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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

Volume 40, No. 2

# Yankee Engineer

November 2003

## Wind Farm

### Corps of Engineers enter new phase of NEPA public process

Wind Farm or Firestorm? An environmental dream or a recreational nightmare? Even before Corps of Engineers officials received the permit application to build a Wind Farm, they knew a great deal of controversy would arise from it.

But instead of running from public opinion and outcry, New England District officials are using the comments and concerns to shape an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed

application.

#### In the Beginning

The New England District's Regulatory Division officials received an application from Cape Wind Associates in November 2001 for a Section 10 individual permit to install 170 offshore wind turbine generators in federal and state waters off the coast of Massachusetts in Horseshoe Shoals in Nantucket Sound.

The purpose of the project is to

generate up to 420 MW of renewable energy that will be distributed to the New England regional power grid, including Cape Cod and the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

The proposed wind turbine array would occupy approximately 28 square miles in Horseshoe Shoals.

In December 2001, Regulatory officials determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required for the proposed project. At the same time, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts required an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). So in order to streamline the regulatory review, the state and federal agencies decided to do a single joint environmental document.

A Notice of Intent detailing the project's purpose and intent was published in the Federal Register in January 2002. Almost immediately, concerns from Massachusetts residents started to pour in, and District officials paid attention.

An EIS/EIR enables federal agencies to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts. It also ensures that the federal government involves



Col. Thomas Koning unveils the alternative sites to be studied for the Wind Farm draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Photo by Mark McInerney

Continued on page 10

# Yankee Voices



Todd Randall  
Engineering/Planning

## Inclement Weather Program

The New England District Inclement Weather Program is up and running. For up-to-date information on closings or delays, you may dial the hotline number at 978-318-8346. Please dial this number exclusively to obtain inclement weather information.

WRKO is no longer accepting Inclement Weather announcements from the Corps. The current list of radio stations that will make the announcements are: WEIM (1280 AM) - Fitchburg, Mass.; WCAP (980 AM) - Lowell, Mass.; WOKQ (97.5 FM) - Dover, N.H.; and WGIR (101 FM) - Manchester, N.H.

You may also watch Channel 7's morning news in Boston or by accessing the website at [www.whdh.com](http://www.whdh.com).

In cases of inclement weather, announcements will begin on the District's Inclement Weather Hotline at 5:45 a.m. Wallet cards with complete information will be distributed in the near future.

## A letter from Iraq

I want to thank you all for the e-mails. It's nice to hear from people back in the world. I've been receiving so many that I am going to have to address you all at one time.

The weather has been a little cooler, which I like. I get up about 5:30 a.m., do phone calls because it's 9:30 p.m. back home the previous day --an 8-hour difference. Then I like to walk around and watch the sun rise over the Tigris River. At 6:30 a.m., I drive the bus for whoever wants to go over to the Al Rasheed to have breakfast.

After that, the day begins with phone calls, e-mails, and meetings dealing with the tracking of materials being sent here for our projects. They come from all over, but the ones I am tracking are coming from Jordan and Turkey. I may have to meet with people with the UNDP (United Nations Distribution Program) over at the Saddam Main Palace, which is the home of the CPA (Coalition Provincial Authority). I may have to talk with contractors, or the MOE (Ministry of Electricity). I do other things like bus people to sick call, fuel vehicles, or pick up the mail.

I've been south to Basrah on a supply run, and as far north as Tikrit. I went to Kuwait City, Kuwait to pick up vehicles for the TF-RIE (Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity) team. For the most part I stay busy. We stop for a lunch break, and have a MRE (Meals Ready to Eat). I stop sometimes around 6 p.m., for another hot meal at the Al Rasheed. The food is good, and you get all you want. I am actually gaining weight over here. At 8 p.m., we have a logistics meeting, then it's time for a shower, get ready for the next day, read a little, and sleep. I've worked every day since I arrived. I'm not complaining -- I knew that was expected. It's a real challenge, and a great experience.

I do miss being at home, working out at the gym, hiking the mountains, walking the roads, and being with Ute. I hope to be home or in Germany for Christmas, but time will tell how that will come out. I am real safe here because most of my time is spent in the green zone. So don't worry about me, I am going to be fine.

Take care all,

**Phil Morrison**

*(Editor's note: Phil also wanted to recognize the fine work that his co-workers, Dave Kratz and Bob Govero, are doing with him in Iraq.)*

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# Commander's Corner: Privatization and You



by Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer  
and William C. Taylor, Union President, Local 1164

This is a unique article in the Yankee Engineer in which I will share this column with our Union President, Bud Taylor. We feel that the education of the workforce on the several concurrent privatization initiatives is paramount in times of uncertainty and change.

[Taylor] You need to know that since his arrival, Colonel Koning and I have maintained a consistent and comprehensive dialogue on the overall efforts within the Federal government to privatize Federal civil service jobs – nation-wide. Our discussions and information exchanges have involved Kim Kaminski-Donaher, the Chief of Human Resources for our District, to ensure a united and common understanding of each other's positions on these matters. Though in some areas we may have enjoyed divergent personal opinions at times, our official relationship has been extremely professional, transparent, and productive with one thing as the focus, "The welfare of OUR employees." The Colonel, Kim, and I have a common and unshakable commitment that we are all united for each of the New England District employee's welfare.

[Koning] There are three main topics we wish to discuss in this article – some of which I addressed in the Town Hall meeting last month: Competitive Sourcing; the Third Wave; and USACE 2012. Each of these concepts is different, as we will describe below, but some days it is tough to keep them all straight in my head. Each is an attempt to provide better service to our customers by changing our current methods (structures or procedures) of operation. However, since they are occurring simultaneously (using a baseball analogy), it might seem as if the pitcher is throwing three balls over the plate at the same time, and you, as the batter, are required to hit them all with just one swing. Let me assure you that Management and the Union are working together with your interest at heart, as well as that of the taxpayers we serve.

[Taylor] First, Competitive Sourcing is a government-wide initiative to find the most efficient organizational structure to do our jobs. It uses the A-76 process as described in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 (Revised). The Corps leadership has been approaching this head-on with training for both Management and Union officials and has a plan for the execution of the "competi-

tions" over the next several years. The Corps plans have not yet received the approval of either the Army or OMB, and this has put the plans in limbo and started the rumor mill rolling. We will keep you informed as things happen and new information becomes available.

[Koning] Third Wave is a Department of Defense effort to move a major portion of the support functions to the private sector, for both active duty military and civil service. Specifically, there were rumors of the Army divesting itself of the Civil Works functions of the Corps. Although no one is glad we are in Iraq, the rebuilding efforts there have given the Corps an opportunity to shine. Information I am getting is that our Army and Congressional leadership are clearly seeing the value that the Corps brings to the warfight – skills that were learned and honed doing our day-to-day Civil Works and Military missions. For various reasons including this one, in the FY03 appropriation bills, there was specific language preventing any appropriated funding to be used for this program. The FY04 appropriation bills are still being debated, so watch and see what develops on this issue.

[Taylor] At the recent Town Hall meeting, we also discussed USACE 2012, which is the Corps' internal effort to redirect resources toward missions in a more effective way. The conceptual plan is published – although it is not very detailed. Although most of the proposed changes occur at Headquarters- and Division- levels, some of them impact you. I encourage you to read, ask questions and learn.

[Koning] Let me second Bud's last sentence – I also strongly encourage you to learn all you can about the proposed changes these initiatives might bring. All of them are in their infancy and so your issues, comments and concerns can make a difference in their implementation. Get on the websites – ask questions of your Union leadership – ask questions of me. An educated workforce is the best way to deal with the uncertainty that change will bring.

[Taylor] The analogy I like to use on how to look at the "big picture" of this whole privatization issue is: the Congress is the Board of Directors for the company employing you; the President is the CEO of our company; the taxpayers are the stockholders; and you are the employees. You need to make the stockholders know whether you support or do not support the proposed privatization actions in the company they own. If you have concerns, you need to have the Board of

*Continued from page 14*

# Report from Iraq:

## Soldier in Baghdad celebrates Father's Day in October

**Photo and story by Ed Evans  
Task Force RIE Public Affairs Officer**

When Heather Benoit heard her father, Robert "Bob" Govero, had volunteered to go to the Middle East with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, she wasn't thrilled. The world was becoming an uncertain place.

What she didn't know was they would soon meet in Baghdad.

Married, mother of two children and living in Missouri, she was a federal civil servant working as a unit administrator for the 313th Surgical Hospital. But she was also a U.S. Army Reservist, and her Reserve specialty was one a deploying unit could call up if they had no one to fill that billet. And a unit in Puerto Rico called. She was headed for Iraq.

Heather's father, Bob Govero, had volunteered for a special mission. As he was processing for Iraq, he learned that his daughter was going to Baghdad. That's how it happened that on Sunday,

Oct. 12. Heather ambled down a gravel street between dusty tents in Baghdad, looked up in surprise and threw her arms around a huge figure in Army camouflage, yelling, "Daddy!"

"I knew where she was," explained her dad, "it was just a matter of getting from where I was to where she was."

Getting to his daughter was no easy task. Govero is a member of the Corps of Engineers' Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF RIE).

TFRIE is made up of 80 volunteers with specific skills, who work as team members with the Coalition Provisional Authority; the Commander, Joint Task Force-7; and the Ministry of Electricity to repair and rehabilitate the electrical grid throughout Iraq.

An Army Specialist, Heather is a member of the 430th Quartermaster Company. She operates a shower point for the Army's women at the military side of the Baghdad International Airport several miles away. But it wasn't

just miles that separated the two. For Govero to get from his location to his daughter's required body armor, helmets, a convoy, and armed combat vehicles before and following the convoy. Armed soldiers, dubbed "shooters" were necessary for the right hand seat of each vehicle. Govero found he could not "just go calling" on his daughter's unit. But after he worked it all out, he finally reached her location and they were reunited.

The specialty that got Heather Benoit to Baghdad has made her popular with female members of nearby Army units. Working with a team of men, it was her job to set up and manage shower points for the women.

"The day we arrived my commander asked if there was any way we could set up by the close of that day. The troops here had been making do with 'lister bag' showers and no hot water for some time. By the end of the day, our team had everything set up, and they had their first hot showers. When the first girl in line stepped in the shower," Heather explained, "we were still adjusting the pressure. She turned the water on, it hit her right in the face and she screamed, 'I'm drowning! Oh my God, it's wonderful!'"

Heather's attention to detail has led her to scout around and locate several beauty and bathing products, which are favored by the female soldiers, and she has set up an attractive showering and dressing area in spite of the 120 degree heat and constant dust and sand.

Father and daughter intend to see each other several more times before they leave Iraq. Heather is scheduled to be home by Thanksgiving, but Bob will stay about a month longer. He says he enjoys his daughter's company, but is looking forward to seeing his entire family together again back in the U.S.A. by Christmas.



*Bob Govero, Logistics, hugs his daughter, Heather, during their reunion in Iraq.*

# Dave Kratz checks in from Baghdad

Story and photo provided by Dave Kratz  
Construction/Operations

It's the flies that really get me. The weather is much cooler--by Iraqi standards-- and the food is okay, but the flies just drive you nuts. There are flies everywhere, and in some areas, you just can't stand still without being attacked by these pesky flies. Fly swatters are very popular over here.

A group of us were talking about being in Baghdad at this point in time. For all of us, this experience is far beyond the surreal. We all recognize that the memories made here will be with us for the rest of our lives.

Last week we were all heading to our bus ready to leave our base and head over to where we had our chow twice a day. Many of us heard a giant whooshing sound. Seconds later the rolling thunderous "booms." Our breakfast would be cancelled. Eight rockets hit the Hotel Al Rasheed. To be honest, the rockets bothered us less than the fact we were going to miss our hot breakfast. When we learned later that day that a colonel was killed and several others were wounded, breakfast then seemed less important.

That night more tragic news came to us. Our contractor's convoy came up upon a military convoy that was ambushed by some Former Regime Loyalists (FRL), they were caught in the crossfire and several of our Iraqi friends were killed. The four killed were a translator on her first day working for us and three bodyguards, the youngest being 19 years old. Our British friends were also wounded seriously.

These Iraqi's are as loyal as any patriots I have met. They guard us tenaciously and all of us feel very safe with them. They are tough and well trained. It is a credit to them that none of the contractors were killed. These guards--and our friends--placed themselves in harm's way to protect them. Two of the guards that were killed were guards on one of my trips outside the wire. I feel terrible about the incident.

It sounds hokey, but the following is very true: these young men and women want a free and better Iraq very much. They were worn and tired from oppression but have renewed energy working with our Task Force.

Last week, while at a power plant, one of the guards argued with a substation worker. The guard told the group that the operator said, "something very bad about Ameri-

cans." He was too proud to translate the man's insults, but he certainly gave the man a clear message that he personally would tolerate none of that.

All the Iraqis who work for us make the effort to learn our names and greet us personally every morning. They are very physical and if they like you, expect the men to give you a hug and to kiss on your cheeks! The women will not touch you; you can not even shake their hand. The "Westernized" women will shake your hand, but only with the fingertips.

They love to see photographs and taking the time to share pictures of your family is very important to them. It is equally important to share your food and treats. For the Muslims, they believe that if Allah has blessed you with food you must show hospitality to others in return. So when they offer you food, it would be very insulting to refuse it.

It takes courage for them to come to the gate every morning. I frequently pick up these people at the checkpoints everyday. Because we like them so much, it makes our job easier. We want to help them get their country back. So you can understand the news of any of their deaths would cause great sorrow for us. That night was a quiet somber one.

The next day was the bloodiest day in Baghdad since the "end" of the war. Five car bombs were detonated. We learned almost immediately the Red Cross was targeted. That added a sense of confusion and anger to the shock. Who attacks the Red Cross? What objective were they trying to achieve?

Things have been quieter in Baghdad since that day. There were a few more mortar attacks and there are distant sounds of small arms fire, but most of these attacks have been minimal.

The Task Force still chugs along doing what we came here to do. Many a night, I sit with my fellow team members and we marvel at this surreal experience and our very important role here in Iraq. We are building new friendships with fellow Corps of Engineers people, the soldiers and officers working with us and Iraqis.

When we finally complete our mission and head home, we can be confident we have helped Iraqis build a better Iraq. By the same token, we will be leaving as much better people than when we arrived.



*Bob Govero, Dave Kratz, and Phil Morrison take a quick break while on duty in Iraq.*

## Walker runs marathon for the families of fallen soldiers

Bill Walker likes to run. It's great exercise, and it keeps him in shape. But nothing makes Bill run faster than a good cause. When he found out that the Department of Defense was forming a team to run in the 2003 New York City Marathon to raise money for the families of fallen soldiers, Bill rushed to sign up.

Over 41,000 runners participated in the marathon. Bill and the 22-person "Running on Red, White and Blue," team, sponsored by Ronzoni Pasta, ran the 26. 2-mile marathon, held in New York City, on Nov. 2. Bill was the only U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative on the team. The rest of the team consisted of members of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, and the New York National Guard.

The team raised \$10,000 for the Intrepid's Fallen Heroes Fund. "The marathon was awe inspiring to run," said Bill. "As we started off from Fort Wadsworth you could hear the cheers and Frank Sinatra's song 'New York, New York' that marched us on strongly over the Verrazano Narrows Bridge from Staten Island on toward Brooklyn."

Bill completed the marathon in five hours, eight minutes and 38 seconds. Although most would consider just completing the marathon an accomplishment, Bill said he thought he could have done better with his time. "I was upset at my time because of problems I faced during the run like my leg muscles cramping up," he said.

Although he was exhausted after his run, he said he would do it again, "in a heart beat."

The Survey employee heard about the team though the e-mail and decided to sign up. He was able to qualify for the team by being a Department of Defense employee and by being accepted into the 2003 New York City Marathon. Prior to participating in the New York City Marathon, Bill and



Photo provided by Ronzoni

*Bill Walker (third jogger on the right) and his team take a run on the "Intrepid" flight deck.*

the team went on a training "run" on the flight deck of the Intrepid, stationed in New York Harbor.

Running for two years, this was Bill's second time running in a marathon. Last year, Bill ran his first marathon, the Lowell Bay State Marathon in four hours and 19 minutes.

In appreciation for running the marathon, Ronzoni presented Bill with an official 2003 ING NYC Marathon t-shirt, runner's jacket, duffle bag and runner's cap, as well as a Ronzoni's "Running on Red, White and Blue" team t-shirt and complimentary Ronzoni Pasta. But according to Bill, helping others is its own reward. "I wanted to run for a good cause," he said. "Being part of the team made my efforts more rewarding."



Photo by C.J. Allen

## Veterans Day Observance

*Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, waits his turn to respectfully dispose of a worn U.S. flag during the flag burning ceremony in Sleepy Hollow cemetery in Concord, Mass., Nov. 11.*

*The flag burning ceremony was part of the town's Veterans Day observance, which included a parade.*

*The New England District joins Concord residents annually in paying tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces.*

# Town Meeting covers everything from current events to videos

Current events, honors, and entertaining videos made up the agenda of the recent Town Meeting held in the Concord Park cafeteria, Nov. 3.

The meeting began with Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, welcoming back Kim Osgerby, Information Management stay-in-schooler and military police officer, who recently returned safely from Iraq.

Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, briefed the audience on ongoing events in the District. The nurse in the Health Unit has given 112 flu shots, according to the District Engineer, and he encouraged everyone to get one.

In addition to Kim Osgerby, Col. Koning announced that David Cole, Cape Cod Canal, has returned from Afghanistan. He urged all District employees to welcome back employees who return from overseas duty in support of the War on Terrorism. District employees who are still on active duty are Lt. Col. Ray Prisk, Lt. Col. Brian Green, Deputy District Engineer, and Maj. Greg Billings. Other employees who are overseas as Corps volunteers include Phil Morrison, Dave Kratz, Bob Govero, Jack Keenan, Steve Waite, and Nick Iaiennaro.

The colonel talked about the two Corps of Engineers contractors who were killed Nov. 2. He mentioned the contractors were part of the group that Nick was working for, but fortunately he was not on the convoy that was attacked and is safe. "It is a dangerous place for people, particularly those that go out and do the kind of work that they're doing," said Col. Koning. "The Corps is right there with our contract partners."

Employee supervisors are in contact with the families, getting and giving the latest information on the people overseas, according to Col. Koning.

Topics of a Corps-wide nature that the District Engineer discussed included the Third Wave, Competitive



Photo by Mark McInerney

*Col. Thomas Koning addresses District employees during the Town Meeting.*

Outsourcing, and 2012, to include a video by Lt. Gen. Flowers on the 2012 initiative. Col. Koning's monthly column on page 3, co-written by Bud Taylor, discusses Competitive Outsourcing.

Col. Koning discussed the articles he has written about the subject that appear in the September and October editions of the Yankee Engineer. To read these articles online, please go to <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm>. To view Lt. Gen. Flowers' 2012 video online, go to the District Intranet. For the latest information on 2012, go to <http://www.usace.army.mil/stakeholders>.

"Change is difficult and not comfortable," said Col. Koning. "But these changes are excellent for us."

During the awards portion of the meeting, Mark Wilmes, Jim Lewis and Donna Vondle received certificates of recognition for their dedicated efforts during Super Typhoon Pongsona Disaster Response and Recovery operations. The certificates were signed by Maj. Gen. Robert Johnson, Commander, Pacific Ocean Division. Phil Morrison, who is currently in Iraq, will also receive a certificate for his participation in the operation.

Kate Atwood received her "Employee of the Month" certificate and chair for the month of October. Kate was honored for her work on the Joe

English rehabilitation project.

Drew Clemens received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his extraordinary efforts in educating his fellow project delivery team members. Drew's participation in PDTs span four districts -- New England, Baltimore, New York, and Norfolk. These teams tackle projects such as FUDS, FUSRAP, IRP, BRAC and OMA.

Heather Sullivan also received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service. She received the honor for her work on the Massachusetts Military Reservation Project Team. Both awards were signed by Col. Koning.

The Town Meeting concluded with the WE Committee Video Contest. Three videos were judged for the grand prize of an office pizza party catered by the WE Committee. "Mr. Bill's Safety Video," directed by Phil Durgin won top honors. Other videos that competed and were enjoyed by the attendees were "Sound of Regulatory," directed by Tanya Williams, and "The Contract Line," directed by Colleen Jacquet.

To qualify for entry into the contest, videos had to be work related; had to be no longer than two and one half minutes; had to involve as many people as possible from the office; and people had to have fun doing the video. Judges were Col. Koning, Buzz McDonald, Dave Dulong, John Astley, and Dick Carlson.



*Contractors swing bridge into place using a crane.*



*The bridge is lined up to ensure a perfect fit.*

## Westville Lake receives 'Big Dig' Bridge: Structure will connect Grand Trunk Trail to Heritage Trail

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Westville Lake has received an 85-foot bridge section from the Boston "Big Dig" project. The bridge was put into place, Oct. 10.

The bridge, which spans the inlet rock cut of Westville Lake, will be used for the hiking trail. It connects the Grand Trunk Trail in Sturbridge to the Heritage Trail extension in Southbridge, and completes the loop trail around Westville Lake. The structure finishes an important link in the trail system at Westville Lake, according to Keith Beecher, Park Manager for Westville Lake. "Having a three-mile loop trail around Westville Lake has been a dream of many local residents and visitors to our park," he said.

"The bridge is an 85-foot section from a temporary ramp of the north end of the Big Dig Project," said Park Ranger Tom Chamberland, who is overseeing the bridge project for the Corps. "These bridge sections are available from the Massachusetts Highway Department for communities to reuse."

The bridge, which is a precast inverted design, is 9.5 feet wide and weighs 57 tons. The work to set the bridge in place was performed under contract with Northern Construction

Company of Palmer, Mass., which trucked the bridge from the Massachusetts Highway Department storage yard in Littleton, Mass.

Work on this \$98,000 project included site preparation work, 41 cubic yards of concrete footings and walls, bridge transportation and setting, 100 tons of rip rap rock, fencing, gravel, grading and paving.

"I'd like to thank the town of Southbridge, Mr. Hamer Clark for his efforts in informing us of the availability of the bridge and his technical expertise, and the Massachusetts Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley Heritage District Commission for the grant that was used to develop the bridge plans needed for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department to release the bridge to us for the purpose of spanning the inlet of Westville Dam," said Keith.

In addition to Mr. Beecher and Mr. Chamberland, Park Ranger Merl Bassett has worked many long hours to see this project through. The team hopes to have the bridge open for public use by the end of November. "I would also like to thank Robert Hanacek, the Thames River Operations Manager for his continued support and Jim Morocco for the great oversight he and his office provided," said Keith.



*Park Ranger Tom Chamberland supervises the work.*

Photos by C.J. Allen



*The new bridge is set in place.*

## Marney retires with more than 20 years of service

After devoting more than 20 years of his life to the federal government, Charles Marney, Construction/Operations, decided it was time for some rest and relaxation and retired Sept. 30.

To celebrate his many years of service and to wish him well on his retirement, 40 friends, family members, retirees, and co-workers joined Charles at a buffet luncheon at the Hadleigh House in South Hadley, Mass., on Oct. 24.

Ray Goff, Westover Resident Office Resident Engineer, served as master of ceremonies, and shared a couple of "Charlie" stories with attendees. Ray presented Charles with a gift bag filled with lotto tickets; a VISA gift card; a Corps of Engineers stein filled with gold dollar coins and a "nip" of Dewars (Scotch); a book entitled, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Computer Basics;" and a Cyberspace Incompatibility Certificate.

Dan Tagliaferro also had a few amusing stories to tell about Charles and was more than willing to entertain the audience with them. At the end of his talk, he presented Charles with photographs from the Pittsfield Housatonic River project and a personalized piece of rip rap as mementos.

Sue Loubier, the final speaker, presented her top ten list of things that she would miss about Charles. All of the



*Karen, Charles, and Chad Marney smile for the camera.*

speakers wished the District's latest retiree and thanked him for his many years of service.

Other gifts Charles received were a bottle of Dewars, a coffee cup, and a jacket from Weston Solutions. He also received a giant retirement card signed by everyone who attended his luncheon.

Charles joined the New England District in 1985. Prior to that, he worked as a carpenter at Westover Joint Air Reserve Base. Charles also spent 16 years as a self-employed building and remodeling contractor from 1966 to 1982.

Before that, Charles worked for general contractors on residential construction from 1961 to 1966. He served six months in the Army from October

1960 to April 1961, and then served in the Army Reserve for six years.

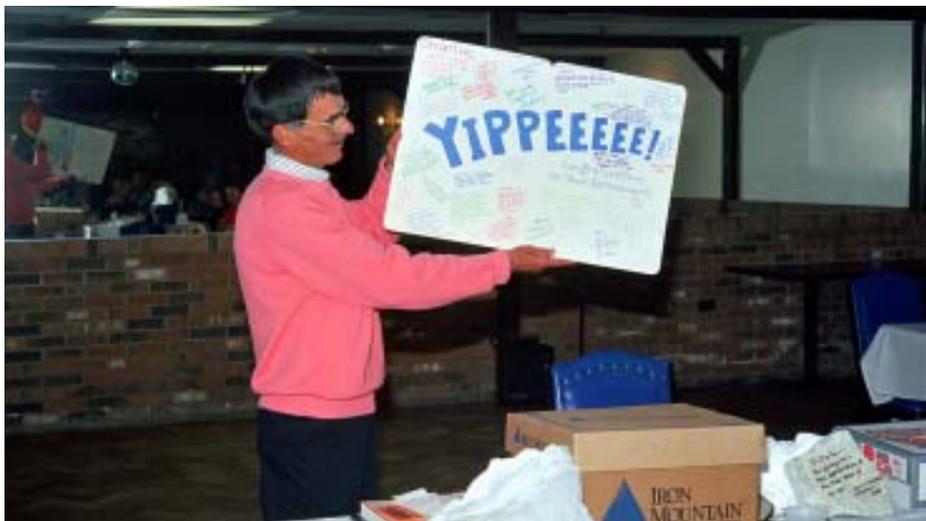
Charles is the past president of the Northhampton Lions Club and past Chair of the Northhampton License Commission. He is a licensed construction supervisor in Massachusetts.

Sue Loubier, Jeff Perchak and Pat Devine organized the luncheon.

Guests who attended Charles' luncheon included District personnel from the Westover Resident Office, North Central Residence Office, East Brimfield Dam, and Concord Headquarters. Neighbors of Charles' also attended as did people he worked with over the years from Westover Joint Air Reserve Base, the Environmental Protection Agency, Weston Solutions and J.H. Maxymillian.

Family members that came to Charles' luncheon were his wife, Karen; son, Chad; sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Gus O'Grady; Charles' father-in-law and stepmother-in-law, Don and Hattie Affhauser; Karen's sister and brother-in-law, Chris and Bill Celatka; Karen's sister and brother-in-law, Kim and Kevin Larkin; and Karen's brother-in-law, Mike Stachowicz.

New England District retirees Jim Leonard, Charles Miller and his wife, Dale, Al Laraway, and Andre Janet came to the luncheon to welcome Charles into the retirement community.



*Charles shows off card signed by all the luncheon attendees.*

Photos by C.J. Allen



Photos by Mark McInerney

While stakeholders ask questions (right), demonstrators show both support and opposition for the proposed wind farm permit.

## Corps of Engineers enters new phase of permit application

*Continued from page 1*

the public and other agencies before making decisions.

New England District officials held two scoping meetings on the EIS/EIR of the proposed application in March 2002.

The scoping meetings were conducted as part of the federal National Environmental Policy Act requirements, and the Corps of Engineers Regulatory responsibilities to seek out public input regarding the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Statement that the Corps would prepare.

The Corps has been holding various public information meetings since November 2002 and has published an informational website on the application. The Corps has been participating in meetings with the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative – a state agency that promotes renewable energy – to enhance the public involvement process.

Alternatives that Corps officials would address in the EIS/EIR include a no action alternative; alternative wind park locations, to include offshore versus upland; submarine cable route alternatives; and alternative overland cable route locations.

Over 400 citizens attended the meetings, and hundreds of people have written in, both for and against the project.

The Corps of Engineers New England District officials took the comments from citizens and kept them in mind when they began the process of writing the Wind Farm EIS/EIR in the summer of 2002. They also considered the comments and site suggestions from the public when they started to pare down the preliminary alternatives from 17 sites to six.

At a meeting held by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative on March 12, 2002, the Corps of Engineers presented the criteria it planned to use to select site alternatives. Based on that meeting, and the comments made from

the public, the Corps of Engineers reevaluated the criteria and how it was being applied in the Summer of 2003.

During the preliminary screening, the alternatives were evaluated as to whether they would fulfill the project purpose, “a large scale renewable energy facility providing power to the New England grid.”

The EIR/EIS will include a comparison of natural gas, oil, and coal fired power plants, both inland and coastal and assessment of renewable technologies including solar, tidal, biomass, hydroelectric, wave and wind.

### The Here and Now

After careful consideration and study of the criteria, the following six sites were selected as alternatives requiring detailed review in the EIS/EIR:

- Onshore – Massachusetts Military Reservation;
- Shallow water – Horseshoe Shoal, Tuckernuck Shoal, and Handkerchief Shoal – all located in Nantucket Sound;
- Deeper water – South of Tuckernuck Island;
- Two or more sites combined to reach at least 200 MW capacity – south of New Bedford in Buzzard’s Bay combined with a reduced footprint at Horseshoe Shoal.

Alternative locations were chosen using the following criteria:

- Sufficient surplus electric transmission capacity to transport 200-1,500 MW to load centers throughout the ISO-NE transmission system;
- Wind Power Classification of 4 or greater (Wind speeds >15.7 m.p.h. at 50 meters);
- Available land or offshore watershed area sufficient to accommodate a 200-1,500 MW wind energy project;
- Engineering constraints (“constructability,” geotechnical conditions, water depths);

- Legal/Regulatory constraints

- State or federal land or water use exclusions

- Avoidance of state or federally protected environmental resource areas.

Col. Thomas L. Koning, District Engineer, announced the six alternative sites that will be included for detailed review in the EIS/EIR during a public information meeting on Oct. 29, 2003. Over 200 people attended the meeting for the announcement and to also ask Col. Koning questions.

Col. Koning assured concerned citizens that just because alternative sites will be reviewed and included in the Draft EIS/EIR does not mean that the applicant was assured a permit.

### The Next Step

New England District officials will collect data on the final alternative sites to review the relative merits and impacts. As the Corps proceeds with writing the draft EIS/EIR, cooperating agencies will assist in reviewing the evaluations.

The goal is to issue the Draft EIS/EIR, then hold public hearings and have a formal public comment period in 2004.

Six months after the comments have been processed from the Draft EIS/EIR, New England District officials hope to proceed with the final EIS/EIR. The NEPA process will end when a record of decision is issued.

At that time, Col. Koning will make a public interest determination and decide whether the project is contrary to the public interest.

If he decides that it is, the District Engineer will deny a permit for an offshore wind farm in Nantucket Sound. If he determines that it is not contrary to public interest, the permit will be issued.

The New England District has established a web site for this project, and updates the information on a regular basis.

Interested parties are urged to go to <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/windfarm.htm>.

## Draft Environmental Assessment on proposed Baileyville border patrol station published

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment for the construction of a new border patrol station to be located in Baileyville, Maine to replace the existing border patrol station located in Calais, Maine.

The Environmental Assessment was prepared through support by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

The purpose of the proposed action is to construct a new border patrol station in the Baileyville Industrial Park, located on U.S. Route 1 immediately south of its intersection with State Route 9, about 12 miles west of Calais, Maine.

The proposed station would be located within a 12-acre area on Lots 1 and 3 within the industrial park.

The existing border patrol station, located in an 800 square foot area on the second floor of the Calais, Maine Port of Entry building at the Perry Point Bridge, has insufficient space to accommodate future staffing requirements and equipment needs, and no available space for expansion.

The new facility would include a 10,800 square foot main building, with future optional requirements consisting of about 11,400 square feet of space for features such as a vehicle sally port, vehicle storage and maintenance, and an anti-smuggling unit area. A helicopter landing zone (about 16,000 square feet in size) and an indoor firing range (about 4,000 square feet in size) would also be future

probable requirements.

The site would also include a perimeter security fence. No impacts to federal or state threatened, endangered or rare species are expected. No cultural resource impacts have been identified in the project area.

The Draft Environmental Assessment was available for public review through Dec. 5, 2003. Comments were accepted for the same 30-day period.

The document is available for public viewing at the Calais Free Library, located at 3 Union Street in Calais, Maine, and at the Woodland Public Library, located at 169 Main Street in Baileyville, Maine.

The proposed construction was coordinated with the following federal, state and local agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Maine Department of Conservation, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Maine Geological Survey, the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Penobscot Indian Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs.

For more information about the three new border patrol stations being proposed in Maine, check the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select "projects" and then "border patrol stations in Maine."



*Ann Marie Harvie as the inflatable chef.*



*Carol Charette as the 102nd Dalmation.*



*Greg Penta as the hula girl.*

## WE Committee hosts Halloween Costume Contest

Story and photos by John Emmert  
Public Affairs

Halloween traditionally celebrates the coming of the cold, dark season. To keep Corps employees' bodies warm and spirits high, the WE committee sponsored the annual Halloween party on Oct. 31.

The event marked the start of the holiday season. "Events like this always lighten our spirits," said Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer. "The WE committee did an excellent job sponsoring this event. I thank them and all those who participated in the Halloween costume contest for making our day a little brighter."

Those who attended the annual Halloween party packed into the cafeteria to eat sweet treats provided by the WE committee and individuals. Guests kept warm by drinking hot apple cider.

Attempting to add precious insulation for the upcoming winter, some gorged on desserts including bowls of candy, rows of little frosted cakes, and plates of cookies. But what is dinner without entertainment?

A few daring souls braved public humiliation and dressed up to compete in the Halloween costume contest. People who dressed included Greg Penta as a Hula girl, Elaine Law as a Gothic Medieval lady, Angela Wright



*Jo-Ann Dawber as the fairy.*



*Bob Essex as Indiana Jones.*



*Mary Christopher as the leopard.*



*Phil Nimeskern as the Mullet Head Motorcycle Man.*

as the Grim Reaper, Barbara Newman as a handyman, Mary Christopher as a leopard, Carol Charette as the 102nd Dalmatian, Bob Essex as Indiana Jones, Jo-Ann Dawber as a fairy, Ann Marie Harvie as the inflatable chef, Dave Dulong as a biker, Phil Nimeskern as a mullet-wearing motorcyclist, Siamac Vaghar as President William Clinton, and Zina Cassulo as a "Dowmation dog."

Col. Koning also dressed for the occasion, but his choice of costume has been 'classified.'

After parading the contestants around the cafeteria for the audience to see, Col. Koning encouraged the audience to vote for the best costume. Jerry Nunziato and Laura Lally tallied the votes.

With no recount necessary, Ann Marie Harvie took first place to become the Corps' first "not-so-iron" chef, winning a gift certificate to the Chateau Restaurant.

Carol Charette won second place and a basket of Italian goodies including pasta and Parmesan cheese.

Greg Penta received a singing and dancing wolf for winning third place.



*Laura Lally and Jerry Nunziato tallied the votes.*



*David Dulong as the cool biker guy.*



*Elaine Law as Gothic Medieval Lady.*

## Congratulations

...to **Robert Casoli** for being selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for November. Bob's exceptional service to the District includes, but is not limited to, his management of many contracts, keeping safety first and foremost in all situations, and a great relationship with the Towns and Harbor Masters.

...to **the New England District Contracting Team**, which has been selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for November. Team members include: **Michelle Kewer, Eva D'Antuono, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Rachael Raposa, Maria Levenson, Colleen Jacquet, Norm Krause, Carol Husselbee and Colleen Martin.** This team's efforts during September allowed the District to meet or exceed many of its Fiscal Year Goals for awarding work. The entire team worked diligently throughout the month, including weekends and late nights.

## Sympathy

...to the family of **William McFedries**, retired Comptroller, who passed away Oct. 24. Bill retired in 1984 with 30 years of service. His wife, **Jean**, is a retiree of Information Management.

...to recent Resource Management retiree **Donna Craig**, on the passing of her mother, **Nora Craig**, Oct. 27.

...to **Molly McCabe**, Real Estate, on the passing of her mother, **Ellen McCabe**, Nov. 1.

...to **Beverly Lawrence**, Engineering/Planning, on the passing of her mother, **Frances Elloian**, Nov. 13.

## Welcome

Willis Loper, Con/Ops  
David Platt, Con/Ops

John Wutzer, E/P  
Julie D'Esposito, R/E

Christine Zahniser, Con/Ops  
Angel Fernandez, PPM

# Corps completes emergency dredging of Kennebec River federal navigation project

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, has completed emergency dredging operations of the Kennebec River Federal navigation project in Bath, Maine.

The Federal navigation project in the Kennebec River was adopted in 1902 and supplemented by the River and Harbor Acts of 1907, 1913 and 1940.

The emergency work involved maintenance dredging of two portions of the authorized 27-foot deep, 500-foot wide Federal navigation channel.

The emergency dredging was needed to provide safe passage of the USS CHAFEE, a U.S. Navy (USN) Destroyer, scheduled to transit the channel on Oct. 10. The CHAFEE was deemed critical to USN fleet operations and to national defense and its departure from the Bath Iron Works could not be delayed.

Hydrographic surveys of the Doubling Point and Popham Beach areas had revealed that the channel had shoaled to critical levels.

Based on this information, there was concern that the CHAFEE could not have transited the channel safely even with the predicted high tide on October

10th.

Because the CHAFEE was deemed critical to national defense and due to the limited timeframe in which to perform the work, the New England District invoked its emergency authority.

A solicitation was issued on Sept.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

***The USS CHAFEE passing Fort Popham at the mouth of the newly dredged Kennebec River.***

19. Bids were opened on Sept. 26, and a contract for \$534,625 was awarded to Great Lakes on the same day. Notice to proceed was issued on September 29, 2003. Great Lakes mobilized the hopper-dredge PADRE ISLAND from Sabine, Texas on Sept. 28. The dredge arrived on Oct. 6, and began work to clear the most critical shoaling in the Doubling Point reach.

Emergency dredging operations continued through, and were completed on

Oct. 10, clearing the channel of the restrictive shoals for the departure of the USS CHAFEE from the Bath Iron Works as scheduled.

Approximately 9,000 cubic yards of material were removed from the Doubling Point area and about 14,000 cubic yards of material were removed from the Popham Beach area.

Material dredged from the Doubling Point area was placed in the previously used in-river disposal area north of Bluff Head in about 95-100 feet of water. Material dredged from the Popham Beach area was placed in the previously used 500-yard diameter nearshore disposal area located about 0.4 nautical miles south of Jackknife Ledge and in about 40-50 feet of water.

Maintenance dredging of the Doubling Point and Popham Beach areas was previously performed in April 2002 when approximately 20,000 cubic yards of material were removed and disposed of at the previously mentioned disposal sites.

Environmental coordination for this emergency action is ongoing including preparation of an Environmental Assessment and the formal consultation process as required by the Endangered Species Act for the Federally listed endangered shortnose sturgeon.

## Privatization and You

*Continued from page 3*

Directors inquire of the CEO (and his subordinate executives) about who, what, where, when, why and how their proposed changes effect the company. The stockholders (taxpayers) and Board of Directors (Congress)

don't know what's going on in the company (Federal Government) unless you, the worker tell them loud and clear. I ask you to get involved.

[Koning] Thanks Bud, for your comments. The Union and Management do not always see eye-to-eye on

these tough issues, but we are in this together. The big picture goals we agree on; some of the executions techniques we will debate over; but for the workforce, the service to our nation and taking care of our people will be at the forefront of our efforts.

# Groundbreaking at Quechee Gorge: The long and winding road ends in a dream come true

by Roxanne Barbeau, Park Ranger  
North Hartland Lake/Union Village Dam

They say good things come to those who wait. Take the town of Hartford, Vermont, for example. It took 12 years of waiting, plus some help from their fairy godmother, the Army Corps of Engineers, to get a state-of-the-art Visitor Center at historic Quechee Gorge, a major tourist attraction.

Twelve years ago, a group of Hartford town officials and businessmen formed the Quechee Gorge Management Committee to explore replacing the tiny, unheated cabin that dispensed brochures atop the Gorge with a much larger, multi-purpose structure containing that most vital of tourist destinations--rest rooms.

This remarkably optimistic group thought that the whole grant obtaining/planning/organizing process would take, from soup to nuts, about a year. What they learned, however, was that taking on a project like this was a long, time-consuming project -- enough to make a committee member go nuts.

Lengthy arguments were had with town selectmen about building design and the location of those all-important rest rooms. Other issues came up, such as having the state archeologist carry on when an old stone wall was found near the proposed building area like it was the Lost Ark of the Covenant. And approaching the property owners, the Army Corps, and doing the red tape dance one does when dealing with the government.

Finally-- all obstacles had been surmounted, and a quotation for bids was submitted. Two contractors responded. The lowest bid was a little higher than expected -- okay, a lot higher -- leading the town of Hartford to ask the Corps, who by this time had become a major player in the undertaking, the musical question, "brother, can you spare \$850,000?" Thanks to major efforts on the part of several



Col. Thomas Koning (center) joins other officials in breaking ground for the new visitor's center.



Photos by C.J. Allen

*A model representing the future Visitor's Center.*

Corps employees in New England District and Corps headquarters, the answer was YES. The "Quechee Gorge Visitor's Center and Area Improvements" project would proceed.

And so, on a cold and sunny Nov. 10, at 2:30 p.m., before a crowd of 60, which included reporters from area television stations and three newspapers, Col. Thomas Koning, New England District Engineer, joined Governor James Douglas, as well as dignitaries from the state of Vermont and the town of Hartford, in a ground breaking ceremony at the center's future site. Actual construction is anticipated to commence in the spring of 2004, with the center being completed in 2004/2005.

The center, which will be approximately 3,300 square feet in size, will house interpretive displays and a conference room in addition to dispensing information. Five hundred thousand visitors a year are anticipated. This project will include woodland walking trails leading down to the Gorge, outside interpretive exhibits, renovated sidewalks, and improved pedestrian traffic flows. Its cost will be \$2.1 million.

As Governor Douglas, Col. Koning and the other dignitaries noted in their speeches, the center is an outstanding example of community and government agency partnering that will be enjoyed by local residents and area visitors for years to come.

Col. Koning added that the Corps looked forward to continuing to work with the other project partners. After the speakers, the event concluded with refreshments at a nearby restaurant.

So remember, fairy tales can come true, they can happen to you, if you're well, not young at heart (although it doesn't hurt if the project takes 12 years), but willing to take on the challenges and rewards of partnering.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Vyto "Andy" Andreliunas grants a media interview during the Knightville Dam 50th Anniversary celebration in this Aug. 28, 1991 photo. At the time, Mr. Andreliunas was the Chief of Operations.*

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