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# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Date: August 31, 2004**  
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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) New England District (NAE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1, New England, announce a training session on October 7, 2004, for the utilization of the Regional Implementation Manual for the Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Disposal in New England Waters (RIM). The RIM was finalized on April 6, 2004, and took effect on May 6, 2004.

The RIM describes regional sediment testing guidelines and reporting requirements for applicants who wish to obtain a Department of Army permit from NAE 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 (MPRSA) (33 US 1401 et seq.) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 USC 1344 et seq.), 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 and reporting requirements, contaminants of concern, species for biological testing, and specific procedural requirements agreed upon by state and federal agencies. The development of the RIM was coordinated extensively with state and other federal agencies and incorporates public input. It replaces the previous regional manual entitled "Guidance for Permitting Tests on Dredged Material to be Disposed of in Open Waters" (EPA/NAE 1989). The RIM may be obtained from the NAE RIM website ([www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg/rim.htm](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg/rim.htm)) or by contacting Gail French at the above e-mail address or by calling (978) 318-8077, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

The primary goal of the training session is to clarify the requirements pertaining to quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) and electronic data reporting. The intended audience is laboratories and applicants' agents. Specific topics will include: Laboratory Quality Assurance Plans (LQAP's); Quality Control Summary Tables; new Reporting Limits, electronic data reporting requirements; and changes to sampling procedures, including the new requirement of reporting sample coordinates. The format of the training session will be brief presentations followed by question and answer periods. A draft agenda may be obtained from the NAE RIM website (address above).

The training session will be held on October 7, 2004 from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. at the NAE facilities, 696 Virginia Rd., Concord, MA. To attend the training session, you must R.S.V.P. by October 5 to Gail French (contact information provided above).

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