

**Environmental Management Commission
Building 1206
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts
October 28, 2025
9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Commissioner Bonnie Heiple	EMC/MassDEP	617-292-5500
Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle	EMC/DCR	617-626-1250

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Environmental Officer:

Len Pinaud, Environmental Officer

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Attendees:

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Organization:

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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. EMC Draft Meeting Minutes: June 5, 2025
2. Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer Update, October 28, 2025
3. Camp Edwards Update, 28 October 2025
4. Camp Edwards Natural Resources Update Fall 2025
5. Camp Edwards Approved Munitions List (AML), 28 October 2025
6. Environmental Performance Standards Revisions, October 28, 2025
7. Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan Revisions, October 28, 2025
8. Proposed Field Refueling Locations Map Screening

Agenda Item #1. Welcome/Agenda Review – *Commissioner Bonnie Heiple, Environmental Management Commission*

Commissioner Heiple welcomed everyone to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) meeting.

Agenda Item #2. Review of EMC Minutes and Approval – *Commissioner Bonnie Heiple, Environmental Management Commission*

Review of the draft June 5, 2025 EMC minutes is postponed until the next meeting when Commissioner O’Shea is present.

Agenda Item #3: Environmental Officer Update – *Mr. Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer*

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

- Two new members were appointed to the Science Advisory Council (SAC); there are three vacancies left to fill. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) has six new members, with two positions still open: one for a Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) family member and one At-large seat. Efforts are ongoing to fill the remaining vacancies.
- Mr. Pinaud is working with Camp Edwards to reduce the number of exceptions to policy by modifying the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans, the Approved Munitions List, and the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs).
- An orientation for the new SAC and CAC members was held on September 18, which included a tour of Camp Edwards and a presentation on the Open Meeting Law.

Agenda Item #4. Camp Edwards Update *Mr. Alex McDonough, Base Operations Manager*

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

- Mr. McDonough announced he is now the Base Operations Manager on the full-time side and Deputy Commander on the military (M-day) side. This follows COL Matthew Porter's transition to the role of JBCC Executive Director, replacing Brig. Gen (ret) Chris Faux.
- The final public Camp Edwards tour was canceled due to the lapse in appropriations.
- Camp Edwards is working to establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. Initial discussions include their potential participation in the First Responder/Military controlled hunt day on December 5.
- Funding for the MAARNG to fund advertising for the EMC meetings was denied at the federal level; Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002 allows the EMC to garner funds and manage them.
- \$1 million in federal funding has been secured for a comprehensive National Academy of Science (NAS) follow-on consensus study on small arms ranges at Camp Edwards, focusing on fate and transport of metals, potential migration to groundwater, and effective monitoring and management efforts. The report will include technical details and an executive summary with text and figures to support public engagement. Camp Edwards continues to support mobilization and demobilization efforts; supporting three units mobilizing, including the 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade to Africa.
- Major events completed: Camp Edwards hosted several major events, including “Regional Cooperation 2025” (a tabletop exercise with international partners), the Garrison Commanders Leadership Course, and an Air Assault course.
- An electrical upgrade is in the design phase for Sierra Range so new, standardized Army target lifters can be installed. The underground wiring will be updated; there is no change to the range's footprint or use.

Commissioner Heiple noted that newspaper ads are expensive and that fewer people get their information from print media. She suggested reaching out to the towns to post meeting notices on official town websites and utilize town Facebook pages/social media. Commissioner Heiple said the EMC will take that as an action item.

Agenda Item #5: Natural Resources Update – *Mr. Jacob McCumber, Natural Resources & Training Lands Manager*

Mr. McCumber gave presentation on Natural Resources a Camp Edwards.

- Flora Projects: a paper on *Triosteum* genetics was recently published; the genome was mapped for *perfoliatum* and *aurantiacum* and confirmed the state endangered plant is found on Camp Edwards. Vegetation surveys were conducted throughout the base. Algonquin/Enbridge consultants were out twice during the summer completing surveys for the project, surveying habitat conditions for wildlife around the project.
- Fauna: The program completed bat acoustic surveys, box turtle monitoring and bird surveys along with periodical cicada surveys. The program hosted bird tours, a butterfly walk and lead a barrens management walk at Crane Wildlife. The fall hunt season has begun; the youth deer hunt was held recently with 15 hunters taking four deer.
- Prescribed fire: during the spring, three burns were conducted in the grasslands totaling 108.5 acres and seven burns were conducted in the Pine Barrens totaling 702.5 acres. There are no fall burns planned. The Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan is in finalization. Extensive fire trainings include aviation, ignitions, introduction to wildland fire, Incident Commander 3 & Task Force Leader, and national level instruction in Florida and Oregon.
- Restoration and training lands: the Battle Position (BP) 14/16 Landing Zone expansion is mostly complete with seeding to be conducted this fall; BP 1 is in a rest/recovery year.
- iNaturalist: An on-line project where observations of flora and fauna on JBCC can be uploaded to the website; more than 2,000 species have been identified and many photos have been uploaded. The website is publicly available: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fauna-and-flora-of-jbcc>

Agenda Item #6 – Proposed Munitions List Revisions – *Mr. Alexander McDonough, Base Operations Manager and Mr. Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer*

- The Approved Munitions List is generated by requirements set forth by Camp Edwards 350-2 Range Regulations and the Environmental Performance Standards, which identifies an approved list of munitions for use at Camp Edwards. The list is jointly reviewed and approved through the Environmental & Readiness Center and the EMC Environmental Officer. The list is generated based on what a range is approved for in the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) and is used by Range Operations to ensure ammunition issued is the correct ammunition for a range.
- The list has authorized munitions listed for each small arms range (primarily 5.56mm, 7.63mm and 9mm) and training area (blank ammunition and pyrotechnics).
- The proposed revisions to the Approved Munitions List include changes in use to India Range and Sierra Range that will provide for greater operations efficiency, reduced exception to policy requests to the EMC, consolidate non-standard uses onto one Range (India Range) that makes monitoring and management of the environment more efficient and protective.
- Pyrotechnics to be added to the proposed revised list would include smoke grenades, Ground Burst simulators, Star Clusters and Parachute Flares/Smoke, and booby-traps. Pyrotechnics and tracers were tested in field conditions at the request of the SAC and EMC Environmental Officer. Pyrotechnics were tested for potassium perchlorate and tracers for strontium nitrate; the results were non-detect for both compounds. The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program found no

potassium perchlorate or strontium nitrate in groundwater associated with pyrotechnic or tracer use.

Commissioner Heiple inquired about the constituents of the tracer rounds and if the use of pyrotechnics is limited to certain areas.

- The tracer contains standard propellant, a primer with lead styphnate and antimony sulfide, and strontium nitrate for the tracer element. Tests for nitrate and strontium were non-detect.
- Pyrotechnics are not used in buffer zones for wetlands, known bat roosting areas, or within Zone 1 of any water supply wells. There is also a specific Standard Operating Procedure for pyrotechnic use that includes this information.

Agenda Item #7 – Proposed Environmental Performance Standards Revisions – *Mr. Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer*

Mr. Pinaud and Mr. McDonough provided information about the proposed Environmental Performance Standards revisions.

- Revisions include administrative updates (changing Massachusetts Military Reservation to JBCC, fixing spelling, updating regulations that have changed but remain applicable, etc.) and minor changes to the General Performance Standard and to EPS 5.
- Minor revisions to EPS 11 and to the language in EPS 11.2 to: prescribed burning will be used to achieve wildland fuel hazard reduction, habitat management and ecosystem health and diversity management goals and objectives in support of training land support and landscape resilience.
- Revisions to EPS 15.3.3 which manages how refueling occurs in Training Area/Reserve may be accomplished. Currently, EPS 15.3.3 prohibits refueling outside of 5 gallon containers in the Training Area/Reserve. Exceptions to policy have been granted for larger day tanks and commercial/civilian refuelers and for military refueling training utilizing HEMTTs.
- The proposed revisions to EPS 15.3.3 would allow refueling with a 150-gallon maximum capacity vehicle mounted day-tank in support of maintenance and construction activities and refueling in support of maintenance, construction and/or military training with HEMTT or civilian fuel tanker truck containing a maximum of 1,500 gallons. HEMTT and civilian fuel tanker truck travel and refueling would only occur on approved roads and locations.
- EPS 15.3.3 has generated a number of exceptions to policy requests due to the requirements of civilian entities such as Eversource and other utility companies, the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program, and others to refuel as part of their missions and training requirements for MAARNG military fuelers driving HEMTTs.
- HEMTTs utilize secondary containment while refueling and procedures are in place in the event of a release.
- A draft Standard Operating Procedure and proposed Field Refueling Locations Map has been developed.

Commissioner Heiple requested a change to the proposed language in EPS 11.2 to include a clarifying comma after the word “objectives,” to separate the phrase “in support of training land support and landscape resilience.” Mr. Pinaud agreed that would be updated.

The EMC discussed where HEMTTs may refuel, whether they may refuel in approved locations (as described in the SOP) and on approved (travel) routes or if they may only refuel in approved locations and not on approved routes. Mr. Pinaud and Mr. McDonough clarified HEMTTs may only travel on approved roads and may refuel only in approved locations. Commission Heiple requested that the language in 15.3.3 be modified to reflect that HEMTT and civilian fuel tanker truck travel shall only

occur on approved roads and refueling shall occur at approved locations. Mr. Pinaud concurred and will change the wording.

Vote

Mr. Pinaud requests that the EMC authorize the Environmental Officer on behalf of the Commission to publish a Notice of Availability of the proposed revisions, as modified, to the Environmental Performance Standards and modifications to EPS 5, 11, and 15, and the General Standard in the Environmental Monitor, and to accept public comments from these 30 days following publication. If no substantive comments are received that would cause reconsideration of the proposed revisions and modifications, the Environmental Officer is authorized to finalize and publish the proposed revisions and modifications.

Commissioner LaChapelle made a motion to accept the request authorizing the Environmental Officer to complete those actions on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner LaChapelle seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Agenda Item #8 Proposed Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan Revisions – Mr. Leonard Pinaud, EMC Environmental Officer

Mr. Pinaud provided a presentation on the proposed revisions to the OMMP.

- The OMMP identifies operational and management practices that will be implemented by the Massachusetts National Guard at the small arms ranges and identifies procedures that allow the employment of small arms in a manner that meets current and future military training requirements and employs maximum feasible use of pollution prevention strategies to protect the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.
- The Environmental Performance Standards (General Performance Standard, EPS 18.1 and EPS 19) have required small arms range management components. Live weapon fire is not allowed on small arms ranges except in accordance with a range-specific plan (i.e., OMMP) approved through the EMC and any other regulatory agency having statutory and/or regulatory oversight.
- The proposed changes would combine individual OMMPs for each small arms range into a combined, Integrated OMMP (IOMMP) covering all ranges, update range uses; provide an updated Conceptual Site Model, and provide revised range maintenance procedures including a rotation schedule for metals removal on the ranges.
- Revised environmental monitoring in the IOMMP would change the reference concentration levels for soil, porewater and groundwater. In soil, Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) Method 3 Ceiling Limit (M3CL) levels in soil have been the reference concentrations to date; Surface soil concentration levels currently set at the M3CLs are proposed to be set using MCP soil cleanup standards that represent a “No Significant Risk” category for soil, indicating the soil has a low potential for harm to human health or the environment. Porewater concentration levels currently set at the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Levels for drinking water standards (MMCLs) are proposed set equal to one-half the MMCL as an early warning of potential groundwater impacts. Groundwater concentration levels currently set at the MMCL drinking water standard were initially proposed to be set using background concentrations in groundwater. However, based on feedback from the Science Advisory Council, the groundwater concentration levels are now proposed set equal to one-half the MMCL.
- A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is proposed for the IOMMP. It would integrate all technical and quality aspects of the IOMMP, including planning, implementation, and assessment, and contains laboratory quality requirements and information that may have previously been reported in a work plan or sampling and analysis plan.
- For further discussion is installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells at each small arms range if, after evaluation, it is determined that the existing monitoring wells are not designed

or located to sufficiently represent groundwater downgradient of each range, and the design, location, number and use of lysimeters for porewater sampling.

The Commissioners asked what is the cadence for range cleanup and why is a fixed schedule preferred over the current approach; will the scheduled cleanup supersede addressing issues if they arise?

- The proposal is to conduct metals removal on each range every 8 years. The current practice of addressing immediate issues as necessary will continue. The 8-year schedule is an additive, preventative measure.
- A fixed schedule allows for predictable budgeting and long-term planning and ensures training units ample time to schedule alternative sites (e.g., Fort Devens, Fort Drum).

Agenda Item #9. Public Comment – *Commissioner Bonnie Heiple, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #10. Adjourn – *Commissioner Bonnie Heiple, Environmental Management Commission Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Environmental Management Commission Action Items

October 28, 2025

Action Items:

1. The EMC will reach out to the towns regarding EMC meeting notices.