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New England
District
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Yankee Engineer

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Corps engineers take swift action to reduce flood potential

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

Hydraulic engineers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, were busy on Jan. 25-26 as heavy rains and snowmelt combined for a potential flood situation in New England.

Engineers monitor water levels in the region's major rivers and the depth of snow cover throughout the region to regulate the 31 Corps-managed dams and three hurricane barriers in New England to minimize downstream flood

impacts and tidal flooding.

The New England region experienced between one and three inches of rainfall throughout the day on Jan. 25. This rainfall, along with the snowmelt, caused river levels to rise above warning levels but not high enough to reach flood levels.

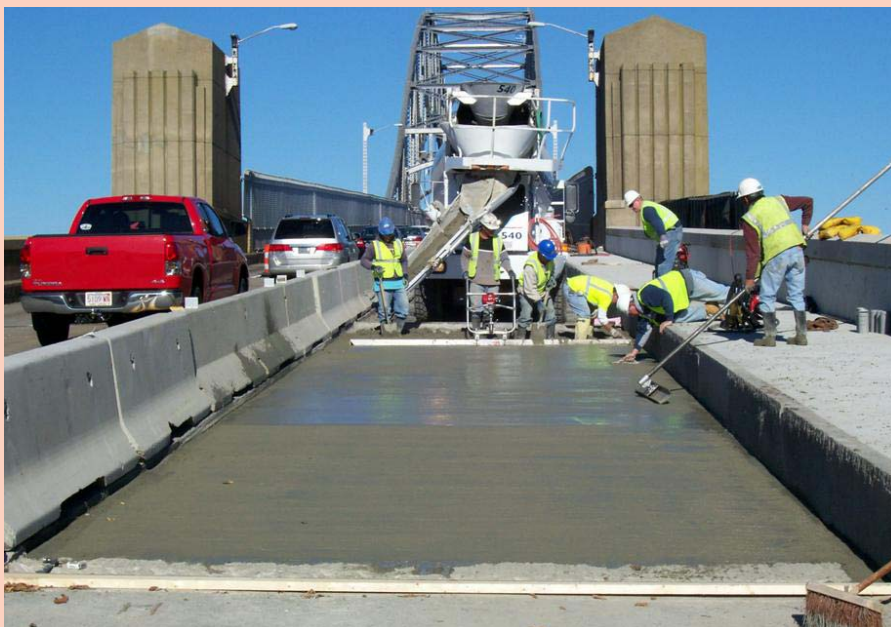
As of the morning of Jan. 26, rivers were slowly beginning to recede and expected to continue that tendency for a few days. There were a few isolated ice-jams that have not caused any flooding nor have there been any reports of river flooding downstream of Corps of

Engineers-managed dams in New England during this event.

All Corps-managed dams in New England were regulated on Jan. 25 in anticipation of this heavy rain and snowmelt event, and were able to impound runoff overnight to mitigate flood potential.

Corps dams utilized between 5 and 15 percent of their flood storage capacity and began making releases on the morning of Jan. 26 as the rivers continued to recede. Reservoir levels returned to normal levels.

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Contractors perform Phase 1 paving work on Sagamore Bridge last fall.

Work set to start as soon as March 1 Travel restrictions scheduled for Sagamore Bridge

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

Deck repairs and paving on the Sagamore Bridge spanning the Cape Cod Canal in Bourne, Mass., are scheduled to restart as soon as March 1 and continue until late spring. The first phase of the project, which included one third of the road-

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Yankee Voices

Bud Taylor, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, and Bob Casoli



Sympathy

...to the **Mah family** on the passing of their mother, **Betty (Szeto) Mah**, Feb. 7. **Byron Mah** is formerly of Engineering/Planning, **Wendall Mah** is formerly of Office of Counsel., and **Tina (Mah) Yeun** is formerly of Visual Information.

Yankee Engineer mailing list

Employees that are planning to retire and would like to get on the Yankee Engineer mailing list should contact the editor, Ann Marie R. Harvie, either by e-mail (Annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil) or by phone 978-318-8777.

The Yankee Engineer is also available online at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm>.

Words worth repeating

Don't let anything stop you. There will be times when you'll be disappointed, but you can't stop.

- *Sadie T. M. Alexander*

Congratulations

... to **Eva Marie D'Antuono**, Chief, Small Business, and her husband, **Jim**, on the birth of their daughter, Taylor, Jan. 26. She joins big brothers **Nicholas** and **Matthew** in the family circle.

...to **Dave Descoteaux**, chief of the General Engineering Section in E/P, who was named the WE Committee's February 2010 Employee of the Month. Descoteaux was recognized for his outstanding efforts bringing on board several new employees during a recent spate of new hires in the General Engineering Section.

... to the **Little Neck- South Beach, Martha's Vineyard Time Critical Removal PDT** which was named the WE Committee's Team of the Quarter for January- March. **Bob Davis, Jon Winkelman, Ben Loyd, Joe Mcinerny, Marc Paiva, Carol Charette, Tim Dugan**, (all from NAE) and **Bob Selfridge, Kim Meacham, Audrey Nore, Ralph Campbell, and Michelle Crull** (all from Huntsville) are being recognized for their outstanding execution of an expedited assessment and removal of hundreds of ordnance items and almost a ton of other munitions related debris from two heavily used beaches on Martha's Vineyard. They were able to complete their efforts through timely coordination with local officials and stakeholders and conduct the actual removal work with minor disruption during the heavy tourist beach season.

Staying safe in the household: How to avoid common dangers

It's almost a cliché to say that most accidents happen in the home, but the truth is that if you're not careful, you and your family can get seriously hurt just where you feel most safe. Prevent an injury – or a tragedy – by watching out for these common threats:

-Falls. Make sure carpets and rugs are fastened securely, electrical cords are out of the way, and floors and staircases are clear of obstacles. Wipe up spills immediately. Install grab bars in showers and bathtubs.

-Electrocution. Keep electrical outlets covered with safety plugs, especially if small children are about. Examine cords regularly and replace any that are worn.

-Poisoning. Keep cleaning supplies, medicines, pesticides, and any other hazardous substances locked up and out of reach of children and safely away from food preparation areas. Post the number of a poison control center near your phone.

-Fire. Install smoke detectors in each bedroom, and on every floor, and keep them in good working order. Have a plan for escaping the house in case of fire, and practice it regularly. (*First Draft Magazine*)





Congresswoman Niki Tsongas shakes hands with a wounded Soldier at Concord Park.



Congresswoman Tsongas addresses New England District employees during a lunchtime event.



Paul Marinelli gives Congresswoman Tsongas a briefing in the District's Reservoir Control Center.



Lt. Col. Steven Howell explains a display of New England District employees currently serving overseas.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Congresswoman Tsongas visits Concord Park, meets with employees and Soldiers

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (MA, 5th) visited the New England District's Concord Office, Jan. 26, to speak at a noontime event, tour the headquarters, and to speak with wounded Soldiers from the Community Based Health Care Organization.

Congresswoman Tsongas met with senior leaders and was briefed on projects affecting her Congressional District. Then she served as keynote speaker during the National Federation of Federal Employees – International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers installation swearing in ceremony.

Following the event, the Congresswoman got a tour of Concord Park, which included an in depth briefing in the Reservoir Control Center by Paul Marinelli.

Before departing, Congresswoman Tsongas visited the CBHCO located on the lower level of Concord Park's building one and got a briefing from staff members as well as meeting with some of the wounded Soldiers who are currently in the program.

According to her website, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas

is currently serving her second term representing the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the first woman to be elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 25 years. Congresswoman Tsongas was elected in a Special Election in 2007 and holds the same seat that was held three decades earlier by her late husband, former Congressman, U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Paul Tsongas.

Congresswoman Tsongas serves on the House Armed Services Committee where she is working to ensure our servicemen and women have the equipment and protection they need. She also serves on the Budget Committee where she is focused on addressing the devastating deficits and debt while simultaneously shaping a national budget that will strengthen our economy and create jobs.

In 2009, Congresswoman Tsongas joined the Natural Resources Committee which oversees legislation related to domestic energy production, National Parks, rivers, forests, oceans and wilderness areas.

An engineer that makes a difference: Scott Acone nominated for Lt. Gen. John W. Morris Civilian of the Year

One New England District engineer has been nominated for one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers highest honors; Scott Acone, Senior Project Manager is North Atlantic Division's choice for the Lt. Gen. John W. Morris Civilian of the Year Award.

The award is named for the Corps' 44th Chief of Engineers, whose 50-plus year career was filled with unmatched engineering expertise and selfless service to his nation. The award, which is presented annually, recognizes the one civilian in all the Corps of Engineers that has achieved the highest overall standards of excellence as a Corps employee and who individually has made the most significant and noteworthy contributions to the mission, prestige and reputation of the entire Corps of Engineers.

"Mr. Acone epitomizes what government public servants stand for and the Army's philosophy on leadership," wrote Col. Philip Feir, New England District Engineer in a letter to North Atlantic Division Commander Col. (P) Peter DeLuca. "On a day-in-day-out basis, Mr. Acone provides outstanding contributions to the nation and the work by his demonstrated leadership and technical ability."

Acone is the project manager for a number of high profile projects all over the world. Current projects he is working include:

- Nacala Dam Rehabilitation in Mozambique, Africa. Acone represents the Millennium Challenge Corporation by providing independent, objective advice, counsel, and support in the execution of a five year, \$507 million contract that includes water supply improvements and rehabilitation to the area.
- Hatheway & Patterson Superfund Site in Mansfield and



Eastland Woolen Mill Superfund Site in Corrina, Maine.



Contractor Bil Hawkins, CNN's Anderson Cooper and Scott Acone (right) in Haiti.

Foxborough, Mass. Acone leads the effort to clean up this site which will include excavating 31,000 yards of contaminated soils, demolishing buildings in and near Hatheway & Patterson's old manufacturing space to allow clean up of waste located beneath them, and disposing of the contaminated soils by truck or rail. This project is slated to be completed by the end of September.

- Elizabeth Mines Site – Acone oversees this project, which is an abandoned copper mine located on privately owned land in East Central Vermont near the village of South Strafford. The Environmental Protection Agency tasked the District in 1999 to investigate the causes and the contamination and to design and implement a cleanup strategy. Cleanup work on this \$40 million project is currently progressing.

In his career, Acone has successfully completed numerous projects that have benefitted the New England area and the nation:

- The Big Dig Stem to Stern Safety Review of the Central Artery and Harbor Tunnels in Boston, Mass. Acone managed and coordinated the efforts of a team of Corps-wide

experts performing oversight for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General (DOT OIG) of the Commonwealth's work. Acone managed \$500,000 per year in labor effort, directed efforts to ensure quality of repairs and represented the District and IG with the Turnpike and Commuter Rail to minimize impacts to traffic and pedestrians. For his efforts, he was awarded the DOT OIG Award for Excellence for the successful completion of this project.

- Eastland Woolen Mill Superfund Site in Maine. Work on this project included successfully relocating a historic building, moving about a half mile of river, realigned and improved half of a mile of state highway and treated 100,000 tons of contaminated soil through an innovative, site specific treatment system. Acone's diligent and dedicated work resulted in delivering the project one year ahead of schedule and about \$1.5 million under budget. The project was awarded both the National Honor Award for Engineering Excellence from the American Council of Engineering Companies in 2003 and the 2004 Build America Award for Environmental Remediation from the Associated General Contractors of America.

"He has made, and continues to make, a big difference in the lives of our customers through a high level of engagement, innovative thinking, communication and successful execution of our civil and military programs," wrote Col. Feir.

Acone has also made significant contributions to the Corps's many national and global emergency response missions, from serving as the night Emergency Manager for New England District, supporting the Corps' response to the September 11th terrorist attacks to most recently deploying to Haiti to support recovery efforts at the Hotel Montana in Petionville/Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Acone also volunteers his time for activities in and outside the District. He serves as mentor to several District employees in Leadership Development Programs both at the District and Division level. He has also been serving for many years as a coach for his local youth basketball and



Work at the Elizabeth Mines in Maine is progressing.

softballs teams as well as a chaperone for his local school district ski program.

According to Col. Feir's recommendation, Acone is the best choice for the award writing, "Without reservation, I truly believe that Mr. Scott Acone is an outstanding USACE employee highly worthy of the Lt. Gen. John W. Morris Civilian of the Year Award."



(left) Scott Acone holds up a Big Dig poster with the help of Bobby Byrne.



Scott Acone inspects a Ceiling Plenum during the Big Dig Stem to Stern Safety Review.



Travel restrictions for the Sagamore Bridge begin in March.

Photo by Kevin Burke

Work set to start as soon as March 1: Travel restrictions scheduled for Sagamore Bridge

Continued from page 1

way width, was completed last fall, and the remaining two phases are planned to be completed this spring.

The travel restrictions will begin, weather permitting, as soon as Monday, March 1st at 10 a.m. and continue throughout the entire work period. Travel restrictions will stay in place 24-hours a day, 7- days a week. Motorists planning to use the Sagamore Bridge during this timeframe should be aware that travel delays are likely to occur during the morning and afternoon peak travel periods each day.

"The Corps is coordinating these activities with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, the Canal Area Regional Traffic Task Force, and others to ensure that we move forward in a coordinated and systematic way to get this vital work done in a timely and safe manner," said Col. Philip T. Feir, Commander of the New England District.

"I am pleased with the ongoing cooperation with the Army Corps and

Canal Area Regional Traffic Task Force stakeholders," said Thomas S. Cahir, Administrator, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority. "It is obvious that everyone involved is working hard to minimize the inconvenience of traffic congestion and to finish the bridge construction in an expeditious fashion."

The work consists of removal of existing waterproofing and pavement of the bridge deck, concrete deck and curb repairs, and installation of a new asphalt pavement wearing surface on the Sagamore Bridge.

The work will also include replacement of the concrete parapet walls on the bridge abutments, repairs to the concrete curb/sidewalk, removal and resetting of granite curbing, and rehabilitation of the bridge electrical lighting system.

Similar deck repairs was last performed in 1981. These pavement/waterproofing repairs are essential to protecting the underlying steel/concrete grid deck in order to maintain the structural integrity and safety of the bridge. During the scheduled times for repair,

travel over the Sagamore Bridge will be reduced from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction. No wide loads will be permitted to cross the span, and State and local police will be on duty at all times work is being performed to assist the motoring public.

Message boards, located at both approaches to the Sagamore Bridge, will keep motorists advised of work efforts. Also, previously installed fixed signage at all approach roads to the Sagamore Bridge will be uncovered, alerting motorists to the bridge work and associated travel restrictions. The Corps will inform all on status of the work, and advise of lane shifts and other adjustments to the schedule that may interest motorists using the Sagamore Bridge.

Additionally, pavement repairs to the Bourne Bridge are also scheduled for completion under this project. This work will be coordinated with the Sagamore Bridge work, so that at least one bridge will be fully open to traffic each day during peak travel periods.

Maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation channel in Bridgeport Harbor proposed

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

At the request of the Bridgeport Port Authority, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation channel in Bridgeport Harbor in Bridgeport, Conn. The Draft Environmental Assessment for this proposed work is available for review and public comment through March 26.

Bridgeport Harbor is located on the north shore of Long Island Sound between the cities of New Haven and Stamford, Conn. Goods transported through Bridgeport Harbor include coal, sand, gravel, stone, and petroleum projects.

The proposed project would re-establish the authorized 35-foot deep Mean Lower, Low Water (MLLW) Main Ship navigation channel from Long Island Sound to the inner harbor, the 18-foot deep MLLW navigation channel in the Pequonnock River, and the 18-foot deep MLLW navigation channel in Yellow Mill Creek, a tributary.

In addition, the 35-foot deep MLLW and 25-foot deep MLLW east anchorages, the 18-foot deep MLLW west anchorage, and the 18-foot deep MLLW barge anchorage, as well as

the 35-foot deep MLLW turning basin would also be restored to their authorized depths.

Approximately 1.78 million cubic yards of material would be dredged from the Federal navigation project (FNP) at Bridgeport Harbor. About



Bridgeport Harbor, Connecticut.

670,000 cubic yards of material has been determined to be suitable for open water placement. Of the remaining material, 913,000 cubic yards would be placed into a Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cell that would be created within Bridgeport Harbor, and 197,000 cubic yards of material would be placed into an existing borrow pit located in Morris Cove in New Haven Harbor. Both CAD cells would be capped with suitable material from the outer portions of the FNP.

Most of the suitable material

dredged from the FNP and the new CAD cell, about 1.25 million cubic yards, would be disposed at the Central Long Island Disposal Site (CLIS). The remaining suitable material, about 223,000 cubic yards, would be used to cap the Bridgeport Harbor CAD cell and the

Morris Cove borrow pit. Approximately 38,000 cubic yards of material would be dredged to create an access channel to the Morris Cove borrow pit. This material would also be placed in the Morris Cove borrow pit. The total amount of material to be dredged from the proposed project is approximately 3.0 million cubic yards.

“Dredging is needed to restore the 35-foot deep Federal channel to authorized dimensions,” said Project Manager Michael Keegan, of the Corps’ New England District, Programs/Project Management Division. “The last maintenance dredging was done in 1964. Since then, shoaling has reduced the controlling depth in the navigation channels to between four and seven feet less than their authorized depths, creating a need for dredging.”

The public notice for this proposed work, with more detailed information, is available for review on the District website, <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>

Corps engineers take swift action to reduce flood potential

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The New Bedford Hurricane Barrier was operated twice – on the afternoon of Jan. 25 and the morning of Jan. 26 to prevent tidal flooding. Also, the Woonsocket Flood Damage Reduction project was operated late in the afternoon of Jan. 25 and again the morning of Jan. 26 to reduce flood risks.

The New Bedford-Fairhaven-Achusnet Hurricane Protection Project provides a gated barrier across

New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor and supplementary dikes in the Clarks Cove area of New Bedford and Fairhaven, Mass. The twin sector gates can seal the 150-foot-wide navigation opening in 12 minutes and were operated on 14 occasions in fiscal year 2009. This barrier affords tidal-flood protection to an area of about 1,400 acres. Since construction in 1966, the project has prevented approximately \$21.1 million in flood damages through the end of fiscal year 2009.

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 in Woonsocket, R.I. It was constructed in response to flood damage that occurred due to heavy rains in August 1955 that caused \$22 million in damage. For more information on these and other Corps projects go to: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

Col. Brian Osterndorf, New England District Commander, gets a briefing from Project Manager Ed O'Donnell aboard the CURRITUCK as it performs dredging in Clinton Harbor in Clinton, Conn., in this June 16, 2000 photo.

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