

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong



Corps of Engineers releases Final EIS
on South Coast Rail proposal
Story on page 4

Yankee Voices

Maurice Beaudoin, MaryAnn Beaudoin, Jane Heckler and Tim Rezendez



Sympathy

... to the family of Operations retiree **Donald Albert Warren, Sr.**, who passed away Aug. 25. Mr. Warren worked at Mansfield Hollow Dam until his retirement. Prior to joining the Corps in New England, Mr. Warren faithfully served his country during World War II and was a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal.

... to the family of Operations retiree **Joanne Mercier**, who passed away Sept. 3. She was employed for 20 years as a Park Ranger and Assistant Project Manager at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, working at Franklin Falls Dam, Blackwater Dam, Hopkinton-Everett Lakes and Edward McDowell Lake before retiring in 2000.

Words worth repeating

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

- **Maya Angelou**

Secretary Hagel on Potential Shutdown

As you know, the government's annual funding could expire at midnight Sept. 30. I have joined with others in urging Congress to prevent a lapse in appropriations. We are now in a moment of regrettable and avoidable uncertainty. It would be irresponsible on our part not to prepare for the possibility of a shutdown.

To this end, DoD has been moving forward with necessary and prudent preparations. DoD leaders, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management, have been reviewing and updating contingency plans. Whatever happens, we will be prepared.

If a shutdown occurs, it will affect different parts of our department in different ways. While military personnel around the world would continue to serve in a normal duty status, a large number of civilian employees and contractors would likely be temporarily furloughed. Your supervisor will provide more information, but I want you to know that furlough decisions are dictated solely by the law, which only permits us to direct civilians to work if they are required to continue supporting military operations or if they are required to protect DoD personnel and property. The furloughs are in no way a reflection of the importance of your work, the hard effort you put forth every day, or your dedicated service to our department and our nation.

This has been a trying period for DoD personnel across the globe military, civilian, and contractors alike. Right now, I am in South Korea meeting with our Republic of Korea allies and commemorating the 60th anniversary of our mutual defense treaty. I have spent time with U.S. troops and DoD civilians stationed here who would be impacted by a government shutdown. This is an unnecessary and unwelcome distraction from our mission of defending the nation.

DoD personnel and families have been through a lot recently. Sequestration has meant that most of our civilian employees have already had to endure furloughs this year, causing significant stress and hardship, while service members and military families have had to deal with the needless strain of reduced readiness as well as temporary reductions in services essential to their wellbeing. I know the uncertainty of a possible shutdown only adds to the anxiety that I'm sure many of you and your families are feeling. But I also know that the Department of Defense is a strong and resilient institution. We are going into this challenge together and we will come out of it together.

I want to thank all of you, military and civilian, for your patience and your professionalism, as well as your continued service and dedication to both our department and our country.

Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense



Commander's Corner: Thank You and Congratulations!

By Col. Charles P. Samaris
District Commander



New England Team:

As we near the end of Fiscal Year 2013, my message is twofold, but simple:

1) **THANK YOU** for your character, passion, and selfless service in delivering superior results to the people of New England and the nation. Your outstanding performance insured that our federal, state, and local

partners achieved their programmatic, construction, environmental, sustainability and other important objectives. Your ability to build relationships and effectively communicate assured our stakeholders that you seek their engagement in the quest to deliver on our promises. They, and I, greatly appreciate all you do, every day!

2) **CONGRATULATIONS** for achieving significant success through a year of challenges and adversity. It was a tough year...tough storms, tough projects, and some very tough situations. But most of the team put their game face on, focused on the mission, and simply delivered. Of note, those most affected by sequestration displayed incredible strength, simply delivered...and then some. It took character. Adversity doesn't build character, adversity reveals character. Your outstanding character was indeed revealed. So was your toughness.

Tough...now that's not normally how we describe our-

selves. Experts, licensed, certified...these surely are the more "normal" descriptors. But tough is important. Tough is a good attitude in a bad situation. Tough is setting a good example...especially when you don't feel like it. Tough is shouldering responsibility...especially when it may not be yours to bear. Tough is making a responsible, hard decision...especially if it's counter-culture. Tough isn't complaining, tough is fixing. Tough isn't being part of the problem, it's being the solution. Tough is a very positive attribute when evidenced within the framework of strong character.

So, please take a moment to reflect on a few of my favorite thoughts...

"I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death."

~ Thomas Paine

"The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity."

~ Ulysses S. Grant

"Ask not for a lighter burden, but for broader shoulders."

~ Jewish Proverb

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

~ Henry Ford

Essays!



Photo by Robert Webb

Touring the Muddy River

Maj. Charles Gray, New England District Deputy Commander, Steve Umbrell and Joanne Burnham brief Col. Donald Degidio, NAD Deputy Commander, on the Muddy River Restoration project. Col. Degidio toured the site as part of his visit to New England District on Sept. 20.

Corps of Engineers releases Final EIS on South Coast Rail proposal

By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The New England District has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's South Coast Rail proposal to establish commuter passenger rail service between Boston and the cities of New Bedford and Fall River, Mass. The FEIS was prepared in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to serve as a joint FEIS/Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

The project proponent, MassDOT, is seeking a Corps permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act to perform work in navigable waters and discharge fill material in waters of the U. S., including wetlands, incidental to establishment of passenger rail service between Boston and the cities of New Bedford and Fall River. Because the proposal constitutes a potentially significant environmental impact the Corps determined that a Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an in-depth environmental study, was required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The joint EIS/EIR allowed the MEPA review to be conducted simultaneously with the federal NEPA process. It evaluated a range of alternative transportation routes, including three principal rail routes, one bus route and a no-build alternative.

As the proposed project is not funded by a federal agency, the Corps is the lead federal agency for purposes of the NEPA review and has coordinated the environmental review with cooperating agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration and

the Federal Highway Administration.

Work is proposed in U.S. waters, including adjacent wetlands, along existing active and out-of-service railroad corridors between Boston and New Bedford/Fall River.

The proposal now under active review by the Corps would result in permanent loss of approximately 12.3 acres of waters of the U.S. (including wetlands), and follows (roughly, north to south) the existing Stoughton Commuter Rail Line from Boston to Stoughton Station; an existing rail line that has been out of



A commuter train makes its way towards a station.

service since 1958 from Stoughton to MA Route 138 (Broadway Avenue) in Raynham; an existing rail line that has been out of service since 1916 from MA Route 138 (Broadway Avenue) to Longmeadow Road in Taunton; and existing, active (in-service) freight lines, from Longmeadow Road to New Bedford, and from Myricks Junction (Berkley) to Fall River.

The FEIS/FEIR compares the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the practicable alternatives on the natural, cultural and socioeconomic environment.

The FEIS is intended to provide the information needed for the Corps to perform a public interest review for the Section 404 permit decision.

The EIS/EIR evaluates several transportation facilities and corridor alternatives to implement the proposed

transit service over a distance of about 50 to 60 miles. Transportation modes considered included rail (diesel or electric) and rapid bus. Corridors considered included a rail corridor through Attleboro, Stoughton or Middleborough or a rapid bus service along MA-24, MA-140, and I-93. MassDOT's preferred alternative is the Stoughton commuter rail alternative (using electric or diesel powered locomotives) which involves using the active freight lines from New Bedford and Fall River to Taunton, then using the inactive rail bed north to Stoughton, then using the active commuter rail tracks to South Station in Boston.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which requires a Department of Army (DA) permit for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the U. S., including adjacent wetlands; and under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which requires a DA permit for any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States.

A Record of Decision (ROD), not less than 30 days after the FEIS/FEIR is released, will need to be completed prior to a permit decision by the Corps. The MassDOT Wetlands Mitigation Plan design will need to be finalized; and a Programmatic Agreement must be signed to ensure that the requirements of the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be met. Also, state approvals on water quality certification and coastal zone consistency are needed before the Corps can make a final permit decision.

The FEIS/FEIR is online at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/SouthCoastRail.aspx>. The public notice is available on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>.



Photo by Ruth Ladd

Barbara Newman of Regulatory watches as Col. Charles Samaris signs the In lieu Fee Agreement for Connecticut with Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

District, partners sign In Lieu Fee Agreement for Connecticut

**By Ruth Ladd and
Barbara Newman
Regulatory Division**

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, traveled with Barbara Newman and Ruth Ladd from the District's Regulatory Division to join the National Audubon Society's Vice President Francis Grant-Suttie and Audubon Connecticut Director of Bird Conservation Patrick Comins at the Connecticut State House for the Aug. 21 signing of the Instrument (legal agreement) for a Connecticut In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program.

The program, which will allow permittees to pay a fee instead of attempting mitigation themselves, is the first program of its kind in Connecticut.

"Prior to this agreement in Connecticut, those seeking permits for

wetlands impacts were required to perform their own compensatory mitigation and monitor and maintain it for several years," said Col. Samaris. "This was difficult for them to accomplish and there were many failures. Now this In-Lieu Fee program offers the option of paying a fee 'in lieu' of permittee conducted mitigation."

The District Commander also said that this approach will enhance the Corps' ability to protect the environment and is in keeping with Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick's vision for the Corps of Engineers. The National Audubon Society - Connecticut Chapter (Audubon-CT) as sponsor of the program will, with District and interagency team oversight, collect the fees; identify projects for wetland restoration, enhancement, creation, and/or preservation; oversee execution

of the projects; and assure long-term stewardship of the project sites.

The ILF instrument, under which Audubon-CT and the Corps will operate the program, is a living document that will be reviewed on a regular basis and amended when necessary to comply with rules and regulations.

The Corps first began to explore the ILF concept for Connecticut in 2004. Audubon became involved in 2010 and submitted a prospectus, which is an outline of the proposed program, in January 2011. The process reached fruition at the recent signing ceremony.

Many dignitaries attended the signing event including U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, State Representatives Mary Mushinsky and Tom Vicino, and Audubon Connecticut Board Chair Marty Cannon.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Lynne McKinney Lydick portrays Abby Kelley Foster during the Women's Equality Event. (Inset) Col. Charles Samaris presents McKinney Lydick with a certificate of appreciation.

Abby Kelley Foster 'visits' District during Women's Equality Day

The Federal Women's Program (FWP) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) hosted a special event to celebrate Women's Equality Day.

Lynne McKinney Lydick, an actress from Worcester, Mass., portrayed 19th Century radical abolitionist and Women's Rights activist Abby Kelley Foster, in her one-woman presentation entitled, "Yours for Humanity – Abby." The event took place in the Concord Park cafeteria Aug. 28.

McKinney Lydick's play is based on Kelley Foster's letters and speeches to Indiana residents against anti-slavery. The actress, portraying Kelly Foster, and the audience, serving as the Indiana townspeople, traveled back in time as she described, "the cruel, hard facts of slavery," during one of a week-long series of lectures she gave in 1864. In addition to the lectures, McKinney Lydick also read letters from Kelley Foster addressed to her family.

Abby Foster Kelley, born in 1811, dedicated more than 50 years of her life fighting for social justice and ending race and gender prejudice. She married fellow abolitionist and lecturer Stephen Symonds Foster and they had one daughter.

Kelley Foster was from a Massachusetts Quaker family and struggled to balance her work as an anti-slavery lecturer with her work as a dedicated wife and mother. Some of her more notable speeches include the 1838 Anti-Slavery Convention in Philadelphia, Pa., the 1840 American Anti-Slavery Society's annual meeting in New York and her final speech at the First National Women's Rights Convention in Worcester, Mass. During her 1840 and 1850 speeches, she added Women's Equality to the Anti-Slavery movement. Kelley Foster died in 1887.

McKinney Lydick holds a degree in education from the University of Maine. She has appeared in many musicals, drama and historical one-woman productions all over New England. She is the 2012 recipient of the Katherine F. Erskine Award for Arts and Culture.

Denise Kammerer-Cody, Federal Women's Program Manager, welcomed the audience and introduced the speaker. Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented McKinney Lydick with a certificate of appreciation for her service as keynote speaker for the event.



Contractors striping lanes at the Muddy River project in Boston.

Vehicular traffic and pedestrian changes on Brookline Avenue due to Muddy River Restoration project

**By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs**

Construction activities continue on Phase 1 of the \$30.9 million Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental Restoration project in Boston, Mass., and now involves a change in both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Brookline Avenue between the Riverway Connector and Park Drive will become one-way only headed inbound.

Traffic coming down Brookline Avenue or Boylston Street outbound that want to continue down Brookline Avenue to the medical center will need to travel around the rotary between Brookline Avenue, the Riverway and along Fenway. New traffic signals will be installed to ease the congestion that occurs when traffic traveling down Park Drive from Brookline tries to merge with traffic exiting the Riverway from Brookline.

A new pedestrian walkway has been constructed around the former Sears parking lot for pedestrian travel through the project area.

These changes are being made so that the installation of a culvert under Brookline Avenue can continue. There will be variable message boards that will assist drivers on how they should travel to be able to continue down Brookline Avenue outbound to the Longwood Medical Area. Police details will also be used to assist drivers during the initial stages of this traffic pattern change.

The one-way traffic will last about a year, but there will be movement of the Brookline Avenue lanes as the culvert work moves across Brookline Avenue.

For Muddy River project construction updates visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/MuddyRiver.aspx>.

Corps awards contract for Westville Lake, East Brimfield Lake project lands

**By Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs**

Debris and tree removal at the Westville Lake and East Brimfield Lake projects in Sturbridge and Southbridge, Mass., will be completed under the terms of a \$239,490 contract awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Debris removal work will be accomplished by Cook Forest Products, Inc. of Upton, Mass. Work is scheduled to start in late summer or early fall and take about 5 months to complete. The contract was awarded on April 29.

The work consists of the clearing and removal of downed, broken, and bent tornado-damaged trees, stump grinding, and the removal of trees, broken and dead branches and debris. The debris is the result of a 2011 tornado and other storm damage.

The project will be managed by the Corps and all work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.



Students from Tantasqua Regional High School install the 360 degree photo post along the Grand Trunk Trail.

Photos by Tom Chamberland

Photo documentary of East Brimfield tracks tornado damage recovery

Cameras are always welcome when visitors come to New England District projects. But now in addition to snapping photos for the family scrapbook, visitors can also use their cameras to help record the Grand Trunk Trail's vegetative recovery from the June 1, 2010 tornado.

"The Corps, in partnership with the Environmental Science Class at Tantasqua Regional High School, has allowed the placement of a 360 degree environmental awareness photo post along the Grand Trunk Trail in Brimfield, Mass., in the heart of the tornado zone," said Park Ranger Tom Chamberland. "Students over the next few years will be visiting the site and monitoring the photos as the area recovers."

Chamberland said that the Science Department at the high school came upon the 360 program as part of their research during a statewide envirothon competition last spring. The students asked permission to install the post, which was given by Project Manager Keith Beecher, and performed the work themselves. The post is one of three in the Sturbridge area that is part of the 360 monitoring program.

The picture post project allows visitors with digital cameras to become citizen scientists that monitor their local

environment. Participating is easy. Instructions on what pictures to take and how to take them are attached to the post. Once the visitor goes home after taking pictures, he or she can submit the photos to the picture post website. Participants are also able to view photos previously taken by other visitors. The picture post, which is being sponsored by the University of New Hampshire, is part of the Digital Earth Watch Network. According to their website, the network supports environmental monitoring by citizens, students and community organizations through digital photography and satellite imagery.

"Trail users are encouraged to stop and take photos aligning their camera to the top of the post and submit their photos on line to <http://picturepost.unh.edu>," said Chamberland.

The team at Westville Lake has a partnership with the school's science department. In addition to the 360 degree photo monitoring post, the team hosts dam tours for the science class twice a year and allows them to perform river water quality monitoring. Chamberland also assists the class with their forestry studies by taking them on a "tree walk" presentation.



David Lubianez shows off his retirement cake at Margarita's

Photo provided by Kathy Malnowski



Col. Charles Samaris presents David Lubianez with this Commander's Award for Civilian Service.



Mark Koenig tells a story before performing his song.



David Lubianez accepts a gift presented by Rose Schmidt from the audience.



Larry Cain belts out a tune.

Photos by Brian Murphy

District chemist retires after 30 years of service

About 40 people sat in the Concord Park Theatre to enjoy musical presentations that honored Senior Project Chemist David Lubianez and his 30 year career with the federal government, July 30. The performances and awards ceremony was the first of two parts in Lubianez's retirement celebration.

Rose Schmidt, Engineering/Planning, and Lubianez's supervisor, hosted the awards and musical presentations portion of the celebration. Co-worker Mark Koenig performed his original song, "The Shimadzu Blues." The song referred to an old analytical instrument used by Lubianez when he worked at the former New England District Laboratory out at Barre Falls, Mass.

The next musical number was performed by Larry Cain, who took the old Johnny Cash song, "Tennessee Flattop Box" and made his own "Working on his Chops."

"The song is about David's decades-long love of guitar picking, the hope is that he will seriously practice now that he has plenty of time on his hands, and how much we will miss his tendency to round up conspiracy theories and share them with his own special bon mots," said Cain.

Lubianez received a gift certificate to the Guitar Center and a bottle of Scotch from the audience.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented Lubianez with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service as well as his retirement certificate and pin. After the awards ceremony at Concord Park, celebrants traveled to Margarita's Restaurant in Lexington, Mass., for a lunch in Lubianez's honor.

Lubianez began his career with the Corps in New England in the early 1980's as a Bench Chemist at the former New England District Laboratory. After a brief absence, Lubianez returned to the lab in 1987 working up to the position of QA Chemist until the lab closed its doors in 1997. Lubianez packed up his beakers and Bunsen burners and transferred to the Murphy Federal Center in Waltham as a Project Chemist in Engineering/Planning's HTRW Branch, Chemistry and Geology Section until his retirement.

Lubianez's wife, Susan, son CJ, and daughter Katrina joined the retirement celebration at Margarita's. Retirees Yuri Yatsevitch, Phil Durgin and Raimo Liias also attended to wish Lubianez well.



Park Rangers and event participants prepare for a pre-Lewis and Clark weenie and marshmallow roast at West Hill Dam.

West Hill Dam presents Lewis and Clark campfire adventure

New England District Park Rangers are experts at putting on interpretative programs. So much so that they can hold them almost anywhere – even around a campfire.

West Hill Dam Park Ranger Viola Bramel led a Lewis and Clark Campfire event, Aug. 24 at the project. Forty eight people attended the two hour travel back into time to learn about the adventures of Capt. Meriwether Clark and 2nd Lt. William Clark, who took a two year trek from May 1804 to September 1806. The Lewis and Clark Expedition, also known as the Corps of Discovery, brought them across the western portion of the U.S., starting in St. Louis, Mo., and ending in Fort Clatsop, Ore., before returning the same way. During their adventure, which was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, the two men took extensive notes on what they discovered along the way.

Time travel takes a lot of energy,

so before the journey, Bramel and her assistant Park Ranger Shannon Schaefer and some of the adult participants helped the children build the fire for weenie and marshmallow roast-

ing and s'mores making. "Everyone pitches in to help build the fire – we don't eat until we all build it – just like the Corps Soldiers," said Bramel. "We make an inner safety ring and



Park Rangers Viola Bramel and Shannon Schaefer remove items from the Lewis and Clark discovery.

teach fire safety so the children can help too.”

Bramel said that after the snacks had been eaten and tummies were happy and full, the story began. The audience heard about President Jefferson’s vision for the nation, the purpose of the Discovery Team, the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase to include recording plants and animals found along the way. President Jefferson loved plants and animals according to Bramel. “The Corps Team brought back two live animals to President Jefferson,” she said.

Walking around the circle, Bramel walked around the fire, weaving her story of the really bad times on the trail as well as the good times. “I talked about the nights in camp, how they celebrated holidays, encounters with Native Americans and what their encounter with a grizzly bear was like,” she said.

Although the storytelling is an important part of the adventure, there is also a large interactive component. Participants got to touch and examine items such as animal pelts and children were able to try on hats and coats similar to those that Lewis and Clark would have worn in the early 1800’s. Questions were encouraged and Bramel, a 10-year veteran of the Lewis and Clark Campfire event, was only too happy to answer.

The campfire adventure ended with visitors picking a date – usually a birthday – and reading from the Lewis and Clark journal about what happened that day on the trail.

The Lewis and Clark Campfire events are held annually, typically the last Saturday of the month in June, July and August. According to Bramel, all of the campfire events are well-attended and Junior Rangers working on their Level 2 patches get a chance to earn their cultural



Photos by Kevin Burke

Park Ranger Shannon Schaefer assists participants.

resource points.

West Hill Dam is open year round and the Park Rangers hold special events throughout the year. Check

their website for an updated special events calendar at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Recreation/WHD/WHDEvents.pdf>.



A child tries on a uniform that Lewis and Clark would have worn in the 1800's.

Dredging up the past



John Wm. Leslie, (from left) Col. John Mason and George Sarandis glance at a picture of the Cliff Walk project in Newport, R.I., in this 1973 photo. The Corps in New England had submitted the project for a Chief of Engineers Distinguished Design Award in the landscape architecture category.

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