



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

US Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
4735 E. Marginal Way S., Bldg
1202
Seattle, WA 98134-2388
Telephone: (206) 437-1244
ATTN: Daisy Douglass,
Project Manager

Public Notice Date: June 11, 2025
Expiration Date: June 18, 2025

Reference No.: NWS-2021-673
Name: Orcas Power and Light
Cooperative (Bell Island to Shaw Island
Cable Installation)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the following request associated with Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO) for the Bell Island to Shaw Island submarine cable installation has been submitted for a Department of the Army (DA) under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as amended. In Executive Order (EO) 14156 the President declared a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621) based upon the finding that the United States' insufficient energy production, transportation, refining, and generation constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to our Nation's economy, national security, and foreign policy. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Seattle District has found that this permit request meets the terms of EO 14156 and is therefore subject to emergency permitting procedures to address an energy supply situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures. The Seattle District will implement the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division in accordance with 33 CFR § 325.2(e)(4), work described below and shown on the enclosed drawings dated March 2021.

APPLICANT: Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO)
Attention: Mr. Russell Guerry
183 Mount Baker Road
Eastsound, Washington 98245
Telephone: (360) 376-3589

LOCATION: In Wasp Passage at Shaw Island and Bell Island, San Juan Island County, Washington.

WORK: Installation of a new 2-inch diameter Kerite 15kv insulated submarine cable (approximately 1,075 feet long) to provide power from Bell Island to Shaw Island. The cable installation would result in up to 12 cubic yards (CY) of sediment excavation and discharge of up to 12 CY of the excavated material as backfill below the high tide line (HTL).

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On Bell Island, a new 7.5-inch diameter HDPE conduit and submarine cable would be attached to the existing conduit at the upland termination point. A trench would be excavated from the HTL to 0 MLLW to install the new 7.5-inch diameter HDPE conduit and submarine cable. The trench would be backfilled with the native excavated materials totaling approximately 12 CY placed below the HTL. The remainder of the cable would be unspooled from a barge and supporting vessels as it moves across the channel placing the cable directly on the seafloor. The cable would then be floated ashore and placed directly along the shoreline of Shaw Island. Cast-iron cable protection would be installed from approximately +30 MLLW to -40 MLLW to protect the cable from sharp protrusions, and from potential anchor strikes or other damage which may occur in the shallows. Above +30 MLLW, 7.5-inch diameter steel conduit would be placed into the rocky bank for 40 feet to protect the new cable. In the uplands, approximately 300 feet of conduit would be trenched into an existing footpath that leads to an existing transformer where a new submarine cable termination point would be installed. The cable would be pulled through the newly installed conduit to connect with the new submarine termination point.

All trenching work would be completed in the dry during low tides using an excavator or backhoe. Additionally, support vessels and divers may be used as necessary while laying the new cables on the seafloor.

The existing cable (approximately 2,360 feet long) from Orcas Island to Bell Island would be left in place as it is associated with active phone lines. The applicant will keep the existing cable in place to avoid damaging phone connectivity, avoid damaging sensitive habitat, as well as to retain it for redundancy.

PURPOSE: To maintain power services on Shaw Island and Bell Island.

Copies of this public notice which have been mailed or otherwise physically distributed feature project drawings in black and white. The electronic version features those drawings in color, which we think more accurately communicates the scope of project impacts. To access the electronic version of this public notice, go to the Seattle District's web page at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/> and under the heading Open Public Comment Periods select Regulatory Public Notices. Recently issued public notices are listed in chronological order of the date of issuance. Select and view the listing for this project.

The location of the line of mean high water and high tide line shown on the project drawings have not yet been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines the boundaries of the waters are substantially inaccurate a new public notice may be published.

MITIGATION: No mitigation is proposed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or

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proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. If the Corps determines the project may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat the Corps would consult with NMFS and USFWS in accordance with the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division, under 50 CFR Part 402.05 in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) determines that the proposed action may adversely affect EFH for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters the Corps will coordinate with NMFS In accordance with the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) determines that the proposed action requires Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps would initiate Section 106 consultation in accordance with the special processing procedures approved by Northwestern Division, under 36 CFR Part 800.12 in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

EVALUATION: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR Parts 320-332 and the decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the 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 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 Washington Department of Ecology has or will evaluate the proposed project in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and for consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, 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.

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The described discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: The source of the fill material will be the existing material excavated and side cast.

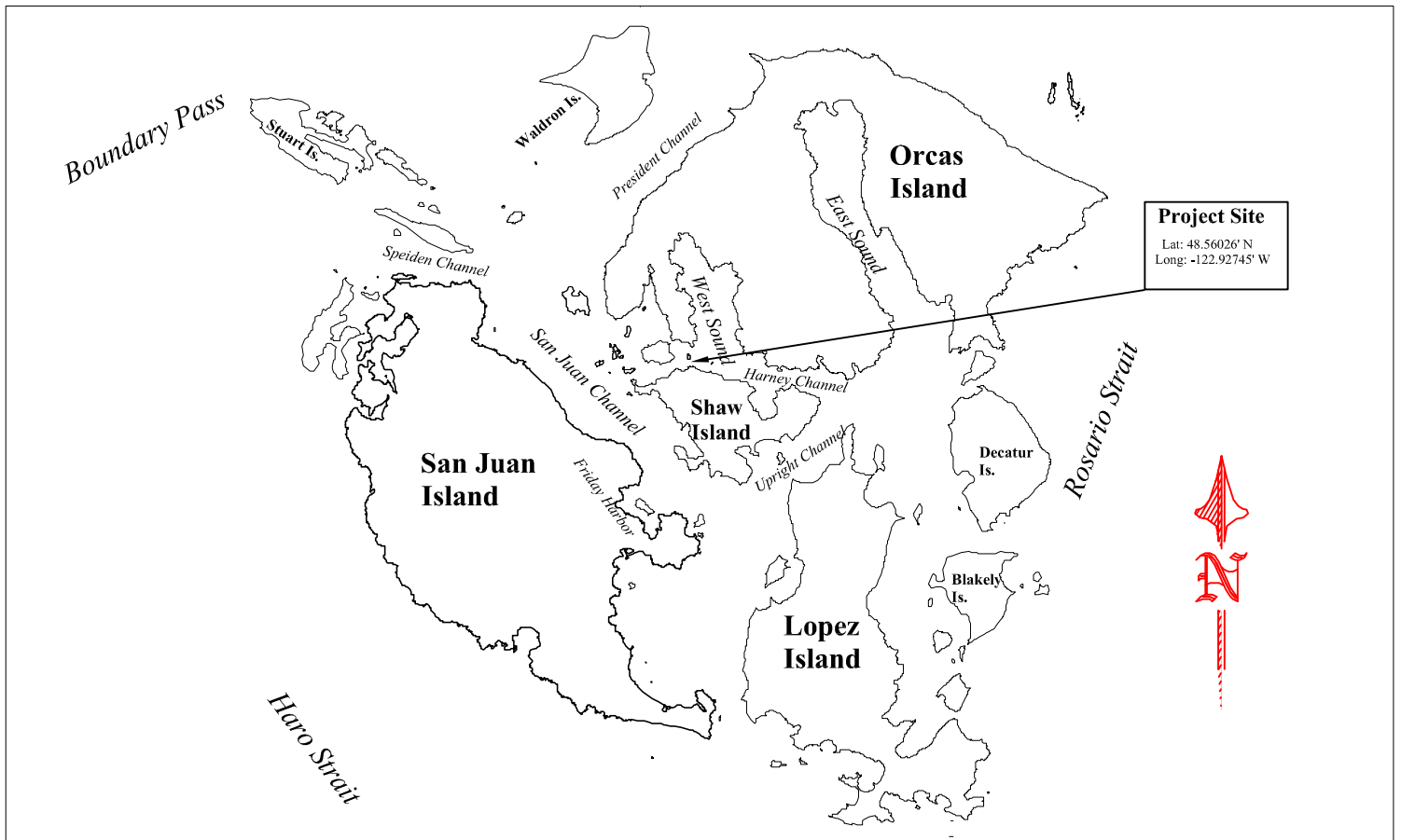
COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether authorizing the work would not be contrary to the public interest. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from 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 daisy.p.douglass@usace.army.mil. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commenter's name, address, and phone number. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses. 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.

You may also now submit project specific comments to the Corps through the new Regulatory Request System (RRS) through this link: <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> ; Click Public Notices and filter to Washington State to see all current Seattle District Public Notices, including this notice. You may submit your comments directly through this portal.

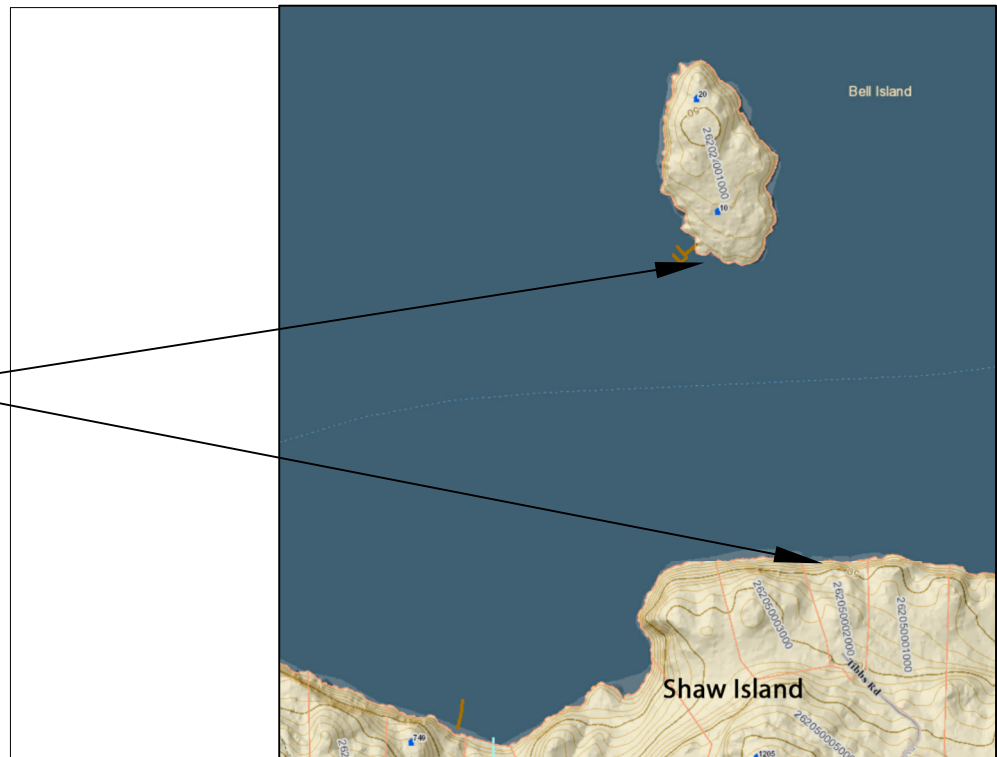
Conventional mail comments should be sent to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch,
Attention: Daisy Douglass, 4735 E. Marginal Way S, Bldg 1202, Seattle, Washington, 98134-2388.

To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: OPALCO (Bell Island to Shaw Island Cable Installation); NWS-2021-673

Encl: Figures (5 pages)



PROJECT SITE



OPALCO - BELL CABLE PROJECT

REFERENCE: # NWS-2021-673

APPLICANT:

Orcas Power and Light Co-op, c/o Steve Gerlicher

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. Michael and Sharon Crosby
TPN 262050003000

2. Kenneth G Forster
TPN 262050001000

VICINITY MAP

LOCATION: Bell Island
TPN 262024001000

LAT/LONG: 48.59528° N, -122.98079° W

LOCATION: Shaw Island
TPN 262050002000

LAT/LONG: 48.59252° N, -122.97906° W

PROPOSED: Power Cable Replacement

IN: Wasp Passage, Harney Channel

AT/NEAR: Shaw Island

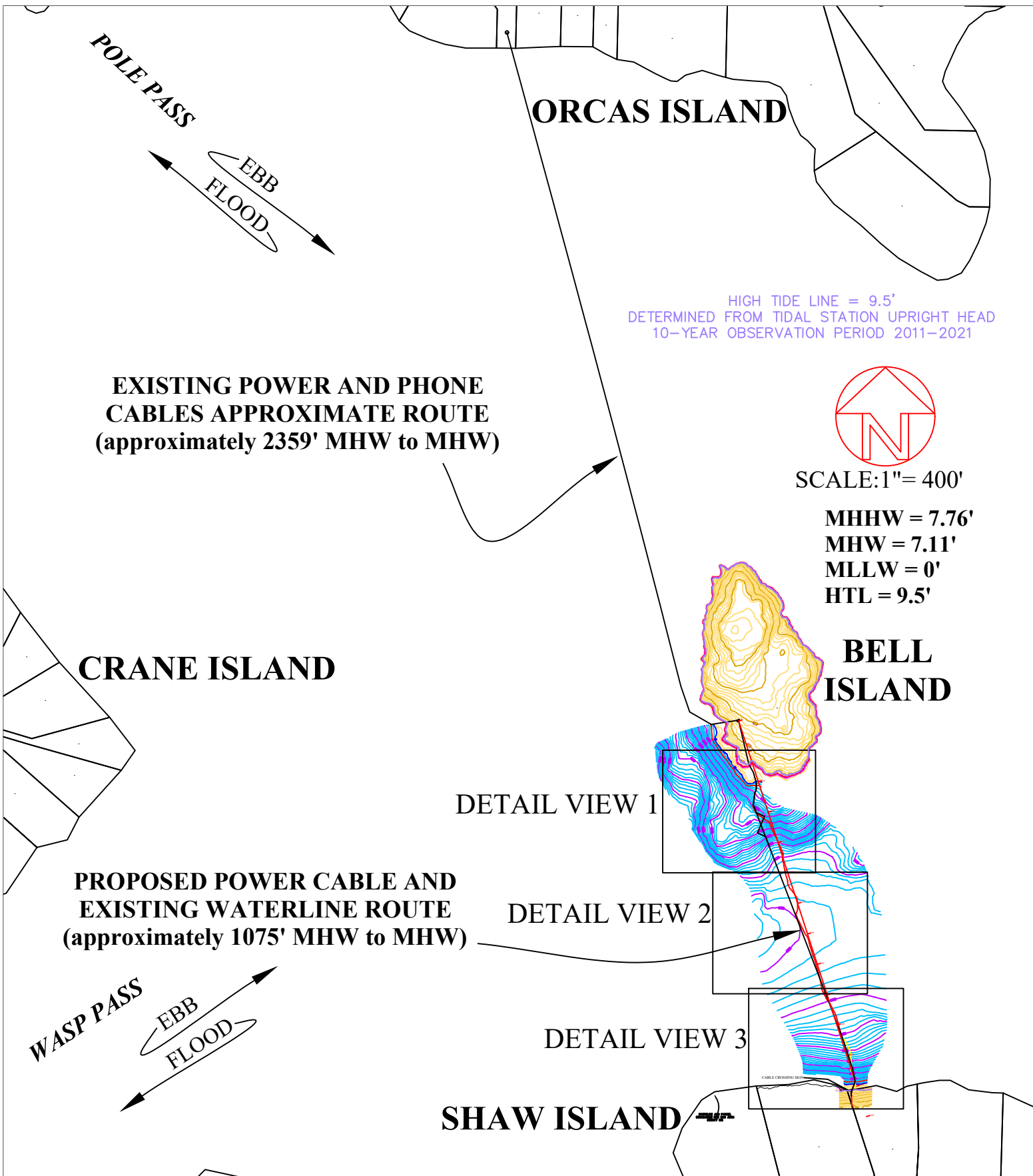
COUNTY: San Juan

STATE: WA

DATUM: N.O.S. MLLW=0'

SHEET: 1 of 5

DATE: March 2021



REFERENCE: # NWS-2021-673

APPLICANT:

Orcas Power and Light Co-op, c/o Steve Gerlicher

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. Michael and Sharon Crosby
TPN 262050003000

2. Kenneth G Forster
TPN 262050001000

OVERVIEW

LOCATION: Bell Island

TPN 262024001000

LAT/LONG: 48.59528° N, -122.98079° W

LOCATION: Shaw Island

TPN 262050002000

LAT/LONG: 48.59252° N, -122.97906° W

PROPOSED: Power Cable Replacement

IN: Wasp Passage, Harney Channel

AT/NEAR: Shaw Island

COUNTY: San Juan

STATE: WA

DATUM: N.O.S. MLLW=0'

SHEET: 2 of 5

DATE: March 2021



WASP PASS

SCALE: 1" = 60'

BELL ISLAND

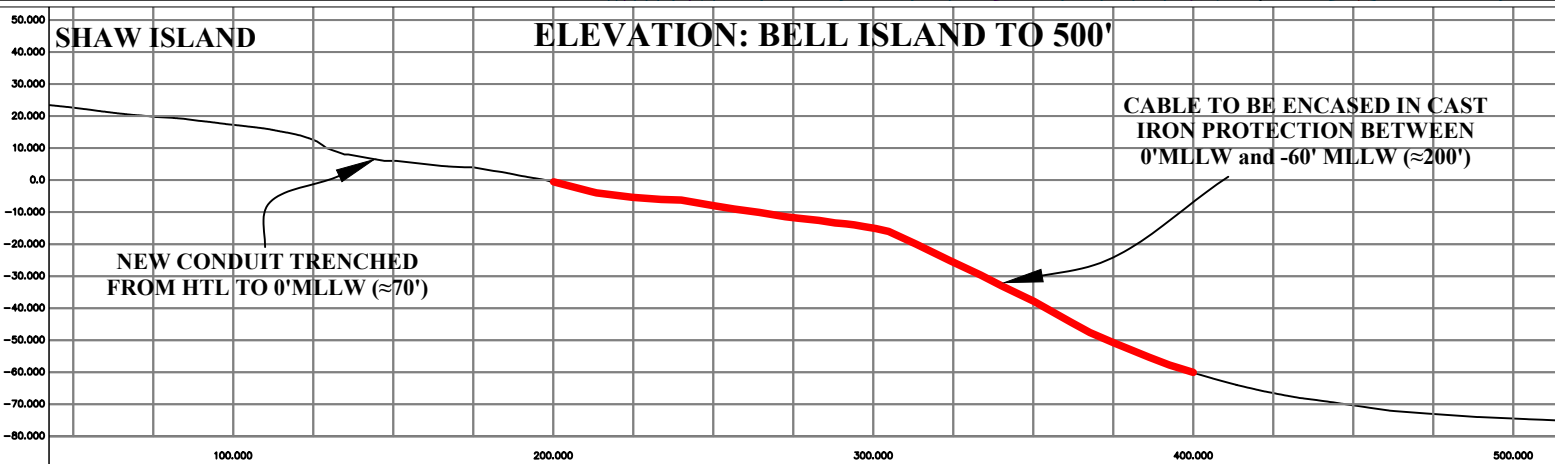
NEW CONDUIT TRENCHED
FROM HTL TO 0'MLLW
(≈70')

PROPOSED POWER
CABLE AND
EXISTING
WATERLINE ROUTE

CABLE TO BE ENCASED IN
CAST IRON PROTECTION
BETWEEN 0'MLLW and -60'
MLLW (≈200')

MHHW = 7.76'
MHW = 7.11'
MLLW = 0'
HTL = 9.5'

~~~~~ = cast iron protectors



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**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

1. Michael and Sharon Crosby  
TPN 262050003000
2. Kenneth G Forster  
TPN 262050001000

**DETAIL VIEW 1**

**LOCATION:** Bell Island  
TPN 262024001000

**LAT/LONG:** 48.59528° N, -122.98079° W

**LOCATION:** Shaw Island  
TPN 262050002000

**LAT/LONG:** 48.59252° N, -122.97906° W

**PROPOSED:** Power Cable Replacement

**IN:** Wasp Passage, Harney Channel

**AT/NEAR:** Shaw Island

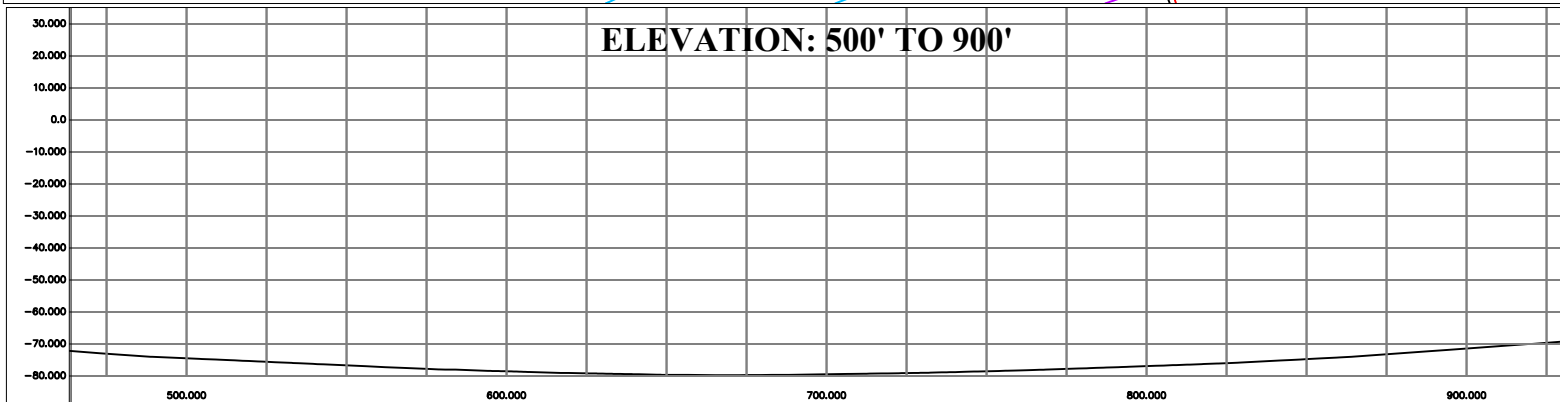
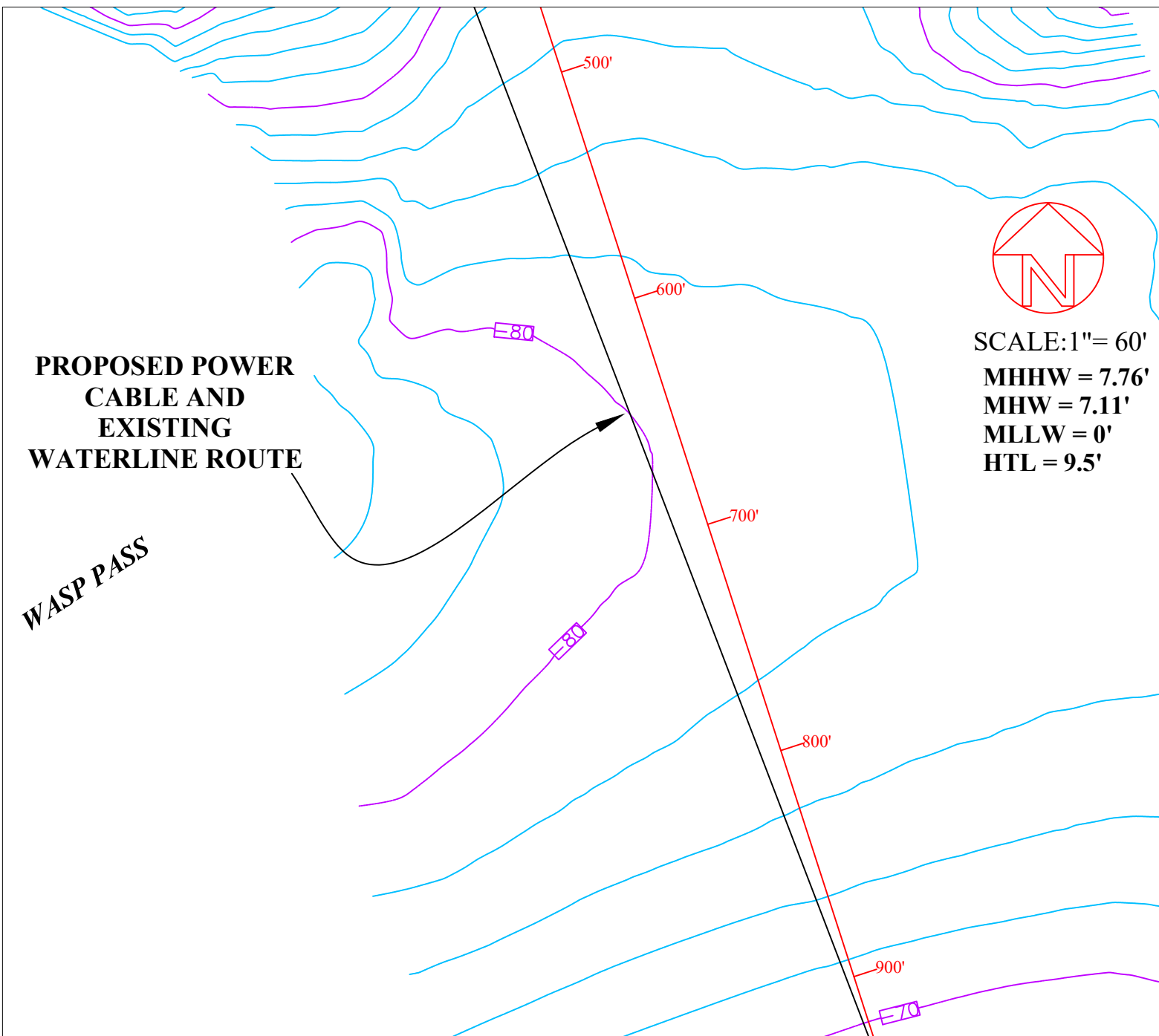
**COUNTY:** San Juan

**STATE:** WA

**DATUM:** N.O.S. MLLW=0'

**SHEET:** 3 of 5

**DATE:** March 2021



**REFERENCE:** # NWS-2021-673

**APPLICANT:**

Orcas Power and Light Co-op, c/o Steve Gerlicher

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

1. Michael and Sharon Crosby  
TPN 262050003000

2. Kenneth G Forster  
TPN 262050001000

## DETAIL VIEW 2

**LOCATION:** Bell Island  
TPN 262024001000

**LAT/LONG:** 48.59528° N, -122.98079° W

**LOCATION:** Shaw Island  
TPN 262050002000

**LAT/LONG:** 48.59252° N, -122.97906° W

**PROPOSED:** Power Cable Replacement

**IN:** Wasp Passage, Harney Channel

**AT/NEAR:** Shaw Island

**COUNTY:** San Juan

**STATE:** WA

**DATUM:** N.O.S. MLLW=0'

**SHEET:** 4 of 5

**DATE:** March 2021

