



# NEWS RELEASE

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## New Bedford Regional Airport Commission seeks Corps permit to place fill material to make runway safety improvements

**CONCORD, Mass.** – The New Bedford Regional Airport Commission is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct work in waters of the United States in conjunction with construction of runway safety improvements at the New Bedford Regional Airport in New Bedford, Mass.

The proposed work includes placing fill material in a total of 7.89 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, that are part of the Apponagansett Swamp for runway safety improvements at the New Bedford Regional Airport to bring the airport closer to required FAA runway safety standards.

The work includes reconstructing portions of Runway 5-23, constructing runway safety areas (RSAs), vegetation management and mitigation. The work is proposed in the Apponagansett Swamp that is part of the headwaters of the Paskamansett River and adjacent wetlands at 1569 Airport Road in New Bedford.

The applicant is proposing to construct a total of 18.49 acres of replacement wetlands on airport property. On March 1, 2005, the Corps issued a public notice seeking comments on a much larger airport improvement project which is not being pursued.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in United States waters, including wetlands. The Corps public notice, with more detailed information on the proposed project, can be reviewed online at the Corps website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and search by file number or state.

Public comments on the Corps permit review (File # NAE-2004-00102) should be forwarded no later than March 5, 2010 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division (ATTN: Brian Valiton), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. Additional information is available from Permit Project Manager Brian Valiton at 978-318-8166 or toll free 800-343-4789 or 800-362-4367 (if calling from within Massachusetts) or by email to: [brian.e.valiton@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.e.valiton@usace.army.mil).

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