



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
New England District
Vermont Project Office
11 Lincoln, Room 210
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: June 24, 2014
Comment Period Ends: July 10, 2014
File Number: NAE-2009-2555
In Reply Refer To: Marty Abair
Phone: (802) 872-2893
E-mail: Martha.a.abair@usace.army.mil

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below.

APPLICANT: Vermont Agency of Transportation, ATTN: Guy Rouelle, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vermont 05633

ACTIVITY: Place fill in a total of 3.68 acres of wetlands adjacent to unnamed tributaries to the Barton River and South Bay of Lake Memphremagog in conjunction with the construction of runway and taxiway extensions, safety area improvements, and new landside facilities at the Newport State Airport off Airport Road in Coventry, Vermont. About 0.74 acre of wetland will be temporarily impacted during the removal of an existing powerline, and approximately 38.43 acres of forested wetland will be cleared to comply with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77, *Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace*. A Public Notice with a detailed description and plans of the activity was published on April 8, 2014 and can be viewed at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/NAE-2014-00251.pdf>.

The applicants originally proposed to compensate for unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S. of the proposed project by making a payment to the Ducks Unlimited – Vermont In-Lieu Fee Program. Since issuance of the original Public Notice, the applicants have revised their proposed mitigation plan to include the following measures in addition to payment into the In-Lieu Fee Program:

- Tree clearing areas within airport property will be actively managed to maintain a healthy scrub-shrub vegetation community for the longer term future.
- Certain croplands, mostly non-wetland, will be allowed to revert to shrub cover, thereby contributing to an existing wildlife corridor.
- VTrans will also secure an agreement with an adjacent 66-acre parcel to maintain that parcel in forest cover in perpetuity, thus preserving a portion of the existing wildlife corridor.

The work is described on the enclosed plans, in two sheets, entitled “NEWPORT STATE AIRPORT PROPOSED FOREST PRESERVATION PARCEL” and “NEWPORT STATE AIRPORT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AREAS”, dated “JUNE 2014”).

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK:

This work is proposed in wetlands adjacent to unnamed tributaries to the Barton River and South Bay of Lake Memphremagog off Airport Road in Coventry, Vermont (Latitude 44.8860387° N; Longitude 72.2265718° W).

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
- Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

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 effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting 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. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project site. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect any Federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. By this Public Notice, we are requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency concur with our determination.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- () Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.


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In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Marty Abair at (978) 318-8484 or (802) 872-2893.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

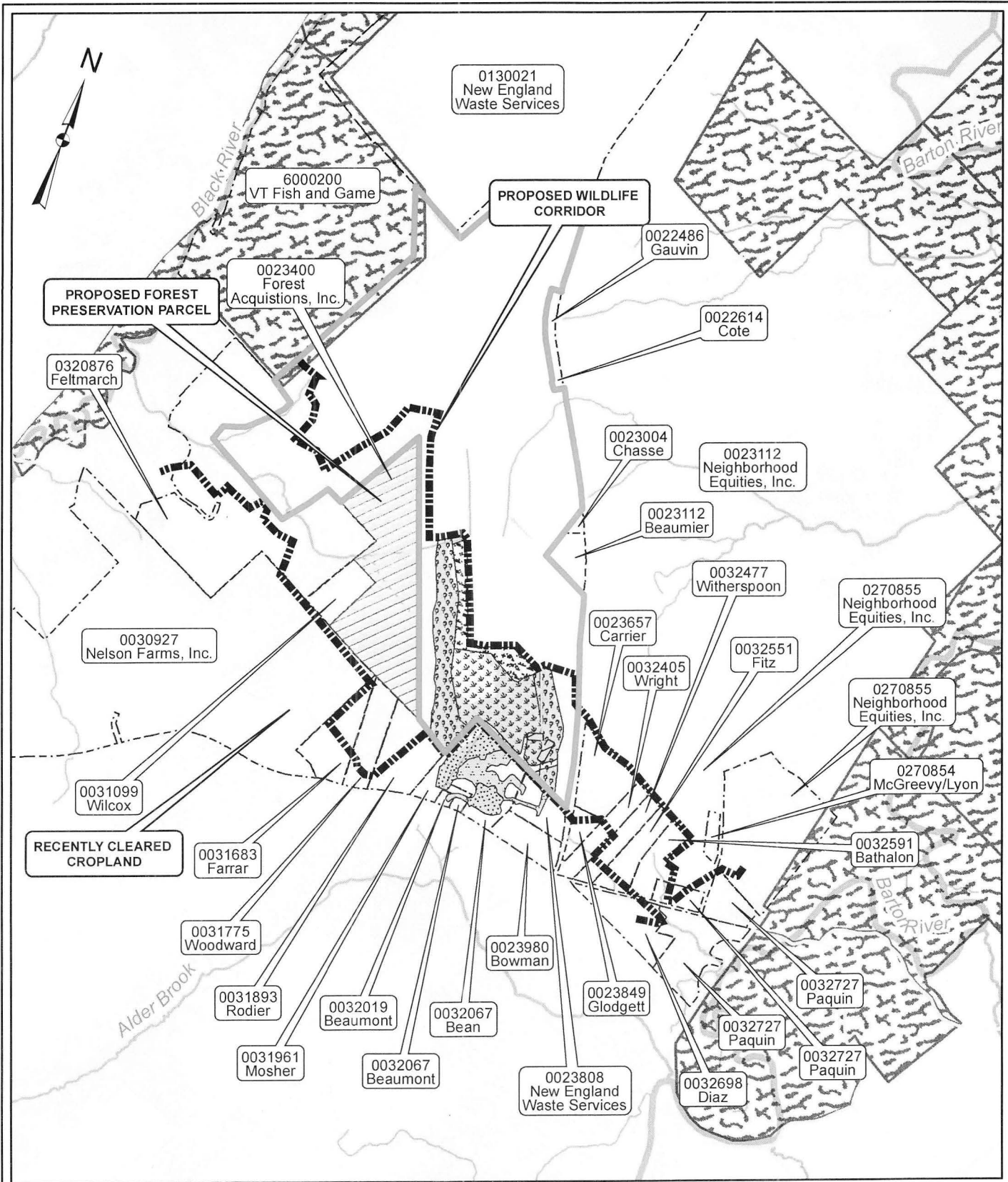
The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.


Frank J. DelGiudice
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

- Airport Property Line
- South Bay Wildlife Management Area
- Tree Clearing
- Streams
- Tall Shrub
- Short Shrub
- Tall Meadow
- Grass (Septic Field)
- Clear and Cut Flush
- Clear and Grub

NEWPORT STATE AIRPORT
COVENTRY, VT

PROPOSED FOREST PRESERVATION PARCEL

SCALE: 1:24,000	DATE: JUNE 2014	FIGURE: 3A
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Airport Property Line

Proposed Fence

Proposed Runway Extension

Proposed Service Road

Runway Safety Area

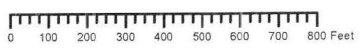
Existing Service Road

Runway Object Free Area

FAR PART 77 Non-Precision Approach Surface

FAR PART 77 Transitional Surface

FAR PART 77 Transitional Surface



- Airport Property Line
- ~ Wetland
- - - Wetland Buffer
- █ Tree Clearing
- █ Tall Shrub
- █ Short Shrub
- █ Tall Meadow
- ▨ Grass (Septic Field)
- █ Clear and Cut Flush
- █ Clear and Grub

NEWPORT STATE AIRPORT
COVENTRY, VERMONT

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

SCALE: 1:6,000	DATE: JUNE 2014	FIGURE: 4
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