



*Heartland Corridor, Walton Virginia to  
Columbus Ohio*

# Preliminary Engineering Phase Report



Laurel  
Tunnel  
MP  
N414.09  
Rogers, WV

October 14, 2005, Rev. 2



## *Preliminary Engineering Phase Report*

PR219399 - Laurel Tunnel  
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October 14, 2005

### Norfolk Southern Railway Heartland Corridor, Walton VA to Columbus OH

#### Laurel Tunnel – MP N414.09

**Statistics: Pocahontas Division**  
**Double-width Tunnel for Main #1 and Main #2**  
**Length = 803'**  
**Concrete lined**  
**Degree of Curvature = 5.9 RT (per Track Chart)**  
**Superelevation = 3.5" (per Track Chart)**

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## 1. EXISTING CONDITIONS

### 1.1 Background

Valuation Maps V-13WV/38 & 39 (1629301 & 16294) for the Laurel Tunnel are dated June 30, 1916. Parcels for the tunnel were acquired in 1909. Therefore it is suspected that the tunnel was constructed in 1909 or shortly afterwards. A Norfolk Southern tunnel inspection sheet references a plan “12574-A – Plan of Tunnel Undercutting Program 1981. Additional information on this tunnel was obtained from various sources such as topographic maps, aerial photos, inspection reports, track charts, and field investigations that were performed on March 25, June 14, and July 6, 2005.

### 1.2 General Area

The tunnel is located in a lightly populated area of the Town of Rogers, McDowell County, West Virginia. Nearby land use includes a residential area near the east portal. There is a staging area close to the west portal. The site can be accessed from Route 52 near the Roderfield Tunnel. There is a rail bridge in close proximity of the east portal crossing the Tug Fork River and equipment will need to cross this bridge in order to access the tunnel.

### 1.3 Structural Conditions

The tunnel is 803’ long with a concrete lining and a width of approximately 30’. It is a double-width tunnel for two tracks. The track circuit cable is mounted on the north wall of the tunnel lining. The tunnel lining is generally in good condition and dry, with only a few joints at the portals being wet.

Liner cores were taken on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Cores were drilled into the liner at locations 250’ and 750’ into the tunnel from the east portal. The cores were taken at the 7 and 12 o’clock positions at 250’ and at the 7 and 10 o’clock positions at 750’. A borescope was inserted into the holes to view inside the liner. The video from the borescope was recorded onto a DVD. The liner probe investigation is summarized in the table below:

<b>Summary of Laurel Tunnel Liner Core Investigation</b>			
<b>Distance from East Portal</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Liner Thickness</b>	<b>Notes</b>
250’	7 o’clock	35”	Retrieved 8” of sandstone followed by 6” of shale from immediately behind concrete liner.
250’	12 o’clock	30”	Retrieved 8” of rock from immediately behind concrete liner. No voids.

<b>Summary of Laurel Tunnel Liner Core Investigation</b>			
<b>Distance from East Portal</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Liner Thickness</b>	<b>Notes</b>
750'	7 o'clock	30"	Retrieved 3" of sandstone from immediately behind concrete liner. No void.
750'	10 o'clock	32"	Retrieved 5" of rock from immediately behind concrete liner. No void.

The bridge outside of the east portal of the tunnel was investigated on June 14, 2005. It is a 4-span timber deck girder bridge. The girders are built-up steel plate girders with the south pair of girders carrying Main #1 and the north pair carrying Main #2. The girders bear directly on the abutments. The bridge spans over the Tug Fork River. The structure type and site geometry, coupled with the proximity of rock below the rail make track lowering a difficult and expensive option.

Excavation was done to expose a small portion of the tunnel liner footing. The footing thickness was found to be 30". The vertical distance from the top of rail to the base of the footing was measured at 45".

#### **1.4 Track**

The track is continuous welded rail of conventional design with wooden cross-ties at approximately 19" on center and a stone ballast section. The rail is typically 132RE on 18" tie plates and fastened with rail spikes and anchors at every tie. The track curves right 5.9 degrees with a superelevation of 3.5" on both tracks. There are drainage ditches along each wall and in between the tracks, and drainage appears to be a problem as standing water is present in the ditches, causing pumping on both tracks. The water in the tunnel was tested and its pH reading was 8.18. This is a fairly neutral reading and indicates that the water is not unusually corrosive. The ballast, which is approximately 2' below the top of tie, is in generally poor condition. The ballast from this tunnel was tested and classified as being "Very Strong", requiring many blows of a geological hammer to break intact rock specimens. Most of the foundation is exposed on the south side of the tunnel where the pumping exists.

#### **1.5 Geotechnical**

The tunnels in the east-central part of the Pocahontas Division (including Laurel) are located in the Appalachian Plateaus Physiographic Province, a region characterized by deeply incised plateaus underlain by flat-lying sedimentary rock. The tunnel itself is lined and no rock was exposed. The description of the site geology at each tunnel is based on our observations of the rockmass at the portals and adjacent cuts and the 1968 West Virginia Geologic Map prepared by the West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey.

The tunnel was excavated through the medium- to thick-bedded fine-to medium grained sandstone of the New River Formation. The sandstone is locally interbedded with thin-bedded sandstone, siltstone, shale, and coal. Bedding is subhorizontal and gently rolls back and forth towards the northwest and southeast. Joints in the rock cuts of the formations are typically steeply dipping and widely spaced. Most joints are less than 15 feet in length and are not through-going across the exposure face.

The rock quality designation, Q, at the portals was determined to be 23 at the east portal and 18 at the west portal. A Q rating between 10 and 40 is considered “Good” with 10 bordering on “Fair” and 40 bordering on “Very Good.” A sample of rock was taken from the portal and tested. Lab testing of the sample indicates that the rock is sandstone and has a compressive strength of 11,554 psi.

The geoprobes indicate that the top of rock is located between 2.0’ to 3.0’ (averaging about 2.6’) below the top of ballast throughout the tunnel for Main #1 and between 1.5’ to 3.0’ (averaging about 2.4’) below the top of ballast throughout the tunnel for Main #2. Top of ballast is typically about 0.8’ below top of low rail.

## 1.6 Clearances

The laser car measurements indicate that the existing tunnel has adequate horizontal clearance for both the “High-Wide Load” and the “Double-Stack Load” portions of the composite clearance envelope throughout the tunnel. For vertical clearance, the “Double Stack” portion of the envelope encroaches on the sides of the tunnel crown by about 15” to 18” on the left wall and about 22” to 25” on the right wall. The “High-Wide” portion of the envelope encroaches on the sides of the tunnel crown (at points lower than the “Double Stack”) by an average of about 8” on the left wall (varies 6”-10”) and 16” on the right wall (varies 15”-17”). Cross sections of the tunnel clearance encroachments are shown in the drawings at the end of this report. The maximum vertical encroachments are summarized in the table below:

Distance (ft) from East Portal	Crown Encroachment (radial inches)	
	Left Side	Right Side
0	20	25
101	18	25
201	18	25
301	16	23
401	14	18
502	16	23
602	15	23
702	13	23
754	15	25

## **2. CLEARANCE IMPROVEMENT ALTERNATIVES**

Given the magnitude of the vertical clearance deficiency, there are several general alternatives that can be used to obtain the clearance; replacing the lining, notching the lining or using steel ties to lower the track. Combinations of the general methods may be required to obtain a design that is cost effective and that can be constructed within reasonable track outages. Track lowering by excavating or undercutting does not appear feasible due to the proximity of the top of rock to the surface.

### **2.1 Liner Replacement**

To obtain the desired clearance, the concrete roof must be demolished, the native rock excavated to the clearance limits plus the new liner thickness, and a new concrete liner installed. This alternative appears necessary for most or all of the tunnel. If the encroachment could be reduced to a maximum of about 16"-18" using steel ties or other methods, then notching may be employed instead of liner replacement.

### **2.2 Notching the Crown**

Notching in the upper quadrants of the tunnel crown would not cut entirely through the liner and could be an alternative to complete liner replacement. However, the encroachments may be large enough that a minimum liner thickness of at least 10" might not be maintained. The four cores taken in July 2005 varied in thickness from 30" to 35", which is more than the minimum thickness of 26" at crown and 34" minimum in the sidewalls that was indicated on drawings for adjacent tunnels. However additional investigations would be required before the apparent additional thickness of concrete can be relied on in the reconstruction. Therefore, deep notching of the tunnel crown will no longer be considered as a viable alternative for achieving the necessary vertical clearance, unless additional investigations in the Final Design Phase conclude that an adequate thickness can be maintained.

### **2.3 Steel Ties**

Substitution of steel ties for the standard wood ties would permit the rails to be lowered about 6 inches. Transition sections would be constructed at the tunnel approaches for the vertical curves and for a gradual transition in track stiffness. A proper drainage system is required to minimize corrosion of the ties.

Steel ties would not be sufficient to fix the entire clearance deficiencies, but in some cases could be used in conjunction with notching to provide a more economical solution. However, in this case, even with steel ties the amount of encroachment of the tunnel crown would still be significant enough to eliminate deep notching as a practical alternative. Due to the close proximity of the rail bridge outside the east portal, steel ties would require expensive and impractical bridge modifications in order to lower the bridge. Also, lateral shifting of the track is a concern when using steel ties. Steel ties do not provide any significant advantages that would warrant their expense. Therefore, they will no longer be considered as a viable alternative.

### **3. PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

Given the magnitude of the vertical encroachment, liner replacement of the tunnel crown is necessary to achieve the required clearance in the tunnel. Investigations in the final design phase may determine that notching is feasible for some of the tunnel. Drainage improvements are also recommended.

#### **3.1 Preliminary Design**

The preliminary design uses replacement of the liner crown. The existing track structure is planned to be flooded with ballast to the top of the rail to provide access into the tunnel for the contractor to work and to protect the track during the construction. The preliminary design also proposes to install a new drainage system and undercut the track to replace the fouled ballast.

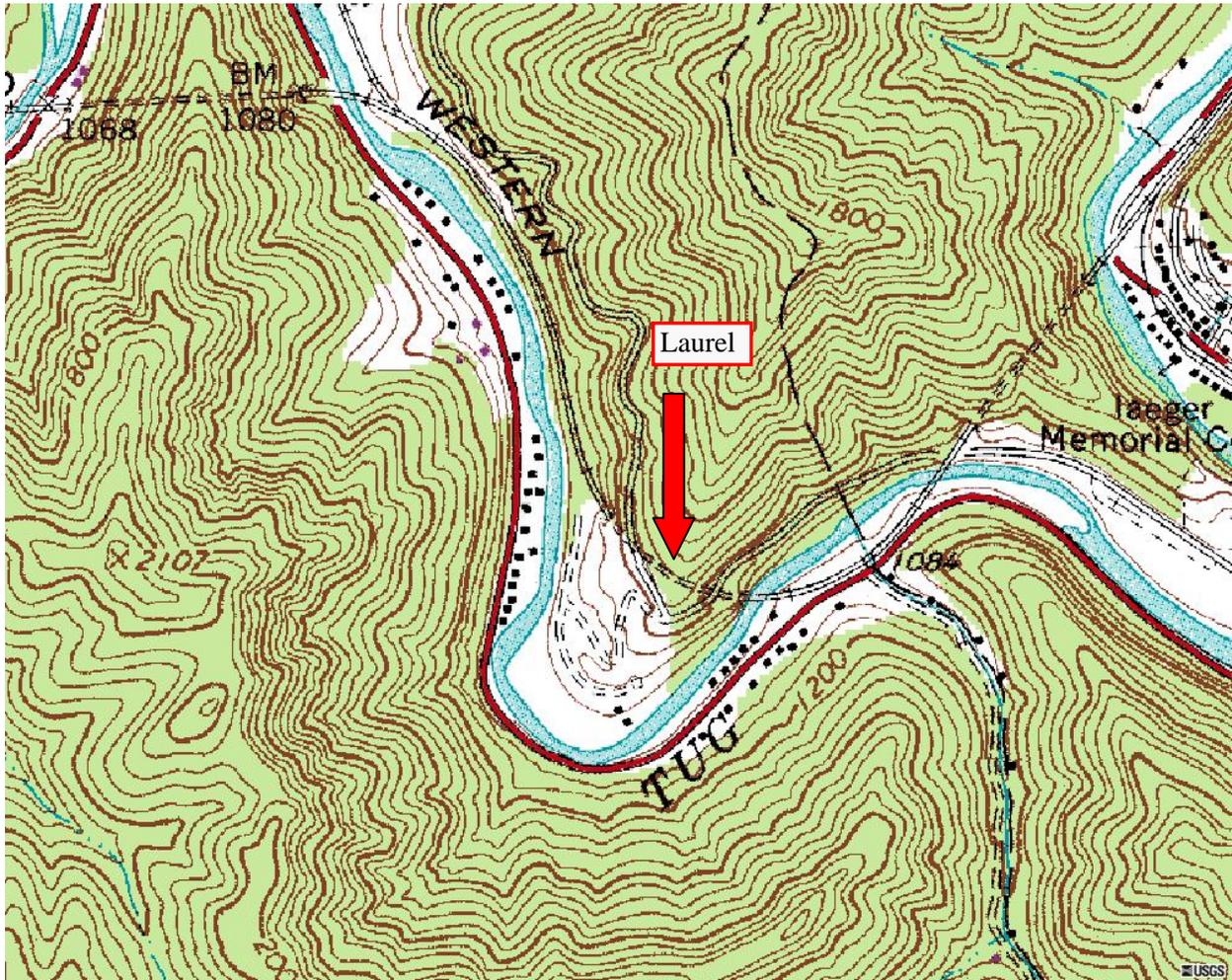
#### **3.2 Schedule**

The estimated schedule for completing improvements on this tunnel is thirty-two (32) weeks from mobilization to demobilization. The schedule assumes one track being closed at a time, for ten hours, five days a week. The schedule assumes 12' of crown removal each day, with concrete removal, rock removal, installation of rock dowels and installation of shotcrete all occurring on the same day for each 12' segment. Drainage improvement operations would be undertaken at the same time as the crown removal, but at different locations in the tunnel.

#### **3.3 Estimate**

The total estimated cost for achieving clearance at this location is \$6.0 million (2005 rates) or \$7,421 per foot of tunnel. The work items include mobilization, surveying, liner removal, rock removal, rock dowels, crown installation, rock cut for drainage trench, tunnel drainage system, ballast cleaning, and demobilization. An allowance for grouting the invert void was also included. The total cost is made up of tunnel, track, signal, and site work items at \$3.7 million, plus a 30% construction contingency, a 10% engineering allowance, and a 14% construction management allowance.

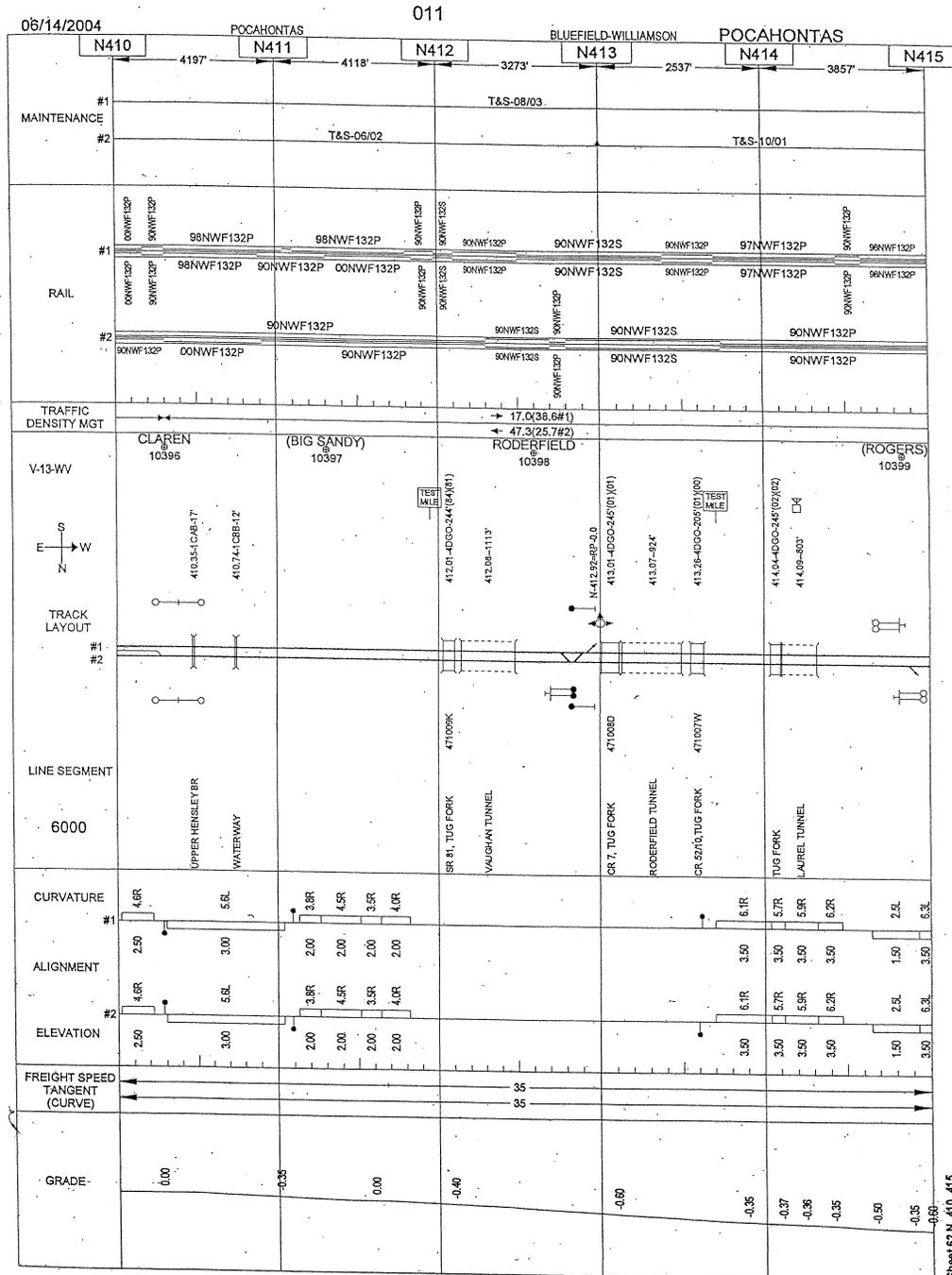
**4. USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**



**5. AERIAL PHOTO**



### 6. TRACK CHART



Sheet 62 N\_410\_415

**7. PHOTOS**



Photo No. 1 – East Portal



Photo No. 2 – View from the East Portal



Photo No. 3. – West Portal



Photo No. 4. – View from the West Portal



Photo No. 5. – Mud Pumping Through Ballast



Photo No. 6. – Water Leaking at Vertical Construction Joint

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**8. ESTIMATE**
**Laurel**

Tunnel Length **803** ft  
Tunnel Width **29.5** ft  
# of Tracks **2**

	Contractor		Railroad	
Work Window	<b>10</b>	hrs	<b>10</b>	hrs
Setup & Demobilization Allowance	<b>2</b>	hrs	<b>2</b>	hrs
Production Time	8	hrs	8	hrs

<b>Tunnel Work Items</b>	UOM	Quantity	Unit Rate	Total
Mobilization	%	<b>5%</b>		\$154,292.10
Surveying	DY	<b>5</b>	\$1,300.00	\$6,500.00
Rock Dowels 14' with Chain Link Mesh - Crown	EA	<b>1338</b>	\$601.22	\$804,630.93
Crown Removal	SF	<b>37840</b>	\$16.10	\$609,217.60
Rock Removal - Crown	CY	<b>1401</b>	\$425.13	\$595,817.60
Crown Installation	SF	<b>37840</b>	\$24.36	\$921,852.42
Rock Cut Drainage Trench	LF	<b>1203</b>	\$90.93	\$109,387.20
Tunnel Drainage	LF	<b>1203</b>	\$18.30	\$22,020.33
Demobilization	DY	<b>5</b>	\$3,283.20	\$16,416.00
<b>Total Tunnel Work Items</b>	<b>LF</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>\$4,035.04</b>	<b>\$3,240,134.19</b>

<b>Trackwork Items</b>	UOM	Quantity	Unit Rate	Total
Mobilization	DY			
Undercutting	PF	<b>1606</b>	\$16.21	\$26,029.72
Surfacing & Lining	PF	<b>4818</b>	\$2.14	\$10,304.06
Ballasting Track	TN	<b>1606</b>	\$38.57	\$61,941.32
Demobilization	DY			
<b>Total Trackwork Items</b>				<b>\$98,275.10</b>

<b>Signal Items</b>	UOM	Quantity	Unit Rate	Total
Mobilization	DY			
Relocate Cables / Track Leads	LF	<b>803</b>	\$12.03	\$9,660.18
Demobilization	DY			
<b>Total Signal Items</b>				<b>\$9,660.18</b>

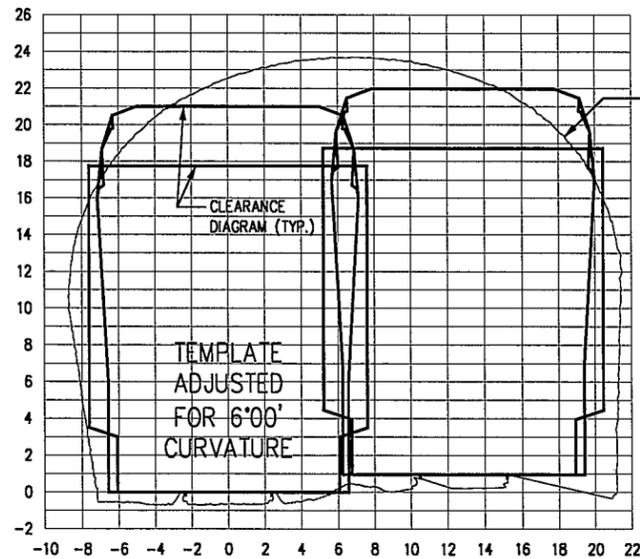
*Preliminary Engineering Phase Report  
MP N-414.09-Laurel*

<b>Site Items</b>	UOM	Quantity	Unit Rate	Total
Mobilization	DY	1	\$2,483.60	\$2,483.60
Erosion & Sedimentation Control	EA	1	\$11,958.80	\$11,958.80
Demobilization	DY			
<b>Total Site Items</b>				<b>\$14,442.40</b>

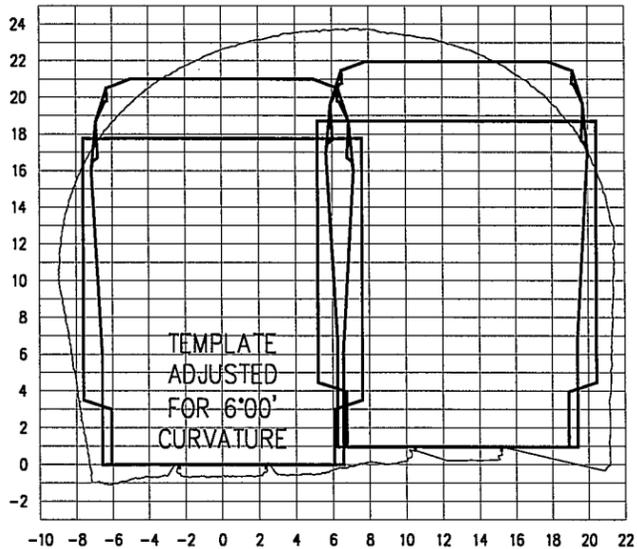
<b>Special Items</b>	UOM	Quantity	Unit Rate	Total
Mobilization	DY			
Flagging	DY	159	\$821.50	\$130,618.50
Flood Track with Ballast for Protection	TN	3212	\$39.34	\$126,346.06
Remove Flooded Ballast	TN	3212	\$10.16	\$32,632.61
Invert/Crown Void Grouting	DY	10	\$4,448.80	\$44,488.00
Demobilization	DY			
<b>Total Specialty Items</b>				<b>\$334,085.16</b>

<b>Subtotal All Items</b>		<b>\$3,696,597.05</b>
<b>Construction Contingency</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$1,108,979.11</b>
<b>Engineering Allowance</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$480,557.62</b>
<b>Construction Management Allowance</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>\$672,780.66</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,958,914.44</b>

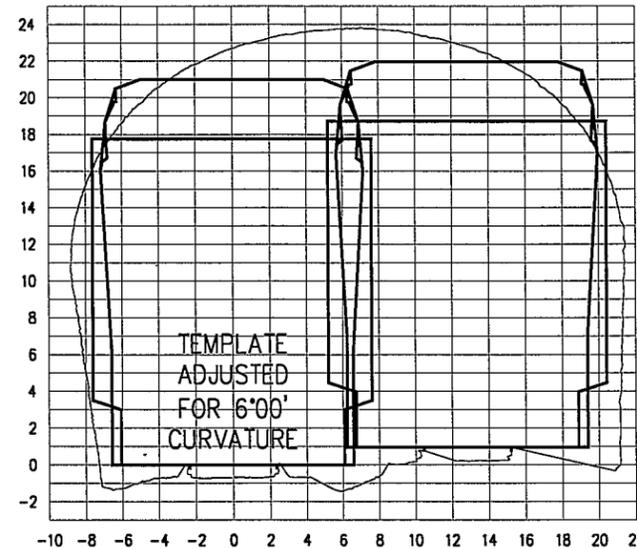
## 9. DRAWINGS



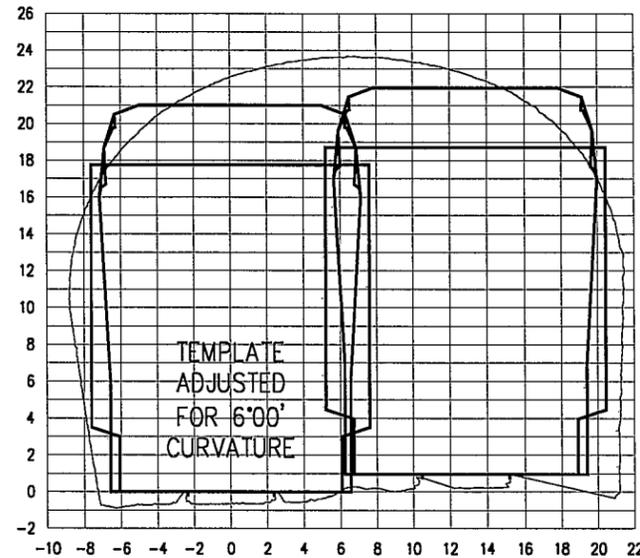
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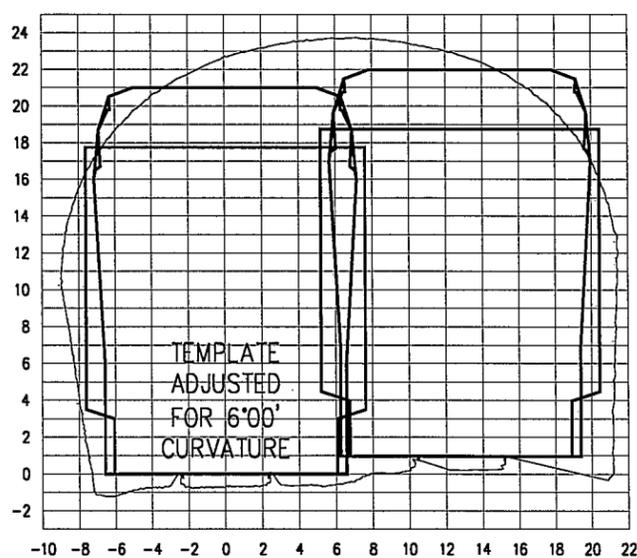
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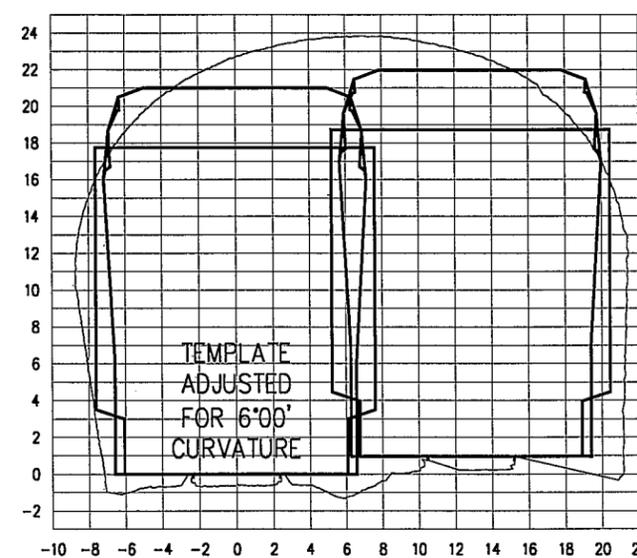
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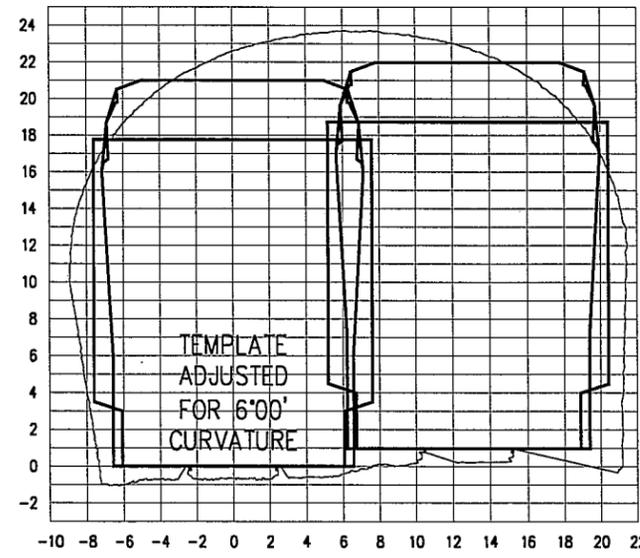
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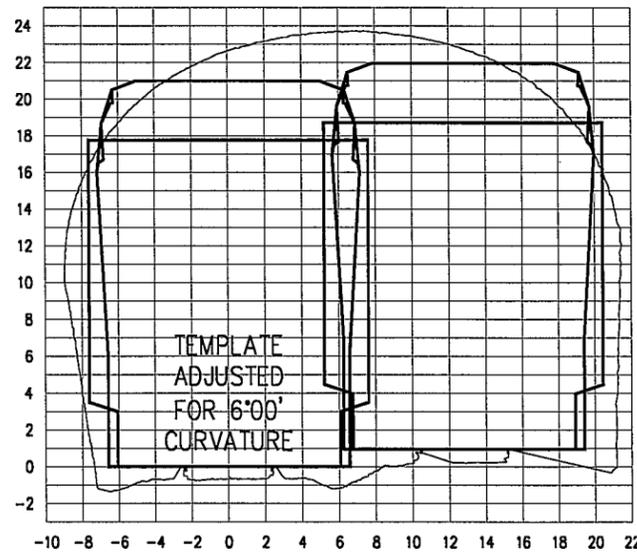
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2+01



0+49



1+01

- NOTES:
- HORIZONTAL DATUM IS PARALLEL TO TRACK. WHERE TRACK IS SUPERELEVATED, DATUM IS NOT PARALLEL WITH GROUND.
  - CROSS SECTION GIVEN FOR STA. 0+00 IS A COMPOSITE FOR THE TUNNEL FROM STA. 0+00 THROUGH 0+50. ALL OF THE SECTIONS FOLLOW THIS CONVENTION.

**NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

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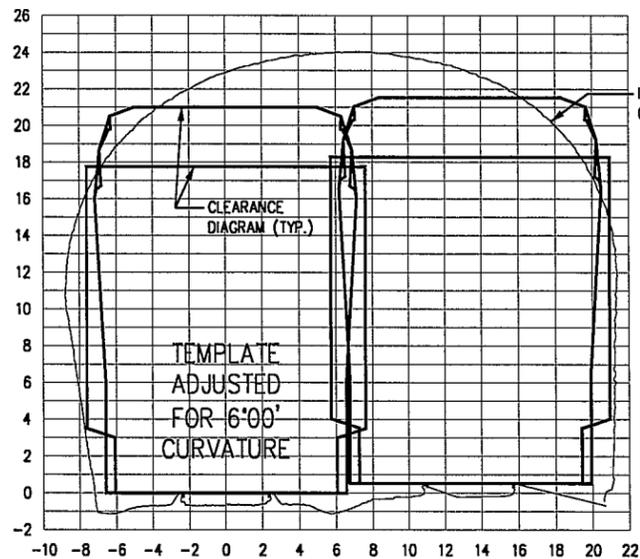


**NS NORFOLK SOUTHERN**

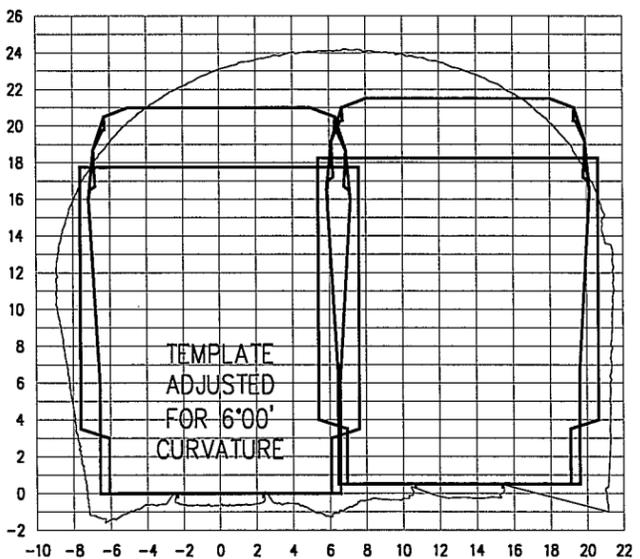
DRAWING COMPANY  
 OPERATING DIVISION  
 DEPT. OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION - ATLANTA, GA.

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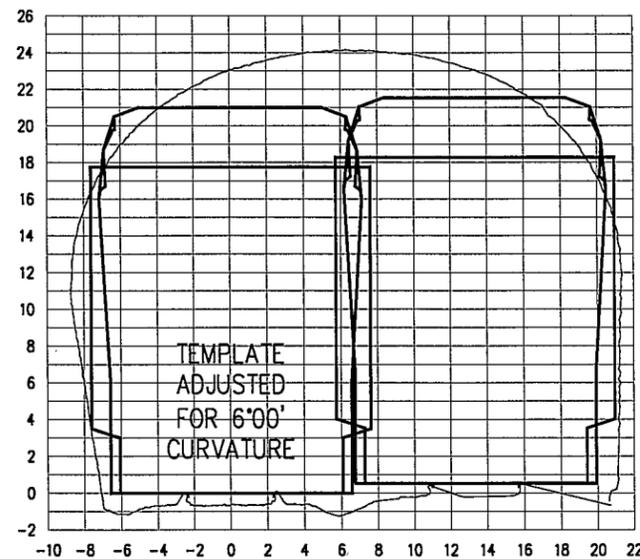
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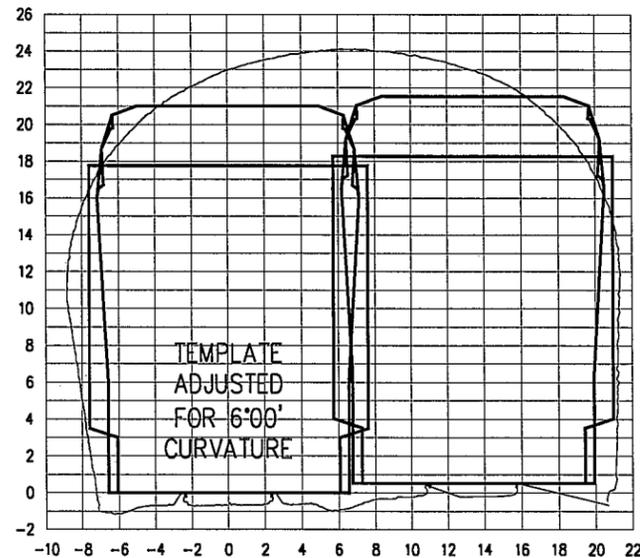
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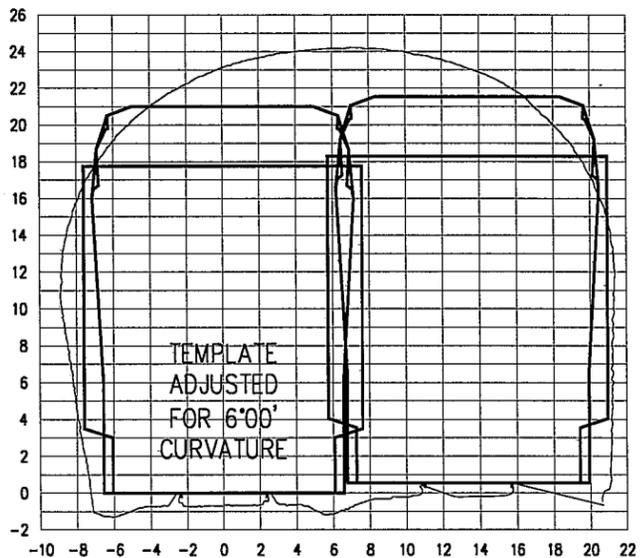
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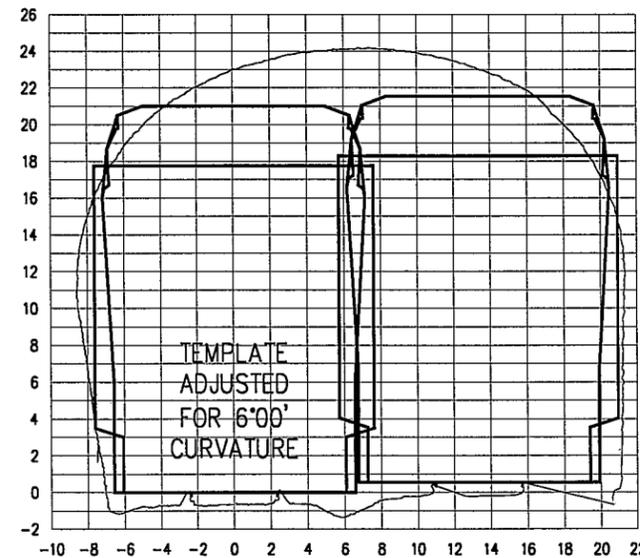
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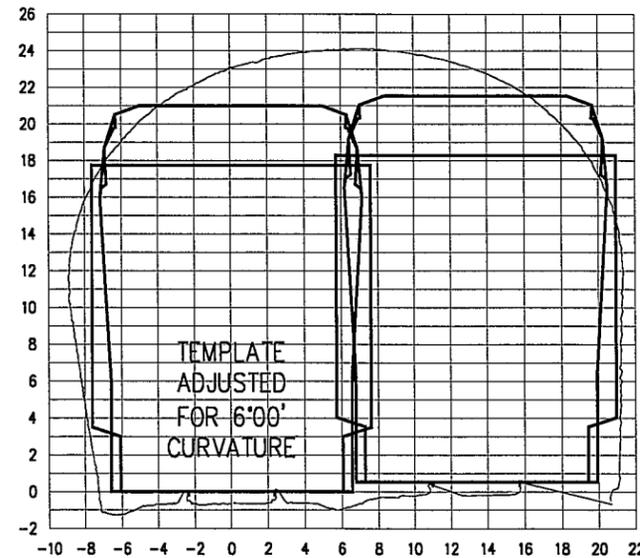
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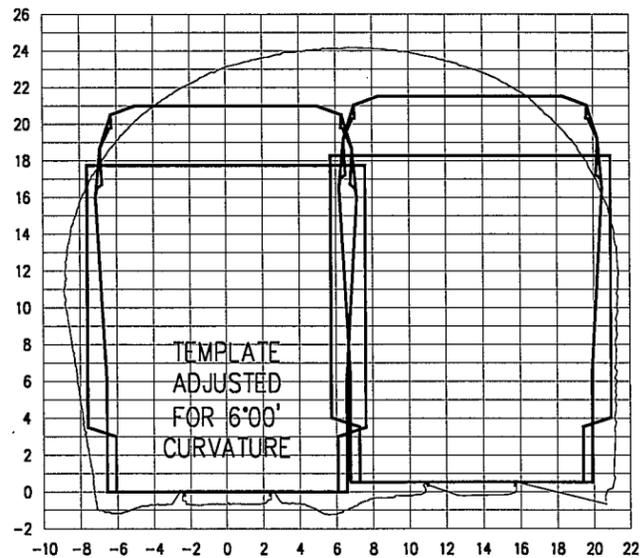
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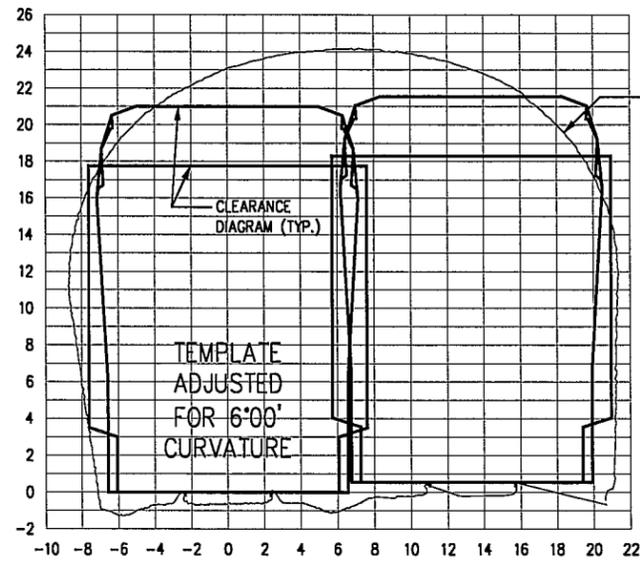


**NORFOLK SOUTHERN**

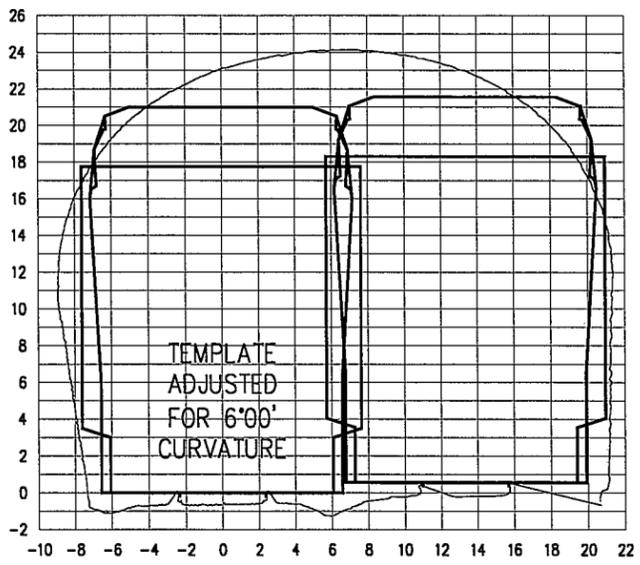
OPERATING DIVISION  
**POCAHONTAS**  
 DEPT. OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION - ATLANTA, GA.

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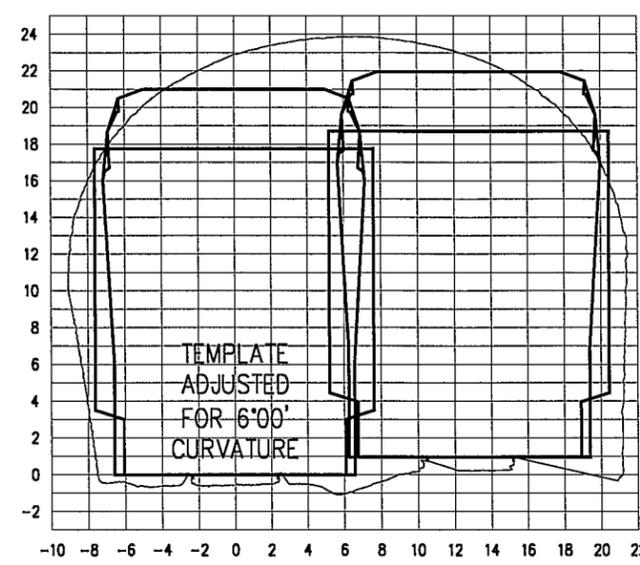
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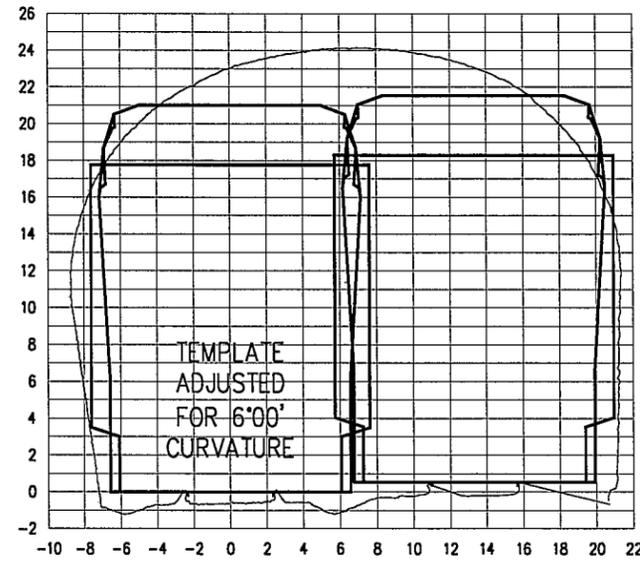
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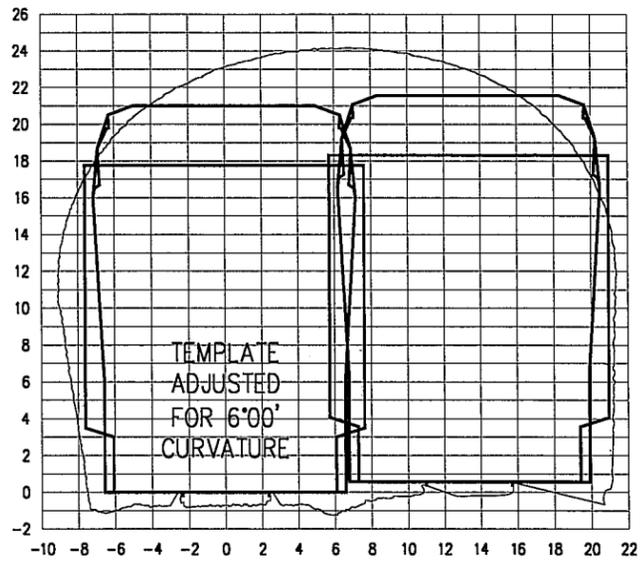
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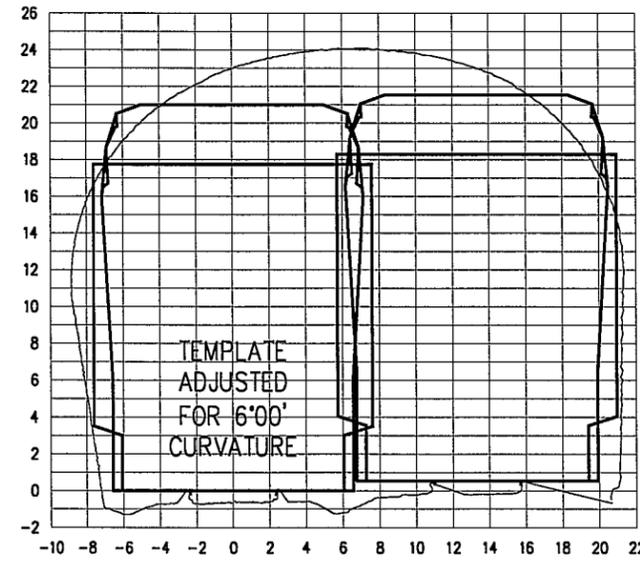
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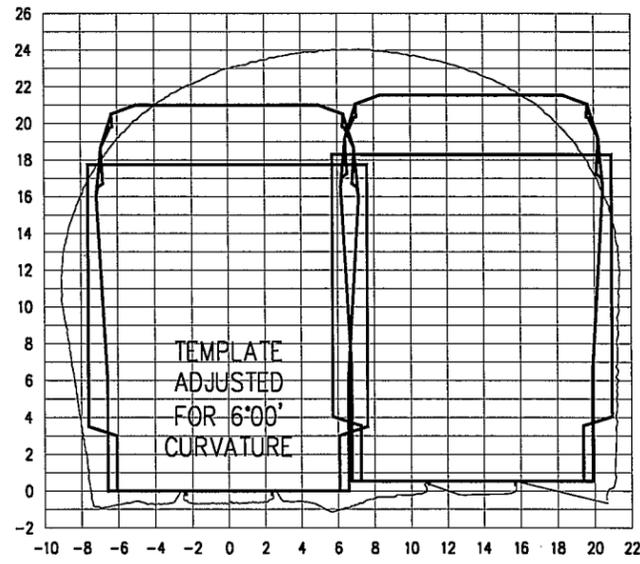
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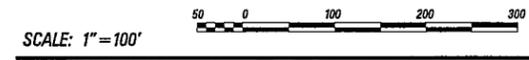
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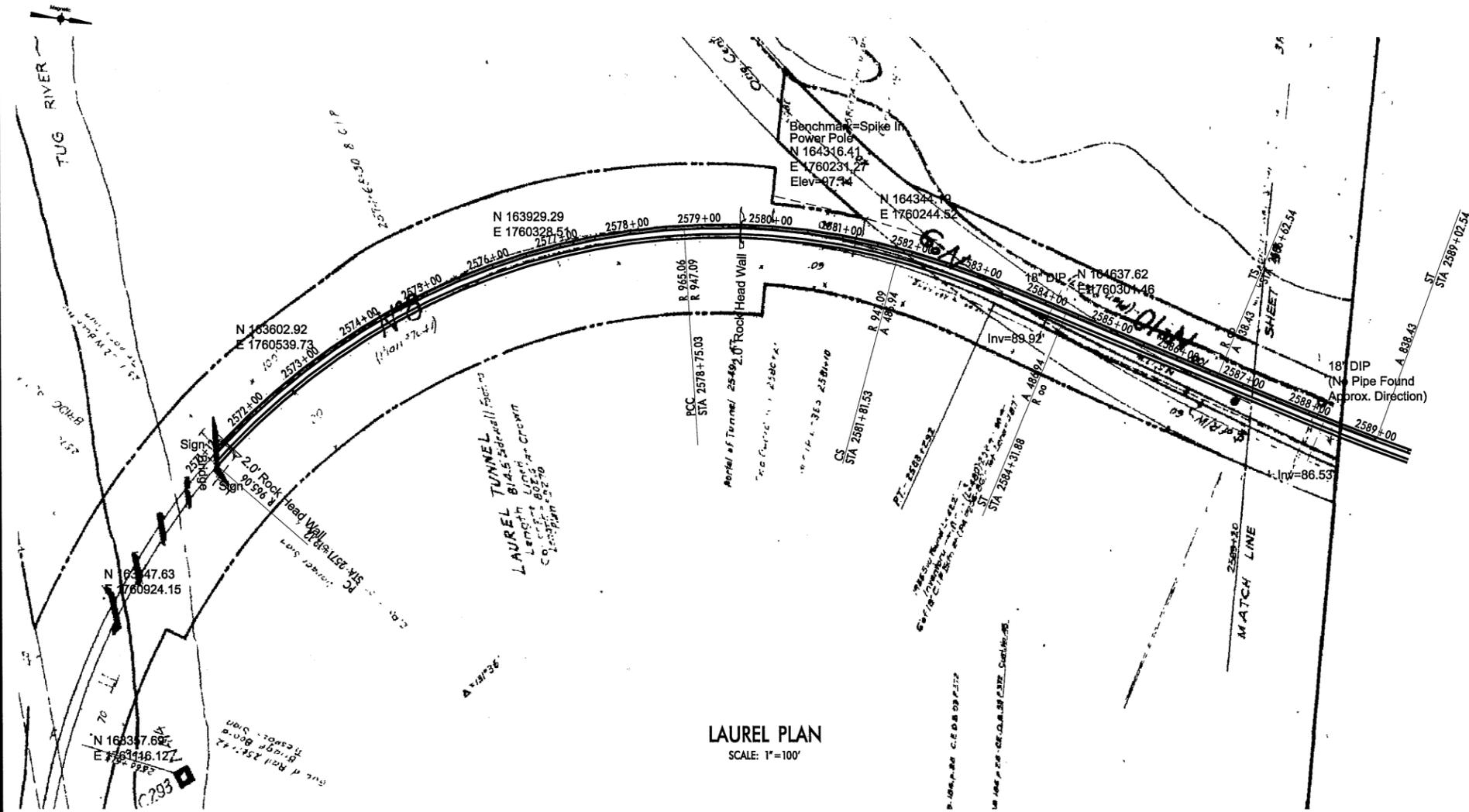
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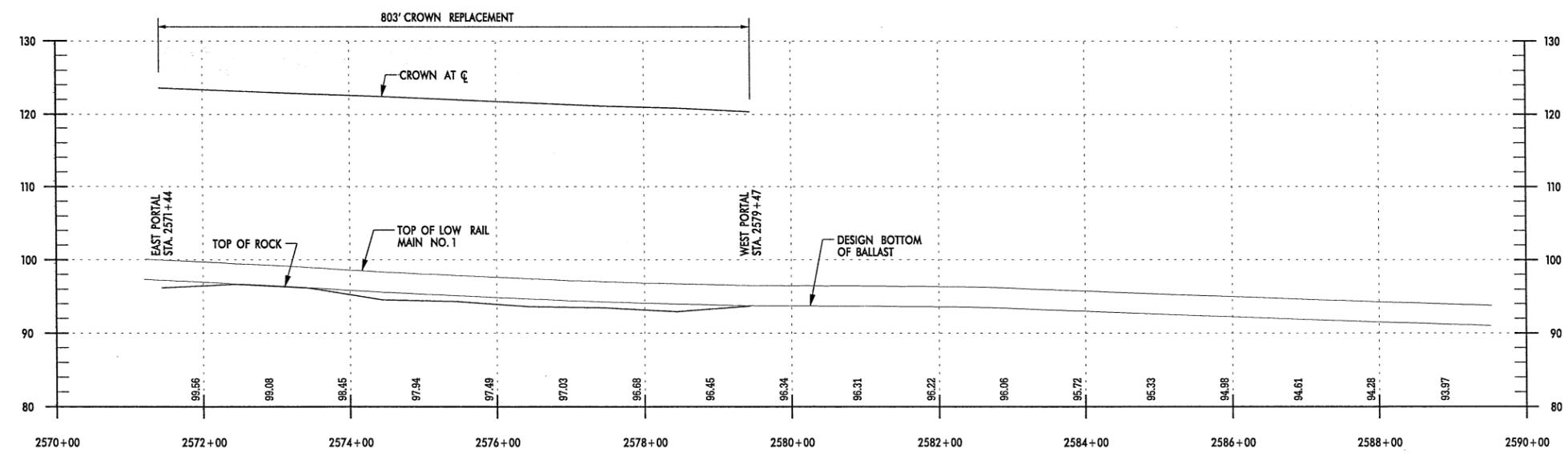
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CC (13)	2578+75.03	164078.56	1760284.30
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Delta:	45°18'52"	Right	
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Length:	763.25		
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Chord:	743.51		
Middle Ordinate:	74.48		
External:	80.71		
Tangent Direction:	302°41'59"		
Radial Direction:	32°41'59"		
Chord Direction:	325°21'55"		
Radial Direction:	78°00'51"		
Tangent Direction:	348°00'51"		
Element: Circular			
PCC (13)	2578+75.03	164078.56	1760284.30
PI (14)	2580+29.70	164229.87	1760252.18
CC (14)	2581+81.53	164275.25	1761210.74
CS (20)	2581+81.53	164383.53	1760269.86
Radius:	947.09		
Delta:	18°33'03"	Right	
Degree of Curvature (Chord):	6°03'09"		
Length:	306.64		
Length (Chord):	306.50		
Tangent:	154.68		
Chord:	305.31		
Middle Ordinate:	12.38		
External:	12.55		
Tangent Direction:	348°00'51"		
Radial Direction:	78°00'51"		
Chord Direction:	357°17'22"		
Radial Direction:	96°33'54"		
Tangent Direction:	6°33'54"		
Element: Clothoid			
CS (15)	2581+81.53	164383.53	1760269.86
SPI (16)	2582+65.12	164466.57	1760279.42
ST (17)	2584+31.88	164628.57	1760320.22
Entrance Radius:	947.09		
Exit Radius:	0.00		
Length:	250.35		
Angle:	7°34'22"	Right	
Constant:	486.94		
Long Tangent:	167.05		
Short Tangent:	83.59		
Long Chord:	250.16		
Xs:	249.92		
Ys:	11.02		
PI:	2.76		
Ki:	125.10		
Tangent Direction:	6°33'54"		
Radial Direction:	96°33'54"		
Chord Direction:	11°36'50"		
Radial Direction:	104°08'16"		
Tangent Direction:	14°08'16"		
Element: Linear			
ST (23)	2584+31.88	164628.57	1760320.22
TS (15)	2586+62.54	164852.23	1760376.56
Tangent Direction:	14°08'16"		
Tangent Length:	230.66		
Element: Clothoid			
TS (15)	2586+62.54	164852.23	1760376.56
SPI (16)	2588+22.55	165007.40	1760415.65
ST (17)	2589+02.54	165085.73	1760431.99
Entrance Radius:	0.00		
Exit Radius:	2929.00		
Length:	240.00		
Angle:	2°20'51"	Left	
Constant:	838.43		
Long Tangent:	160.01		
Short Tangent:	80.01		
Long Chord:	239.98		
Xs:	239.96		
Ys:	3.28		
PI:	0.82		
Ki:	119.99		
Tangent Direction:	14°08'16"		
Radial Direction:	104°08'16"		
Chord Direction:	13°21'19"		
Radial Direction:	101°47'25"		
Tangent Direction:	11°47'25"		



LAUREL PLAN  
SCALE: 1"=100'



LAUREL PROFILE  
SCALE: 1"=100' HORIZ.  
1"=10' VERT.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SCALE: 1"=100'

NO. 1	NO. 2	NO. 3	NO. 4	NO. 5	NO. 6	NO. 7	NO. 8	NO. 9	NO. 10

P2 04/10/05 PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PHASE REPORT  
 P1 04/17/05 PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PHASE REPORT  
 REV. BY: DATE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION: LAUREL TUNNEL, ROGERS, WV  
 TITLE: PLAN AND PROFILE

DGN	P.T.D. NO.	VRN	1629301 & 16294	WILE POST	N-414.09
DWN	FILE NO.				
CHK	DATE		APRIL 22, 2005		

OPERATING COMPANY: POCAHONTAS  
 OPERATING DIVISION: POCAHONTAS  
 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION - ATLANTA, GA

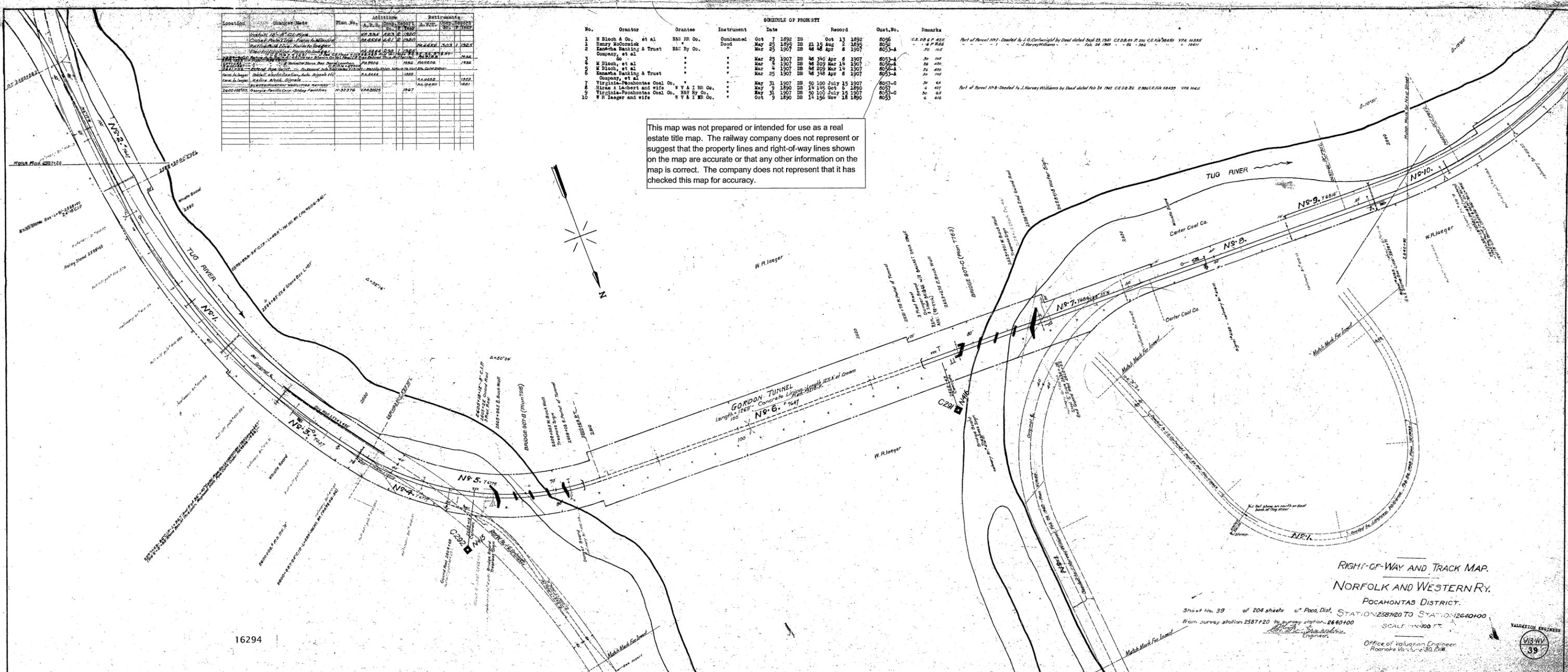
FILE NAME: P:\NSR\09395\CAD\Survey\Info\04.09 Laurel\04.09 Laureldgn  
 DATE/TIME: 02/22/05 03:03:03 PM



Location	Change Made	Plan No.	Addition	Retirement
Station 2587+20	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-3	100' x 100'	100' x 100'
Station 2588+00	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-4	100' x 100'	100' x 100'
Station 2589+00	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-5	100' x 100'	100' x 100'
Station 2590+00	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-6	100' x 100'	100' x 100'
Station 2591+00	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-7	100' x 100'	100' x 100'
Station 2592+00	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-8	100' x 100'	100' x 100'
Station 2593+00	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-9	100' x 100'	100' x 100'
Station 2594+00	Change in Right-of-Way	NS-10	100' x 100'	100' x 100'

No.	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Date	Record	Out.No.	Remarks
1	M Bloch & Co. et al	NW RR Co.	Condemned	Oct 7 1892	DB	8096	C.E. DB p 422
2	Henry Woodcock	"	Deed	Mar 25 1896	DB	8097	6 P. 264
3	Kanawha Banking & Trust Co.	NW Ry Co.	"	Mar 25 1907	DB	8053-A	70 105
4	Company, et al	"	"	Mar 25 1907	DB	8053-A	70 105
5	M Bloch, et al	"	"	Mar 4 1907	DB	8055-A	70 105
6	M Bloch, et al	"	"	Mar 4 1907	DB	8055-A	70 105
7	Virginia-Pocahontas Coal Co.	"	"	May 31 1907	DB	8057-C	70 105
8	Hiram A Lambert and wife	W V & I RR Co.	"	May 3 1890	DB	8057	70 105
9	Virginia-Pocahontas Coal Co.	W V & I RR Co.	"	May 31 1907	DB	8057-C	70 105
10	W R Jaeger and wife	W V & I RR Co.	"	Oct 9 1890	DB	8055	70 105

This map was not prepared or intended for use as a real estate title map. The railway company does not represent or suggest that the property lines and right-of-way lines shown on the map are accurate or that any other information on the map is correct. The company does not represent that it has checked this map for accuracy.



RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TRACK MAP.  
NORFOLK AND WESTERN RY.  
POCAHONTAS DISTRICT.

Sheet No. 39 of 204 sheets of Poc. Dist. STATION 2587+20 TO STATION 2640+00  
From survey station 2587+20 to survey station 2640+00  
SCALE 1/4"=100 FT.  
Office of Valuation Engineer  
Roanoke, Va. June 30, 1918.

