

**Science Advisory Council
to the
Environmental Management Commission
Building 1206, West Outer Road
May 1, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

<u>SAC Members:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	<u>E-Mail:</u>
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<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>	<u>E-Mail:</u>
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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Science Advisory Council Draft Meeting Minutes, September 19, 2024
2. Cape Cod Canal Pipeline Relocation Project, May 1, 2025
3. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, May 2025
4. Camp Edwards Update, 1 May 2025
5. Camp Edwards Natural Resources Update
6. Upper Cape Conservation: the importance of connectivity to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve
7. State of the Reservation Report Overview, Training Year 2024

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Agenda – Mr. Paul Cavanagh, SAC Chair

Science Advisory Council (SAC) Chair Paul Cavanagh welcomed everyone to the SAC meeting.

Agenda Item #2: Review of SAC Minutes and Approval - Mr. Paul Cavanagh, SAC Chair/SAC Members

- Mr. Gschwend asked that the draft September 19, 2024, minutes be revised to capture discussion regarding replanting trees that were to be cleared as part of the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range. The revisions will be drafted and a vote to approve those minutes will be held at the next SAC meeting.

Agenda Item #3: Algonquin/Enbridge Update – *Ms. Katelyn Wheeler, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Ms. Wheeler provided an update on the Cape Cod Canal Pipeline Relocation project.

- The project will realign Algonquin’s existing pipeline near the Cape Cod Canal to accommodate the Department of Transportation’s Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program while continuing to provide uninterrupted service to National Grid.
- There will be approximately 5.25 miles of replacement pipeline to maintain service to National Grid, and approximately 4.26 miles of removed or relocated pipeline to accommodate the Bridges Program activities. Two meter stations will be removed and relocated on the mainland to accommodate the Bridges Program and two new meter stations will be constructed on Cape Cod to maintain service to National Grid.
- Part of the pipeline will be constructed and co-located on Eversource’s right of way that runs through the Camp Edwards Training Area/Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. One new meter station will be located by Pave PAWs Road and the other will be located by Route 28 in Bourne near an existing solar panel site.
- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The FERC Docket Number is PF25-4. Other federal permitting The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act was submitted in April 2025. Anticipated Massachusetts State Permitting and consultation needs include the Environmental Management Commission among others. Project activities include stakeholder and landowner outreach, and agency consultation and outreach.

The SAC discussed the information and asked questions: what are the definitions of minor impacts; who is the primary consultant on their cultural resources work; where exactly are changes being made and who decides the changes are acceptable.

- Minor impacts are more than 10,000 but less than 20,000 square feet, quantified by area.
- Public Archeological Laboratory (PAL) is the cultural resources consultant; they are also working with the Cape Cod Commission under a Regional Development Permit along with permitting under other agencies.
- FERC ultimately gives federal authorization for the project under Section 7C; there are an extensive list of conditions (pre-, during, post-construction phases) that Algonquin will have to commit to for the project to move forward.

Mr. Pinaud also explained that the EMC has actively participated in project coordination meetings and is currently reviewing the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) documentation and reviewing Article 97 compliance (the legislation that protects the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve). Part of the EMC’s responsibility for any project that occurs in the Reserve is to ensure all other necessary agency permits are complied with.

Agenda Item #4: Environmental Officer Update – *Mr. Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer*

Mr. Pinaud, Environmental Management Commission (EMC) Environmental Officer (EO), summarized the activities related to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (the Reserve).

- Mr. Pinaud updated the SAC regarding the status of current vacancies on both the SAC and the CAC.
- The Annual State of the Reservation Report was completed for Training Year 2024. The Community Advisory Council had recommended a summary document be developed for the report, which was prepared and is available.

- Camp Edwards is holding public tours again this year. Mr. Pinaud attends and talks about MassDEP and the EMC's roles.
- Ten range inspections were completed since the fall to ensure range use is compliant with the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) and the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs).
- Seven non-standard training requests/exceptions to policy were completed since the fall. When Camp Edwards receives a training request that is not consistent with the OMMPs, the plan is reviewed by Camp Edwards, the Environmental & Readiness Center and the EMC EO to see if the training can be made compliant with the EPSs and OMMPs; if it can be made compliant or altered, the request is approved.
- Camp Edwards burned 665 acres over nine prescribed burn days; an average of 74 acres per burn day.
 - Mr. Porter provided information on prescribed burn operations occurring today, May 1. The MAARNG is conducting a prescribed burn of approximately 130 acres. A spot fire has occurred north of the planned prescribed burn due to the wind carrying an ember. The fire is being managed with JBCC fire and mutual aid partners including aviation and the state police. The response is going fairly smoothly, no military or public structure are in danger. Prescribed fires serve two purposes: habitat restoration and reducing fuel loads to lessen the risk of future wildfires.
- Range Operations Control Area (ROCA) are facilities needed to support range operations and improve safety on small arms ranges. The original structures have been modernized and replaced.
- The SAC chair reported to the EMC EO, who notified Camp Edwards, that it was posted on several user-supplied apps that large portions of the Training Area/Reserve were available to the public to hike and bike. Camp Edwards contacted the apps to have Camp Edwards identified as not public or eliminate the trails entirely.
- The EMC EO coordinated with Camp Edwards and the Environmental Police during the deer and turkey hunting seasons.
- Camp Edwards routinely conducts sampling on soil and groundwater at its small arms ranges; the results are provided to the EMC EO and are reviewed.
- Revisions to the Integrated Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan are under review.
- The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program's Draft Comprehensive PFAS report was completed and sent to US EPA and MassDEP in November. From 2019 to 2023, IAGWSP collected approximately 600 groundwater samples for PFAS in the Training Area/Reserve, including influent samples from groundwater treatment plants and monitoring wells. PFAS have been detected above the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant levels drinking water standards and the EPA's drinking water standards at 23 sporadic locations across Camp Edwards with no significant well-defined source areas or groundwater contaminant plumes resulting from that data collection. The report indicates that there are no PFAS exceedances in groundwater at the Central Impact Area.

The SAC discussed the information and Mr. Gschwend noted that the draft report indicated that some of the materials in the munitions included PFAS. He said the hits are interesting as PFAS has a "fingerprint" and some of the hits had "funny" compositions; he believes there is a missing piece of information—whether the analytical chemistry is "screwed up" or there is something else going on. Mr. Pinaud said that IAGWSP will do some work to fill data gaps in soil and groundwater and have presented MassDEP with a draft workplan for that. Mr. Pinaud will ask IAGWSP if a copy of the Draft Comprehensive PFAS Report could be made available to the SAC.

Agenda Item #5: Camp Edwards Update and State of the Reservation Report– *Mr. Matthew Porter, Base Operations Manager*

Mr. Porter presented an update on activities at Camp Edwards.

- Administrative updates at Camp Edwards are: COL Jeffrey Arleque is the new Garrison Commander; MAJ (P) Alexander McDonough is the new Deputy Commander, and the new Range Operations Manager is Mr. Christopher Stewart. Camp Edwards will hold five public tours through October; the first will be held May 9. The State of the Reservation Report for Training Year 2024 was released.
- Camp Edwards is meeting with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and is looking to establish an MOA or MOU for different programs, such as a hunt day or flora and fauna gathering.
- There are units at Camp Edwards mobilizing for deployment; unit equipment is staging pending a line haul. Major events for the training year are the Best Warrior Competition (completed), Regional Cooperation 2025 in June, the Garrison Commanders Leadership Course in August and Air Assault in September. The focus for the next fiscal year is individual Weapons Qualification. The projected utilization for May, June, and July is 4,790, 3,280 and 1,601 respectively.
- The ROCA construction is complete. Different ranges have different standards for facilities are needed.

Agenda Item #6: JBCC and Camp Edwards Conservation Overview – *Mr. Jacob McCumber, Natural Resources and Training Lands Manager, MAARNG*

Mr. McCumber was unable to attend the SAC meeting.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment – *Mr. Paul Cavanagh, SAC Chair*

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #8: Adjourn – *Mr. Paul Cavanagh, SAC Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

**Science Advisory Council Action Items
May 1, 2025**

Action Items:

1. Mr. Pinaud will provide the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program Draft Comprehensive PFAS Report for Camp Edwards (November 2024). *The Comprehensive PFAS Report for Camp Edwards will be made available once finalized.*