

Portal North Bridge Erection

ABCD WNY Fall Conference 2025

Stephen Percassi Jr.

The Portal Project



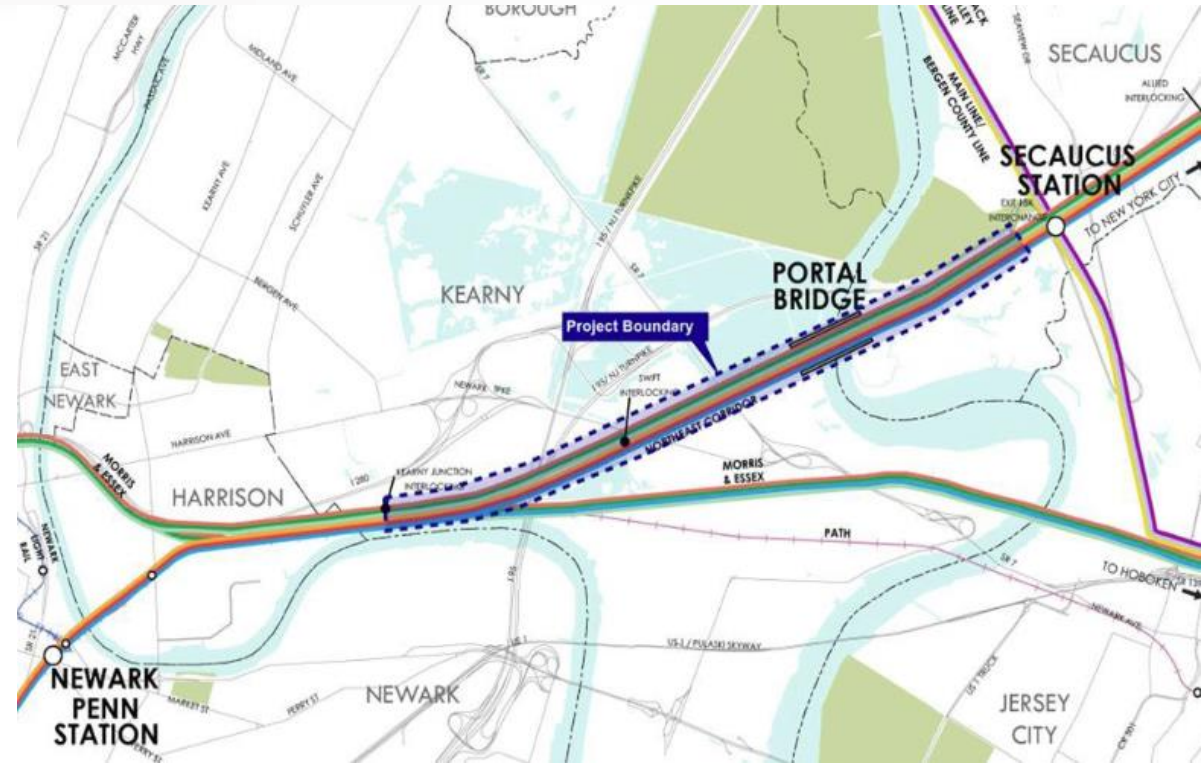
The Portal Project

- *115 year-old swing span*
- *NJ Transit & Amtrak*
- *160,000 riders / day*
- *500 trains / day*

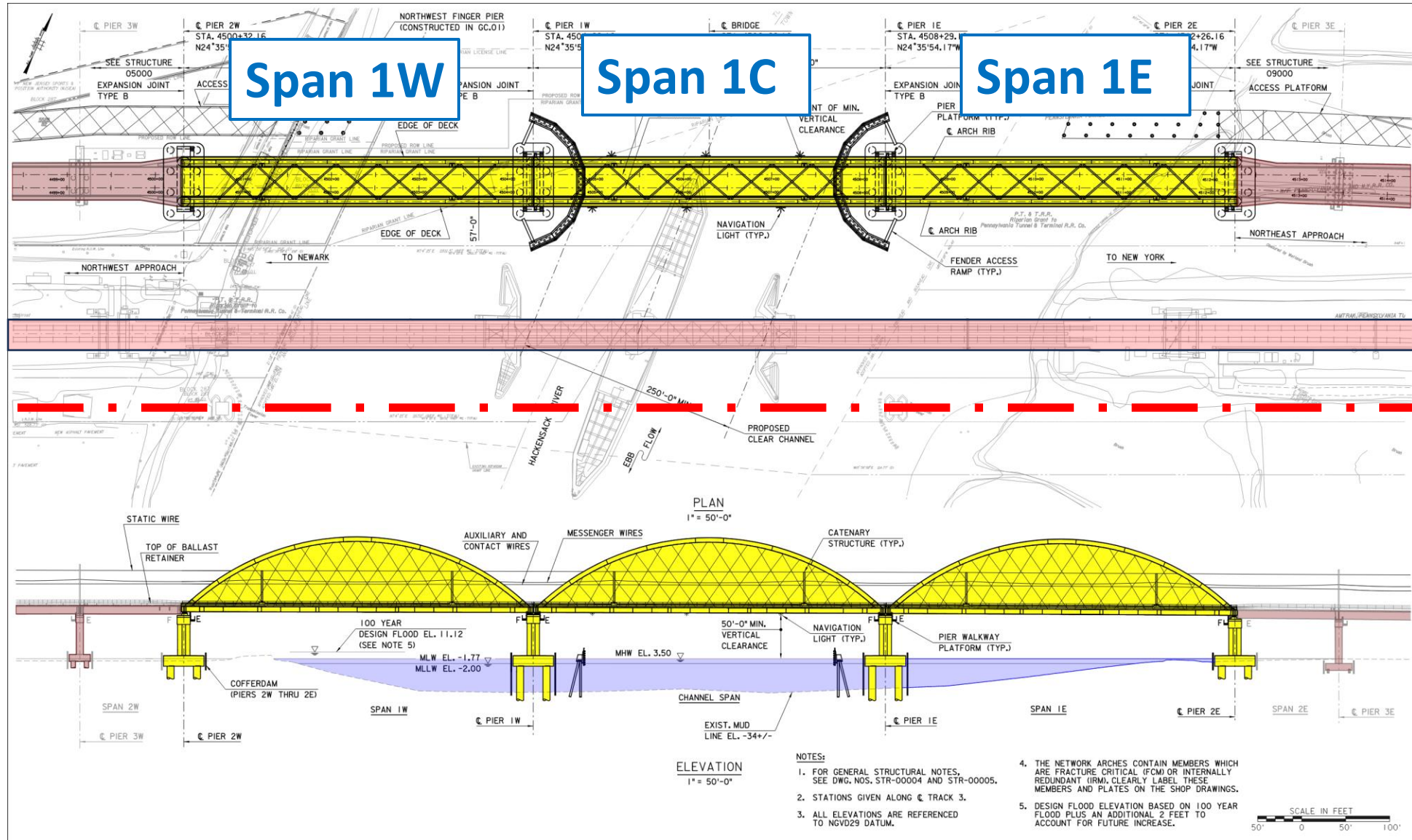


The Portal Project

- 2.7 miles of new track & bridge
- 5,450 ft of approach structures
- Fixed high span over Hackensack river
- Feature spans are (3) 400 ft arches
- Key challenges
 - ✓ Adjacent to live RR traffic
 - ✓ Minimal disruption to marine traffic
 - ✓ Coordinate existing bridge openings with construction activities

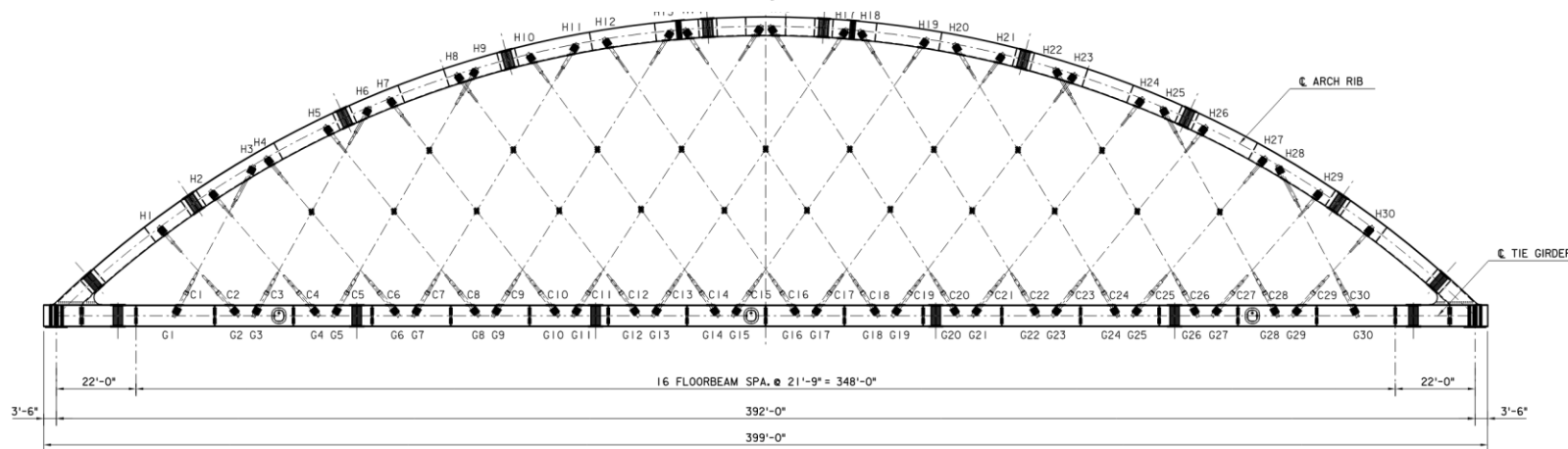
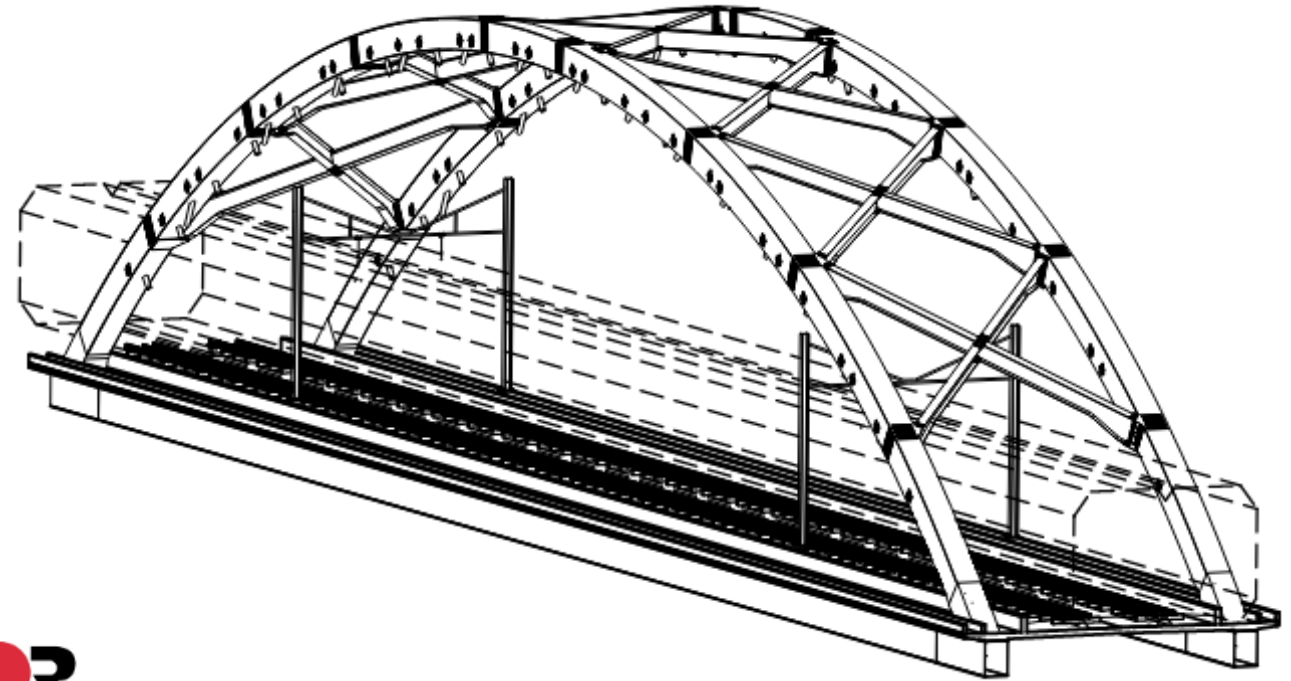


Portal North Arches



Portal North Arches

- 400 ft Arch Span
- 86 ft Tall
- 49 ft Wide
- 2900 Tons Steel
- Design Engineer **HNTB**
- GC **SKANSKA TRAYLOR**
TRAYLOR BROS., INC.

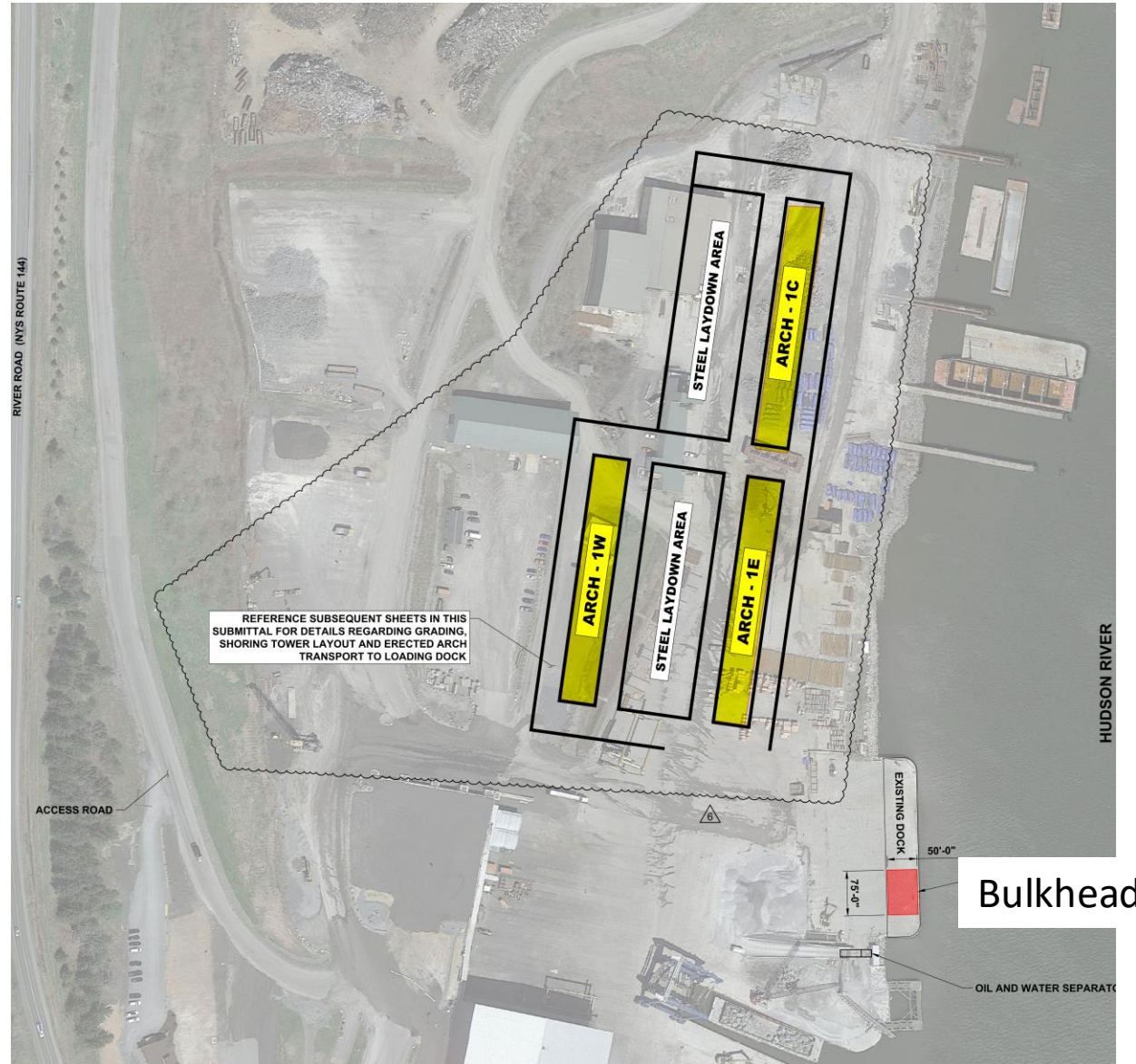


The Winning Strategy

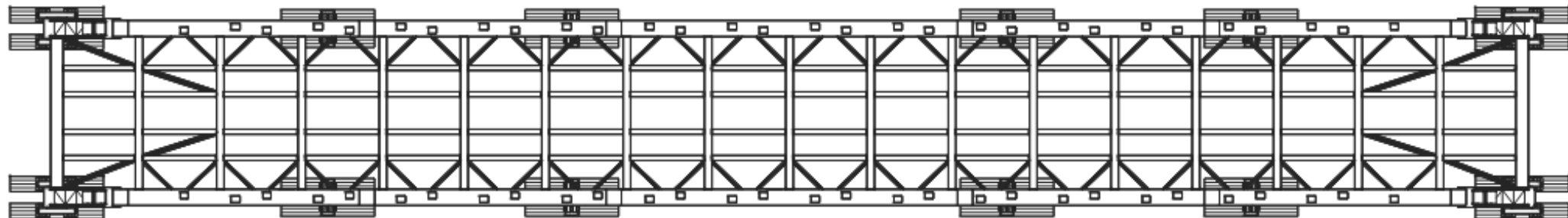
- *Erect steel on falsework*
- *Pick up with SPMT's*
- *Roll onto barge*
- *Float down the Hudson 150 miles*
- *Set down on temporary bent*
- *Pick back up with jacking barge*
- *Float bridge to piers*
- *Jack bridge vertically 50ft*
- *Land bridge on slide system*
- *Push bridge horizontally 100ft*
- *Jack down on permanent bearings*



Arch Erection – Port of Coeymans [POC]



Arch Erection – Port of Coeymans [POC]



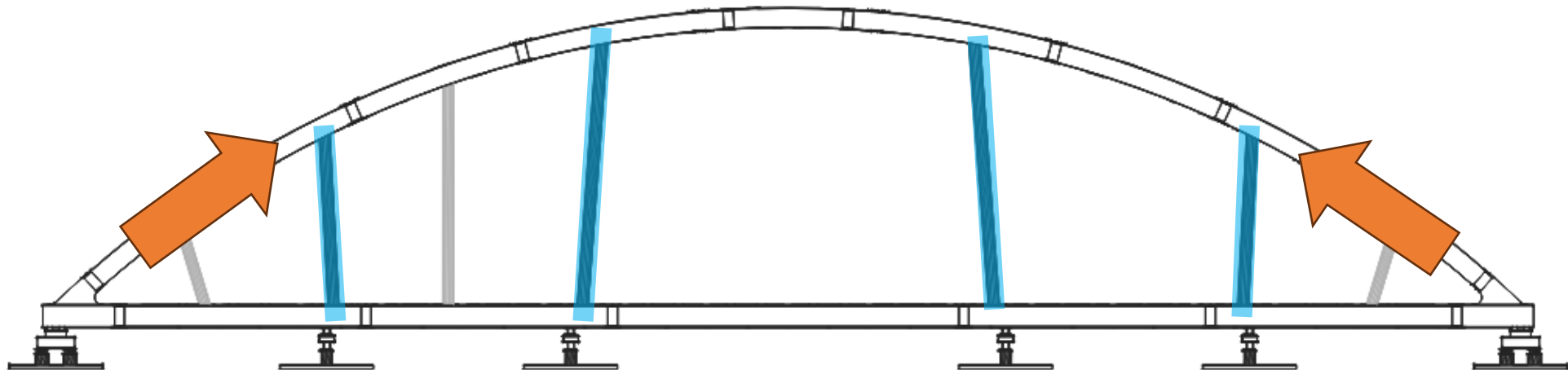
FLOOR SYSTEM







Arch Erection - POC







Arch Erection - POC



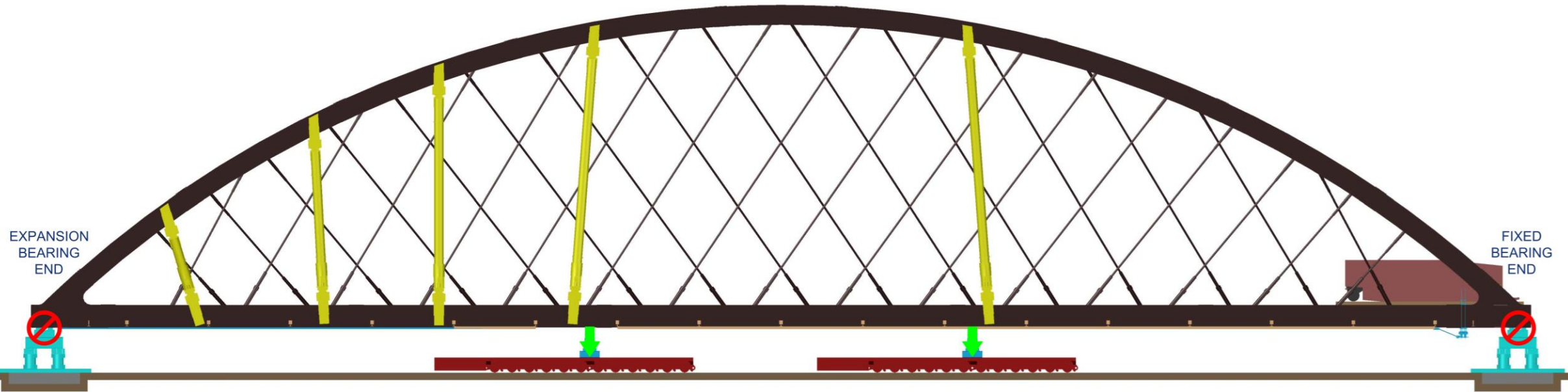
Arch Roll-On - POC

- **Challenges**

- *Tight site, tough grades to maneuver the arches*
- *Water elevations relative to top of bulkhead – Not Good*
- *Tide fluctuations from NOAA (oceanic winds, rain upstream)*
- *Available barge heights (16ft available, needed 20ft)*
- *Maximum ramp slope 2%*
- *Maximum SPMT stroke range (-12" to +12" theoretical)*
- *Cold weather water ballasting*

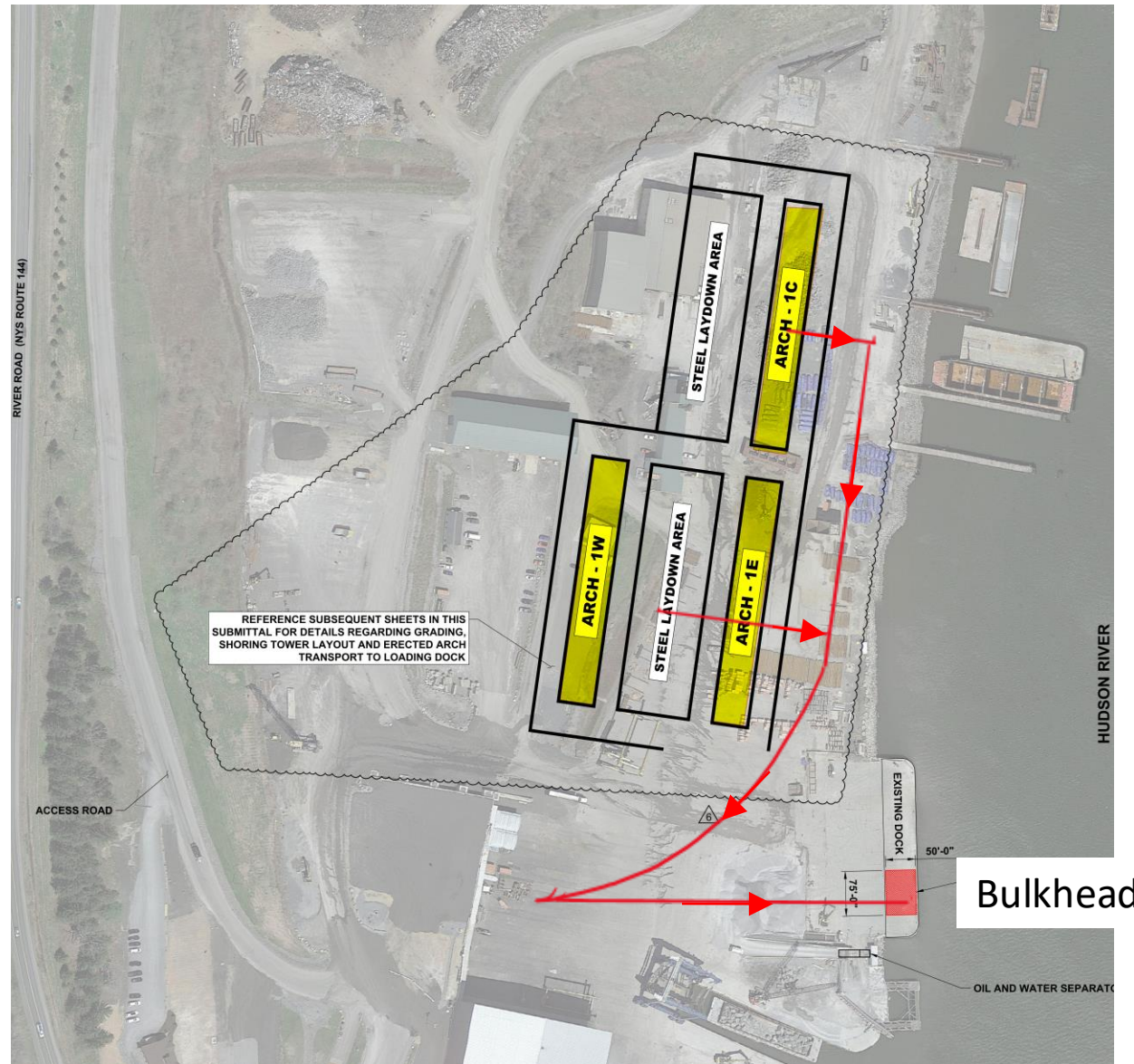


Arch Roll-On - POC



ELEVATION

Arch Erection – Port of Coeymans [POC]





160 ft Axle-to-Axle



Arch Roll-On - POC





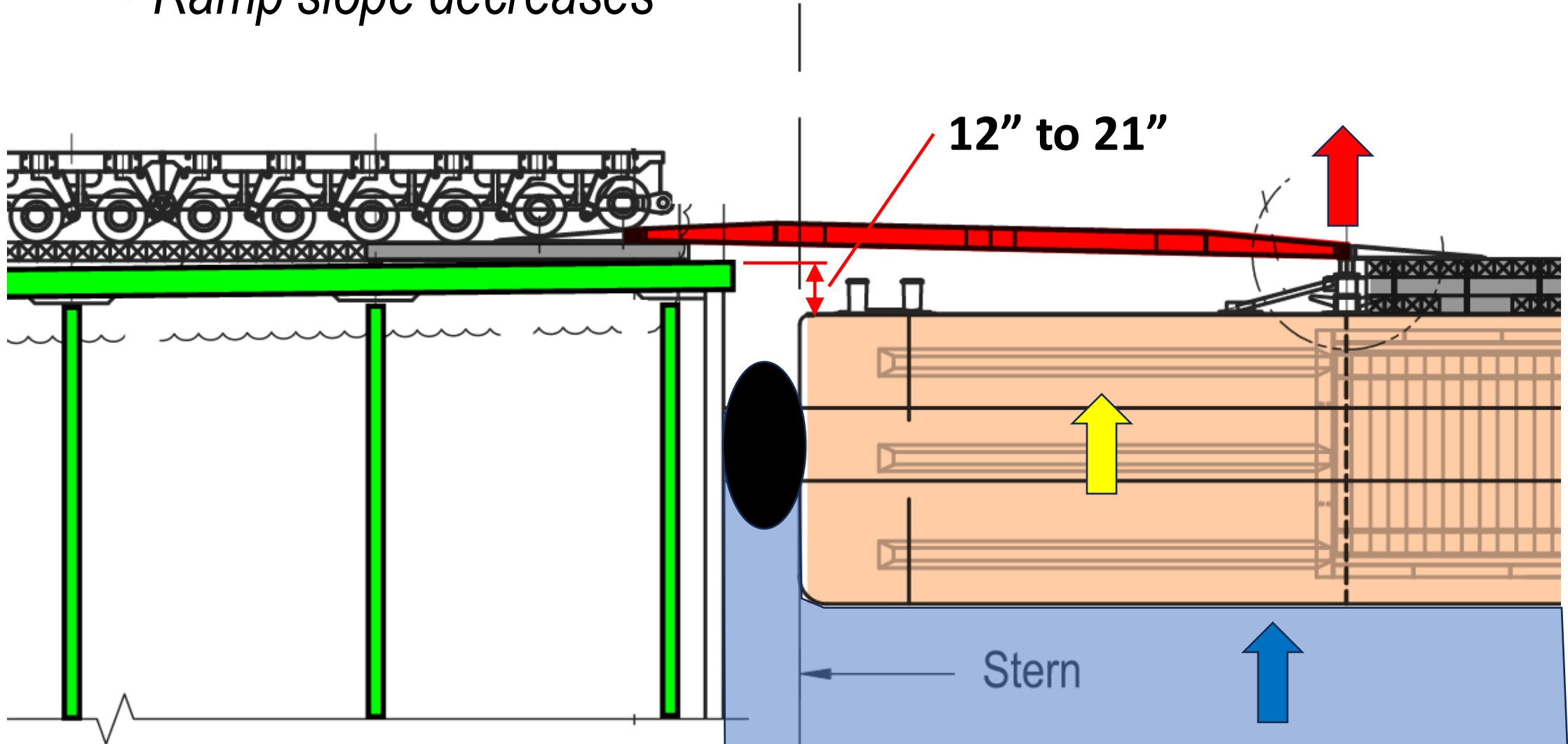
Arch Roll-On - POC

- **Challenges**

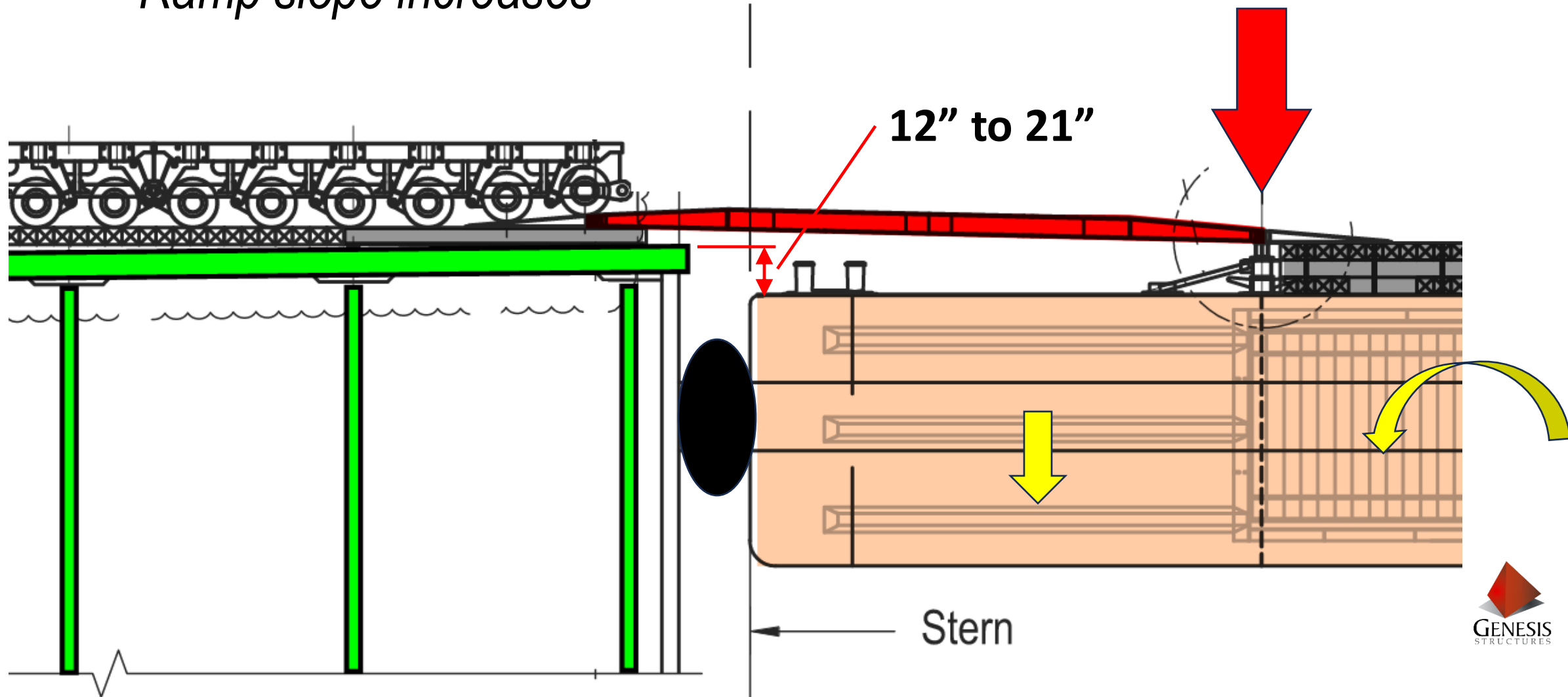
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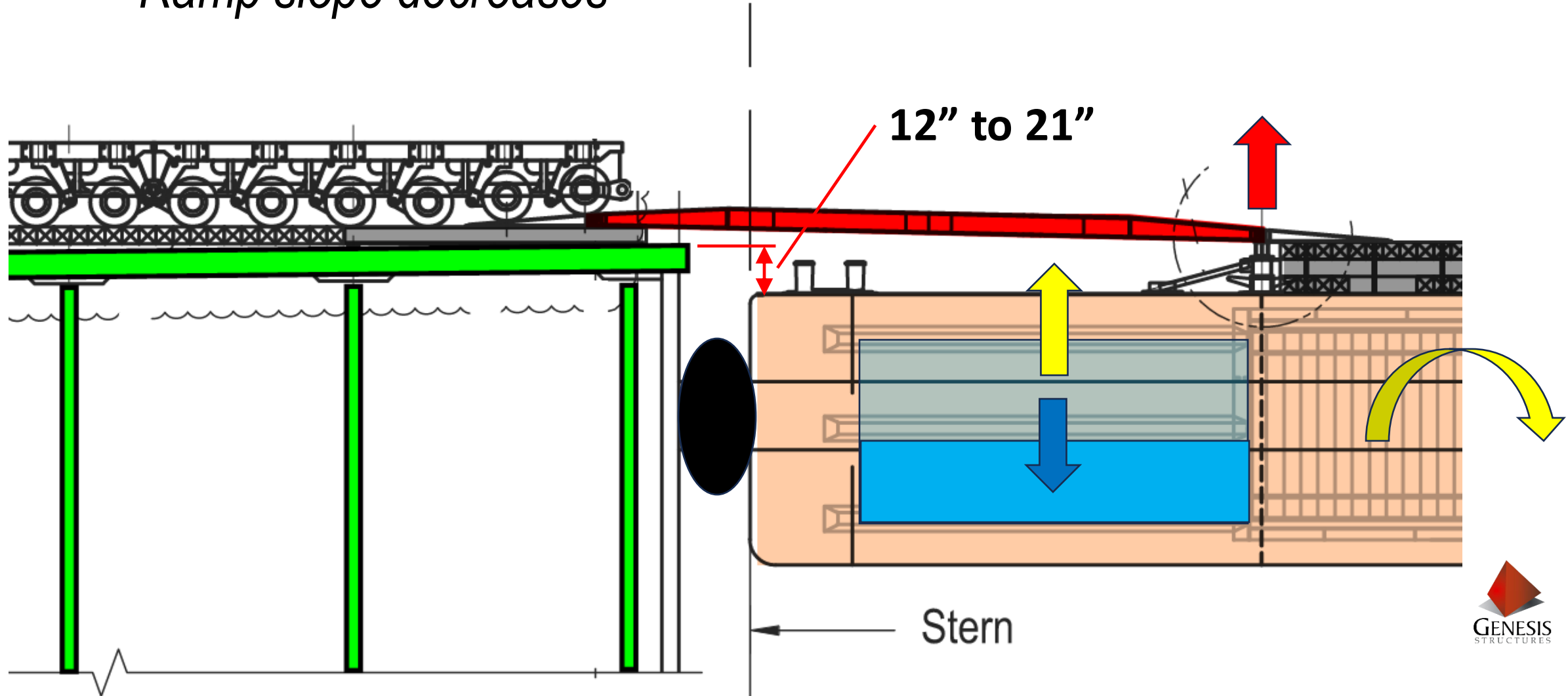
- *Tide Rising*
 - *Barge Rises*
 - *Ramp slope decreases*



- *Ramp reaction increasing*
 - *Barge draft increases and trims*
 - *Ramp slope increases*



- *Ballast weight decreasing*
 - *Barge draft increases*
 - *Ramp slope decreases*





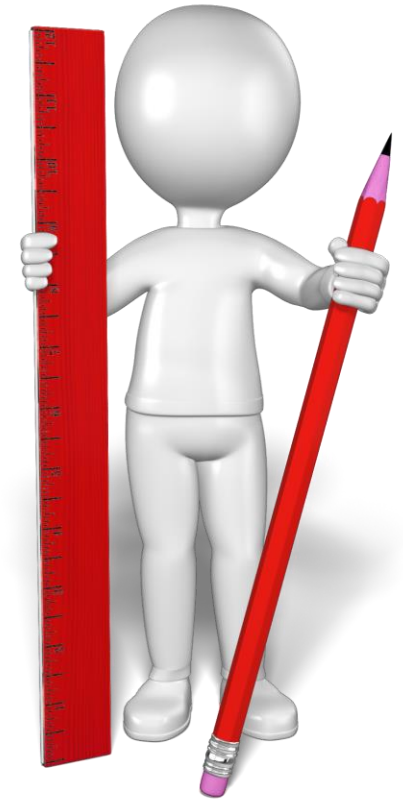




Arch Roll-On - POC

- **Challenges**

- *Tight site, tough grades to maneuver the arches*
- **Maximum ramp slope 2%**
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- **Maximum SPMT stroke range (-12" to +12" theoretical)**
- *Cold weather water ballasting*













Arch Roll-On - POC

- **Challenges**

- *Tight site, tough grades to maneuver the arches*
- *Maximum ramp slope 2%*
- *Water elevations relative to top of bulkhead*
- *Tide fluctuations from NOAA (oceanic winds, rain upstream)*
- *Available barge heights (16ft available, needed 20ft)*
- *Maximum SPMT stroke range (-12" to +12" theoretical)*
- ***Cold weather & ballasting operations***





Arch Roll-On - POC



Transport to NJ

- *Many Cool Photo Ops ☺*
- *No vertical or horizontal problems on the Hudson*



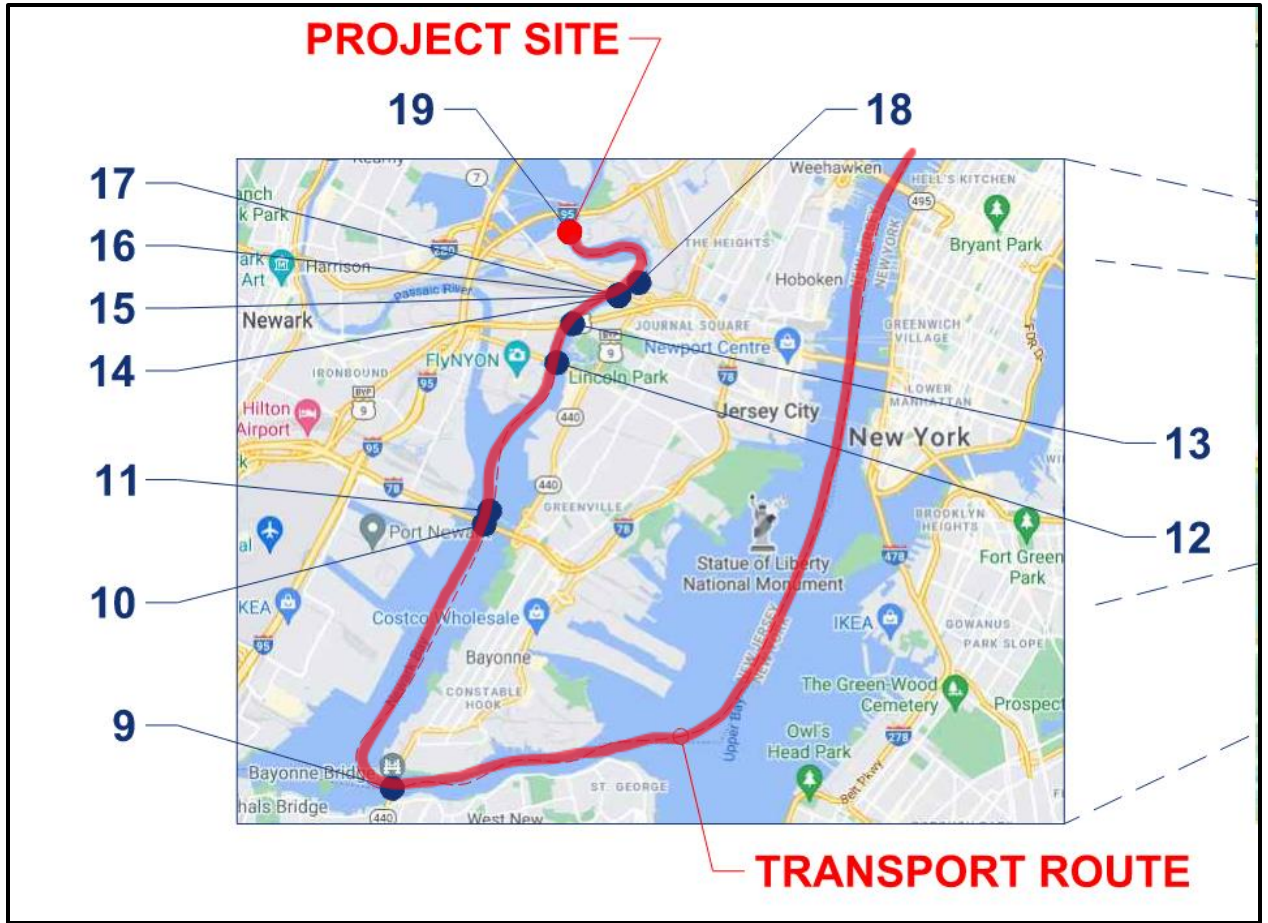
PRE-ASSEMBLY LOCATION



UTE

PROJECT SITE

PROJECT SITE



TRANSPORT ROUTE









Transport to NJ







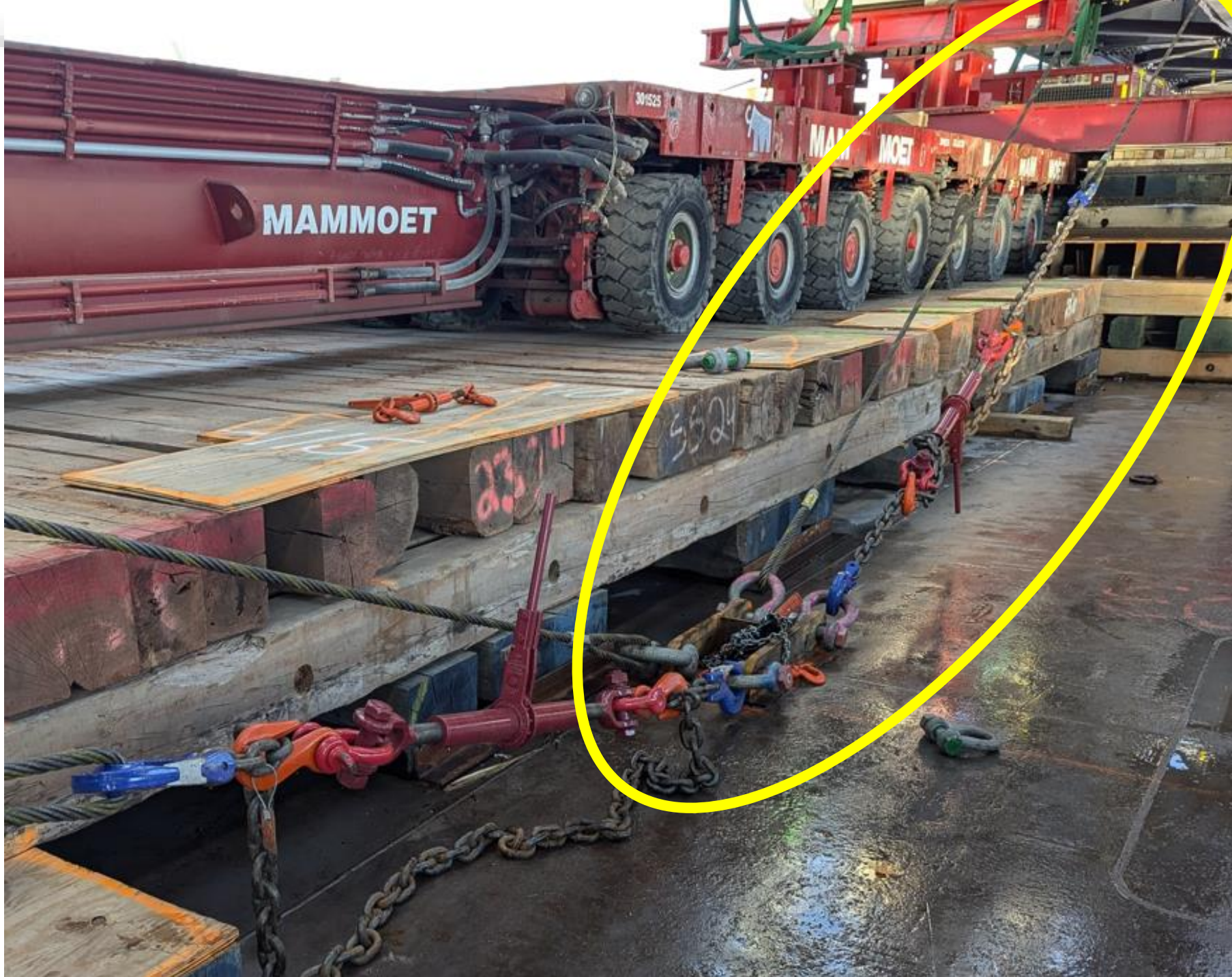
Transport to NJ

- *Challenges*

- *Lashing for impact and wind*
- *Vertical Height Clearance at Site – Overhead Electrical*
- *Horizontal Width Clearance at Site – Existing Bridge*



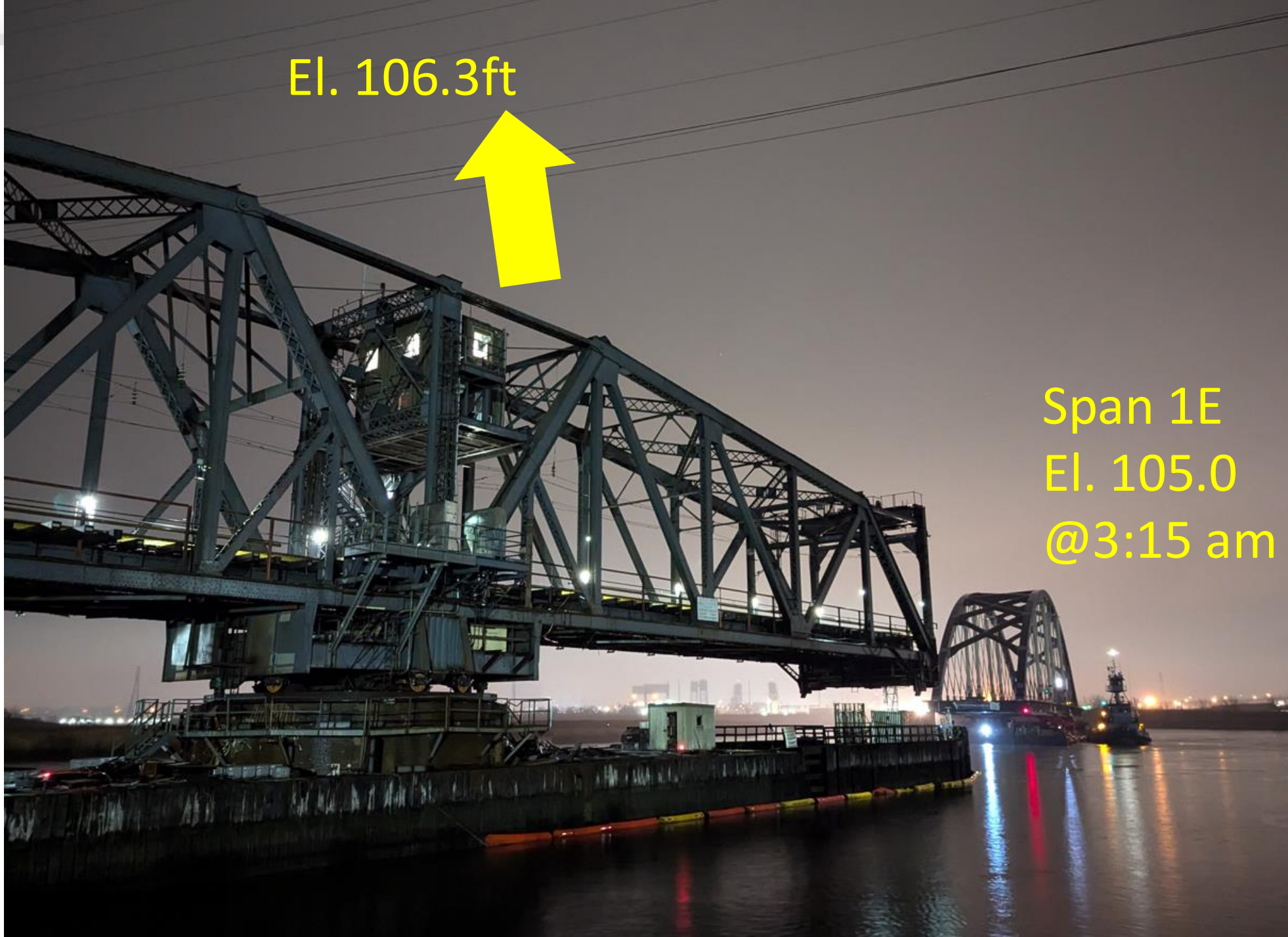


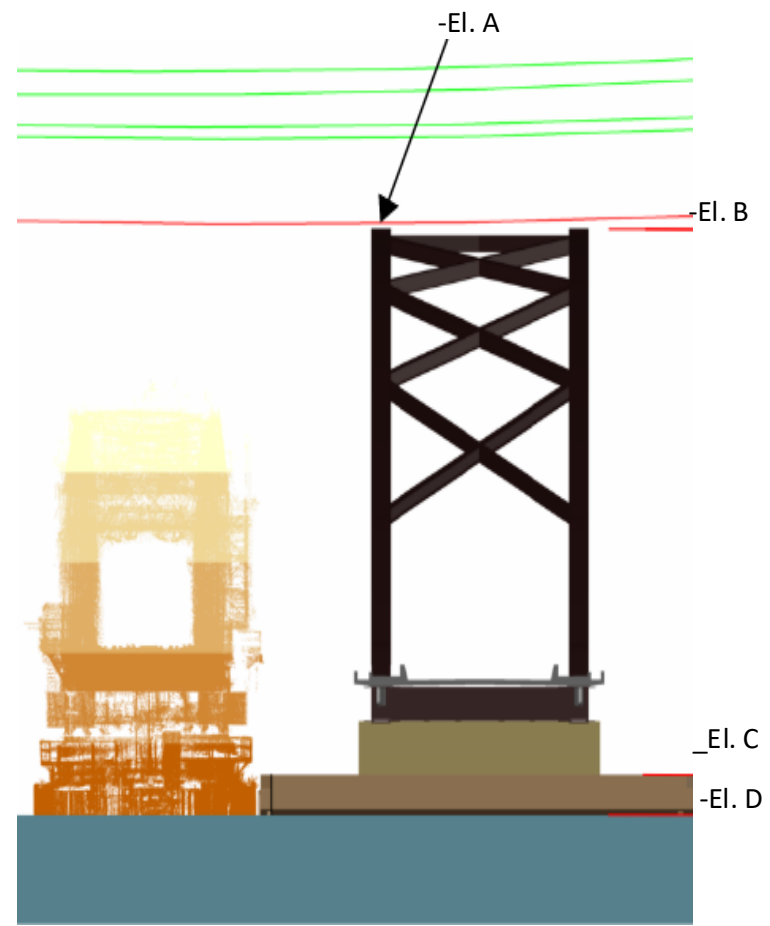
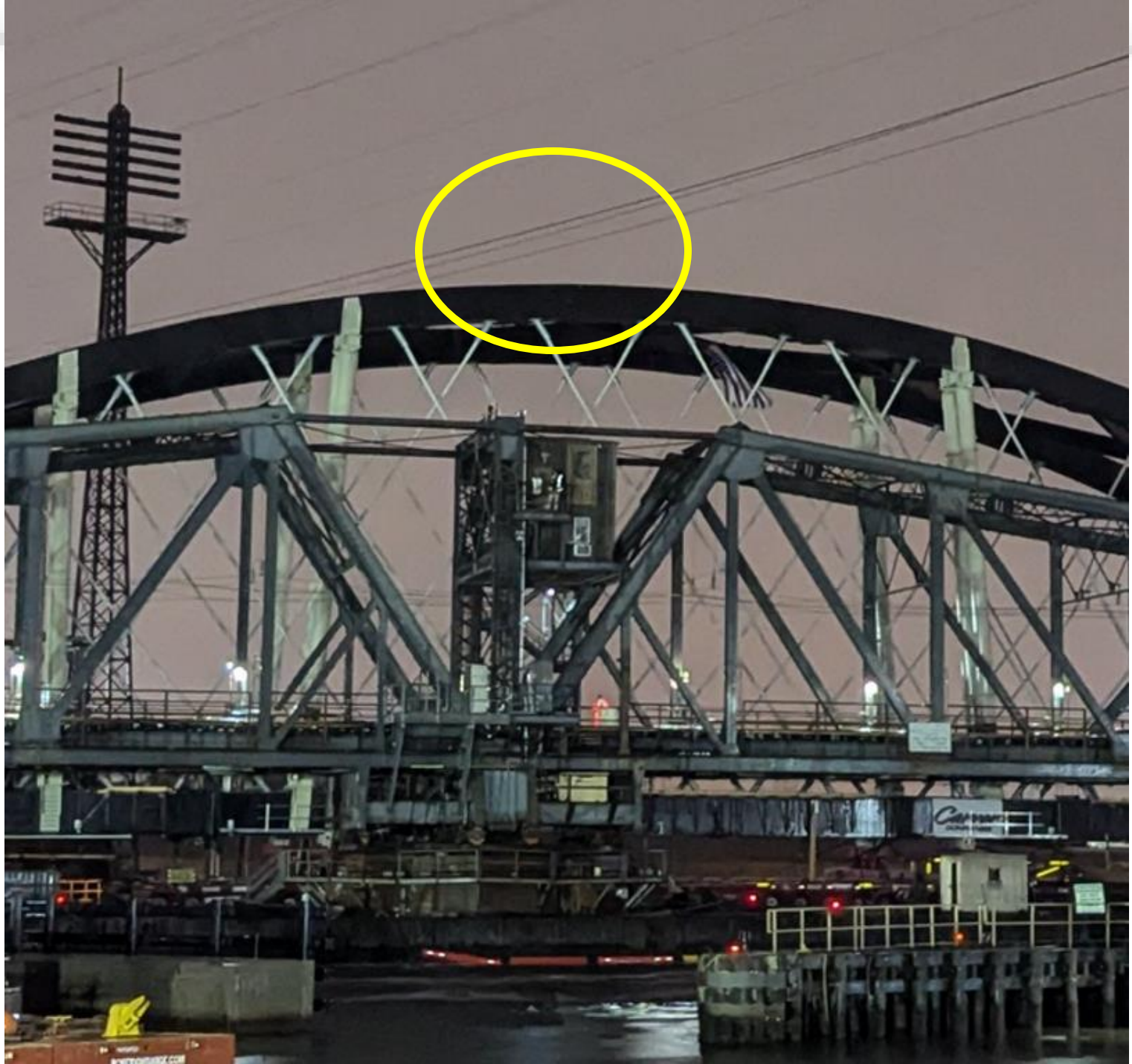


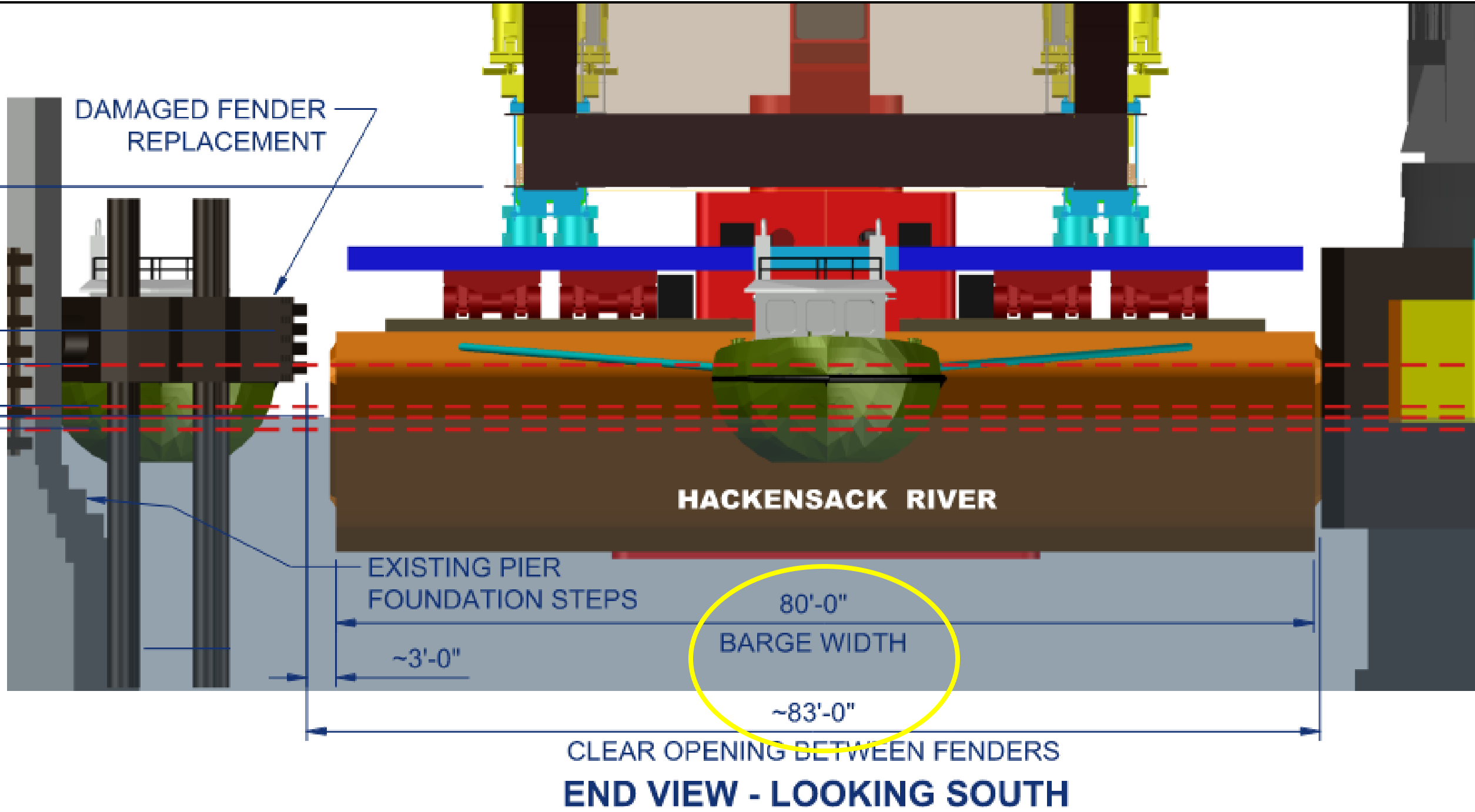
El. 106.3ft



Span 1E
El. 105.0
@3:15 am







Transfer Bents

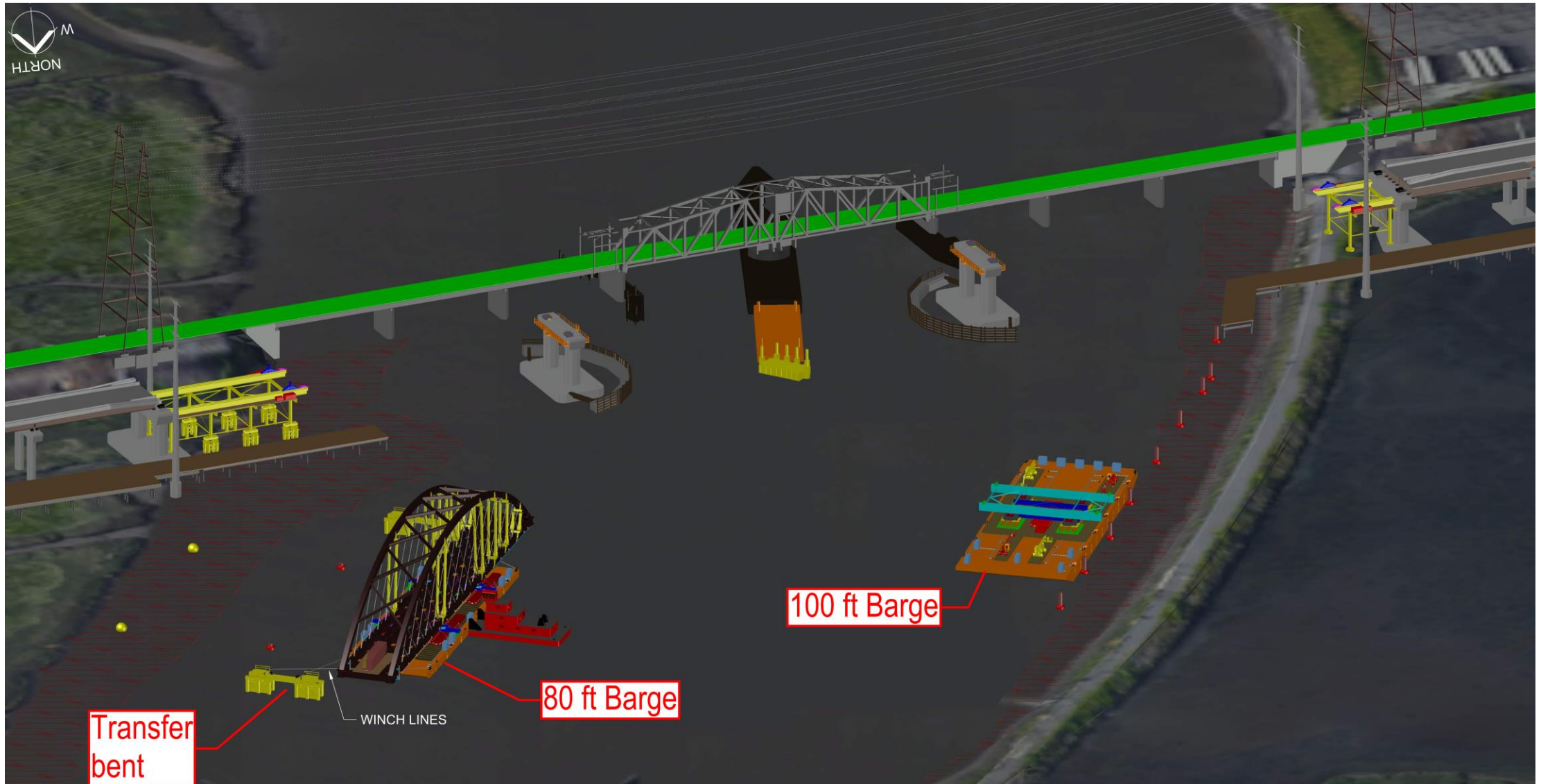


Transfer Bent

- *Challenges*
 - *Timing transfer with tide*
 - *Tide fluctuations from NOAA (oceanic winds, rain upstream)*
 - *Monitoring weather – Wind restrictions*



Transfer Bent – Set down with 80ft



- *Drop off with 80ft barge*
- *High tide*











Transfer Bent – Pick up with 100ft







- *Pick up with 100ft barge*
- *LOW tide*









(Span 1C – ONLY 2 struts per arch)



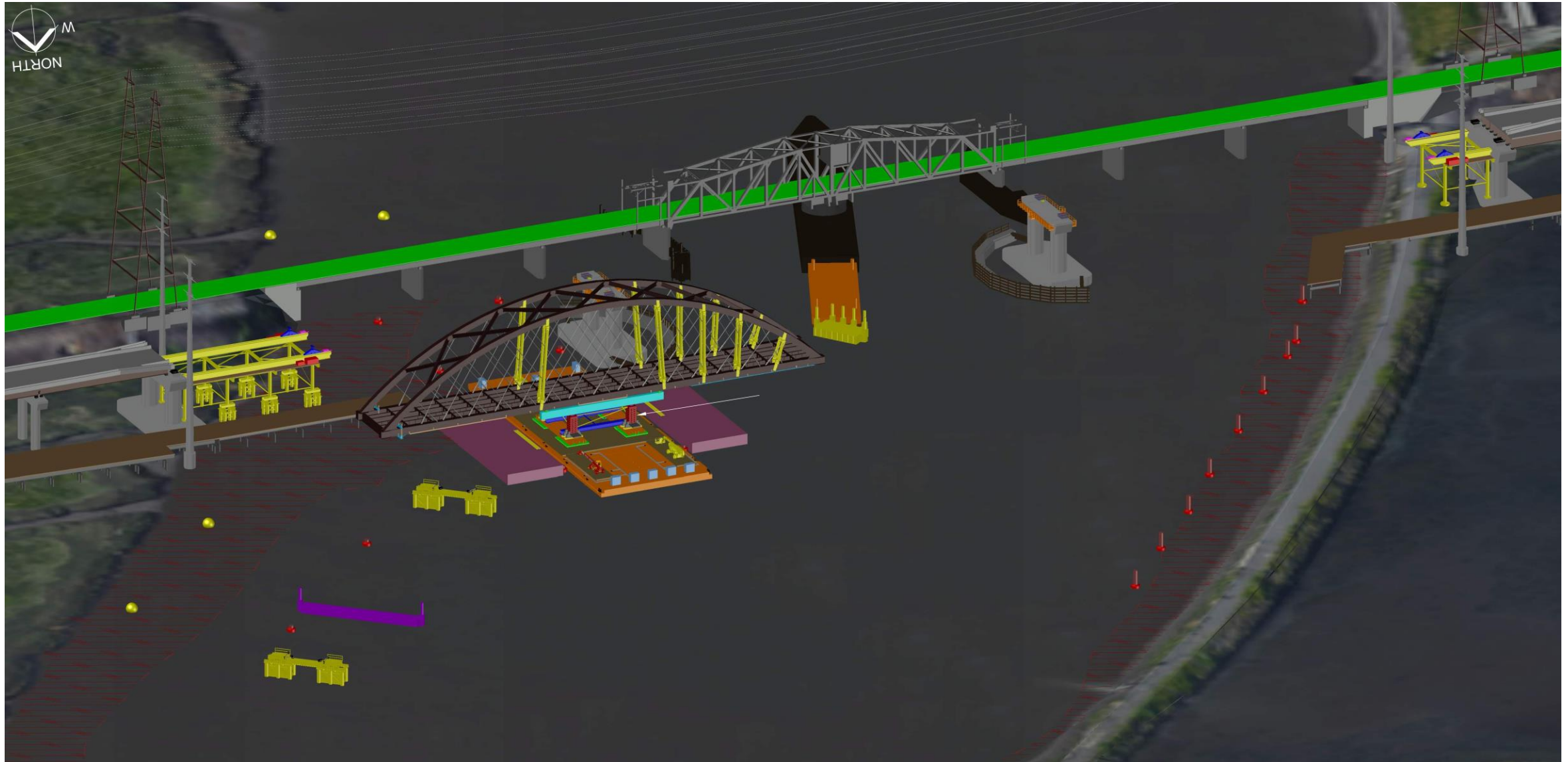
Float-in and Jacking

- **Challenges**

- *Timing Float-In with Tide*
- *Tide fluctuations from NOAA (oceanic winds, rain upstream)*
- *Monitoring weather – Wind restrictions*
- *Installing bracing during the jacking operations*
- *Accurate Touch-Down Tolerances*



Float-in and Jacking













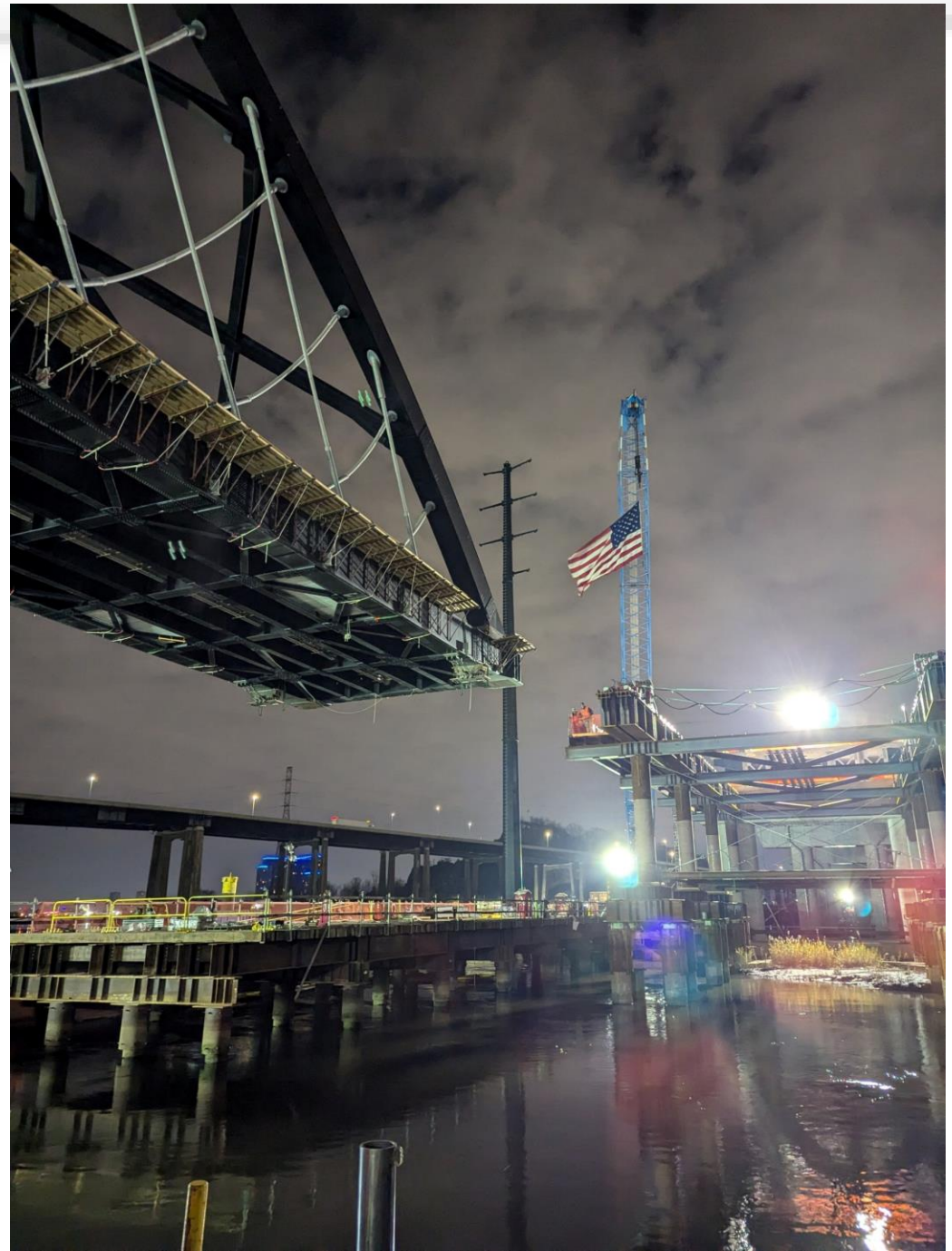
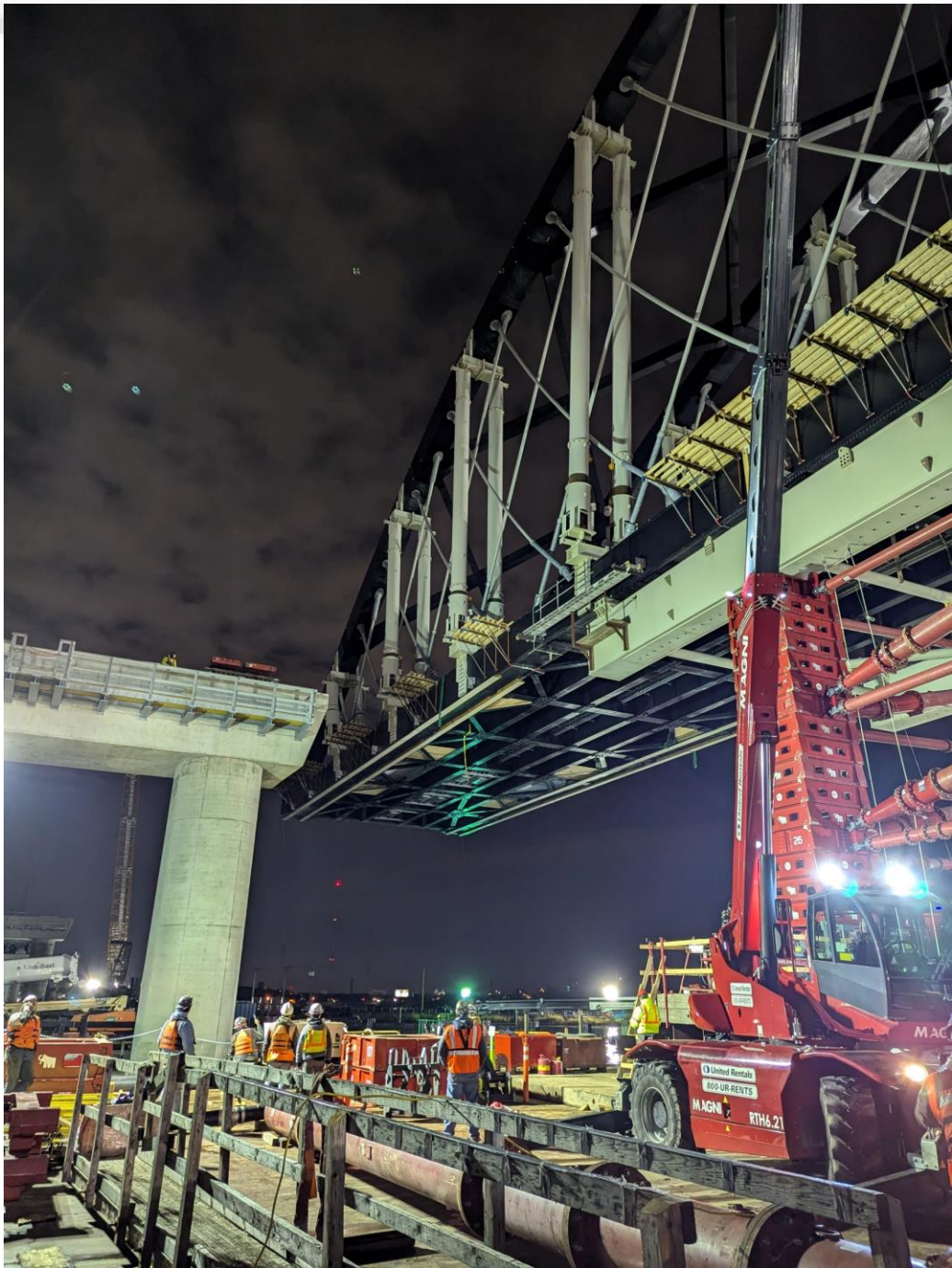


Float-in and Jacking

- **Challenges**

- *Timing Float-In with Tide*
- *Tide fluctuations from NOAA (oceanic winds, rain upstream)*
- *Monitoring weather (jacking operations had wind restrictions)*
- *Installing bracing during the jacking operations*
- **Accurate Touch-Down Tolerances**



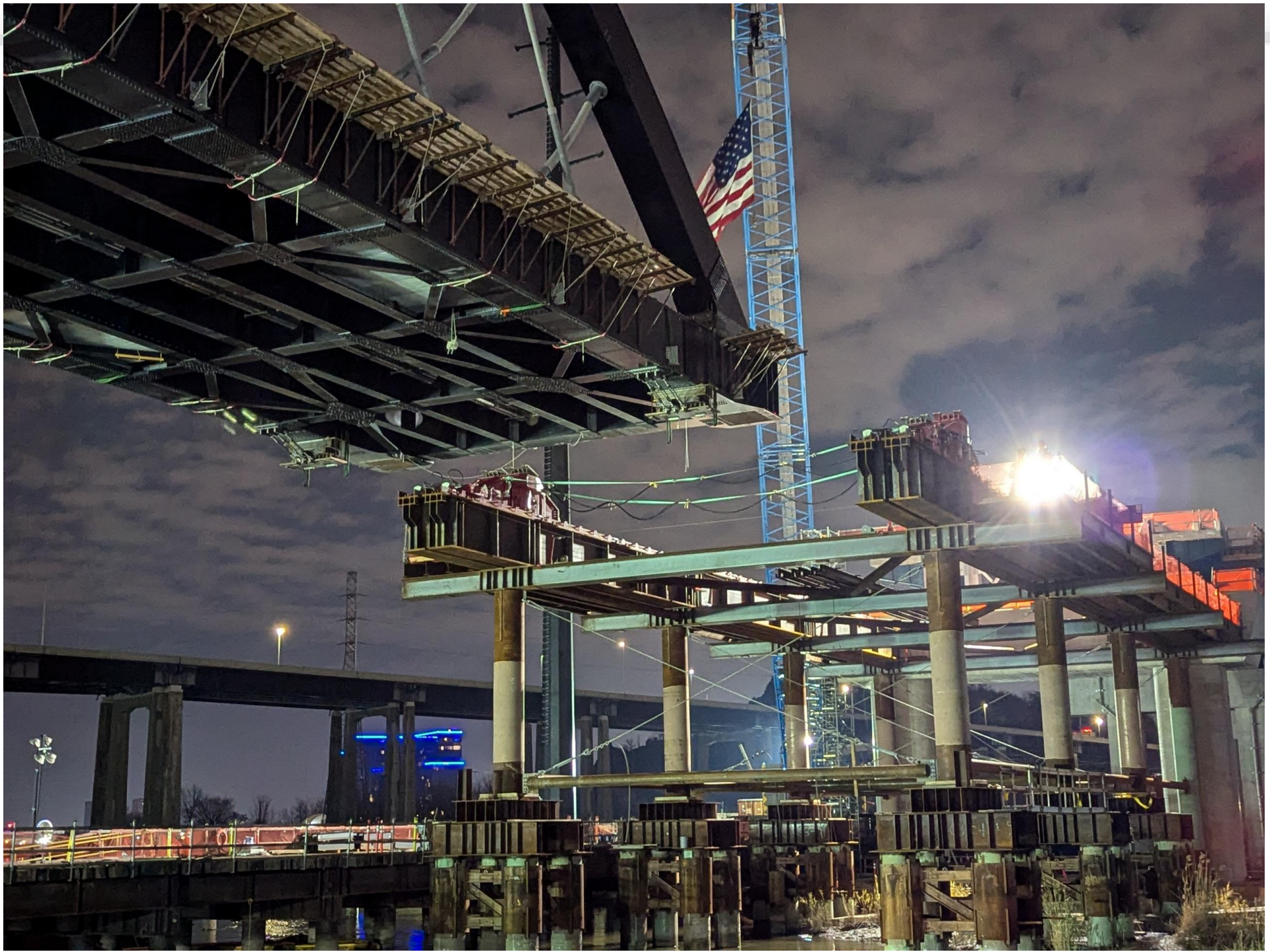




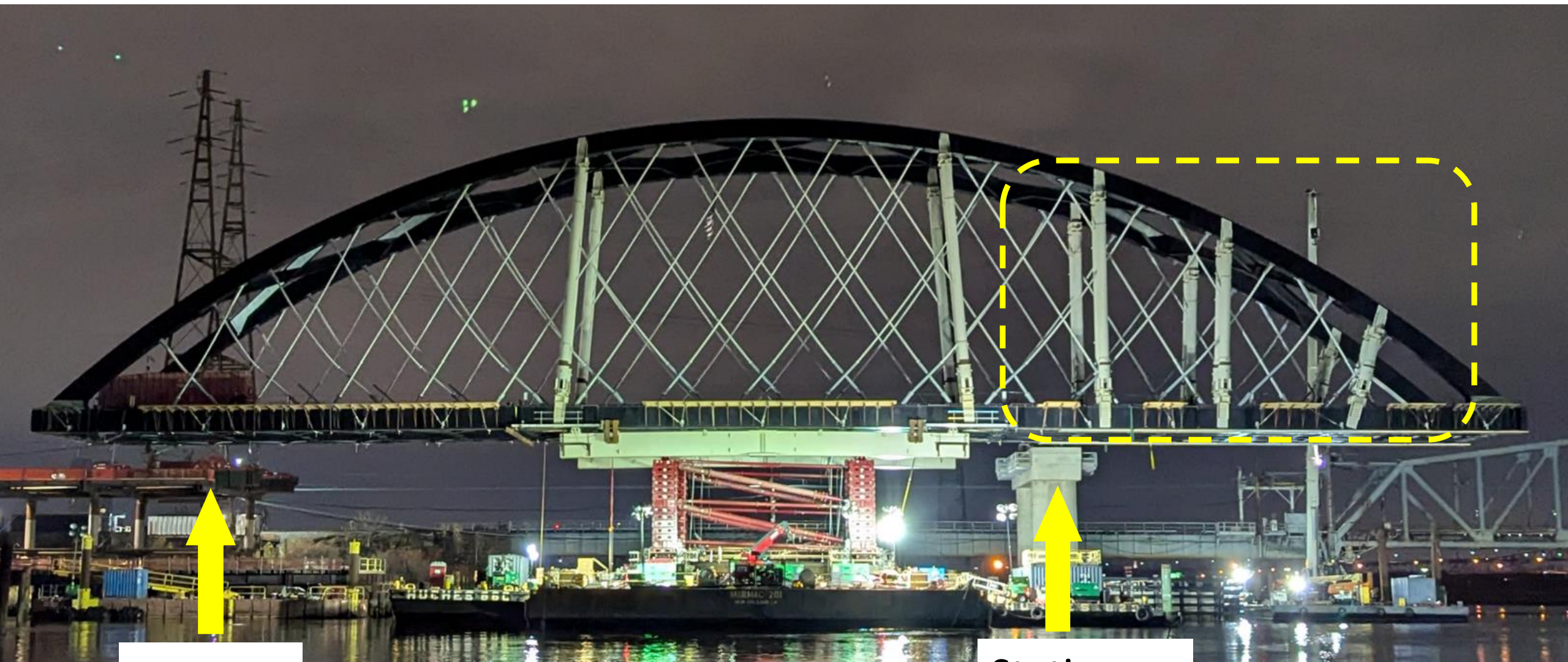












Moving support

Stationary support

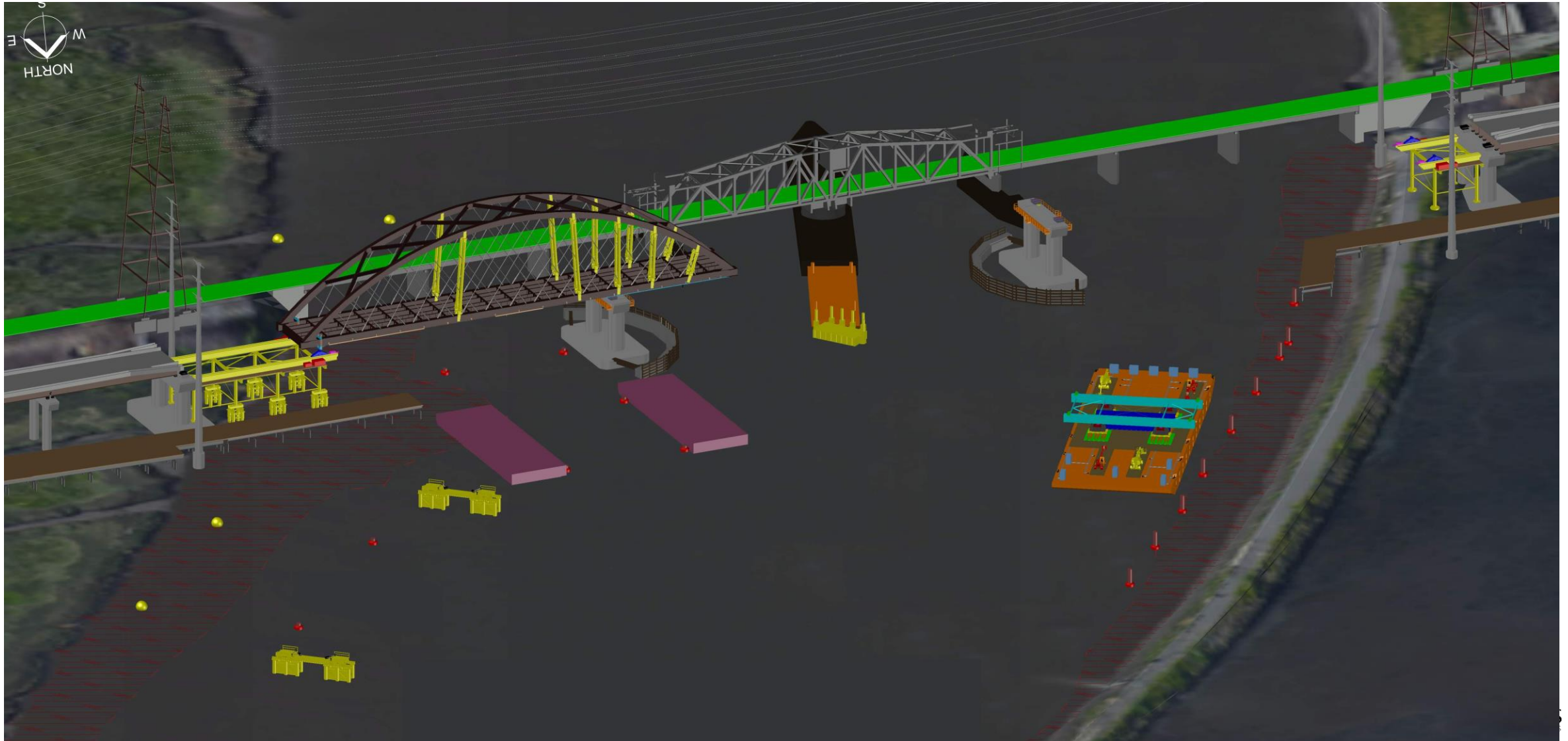


Arch Longitudinal Slide

- *Challenges*
 - *Stability of slide frame (where/how to brace)*
 - *Sliding friction*
 - *Steering Slide*
 - *Jacking the truss down once in final position*



Arch Longitudinal Slide







- *715T vertical ea.*
- *91T horiz. ea.*
- *4 total skids*



- 4.5ft stroke





- *Steer arch*















Span 1E – November 2024



Span 1W – January 2025

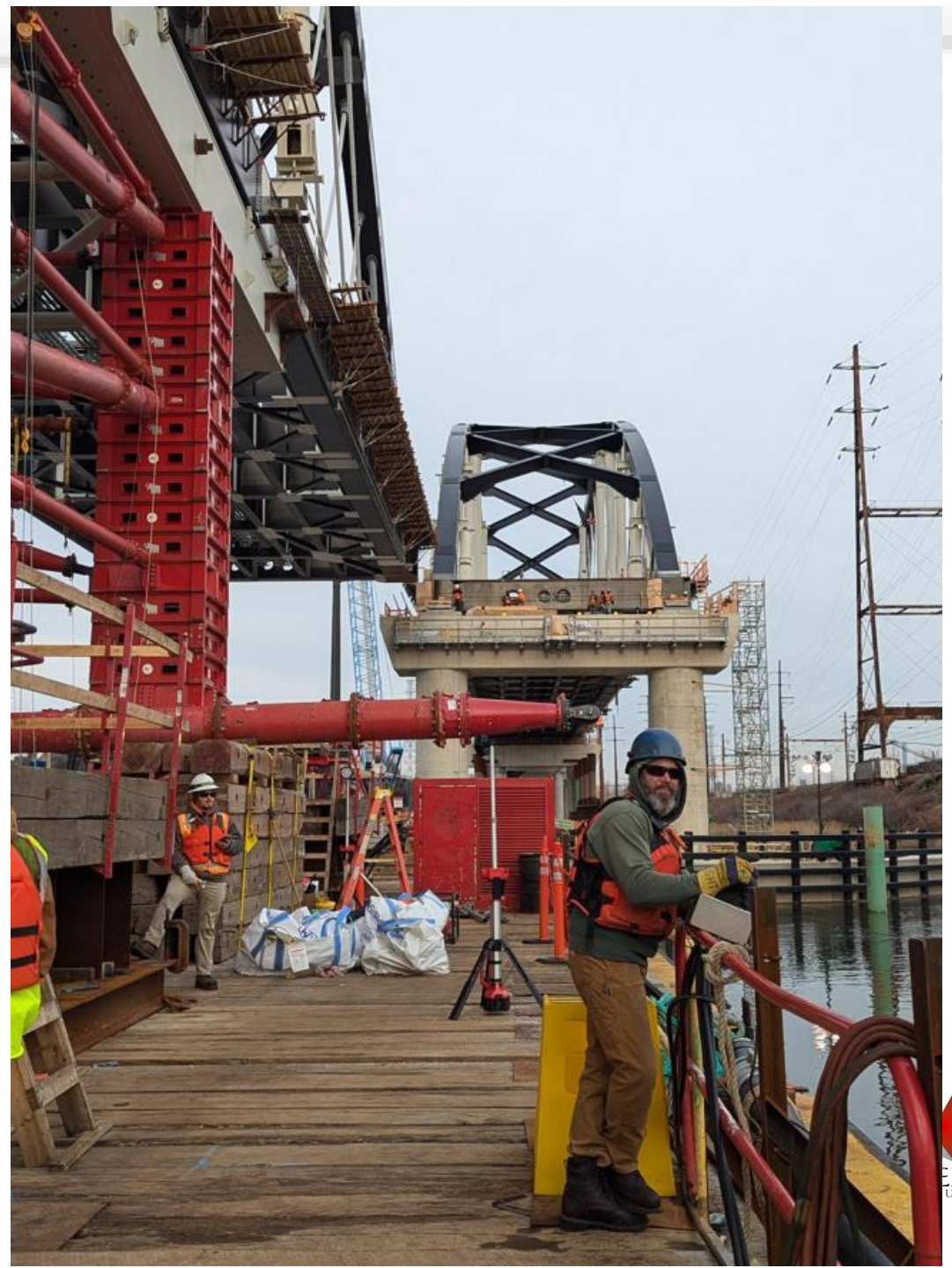
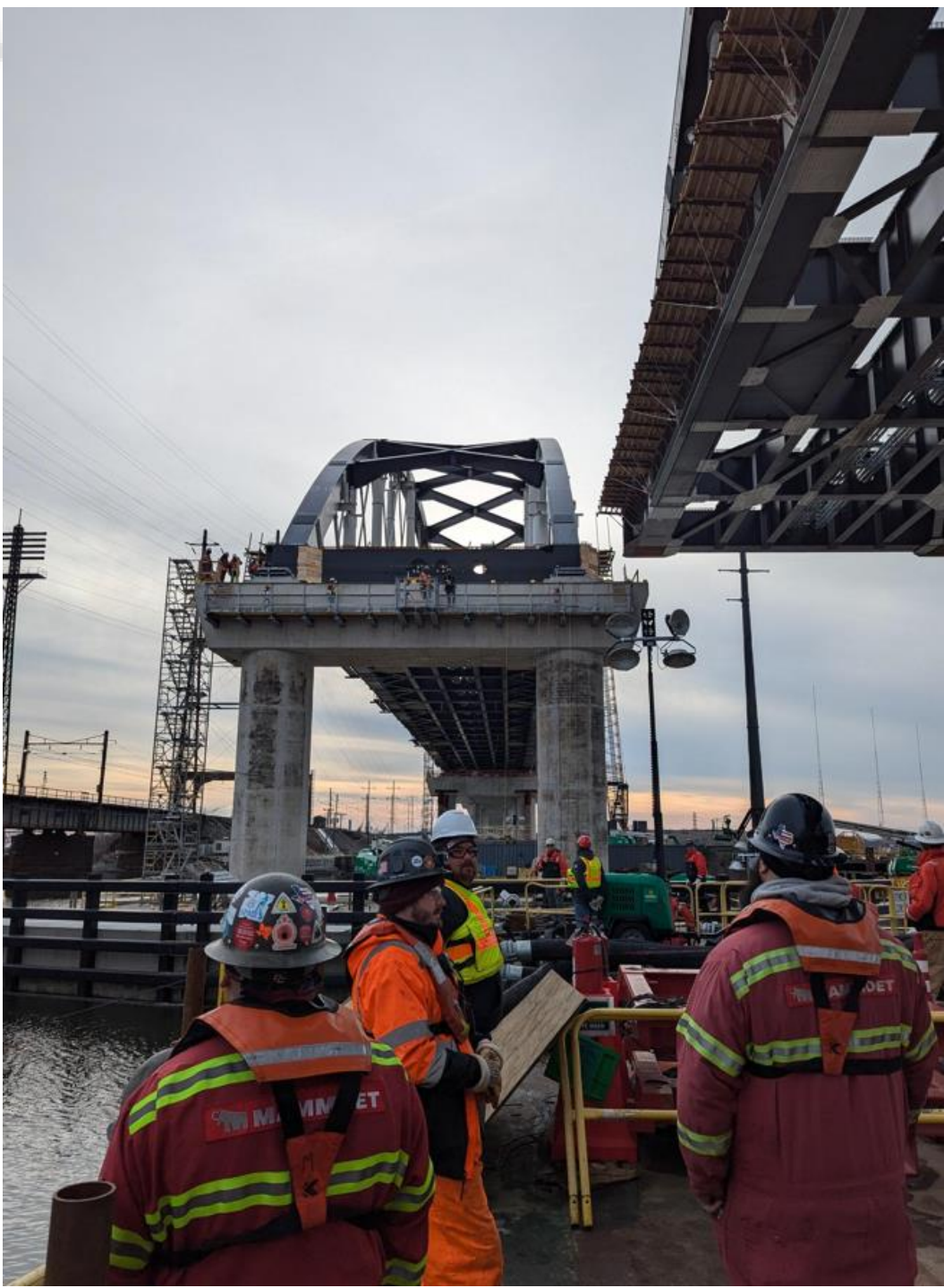


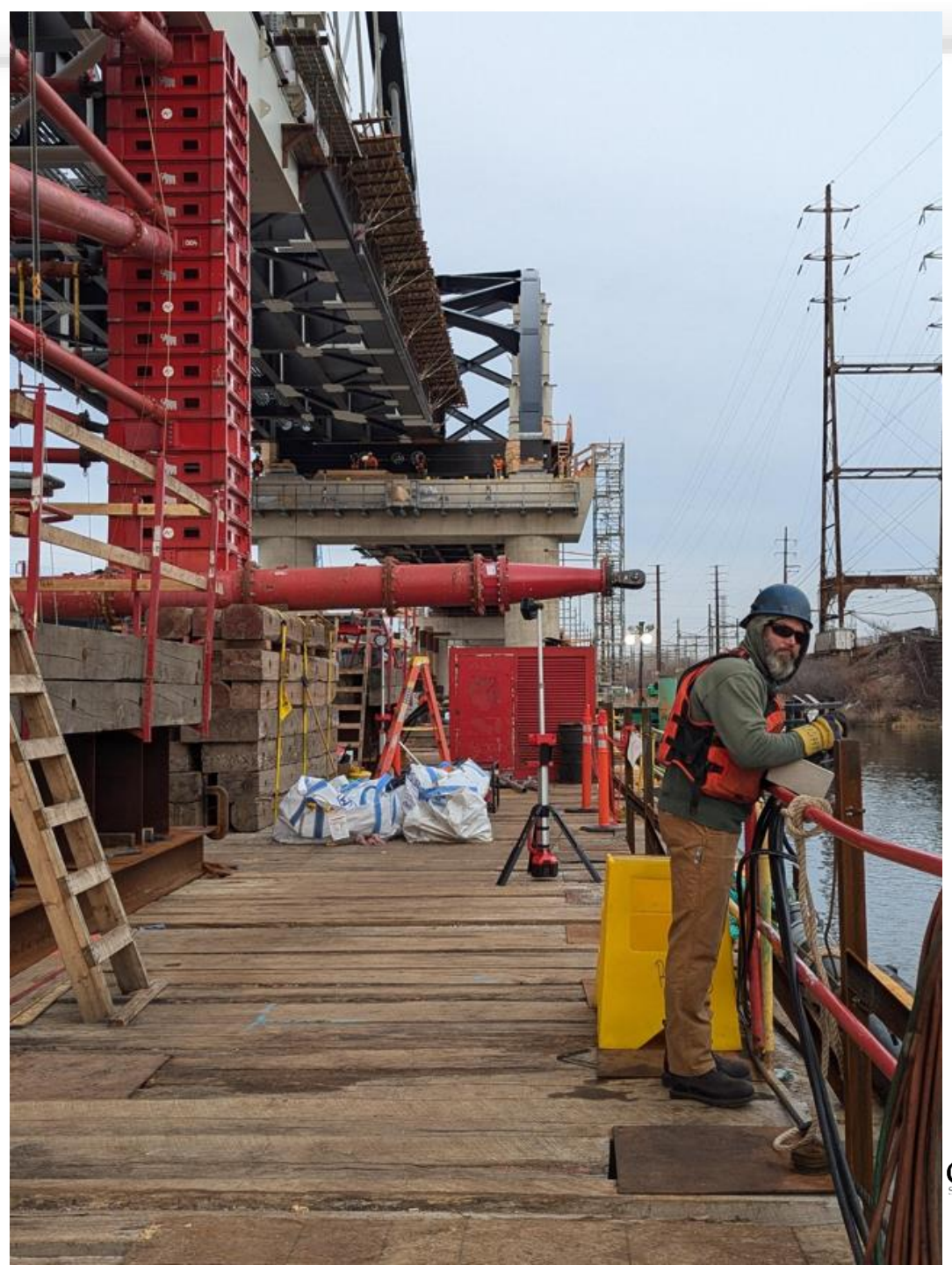
Span 1W – January 2025

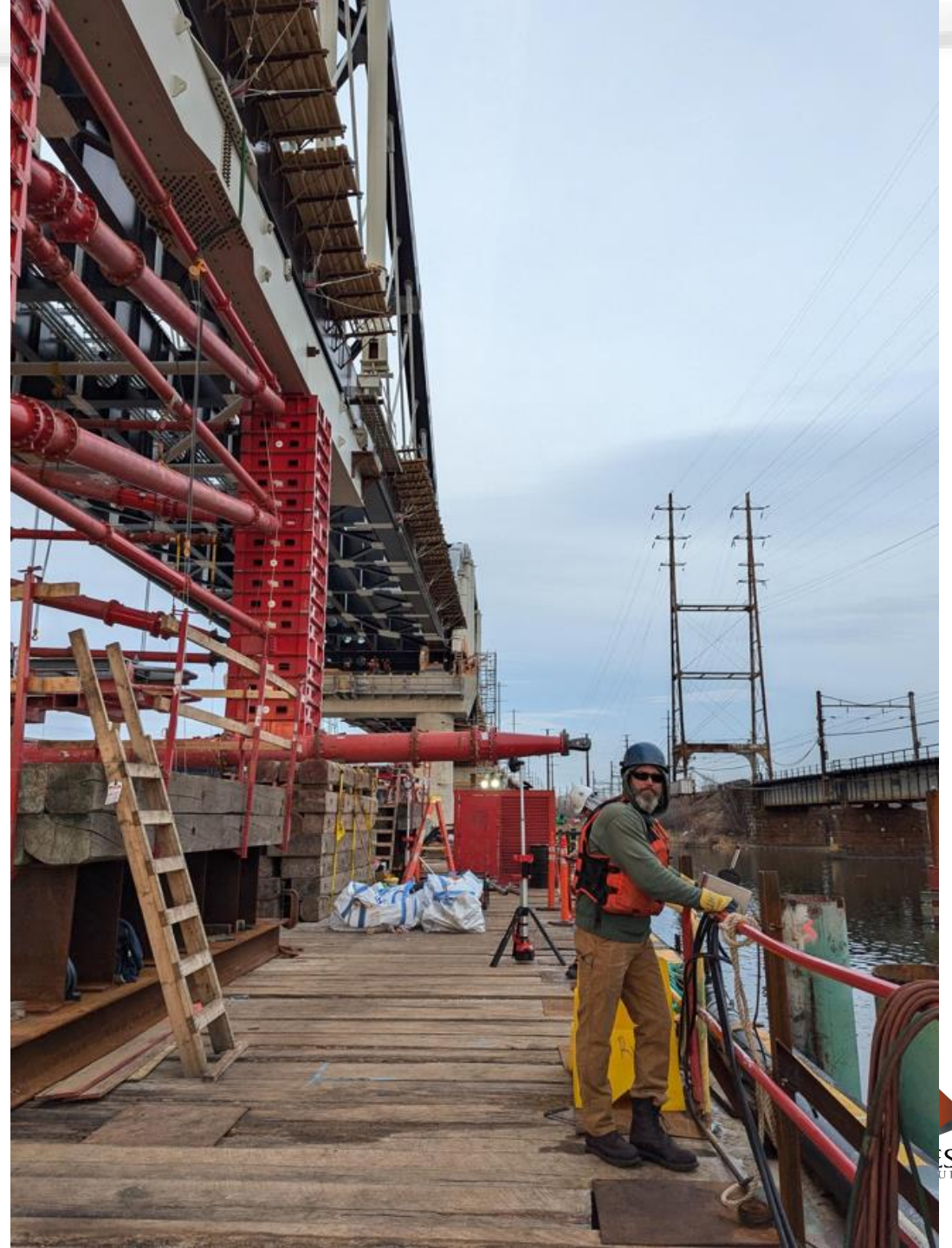


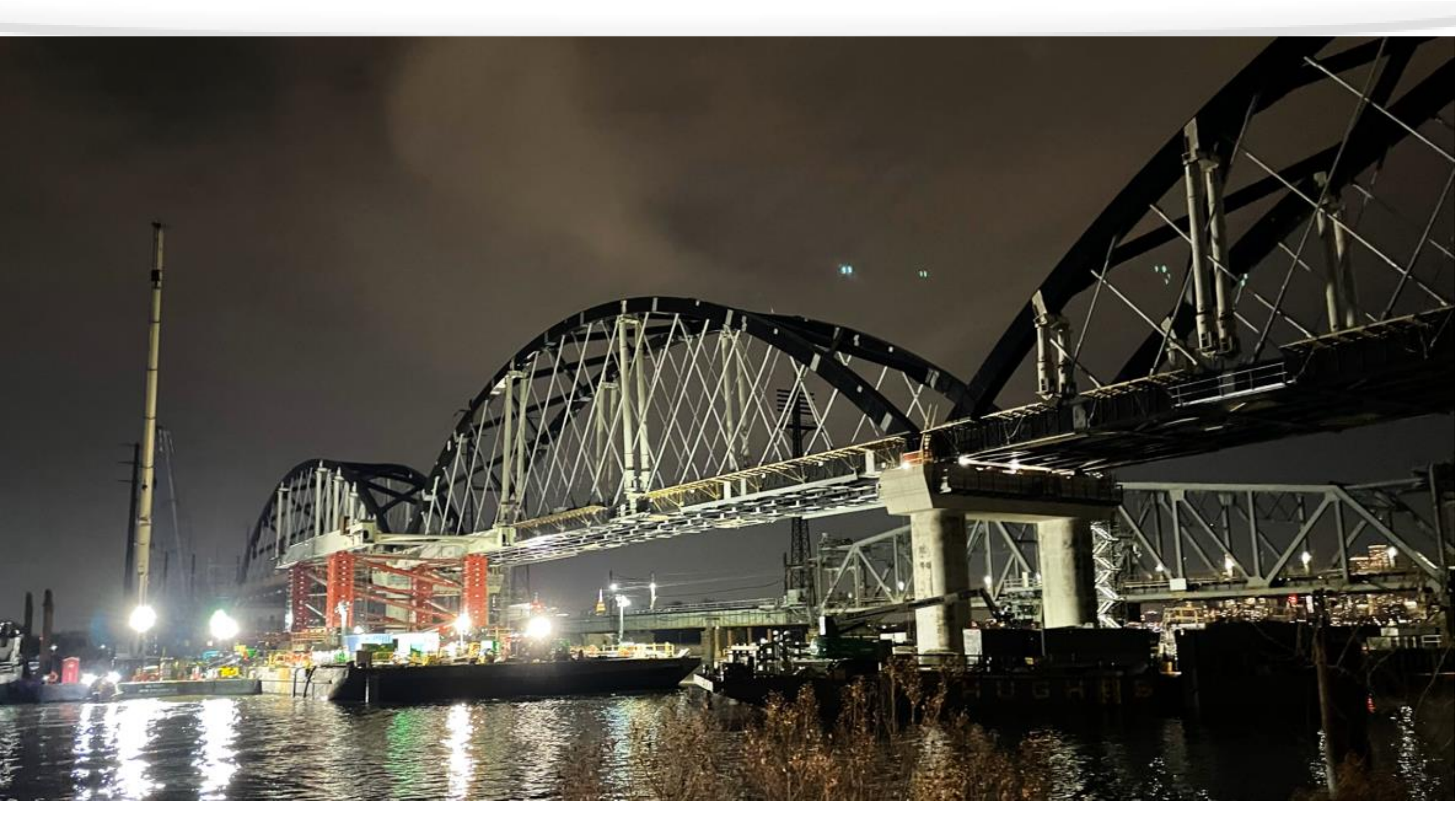
Span 1C – February 2025











Special Thanks.....

SKANSKA

TRAYLOR
TRAYLOR BROS., INC.



Learning Assessment



1. *What type of arch structure are the Portal North Bridges?*
Network Tied Arch
2. *How many struts were needed for the SPMT and barge float operations?*
Two
3. *How was the vertical position of the barge relative to the bulkhead controlled.*
By pumping water in and out of the barge internal ballast tanks.

Learning Assessment

4. *Why were the arches lowered onto a transfer bent before landing on the piers?*
To pick up with a wider barge with a Mega Jack System
5. *How many mega-jack were used to complete the vertical lift?*
Four



Questions ??