriptions)

C.G. = Channel Gradient
L = Meander Wave Length
MA = Meander Amplitude
RC = Radius of Curvature



Gravel Chevrons

Typical Long Term and Short Term Large Woody Debris Placement

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal site (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Sections 25

Pond 47 Typical Cross Section Flowing South

NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis **STATE** WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining, LLC

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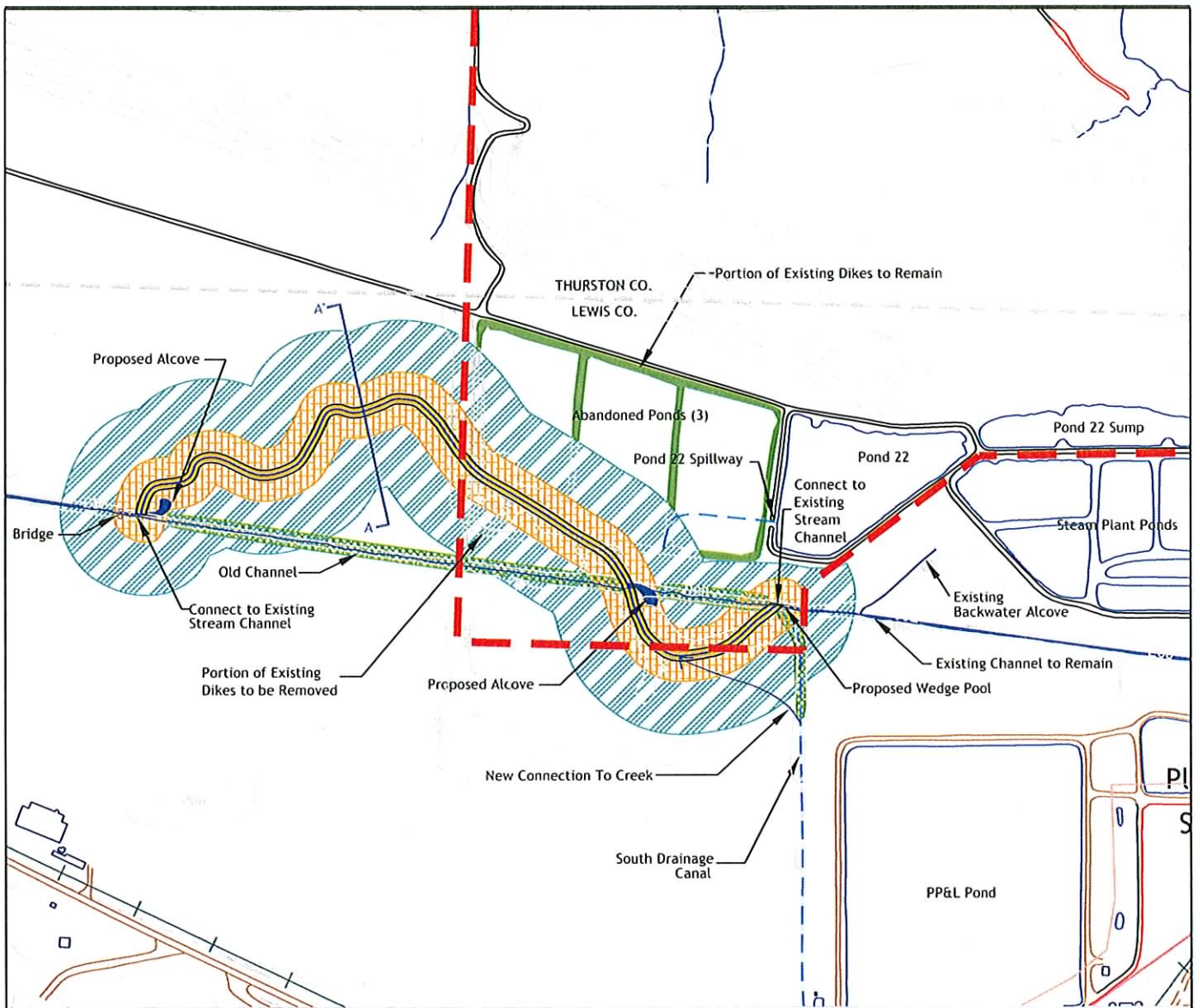
DATE 10/07/04

COE Reference Number 200400909



PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

N W E S

0 300 600
Scale In Feet

BIG HANAFORD CREEK SITE CONCEPTUAL WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN

NEAR Centralia
COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA
APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

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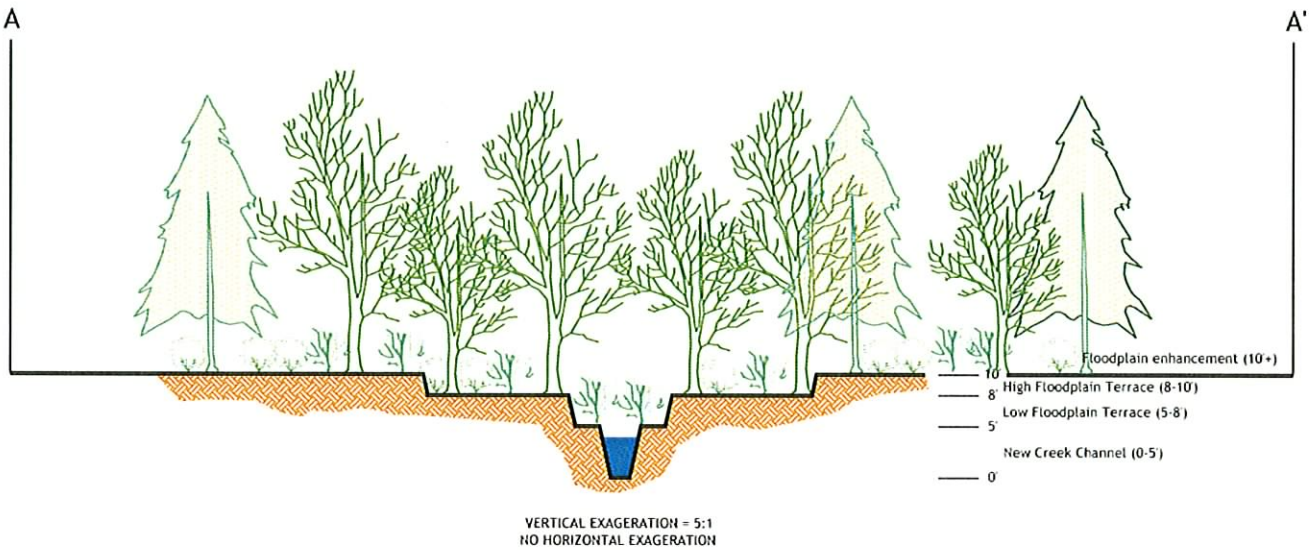

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PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

NOT TO SCALE

BIG HANAFORD CREEK SITE
CONCEPTUAL WETLAND MITIGATION
PLAN PLANTING CROSS SECTION

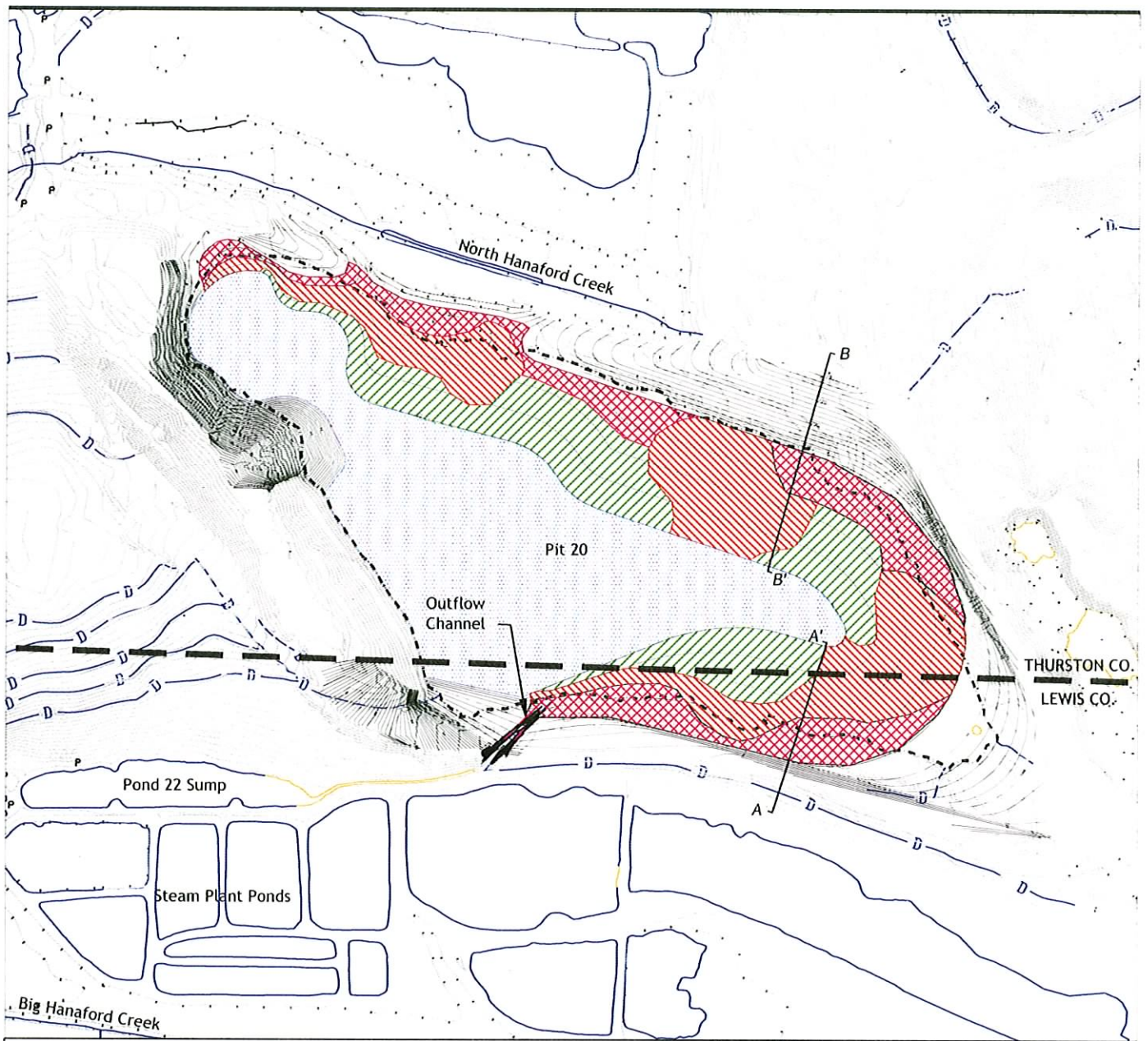
NEAR Centralia

COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA

APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

Sheet 14 of 16 DATE 10/07/04

COE Reference Number 200400909



County Line
Existing 25-Foot Contours
Existing 5-Foot Contours
Proposed 5-Foot Contours
Ditch
Existing Edge of Water

Proposed Habitats
Palustrine Emergent (10.2 acres)
Palustrine Scrub-Shrub (12.4 acres)
Palustrine Forested (8.2 acres)
Open Water (23.9 acres)

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

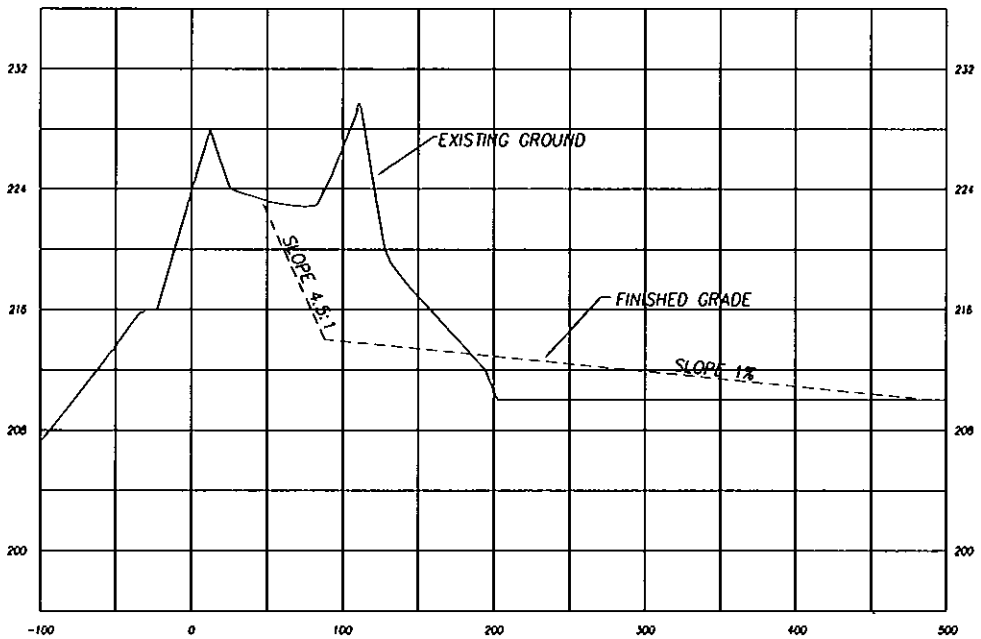
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

0 250 500
Scale In Feet

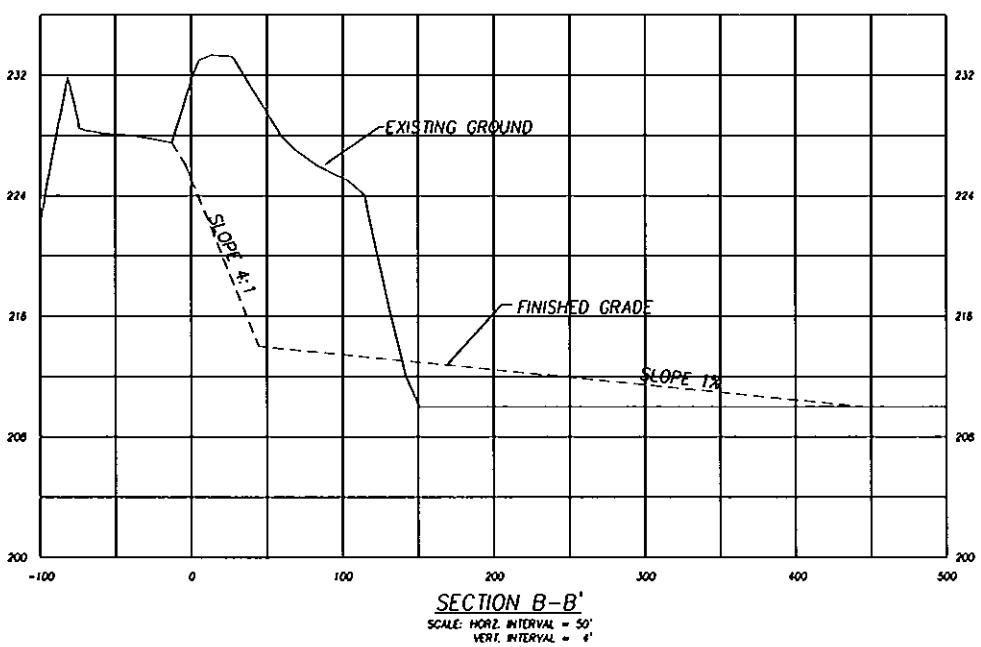
PIT 20 SITE - CONCEPTUAL WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN

NEAR Centralia
COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA
APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

Sheet 15 of 16 DATE 10/07/04
COE Reference No. 200400909



SECTION A-A'
SCALE: HORZ. INTERVAL = 50'
VERT. INTERVAL = 4'



SECTION B-B'
SCALE: HORZ. INTERVAL = 50'
VERT. INTERVAL = 4'

PROJECT NAME: Kopiah

PROPOSED WORK: to construct a mine spoil disposal area (KESA) and Sediment Pond 47

DATUM n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14N, R1W, Sections 9-11, 13-16
T15N, R1W, Sections 19, 30
T15N, R2W, Section 25

PIT 20 SITE - CONCEPTUAL WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN CROSS SECTIONS

NEAR Centralia
COUNTY OF Lewis STATE WA
APPLICATION BY TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC

Sheet 16 of 16 DATE 10/07/04
COE Reference No. 200400909

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification

Date: October 12, 2004

Notice is herby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. 200400909 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to compliance with water pollution control laws may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600