

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District Maine Project Office 675 Western Avenue #3 Manchester, Maine 04351

Date: June 19, 2007

Comment Period Ends: July 19, 2007

File Number: NAE-2006-750 In Reply Refer To: Jay L. Clement Or by e-mail: jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to **conduct work in waters of the United States** as described below. The Corps is soliciting comments on both the project itself and the range of issues to be addressed in the environmental documentation.

APPLICANT: KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT, 62 UNION STREET, ROCKLAND, MAINE 04841

**ACTIVITY:** Fill approximately 7.6 acres of freshwater wetlands in order implement safety improvements at the Knox County Regional Airport at Owls Head, Maine. The improvements will consist of a parallel taxiway to serve runway 13-31 and an extension to the Runway 31 and Runway 3 safety areas. The taxiway will impact approximately 7 acres of wetland; the runway safety area extensions will impact approximately 0.6 acres of wetland.

To compensate for this project's projected unavoidable impacts to waterways and wetlands, the applicant is currently proposing off site compensation. This work, shown on the attached plans, includes the preservation of approximately 74.5 acres of mixed upland and wetland on two parcels adjacent to Weskeag Marsh and the Ralph Waldo Tyler Wildlife Management Area at Thomaston, Maine. The preservation is designed to complement State and private conservation efforts and lands within the Weskeag River watershed. The applicant is proposing these measures seeking to lessen the project's impact on aquatic resources. This notice solicits comments on these proposed measures from the interested or affected public as well as those agencies who speak to the public interest. It also solicits recommendations for alternative sites or measures not yet identified by the applicant. After receipt of the comments, the Corps of Engineers will obtain any necessary additional information from the applicant and determine whether the proposed measures are practicable and serve to help mitigate this project's unavoidable impacts.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: This work is proposed in freshwater wetlands adjacent to tributaries to the Weskeag River at Owls Head, Maine. The project site is located on the USGS ROCKLAND, ME quadrangle sheet at latitude 44.0596248°N; and longitude 69.0988736°W.

#### AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:
Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
X Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act)

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

#### SECTION 106 COORDINATION

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.
- e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

Pursuant to the **Endangered Species Act**, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management

Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Clement at 207-623-8367 at our Manchester, Maine Project Office.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil.

## THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Frank J. Del Giudice
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

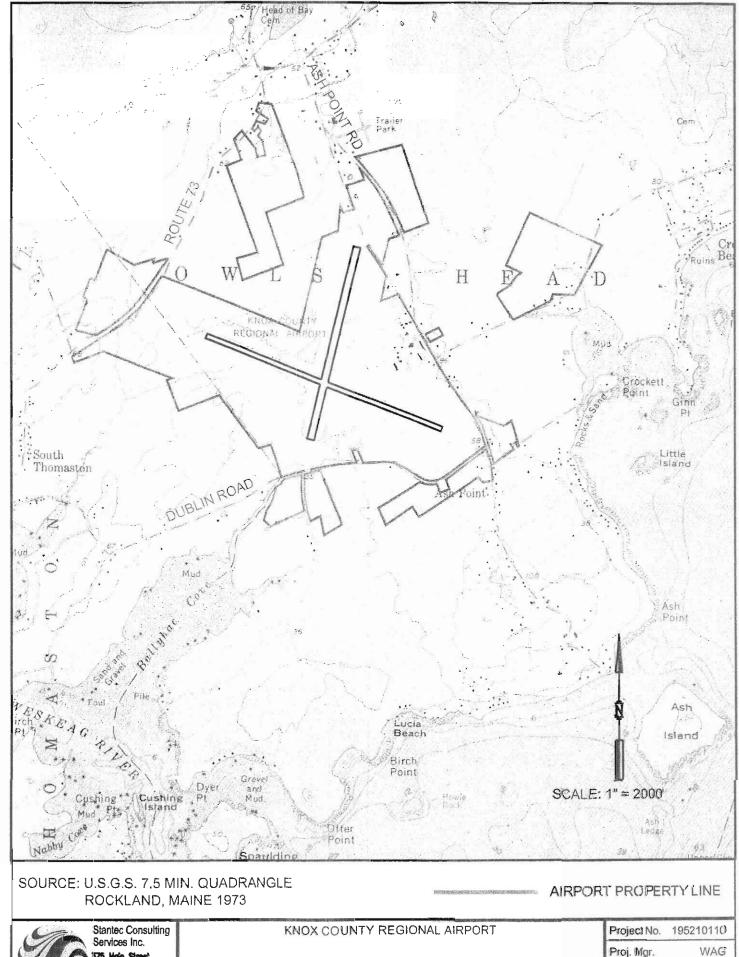
If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at <a href="mailto:bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil">bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil</a>. You may also check here ( ) and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME:			
ADDRESS:			

### PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE

The work includes the discharge of dredged or fill in approximately 7.6 acres of freshwater wetlands in order implement safety improvements at the Knox County Regional Airport at Owls Head, Maine. The improvements will consist of a parallel taxiway to serve runway 13-31 and an extension to the Runway 31 and Runway 3 safety areas.

The work is described on the enclosed plans entitled "KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT, AIP PROJECT NO. 3-23-0042-22" on nine sheets, and dated "3/30/07".



Stantec Consulting Services Inc. 175 Mole Street Presque tole, 1E 161. 207.784.6700 For. 207.784.7007

LOCATION MAP

Proj. Mgr. WAG Scale 1"=2000" Date JULY 2006

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OWLS HEAD

MAINE

FIGURE 4-1

