

GOULD ISLAND RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

Spring 2019 meeting
Gould Island RAB Committee
25 April 2019

“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”



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INTRODUCTIONS

USACE Co-Chair : MAJ Erik Patton, PMP
Tony Silva, incoming USACE Co-Chair
Gary Morin, FUDS Program Manager

RAB Community Co-Chairs : Mr. David Sommers
Mr. Steven Bois

RIDEM State Rep : Mr. Nicholas Noons
Mr. Tanner Steeves

Credere, LLC : Mr. Sean McNamara, PhD



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AGENDA – 25 APRIL 2019

Call to Order and Introductions

Administrative Announcements and Actions

- Co-Chair Comments

Programmatic Updates

- Ongoing formal correspondence between RI and USACE
- Debris removal contract award – complete
- Data Gap Sampling task order – in progress

Project Updates and Milestones

- Debris, Structure, and UST Removal
- Next steps

Open Discussion and Agenda Development

- Extending community outreach
- Project site visit planning

Public Comments

Wrap Up

Motion to Adjourn



RULES OF THE RAB

- All Views Are Valid
- Talk to The Chairman of the Meeting
- Suspend Judgment
- No Personal Accusations
- One Voice at a Time
- Maintain Relevance
- Adhere to Time Allocation
- Focus on The Job (Task is the Boss)
- Establish Conclusions and Recommendations
- Anything You Say Will Not Be Used Against You Later



PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
606 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2781

January 14, 2019

Engineering Division

Mr. Terrence Gray
Associate Director for Air, Waste & Compliance
Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Gray:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (NAE) received your letter dated 13 September 2018 in which you outline Rhode Island's anticipated future use including limited tent camping and recreating on the State-owned portion of Gould Island. NAE continues working towards remediation on Gould Island and anticipates field activities this spring to remove debris piles preventing access to sampling locations. One additional round of contamination sampling is planned for before and after site access restrictions. In the spring and fall of 2019, with the intent of completing a CERCLA remedial investigation.

In order to ensure the project is completed in a time efficient manner while meeting RIDEM's intention of preserving bird nesting habitat, the New England District would like permission for limited, non-invasive access to Gould Island during the first two weeks of April and the first two weeks of August. Activities on the island would be limited to site visits and low-impact surface sampling that does not require motorized equipment. No heavy equipment would be used on the island during these four weeks.

As described in your September 13th letter, the NAE has included an anticipated future use of expanded public recreation, to include overnight camping, in our risk analysis. However, we request clarification on several points to ensure our risk assessment assumptions are in line with the expanded public recreation program planned by Rhode Island.

First, the NAE team would like clarification regarding the frequency of camps and overnight visits anticipated for Gould Island. Given the summertime site restrictions in place to protect nesting birds, the NAE team intends to assume a single person would visit the island for no more than 30 days a year. This is approximately equal to spending every other weekend on the island (16 weekends total) for the entire time period the island is open to the public (33 weekends between August 10th and March 31st). This assumption is conservative, as enthusiasm for overnight tent camping on

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Gould Island can be expected to be lowest during winter months when the site is open to public recreation. If RIDEM has information on usage frequency for similar island campgrounds in the Narragansett Bay, NAE will incorporate that information into our use assumptions.

Secondly, the NAE team intends to rule out the drinking of Gould Island groundwater as a possible contaminant exposure pathway. The majority of wells installed on the island during remedial investigation show tidal influences and would potentially produce only limited yields of fresh water before saltwater intrusion rendered the produced water non-potable. Development of a drinking water system on the island would not be required in order to allow overnight tent camping on the island. USACE will assume that future recreational users will bring their own water supply when visiting on the island.

To facilitate efficient planning of March field work, the NAE team requests a reply by February 15, 2019. The point of contact for this letter is CPT Erik Patton, NAE GeoEnvironmental Branch, at 678-318-0051, and erik.m.patton.cpt@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

David I. Margolis, P.E., PMP

cc:

Nicholas Moons, RIDG
Tanner Steeves, RIDG
CPT Erik Patton, USA
Gary Moran, USACE
Heather Sullivan, USA
Deborah Accone, USA



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 7, 2019

Mr. David I. Margolis, P.E., PMP
Chief, Engineering Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
606 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2781

Dear Mr. Margolis:

The Department is in receipt of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (NAE) letter dated January 14, 2019 regarding ongoing the Gould Island FUDS Project. After careful consideration of the NAE's requests for clarification, the Department has prepared the following responses.

1. Recreational User Assumptions for Risk Assessment, Exposure Frequency

The Department concurs with the Army Corps' assumptions outlined in the letter. Specifically, that an exposure frequency of 30 days per year is appropriate for potential future recreational user on the island.

2. Groundwater Use

The Department does not concur with the NAE's proposal to rule out the use of groundwater on the island as a source of potable water. NAE's contention that the viability of groundwater use would be impacted by saltwater intrusion is not consistent with historical groundwater use on the island. During operation, the Navy installed and utilized a series of wells on the island. Although these wells alone could not keep up with the demand of the expanding industrial operations on the island, they were nonetheless a viable source of potable water. Providing potable water for a future camping area on the island would be greatly beneficial, particularly given the isolated nature of the island and in cases of emergency.

Furthermore, the Department has enforced the GA Groundwater Objectives, which are applied to groundwater which is presumed to be suitable for drinking water use without treatment, at other

CERCLA cleanups on Gould Island. The Remedial Action Objectives for CERCLA cleanup on the northern portion of Gould Island which is still retained by the Navy (Operable Unit 6 of the Newport Education and Training Center Superfund Site), include the restoration of groundwater quality to its beneficial use. The Remediation Goals for groundwater at this site were chosen based off the Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and/or the Department's GA Groundwater Objectives.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Department.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E., Associate Director for Air, Waste & Compliance

Telephone 401-222-4700 | www.dem.ri.gov | Rhode Island Relay 711

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RIDEM and USACE



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PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES



TO



TO



PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES – NEXT STEP



TENTATIVE PROJECT SITE VISIT

- Feasibility and Interest
- Timing
- Attendance requirements
- Public notification and outreach

COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES



PUBLIC COMMENTS



WRAP UP

- Next meeting scheduled for Sept 2019.

