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US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

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Yankee Engineer

September 2004

New Chief of Engineers visits New England District

Tours of New England District's projects and facilities and a special town meeting highlighted Lt. Gen. Carl Strock's first visit to the region on Sept. 7. The new Chief of Engineers toured the Concord Headquarters, the Cape Cod Canal, and the Massachusetts Military Reservation during his time with the District.

The Chief had a great deal to say to New England District employees, and began with his first priority – to support the Global War on Terrorism. “While we’re here in these comfortable surroundings, we have fellow employees who are out there on the forward edge on the battlefield doing wonderful work,” he said.

The general acknowledged that the New England District has about 15 to 20 people who are overseas supporting the War. He also recognized Col. Tho-

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Photo by C.J. Allen

Maj. Gen. Carl Strock tours the Cape Cod Canal with Fran Donovan and Larry Davis.

Yankee Voices

Kimberly Osgerby
Public Affairs



Yankee Engineer Subscriptions

New retirees and future retirees are reminded that receiving the Yankee Engineer at home is not automatic.

Anyone who is interested in receiving the publication should contact Ann Marie Harvie by e-mail at annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil or by phone at 978-318-8777. There is not cost to be put on the mailing list.

Words worth repeating

Think of yourself as a pioneer leading the way into undiscovered territories. All it takes is one person to go ahead and soon the others will follow.
- Phyllis George,
Sportscaster and talk-show host

Congratulations

...to **Gladys Leone**, who was chosen as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for September 2004. Gladys was selected for her dedication and professionalism at both the Eastern Area and the North Central Resident offices.

...to the West Hill/Charles River Projects Staff as Team of the Month for September 2004. Team members include **Park Manager Merlon Bassett and Park Rangers John Braid, Viola Bramel, Brendon Donahue, Carolyn Hollands, Thomas Lamontagne, and Bradley Walley.**

This team was selected for a culmination of work that has been accomplished over the past few recreation seasons at West Hill Dam and the Charles River Projects.

Sympathy

...to **Brenda Faragi**, Construction/Operations, on the passing of her mother, Finance and Accounting retiree **Miriam Sheldon**, who passed away Monday Aug. 16.

... to **Michelle Kewer**, Chief, Contracting, on the recent passing of her mother, **Kay Kewer**, Sept. 4. Kay was a retiree of Finance and Accounting. She retired Feb. 26, 1999 with 15 years of federal service.

Welcome

Jason Farnsworth	Construction/Operations
James Hachigian	Construction/Operations
Sheila Harvey	Safety
Randal Mello	Construction/Operations
Marci Montrose	Construction/Operations
John Sargent	Regulatory

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Commander's Corner: Pride -- It's a good thing

by Col. Thomas Koning
District Engineer



I once heard the saying, "pride goeth before a fall." I am not sure anyone knows where it originally came from except it is an adaptation of a passage from Proverbs 11:2 in the Old Testament of the Bible.

In this context, pride is described as a bad thing. It suggests that arrogance and pride can lead to disaster and disgrace.

However, pride can be a good thing, too. In this context, I am referring to the pride of ownership that people have when they love the job they are doing and it is readily apparent for all to see in the quality, commitment and service they provide.

The great people of the New England District made me proud to be associated with them when we hosted Lt. Gen. Strock, our new Chief of Engineers, when he came to visit us on September 7th. The Chief remarked to me several times about the high quality maintenance he saw from the upkeep of our headquarters building in Concord, to the cleanliness of the engine compartments on vessels at the Cape Cod Canal.

He commented that such attention to detail showed not only a commitment to the organization, but also that our people care enough to give their very best.

The Chief was greatly impressed by the high caliber of district employees he came in contact with because they represented an organization that cared about its people. From those who set up the cafeteria, to those he visited with during his tour, to those who made the displays in the Canal Visitor's Center, each person gave 100-percent; not because they were forced to, but because they wanted to. The people of the New England District provide high quality service to the Nation, and they take pride in the work they do. No rewards are due, in many cases no one will even notice, but the quality is there at all times.

A few years ago the Chief of Staff of the Army was asked about his parachutist wings on his uniform with the question: "Do you like to jump out of airplanes?" He answered, "No, but I like to be in the company of those that do."

I share this same type of sentiment about this Corps team in the New England District; every day we are faced with very complex and difficult issues, and I love being in the company of you who make it appear simple. Pride, not arrogance, sets a high standard for all to emulate.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works addresses Regulatory issue

by John Paul Woodley
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works



In August a group of private organizations released a document that criticized the decisions of the Corps of Engineers in making jurisdictional determinations under our Clean Water Act, Section 404 authority.

This document deserves, and has received, very little attention. Nonetheless, I wanted to write to each of you to assure you that you continue to

have my support and that of the entire Army leadership, and that you continue to enjoy our full trust and confidence in your professionalism, judgment and dedication as you make the inherently difficult calls necessary for an effective regulatory program.

Essentially, the authors of the document disagree with the Supreme Court decision in SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County vs. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and believe it was wrongly decided.

This is their privilege, and I respect in every way their right to take issue with the Supreme Court. However, they appear to believe that the appropriate response of the Corps to the SWANCC decision is contumacious disregard reminiscent of the massive resistance movement of the 1960s. I do not agree with this position.

The duty of the Corps of Engineers is to try to understand and apply the decisions of the Supreme Court to the best of our ability. This is not always easy, and a great deal of thought has been given by many talented people to the appropriate response to SWANCC by the Corps.

As you know, we are currently working on a major effort to achieve greater consistency and predictability in our

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Breaking Ground:

New England District starts work on security building at Westover ARB
The New England District participated in a groundbreaking ceremony hosted by the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass., on Sept. 7. The event marked the commencement of construction for the Security Forces Building that will house the 439th Security Forces Squadron.

“It is with great pride we begin this project which has been several years in the making in partnership with community contractors and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” said Maj. Patrick Ryan, Wing Executive Officer, who served as Master of Ceremonies.

Work on the \$3.7 million project will include the construction of a two-story security forces operations building.

This will include administrative and operations facilities complete with associated utilities, storm drainage, communications, electric, HVAC, fire protection, paving, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, access drives, exterior lighting,

emergency power and physical security requirements.

Through the “One-Door-to-the-Corps” concept, the Louisville District issued the design-build contract for the project and then released it to the New England District to execute construction management.

“This facility, being designed to blend into the base overall architectural theme, will be used to house a full range of security forces operations and supporting services,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer. “Our team of partners, which includes the Westover Air Reserve Base staff, contractor Eastern General Contractors,

designer Reinhardt Associated, Inc., and the Corps staff will work together as a team to execute this project.”

The 19,200 square foot main building will have functional rooms that will include a pass and ID room, interview room, classrooms, evidence storage, guard mount, weapons vault, weapons maintenance area, weapons cleaning and target storage area, men and women’s lockers and showers, combat arms training administrative office, and Squad Engagement Training System. The facility will also have a 2,650-foot general storage space area.

“This building will be a world class facility that will serve the U.S. Air Force well into the next century,” said Maj. Ryan.

Other participants in the groundbreaking ceremony included Mr. John Murphy, President of Eastern General Contracting, Inc.; Col. William Anholt, 439th Maintenance Group; Col. Dana Marsh, Commander, 439th Mission Support Group; Col. Michael Swaney, Director of Security Forces Headquarters Air Reserve Command; the Honorable Richard Goyette, Mayor of Chicopee; the Honorable John Olver, U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Richard Neal, U.S. House of Representatives; and Col. Wallace Farris, Commander, 439th Airlift Wing.

The New England District team at Westover who will be managing the project are Bob Martin, Project Manager, Ray Goff, Resident Engineer; Jeff Perchack, Project Engineer; Pat Devine, Office Engineer; and Sue Loubier, Secretary.

Construction on this project is slated to be completed in October 2005.



Photo by Robert Martin

VIPs engage in the ceremonial groundbreaking.

Hundreds attend Weaver's Cove Public Hearing

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the New England District held joint public hearings on the proposed Weaver's Cove Energy, LLC liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Fall River, Mass., and the Mill River Pipeline, LLC connecting pipelines in the towns of Swansea, Somerset and Freetown, Mass.

The hearings, which attracted hundreds of concerned residents, were held Sept. 8 at the Venus de Milo Restaurant in Swansea, Mass., and Sept. 9 in the Gaudet Middle School in Middletown, R.I.

"The joint hearings were conducted as part of the Corps of Engineers Regulatory program to listen to

your comments; as part of the state MEPA review, and as part of the release and public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the lead federal agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission," said Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer.

Weaver's Cover Energy, LLC and Mill River Pipeline, LLC are seeking Corps of Engineers permits to conduct dredging in an existing federal navigation channel, install structures and discharge fill material in wetlands and waterways for the construction of a liquefied natural gas import terminal and natural gas pipeline facilities in Fall River, Mass.

The LNG terminal would be located on a 73-acre site adjacent to the Taunton River.

An Environmental Impact Statement for the project is currently being prepared by FERC, in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Corps is participating in the preparation of that EIS as a cooperating agency, and this EIS will serve as a baseline document for the Corps in performing its evaluation of the public interest factors.

"All factors affecting the public will be included in our evaluation," said Lt. Col. Nelson. "Your comments will help us in reaching a decision."

North Atlantic Division Regional Management Board manage USACE 2012 processes

By David Lipsky
North Atlantic Division

USACE 2012 launched officially on October 1, when the Corps gave up 'stovepipes' and moved on to a new project-focused design. One of the future key management tools will be for the organization to operate as a Regional Business Center through its Regional Management Board (RMB) rather than as six separate districts and a division headquarters. The NAD Regional Management Board was established in May 1998 as a tool to balance workload, staffing and funding. The RMB meets bi-monthly to address the issues facing the Corps in the northeast and Europe. Mohan Singh, who serves at the NAD Director of Regional Business, leads the RMB with Tom Waters, the NAD Director of Programs as the Alternate Chair. Other members include the NAD Chief, Business Resource Division, the NAD Chief, Business Management Division and the RMB Executive Director. All six districts are represented by their Deputy District Engineers for Programs

and Project Management. Currently, the New England and Baltimore District Resource Management Officers also serve on the Board. In addition, other District representatives may be appointed as approved by the Division Commander (usually rotates every 15-24 months). As the strategic arm for the NAD Board of Trustees (Division and District Commanders, SESs), the Regional Management Board implements the focus areas established by the Board of Trustees (BOT).

The goals of the RMB are: Implement Annual Work Plan as reviewed and approved by BOT; Assist the BOT in identifying long-term RBC issues and developing strategic plans, etc; Develop and maintain a Regional Business Plan; Develop effective, efficient and consistent business practices; Advise the BOT on regional resource demands, workload forecasting, and management; Formulate recommendations to the BOT to facilitate Division and District organizations acting as a single business entity; Promote and enhance teamwork; Create a corporate climate;

Optimize the use of resources in the region, and; Develop workforce needs and capabilities for the region.

The RMB met from September 13-15 in Egg Harbor City, NJ. The first item on the agenda was a ten-minute videotape, where BG Temple spoke about year-end execution, regionalized functions along with the milestones ahead, several future state studies and actualization of the Regional Business Center. Temple said, "We are shifting from a district-centric operation to a regional-centric operation" adding, "Execution will not go away from the Districts."

He told the RMB members that they need to help "define what the future RBC should look like" and "need to flesh out our strategic communication plan."

Paul Giovinco, RMB Executive Director, said, "The NAD Regional Management Board is a great example of teamwork in action and serves as a model for being region-centric and not district-centric." The records on all Regional Management Board meetings are on-line at: <https://rbc.nado.ds.usace.army.mil/RMB/rmb.htm>.

New Chief of Engineers visits New England District

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mas Koning, District Engineer, who recently returned from Iraq from commanding the Southern District of the Gulf Region Division. Approximately 500 Corps employees are overseas supporting the effort. "I deeply appreciate the service of those people who are willing to step up and answer the call," he said.

Lt. Gen. Strock also recognized the good work of those who are working in the states that are backfilling for those who are deployed. "I realize that not everyone can deploy forward," he said. "But I want you to know that what you're doing back here is equally important."

Disaster relief at home is also a significant mission for the Corps of Engineers. The general said that as of the day of the Town Meeting, the Corps has 600 people in Florida responding to Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

The Chief talked about his 20-year history with the Corps of Engineers and shared some experiences in some of the other Districts and Divisions. "I am delighted to now serve as your 51st



Maj. Gen. Strock (left) gets a Regulatory briefing by Chris Godfrey and Col. Thomas Koning.

Chief of Engineers," he said.

Lt. Gen. Strock said that he feels very comfortable with where the Corps is now and where the organization is headed. He said that he wants to maintain the momentum established by Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers with USACE 2012 and P2.

"I think to come up with some

brand new ideas would be inappropriate at this time," he said. "We need to play off these two big initiatives and make sure that we are realizing the benefits of those before we try something significantly different."

The "Just Do It" card is still good, according to Lt. Gen. Strock. "The card reflects my philosophy of the need to empower you to make decisions as you see fit as long as you can answer the three basic questions on the card," he said. "This is not a gimmick."

The Chief discussed elements of 2012 and P2 and where he saw these two initiatives are going to go. There are three elements that are non negotiable: Regional Integration Teams; ability to maintain national consistency; and the concept of the regional business centers.

Regarding P2, the Chief said that he was impressed with the District's training center and likened P2 with CEFMS – that implementing it will be tough initially, but will quickly become essential to the way that everyone in the Corps does business.

Lt. Gen. Strock said that he wants the Corps to really focus on missions by



Photos by C.J. Allen

The Chief of Engineers answers questions during a special town meeting he held at the New England District headquarters.

using a more outward focus.

“We have spent a lot of time thinking about who we are and how we operate using the three elements of our vision and strategy – communications, processes, and people – and those elements focus inward,” he said. “I think what we need to do now is to focus on missions that we are charged with and the people who we support in those missions.”

According to the Chief, although he doesn't anticipate any big changes during the transition from the 50th to the 51st Chief of Engineers, it will be an opportunity for everyone in the Corps to make active decisions on what needs to start, stop, continue or adjust to work more efficiently.

The general discussed all the current activities that were going on around the Corps; the Global War on Terrorism; year-end closeout; P2 implementation; competitive sourcing; and developing new relationships with ENCOMs (Engineer Commands).

Lt. Gen. Strock had several charges for his audience: maintain the momentum – just keep doing it; view transition as an opportunity; improve communications – both internal and external; develop and strengthen partnerships and relationships; and be safe and take care of one another.

The Chief recognized 10 individuals the District considers heroes by thanking them personally with Commander's Coins for the work that they do. Those recognized were Kathy LeBlanc, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Steve Dunbar, Heather Sullivan, Marc Paiva, Dianna Errico-Topolski, Pattie Price, Jeff Perchak, and Nancy McNally.

The general ended the town meeting by taking questions from the audience. Questions included disaster assistance, human resources issues, A-76 (competitive sourcing), funding and budget, and regulatory issues.

After the town meeting, Lt. Gen. Strock toured the Cape Cod Canal and the Massachusetts Military Reservation.



Maj. Gen. Carl Strock tours the Massachusetts Military Reservation with John MacPherson and Col. Thomas Koning.



The Chief of Engineers enjoys lunch with some of the Cape Cod Canal Park Rangers during his visit to the project.



Park Ranger Samantha Mirabella answers Maj. Gen. Carl Strock's questions during his tour of the Cape Cod Canal.

Corps, EPA sponsor training on manual for evaluation of proposed dredged material disposal in New England

By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs



The New England District and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region I, New England will hold a training session in October for the use of the Regional Implementation Manual (RIM) for the Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Disposal in New England Waters.

The intended audience is laboratories and applicants' agents. The training will be held Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New England District. The RIM was finalized on April 6 and took effect on May 6. The RIM describes regional sediment testing guidelines and reporting requirements for applicants who wish to obtain a Department of the Army permit from the New England District for proposed projects involving dredging and the open water disposal of dredged material. The RIM also applies to federal navigation projects.

This manual implements the national testing guidelines under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and as described in the testing manuals, "Evaluation of Dredged

Material Proposed for Ocean Disposal Testing Manual ("Green Book") and "Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Discharge in Waters of the U.S. – Testing Manual ("Inland Testing Manual").

The RIM is intended to be used in conjunction with the Green Book and Inland Testing Manual to provide regional supplementary guidance on permit application requirements, data reporting requirements, contaminants of concerns, species for biological testing, and specific procedural requirements agreed upon by state and federal agencies.

The primary goal of the training session is to clarify the requirements pertaining to quality assurance/quality control and electronic data reporting. Specific topics will include Laboratory Quality Assurance Plans, Quality Control Summary Tables, new Reporting Limits, electronic data reporting requirements, and changes to sampling procedures, including the new requirement of reporting sample coordinates. A draft agenda is available on the District RIM website.

The development of the RIM was coordinated extensively with state, and other federal agencies and incorporates public input. It replaces the previous regional manual titles, "Guidance for Permitting Tests on Dredged Material to Disposed of in Open Waters."

The RIM can be obtained from the District website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg/rim.htm>. The Corps public notice can be reviewed online at the Corps website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select "Regulatory/Permitting" and search by file number or state.



A dredge at work in New Haven Harbor, Connecticut.

File photo

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works addresses Regulatory issue

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jurisdictional determinations as suggested by a recent report by the General Accounting Office.

From among many thousands of jurisdictional determinations, the document recently released took issue with 15. My impression is that the authors of the document either understand very little of our program or have suppressed their understanding for the purpose of the document.

The document is compiled from records provided by the Corps in response to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who worked so hard to respond to these requests on top of your already heavy caseloads. I do regret that the recipients did not make better use of the fruits of your efforts.

While I reject the tone and the content of the recently released document, I am sure we can all agree that the Regulatory Program is not perfect. As you know, I have made improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the Regulatory Program one of my three priorities as ASA (CW). We have made a great deal of progress on numerous fronts, both on our own and in cooperation with other federal agencies.

and day out you are working very hard to preserve and protect aquatic resources of all kinds. President Bush requested a \$10 million increase in our budget for the Regulatory Program in Fiscal Year 2005. I can assure you that we did not justify that request based on a rollback in protection of wetlands. We justified it based on a need to bring more resources to bear on this important regulatory function.

My bottom line message to you is simple: do not be discouraged by election-year pronouncements. Your leadership at the Corps, the Army, and the Administration are behind you 100 percent as you make the hard, day-to-day calls in the field.

One of the strangest aspects of the recently released document is the implication that the Bush Administration wants to roll back protection of wetlands. That is certainly not the spirit I have seen reflected in the many Corps Districts I have visited, where day in

We are proud of your dedication and professionalism. Some will say we have “abandoned” wetlands; others will say we have not gone far enough in implementing SWANCC. We will doubtless find room for differences of opinion among ourselves on some aspects of the program. Thoughtful criticism, aimed at making our program stronger and better, is always welcome.

There has been a good deal of debate on the meaning of the SWANCC decision. Stripped to its basics, though, the decision tells the Corps that somewhere on the landscape there is a line. On one side of the line, the Corps as CWA jurisdiction. The answer to the question of where that

line may be is quite vexatious. But any solution that suggests that there is no line must necessarily be false, wrong and invalid.

I know that much of what you do requires seeking to impose bright-line distinctions and categorizations on what is in many cases a seamless continuum in nature. I also know that much of what you do involves applying a uniform set of rules and regulations on a landscape of infinite and bewildering variety.

Wherever I go, people who know you and who have seen the Corps’ regulatory program in action stand in awe of your abilities, your tact, your good will, and your knowledge. I am very proud of what you do.



A wetland located in Topsham, Maine.

Photo provided by Regulatory Division.

Supporting the War on Terror: My adventures traveling to Kabul, Afghanistan

by Park Ranger Claudia Jean Hixson, Buffumville Lake

I had several reasons for going to Afghanistan: I wanted a change, I wanted to participate somehow in the war on terror, I wanted to see for myself what was going on over there and finally, the Middle East is somewhere I had never been before. If you've considered volunteering but don't know what to expect here's my experience so far:

First, I got a medical exam. Then I filled out a variety of paperwork for a security clearance and a passport; did some human resources, safety, financial and legal preparation and then flew off to Virginia or Texas to process. Once there, I got my uniform, heard some lectures on terrorism and staying well, etc. and three to four days later off I went on an all-night commercial flight to Frankfurt, Germany. I thought I would have to wait a day or two for a flight from Rhein Mein Air Force Base to Bagram, Afghanistan but I ultimately waited seven days. I also had to move a few times from hotels to base transient quarters and back again and that wasn't easy. The Army gave me two duffle bags full of its heavy gear in addition to my own luggage that I had packed for at least a 120-day stay. This all goes in and out of rental cars, taxis, airports, aircraft, lockers and elevators as well as carrying it all up and downstairs. I also had to rent cars, call cabs and catch shuttles in a foreign land with foreign money.

So, why the long wait for a flight? I had to catch a military transport with open seats and sometimes there aren't a lot of them. I was put on a wait list that the military established based on how long people have been waiting. My turn finally came after I had the opportunity to see historic Heidelberg and Frankfurt. I flew overnight on a huge Air Force cargo aircraft. The staff allowed the passengers to sleep a while on the metal floor and, in my case, under a shipped engine stand. We landed at about 3 a.m., local time into a surprisingly beautiful sky. I looked up but did not recognize any of the constellations. I had to wait until 8:30 a.m. to get a place to sleep, so I dozed a while on my gear and then walked up to the dining facility. By then the sun was up and scorching, but

the dry climate and light breeze made it tolerable.

The crowded main street view was a scene from Star Wars. Everyone in sight was carrying weapons; slung rifles, side arms, and knives of all kinds. There were American soldiers, airmen, Navy Seals, Marines, the Red Cross, Britons, Germans, Koreans, Austrians, Romanians, local military and civilians, and everyone and anything else. The Himalayan Mountain Range in the distance was grey and ashy; and the light was blinding, and, until one gets used to it, the base surroundings are shocking. Everything is sand bags and bunkers, razor wire and concrete barriers and dust. There is almost no color anywhere except tan and gray. But the personnel were in good spirits and confidence was everywhere.

After two days, I joined a convoy to my ultimate destination -- Kabul. American personnel must travel through the countryside in convoys with armed soldiers. On the way I saw nomads with their camels and donkeys, graveyards with tribal flags flying, locals in all kinds of tradi-

tional dress and the starkest desert I've ever seen. Arriving at the TAC House in Kabul I was ushered into a walled and guarded compound in the middle of the city. Inside were 60 or so others from the Army Corps of Engineers busy helping to manage the rebuilding of Afghanistan's infrastructure. Afghan National Army bases, public hospitals and a teaching academy are among the things being built to help the population recover from the ravages of oppression and war. The Afghan people are really appreciative of the world's efforts to aid them. If you can do it, become an instant part of American history and come and help us. This is really important work.



Photo by C.J. Allen

New England District Park Ranger Claudia Jean Hixson is currently serving in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Corps proposes aquatic ecosystem restoration project for Osgood Pond in Milford, N.H.

By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

At the request of the town of Milford, the New England District is proposing an aquatic ecosystem restoration project to restore Osgood Pond in Milford, N.H. The town of Milford is the non-federal sponsor and would cost-share in the project's completion.

The purpose of this project is to restore the pond to an open water aquatic ecosystem; provide habitat for fisheries and waterfowl; increase recreational opportunities; maintain and restore wetland resources in the upper reaches of Osgood Pond; and to use dredged material from the project for restoration purposes. "The proposed project is to restore approximately 15 acres of Osgood Pond to approximately 10 feet deep by hydraulically dredging 123,000 cubic yards of sediments from the pond," said New England District Project Manager Adam Burnett.

The dredged material would be dewatered at the adjacent Milford town park, Adams Park. After dewatering, the dredged material would have a volume of approximately 85,000 cubic yards. "Approximately 5,000 cubic yards of this material would be used to restore

the staging area at Adams Park," Burnett said.

The remaining 80,000 cubic yards of dredged material would be trucked and placed in a sponsor-owned parcel of land one mile west of Osgood Pond. The disposal site, known as the Brox Site, is located within a former 200-acre sand and gravel quarry. A portion of the dredged material would be used to restore approximately 13 acres of wetlands and 17 acres of adjacent riparian upland area on a 30-acre parcel of land within the Brox site. This 30-acre restoration area is within the watershed of Osgood Pond, and would be restricted from future development with a permanent conservation easement. The period of construction is estimated to be two construction seasons. (Dredging can begin as early as April, when the ice melts from the pond, and end in late October, when hard frosts set in.)

"The ecosystem of Osgood Pond has degraded from excess sedimentation and nutrient loading as a result of upstream impacts, including large scale quarrying operations," Burnett said. "Effects on the pond's ecosystem include degradation of fish habitat and a proliferation of cycles of aquatic vegetation growth and organic material

buildup."

According to Burnett, four alternatives were analyzed in detail, including a no-action alternative. The analysis included three alternatives for deepening portions of the 24-acre Osgood Pond to restore habitat for fish and other aquatic species and to improve 49 acres of waterfowl habitat associated with the pond and adjoining wetlands. Three options were analyzed for disposal of the sediments that would be removed from the pond, including use of the organically rich dredged material to restore approximately 13 acres of wetlands in the basin immediately upstream of Osgood Pond.

This work is being conducted under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended. The proposed restoration project is not expected to impact any structures or sites of historic, architectural, or archaeological significance as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Coordination has been made with the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services have not identified any federally listed, threatened or endangered species in the project area. In addition, the work is being coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for this restoration project and are available for public review. Copies of the document are also available for review at the Milford Town Hall at One Union Square, and Wadleigh Memorial Public Library at 49 Nashua Street in Milford.

New England District sought public comment through Sept. 23. The EA and FONSI will be finalized after public and agency comments are considered.



Osgood Pond in Milford, New Hampshire

Photo provided by Adam Burnett

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

Buffumville Lake Project Manager Dave Stiddem (right) gives clean up assignments to a volunteer team during Public Lands Day in this September 1997 photo. Among the volunteers is Lt. Col. Michael Bradbury, Deputy District Engineer (third from right).

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