



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

# Update Report for Rhode Island



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## Mission

The missions of the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include flood damage reduction and control, emergency preparedness and response to natural disasters and national emergencies, environmental remediation and restoration, natural resource management, stream bank and shoreline protection, navigation maintenance and improvement, support to military facilities and installations, and engineering and construction support to other government agencies. The six New England states cover 66,000 square miles and have 6,100 miles of coastline, 11 deep-water ports, 102 recreational and small commercial harbors, 13 major river basins, and thousands of miles of navigable rivers and streams. The district operates and maintains 31 dams, two hurricane barriers and the Cape Cod Canal. Through its Regulatory program, the district processes about 6,000 applications per year for work in waters and wetlands of the six-state region. We employ about 550 professional civilian employees, with about 400 stationed at our headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts. The other Corps of Engineers employees serve at Corps projects and offices throughout the region.

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## Navigation

**BULLOCK'S POINT COVE (1st CD)** – Shoaling has been identified in the inner harbor area of Bullock's Point Cove (BPC) and the city of East Providence and navigation interests have requested maintenance dredging of the Federal project. A survey of the channel and anchorage areas in the inner harbor indicates that about 50,000 cubic yards of material needs to be removed to return the project to its authorized dimensions. Sampling and testing of the material indicate that the material is primarily silt. We have determined that the material from Bullocks Cove is suitable for disposal into the Providence River Confined Aquatic Disposal Cells. Since Federal regulations require that work involving construction of a disposal facility be cost-shared by a non-Federal interest(s), if this dredged material disposal alternative is pursued a non-Federal sponsor would need to be identified. We are initiating coordination with the appropriate Federal and State agencies. Dredging will be done as soon as approvals are granted and funds become available.

**CHARLESTOWN BREACHWAY & INLET, CHARLESTOWN (2nd CD)** – Local officials requested Corps involvement to resolve growing concern for navigation safety through the breachway. They are requesting that the Corps remove large boulders on the

ocean side of the Breachway as well as some dredging of the natural channel farther inland. The Corps study team met with local officials on June 26, 2003 to discuss proposed improvements. The study team has prepared a preliminary project layout and cost estimate. The local sponsor submitted commercial navigation data in January 2004. *A review of economic justification is ongoing.* The reconnaissance level report is expected to be completed in *September 2004*. The report will contain a recommendation for or against further Federal involvement.

**GREAT SALT POND, BLOCK ISLAND (2nd CD)** – *Local officials requested the Corps to dredge the Federal Navigation Channel at Great Salt Pond. Shoaling within the channel has reduced depths to as little as 5 feet deep at Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), causing vessel groundings and hindering ferry service to the harbor. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of clean sand would need to be removed from the channel to restore the project to the authorized depth of 18 feet MLLW. On June 26, 2004 the Corps dredge CURRITUCK arrived at Great Salt Pond and within one week removed approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material from the most severe areas of shoaling. Dredging to restore the channel to authorized dimensions will be done as soon as*

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*approvals are granted and funds become available.*

**PAWTUXET COVE (1st & 2nd CDs)** - The cities of Cranston and Warwick have requested maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation project in Pawtuxet Cove. A survey of the channel indicates about 90,000 cubic yards of material needs to be removed to return the project to authorized dimensions. Previous sampling and testing of the material indicated high levels of contaminants in the material to be dredged. The current proposal would use available space in the Providence River Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cells for disposal of the material.

Since the work would involve construction of a disposal facility, cost sharing for CAD construction will be required. We are coordinating a Project Cooperation Agreement with the State. The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council has indicated it will be the sponsor for the work. Coordination with other Federal resource agencies and the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission is complete. The State has issued Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence and Water Quality Certification. A Public Notice on the proposed project was issued Oct. 2, 2003 and the comment period closed on Nov. 3, 2003. Several comments were received in support of the proposed work; no negative comments were received. Dredging will be done as soon as approvals are granted and funds become available.

**PORT OF QUONSET-DAVISVILLE (2nd CD)** - The Port of Quonset-Davisville is part of the former U.S. Navy construction, refitting and naval air station facility and is now owned and managed by the Rhode Island Economic Development Commission (RIEDC). The Davisville port facilities are located north of the airfield, while the Quonset facilities are located south of the airfield. The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 contained a provision calling for a study of potential channel improvements to serve the existing deep-draft piers at Davisville, and even deeper channels to support a proposal by the State of Rhode Island to develop a new deep-draft containerport at Quonset.

Although the old channels were constructed by the U.S. Navy, they are not part of the Federal Government's civil works infrastructure. The New England District, at the request of the State of Rhode Island, evaluated whether or not there may be a federal interest in dredging the channels to provide safe navigation access to whatever facilities the state ultimately chooses to construct at both Davisville and Quonset Point. A reconnaissance study describing this initial evaluation was completed in July

2001 and found sufficient potential for Port development at the site to warrant further study. The Corps involvement at Quonset-Davisville will depend on the state's decisions about the Port's, and Rhode Island's, maritime future.

Feasibility studies, if warranted, and if requested by the State, including public involvement in an Environmental Impact Study, would require a 50 percent state cost-share.

While the State has not yet responded to the reconnaissance report, State officials have indicated that the State does not at this time intend to pursue Federal civil works participation in port development. The State initiated a permit application action for port development as an entirely State-funded initiative. Work on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and review under the Corps Regulatory authority is proceeding accordingly, although recently the State has indicated that it may withdraw its application and request termination of the regulatory review.

**PROVIDENCE RIVER (1st & 2nd CDs)** - A hydrographic condition survey of the federal navigation project, completed in 1992, showed substantial shoaling in upstream areas of the channel. An Interagency Task Force to preserve shipping in Narragansett Bay and develop a plan for dredging the Providence River channel and other projects was created, with the New England District serving as an advisory participant. The Task Force reported that dredging is needed and created a partnership among state and federal agencies and the many interests involved in dredging.

Bids for the work were opened on Nov. 27, 2002 and the contract was awarded to the low bidder, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, on Dec. 20, 2002. Dredging work started on April 12, 2003 and is expected to take 18 months to complete.

The contractor has completed the CAD cells and is currently concentrating on maintenance dredging in downstream areas. To date over *4 million* cubic yards of material has been dredged from the project. We completed work on placing material at the Johnson and Wales upland site and the material will be used as fill for proposed University expansion. The contractor has completed a cell specifically to accommodate private dredging. Disposal in the CAD cells *resumed in May and is ongoing*. Some private work is complete and others *are placing* their material there *now*. The project is expected to continue until the winter of 2004.

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## Planning Assistance to States

### **RHODE ISLAND COASTAL WETLANDS INVENTORY**

- The State of Rhode Island has requested that the Army Corps of Engineers conduct an inventory of degraded or filled coastal wetlands to identify the opportunities for

future wetlands mitigation projects. Congress has provided funding for the Corps to undertake this task under the PAS program. The Corps has prepared a scope for this project and sent it to the State for their comments.

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## Ecological Restoration/Watershed Projects

### **ALLIN'S COVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT, BARRINGTON (1st CD)**

- The New England District is planning a project to restore degraded coastal wetlands at the mouth of Allin's Cove. The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC) is the primary non-federal sponsor for the project. The Town of Barrington is also participating in the project with RICRMC. The project will be cost shared 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal. *The construction contract was advertised for bid by the District at the end of July 2004.*

assistance to the Implementation Committee for the National Estuary Program's Narragansett Bay Project (NBP). The NBP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan is complete. Goals of the National Estuary Program include identifying nationally significant estuaries that are threatened by pollution, development or overuse; promoting comprehensive planning for and conservation and management of these waters; encouraging the preparation of management plans; and enhancing the coordination of estuarine research. Our activities include attendance at committee meetings on water resource planning and transfer of data to the NEP Geographic Information System for approval.

### **LONSDALE DRIVE-IN WETLANDS RESTORATION, LINCOLN (1st CD)**

- New England District completed initial project construction at the abandoned Lonsdale Drive-In under authority of Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program. The work entailed removal of about 15 acres of asphalt, demolishing of a movie screen, speaker stands and other associated features, excavation of approximately 60,000 cubic yards of material, placement of organic-rich topsoil, and vegetation of wetlands and uplands. Some of the excavated material was kept on-site, graded to provide a natural, aesthetically pleasing landscape with rolling hills. Existing forested riparian habitat along the river were preserved as much as possible. About seven acres of wetlands are now connected to the Blackstone River. In addition about 13 acres of the riparian buffer/grassland habitat were created. The project now provides shelter to waterfowl and habitat for declining grassland bird species. Numerous deer, foxes and coyotes have already been sighted on the premises. Scattered trees and shrubs were planted to provide shelter and nesting habitat for songbirds. The work was performed under a \$1.5 million contract awarded to Charter Environmental, Inc., of Chelsea, MA on Jan. 30, 2003. Construction of this project began in February 2003 and was generally completed by the summer of 2003 with two growing seasons under contract performance. RIDEM is the non-Federal sponsor.

### **RHODE ISLAND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY (1st & 2nd CDs)**

- In January 1999, the New England District initiated a reconnaissance investigation to examine opportunities for environmental restoration of degraded salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, and anadromous fisheries. The area under study includes the Pawcatuck, Pawtuxet, Moshassuck, Ten Mile and Woonasquatucket River watersheds and the shoreline of Narragansett Bay. A Section 905(b) analysis (Reconnaissance Report), recommending further studies to restore degraded environments at numerous sites in Rhode Island, was completed in July 1999. Of the potential restoration sites identified in this report, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management selected restoring anadromous fish passage at the three dams along the lower Ten Mile River as their highest priority. These dams, Omega Pond Dam, Hunts Mill Dam and Turner Reservoir Dam, are all situated in the city of East Providence, Rhode Island. The fish species targeted for restoration include American shad and two species of river herring.

**NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM** - The New England District has been requested to provide technical

Continuation of studies in the Ten Mile River watershed included the preparation of a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement that outlines Federal and non-Federal cost sharing responsibilities and the scope of feasibility studies. Existing authorities require that feasibility study costs be shared on a 50/50 basis with appropriate non-Federal interests. In this regard, the Rhode Island

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Department of Environmental Management, in cooperation with Save the Bay, Inc. and most recently the city of East Providence, will contribute 50 percent of the study cost. The Agreement was executed on March 15, 2001. A media event and ribbon cutting ceremony were held on site on April 25, 2001. The feasibility study is underway with current efforts concentrating on refining fishway designs at the three dams on the lower Ten Mile River. A draft environmental restoration report and environmental assessment are scheduled for completion in October 2004.

#### **RHODE ISLAND SOUTH COAST INVESTIGATION -**

The Rhode Island South Coast Reconnaissance Study, begun in 1997, identified several opportunities for environmental restoration between Watch Hill in **Westerly and Narragansett (2nd CD)**. These included restoring valuable aquatic habitat in the form of eelgrass, fish and shellfish in several salt ponds; improving nesting bird habitat through nourishment of the barrier beaches; restoring fish passage in various locations; and restoring tidal flow to a constricted salt marsh. The \$880,000 feasibility investigation, initiated in 1998, was cost-shared 50-50 between the federal government and the local sponsor (the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council). Specifically, the study examined the feasibility of restoring eelgrass habitat to the flood tidal shoals in Ninigret, Winnapaug, and Quonochontaug ponds as well as restoring anadromous fish passage to Cross Mills Pond. The final feasibility report, completed

in June 2002, recommends that the Corps implement the four aquatic habitat restoration projects described above under the authority provided by Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Plans and Specifications for the Ninigret and Cross Mills Pond projects were initiated in late September 2002. *The Ninigret Pond project is anticipated to begin construction in the fall of 2004. Cross Mills Pond construction will most likely take place in 2005.* Plans and Specifications for the Winnapaug and Quonochontaug pond projects will be phased in at a later date, most likely in 2005 and 2006.

#### **TOWN POND (BOYD'S MARSH) SALT MARSH RESTORATION, PORTSMOUTH (1st CD) -**

The New England District has completed a Section 1135 feasibility study for the restoration of up to 23 acres of salt marsh in the wildlife sanctuary at Town Pond. Town Pond is owned by the state of Rhode Island and managed by its Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The restoration would provide meaningful and productive ecological improvements and enhancements to the area. The Final Project Modification Report was approved on May 17, 2002. New England District has substantially completed plans and specifications for the project and *the Project Cooperation Agreement has been sent to the Department of Environmental Management for signatures. New England District expects to advertise the contract in September 2004.*

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## **Other projects**

**COASTAL AMERICA** - The Coastal America Northeast Regional Implementation Team (NERIT) has focused its efforts on habitat restoration and, in particular, restoration of tidally constricted salt marshes. An interagency Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to formally document the Coastal America partners' commitment to restoration projects in Rhode Island. The Corps has assisted these efforts at several sites throughout the state: the Galilee Bird Sanctuary Saltmarsh Restoration project has the support of numerous Coastal America partners; the Corps provided technical assistance to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's saltmarsh restoration evaluation for Sachuest Point; and the NERIT is also supporting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to restore the Ninigret Sanctuary by working with the Army Reserves to remove asphalt from the abandoned airfield. There are several Corps studies underway to support habitat restoration as well.

The Coastal America Northeast Regional Implementation Team has several new projects scheduled for FY-04. We anticipate beginning construction on the Rhode Island Coastal Salt Ponds and Town Pond salt marsh in Rhode Island. Several studies have been initiated in each state for dam removals, eelgrass restoration and wetlands/aquatic habitats improvements. The restoration of Bird Island in Marion, MA for Roseate Tern nesting has also begun feasibility study. Our military coordinator has begun scheduling more Innovative Readiness Training projects for the returning and reserve troops. The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers and several agencies are attempting to schedule a student learning research cruise on a federal research vessel this summer in CT (Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration) and MA (New England Aquarium). All 5 coastal New England states now have active Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnerships that have allocated funding for projects in each state. This year several team "focus groups" are to be convened, for example; habitat

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restoration on all of Cape Cod and south coastal Massachusetts and the restoration of the Penobscot

River Watershed in Maine are a team priority.

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## Regulatory Program

Department of the Army permits are required from the Corps of Engineers under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps reviews permit applications for work affecting navigable waters under its Section 10 authority and the discharge of fill material into all waters, including inland wetlands, under Section 404. *At the end of March 2004 there were 23 active applications for regulated work in Rhode Island. During April, May and June 2004, 41 new applications were received. Final actions were taken on 31 applications, including two individual permits, 28 general permits, none not required, and no denials. The balance at the end of June 2004 was 33 active applications.*

**PROGRAMMATIC GENERAL PERMIT** - The New England District has comprehensive Programmatic General Permits (PGPs) in place in each of the six New England states covering work with minimal impact on the aquatic environment. Up to 98 percent of all permits issued in New England are PGPs. The PGPs are based on state thresholds for most categories of environmental impacts, and applicants generally need only file with the state. The federal screening is virtually transparent to applicants, and the PGP approval in most of the states is either included in the state approval letter or mailed simultaneously. Applications appropriately covered under the PGPs are generally approved in less than 30 days. Applicants have commented favorably about the simplicity, predictability and efficiency of the PGPs. We re-issued the Rhode Island PGP in February 2002 for another five years. On Dec. 10, 2002, we issued an amendment to the PGP in a Public Notice containing changes regarding the Narragansett Indian Reservation (Land Claim Settlement Area). Other changes were included. The Public Notice is attached to the front of the February 2002 RI PGP and is located at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select "Rhode Island" and then "General Permit."

**CHAMPLIN'S MARINA, BLOCK ISLAND (2nd CD)** - Champlin's Marina applied to expand their marina located in Great Salt Pond on Block Island in October 2003. The new piers and floats would extend out 240 feet from the present marina. They propose to expand the marina perimeter limit by approximately 4 acres to encompass the new 3,000 linear feet of piers and 744 linear feet of floats. Boat capacity would increase from 225 to 365 (62 percent increase). The expansion would encroach into a Town

mooring field. The Public Notice was published on Oct. 28, 2003. The comment period was extended from December 2003 to January 2004 at the request of Town and Congressional interests. More than 600 public comments were received in response to the public notice. There are concerns about impacts to mooring fields, fairways and general navigation. The Town has a mooring field 100 feet from the existing marina but the legality of that and the entire Harbor Management Plan is in question. The Town believes this marina is simply too large an expansion. They are worried that if this goes through the other two large marinas in Great Salt Pond will similarly expand. There are concerns about the number of boats, water quality, narrow fairways, increased navigation problems, carrying capacity of the pond and cumulative impacts. A request for a public hearing has been made and the Corps is making a determination if enough new information would be uncovered to warrant a public hearing. The state (RI-CRMC) is holding weekly Public Hearings on the proposal through *September 2004.*

**CARNEGIE HARBOR VILLAGE MARINA (1ST CD)** - The applicant applied to construct a 79-slip private marina in Narragansett Bay associated with a multi-phase luxury residential subdivision in Portsmouth. RI-DEM notified the applicant that the waters were classified SA (pristine) and new marinas were not allowed in SA waters. The applicant was unsuccessful in getting that designation changed. They've now applied to change the marina site from in-bay to in-land. They propose to excavate 4.3 acres of freshwater wetlands, place the marina in the excavated basin, and breach the coastal feature to allow access to the bay. The current project proposal includes excavating 137,000 cubic yards from a 4.3 acre freshwater wetland, dredging 8,700 cubic yards from tidal waters for an entrance channel; installing a steel sheet-pile bulkhead and pile-secured float system; placing 368 cubic yards of riprap, constructing a public boat ramp and public pier; and constructing both a freshwater wetland and salt marsh as mitigation.

Several interagency site visits and meetings were held with the agencies and the applicant's consultants. The agencies expressed concern with the amount of impacts and requested additional information before the Corps publishes its Public Notice. We are now waiting for the consultant to submit additional information including wetland delineation documentation, an improved

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alternative analysis, more thought on avoiding and minimizing impacts to wetlands, and improving the mitigation scheme.

**PRIVATE MARINA DREDGING PROJECT ON PROVIDENCE RIVER (1st & 2nd CDs)** - We have reviewed the request of 20 marine facilities to perform dredging of approximately 500,000 cubic yards of sediments from areas throughout Rhode Island. Their preferred alternative is the Corps selected confined aquatic disposal (CAD) cell for disposal of dredged sediments from the federal maintenance-dredging project. These facilities were part of the released Record of Decision for the Corps maintenance dredging of the Providence River federal channel. The applicants are scheduled to use the CAD cells located at the upper reach of the Providence River. The Corps has issued permits to Motiva (57,850 cubic yards), Providence; St. Lawrence Cement (11,800 cubic yards), Providence; US Generating (3,000 cubic yards), Providence; ProvPort (44,650 cubic yards), Providence; Exxon/Mobile (29,000 cubic yards), Providence; Rhode Island Yacht Club (31,500 cubic yards), Cranston; Pettis Boat Yard (7,000 cubic yards), Warwick; Marina Realty (5,500 cubic yards), Warwick; Brewers Cove Haven (60,000 cubic yards), Barrington; *Seaview Realty Corp. (3,320 cubic yards), Cranston;* and Hudson Company (10,400 cubic yards), Providence. A Provisional Permit was issued to Ponaug Marina (3,000 cubic yards), Warwick.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Coastal Resources Management Council sent out a joint letter in March 2002 informing the applicants on the need to apply for their respective permits. The number of applicants planning to use the CAD cells changes daily while they await the final cost sharing by the State. The state has received applications from most of the port facilities with a few from the recreational facilities that were shown in the EIS. Meetings with the City of Cranston and Senator Reed's office have shown interest in dredging by non-federal facilities. Several of those facilities - Geoffrey Tapper (6 cubic yards), Cranston; Michael Cuddy (3,000 cubic yards), Warwick; and Donald Theroux (7,500 cubic yards), Warwick, all wishing to use the CAD cell are currently *being reviewed by Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council.* The Pawtuxet

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## Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)

This Congressionally directed program (PL 98-212) provides for an expanded effort in environmental restoration. It emphasizes the identification, investigation

Watershed Association has also shown an interest to dredge and is currently in the scoping stage. They have a range from 10 cubic yards to 90,000 cubic yards.

Exxon/Mobile has received a modification to dispose of their sediments at site 69b (103 waters) in place of the CAD cell. EPA has agreed with the suitability determination that Exxon/Mobile, first non-federal permittee can use site 69b (*this is the first and only permittee to use 103 waters*).

**PORT OF QUONSET-DAVISVILLE (2nd CD)** - On Jan. 10, 2002, the State of Rhode Island, Office of the Governor applied to the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division for a permit to develop a compact container port at the existing facility at Quonset Point on Narragansett Bay, RI. The proposal calls for dredging a channel to a 52-foot depth, filling up to 115 acres of open-water in Narragansett Bay to meet the need for up to 200 acres of container processing lay-down area, and creating approximately 4,000 linear feet of berthing space. The application does not specify a location on the bulkhead nor does it give details on environmental or economic baseline information. However, it offers a series of objectives that the State would like to pursue in an EIS to look at the merits of the port development. The Corps will look at alternatives involving compact container port facilities and evaluate various compact container port locations, types and sizes.

Public scoping meetings were held in Rhode Island on June 4 and June 6, 2002. A comment summary was prepared. We are scoping the issues to study in the EIS, and we expect to develop an outline of the issues for study (EIS Scope). We have developed the Purpose and Need statement. The Corps continues to work with the cooperating agencies, the EIS contractor and public interest groups to review existing baseline data, identify data gaps, collect time-sensitive baseline data and develop baseline resource maps to support our future in-depth economic and environmental resource studies. A December 2002 report prepared by five private consulting firms for the Office of the Governor reexamined the current data and information and provided an assessment of the economic viability of a compact container port. We anticipate the new Rhode Island Governor will provide further direction on the EIS.

and prompt cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste; unexploded ordnance; buildings and other structures and debris at current and former military facilities. A total of

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85 formerly used Defense sites have been identified in Rhode Island. Site and project eligibility investigations at all sites are now complete, including 53 where no work was found to be necessary. Of the 32 sites where work was needed, the following efforts are underway:

**\* QUONSET POINT, DAVISVILLE and NORTH KINGSTOWN (2nd CD).**

**Blue Beach Site** - The remedial action project (\$1.7 million) to remove PCB-contaminated soil and pave a contaminated area was completed in the summer of 1999. Additional PCB contaminated soil was confirmed that same year. Additional sampling to delineate PCB contamination in surface soils was completed in March 2001 and a contract for its remediation was awarded in July 2001. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards of PCB contaminated soils were removed in August 2001. Arsenic, lead, and cadmium were found in excavated PCB contaminated soils. RIDEM requested post-excavation sampling for these contaminants. This work was accomplished in May 2002 and results indicated arsenic exceedances of industrial standards throughout the excavated area. Further delineation of arsenic is required at this site and will be included as part of the ongoing investigations being conducted as part of a cost sharing agreement between General Dynamics\Electric Boat and the New England District Corps of Engineers. A Blue Beach closure report was completed in February 2003.

**Aqua Tank Farm** – Test results from monitoring well at the site indicate that all of the groundwater contaminant concentrations comply with the ground water quality standards (*classified GB*) that are recommended by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) *with the exception of LNAPL*. USACE is in the process of acquiring a contractor to install a series of Geoprobe holes along Zarbo Avenue to define the distribution of free product.

**Atlantic Shellfish Site** – The objective of this remedial investigation is to determine the extent of contamination in ground water. R.F. Weston was working on a remedial investigation to characterize the type and extent of contamination at the site. Work is on hold due to discussion with RI DEM that the project is in low priority in their workload list coupled with a lack of COE funds. Work will resume when priorities and funding allow.

**Electric Boat, PRP Site** - Woodard and Curran (Cheshire, Conn.) is investigating the Electric Boat (EB) site under a comprehensive cost-sharing agreement between Electric Boat and the Corps. This project is

proposed to determine the parties which may be responsible for the contamination (potential soil and/or groundwater) and to what extent they may have contributed to it.

**Electric Boat (EB) Facility, Building 480/60 Site** - *The project is now a combined effort with the EB-PRP project.* A \$273,000 contract was awarded in FY2000 to Nobis Engineering, Inc. to install new wells, place an extraction/skimming system in the wells, and perform Operations/Maintenance (O&M) on the system. *The objective of this work was to extract the petroleum free-floating product in the wells. However, the project teams recently learned from a draft SI/RI that the free floating product at this site is co-mingled with other floating contamination so that can't be extracted as petroleum product alone.* The SI/RI is in the process of being finalized by the A/E environment consultant, Woodard and Curran (WC).

**Kiefer Park** – In the course of excavations to install the *free-floating product recovery system*, ordnance-related items were unearthed. A Rapid Response contractor was brought in to execute the detection and removal of suspected ordnance. Only inert ordnance-related material was found. *This interim removal action has also been completed.* Work on the recovery system has been re-initiated and a Remedial Action Contractor, Conti completed installation of the *free-floating product recovery system* and the O&M start up date was April 5, 2004.

**NIKE PR-58 Site** - Remedial Investigations were nearing completion in 1998 when a Navy's remedial investigation revealed that a deep Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compound (CVOC) plume (bedrock zone) exists, and the source location is from the NIKE property. Sampling conducted in 2000 indicated the plume had migrated further than anticipated. The Corps subsequently contracted for the installation of 14 wells off site to assist in plume characterization. However, key Rights of Entry (ROE) from local landowners and the community were not obtained. On-going discussions with the landowners and the community were not able to break the impasse. Consequently, the effort to further characterize the site and the extent of contamination is postponed until ROEs can be secured. Until then, an expanded Feasibility Study to include a Pilot Study of Thermal Remediation Techniques is being evaluated. The Corps has successfully secured the funding and awarded the contract needed to implement this study and physical work was started in July of this year after EPA, Region I, came to an understanding and agreement with the proposed work for completing this effort. Prior to

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*installing the wells a 2D Resistivity Study was completed and this allowed a better definition of rock fracture zones and thus allow better well placement. After completing this study effort (mid-2005), it is still our intent to try and convince the community to allow us to complete a full site Characterization Study. Of course, completing a full Characterization Study is dependent upon obtaining all ROEs and the availability of funding within the program.*

**Devils Foot Road Site** – The two-phase \$1 million petroleum contamination remediation, accomplished by Nobis Engineering, Inc., was completed in December 2001.

**Quarry Disposal Site** - The Baseline Human and Ecological Risk Assessment Report was completed and sent to RI DEM. However, RI DEM commented that the surface water pathway, which was not addressed in the report, may need to be addressed. This is being coordinated with RI DEM and will be performed when funding and priorities allow.

**Camp Avenue Dump Site** - The New England District is continuing long-term monitoring of groundwater and surface water following the installation of a soil cap in the spring of 1998. Since then, quarterly rounds of long-term monitoring have been conducted and data reports sent to RIDEM and Rhode Island Economic Development Commission (RIEDC). NAE is currently working on a Five-Year Review Report of these long-term monitoring activities. The purpose of this five-year review is to evaluate the implementation and performance of the long-term monitoring program in order to determine if the current monitoring program is protective of human health and the environment. Future monitoring frequency at the Camp Avenue Dump Site will be determined upon review of the Five-Year Report by RIDEM.

**OTHER INVESTIGATIONS** – RI DEM requested that we expand our investigation at the former Newport Naval Base in **Newport (1st CD)** to include additional sites it believes qualify under the FUDS program for remediation. Melville North Area of Concern (AOC) #1 is located in the central portion of the site and is currently utilized as a boat marina. A contract was awarded to Conti Inc. to complete removal of an underground vault-like structure with surrounding PCB and oil contaminated soils. Removal Action was completed in September 2002; however, additional investigations in this area are required in order to delineate the extent of fuel related contamination in this area and evaluate risk to human health and the environment. Another project for sampling of soil at the STP Sludge Drying Bed at the Melville Marine Industries has been approved and will be accomplished

when funding and priorities allow.

The Engineering Evaluation of Contamination Phase II for Gould Island, **Narragansett (2nd CD)**, was initiated, but has been put on hold pending discussion with RI DEM on the scope of further investigations. Work will continue as priorities and funding allow.

Work at Hope Island, **Jamestown (1st CD)** has been put on hold. Work will resume when priorities and funding allow.

A supplemental Phase II Study of sites 2, 4 and 6 was completed at **Charlestown (2nd CD)** Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) and the final report was forwarded to the state. A final supplemental Phase II Study of site 8 was also completed and the final report was forwarded to the state. Remediation of site 8 is temporarily on hold and will be reprogrammed in fiscal year 2005 or earlier if priorities and funding allow. An Asbestos Removal and Building Demolition Contract to remediate and demolish three buildings on the former NALF was awarded in January 2002. The buildings addressed were Boiler Plant A, Boiler Plant B, and Warehouse Building 112. All work of demolition is complete and the closure report is being prepared. Discussions are ongoing with the state to determine how best to use future resources at this site.

Tank removal work at the Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, **Westerly (2nd CD)**, and the Escoheag Naval Recreation Camp, **Exeter (2nd CD)**, along with demolition work at **NETC Newport (1st CD)**; Dutch Island, **Jamestown (1st CD)**; and Fort Nathaniel Greene, **Narragansett (2nd CD)** will be performed when priorities and funding allow.

At the request of RI DEM, an additional site investigation at Nike PR-79, **Foster (2nd CD)**, was conducted. Several rounds of water sampling were conducted and a geophysical investigation of the underlying bedrock (both borehole and seismic) was performed. It was found that 5 wells (4 active water supply wells) were impacted by the contaminate of concern (COC) – TCE – and are above the RI DEM standard for GA (Groundwater A rating) aquifers (5 ppb). Seismic studies and Borehole Geophysics of the wells were completed on this site and all wells appear to be interconnected hydraulically. The Corps has installed carbon filters on all water supply wells to remove the TCE. A report of the work performed has been prepared and sent to the state, RIDEM, for their review and concurrence as to future investigative work necessary and the future monitoring effort and well maintenance regime.

**Prudence Island** – Four rounds of groundwater

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sampling and analysis were conducted in June and September 2001, and in April 2002 and November 2002. The results confirm that fuel oil contamination levels have dropped and remain below regulatory standards at four of the five wells tested in 2001. Levels at the fifth well dropped below regulatory standards in April 2002 and November 2002. Results were sent to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). On March 3, 2003, we sent a letter to RIDEM indicating that we have substantively met the requirements for remediation and asked that the RIDEM consider terminating the long term monitoring plan. Informal discussions with RIDEM indicate they seem agreeable to our approach. We are awaiting formal close-out of the site from RIDEM. The sampling results verify that the site has been successfully remediated.

\* **REMEDATION is underway** at the following locations:

**First District**

Hope Island, **Jamestown**  
Prudence Island

**Second District**

Quonset Point, **Blue Beach**  
Quonset Point Atlantic Shellfish, **North Kingstown 1**  
Quonset Point Aqua Tank Farm, **North Kingstown**  
(1 Closure of an oil/water separator system, cleaning a catch basin and trench, and removal of a transformer platform and pad are complete. Additional investigations for PCB contamination are contemplated).

\* **REMEDATION is complete** for the following:

**First District**

Army Reserve Center, **Lincoln**  
Nike Site, **Bristol**  
Fort Adams, **Newport**  
Beavertail Point Naval Communications Station,  
**Jamestown**  
Prudence and Rose Islands, **Portsmouth and Newport**  
Fort Church, **Little Compton**  
Fort Wetherill, **Newport**  
Sachuest Point, **Newport**  
Rose Island, **Newport**  
Fort Wetherill, **Jamestown**  
Sachuest Point, **Newport**  
Fort Getty, **Jamestown**  
Beavertail Point Naval Communications Station,  
**Jamestown**  
Prospect Hill Fire Control Station, **Jamestown**  
Camp Avenue Dump Site, **Davisville**,  
Hull Cove Fire Control Station, **Jamestown**

**Second District**

T.F. Green Airport, **Warwick**  
Nike Site PR-79, **Foster**  
Devil's Foot Road, **Quonset Point**  
**Quonset Point NAS**, Nike PR-58  
Nike Site, **Coventry**  
Building, pier and pool demolition, **North Kingstown**

In addition, several remediation projects have been completed at **Quonset Point Naval Air Station (2nd CD)** and **Charlestown (2nd CD)**. These efforts included the removal of a total of 124 tanks, ranging in size from 1,000 to 25,000 gallons, cleaning and grouting of three miles of pipeline, and removal of 20 transformers.

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## **Work for the Environmental Protection Agency**

The New England District provides support to EPA Region I's Superfund program. We are currently working at the following sites in Rhode Island.

**CENTREDALE MANOR, NORTH PROVIDENCE (1st CD)** - The Centredale Manor Restoration Superfund Site consists of property located along Route 44 in North Providence and a section of the adjacent Woonasquatucket River and its associated ponds and floodplain. A chemical company and a drum reclamation company previously occupied the property, operating from the 1940s to the early 1970s. All buildings on the property were demolished in the mid-1970s. Roadway, parking lots and two high-rise residential buildings that

were constructed in the late 1970s and early 1980s currently cover the property. Elevated levels of dioxin, PCBs, chlorinated solvents and other compounds have been found in soils at the property and in soils and sediments downstream of the property.

The New England District previously designed a temporary cap for contaminated soils on the property and completed a flood inundation and hydraulic study at the site. The Corps provided technical oversight during design and construction of a non-time critical removal action (NTCRA) in FY 2002/03 *which included* the reconstruction of Allendale Dam and sampling and removal of contaminated residential soils adjacent to

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Allendale and Lymans Mill Ponds.

Corps contractor Battelle has completed draft Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments for the site and is working on responding to comments on the assessments. Final reports will be completed before the

end of the summer. A remedial investigation (RI) and feasibility study (FS) will be initiated following completion of risk assessments. These documents will be used to support a cleanup effort to be documented in EPA's Record of Decision.

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## Special Studies/Projects

**ALLENDALE DAM, NORTH PROVIDENCE (1st CD) -** The Army Corps of Engineers was authorized by Section 358 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (PL 102-508) to repair Allendale Dam on the Woonasquatucket River in North Providence. The dam was naturally breached in November 1991. Reconstruction of the dam was completed in February 2002. EPA is investigating the Centredale Manor site upstream under Superfund authority. Remediation of the contamination at the site is being coordinated with EPA and the city of North Providence as part of the Centredale Manor Superfund Project. (See earlier entry)

**FOX POINT HURRICANE BARRIER (1st & 2nd CDs) -** Congress appropriated \$1,950,000 in the 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (WRDA) to the New England District for repairing the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier. The cost share agreement is 65 percent federal, 35 percent non-federal. Eligible repairs are to be in accordance with a Condition Survey and Technical Assessment conducted by the District in 1998. A reimbursement check in the amount of \$920,000 was presented to the City of Providence on April 8, 2002 for eligible repairs made since 1998. The ASA(CW) presented the check to the Mayor of Providence at a Project Cooperation Agreement Signing Ceremony conducted in the Mayor's office. The city continues to perform eligible repairs, subject to review by the New England District, and will continue to do so into late 2004. Subsequent payments for eligible work will be made on a quarterly basis until the federal limit of \$1,950,000 is reached. Total payments made to the city total \$1,249,369. The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier provides

critical flood protection to the state capital and has prevented loss of life and property time and again since its construction in 1966.

**RHODE ISLAND REGION LONG TERM DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE EVALUATION –** At the request of the Governor of Rhode Island, the USEPA and the Corps initiated a project to evaluate the designation of one or more long term dredged material disposal sites in the Rhode Island Region. Field efforts have been conducted to collect and analyze samples to determine physical oceanographic information, characterize fish, lobster and benthic resources and tissue at various locations throughout the study area. A Working Group was established with various stakeholders that through several meetings assisted in the development of initial screening criteria. A dredging needs survey was conducted in May 2002 and this information was used in the identification of a "zone of siting" feasibility. The ZSF, the results of initial screening and the delineation of alternatives for evaluation in the EIS, were coordinated with the cooperating Federal and State agencies and presented to the Working Group. *The draft EIS identifying the preferred alternative for designation of a long-term disposal site was released to the public for review on April 30, 2004. Two public hearings to receive input from the public were held on June 15, 2004 in Narragansett, RI. The comments from the public hearings and those received during the review, which closed on June 21, 2004, will be reviewed. A final EIS will be prepared and will be released to the public in the fall of 2004.*

