
**Environmental Management Commission
Building 1805
October 24, 2019
9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

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Commissioner Ron Amidon
Commissioner Martin Suuberg

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Attendees:

MAJ Alexander McDonough
Brig. Gen. Chris Faux
COL Matt Porter
Jane Dolan
Dave Hill
Matt McKay
Paul Rendon
Mimi McConnell
Jacob McCumber
Mike Ciaranca
Emily Kelly
Sally Hartmann

Organization:

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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: May 23, 2019
2. Environmental Officer Update – October 24, 2019
3. IAGWSP Supplemental Sampling Upgradient of Water Co-Op Wells
4. Massachusetts National Guard Environmental Readiness Center Current Activities
5. Natural Resources Update
6. Hunt Camp Edwards

Agenda Item #1. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions– *Commissioner Ronald Amidon, EMC Chair*

Commissioner Amidon convened the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. The members and attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #2. Review and Approval of EMC Minutes

The May 23, 2019, EMC minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Suuberg made a motion to accept the minutes and Commissioner Amidon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3. Environmental Officer Update – Mr. Leonard Pinaud, Environmental Management Commission Acting Environmental Officer

Mr. Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer, gave an update on activities in the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve (the Reserve) that the EMC has been involved with since May 2019:

- Patriot Crucible II consultation and Project Note for Non-Standard Training, and pre- and post-CAX inspections: Some dunnage was found but those were removed and the results were good.
- Mayflower Wind-EDP Renewables/Eversource Transmission Line Consult in July 2019: Permitting is going through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office. If Mayflower builds infrastructure in the Reserve, it would have to satisfy EMC requirements.
- There was an accident with a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV) during training in August 2019; there was no environmental damage and no environmental release in the Reserve.
- The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) has posted the perimeter of the Reserve with signage, to aid in preventing trespassing, funded with money from a consent judgement against a utility company. The signage installation will be completed by the end of October. Three surveillance cameras will be installed, which will be tied into other cameras on base.
- The Massachusetts National Guard (MANG) self-reported (by letter) an incident of non-conformance with the General Environmental Performance Standard (EPS) for the use of three simulated munitions that were not approved for use during the CAX training. He is working with MANG to determine the simulators' chemical composition to determine if there are any environmental risks. A response letter is forthcoming.

Impact Area Groundwater Study Program:

Mr. Hill gave an update on Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP) Monitoring Well Sampling upgradient of the Upper Cape Water Supply Wells.

There were 24 well screens non detect. The remaining results were below Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) Groundwater 1 (GW-1) standards (RDX 1 ppb and Perchlorate 2 ppb) RDX MW-331M1 0.096 ppb, MW-331M2 0.13 ppb. Perchlorate MW-330M1 0.81 ppb, MW-63M2 0.029 ppb, MW-63M3 0.034 ppb.

The Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) sampling program focused on plumes downgradient of open burn/open detonation source areas, where Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) was used. IAGWSP sample treatment plan influent-wide capture zones- and included selected wells within the plumes.

PFAS sampling locations were at Demo 1, J-1 Range North, J-2 Range North, J-2 Range East, J-3 Range with additional sampling locations. Positive detections were below well screen levels.

Mr. Pinaud noted that the additional sampling was to ensure there aren't upgradient detections heading towards the water supply wells and to confirm the Upper Cape Regional Water Cooperative's sampling. PFAS is not being seen in the Reserve as in other areas of the Commonwealth and southern portion of JBCC.

Commissioner Amidon asked what the assumptions are with false positive detections and what would be the cause. Mr. Hill said that is not a real problem, but it does occur and there would be resampling.

Agenda Item #4. Reports from the Community and Science Advisory Councils – Council Chairs

Ms. McConnell, Community Advisory Council (CAC) chair reported that there is a CAC and Science Advisory Council (SAC) joint meeting planned for February 2020 to review and discuss the proposed revision to Environmental Performance Standard 15.3.3.

Agenda Item #5. Camp Edwards Update – Dr. Mike Ciaranca, Environmental and Readiness Center, MA ARNG

Mr. Ciaranca presented information on the Eversource Switching Station, including property transfers and coordination with environmental agencies, which is almost complete. Eversource has processed 52,000 cubic yards of soil; 50,000 cubic yards of soil will be reused at Camp Edwards. Eversource plans to construct a new transmission line, ROW 342, starting at the switching station, through Camp Edwards and into Barnstable. It will run along the existing right of way with minimal disturbance to natural resources.

He gave an update on the Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) conducted July 27-August 10 with approximately 900 soldiers, and three non-standard training requests. There was a Notice of Non-Conformance due to three unauthorized pyrotechnic items that were used during the training. That was self-reported as violation to the EMC's Environmental Officer.

Mr. Ciaranca reported on the SAC Ad Hoc Committee meeting held in July. The group discussed the need for the MAARNG to conduct further work to research the movement of antimony in soil and Mr. Clausen's study at the US Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL). The group discussed that the MAARNG will conduct two seasonal baseline samplings at the Small Arms Ranges, before and after the training season. The Ad Hoc Committee also discussed pyrotechnic use for the CAX. The group received tests for potassium perchlorate conducted in June 2019 at Tactical Training Base Kelley and concurred with their use during the CAX exercise. During the meeting it was also reported that three military databases listed the incorrect amount of potassium perchlorate in some items. The next step is, in coordination with the EMC, to determine if items can be placed on the Approved Munitions List for Camp Edwards.

Mr. Ciaranca gave a brief update on activities at the Small Arms Ranges. The STAPPTM systems on Juliet and Kilo Ranges will be dismantled upon availability of funding. The design for rebuilding Tango Range as a copper zeroing range is at 95% completion.

Mr. Ciaranca gave an update on the Multi Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) including information on the environmental review. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were sent for external review in August 2019; a 30 day public comment period will be held. Under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), a pre-filing site visit and meeting was held, a Notice of Project Change will be submitted and a 30-day public comment period will be held.

At the end of MEPA/NEPA public comment process, but before the range is built, the EMC will be asked to vote for the EO to approve the range design and Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP).

Mr. Ciaranca presented information relating to the MAARNG's request to modify Environmental Performance Standard 15.3.3, Fueling in the Reserve. The proposal would change how fueling occurs in the Reserve for all users and allow MAARNG soldiers to conduct petroleum supply training at select sites. The next steps are a joint CAC/SAC meeting, where a request will be made for the group to vote to recommend the change to the EMC. At the next EMC meeting, there will be a request for the EMC to vote to approve the change to the General Performance Standard and Environmental Performance Standard 15.3.3.

Agenda Item #6: Natural Resources Update – Mr. Jacob McCumber, Natural Resource Manager, MAARNG

Mr. McCumber gave an update on Natural Resources activities including environmental review, mitigation and strategy for the Multi Purpose Machine Gun Range and CAX support developing tools for pyrotechnics and tracer use. The Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) update will be

contracted out. He reported on surveys completed, hunting at Camp Edwards, prescribed burns conducted, restoration plans, and infrastructure.

Agenda Item #7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.