



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Public Notice

**Issuing Office: CELRB-PML-E
Notice No: Wilson West Pier Repair-26**

**Published: 07 APR 26
Expires: 08 MAY 26**

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

WILSON WEST PIER REPAIR TOWN OF WILSON, NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK

This Public Notice has been prepared pursuant to Section 404(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). It is being administered in conformance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulation, "Practice and Procedure: Final Rule for Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects involving the Discharge of Dredged Materials into Waters of the United States or Ocean Waters," 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 337.1. The purpose of this public notice is to specify the stone that would be discharged into waters of the United States by implementation of the proposed action and advise all interested parties of the proposed project and to provide an opportunity to submit comments or request a public hearing.

The USACE Buffalo District plans to repair the Wilson West Pier located in the Town of Wilson, Niagara County, New York (Figure 1). Wilson Harbor is located at the mouth of Twelvemile Creek within Tuscarora Bay. Tuscarora Bay is separated from the lake by a sand spit projecting from the west shore, called Sunset Island. The federal structures at Wilson Harbor consist of the east and west piers which provide a stable entrance to the bay and the mooring facilities located within. The federal navigation channel passes from the lake through the piers and into the bay. Figure 2 displays the designated reaches of the east and west pier to be repaired.

In 2019, the USACE received a letter from the Town of Wilson expressing concerns related to wave overtopping of 200 feet of the east end of Sunset Island adjacent to the west side of the west pier (Figure 3). The letter from the town expressed concern that due to high water levels on Lake Ontario, wave action could cause a breach separating Sunset Island from the west pier and consequent loss of use of the harbor. In 2024, a site inspection was conducted by the USACE that determined additional measures would need to be taken to maintain the integrity of the harbor.

The proposed repair consists of a rubblemound overlay of Reach B and a shore parallel extension

at the south end of the west pier (new Reach E) (Figure 4). To protect Reach B of the pier, a rubblemound stone overlay is proposed (Figure 5 & 6). The rubblemound overlay would be 200 feet long and 50 feet wide and be constructed on the lakeside of Reach B of the west pier. The crest of the overlay would be nine feet above low water datum (LWD)¹, which is just slightly higher than the existing cut stone that was placed during the 2005 repair. The crest stones of the overlay would meet against the lakeside of the existing cut stone. The overlay would have a 2:1 side slope down from the crest, starting at a point 13 feet offset right from the baseline. A bench would be provided at three feet above LWD to provide scour protection for the toe of the structure. The bench elevation was selected in order to ensure that the top of the bench would always be visible above the water and not present a hazard to navigation. Since scour is not expected to be significant, the bench would consist of just a single layer of armor stone.

The pier extension (Reach E) would consist of a nine-foot-wide crest, with the centerline at the project baseline, 2:1 side slope, and a bench at three feet above LWD on the harbor side of the structure (Figure 7). The bench elevation was selected in order to ensure that the top would be visible above the water and not present a hazard to navigation. Since scour is not expected to be significant, the bench would consist of just a single layer of armor stone. This reach would be created by extending the Reach D rubblemound by approximately 50 feet. The length of the crest was selected so that the structure would provide shelter for the eroding shoreline of Sunset Island but would not shelter the privately owned dock located further to the West.

The remnants of the old spur breakwater at the southwest corner of Reach A of the pier would need to be removed prior to construction so it doesn't interfere with the tie-in of the Reach B overlay. The crest of the Reach B stone overlay will stop at Station 8+50 so the tie-in wrap would terminate lakeward of the ordinary high-water mark of Lake Ontario, ensuring no encroachment onto privately owned property.

The pier repair would consist of approximately 2,600 cubic yards of stone placed below the ordinary high-water mark, with a total area disturbance of approximately 0.5 acres. No excavation would be needed during the pier repairs. In addition, approximately 0.13 acres of vegetation and trees would be removed within the footprint of Reaches B, C, and D of the west pier. This would reduce the potential for damage to these reaches of the structure from prying action induced by heavy winds during storm events, and structure degradation from root intrusion.

The project may result in minor, localized, and short-term increased turbidity in the vicinity of the Wilson Harbor (Lake Ontario and Tuscarora Bay) during project construction. To avoid and minimize impacts to the spawning, nursery, and feeding activities of indigenous fish species, the USACE would adhere to the in-water work restricted dates specified in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC), as appropriate. Temporary effects to local fish populations,

¹ Low Water Datum (LWD) for Lake Ontario is 243.3 feet above mean sea level at Rimouski, Quebec, Canada.

aquatic vegetation and benthic organisms in the immediate project area could occur. Any such impacts are expected to be negligible. In the long-term, the rubblemound and armor stone placement is expected to provide minor improvements to fish habitat by providing increased interstitial space between stones, which would provide feeding and resting habitat for aquatic organisms.

The proposed project is a maintenance activity, to restore the structural integrity of the Wilson West Pier and help protect the Wilson Harbor and Tuscarora Bay. The existing pier would remain in place. Overall, the proposed pier repair project is not expected to result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

Pursuant to USACE regulations, WQC from the NYSDEC is required for discharges into the waters of the United States. Therefore, a copy of this public notice has been provided to NYSDEC. The USACE Buffalo District has submitted a Section 401 State WQC application to the NYSDEC on October 16, 2025. The NYSDEC is in the process of reviewing the application

There are no listed historic properties or properties determined as being eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places that would be affected by this project. Following a literature review, the USACE determined that the proposed project would have no effect on historic properties and no further cultural resource investigation is recommended prior to implementation of the proposed project. This determination was sent to the New York State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO) via the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) on February 23, 2026. The NYSHPO is in the process of reviewing this determination.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the USACE has determined that the recommended plan “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” federally listed species or designated critical habitat. This determination has been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), New York Field Office on February 23, 2026. The USFWS concurred with this determination on March 12, 2026.

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the proposed pier repair would be undertaken in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) Coastal Management Program. A Coastal Management Program Federal Consistency Determination has been submitted to the NYSDOS documenting this determination on March 10, 2026. The NYSDOS is in the process of reviewing the determination package

Any interested parties and/or agencies desiring to express their views concerning the proposed project may do so by filing their comments, in writing, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the date of this public notice. The request must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected, and the manner in which the interest may be affected, by this activity.

This activity is being coordinated with the following agencies, as well as other appropriate federal, state and local agencies and organizations:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Department of State
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Coast Guard

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the USACE Buffalo District with their comments regarding the proposed Wilson West Pier repair project. Please review this public notice and send your comments in writing within 30 days to the following e-mail address:

WilsonWestPierRepair@usace.army.mil

or via mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District
Environmental Analysis Team
478 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
ATTN: Environmental Analysis - Wilson West Pier Repair

Figures

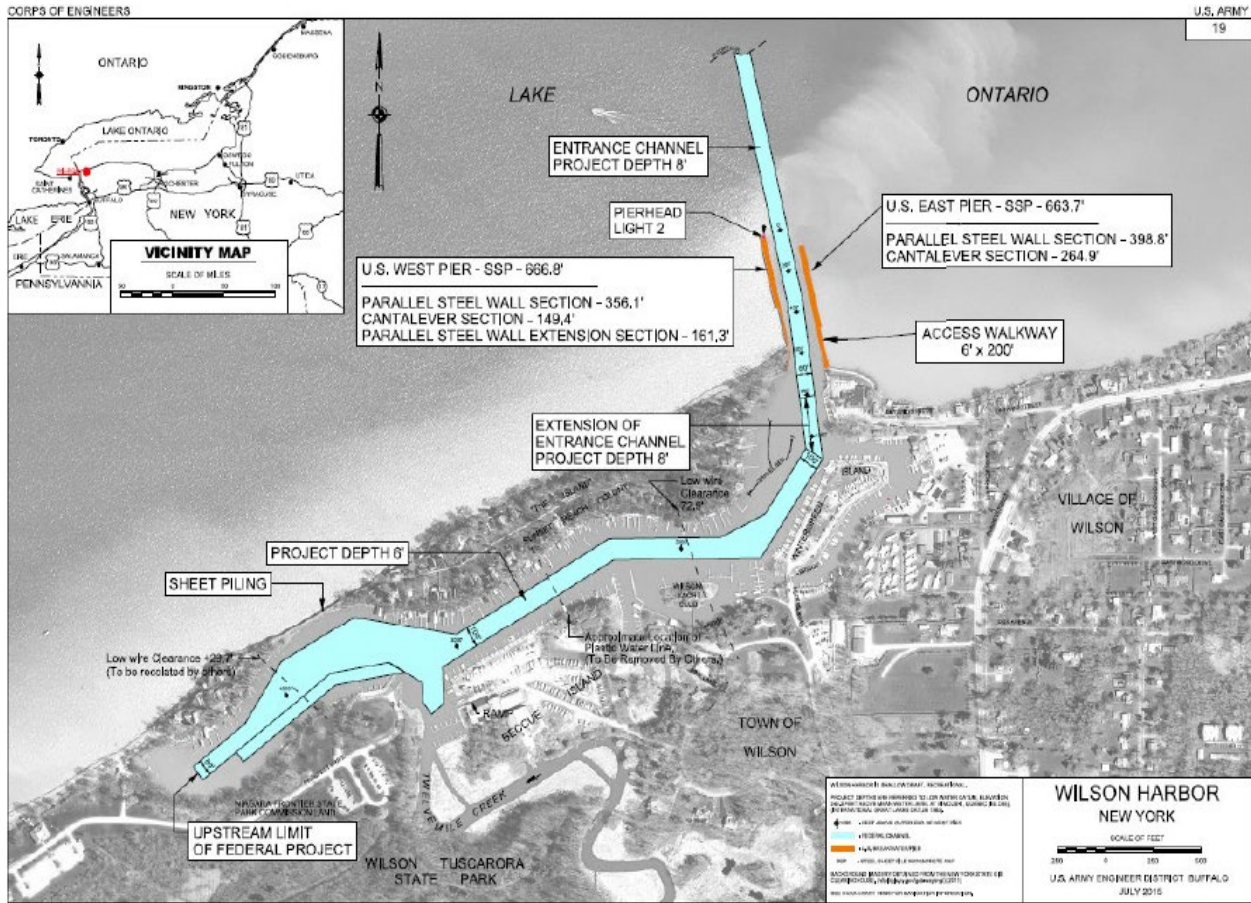


Figure 1: Wilson Harbor location map.



Figure 2: Wilson Harbor pier reaches.



Figure 3: Wilson West Pier Reach B.

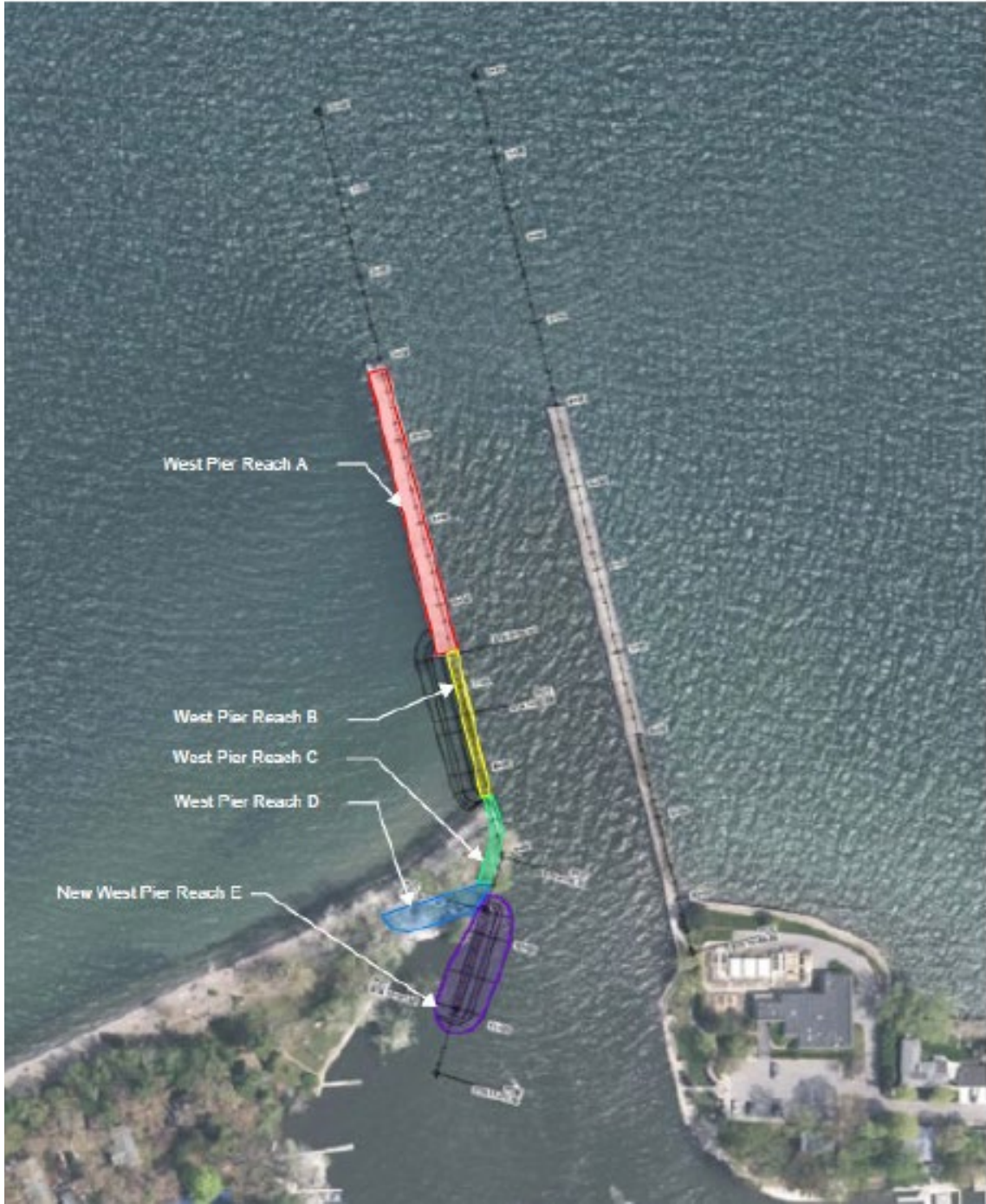


Figure 4: Wilson West Pier repair plan view.

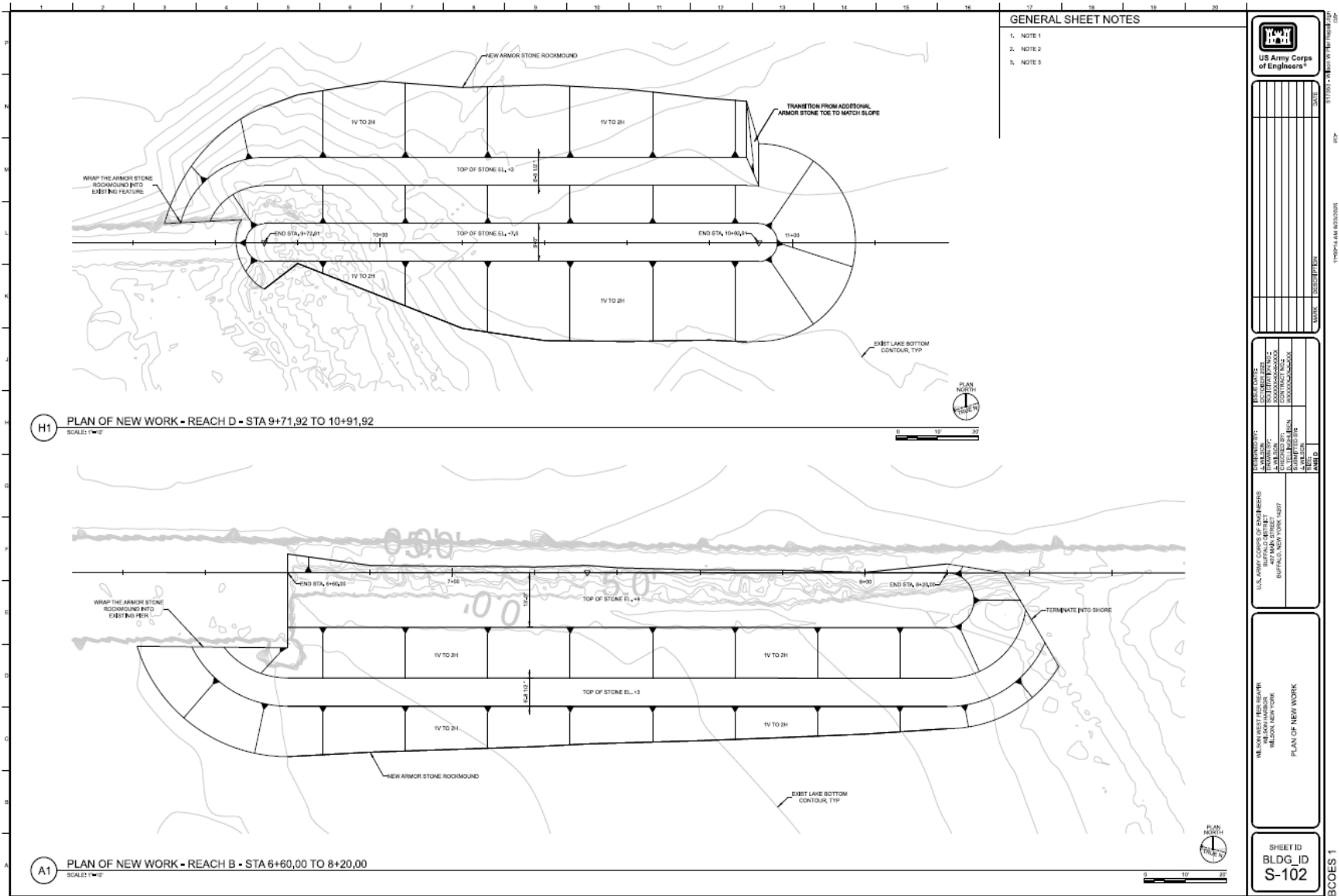


Figure 5: Wilson West Pier repair Reach D and Reach B.

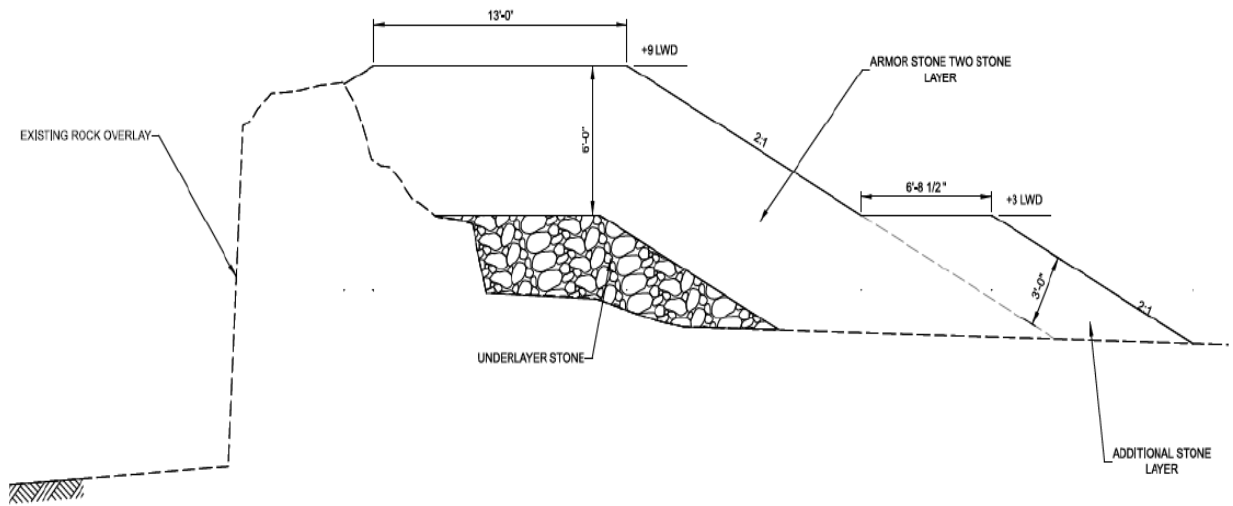


Figure 6: Stone overlay of Reach B of the west pier repair.

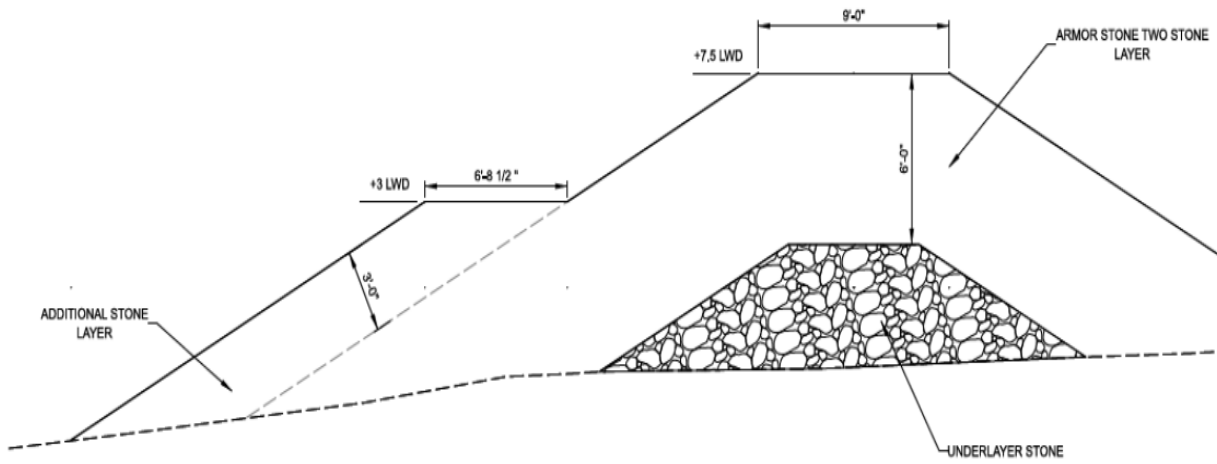


Figure 7: Rubblemound pier extension of Reach C (new Reach E) of the west pier repair.