

USACE Update Report



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

Rhode Island



Current as of October 31, 2023

BUILDING STRONG®

Mission

The missions of the New England District (District) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) include flood risk management protection, emergency preparedness and response to natural disasters and national emergencies, environmental remediation and restoration, natural resource management, streambank 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, with 6,100 miles of coastline, 170 federal navigation projects (13 deep draft commercial waterways), 13 major river basins, and thousands of miles of navigable rivers and streams. The District operates and maintains 31 dams, three hurricane barriers and the Cape Cod Canal.

Through its Regulatory program, the District processes nearly 2,500 applications per year for work in waters and wetlands of the six-state region. The District employs about 500 professional civilian employees with about 300 stationed at our headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts. Other USACE employees serve at project sites and offices throughout the region.

For more information on the District, visit our website at www.nae.usace.army.mil or check us out on X at twitter.com/corpsnewengland or on Facebook at facebook.com/CorpsNewEngland.

Navigation

BLOCK ISLAND HARBOR OF REFUGE (2nd CD) – The District awarded a contract to dredge the federal anchorage and inner basin of the federal navigation project (FNP). Dredging was completed in January 2021.

POINT JUDITH HARBOR OF REFUGE (2nd CD) – The District, in partnership with the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, completed a feasibility report and environmental assessment of potential channel improvements at Point Judith under the Section 107 continuing authority. The report recommended widening the 15-foot federal channel along the west Port of Galilee bulkhead by 50 feet to 200 feet and extending the channel northeasterly along the north Galilee bulkhead. A Project Partnership Agreement was executed with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the project sponsor for design and construction, in November 2021. Design efforts were

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completed and a solicitation for bids issued in the summer of 2022. A construction contract has been awarded to Coastline Inc. with construction to occur in the fall/winter of 2022-2023.

PROVIDENCE RIVER (1st & 2nd CDs) – Shoaling has been identified in the 40-foot-deep main ship channel. Maintenance dredging was last performed between 2003 and 2005 when 3,821,000 cubic yards were removed from the federal channel. The District currently estimates that about 1,000,000 cubic yards needs to be removed to return the project to its authorized dimensions. The District has completed sampling and testing and has determined that nearly all of the material is unsuitable for unconfined open water disposal at the Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site. The District is developing a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) to determine the least cost, environmentally acceptable approach for disposal of the anticipated dredge sediments, which will most likely include the development of additional Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cells in the Providence River. The DMMP will address anticipated dredging needs over the next 20 years, to include federal, state, and private dredging needs in the Providence River.

Disposal Area Monitoring System (DAMOS) Program

The DAMOS program supports the USACE navigation mission by providing monitoring and management of dredged material disposal sites in New England waters to document compliance with the environmental and operational conditions placed on aquatic disposal of dredged material. The program also supports the beneficial re-use of dredged material through the development of placement techniques and monitoring. In 2023, the DAMOS program performed two monitoring surveys of the Rhode Island Sound Disposal Site (RISDS); a hydroacoustic mapping survey and a sampling survey to collect sediment and invertebrates for laboratory analysis. The DAMOS program also continued investigations of a potential beneficial use site in support of the Providence River and Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan. Final reports and more information are available on the DAMOS website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Disposal-Area-Monitoring-System-DAMOS/Reports/>.

Ecological Restoration/Watershed Projects

LOWER BLACKSTONE RIVER (2nd CD) – The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) requested assistance from USACE to restore anadromous fish populations in the Blackstone River between Narragansett Bay and the Lonsdale area in Rhode Island. The District's work is part of an interagency plan that would provide access to over 200 acres of spawning and foraging habitat for anadromous fish (river herring and shad). The District's study is exploring alternatives to restore fish passage around the Elizabeth Webbing Dam in Central Falls. The District received funding in 2010 to begin the feasibility study and executed a feasibility cost sharing agreement in August 2011. USACE presented the evaluation of alternatives to stakeholders in September 2012. The DEM requested an expanded scope to evaluate fish passage alternatives at Slater Mill Dam.

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NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM – The District is providing technical assistance in the implementation of the National Estuary Program (NEP), Narragansett Bay Project (NBP), Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Goals of the NEP 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. The District’s activities include participation in meetings on water resource planning and data sharing.

PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES PROGRAM -- For more information about this program, visit <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Public-Services/Planning-Assistance-to-States/>.

Flood Plain Management Services/Silver Jackets

Under the authority provided by Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act (PL 86-645), as amended, USACE can provide the full range of technical services and planning guidance that is needed to support effective flood plain management. General technical assistance efforts under this program include determining site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation, and timing; flood depths, stages or floodwater velocities; the extent, duration, and frequency of flooding; information on natural and cultural flood plain resources; and flood loss potentials before and after the use of flood plain management measures. Types of studies that have been conducted under the flood plain management service program include flood plain delineation/hazard, dam failure analyses, hurricane evacuation, flood warning, floodway, flood damage reduction, stormwater management, flood proofing, and inventories of flood prone structures. The Rhode Island Silver Jackets team received funding for the 2022 Nonstructural Interagency Projects program to produce a Guide for Flood Mitigation of Historic Structures.

PAWTUXET RIVER FLOOD MAPPING – Areas in Cranston, Warwick and West Warwick located along the Pawtuxet River were severely impacted by the spring 2010 floods. Historically, government officials, emergency responders and residents have not had the technology available to translate the flood elevation, depth and areal extent of flooding to points distant from a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stream gage. Incorporating data from this area into the USGS' web-based Flood Inundation Mapper provides decision-makers and residents with a significant resource. The tool projects information based on the river stage at the USGS stream gage "Pawtuxet River at Cranston (01116500)" and covers stages from about 8-22 foot (50- to 0.2-percent chance flood) in one-foot increments.

Emergency Streambank Protection

This program is used to assist communities in the stabilization of streambank/shoreline emergency erosion conditions which threaten important publicly used facilities. The Section 14 authority allows USACE to participate in the planning and construction of stream bank erosion control projects in

situations where public facilities are threatened, in partnership with a local sponsor. For more information on the Section 14 Emergency Streambank Protection program, visit the District website at:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Public-Services/Continuing-Authorities-Program/Section-14/>.

URI NARRAGANSETT EROSION PROTECTION (2nd CD) – Pier Road at the University of Rhode Island, Narragansett Campus is at risk due to coastal storm erosion. This road provides access to the university’s research pier. The District will conduct an initial appraisal of the problem and solutions to determine if there is a federal interest in emergency stream bank protection at the site. The Federal Interest Determination was completed in the summer of 2021.

General Investigations

RHODE ISLAND COASTLINE COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY (1st & 2nd CDs) – Hurricane Sandy and other recent coastal storms, as well as an increased concern with climate change and sea level rise, have resulted in an increased desire to address coastal storm risk across the entire state of Rhode Island. A Coastal Storm Risk Management feasibility study has been initiated that encompasses the entire Rhode Island coastline from Point Judith to the Massachusetts state line. The feasibility study was initiated on March 29, 2019, and a list of alternatives was agreed to in July 2019. Due to funding delays in 2020, milestones were rescheduled and the team is working toward a TSP in July 2021.

RHODE ISLAND FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION STUDIES (1st & 2nd CDs) – March 2010 storms in Rhode Island resulted in significant riverine flooding of homes, businesses, roads and wastewater treatment facilities. After the 2010 storm events, the District received funding through the 2010 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-212) to conduct reconnaissance investigations in the Pawtuxet River, Woonasquatucket River and Pawcatuck River watersheds. The reconnaissance reports for the Pawtuxet River and Woonasquatucket River were approved in August 2012 and the Pawcatuck River report was approved in May 2012. The reports recommend moving to the feasibility study phase.

Subsequently, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-2) authorized the Secretary of the Army to complete ongoing flood and storm damage reduction studies, at full federal expense, in areas that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy in USACE’s North Atlantic Division, which includes the Pawcatuck River Watershed. Two new feasibility studies were initiated: one that addresses flood damage along the river and one that addresses coastal storm damage. A cost-sharing agreement was executed between USACE and the town of Westerly for the flood risk management feasibility study.

A similar agreement was signed for the coastal storm risk management (CSRMC) feasibility study between USACE and the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RI CRMC). The FRM study found that there was an opportunity to conduct non-structural (elevation and flood proofing) on some structures in several towns but that the work should be further investigated under Section 205 of the

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Continuing Authorities Program. There has been no sponsor identified at this point to move forward with a Section 205 investigation. The FRM feasibility has subsequently been terminated.

The CSRM study also resulted in a recommendation to implement non-structural projects on about 300 properties spread across the coastal flood plain of Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown and Narragansett. The final report was approved by the Chief of Engineers on Dec. 19, 2018. A design agreement was executed between the District and RI CRMC, the project sponsor, in October 2019 to begin the design phase of the work.

Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Projects

Section 103 of the 1962 River and Harbor Act authorizes USACE to study, design, and construct small coastal storm damage reduction projects in partnership with non-federal government agencies, such as cities, counties, special authorities, or units of state government. The maximum federal cost for planning, design, and construction of any one project is \$10 million. Each project must be economically justified, environmentally sound and technically feasible. Hurricane and storm damage reduction projects are not limited to any particular type of improvement. Beach nourishment (structural) and flood proofing (non-structural) are examples of storm damage reduction projects constructed using the Section 103 authority.

Interagency and International Support

SUPPORT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – The District has teamed up with a sister federal agency to improve the care service members are receiving at military hospitals. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and USACE entered into an interagency agreement in 2001 for the goods and services USACE may provide to the VA when needed. These include project management, design services, construction management services, environmental services, preliminary technical investigations, surveying, and historical presentation compliance at VA facilities. In 2008, the VA started exercising the agreement and now the District is supporting the VA with services at several facilities in New England.

In Rhode Island, the District and the VA held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the \$18.8 million new Specialties Clinic and Behavioral Health Addition at the VA Providence Hospital in Providence in July 2012. The goal of the new addition is to better meet the mental health and specialty needs of Veterans.

Defense Environmental Restoration Program/Formerly Used Defense Sites

This is a Congressionally directed program (PL 98-212) that emphasizes the identification, investigation and prompt cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste; unexploded ordnance; buildings and other structures

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and debris at current and former military facilities. A total of 85 formerly used defense sites (FUDS) 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 – Sampling for TCE in 19 wells was conducted in June 2009. The District contracted with an architect and engineering (A-E) firm in second quarter of fiscal year 2010 to develop a conceptual site model (CSM) and remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) work plan for the Blue Beach site and associated Red Maple Swamp to address the TCE and metals contamination. The District retained an A-E firm to execute the RI/FS work plan and to complete the RI/FS, a client draft version which was completed in the winter of 2017. A review of the client draft RI/FS identified data gaps in the investigation. Additional remedial field investigations were conducted in 2019 and 2020, and a draft final RI report, prepared in April 2021, is currently being finalized.

Camp Avenue Dump Site – The District is continuing the long-term monitoring of soil cover (surface inspection) following its installation in the spring of 1998.

Charlestown Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (CNALF) – A remedial action was completed in July 2008 to remove and dispose of petroleum contaminated soil. Wells also were installed as part of a Long-Term Monitoring Program. The District completed two years of quarterly groundwater sampling from October 2008 through September 2010. The draft two-year term monitoring report was submitted to RIDEM in January 2012. The District received the state's comments on the report in September 2012 and addressed all comments.

Gould Island – Former Naval activities on Gould Island resulted in contamination which remained after the southern part of the island was transferred to the state of Rhode Island for use as a wildlife refuge. Several rounds of remedial site investigations have been undertaken at Gould to assess the nature and extent of contamination in support of completion of the documentation [remedial investigation (RI) report, feasibility study (FS) report, proposed plan (PP), and decision document (DD)] required to achieve site closure following the CERCLA process.

An initial investigation program was performed from November 2017 through April 2018. Results of this initial investigation indicated data gaps preventing a RI report completion, necessitating additional investigative efforts. From January through March 2019, 989 cubic yards of debris was removed from the island to allow access to the bunker area and boiler house foundation for follow-on HTRW sampling. A single 1,500-gallon UST was removed from near the center of the island.

A second round of investigations was conducted in 2020, with most of the work performed during a three-week period in March, sediment sampling in August, and groundwater sampling in November. This 2020 field program yielded sufficient information in many areas of the island to support the completion of the

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RI report, however it was determined that data gaps remain in certain areas. A third round of investigations, including soil sampling and limited groundwater sampling, was conducted in April 2022 and, following a review of the additional data collected, it has been determined that prior data gaps have been sufficiently addressed and development of the RI report can proceed. A draft version of the RI report is expected to be completed during the summer of 2023.

In addition to RI activities, the District, in partnership with state and local government and the residents of Jamestown, established a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The most recent activity was a RAB meeting held in Jamestown Oct. 27, 2022. At this meeting, findings of the spring 2022 sampling program were discussed, along with their sufficiency in resolving remaining data gaps. Also discussed were next steps relative to risk assessment and development of the RI report. Initial findings of on-going risk assessment and RI report development activities are to be discussed at the next RAB meeting.

As a separate but related issue of interest to the RAB members and local community, a Building Demolition/Debris Removal (BD/DR) project was officially established in FY2020 to remove three buildings (former torpedo building, maintenance shop and fire station) and a dilapidated pier structure on the southeastern corner of the island. All four structures were deemed a safety hazard at the time the property was transferred to the state of Rhode Island and were therefore eligible for the BD/DR project designation. A contract for the BD/DR project was awarded in June 2021 and demolition and debris removal activities were performed from September 2021 through mid-January 2022.

Kiefer Park – A free-floating product recovery system was installed at this site. This system has not been effective in removing Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL) at the site. The District contracted with an A-E firm in the second quarter of 2010 to complete an LNAPL Mass, Mobility and Recoverability assessment for the Kiefer Park property. Field work was completed in late fall of 2010 and the final LNAPL management plan was completed in the spring of 2011, the results of which determined that LNAPL at the project is not mobile. The District retained an A-E firm to complete a validation of the project's existing 1997 RIDEM approved human health and ecological risk assessment as well as a site closure documentation under Rhode Island Remediation Regulations, which was completed in late 2017. RIDEM agreed to issue an Interim Letter of Compliance (ILOC) for the project contingent upon the recording by property owners of environmental land use restrictions (ELURs) for Kiefer Park FUDS properties and RIDEM approval of a Long Term Monitoring (LTM) plan. In April 2018, the ELURs were recorded with the town and LTM plan was approved; in May 2018 the ILOC was issued by RIDEM. The project transitioned to the (LTM) phase and groundwater sampling (LNAPL gauging and water quality sampling) has been performed on a quarterly basis since October 2020.

Newport Naval Base (NETC Melville) in Newport (1st CD) – Melville North Area of Concern (AOC) #1 is located in the central portion of the site and is currently utilized as a boat marina by Hinckley Yachts. The District completed the removal of a large underground vault-like structure with surrounding PCB and oil-contaminated soils in September 2002. Additional investigation was required and a Site Investigation Report (SIR) was prepared and approved by the state (RIDEM). The report's selected remedy included the removal of a smaller underground concrete vault (along with associated petroleum contaminated soil

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from within the buried vault), implementation of post-remedial action groundwater sampling program, and the use of petroleum absorbent tubular socks to remove product from the product recovery wells. The small vault removal was completed in the summer of 2010. Subsequent action at the site includes well monitoring. The use of the absorbent socks was discontinued in 2022 as the socks did not absorb any of the thick product at the site. The long-term monitoring of the wells will continue annually.

NIKE PR-58 site – The District installed additional wells and various other sampling locations during summer/fall 2009 and spring 2010 to identify the horizontal and vertical extents of the chlorinated volatile organic compound plume associated with the NIKE PR-58 site. Data collected was used to complete a Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report for the site. The RI had several data gaps that were required to be filled, prior to finalizing the report. The District decided that these data gaps needed to be completed prior to issuing a final RI for the site. The District has contracted with an A-E firm to conduct field activities to fill data gaps identified in the Draft RI and complete a combined RI and Feasibility Study for the project. Additionally, the District conducted a second sub-slab soil vapor investigation at the town of North Kingstown DPW facility, located immediately south of the PR-58 property. Results of this investigation found that impacts to the facility from vapor intrusion are below actionable levels, therefore the District will continue to monitor groundwater beneath the facility (as a part of the larger FUDS project monitoring network) to identify any trends that may indicate future impacts to the facility. Additional RI/FS field efforts were completed in 2013, 2014, and 2015, the results of which were used to complete a CERCLA-compliant RI/FS for the project in summer 2016. The Proposed Plan was finalized in April 2018 with the UU/UE option selected as the remedial alternative. The decision document is slated to be finalized.

Nike PR-79, Foster (2nd CD) – Annual supply well sampling continues at the four active water supply wells impacted by the contaminant of concern (COC), TCE, at levels above the RIDEM standard for Groundwater A rating (GA) aquifers. The District installed and is maintaining carbon filters to remove the TCE on all impacted water supply wells as a protective measure for local residents. A supply well monitoring and carbon filter inspection event was held in fall 2017. Additionally, the District contracted the U.S. Army Public Health Command to complete a drinking water well survey of additional residential drinking water wells in the area of NIKE PR-79. The drinking water well survey consisted of the identification of approximately 70 residential and/or commercial drinking water wells, potentially impacted by the COC from NIKE PR-79. The District requested permission from each property owner to sample their well for volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 13 property owners responded, all of which granted permission to have their wells sampled. Sampling efforts were completed in summer 2010 and results were provided to the homeowners and RIDEM in late summer 2010. COCs were not detected at concentrations in excess of applicable regulatory standards.

In December 2018/January 2019, during the annual sampling at the four active water supply wells, the District self-implemented residential groundwater samples at an additional 12 drinking water wells generally located down gradient of the site. Based on laboratory analytical results, COCs were not detected at concentrations in excess of applicable regulatory standards. A contract was awarded in June 2019 to the architecture and engineering firm AECOM. AECOM prepared a Remedial Investigation (RI) work plan (RIWP) for an RI and fieldwork commenced in April 2020 including the collection of soil,

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groundwater, porewater, surface water and sediment samples. The carbon filters were changed out at the four active water supply wells impacted by TCE in April 2022. Additionally, the District intends to upgrade the four existing carbon filters in the fall of 2023. The RI fieldwork is ongoing and is expected to be completed in the winter 2024 timeframe, then AECOM will prepare an RI Report including a human health and ecological risk assessment. Annual residential groundwater sampling of the four drinking water wells on point-of-entry systems is scheduled for the fall of 2023.

In the past number of years, dating back to the program's start in the mid-1980s, remediation contracts have been completed at the following locations:

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

Fort Getty, 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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Operating Flood Risk Management Projects

The District provides flood risk management project benefits at two projects it operates in the state of Rhode Island. Information on each of the projects is provided below.

FOX POINT HURRICANE BARRIER (1st & 2nd CDs) – The District took over operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier from the city of Providence on Feb. 1, 2010, due to Congressional legislation. The District is responsible for project features located within the banks of the Providence River that includes a pump station with over three million gallons per minute capacity, three large tainter gates, two sluice gates and a 700-foot-long concrete dam. Management of the barrier falls under the Cape Cod Canal project office in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. O&M responsibility remains with the city of Providence for project features located outside the riverbanks such as dikes that flank each side of the barrier and for the five vehicular street gates and five sewer gates that comprise the rest of the project.

The 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. The hurricane barrier provides protection against tidal flooding from hurricanes and other storms to approximately 280 acres of downtown Providence. The protected area includes the commercial and industrial center, transportation facilities, public utilities and many homes.

The hurricane barrier is a 700-foot-long concrete structure, 25 feet high, that extends across the Providence River. The structure contains three tainter gate openings that prevent the entry of floodwaters from the bay when closed and permit flow from two rivers out to the bay and passage of small vessels when open. Each gate is 40 feet high and 40 feet wide. Earthfill dikes with stone slope protection flank each side of the barrier. The eastern dike is 780 feet long and the western dike is 1,400 feet long.

During coastal storms and hurricanes, the pumping station's five large pumps can discharge the floodwaters of the Providence River through the barrier into the bay. Two gated openings in the pumping station, each 10 feet high and 15 feet wide, admit water into the cooling water canal used by a power plant, located immediately behind the barrier.

The District has completed several major maintenance projects since taking over O&M responsibilities. Completed maintenance work includes rehabilitation of all five large river pumps, new circuit breakers and electro-mechanical upgrades to high voltage switchgear in the pump station, new roofs for the pump station, installation of modern water level monitoring and communication equipment, rehabilitation of sluice gate operating equipment, replacement of the high voltage incoming power supply lines to the pump station, painting and rehab of the tainter gates, concrete repairs and replacement of two large transformers that provide AC power to the river pumps.

WOONSOCKET FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT (1st & 2nd CDs) – The District took over operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Woonsocket Flood Damage Reduction Project in Woonsocket

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in January 2009 in accordance with Section 2875 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008. The project was transferred from the city of Woonsocket to the District. USACE assumed O&M activities in July 2009 upon receipt of funding. Woonsocket is managed by the West Hill Dam project office staff, located in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. For more information, visit the District website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Flood-Risk-Management/Rhode-Island/Woonsocket/>.

The Woonsocket Flood Damage Reduction project protects industrial and commercial establishments and densely populated residential areas from flood flows on the Blackstone, Peters and Mill Rivers. It was constructed in response to flood damage that occurred due to heavy rains in August 1955 that caused \$22 million in damage. The project was constructed in two phases: construction of the Upper Woonsocket section along the Blackstone River was completed in 1960 at a cost of \$5.4 million, and construction of the Lower Woonsocket section along the Blackstone River and two of its tributaries, the Mill River and Peters River, was completed in 1967 at a cost of \$8.3 million.

The Upper Woonsocket section consists of the following features: (a) 8,300 feet of channel improvement (b) replacement of the old Woonsocket Falls Dam with a new dam, (c) the Singleton Street pumping station, (d) four levees/dikes totaling about 1,200 linear feet, and (e) a 308-foot-long concrete floodwall. The Lower Woonsocket section consists of two independent units: (a) the Social District Unit consisting of six levees/dikes totaling about 5,000 linear feet, three concrete floodwalls totaling about 2,000 linear feet, two pressure conduits totaling about 2,200 linear feet, and the Social District pumping station; (b) the Hamlet District Unit consisting of three levees/dikes totaling about 2,800 linear feet, a 115-foot-long concrete floodwall, and the Hamlet District pumping station.

The District has completed several major maintenance projects since taking over O&M responsibilities. Completed maintenance work includes overhaul of tainter gates, lead paint removal/repainting and electro-mechanical upgrades for the gate controls at Woonsocket Falls Dam; new roofs, windows, masonry repairs, trash rack replacements, new fuel delivery system, upgraded backup electrical generator systems and electrical upgrades at all three pumping stations; and installation of modern water level monitoring and communication equipment, throughout the project.

Current improvement work includes replacement of Pumping Station and Levee Sluice Gate Operators under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Support to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

SUPERFUND ASSISTANCE – The District is USACE’s total support agency for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Region I (New England) program for those federal-lead projects assigned to USACE by the EPA. This includes responsibility for design, construction execution, and some operation and maintenance of remediation projects. In addition, the District is providing technical assistance upon

request to Region I for other federal-lead projects assigned by the EPA to private firms, as well as for some potential responsible party (PRP) remediation under Superfund.

Support to the Military

RHODE ISLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, QUONSET POINT – The purpose of this project is to replace an obsolete fuels system with a modern system. The project is required to repair and modernize the 143rd Airlift Wing’s existing fuels storage complex at Rhode Island Air National Guard (RIANG) Station at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, so that it is functionally configured, environmentally compliant and reliable to refuel its fleet of C-130 cargo aircraft. The new facility will allow for simultaneous fuel unloading and truck filling.

The Fuels Storage Complex Replacement project calls for the construction of a new fuels complex that includes a pump house with a control room, product recovery tank, refueling vehicle parking, truck loading and unload points, and supporting facilities. The new fuel facility will supply the refueling trucks that service the airfield. The project will also involve demolition and site improvements to include electrical and communication work. Lastly, a temporary truck fueling area will be built to ensure fuel issue and receipt capabilities are maintained during construction.

A construction contract in the amount of \$11.6 million was awarded on April 14, 2021. Construction activities had been delayed but have since resumed with completion planned for April 2025.

Regulatory Activities

STATUS OF PROGRAM – Department of the Army permits are required from USACE under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. The District 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. A list of Monthly General and Individual Permit Authorizations is available on the District website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/permits-Issued/>. Relevant environmental documents are available upon written request.

For information about USACE jurisdiction of wetlands and whether a permit is required for your work, contact the Regulatory Division at 978-318-8338 or 978-318-8335. Inquiries can be sent by email to cenae-r@usace.army.mil. Further information is available on our District website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/>.

GENERAL PERMITS – The District has comprehensive Regional General Permits (RGPs) in place for each of the six New England states that authorize work with no more than minimal adverse effect on the aquatic environment. Up to 98 percent of all permits issued in New England are RGPs. Work eligible

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

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under the RGPs is generally approved in less than 60 days. The Rhode Island RGP is available on our website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/State-General-Permits/>.