

Impact Area Groundwater Study Program

PB 0516 West Outer Road, Camp Edwards, MA 02542

Neighborhood Notice

J-1 Southern Plume - Treatment System Construction

Dear Neighbor:

As part of our effort to keep local residents advised of activities that might affect their neighborhood, this notice is sent to inform you of planned construction. The Army National Guard's Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP), in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), is conducting investigations and cleanup of explosives contamination at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR). One of these investigations concerns the J-1 Range, a former contractor range, where groundwater contamination was detected at the MMR's boundary with the Grand Oak Neighborhood in Forestdale.

A treatment system at the base boundary designed to stop additional contamination from migrating off-base has been operating since late 2007. However, since a portion of the contamination had already migrated past the base boundary, additional cleanup of the southern portion of the plume is needed. After completion of investigations and a public comment period on the proposed plan for cleanup (August 2010), the EPA issued the Final Decision Document for the J-1 Range (May 2011). The decision requires that the IAGWSP install an additional groundwater extraction well to expedite the remediation of the RDX contaminated groundwater that lies beneath your neighborhood. All of the homes in the area are on town water and the contamination is in groundwater approximately 150 feet below the ground surface, therefore, there is no risk of exposure to contaminated groundwater.

On the back of this notice is a figure depicting the groundwater plume, the approximate location of the extraction well and the layout of the pipeline that will convey the extracted groundwater to an existing treatment facility located at the base boundary, a distance of about 1,500 feet. The extraction well location (approximately at the intersection of Grand Oak Road and Pleasantwood Drive) will likely provide the most effective cleanup strategy based upon recent groundwater monitoring data. Water will be treated by carbon vessels contained within the treatment unit and discharged via an existing infiltration trench on the base. The following provides information on the schedule for the installation of the extraction well and pipeline:

What: Installation of an underground extraction well and pipeline (See attached figure)

Where: On Grand Oak Road

Dates: From approximately September 24 through November.

Times: 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Impact on Neighborhood During Installation: The drill rig and equipment will be visible from homes on Grand Oak Road. There will be noise from machinery during construction.

Permanent Impact on Neighborhood: None. Upon completion of construction, the only visible part of the infrastructure will be a typical manhole cover in the road right-of-way at the location of the extraction well and pipeline. Any areas disturbed during drilling operations will be restored. To minimize impacts to the community, a directional drill rig will be utilized.

The Groundwater Study Program has discussed this project with representatives from the Town of Sandwich to gain approval for the fieldwork. The local police department will be informed and safety measures will be put in place to ensure that there is as little impact to residents in the area as possible. A copy of the Decision Document that describes the remedial action selected for the site is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/ne/mmr/pdfs/485842.pdf> and at the local public libraries. The MMR Cleanup Team will meet on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Bldg. 1805 East Inner Road on MMR. The team meetings provide a forum for community input regarding issues related to MMR environmental cleanups. The meeting is open to the public and you are encouraged to attend if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the ongoing investigations and cleanup.

Massachusetts
Military Reservation

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The meeting will be held on the MMR at the Welcome Center, Bldg. 1805 East Inner Road. You will need to show a picture ID at the gate. Please contact Pamela Richardson with the Groundwater Study Program at 508-968-5630 or pamela.j.richardson@us.army.mil if you have any questions or would like directions to the meeting. We appreciate the support of the community in this very important project to speed up the cleanup of the groundwater in your neighborhood.

For further information please log on to <http://mmr-iagwsp.org> Other points of contact for Impact Area Groundwater Study Program activities at the Massachusetts Military Reservation are: Lori Boghdan, Groundwater Study Program, (508) 968-5635; Jeanethe Falvey, EPA New England Region 1, (617) 918-1020; or Ellie Donovan, MassDEP, (508) 946-2866.

