



Installation Restoration Program



Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Air Force Civil Engineer Center Community Involvement Plan Update

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JBCC Cleanup Team Meeting
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Presentation Summary

- Community Involvement Plan (CIP) history
- CIP questionnaire issuance and response
- Findings
- CIP Questionnaire Summary
- Proposed/conducted additional outreach
- Path forward

CIP History

- 1989 - Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR), now Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), was added to the USEPA National Priorities List (NPL) under the Superfund program.
- 1991 – Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) issued.
- 1991 – First CIP issued for MMR, jointly produced by Air Force, USEPA, and MassDEP. It was attached to the FFA.
 - A CIP is both a federal and state requirement
- 2000 – CIP revision issued
- 2003 – CIP update issued
- 2010 – CIP addendum issued
- 2022 – CIP revision to be issued after 30-day public comment period and review of comments.

CIP Questionnaire Issuance and Response

- Issued on July 27, 2021 to hundreds of community contacts and other stakeholders (town, military, regulatory) that AFCEC had correspondence with during the past few years.
- Due to significant interest in the survey and the ongoing machine gun range project at JBCC, the window to provide input was extended to September 10th and announced in the local papers.
- A total of 60 responses were received during the open submission period. Some respondents did not answer all 18 questions.

Findings

- 78% of respondents were from Falmouth, Mashpee and Bourne.
- 45% live 1-5 miles from JBCC.
- 83% are aware of AFCEC's environmental cleanup program.
- Major concerns voiced were for:
 - Drinking water
 - Contamination
 - Water quality of area ponds/rivers/oceans
 - Cancer, negative health effects
 - Natural resources damages
 - Cleanup progress
- 58% responded they do NOT think ponds are safe for recreational use, 20% believe they are safe, with the rest undecided.

Findings

- 79% were aware of the newer contaminants 1,4-dioxane and PFAS.
- 51% were aware of AFCEC's webpage, 17% vaguely.
- 33% stated the material on AFCEC's webpage is understandable, 27% somewhat understandable. 24% not familiar with it.
- Cape Cod Times, Falmouth/Mashpee/Bourne Enterprise Newspapers, email, online public meetings were the top ways people like to get information. Followed by in person meetings, mailings, word of mouth, radio (WCAI-FM).
- About half of the respondents did not know who to contact about the environmental cleanup program.

Findings

- 62% stated awareness of the JBCC Cleanup Team.
- 33% of respondents did not feel the Air Force offers sufficient public participation opportunities while 12% do. “Undecided” was 17% and “not familiar” was 25%.
- 62% were NOT confident of AFCEC taking all necessary response actions to protect human health, however...
- 42% rated the overall success of the program as successful or higher. Less than successful was 34%, others “Don’t know.”
- 50 of 60 respondents requested addition to AFCEC’s email list and were added.
- Numerous hand written comments were submitted, most on the Army’s proposed machine gun range.

CIP Questionnaire Summary

- In general, the survey was effective at identifying concerns, levels of knowledge, and how best to communicate with the public.
- The issue of the machine gun range may have had an impact on the surveys as many of the commenters provided input solely on the range project and subsequently gave low scores on several questions related to success and trust/credibility for the AFCEC cleanup program. How much this affected the ratings is unknown.
- A summary of the questionnaire results has been provided to the other military agencies on JBCC to assist with community involvement outreach they may pursue in the future.

Proposed/conducted additional outreach

- More outreach is needed regarding the recreational use of waterbodies near JBCC as the majority of respondents do not believe the ponds are safe to use for recreation, contrary to Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidance, with advisories.
- In addition to the Enterprise newspapers for advertisements, utilize the Cape Cod Times also. (This was done for the JBCCCT meeting on Dec. 1).
- Add WCAI – FM to the news media email list. - Done
- Increase email notification list for additional stakeholders. - All respondents who indicated to be added to the AFCEC email notification list were added.

Proposed/conducted additional outreach

- More focus and outreach to address the top concerns: Drinking water, Contamination, Water quality of area ponds/rivers/ocean; Cancer, Negative health effects; Natural resources damages, Cleanup progress.
- Increase awareness of AFCEC's webpage for more cleanup information along with who to call with questions. Perhaps a paid advertisement, news releases and emails periodically with contact information would be prudent.
- "Social media" did not return a strong response and thus will not be pursued for outreach other than monitoring local environmental groups. AFCEC will make itself more available to local groups such as in Pocasset and Falmouth recently where AFCEC presented online updates.
- Email each respondent with confirmation of receipt of submitted form and addressing any specific questions raised related to the AFCEC cleanup program. - Done.

Path Forward

- Continue to discuss findings with USEPA, MassDEP, and MassDPH and formulate changes to the Community Involvement Plan.
- Conduct a 30-day public comment period on the revised draft CIP when it is issued in 2022. Paid advertisements and emails to stakeholder email lists to be conducted.
- Consider all comments received and then prepare a responsiveness summary to all comments submitted during the public comment period and include it in the final CIP.
- Finalize the CIP and provide it to the AFCEC webpage, online administrative record, local libraries, and email a notice of availability to AFCEC's stakeholder email lists including the news media.