

**Community Advisory Council to the
Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts
October 5, 2016
5:30 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2016
2. Environmental and Readiness Center Update
3. Natural Resources Update
4. Proposed Changes Environmental Performance Standards
5. Massachusetts Army National Guard – Natural Resources and ITAM Program
A proposal to revise Environmental Performance Standard (EPS) 2.7 (seasonal road closures)
6. Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project Western Segment, Phases I and II Hydrostatic Testing Procedures.

Agenda Item #1. Chairperson's Comments

Community Advisory Council (CAC) Chair, Mr. Harding, welcomed everyone.

Agenda Item #2: Review of CAC Meeting Minutes

The May 4, 2016 CAC meeting minutes were reviewed and Mr. Cole motioned to accept the meeting minutes. Ms. Valiela seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Massachusetts National Guard Current Activities – MAJ John Bagaglio, Environmental Program Manager, MANG

MAJ Bagaglio discussed staffing changes within the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG): LTC Richard Bertone is the new Administrative Officer at Camp Edwards; the new Deputy Commander of Camp Edwards is LTC Shawn Cody, and the new Camp Edwards Commander is LTC (promotable) Patrick Keefe.

MAJ Bagaglio discussed the status of the Bourne Landfill leachate connection. The MAARNG is granting the Town of Bourne an easement to connect to the 102nd Intelligence Wing's (IW's) Wastewater Treatment Plant. Legislation was passed to remove the easement from Article 97 lands, and the MAARNG is finalizing requirements. The proposed Eversource Substation status is to have an easement realigned to add the substation on the northwestern part of the base with the least amount of natural resources mitigation.

MAJ Bagaglio explained that the Draft Pilot Period Close Out Report for Juliet, Kilo and Tango Ranges is complete and was submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) on August 31, 2016, along with the request to modify Administrative Order 2 to end the pilot period for the STAPP ranges, allow for their continued use, lift the prohibition on live fire (small arms) and pyrotechnics, and recognized the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Environmental Management Commission (EMC) as the oversight body for small arms range activity and development on Camp Edwards. The US EPA will hold a 30-day public comment period on the request from October 6 to November 5. The request will be on the agenda at the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) Cleanup Team meeting on October 12, 2016.

MAJ Bagaglio reported that the toe berm box replacement is complete. A notice to proceed was issued to the contract on September 27 for the Juliet Range periodic metals removal project. The contractor will have 90 days to begin cleanout of the STAPP system. A preconference is scheduled for next week.

Decommissioning Tango Range is planned as a Fiscal Year 2017 project. It will be put out to bid this fall. After decommissioning, the range will be used for copper ammunition.

The construction contract for Echo Range has been awarded, and a notice to proceed will be issued when final EMC approval is granted. Preconstruction sampling on the range is complete and will be provided when received. The EMC's final approval is contingent on the completion of the US EPA process. A draft Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring plan is complete.

Mr. McCumber provided an update on the activities of the Natural Resource Program from April to October 2016. He reported that during the summer mist netting, two Northern Long Eared bats were caught; one was tracked to two roosts near Exit 2 on Route 6. An intensive acoustic effort was conducted throughout the base. Fourteen detectors were rotated through. The program also conducted Fall swarm/hibernacula netting, catching one Northern Long Eared bat, which was tracked to two roosts—a house at Exit 3 and one building on base. The program continues to work with the New England Coordination Group.

Mr. McCumber reported that the program will use detection dog surveys in an attempt to improve detection efficiency when looking for New England cottontails. They continue to complete annual surveys of vernal pools, breeding birds and Lepidoptera. For their rare plant surveys, the program has collaborated with the state botanist and is revising protocol and priorities, which affects numbers reported in the annual State of the Reservation Report. The program is conducting a grassland bird migration study; they recaptured 10 out of 30 geolocator Grasshopper Sparrows and deployed satellite transmitters on Eastern Meadowlarks and Upland Sandpipers. He said that the program is also in the second year of rare moth surveys (updating the 1997/1998 effort). There is a new state endangered moth species: Drunk Apamea moth (*Apamea inebriate*).

Mr. McCumber displayed a map of the migratory paths of two Upland Sandpipers equipped with satellite transmitters. Ms. Valiela asked if Puerto Rico was included in the study. He said that the transmitter transmitted a location point on the south side of Puerto Rico.

Mr. McCumber said that the cold weather in the spring limited the spring burning season. Thirty-six acres were burned in April/May. There was a wildfire on the IBC range in late July; 120 acres were burned, with 150 firefighters from Southeastern Massachusetts responding to the wildfire over two weeks. The annual Camp Edwards Fall Wildland Fire training was held for 80 participants.

Mr. McCumber reported on the program's restoration efforts, including rehabilitation of BP 1, grassland management collaborations and meetings, a forestry plan (OP 1-4), improvement of cottontail habitat, 2017 tree removal and early successional habitat improvement, Demo 1 habitat maintenance quality, and fall/spring fire preparation.

The program is working closely with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) and Camp Edwards on hunting, he said. During the spring turkey season, there were 84 hunter days with 11 turkeys harvested. The dates for the fall deer hunts are: Youth: October 1, Paraplegic: November 3-5, Scouting: November 8-9, Archery: November 12 and November 14-15, Military: December 1-2, Shotgun: December 5-10, and Muzzleloader: December 16-17.

Mr. Cole ask about the implications of the three bats, two of which were off base and traveled onto the base. Mr. McCumber replied that there are regulatory implications for finding bats on base if roosts are found on site. There would be separate restrictions with buffers and that would drive consultations with USFWS. Housing is exempt from the Endangered Species Act.

Mr. Harding asked about the distance and travel time for the grasshopper sparrow. Mr. McCumber replied that the grasshopper sparrow has a tiny recorder; however, there's no geolocator data available yet. Sandpipers covered the entire coastline in five days.

Mr. Pinaud asked if there were any deer taken at the Youth Hunt on October 1. Mr. McCumber replied that two deer were taken.

Agenda Item #4: Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project Western Segment, Phases I and II Hydrostatic Testing Procedures – Luke Macdonald, National Grid

Mr. Macdonald gave a summary of the Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project. The project, 13.1 miles total, has gone through comprehensive environmental review; approvals were received in 2006, and subsequent modifications for project re-alignment and hydrostatic testing were approved in 2012. Construction of eastern Segment, Phases I and II (4.4 miles), started in September 2015 and is nearing completion. A hydrostatic test of the segment is currently scheduled for late October 2016.

Mr. Macdonald outlined the basics of Phases I and II of the Western Segment. Both phases are located within the Town of Sandwich, and are located within the 100-foot-wide Service Road layout, except for a short segment west of Route 130 at the National Grid take station. In total, there's 23,000 feet of 20 inch diameter welded steel pipe. The interior of the pipe is bare steel; every pipeline weld is checked during installation by radiographic inspection, and the integrity of the entire pipeline section is later confirmed through hydrostatic testing.

Mr. Macdonald explained the hydrostatic testing procedures. There is pre-test cleaning of the pipe interior with a cleaning or scarifying "pig" to remove welding slag, rust, and any soil that may have been introduced during construction. Test water will be drawn from Town of Sandwich municipal water supply and pumped into a series of Frac tanks near the National Grid take station which will provide reservoir capacity for the hydrostatic test. The pipeline will then be filled with approximately 380,000 gallons of test water, pressurized to approximately 860 psig, and monitored for 24 hours for any leaks. After completion of the hydrostatic test, the test water will be pushed back directly into the Frac tanks by air pressure applied at the far end of the pipeline. The discharge will then be directed through filter bags that will be placed within two 30' by 30' dewatering basins to be installed on the National Grid pipeline right-of-way near the northeast corner of JBCC. The test-water will be discharged over land at a target rate that will allow for infiltration.

Mr. Macdonald discussed the mitigation of potential environmental impacts. They will conduct pre-test sampling and analysis for VOCs and SVOCs, and pre- and post-hydrostatic test chemical analysis for possible contaminants in the test water, with no discharge of test water without explicit approval from JBCC. Mr. Macdonald explained the dewatering best management practices. The test water will be discharged at a controlled rate using a flow meters, and the discharged test water will be directed through filter bags placed within redundant dewatering basins with overland dispersion to topographic basins. National Grid will have staff on site at all times to ensure that the discharge of hydrostatic test water is released in a controlled manner avoiding environmental impacts. After the pipeline is depressurized, the hydrostatic test water will be sampled from the pipeline at purge valves that are located at approximately one-mile intervals. There will be no discharge of test water without prior review and approval of post-test lab results by JBCC. Mr. Macdonald said there is a contingency plan if JBCC disallows overland discharge, then the used test water will be pumped back into the Frac tanks and shipped off site by Clean Harbors to an US EPA-approved treatment facility.

Mr. Vitacco asked what if there was a problem. Mr. Macdonald replied that National Grid would go to that area where there was a pressure problem and replace the pipe if necessary. Mr. Vitacco inquired about pressure testing. Mr. Macdonald replied that there are weekly meetings with Sandwich Department of Public Works to review the project and the process of pressure testing the line.

Ms. Valiela asked if the entire pipeline is tested at once or in sections. Mr. Macdonald replied that the entire pipeline is tested at once. Ms. Valiela asked how can a leak be identified? Mr. Macdonald replied when the pipe is tested, water is added and pressurized to 850 PSI. A pressure gage will show if the pressure is staying constant for 8 to 12 hours. If the pressure fluctuates there are issues and it will be monitored.

Mr. Harding stated that the welding is done and checked/signed off, but asked how pipelines come together—what is the process? Mr. Macdonald replied that starting on Route 130/Service Road, a 20 inch steel pipe with 40 foot sections is welded, verified by a third party and a National Grid representative overseeing that party before signing off.

Mr. Vitacco said he recalls that the pipeline is segmented in several sections. Ms. Valiela noted it is 4.4 miles with 560 welds. Ms. Blanch, National Grid representative, stated that there's a number of valves which can be shut down to section it off if there was a leak. Mr. Cole asked what is interval between the pressure valves within the 4.4 miles. Ms. Blanch stated that she will check on the standard interval between the pressure valves. Mr. Cole asked how long is a section? Mr. Macdonald stated that a section is approximately one mile.

Mr. Pinaud referred to Slide 8, Hydrostatic Test Water Discharge Aerial Photograph, and said that water will be discharged in a location on the Reserve boundary and on the line of Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) property. The pipeline is located on Service Road, and National Grid has requested to discharge water within their easement, which is inside the Reserve. In order to do that, the EPSs must be satisfied, he said. National Grid needs permission from the EMC to discharge the water. Mr. Pinaud explained that groundwater is flowing off the Reserve, and the area is not within Zone I of any water supply well and not within the traditional zone of contribution for any water supply well. He said that the EPSs state that the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve should be treated as a Zone II to protect the water resource. The water supply that is being used for the hydrostatic test will come from Sandwich Water District that has been tested, and will go through the pipeline and be stored in Frac tanks. There is a possibility for the water to pick up contaminants, he said. The concern is that the water discharged into the Reserve isn't contaminated with anything.

Mr. Pinaud said that four EPSs apply in this case. The first, Groundwater Resources Performance Standards, states that all actions must preserve and maintain groundwater quality and quantity and protect recharge areas and existing and potential water supply wells--which isn't within any current Zone II for any of the Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative wells or any of the Town of Sandwich wells, and the groundwater is going off the Reserve. The second standard is Soil Conservation Performance Standard, which states that activities and uses must be compatible within the limitations of underlying soils, and limitations on uses and activities may be made where the soils or conditions would not support the activity. The MAARNG and the Environmental & Readiness Center found that the proposed discharge location could handle the amount of water being proposed. Erosion was considered with volume and rate of discharge and that wasn't going to cause any erosion or degradation of the plant life. Endangered species were reviewed for bats and rabbits with no concerns. EPS 13.1 states that if wastewater is going to be discharged, permission is needed from the federal and state government. MassDEP groundwater discharge specialists stated that it is technically industrial wastewater. MassDEP said that if National Grid was able to come up with a sampling plan for the appropriate analytes before the water is discharged, and if the water didn't contain any contaminants, then there wouldn't be a need for any discharge permit. EPS 18.1 states that all acts that pollute the groundwater supply are prohibited. He said that with the EPSs, the project is approvable with the right conditions in accordance with the EPSs. He noted that discharging into catch basins was not possible because they drain to the wetland. The alternative would be to dispose of the water as industrial wastewater.

Mr. Harding inquired about the timeline. Mr. Pinaud replied that National Grid had wanted to conduct the test in July, but that has been delayed. Their deadline to conduct the test is next week.

Mr. Prohett asked if the discharge is outside of the 400 foot radius of the pump station on Route 130. Mr. Pinaud replied yes. Mr. Prohett said that it appears to be close and may be a concern. Mr. Pinaud will check. Ms. Valiela asked if the discharge is upstream, downstream or lateral. Mr. Prohett replied it would be downstream, but if it's within the 400 foot radius, it could be drawn in and would be a concern.

Mr. Cole stated that contaminants could get inside the pipe before the water testing is done during the construction or welding process. Mr. Pinaud stated that there is a plan to sample the water while in the pipeline.

Mr. Harding stated that National Grid has been very responsive to all the concerns and is in close contact with Mr. Pinaud. He recommended voting on approval contingent of the Science Advisory Council's (SAC's) approval. Ms. McConnell stated that the CAC does rely on the SAC's expertise and recommends the same.

Mr. Pinaud said that it's not necessarily up for a vote, but suggested feedback for the record. Mr. Harding recommended that the CAC not vote, but allow the SAC to vote. Ms. Valiela stated that the CAC comments are on the record and a copy of the minutes should be given to the SAC so that they are aware of the CAC's discussion.

Agenda Item #5: Environmental Performance Standards, Proposed Modification to EPS 2.7, EPS 15.3.3, and the General Standard – MAJ Bagaglio, and Ms. Annie Curtis, Natural Resource Planner, MANG

MAJ Bagaglio gave a summary of the process for adjusting the Environmental Performance Standards. Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002: An act relative to the environmental protection of the Massachusetts Military Reservation Section 10 (d): After consultation with the Science Advisory Council and the Community Advisory Council, the commission may adjust environmental performance standards based upon sound and accepted scientific analysis, monitoring data and other relevant information. The proponent of any adjustment shall bear the burden of justifying the proposed adjustment and demonstrating the proposed adjustment is protective of the drinking water supply and wildlife habitat. If the commission determines that a proposed adjustment may be warranted and does not significantly reduce the standard of environmental protection, it shall publish a notice of availability of the proposed adjustment to the environmental performance standards in the *Environmental Monitor* published by the executive office of environmental affairs, furnish copies to all members of the community advisory council and the science advisory council, and accept public comment for a period of at least 30 days following the publication date. Thereafter, the proposed environmental performance standard will become effective on a date determined by the commission.

The MAARNG is proposing change to EPS 2.7, which states: During the period of 1 March to 15 June, roads within 500 feet of all wetlands will be closed to vehicle access to protect the migration and breeding of amphibians, with the following exceptions. It is proposing a change to the General Standard, which states: "None of the following banned military training activities shall be allowed in the Camp Edwards Training Areas: Vehicle refueling outside designated Combat Service Area and Fuel Pad Locations." Finally, it proposes changing EPS 15.3.3, which states: "No storage or movement of fuels for supporting field activities, other than in vehicle fuel tanks, will be permitted except in approved containers no greater than five gallons in capacity."

Ms. Curtis said the current EPS 2.7 states: During the period of 1 March to 15 June, roads within 500 feet of all wetlands will be closed to vehicle access to protect the migration and breeding of amphibians, with the following exceptions: The primary roads – Frank Perkins, Burgoyne, Gibbs, and Greenway Roads will not normally be closed during this period. Emergency response and environmental management activities will not be restricted.

Ms. Curtis said the proposed revision is: During the period of 01 March to 01 May, listed roads/trails within 500 feet of wetlands will be closed to vehicle access to protect the migration and breeding of amphibians. Emergency response and environmental management activities will not be restricted. Donnelly and little half-way ponds maneuver trails (excluding the permanently closed section along the eastern edge of Donnelly Pond) from Frank Perkins Road north to Wood Road. Red Maple Swamp trail from Wood Road north and east to Avery Road. Orchard and Jefferson Roads (continuous) from Cat Road south and east to Burgoyne Road. Maneuver trail(s) in powerline easement north of Gibbs Road from Goat Pasture Road west to the boundary of training areas C-13 and C-14. Grassy Pond trail (side access to S Range) from Gibbs Road south to Sierra Range. Sandwich Road from the powerline easement north to the gas pipeline right of way. Bypass Bog/M Range Road from entrance to M Range south and west to Greenway Road.

Ms. Curtis displayed the figure of Average Amphibian Capture Rates: and stated that the figure shows the increase and then steady decrease of amphibians--spotted salamander and wood frog--from March 1 through June 15. Moving the date to May 1 would be protective of all the amphibians because migration is happening before that timeframe.

Ms. Curtis displayed the Scientific Literature Review: Paton and Crouch 2002. She noted that 99 percent of population has left by May 1.

Ms. Curtis reviewed the key components of the proposed EPS 2.7 change. The closure dates would change from 1 March to 15 June to the proposed dates of 1 March to 1 May. It will define roads with seasonal closures; no new or fewer road closures; extends two sections and is required for consistency. The proposed standard is protective of adult migrating amphibians and allows for key training activities.

Ms. Curtis said that the MAARNG requests that the SAC and CAC advise the EMC to approve the proposed revision to the EPS 2.7.

Mr. Coles asked if the Paton and Crouch reference shows migrating activity in the diagram and was there a barrier along the bottom. Ms. Curtis replied yes but it does not differentiate whether the animals are coming or going. The bottom is low frequency zero capture. Ms. Valiela is not sure that nothing was captured because the average diagram clearly indicates that something was captured May into June, which ties into the spots on the bottom. Ms. Curtis referred to the diagram in June. Ms. Valiela said there is some capture in June. Ms. Curtis said that indicates metamorphs, but the focus is on the adults.

Mr. Cole asked why the 15 June date was chosen originally. Mr. McCumber replied they originally defaulted to extra protection, lacking data.

Ms. McConnell asked what difference the change makes overall for military training. COL Magurn replied that it allows for a higher degree of predictability for one of the military's highest use periods. The training guidance for next year has been published to the state commanders who are planning their training. The high use period is the second week of June but starts as early as the end of May. By eliminating a certain amount of ambiguity, commanders can make more positive plans in terms of how to plan out, and training events can be conducted.

Ms. Valiela stated that being able to plan is positive and June 15 was originally a conservative decision, however moving it to May 1 is not conservative because some springs tend to be later; a margin of error should be left. Currently there is a window of three and half months and the MAARNG is asking to go to two months. She said the cut off should be May 15, which leaves time for higher activity but is protective of differences in springtime and will protect against animals that are still moving.

Ms. Curtis stated that the data is over an eight year period and shows it is 95% -99% protective.

Ms. McConnell stated that the extra two weeks may be important in some years and the MAARNG could still plan training. COL Magurn said that the requested change supports some work arounds and cutoffs.

Ms. Valiela said that she feels the proposed date is being trimmed back too much and she would be supportive of May 15.

Mr. Cole asked if the SAC has weighed in on the dates. Ms. Curtis replied not yet. Mr. Cole would like the SAC to review the date for seasonal road closures before the CAC votes.

MAJ Bagaglio gave a summary of vehicle refueling in the Reserve. He explained that the current EPSs do not allow for any type of refueling operations within the Reserve except for refueling from a 5 gallon can in some cases. There are some exceptions to that EPS including environmental management, land and natural resource management, and contractors.

MAJ Bagaglio said that the IAGWSP refuels in the Reserve because the program is exempt from the EPS and they only bring out what they need. He also said using a tank equipped with a pump rather than hand carrying a can is a safer practice.

MAJ Bagaglio displayed photos of military tanker refueling operations using secondary containment in the field during a joint training in Canada. MAJ Bagaglio stated that currently refueling is done with five gallon cans with secondary containment.

MAJ Bagaglio explained the first two performance steps for the Petroleum Supply Specialist's Military Operational Specialty (MOS): apply risk management procedures and employ environmental stewardship protection program measures.

MAJ Bagaglio then explained the proposed course of action. The MAARNG will draft a revision of EPS 15.3.3 and the General Standard, which would allow refueling in the Reserve under certain conditions. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would include refueling in designated locations, secondary containment, spill kits, no top filling, and only carrying the fuel amount needed. Refueling in the Reserve would be coordinated and approved by Range Control, the Environmental Office and the EMC Environmental Officer.

MAJ Bagaglio stated that currently when the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP) equipment needs to be refueled, they obtain a refueling permit from the JBCC Fire Department; there's a review of their secondary containment, and the permit is given. The vehicle is then topped off in the Reserve. Those controls could be instituted for the military with a HEMTT fueler established at a fueling point, topping off a certain amount of military vehicles and then either returns to the Reserve or stays on the secondary containment. MAJ Bagaglio said there's annual training scheduled for May/June 2017 that the MAARNG would like to use as a test period. He noted that he would like to work with the CAC, SAC and EMC to develop a plan to test it in the springtime.

MAJ Bagaglio said that in conclusion, refueling in the Reserve is necessary to support certain required training needs and is safer than utilizing many small containers. He's asking for the advisory councils' input and would like to conduct a proof of concept during the next Annual Training (AT) season.

Mr. Cole stated that he would like to see it elaborated that making the transfer from the tanker is less subject to human error than from the five gallon cans. He asked if the tanker is used, are there people with the appropriate MOS who will be doing the refueling. MAJ Bagaglio replied yes, soldiers with the MOS will complete that refueling task. Mr. Cole requested a photo of the refueling tankers and nozzles which will be used as part of the proof of concept. (Action)

Mr. Vitacco stated that the proposed refueling change is safer than the five gallon cans. For example, the pipeline is less hazardous.

Mr. Harding stated that the refueling change is valid and the commission is "looking at it in a good light."

Agenda Item #6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. McConnell said that the next EMC meeting will be held on November 3; she has been attending the meetings, although it's not required, and she asked if CAC members can routinely attend. Mr. Pinaud said yes and he will advise them when there is an EMC meeting.

Ms. McConnell inquired about the status of new CAC member appointments. Mr. Harding said that the new member appointments are still in process.

Agenda Item #7: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.