



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

BUILDING STRONG®

Yankee Engineer

Volume 45, No. 4

January 2011

District makes permit determination, record of decision on Cape Wind wind energy facility proposal

by **Timothy Dugan**
Public Affairs Office

After reviewing the Federal Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision on the Cape Wind, LLC wind energy facility proposal to construct 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound, Mass., that was compiled by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), the New England District has made its determination under Section 10/Section 404 jurisdiction to issue a Corps permit for the proposal.

The application for the Cape Wind wind energy facility federal permit was filed with the District in compliance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, which provides for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States; and with Section

404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in United States waters, including wetlands.

The Corps completed its

Service (MMS), is the lead federal agency in the environmental review, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

BOEMRE released its Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in January 2009 before making its Record of Decision (ROD) in April 2010.

The Corps of Engineers has been one of many federal, state and local cooperating agencies in the environmental review process. The BOEMRE website with the EIS and Record of Decision is available at: <http://www.boemre.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy/CapeWindFEIS.htm>.

Information on the Corps of Engineers Record of Decision and permit determination is available on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

Select "Projects" and then "Cape Wind permit application" or go directly to the link at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/capewind.htm>.



The Nysted Offshore wind farm off the coast of Denmark.

Section 10/404 permit review and Record of Decision on Jan. 5 and issued a Corps permit for the proposal. BOEMRE, formerly called Minerals Management

Yankee Voices

Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Tom Rosato,
Bob Gauvreau and Evamarie D'Antuono



Sympathy

... to **Wendy Gendron**, Engineering/Planning, on the passing of her father, **Richard S. Corbin**, Nov. 22. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Ranger during the Vietnam War.

...to **Ruthann Brien** and her husband, **Paul Minken**, both of Regulatory, on the passing of Ruthann's grandfather, **Dale Stovall**, Dec. 14 in Virginia.

...to the family of Operations retiree **Lionel E. Chauvette**, who passed away, Jan. 2. Mr. Chauvette was a veteran and worked for many years at the New England Division Water Quality Laboratory. He retired as Assistant Project Manager, Tully Lake.

... to **Steve Patchkofsky**, Naugatuck River Area Office Environmental Compliance Coordinator, on the passing of his grandmother, **Mrs. Julia Patchkofsky**, Jan. 17.

Evamarie D'Antuono Receives Chief of Engineers Award For Second Straight Year



New England District's Deputy for Small Business, Evamarie D'Antuono, has received the Chief of Engineers Award for Small Business Program Specialist of the Year for a second straight year. Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, the Chief of Engineers, presented the award to Ms. D'Antuono in early December at the 2010 Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Annual Small Business Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

The award recognized Ms. D'Antuono's leadership, dedication and vision in advancing the Small Business Programs within the Corps of Engineers. To have received the award two years running is indeed a special honor and testament to her professionalism and dedication to the Small Business contractors involved in working with us to successfully execute our many missions.

Ms. D'Antuono also very successfully filled the added role of Lead for the North Atlantic Division regional small business team in Fiscal Year 2010 and has been asked to continue that role for Fiscal Year 2011.

Words Worth Repeating

"Know what your values are and then stick with them. Don't let people talk you out of what you know is right."

- *Flip Saunders*



Union, Management sign new Collective Bargaining Agreement built on employee concerns

The New England District management team and the NFFE-IAMAW, AFL-CIO Local 1164 Union signed a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with a signing event held on Dec. 13, 2010 in the Gridley Conference Room.

"Everyone involved did a great job," said Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, at the signing event. "It's a better product than we had before. I appreciate the contributions made by both sides. The give and take made it a better document."

"With this new contract, everyone has a voice," said Union Vice President Tom Chamberland. "This contract is all about the people. We're always going to have a few bumps in the road, but now we can sit down and talk."

The signing ushered in a new way District Management and the Union negotiate contract agreements. Before formal negotiations began, members of the Management Negotiation Team and the Union Negotiation Team traveled to Maryland to attend special negotiation training.

Once the training was completed, Union members sent out a survey to employees to see what issues were important to them so they could bring those issues to the negotiating table. About 85 percent of those given the survey responded. According to Bob Casoli, Chief Steward and Negotiator for the Union, that's a staggering amount of participation. "That survey gave us a lot of information," he said. "We knew what we were going to negotiate based on those answers."

Negotiations for the new contract only took two months, in sharp contrast to the five years of talks it took to get the old contract signed. "It was a mutually agreed upon contract," said Casoli. "We negotiated it in good faith and this contract represents everybody."

One of the biggest changes in the new contract is

that there will be a Union Representative present on all the boards – the Awards Board, Selection Board, etc. – as well as at the biweekly staff meeting. "If there's an issue that needs to be addressed, it can be brought up at the meeting," said Casoli.

"There was also a complete rewrite of the whole grievance procedure," said Chamberland. "It places more responsibility on the supervisors to be proactive in working with Bargaining Unit Members to resolve grievances."

According to Casoli, telework and time and attendance were also negotiated in the new contract. "With this new agreement, it's all based on trust and communications," he said. "If you treat people like professionals, they'll act like professionals."

fessionals."

Another difference between the new contract from the old one is the size. The superceded document was over 50 pages long whereas the new contract is just over 20. The reason is the District policies have been moved to the appendices, which will help keep the new contract more like a living document. "A policy change will not negate the new contract," said Dr. Ian T. Osgerby, Union Negotiator. "That's why we put them in appendices. We can just switch out the old policy with a new, approved policy."

The Management Team that participated in the Contract Agreement signing included Col. Feir, Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Deputy Commander, Tony Mackos, Theresa Negron with Kim Kaminski-Donaher serving as the Management Team's recorder.

The Union Negotiation Team consisted of Bud Taylor, Ian Osgerby, and Bob Casoli with Tom Chamberland serving as recorder for the Union team. After completing negotiations for the Bargaining Unit Members, Bud Taylor (Chief Union Negotiator) left to serve the Corps and the nation in Afghanistan.



Members of the NFFEE-IAMAW, AFLC-CIO Local 1164 Union (Bob Casoli, Dr. Ian Osgerby and Tom Chamberland) and New England District (Col. Philip Feir, Lt. Col. Steven Howell, Theresa Negron and Tony Mackos) sign a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. (Photo by Brian Murphy.)

District ends the year with holiday celebrations

The New England District celebrated the holiday season with two parties in December. Hundreds of New England District employees and members of the Community Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO) attended the fun-filled events to end the year on a positive note.

The night time holiday party took place, Dec. 3 at Hanscom Air Force Base's Minuteman Club, with about 41 people turning out for the festivities. Party organizers did things a little differently this year, adding an informal sit down dinner that featured Lemon Garlic Half Chicken. Partygoers danced the night away to tunes played by the District's favorite new DJ, Regulatory's own Greg Penta.

The daytime holiday party was held at noon, Dec. 17 at the Concord Park Headquarters. Over 175 people clamored into the District cafeteria to partake of gourmet appetizers such as spanakopita and mini quiche. Lt. Col. Steven Howell's famous minuteman brew was also

available. Tables at the entrance of the cafeteria were filled with meats, cheeses, olives, vegetables and other delicious pickies.

At noon, party participants moved to the Massachusetts and Connecticut conference rooms to select their lunch from a large variety of luncheon delights to include spinach ravioli with pesto, squash ravioli with sage butter sauce, linguini with clam sauce, chicken piccata, eggplant parmesan and more. Delicious desserts that included a Finnish log, canolis and cookies ended a fabulous lunch.

Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, and Bob DeSista, Acting Chief of Regulatory, welcomed attendees to the party.

Regulatory headed the efforts to arrange this year's celebration. Both encouraged everyone to enjoy themselves during the party and wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Activities abounded during the holiday party. Event organizers arranged a holiday trivia contest with participants breaking into groups to see which team could answer the most questions correctly. The winning team of Paul Sneeringer, Joe Buckley, Barbara Newman, Mike Riccio and Dan Vasconcelos each won gift certificates to a local restaurant.

A Karaoke contest was held in the theatre. A number of employees were brave enough to step up to the



Members of the CBHCO arrive in costume at the daytime holiday celebration to get everyone into the spirit.

Photos by Brian Murphy

microphone. They included Col. Feir, Laura Lally, Helen Newcomb, Karen Wolfe and Cynthia Wright. Karen Wolfe walked away victorious with a gift certificate.

The WE Committee held their annual basket auction during the party. This annual favorite earns money for the WE Committee's activities during the year and allows employees to pick up a special holiday gift. Regulatory Division, Resource Management, Human Resources and Real Estate Division all made up baskets of varying themes and donated them to the event. The winners were Ruth Ladd, Bill Walker, Karen Wolfe, and Zina Cassulo-Henderson.

In the midst of all the fun and frivolity that the holidays bring, New England District employees and members of the CBHCO remembered the little ones at risk of not having a good holiday. By donating 371 toys – the most toys the WE Committee has ever collected for the Toys for Tots Program – they made sure that hundreds of children would have a holiday gift to open this year.

Retirees who attended the day time party were Amal Gurguis, Forrest Knowles, Steve DiLorenzo, Alexine Raineri, Chiway Hsuing, Marie Pinede, Buz McDonald, Bob Gauvreau, and Joe Bocchino. Bocchino also attended the night time party.



(From left) Terry Negron, Raushanah Muhammad and Tina Krawczyk sit and relax at the daytime holiday party.



Mrs. Tara Feir and Col. Philip Feir hang out with Santa and his helper.



The Concord Park cafeteria was transformed into a winter wonderland.



Party goes play Guitar Hero in the theatre.

Patchkofsky honored with Interpretive Awards

by Marci Montrose
Park Ranger, Hop Brook Lake

Steve Patchkofsky, Environmental Compliance Coordinator for the Naugatuck River Basin, was recognized by Col. Philip Feir, New England District Commander, at January's Park Ranger Conference as the New England District's (NAE) 2010 Interpreter of the Year. In the fall, he also received a plaque for winning the North Atlantic Division's (NAD) 2010 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence.

Patchkofsky received his recognition as the NAE's 2010 Interpreter of the Year and the NAD's 2010 Hiram M. Chittenden Award due to his hard work, determination and willingness to assist when needed. He has proven his commitment to educating his fellow Corps members and the public. The fact that he works on local, District, division and national levels indicates that he knows no bounds and is willing to do whatever it takes to make certain that everyone he meets is armed with useful knowledge and is comfortable with performing the skills needed to keep themselves and the public safe and well informed.

Patchkofsky does not fit the mold of what may be thought of as the typical interpreter. He is not a Park Ranger who has continual interpretive opportunities handed to him. He is an Environmental Compliance Coordinator whose job does not normally entail interpretive opportunities; therefore, he creates his own interpretive opportunities and performs them willingly and effectively.

Patchkofsky repeatedly ex-



Photos by Brian Murphy

Steven Patchkofsky demonstrates the fine art of donning a life jacket to Joan Gardner.

tended his services on all levels. He is a member of the National Water Safety Team and the North Atlantic Division's Water Safety Team representative. This position allowed him to not only supply USACE Rangers with knowledge and tools for their own interpretive programs, but to interact with the public, providing them with first-hand, up-to-date Water Safety information.

One of Patchkofsky's largest endeavors has already proven to be a very worthwhile and sought after tool for many projects throughout the New England District. This brainchild of Patchkofsky's is what's known as "the Water Safety Trailer." His planning began prior to 2009, however, most of his work and the completion of the trailer occurred in 2009. Patchkofsky basically took a small landscaping trailer that one of the projects was not using and turned it into an energy efficient water safety interpretive tool on wheels. This trailer is energy efficient because Patchkofsky

had solar panels installed on the top of the trailer, thereby allowing all electronics to be operated by solar power. He had a small hole made in the side of the trailer and installed a flat screen television with a cover to protect it. An awning was installed and a VCR/DVD combo player was connected to the TV.

Inside the trailer is a plethora of water safety brochures, pamphlets, coloring books and other hand-outs for all to use at whichever event they have the trailer at. Water safety videos are also provided to use with the TV, DVD/VCR and different styles of life vests, safety rings, throw sticks, whistles, lights and flares are available as interactive teaching devices. A Bobber the Safety Dog costume comes with the trailer, and if requested, Seamoor the Water Safety Dragon is also available.

Patchkofsky also made a spinning wheel trivia game to use when awarding items such as flying discs or zipper pulls for correct answers

to questions.

He also included in the trailer another game that he had made in a past year but perfected in 2009. This game is a shower-like system made of PVC piping with small holes drilled into it at certain intervals. This system hooks up to a hose. The water flows through the piping and drains out of the holes. The person who goes through it is allowed to travel through the water maze normally without getting wet. Then they are given a set of goggles which blurs their sight. The person must navigate through the maze, again, without getting wet. This game helps to educate the public on the dangers of drinking alcohol when in the presence of water. It is a very effective tool that is both educational and fun, especially on a very hot day.

Since its maiden voyage on May 9, 2009, the trailer has been used at several events hosted by the Cape Cod Canal, some Merimack River Basin projects, Hop Brook Lake and Thomaston Dam.

Patchkofsky also travelled to the Summer Ranger Visitor Assistance training in Southbridge, Mass., with the trailer and conducted a training session for the summer rangers on how to use the solar power in the trailer, where everything is in the trailer, how to store things and how to assemble and use the games and also how to use Seamoor and Bobber properly.

Patchkofsky's vision is a highly successful tool that has already proven its worth and practicality to the District and will only continue to grow in popularity and necessity for those who host events.

In addition 2009 was the second year Patchkofsky attended the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Confer-

ence in Washington, DC where he was given the task of trying to entice young prospective applicants to the USACE booth during the career fair. Using his ability to think outside the box, he utilized Seamoor the Water Safety Dragon as a creative tool to speak with the fair attendees and persuade them to come to the booth where representatives from the Corps could interview them.

While attending a Water Safety Team meeting in Texas, the team



Steven Patchkofsky receives his award from Col. Philip Feir.

attended an interpretive event for a local inner-city school being held by area Corps staff. The purpose of the event was to watch them and critique their interpretive skills involving water safety.

Instead of standing in the background, Patchkofsky, among others in the group, worked side-by-side with the staff. By doing this, he assumed several interpretive roles, one was as a traditional educational interpreter with the local inner-city school children and the other was as a mentor/trainer to the local staff.

On a more local level, Patchkofsky was and continues to be a reliable source that the entire Naugatuck River Basin has come to depend on. He volunteered to staff and support

a booth at a Memorial Day Weekend event in Bristol, Conn., alongside staff members from Thomaston Dam. Patchkofsky greeted many of the 600 attendees who passed by their booth. His efforts helped to educate people of all ages in regards to the Corps, the Flood of 1955, what we do and why we do it. He also staffed the 2009 Naugatuck River Race, a kayak race, in Beacon Falls, Conn., with Thomaston Dam members.

Patchkofsky travelled to Colebrook River Lake on weekends to assist the staff with boat safety/visitor assistance patrols. He realized the two staff members that Colebrook has are extremely busy with administrative duties and rarely have time to meet with the public or conduct boat patrols, so he volunteered his weekends to help them out. In doing so, Patchkofsky was able to assist several stranded boaters, carry out safety checks and perform many impromptu interpretive programs explaining the history of the basin, to include the Flood of 1955 and other areas of natural resources management and environmental education.

Patchkofsky was and continues to be a First Aid/CPR/AED, pepper spray and boat instructor. As the only First Aid/CPR/AED instructor in the Naugatuck River Basin, therefore, he certified all NRB personnel. His trainings were fun and informative.

These may not be thought of as typical interpretive opportunities, however, by his involvement and mentoring, Patchkofsky made a direct positive impact on anyone he has trained.

Dredging up the past . . .



Col. Earle Richardson (center) signs the 1995 NFFE Union Agreement on Nov. 28, 1995. Participants were (from left) Dave Wilbur, Human Resources, and Farrell Mc-Millan, Engineering, representing management and Jerry Nunziato, Contracting, and Vicki Voltz Engineering, representing the Union.

First Class
U.S. Postage
Paid
Concord, MA
Permit No. 494

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40