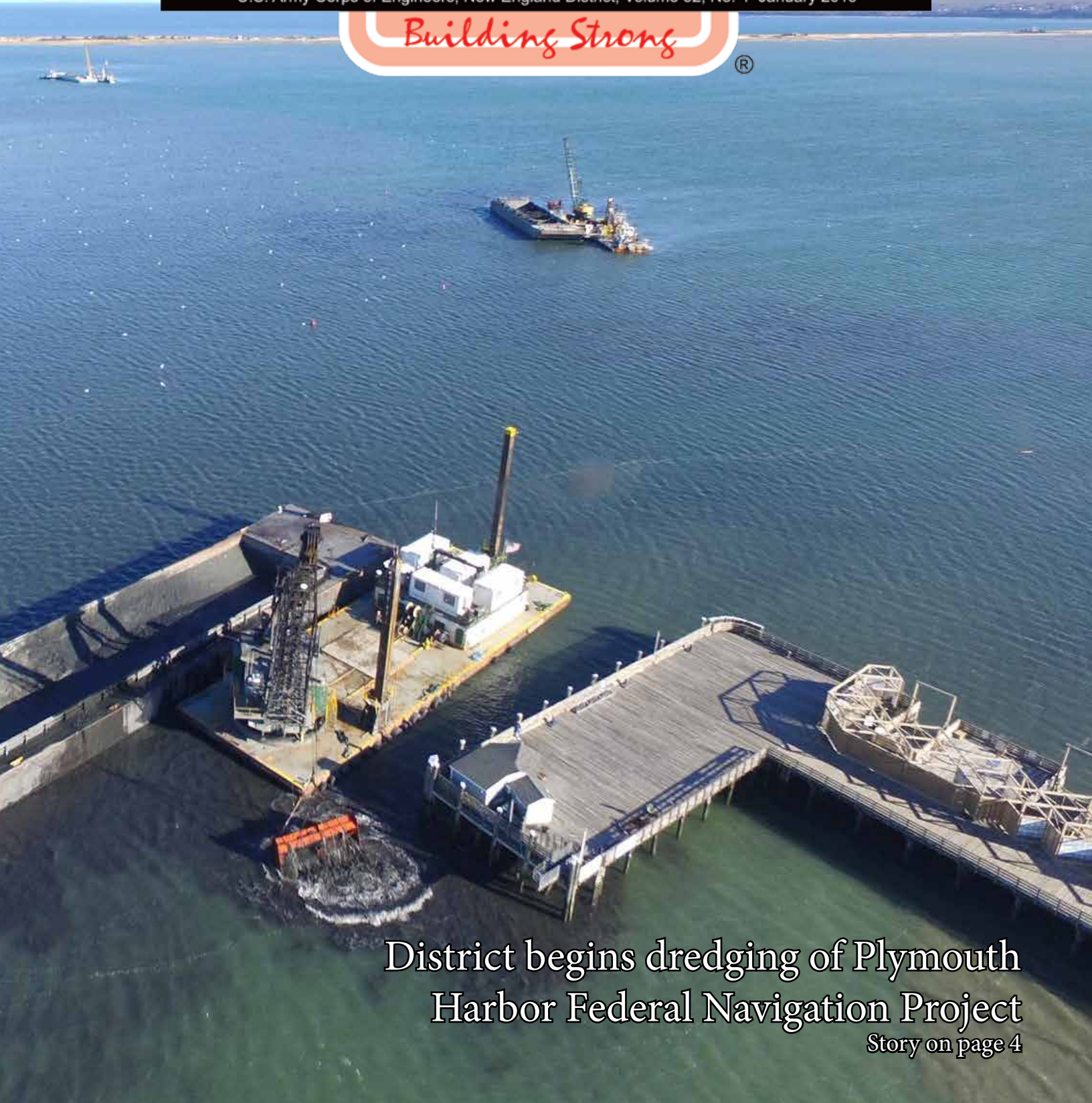




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Building Strong



District begins dredging of Plymouth Harbor Federal Navigation Project

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Yankee Voices



(from left) Tim Hays, Greg Lantz, Angie Vanaria, Bob Henderson and Donna Russell

Beware the hidden hazards of cold weather

Winter is full of unexpected hazards. As the cold weather continues, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Frostbite strikes fast. It can happen in a short amount of time, especially with children. That's because they lose body heat quickly, sometimes in as little as 20 minutes. Dress kids warmly, but don't overbundle.

- There's poison in the air. Carbon monoxide poisoning can often be mistaken for the flu—achiness, headache, and nausea. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, and can affect children before it affects adults. Be sure you check your furnace and other gas-, coal-, oil-, or wood-burning appliances to make sure they aren't generating any carbon monoxide.

- Ice can be deadly. We all know to walk carefully on icy roads and sidewalks. But walking-related injuries also stem from sliding and skidding vehicles that may not be able to avoid hitting someone. (First Draft Magazine)



Aerial view of West Hill Dam.

Access to West Hill Park in Uxbridge, Northbridge restricted on West Hill Road

by Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District manages and operates West Hill Park as part of the West Hill Lake and Dam Project in the towns of Uxbridge, Northbridge, Upton and Mendon, Massachusetts.

West Hill Park is open to visitors from mid-May through mid-September, offering a variety of recreational facilities, including a swim beach, picnic shelters and hiking access to the West River Trail.

Historically, West Hill Park has been accessed by visitors through the use of West Hill Road, a former public road. Regrettably, due to a property line dispute between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an adjacent landowner, access to West Hill Park is not available through West Hill Road.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is diligently working towards a resolution of this issue, with the goal of providing access to West Hill Park for the upcoming 2019 recreation season.

While this issue is being worked, visitors who are interested in accessing the West Hill Lake and Dam Project are encouraged to park at the West Hill Dam Project Office, located at 518 E. Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge, MA 01569. Access to West Hill Park and associated trails may be reached from that parking area.



Vineyard Wind seeks permit to construct off shore wind turbine generators off Martha's Vineyard

by Timothy J. Dugan

Public Affairs

Vineyard Wind, LLC is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District to conduct work in waters of the U.S. in conjunction with the construction up to 100 offshore wind turbine generators and the placement of cables off the coast of Martha's Vineyard and within Nantucket Sound in Massachusetts.

The Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) is the lead federal agency for this proposed project. The project is identified as Docket No. BOEM-20 18-0069. As the lead agency, the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The DEIS was issued and published in the federal register on Dec. 7, 2018. The DEIS is available for review at <https://www.boem.gov/Vineyard-Wind/>. Comments may be submitted directly to BOEM at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=B0EM-2018-0069>. This work is proposed in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Martha's Vineyard and within Nantucket Sound. Work regulated by the Corps will include the construction of up to 100 offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs), scour protection around the base of the WTGs, up to two electrical service platforms (ESPs), inter-array cables connecting the WTGs to the ESPs, inter-link cables between ESPs (if two ESPs are placed), and two offshore export cables within a single 23.3 mile route. The cable route will begin at the Vineyard Wind lease site OCS-A 0501, will either take the Western Muskeget Channel Route or the Eastern Muskeget Channel Route, and will make landfall at either Covell's Beach in Barnstable, Massachusetts or at New Hampshire Avenue in Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

The purpose of the proposed project, in regards to the Corps review, is the construction, maintenance, and operation of a commercial scale wind energy project and associated transmission lines for renewable energy generation and distribution to the Massachusetts energy grid.

The applicant has designed the Vineyard Wind Project to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. No impacts to onshore wetlands are proposed as part of the Vineyard Wind Project. In offshore areas where impacts to marine resources are unavoidable, the applicant has avoided all Corps-defined special aquatic sites including eelgrass beds, intertidal mud flats, coral reef complexes, etc.

Impacts are anticipated to consist of structures and temporary construction impacts with no permanent losses of waters of the U.S. Compensatory mitigation requirements are under consideration.



Photo courtesy of DOE

Vineyard Wind, LLC is seeking permission to construct wind turbines such as this.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EFH describes waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity. Further consultation with the NMFS regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted by the BOEM as the lead federal agency and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps 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 U.S.; and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in U.S. waters, including wetlands. The public notice, with more specifics on the proposed work, can be viewed on the Corps website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effect.

The Corps solicited comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. The Corps will consider all comments received to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal.

Public comments on the proposed work were accepted through Jan. 28.

District begins dredging of Plymouth Harbor Federal Navigation Project

Soon it will be smooth sailing for vessels wanting to enter Plymouth waters, as dredging to remove shoals from the Plymouth Harbor federal navigation project in Massachusetts is currently underway and on schedule.

The New England District and its contractor, Burnham Associates, of Salem, Massachusetts, are performing maintenance dredging on the nearly 400-year-old harbor to restore it to its authorized dimensions.

“Natural shoaling processes have reduced available depths to as little as 7 feet in the 18-foot main channel, 7 feet in the 15-foot channel and 4 feet in the 8-foot anchorage, making navigation hazardous at lower stages of the tide,” said New England District Project Manager Michael Walsh.

Plymouth Harbor is located in Plymouth Bay, about 18 miles north of the Cape Cod Canal. It is partially protected by Long Beach, a 3.6-mile long spit that extends along the harbor’s east side, giving Plymouth Harbor a V-shaped form. Plymouth’s place in history annually attracts hundreds of

recreational and transient boaters to the harbor, which is also a popular center for charter excursion and sport fishing boats.

New England District partially dredged the navigation project in 1988. The last full dredge took place in 1967.

Approximately 385,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from approximately 75 acres of authorized project area and will restore the project to its authorized dimensions. Burnham Associates successfully bid for the \$9.3 million project. Cashman Dredging of Quincy, Massachusetts and AGM Marine Contractors, Inc., of Mashpee, Massachusetts are the subcontractors for the project. The town of Plymouth is the local sponsor.

According to Walsh, approximately 41,000 cubic yards of the material being dredged is fine sand and will be used for a feeder berm in the nearshore of Green Harbor Beach.

“We always try to find a beneficial use for the dredged sand on our dredging projects,” Walsh explained. “Green Harbor was an approved

nearshore site and favored by the Commonwealth.”

The rest of the material is slated for open water disposal at the Cape Cod Bay Disposal site and the Massachusetts Bay Disposal site. So far, the contractor has dredged approximately 236,000 yards of material from the 15-foot areas, which have been cleared to their required depths. Work is currently being performed in the anchorage and will continue until Jan. 31.

Work began on Oct. 30, 2018 and the contractor is expected to work until the environmental window closes on Jan. 31. Walsh says the project is moving along as planned. “We expected that the work would go over two seasons,” said Walsh. “The contractor is doing a great job.”

Work will resume when the environmental window reopens on Oct. 1. The project is expected to be completed by the end of November, in plenty of time for Plymouth’s 400-year anniversary celebration planned by the town.



Dredging to remove shoals from the Plymouth Harbor federal navigation project is underway.

Photo by Michael Walsh



Repairs on the Bourne Bridge are set to begin in March or April.

File photo.

Travel lane restrictions planned for Bourne Bridge starting in late March or early April

By Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Office

Replacement of damaged roadway joints on the Bourne Bridge spanning the Cape Cod Canal in Bourne, Massachusetts, is planned to start in late March or early April and continue through the spring, just prior to Memorial Day weekend in May, according to New England District officials.

The work is weather dependent and crews will begin the work when the late winter weather allows. Work will be phased in such a way that should allow for all four traffic lanes to be opened prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

During the scheduled times for work, travel over the Bourne Bridge will be reduced from two lanes in each direction to one wider 12-foot lane in each direction. Signs, traffic control devices and police details will be used at all times work is being performed to assist the motoring public.

Motorists planning to use the Bourne Bridge during this time frame should be aware that travel delays are likely to occur during the morning and afternoon peak travel periods each day. All lanes on the Sagamore Bridge will remain open while work is occurring on the Bourne Bridge.

The Corps' construction contractor, R. Zoppo Corporation, of Stoughton, Massachusetts, will work 7 days a week with multiple shifts in order to complete this work in a timely manner.

Work will include the replacement of modular bridge joints on the roadway, repair of damaged steel and concrete supports, patching of damaged pavement surfaces, and replacement of deteriorated waterproofing membranes on the roadway curb and sidewalk. In addition, USACE work crews will conduct maintenance work on the bridge lighting systems during this time frame.

This bridge work is critical to maintaining the structural integrity of the bridge, which is a vital component to the transportation system of Cape Cod, the Islands and southeastern Massachusetts.

Traffic signs, message boards and bridge work alert emails will be used to help inform motorists about pending lane restrictions and bridge work. To sign up for bridge work alert emails send an email to CapeCodCanalBridges@usace.army.mil with the subject title "Bridge Work Alerts."

An email alert is sent when there is a major change to the bridge work status or schedule. Additionally, updates are available from the Corps' New England District via Facebook and Twitter: on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CorpsNewEngland>; on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CorpsNewEngland>. Or visit the District website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

ACE-IT Chief Lantz retires from New England District

Greg Lantz, Chief of ACE-IT at the New England District, retired from federal service in at the end of December. To commemorate his distinguished career, friends and co-workers gathered into the Concord Park cafeteria, December 19, for a casual pizza party in his honor.

Brian Murphy, ACE-IT, served as host for the official part of the retirement lunch. He told the audience that Lantz began life in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and his parents named him after the actor Gregory Peck. Murphy said that he has known Lantz since 2013. "He came in when the Sox were champs and he's departing when the Sox are champs," he said.

Lantz, according to Murphy, graduated college as an industrial engineer and then traveled to several locations in Germany including Heidelberg and Frankfurt to work for the U.S. Army from 1986 to 2007 performing IT Support. Murphy then played a video that was originally part of an interview he recorded when Lantz arrived, and part special effects to make the interview incredibly amusing and entertaining.

According to Murphy, Lantz returned to the United States following his time in Germany, traveling in 2007



Col. William Conde presents Greg Lantz with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Photos by Brian Murphy

to work at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Lantz came to the New England District in 2013 as Chief of ACE-IT. "Greg is an IT pro," said Murphy. "He's a hard working man."

Murphy concluded by saying that Lantz was very supportive, always asking him what he needed to get his job done, what jobs were coming up and reminding him of those jobs when the dates came near. "That helped me out in ways I cannot even begin to describe," said Murphy.

Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, said that there was a term of endearment in the Army called "siggo" which is the battalion or signal

officer. "Anything that has to do with a radio, a plug, or a computer and it gets screwed up, you just yell 'siggo,' and guys like Greg come running," he said. "We don't have those in the Corps, but Greg you are the closest thing that this District has had to a siggo. In the time that I have been here, Greg has been outstanding for me personally, the front office and the entire District."

Col. Conde thanked Lantz for his more than three decades of service to the nation and wished him well on the other side of retirement. "Keep your powder and your feet dry," he said.

The District Commander presented Lantz with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his exceptional service supporting the New England District, his retirement certificate, and a Commander's Coin.

Lantz received a digital frame as a gift from attendees. The frame held scanned versions of all the awards he received during his career and a few photos of some of his District friends.

When it was Lantz's turn to speak, he thanked Patricia Price, Cheryl Kassoy and Murphy for putting together the lunch and thanked Murphy for the funny videos and all of the Lantz Fun Facts placed on each table. He said he was not retiring because he did not



Greg Lantz speaks to the audience during his retirement lunch.

like his job, but because he had a goal to retire when he was eligible and could afford it. "One of my mottos is, 'Work to Live, Don't Live to Work,'" he said.

Lantz reminisced about his career with the Army and said he enjoyed what he did and the places he got to see. Some of his favorite memories included Christmas at the Vatican, seeing the Berlin Wall, the World's Fair in Hanover, Germany, the Olympics in Sydney, Australia and two presidential visits when they came to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Lantz began work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in January 2013 in his current position. Prior to the Corps, he worked for the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Command from 2009 - 2013 and U.S. Army Installation Command from 1986 - 2009.

Lantz worked for the U.S. Army in Heidelberg and Frankfurt, Germany from 1986 - 2007 performing IT support for various Installation Public Works Offices. In 2007, he returned to the U.S. and worked at the Directorate of Information Management, now Network Enterprise Center at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky in the Plans and Architecture Branch.

He is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, a former post officer and former Assistant Regional Vice President. He is also a member of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Lantz graduated in 1985 with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During his distinguished career, Lantz has received the Superior Civilian Service and Commanders' Civilian Service Awards from NETCOM and a Commander's Civilian Service Award from IMCOM.

Retirees who came to the lunch were Tim Hays, Angie Vanaria, Bob Henderson and Donna Russell.

West Hill volunteer receives National Volunteer Coin

Sometimes it is not enough to say "thank you" to someone who goes out of their way to make their community a better place -- someone who becomes an extension of a team, who is there when needed and is not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get dirty. The team at West Hill Dam has such a volunteer, whose selfless service deserved more than words of appreciation.

Linda Lestha spends much of her spare time volunteering at West Hill Dam when she is not running a full time oil business with her husband. The volunteer extraordinaire received a National Volunteer Coin, Dec. 9, 2018 during the annual Decorate a Tree for Wildlife at West Hill Dam in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. The West Hill Dam team knew that Lestha would never accept the coin from them, as she abhors any sort of recognition, so they had Girl Scout Troop 68406 from Douglas, Massachusetts present it to her. Two Cub Scout Packs along with Junior Rangers, Advanced Junior Ranger Bridgett and many regular visitors witnessed the presentation. "I knew she wouldn't run away from the Girl Scouts," said West Hill Dam Park Ranger Viola Bramel.

Bramel coordinated with Natalie McCormack, Operations, to get the coin for Lestha. The Volunteer Coin is provided through the USACE Volunteer Program. In order for her to be eligible for the coin, Lestha had to have volunteered 150 hours of her time. According to Bramel, she more than qualified. "She has staffed every major exhibit with me for a while now," she said.

Bramel said that Lestha, who sought out volunteer work at West Hill in September 2017, often arrives an hour in advance of a program to

load vehicles or set up the exhibits. "She has staffed the Uxbridge Town Fair, Blackstone Valley Safety Fair, Whitinsville Kids Safety and Park Fair and the Milford Disability Awareness and Resource Fair to name a few," she said.

When not out with Park Rangers at public events to promote the Corps mission, Lestha is at West Hill assisting with the many onsite programs that the project hosts year-round. According to Bramel, she has participated in every annual campfire event to include the Lewis and Clark and the Halloween Story campfires. To make it a more entertaining experience for the younger attendees, she dresses in costume for the Annual Halloween Story Campfire.

One of the largest annual events at West Hill Dam is the National Public Lands Day. It is an event when volunteers come to the project and participate in cleanup and improvement projects. Bramel said that if projects were not finished due to time constraints, Lestha would either stay later or return the same weekend to complete them. An avid bird watcher, she takes her experience and shares it with West Hill's Junior Rangers when they participate in the annual Backyard Bird Count that Cornell University hosts at the project.

In addition to her service with the Corps of Engineers, Lestha volunteers with the National Park Service, Blackstone Corridor National Park and is a volunteer member of the Uxbridge Emergency Operations team, working with the Fire Department as an EMT. She also served her country faithfully in the U.S. Air Force.

"Volunteers like Linda are an invaluable asset, not just to West Hill Dam but to the entire Corps of Engineers," said Bramel. "With their help, we can keep our projects clean and beautiful for future generations."

Dredging up the past



Photo by Mark McInerney

Mike Tuttle addresses the audience at the Malden River Project Agreement Signing Ceremony at the Massachusetts Electric Offices in Malden, Massachusetts in this Jan. 15, 2003 photo.

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