

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 MEPA Analyst: *Nick ZAVOLAS*
 Phone: 617-626-*1030*

NPC

Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

Project Name: Massachusetts Army National Guard-Methuen Readiness Center		EOEA #: 13307	
Street: 679 Lowell Street (Route 110)			
Municipality: Methuen		Watershed: Merrimack	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: X= 31719.12 Y= 4728611.58		Latitude: 42 71 17.72 N Longitude: 71 13 53.42 W	
Status of project construction: 0%complete			
Proponent: The Massachusetts Army National Guard			
Street: 50 Maple Street			
Municipality: Milford		State: MA	Zip Code: 01757
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained: Samuel Moffett, AICP			
Firm/Agency: URS Corporation		Street: 260 Franklin Street	
Municipality: Boston		State: MA	Zip Code: 02110
Phone: (617) 542-4244	Fax: (617) 542-3301	E-mail: Samuel.Moffett@urscorp.com	

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? The project change involves . . .

A redesign of the proposed Methuen Readiness Center results in a smaller and more efficient building that better meets program and anti-terrorism/force protection requirements while addressing site constraints.
 See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor:

- Was an EIR required? Yes No; if yes,
 was a Draft EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No
 was a Final EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No
 was a Single EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No
- Have other NPCs been filed? Yes (Date(s):) No

If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to "ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4.



PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed:

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))
 Yes No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?
 Yes No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate? Yes No; if yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
LAND			
Total site acreage	5.5	0	5.5
Acres of land altered	5.5	0	5.5
Acres of impervious area	4.9	0	4.9
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	0	0	0
Square feet of other wetland alteration	0	0	0
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	0	0	0
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	98,000	-29,000	69,000
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet)	35-40	0	35-40
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	24 (Weekday) 326(Weekend)	-4 (Weekday) 24 (Weekend)	20 (Weekday) 350 (Weekend)
Parking spaces	3.4 acres military and civilian	-1	2.5 acres military and civilian
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	12,500	-7,325	5,175
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	12,500	-7,325	5,175
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in **accordance with Article 97**? Yes No

2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No

3. impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes No

4. impact on any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No

5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No

If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

- (a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed
- (b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,
- (c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and
- (d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

(a) Description of Project as most recently reviewed:

As presented in the June, 2004 ENF filing for this project, the Proposed Action was construction of a new two-story military Readiness Center. At that time, the project included demolition of the existing motor vehicle storage building (MVS) at the subject site, and redesign and updating of the existing Methuen Armory building to meet current MAARNG space and state building code requirements.

This new 2-story Readiness Center was to be attached to the existing Armory and include an assembly hall, administrative, training and support space. There would have been approximately 4 acres of impervious area at the site after construction of the Readiness Center. The remaining approximately 1.5 acres of the site would have had pervious surfaces, including landscaped areas with grass and crushed stone parking.

(b) Discussion of Material Changes to the Project as Previously Reviewed:

The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) still proposes the construction of a new Readiness Center at the site of the existing Methuen Armory facility, located at 679 Lowell Street (Route 110) in Methuen, Massachusetts as shown in Figure 1. The project will support a new MAARNG force structure and will enable the planned relocation of two MAARNG units to the facility: HQ, 101st EN BN; and C CO, 26th BSTB, which will replace the current unit stationed there. Construction of the Readiness Center will allow these new units to meet mission, readiness and training requirements.

The site features a number of physical and design constraints, which greatly influence the program elements and subsequent design. Constraints include the 5.5 acre parcel size, 148 ft. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protections (AT/FP) site boundary setback and related stand-off distances, proximity to nearby wetlands and the presence of 100 year flood plain.

To meet program requirements while still addressing the physical and design constraints, the new free-standing 2-story Readiness Center (approx. 69,000 sf, reduced from 98,000 sf in the previous design) will be constructed in the center of the site, behind the existing Armory. It will include an assembly hall, administrative, training and support space, kitchen, maintenance training bays and an unheated storage facility. The height of the proposed building (approx. 30 ft.) matches the eave line of the existing armory. The appropriate architectural scale and compatibility with the existing Armory is achieved through detailing, proportions and materials (matching brick veneer) that is similar to and compatible with the existing building as evident in the window and horizontal banding of the proposed Readiness Center.

The facility will be constructed with certain force protection features including a cast-in-place concrete wall with a stone veneer along the property frontage on Route 110. Additional force protection features will include a chain link fence with an anti-climber feature to control the perimeter. This will surround the entire property and a driveway gate equipped with a security system will restrict vehicle access to the facility. The site driveway will be realigned as part of the project, and there will be lighting in the parking lots and on the building to ensure good visual control at all times. As appropriate, the site will feature trees and landscaping.

There will be approximately 166 Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) paved parking spaces located on the north side of the Readiness Center, with the balance of the developable site (south and west sides) set aside for Military Vehicle (MV) parking and circulation. While the total number of units and staffing for the facility will be less than previously reviewed, an estimated 350 vehicle trips per weekend day (typically occurring on one drill weekend per month) are estimated to be 7 percent higher than previously reviewed as 160 personnel of the HQ, 101st EN BN are scheduled to train together. Weekend day traffic volumes on Route 110 are less than weekday volumes.

The existing Armory building and the Motor Vehicle Storage Building (MVS) are both eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (MHC #RC.32434). The project will include demolition of the deteriorating MVS and the MAARNG will move out of the existing Armory building to the new Readiness Center at the end of construction. The MAARNG is currently seeking a "secure" tenant to occupy the space in the existing Armory building, given its immediate proximity to the proposed facility. No modifications/renovations to the Armory building are currently planned.

The project will not require any work within wetland resource area, but will include development of approximately 23,400 sf of previously developed land within the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) located on adjacent property. The project could also potentially impact a portion of the approximately 100,490 sf of bordering land subject to flooding (BLSF) on site. BLSF impacts, if any, will be avoided, minimized and mitigated as the design progresses.

(c) The significance of the proposed changes with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6):

The Massachusetts Army National Guard hereby requests that the Secretary determine that the changes described above be determined insignificant with respect to the factors listed at 301 CMR 11.10(6).

- (a) The changes described will not result in an increase in any relevant measures of the physical dimensions of the project greater than 10%.
- (b) The changes described will not result in an increase of environmental impacts greater than 25%.
- (c) Although the commencement and completion dates for the project will be later than anticipated in the ENF filed for this project, this change will not result in any negative impact on the environment.
- (d) The project site remains the same as described in the ENF for this project.
- (e) The changes described will not require any new application for a permit or new request for financial assistance or land transfer.
- (f) The purpose of and need for the project is not driven by creation of benefits to environmental quality and resources or public health, and thus the changes described will not result in a delay in the realization of such benefits.
- (g) While there has been a lapse of time since the issuance of the Secretary's Certificate on the ENF for this project, there have not been changes to the ambient environment in the vicinity of the subject site.

(d) Measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts:

Mitigation measures that will be undertaken in support of this project are of several different types. The primary impacts of the project are to cultural resources, but potential floodplains, wetlands buffer, and stormwater impacts will be mitigated through specific aspects of project design.

To mitigate for the required demolition of the historic MVSB, the MAARNG will undertake a HABS III photo documentation of the building and appropriate interpretation. The MAARNG is committed to upholding the intent of the National Historic Preservation Act and desires to preserve the architectural features of the Armory building. The MAARNG is actively seeking potential secure tenants to lease the building upon the Guard's departure. Consultations between the Guard, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), and the Methuen Historical Commission are underway in order to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to mitigate the effects of the project upon the MVSB. In addition, the MOA will outline the potential options and steps the MAARNG will undertake to help preserve the architectural features of the Armory building. This MOA will describe the historical and cultural mitigation activities that will be undertaken by the MAARNG at the site prior to Project initiation as the project no longer includes the renovation of the existing Armory building.


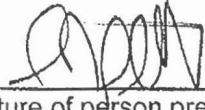
The project design will also mitigate for those portions of the site that are filled within the 100-year flood plain by providing appropriate compensatory storage. In addition, stormwater management features that will be designed into the project will include devices that will limit post-development stormwater run-off from the site to no greater than pre-development levels.

ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project and Department of Environmental Protection's clarification regarding a 401 Water Quality Certificate
2. Plan showing most recent previously reviewed proposed build condition
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7)

Signatures:

16 APR 07		17 Apr 07	
Date	Signature of Responsible Officer or Proponent	Date	Signature of person preparing NPC (if different from above)

LTC THOMAS HARROP	Samuel Moffett
Name (print or type)	Name (print or type)

MASSACHUSETTS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	URS Corporation
Firm/Agency	Firm/Agency

50 MAPLE STREET	260 Franklin St.
Street	Street

MILFORD, MA 01757	Boston, MA 02110
Municipality/State/Zip	Municipality/State/Zip

508-233-6556	617 542 4244
Phone	Phone

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