

**CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP.**

**PIERCE MILLS PROJECT  
FERC NO. 2396**

**RECREATION AND LANDSCAPING PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

Articles 412 and 409 of the license for the Pierce Mills Hydroelectric Project require recreation and landscaping plans respectively. The plans are detailed on Figures 1 and 2.

**RECREATION PLAN DETAILS**

- 1) A public parking area for 4 vehicles will be constructed as shown on Figure 2 with hard pack gravel and pressure treated curb stops.
- 2) The picnic tables are in place as shown in Figure 2. The closest table to the parking lot has been modified for wheelchair use. A gravel path to this table will be installed. The tables were constructed with concrete frames and pressure treated table tops and benches.
- 3) Two tentsites for overnight camping by canoeists will be created as shown on Figure 2. The sites will be level grassy areas. If the sites receive enough use to cause grass distress and erosion than gravel tent pads will be installed. Signs will be installed indicating camping for canoeists only.
- 4) The stile for access to the river over the penstock will constructed as shown in Figure 3 and located as shown on Figure 2. An interpretive sign will be located next to the platform as shown on Figure 2. Proposed layout of the interpretive sign is shown in Figure 4.
- 5) Restroom facilities consisting of a wheelchair accessible portable toilet will be located as shown on Figure 2 from May through October.
- 6) Directional, warning and information signs detailed in Figure 5 will be installed as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

## ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BOARD COMPLIANCE

The recreational plan was developed using the guidelines of the Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide, 1993 PLAE, Inc. Berkeley, California. The Design Guide was created with help from the USDA Forest Service and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board to help designers of outdoor recreation areas comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and was given to CVPS by the Green Mountain National Forest for use in designing recreation areas at licensed hydroelectric facilities.

The parking lot includes an eight foot wide barrier free area to the right of the first space for the use by a van with a side mounted lift. If recreational use of the area ever causes the parking lot to be fully utilized, CVPS will install a sign indicating that the first spot is reserved by displaying the International Symbol of Accessibility.

The picnic table closest to the parking lot meets Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) number 4.32.

The portable toilet will accommodate wheelchairs and will be accessed by a short packed gravel path.

## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

The activities requiring ground disturbance are the parking lot, the trail to the picnic table and the penstock stile. In all cases gravel will be brought in to build the item. Excavation of existing topsoil is not contemplated thus erosion and sediment transport should not be a concern. The gravel will be packed and contoured to prevent any erosion. CVPS is proposing to not submit a detailed erosion control plan per Article 401 for this work.

## ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The CVPS operating personnel that take of the hydroelectric station operation will see to the operation and maintenance of the recreational facilities.

## IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Completion of the recreation area will be within 90 days of the receipt of the plan's approval, except that installation of gravel and the penstock stile can probably not take place between November 15 and April 15 due to ground conditions.

## PASSUMPSIC RIVER RECREATION GUIDE

A Passumpsic River Recreation Guide is being created by Lyndon State College personnel in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Passumpsic River Watch, the Town of St. Johnsbury and CVPS. The guide is scheduled for printing and distribution in September 1995.

## LANDSCAPING PLAN

The purpose of the landscaping plan is to reduce the visual intrusiveness of the substation and the penstock from the picnic area. Serviceberry, Privet and Viburnum (American Cranberry) will be planted for this purpose as shown in Figure 6.

## LANDSCAPING IMPLEMENTATION

If plan approval is received in time, CVPS would prefer to perform the plantings in late September 1995 to ensure survival. Otherwise the plantings would be completed by June 1996.



← PASSUMPSIC RIVER

DAM

Power-house

INTEAPRETIVE SIGN

STILE

PENSTOCK

SUBSTATION

TENT SITES

BURNING BUSH

Portage Trail

Privet

Viburnum TABLES

PICNIC TABLES

PARKING AREA

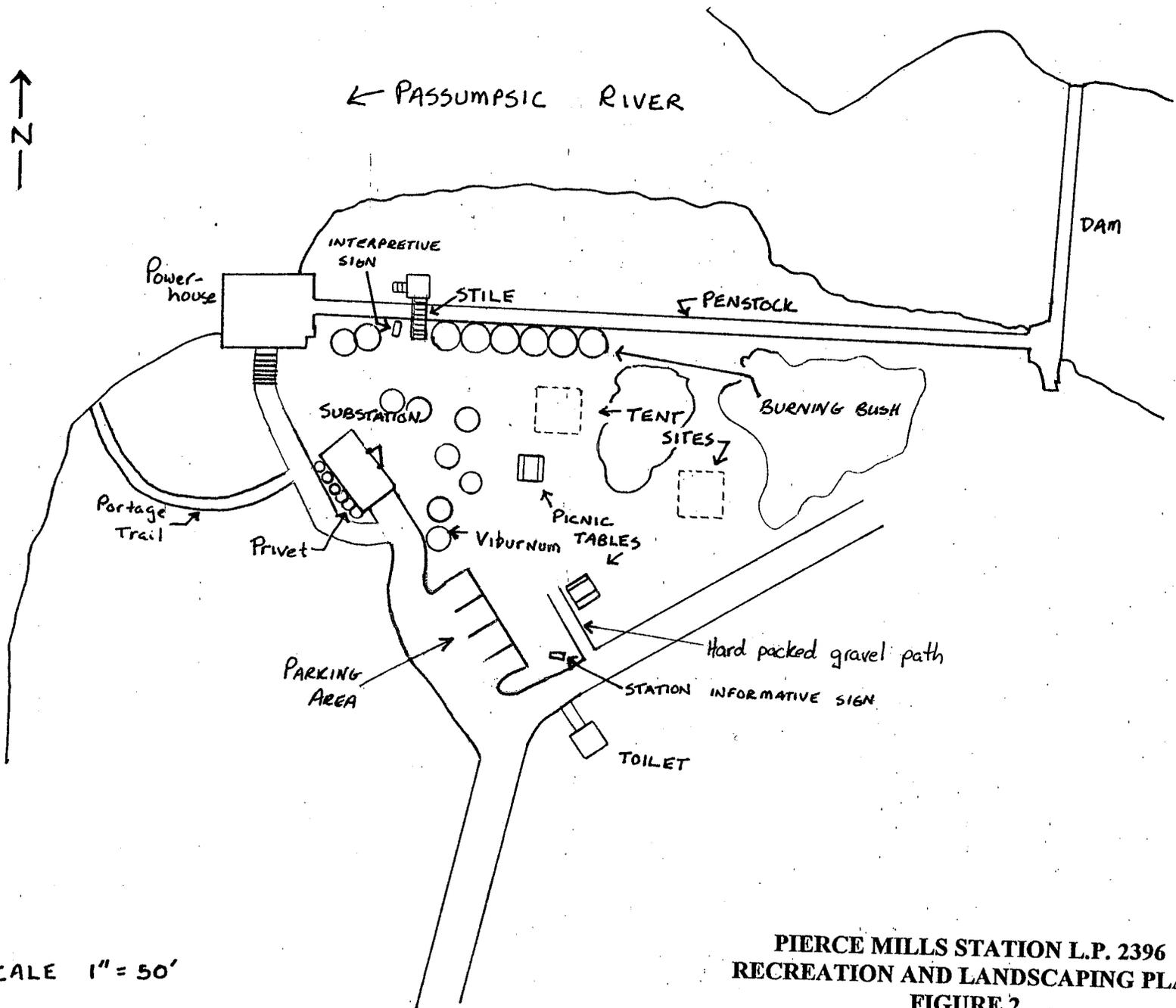
Hard packed gravel path

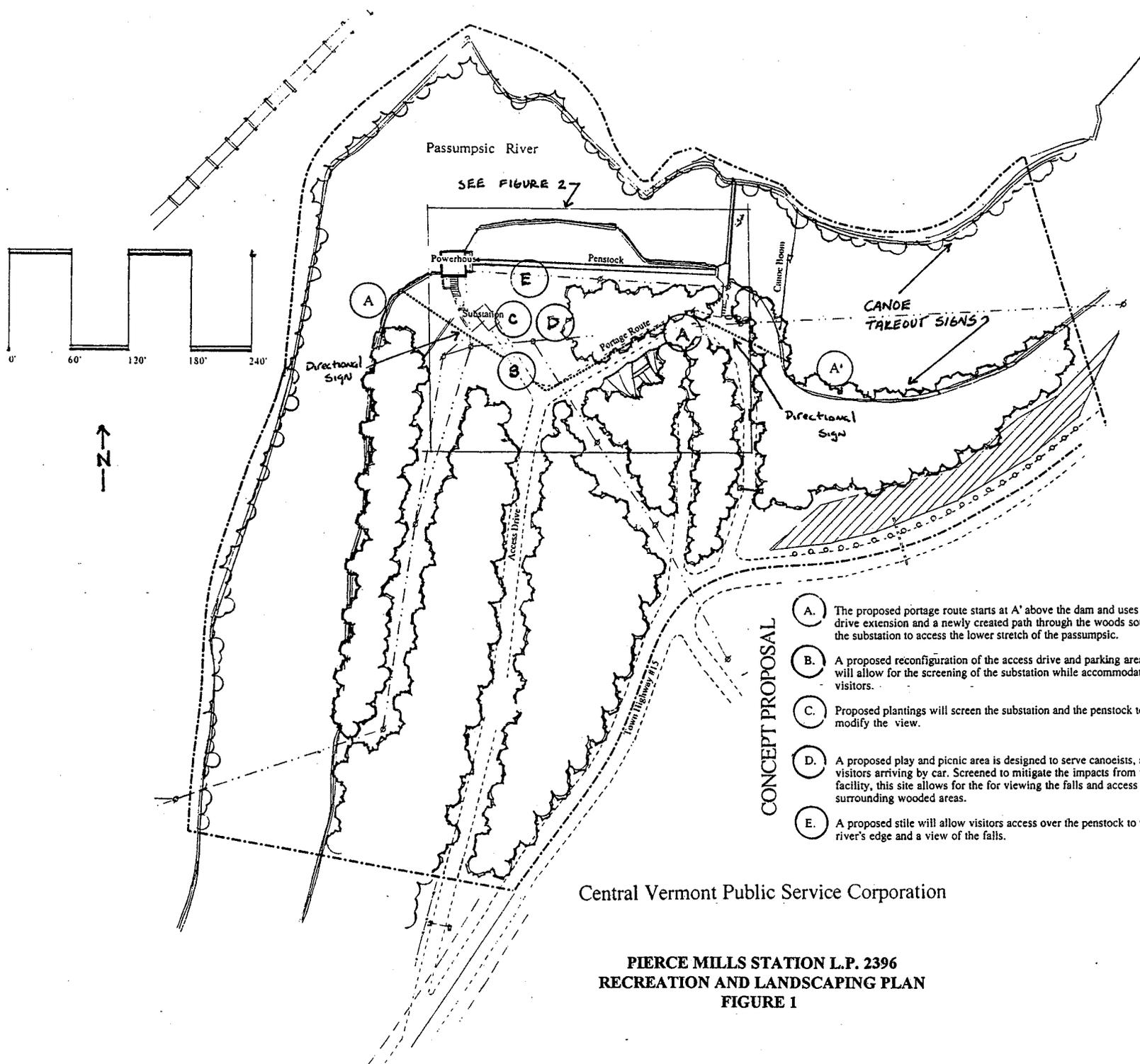
TOILET

STATION INFORMATIVE SIGN

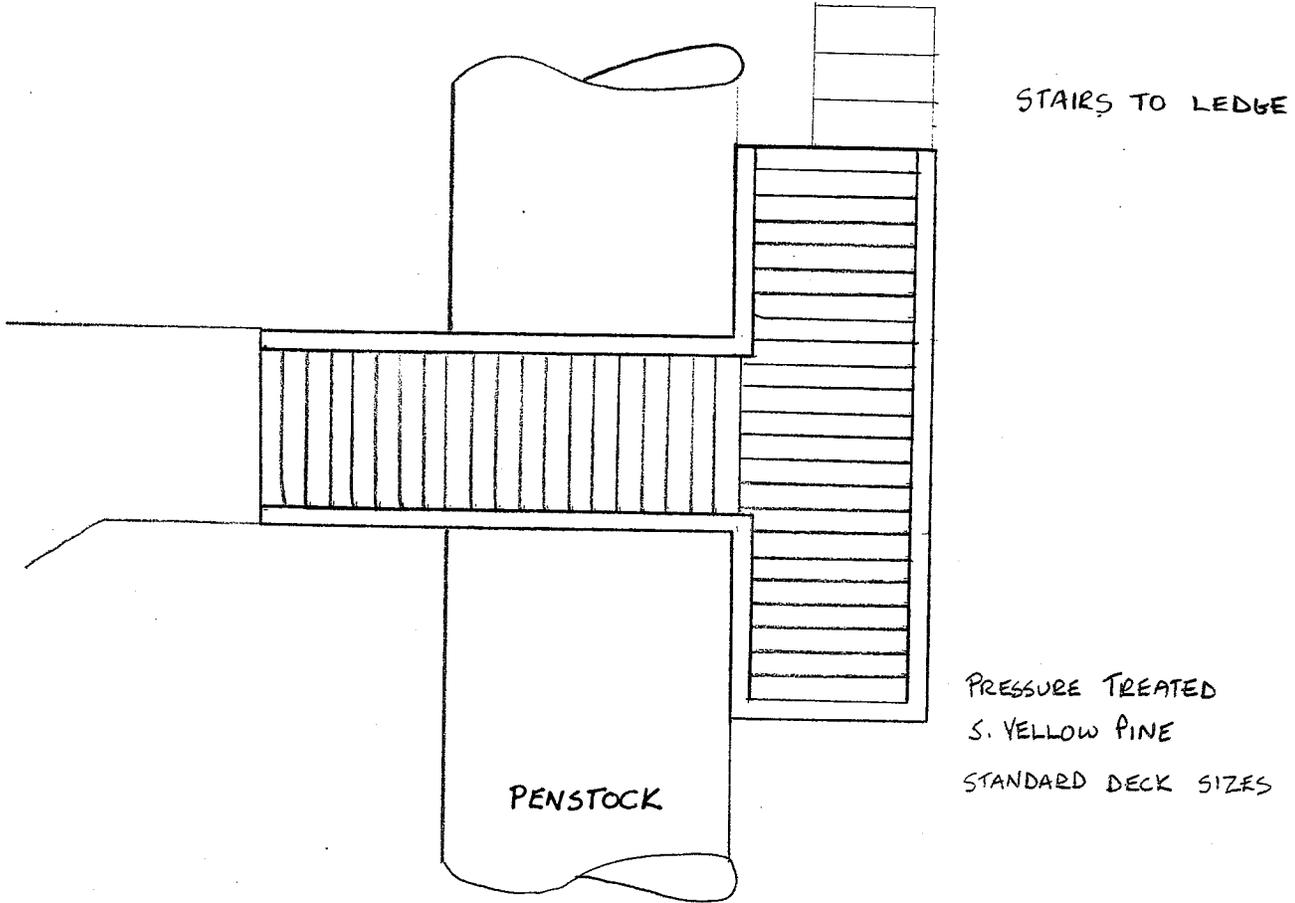
SCALE 1" = 50'

PIERCE MILLS STATION L.P. 2396  
RECREATION AND LANDSCAPING PLAN  
FIGURE 2

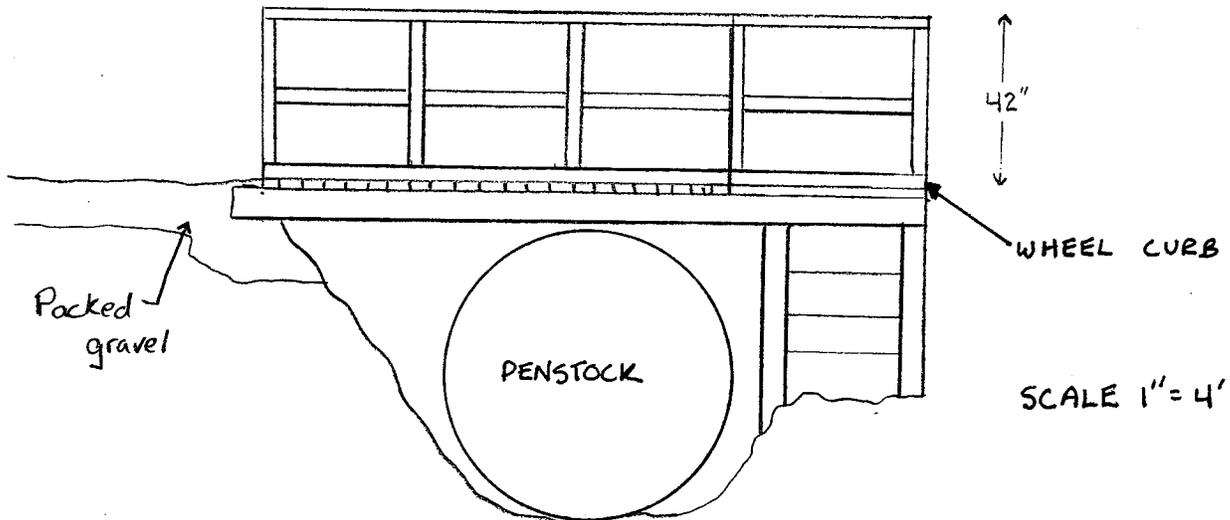




PIERCE MILLS STATION L.P. 2396  
RECREATION PLAN  
FIGURE 3  
PENSTOCK STILE



PRESSURE TREATED  
S. YELLOW PINE  
STANDARD DECK SIZES



SCALE 1" = 4'

**PIERCE MILLS STATION L.P. 2396  
RECREATION PLAN  
FIGURE 4  
INTERPRETIVE SIGN**

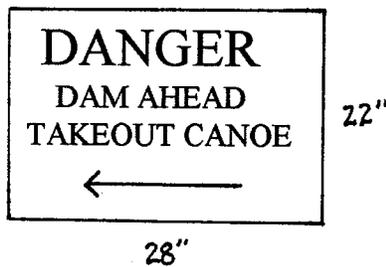
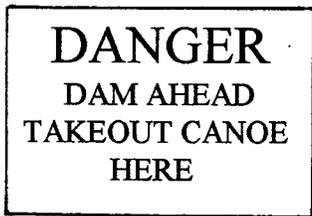
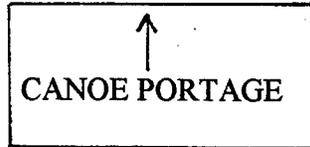
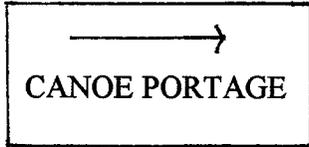
**The Pierce Mills hydroelectric station was built in 1917-1918 by the Twin State Gas & Electric Company. The powerhouse was completely destroyed in the flood of 1927, although the concrete dam was largely undamaged. The plant was rebuilt in 1928 from designs by the New England Public Service Company, utilizing portions of the earlier substructure. The facility, together with the Arnold Falls and Passumpsic hydroelectric stations meet the National Register of Historic Places definition of a historic district because they are united historically by design and by physical development. Each station is compact, barely (but sufficiently) large enough to accommodate a single generating unit, with brick exterior walls, flat roof, and large, round-arched wall openings typical of utility designs in the 1920s.**

**The facility which is owned and operated by Central Vermont Public Service Company still generates in excess of 1.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year, enough to supply approximately 125 homes.**

**Up to 200 cubic feet per second of water passes through the pipe, called a penstock, from the dam to the powerhouse with a drop in elevation of 18 feet. The water powers one vertical shaft Francis unit, rated at approximately 250 kilowatts.**

**The project is operated under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and was issued a new forty year license in 1994.**

**PIERCE MILLS STATION L.P. 2396  
RECREATION PLAN  
FIGURE 5 - SIGNS**



**PIERCE MILLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**  
FERC LICENCE NO. 2396  
OWNED AND OPERATED BY  
CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP.

Recreation area open to all without discrimination.

Overnight camping for canoeists only .  
No overnight parking  
Recreation area closes at dusk.

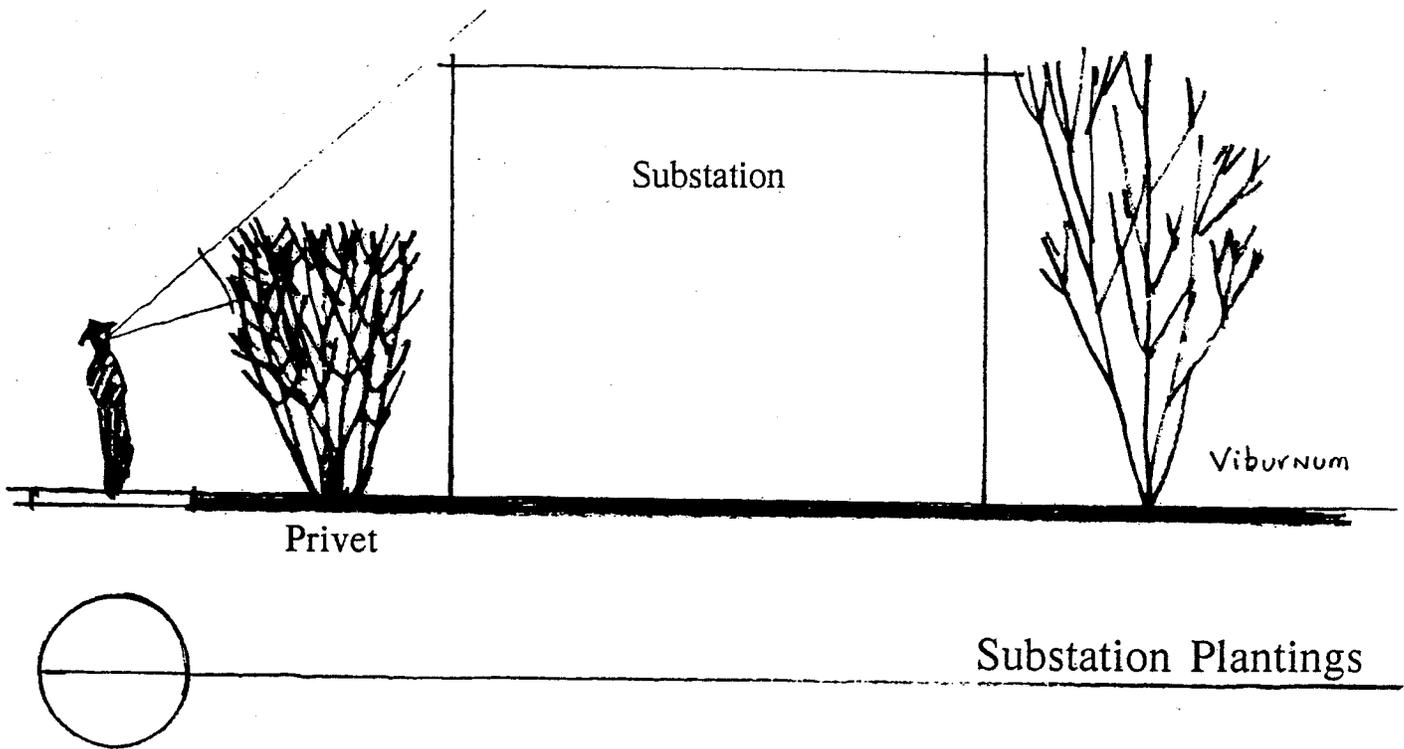
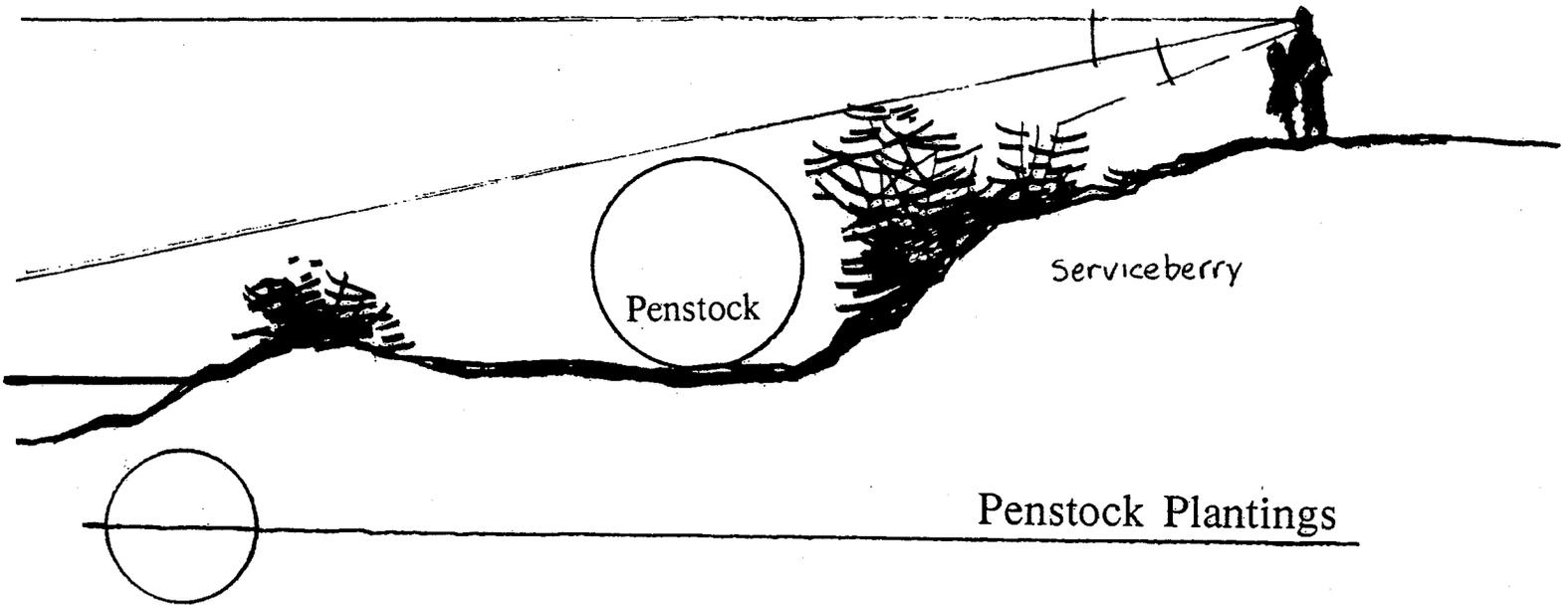
Please stay clear of the powerhouse and the electrical substation.

Please do not litter: Carry in - Carry out

3'

2'

PIERCE MILLS STATION L.P. 2396  
LANDSCAPING PLAN  
FIGURE 6



Pierce Mill Plantings Cross Sections