

Frequently Asked Questions of the NE Corps of Engineers on the Remedial Project

Why after so long is this work being conducted now?

This project, like many others nation-wide, has been programmed to have a Remedial Investigation performed; however limited annual budgets only allows the Corps to conduct a few of these projects each year. This project has been given priority funding due to the awareness of munitions being exposed as a result of the trench cut the Tisbury Great Pond Sewers make in the barrier beach several times each year to lower the elevation of the pond. Since the Corps was conducting further investigation of both South Beach and Cape Poge following Time Critical Removal Actions performed last year, the Tisbury Great Pond was added and will be executed at the same time as the Remedial Investigation at South Beach and Cape Poge.

When will the survey investigations begin?

The survey work at all three sites on Martha's Vineyard (South Beach, Cape Poge and Tisbury Great Pond) will run from approximately October 2010 through Spring of 2012.

How will the geophysical survey be done?

Upland areas - Our contractor will walk transects over the land area carrying a hand held metal detector for an initial survey; based on these findings a more detailed survey on 100 foot by 100 foot grids will be conducted using a larger EM 61 coil mounted in a push cart.

On the beach – Our contractor will use a larger EM 61 array towed behind a small ATV to survey the transects; based on these findings, a more detailed survey on 100 by 100 foot grids will be conducted using the EM 61 coil mounted in a push cart.

In the pond: Our contractor will use a small boat towing an underwater EM 61 array to perform the transect survey. In shallow water, and to survey the grids, a diver using a hand-held EM 61 will perform the surveys.

In the Ocean: Our contracted divers will walk along transects with a hand held magnetometer.

Why will a towed array be used to survey beach transects?

The towed array uses a small ATV similar to that used by TToR and lifeguards. Because the beach is so dynamic, the survey must be performed around the tide cycles. The towed array uses low ground pressure tires to minimize disturbance to the beach, and allows data to be collected quickly reducing the amount of time required to be spent on the beach.

Will you return all land disturbances to their original state?

The technical approach for this work was designed to minimize disturbance to the land. A minimal clearing of brush may be required on land during the transect survey. For transects, brush will be cleared using hand held brush cutters to a height of less than 6". The transects will go around larger trees and man-made structures. For the 100 foot square grids undergoing more detailed survey, a combination of hand held equipment and a brush cutter mounted on a small bobcat will be used. As with the transects, large trees and man made structures will be avoided.

What happens if something metallic is found during the survey?

After the geophysical survey is completed, we will further investigate a percentage of the buried metallic objects to confirm what they are: ordnance, cultural debris or hot rocks. If we find ordnance we will remove it. The technical approach for this work was designed to minimize disturbance to the dune areas. We will backfill any holes and return the land to its original condition/landscape. In some areas we will also take soil and/or sediment samples. This will be done using hand tools.

This investigation will determine if future actions at the sites are warranted, such as Long Term Monitoring, surface water and/or groundwater sampling, sampling of existing wells and/or installation of monitoring wells, and/or a removal of ordnance. Land owner notification will occur prior to entering the property for each phase of any additional work.

Will I have access to my property while you are working?

For your safety and the safety of our workers, during intrusive operations an exclusion zone of a 200 foot radius will be placed around the areas where we are investigating potential hazards. If a "live item" is located, the exclusion zone will be reevaluated and could be expanded based on the type of item found. The maximum time we anticipate being on any one property is two days. Please note, the exclusion zone around a work area could extend to other properties based on the size of the property we are working on. So, an investigation on a neighbor's property may have an exclusion zone that impacts your property. Please know that all individuals who are working on this project are trying to minimize disturbances to property and people while maximizing safety.

What is Long Term Monitoring and what does it entail?

Long Term Monitoring, in this case 60 months (5 years), means the government is responsible to return to the area to monitor the conditions regarding ordnance to ensure the protection of the public. This may include posting and maintenance of signs, informing the public that ordnance may be present and what to do should they encounter it. This may also include annual training for employees working in the area (lifeguards, rangers, etc.) and potentially responding to munitions items that show up within the project boundaries.

What should I do if I was to locate a suspicious item?

When encountering a suspected munitions item, the public should immediately follow the three R's;

- Recognize the object as potentially hazardous,
- Retreat from the area without touching or moving the object, and
- Report the object immediately to the local police by calling 911.

Why do you need Rights of Entry (ROE) to my Property for 5 years?

The five year term, or 60 months, will keep the project moving forward without significant delay and associated costs of having to re-acquire rights of entry every 1 to 2 to 3 years for over 200 residents. Please do remember that there will be 7-14 day notification by the contractor to landowners prior to entering the property areas for each phase of work.

Will there be any public meetings about this work?

Several public briefings have taken place to:

- 1) inform the public of the work to be performed under the Remedial Investigation, and
- 2) facilitate the process of acquiring rights of entry.

Who should I contact if I would like more detail about this project?

If you would like to gain more information or have questions or concerns contact the Project Manager, Ms. Carol Ann Charette, at the US Army Corps of Engineers New England District by calling 978-318-8605(office) / 978-505-2918 (cell) or via email at carol.a.charette@usace.army.mil.

Where do I send the signed right of entry?

Via email, send the Right of Entry to MVROE@usace.army.mil

Or send via US mail the **original signed** right of entry to:

US Army Corps of Engineers New England District
696 Virginia Road, ATTN: CENAE-PP-M (Nathaniel Smith)
Concord, MA 01742

A fully executed/signed copy (signed by the Corps' Real Estate Office) of the Right of Entry will be sent back to each resident for their records.