

MAY 2020



*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental Community of Practice (ECOP) provides a central point to access information on all USACE environmental programs and activities. USACE supports and manages environmental initiatives across all mission areas. The ECOP provides a forum to leverage the full capacity of USACE's technical competencies across the enterprise.*

## PURPOSE

This monthly report provides a quick summary of key environmental activities from around USACE and is distributed for situational awareness.

Activities highlighted in this report are generated from bi-weekly situation reports (SITREPS) submitted by: USACE Headquarters Environmental Division, Army Regional Environmental and Energy Offices, USACE Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise, USACE major subordinate commands, field laboratories and centers, and other USACE Headquarters directorates and offices.

## IN THIS ISSUE

### CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:

- USACE Headquarters Environmental Division
- Army Regional Environmental and Energy Offices
- Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise
- Engineer Research and Development Center
- Huntsville Engineering Support Center
- Institute for Water Resources
- Mississippi Valley Division
- North Atlantic Division
- Northwestern Division
- Pacific Ocean Division

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Panel discusses lessons learned, case studies on public participation in a COVID-19 environment.
- Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) award supports Air Force Environmental Restoration Program.
- Hydraulic Engineer named USACE Climate Champion of 2019.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

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## GOOD NEWS STORIES

**Groundwater Study Program Receives Secretary of Defense Environmental Award (NAE).** In addition to receiving a 2020 First Place Award from the Secretary of the Army for Environmental Restoration (Installation), the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP) at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) in MA has received a 2020 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award. New England District (NAE)'s Project Delivery Team adopted cutting-edge electromagnetic induction sensor technology, known as the "metal mapper," to reduce the cost of unexploded ordnance (UXO) cleanup by 70%, enhance accuracy, and minimize the number of items requiring excavation. JBCC / Camp Edwards is the only location worldwide to put the metal mapper technology into operation on an industrial scale. Read more about the project [here](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION (ENV DIV), HEADQUARTERS (HQ) USACE

**Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).** On 19 MAY, the FUSRAP National Program held its annual budget development meeting virtually via webinar due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Representatives from all FUSRAP major subordinate commands (MSCs) and districts and the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EMCX) attended. During the meeting, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget proposal was coordinated between the MSCs and HQ program staff for Civil Works Program Integration Division submittal. Additional discussions included the future development of a national database for environmental data, program execution, site close-out reports and state disposal notifications.

**SM-1 Deactivated Nuclear Power Plant Environmental Assessment, Fort Belvoir, VA.** On 12 MAY, COL John Litz, Baltimore District (NAB) Commander, added his signature to COL Michael Greenberg's, Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander, approving the Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the decommissioning and dismantlement of the deactivated SM-1 Nuclear Reactor Facility. This work is being executed under the Deactivated Nuclear Power Plant Program (DNPPP). Notification and posting of [Final EA and FNSI](#) for stakeholder and public review was completed by NAB the week of 18 MAY. Remaining plans for decommissioning work currently under review by the Army Reactor Council. Once the SM-1 decommissioning permit is issued, NAB will award the contract to perform this work. Award anticipated in AUG 2020.

## ARMY REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY OFFICES (REEOs)

**New Jersey Environmental Working Group Meeting (REEO-N).** On 20 MAY, REEO-North participated in the quarterly NJ Department of ENV Protection (NJDEP) / EPA Region 2 / Department of Defense (DOD) Working Group virtually. Joint Base McGuire / Dix / Lakehurst, Air National Guard, Naval Weapons Station Earle, and Picatinny Arsenal also participated. REEO-N provided a briefing on Army Directive 2020-03 (Installation Energy and Water Resilience Policy) and the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program, which address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of military installations.

**Region 4 Tier III Meeting (REEO-S).** On 19 MAY, REEO-South co-chaired the bi-annual Tier III meeting with Region 4 EPA. All military services were represented as well as cleanup program managers from AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, and TN. EPA praised Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) and Tyndall Air Force Base for meeting their cleanup goals and recovering from hurricane damage while under COVID-19 restrictions. COVID-19 restrictions have not negatively impacted cleanup due to tiered partnering efforts in Region 4.

**South Carolina Tier II Partnering Meeting (REEO-S).** On 14 MAY, REEO-South participated in the SC Tier II Partnering Meeting via conference call. The meeting facilitates communication and coordination among DOD agencies, military installations, EPA, and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) on environmental restoration programs in the state. Discussion included COVID-19 updates; status of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) projects; and plans for a joint Tier I and Tier II meeting.

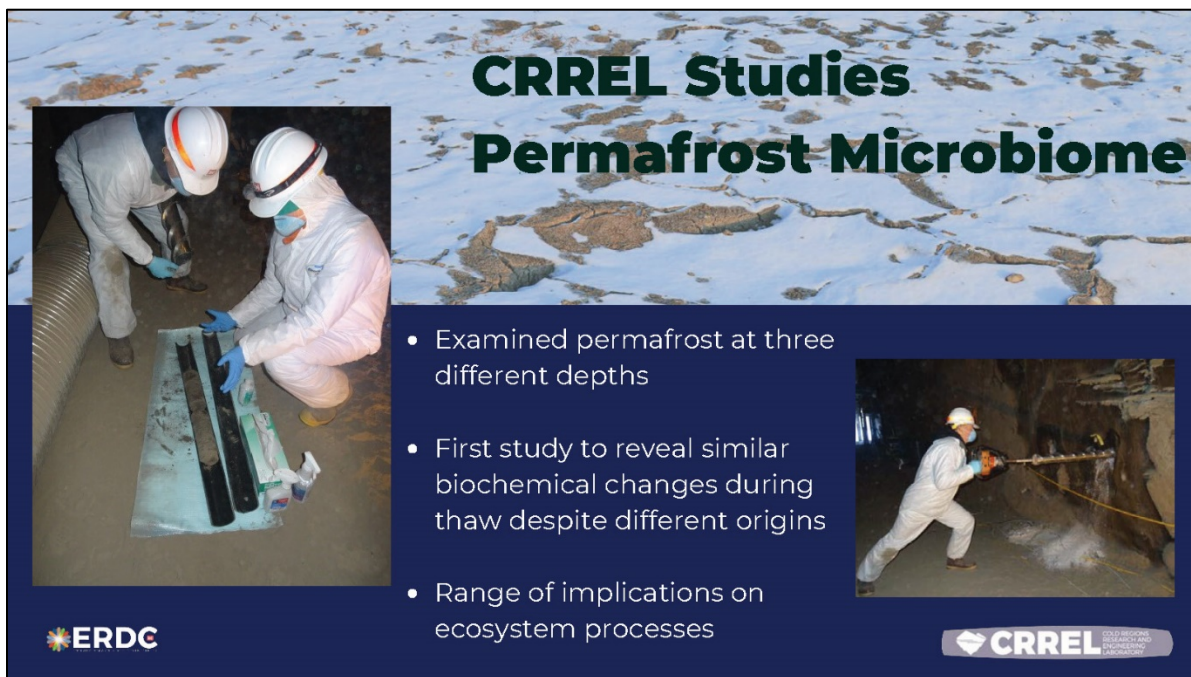


**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) – DOD Partnership (REEO-N).** On 18 MAY, REEO-North conducted a virtual DOD – WDNR Partnership meeting. In attendance were Ms. Darsi Foss, Administrator of the Environmental Management Division, and several division administrators; Navy and Air Force Regional Environmental Coordinators, and Chief of Staff of the WI National Guard; as well as environmental staff from Fort McCoy, 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command, WI Department of Military Affairs, Vaux Air National Guard (ANG), Truax ANG, and Mitchell Air Reserve Station. WDNR provided major programmatic updates and briefed DOD on PFAS issues, including the establishment of a state agency PFAS task force and the creation of the WDNR Office of Emerging Contaminants that will coordinate regulatory actions concerning PFAS.

## ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ERDC)

**ERDC Model Improves LRD Designs.** The Kenosha Dunes, an important coastal habitat on Lake Michigan in southern WI, has experienced severe shoreline erosion from record high water levels during recent years. ERDC will be working closely with Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) over the next few months to help evaluate and improve a system of nearshore breakwaters that LRD is designing to replace a failed rubble mound structure and provide shoreline protection, using ERDC's high-fidelity Fully Nonlinear Boussinesq Wave model.

**Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) Studies the Permafrost Microbiome, AK.** To better understand how thawing permafrost differs by location, ERDC examined metabolic changes in permafrost collected at three different depths (35 m, 60 m and 83 m) in ERDC's Permafrost Tunnel in Fox, AK. The study was the first to reveal that permafrost biochemical processes change similarly during thaw conditions, despite different temporal origins, and could have a range of implications on important ecosystem processes as the climate continues to change.



### CRREL Studies Permafrost Microbiome

- Examined permafrost at three different depths
- First study to reveal similar biochemical changes during thaw despite different origins
- Range of implications on ecosystem processes

ERDC

CRREL

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND MUNITIONS CENTER OF EXPERTISE (EMCX)

**Radioactive Waste Manifesting Recertification Course.** On 5-7 MAY, the EMCX instructed a virtual session of the PROSPECT 430, Radioactive Waste Manifesting Recertification, course for NAB. Students that were unable to complete a recent Buffalo District (LRB) session of this same course due to COVID-19 were also invited to participate. This course ensures the workforce retains the ability to continue to ship radioactive waste in support of the FUSRAP Program.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Webinar.** On 13 MAY, the EMCX held a webinar for Civil Works Environmental Compliance Coordinators on the “Top Ten RCRA violations.”

**Series of Compliance Webinars Planned.** In response to positive feedback received on “Top Ten RCRA Violations” webinar, the EMCX will host a series of monthly compliance webinars for Civil Works ENV Compliance Coordinators (ECC). Courses are planned through the end of the FY on topics such as Compliance and Real Estate, Cultural Resources, Toxic Substances Control Act, Environmental Liability Reporting for Civil Works (non-FUSRAP), and Asbestos. Dates and times will be announced to the ECC network shortly.

## HUNTSVILLE ENGINEERING SUPPORT CENTER (HNC)

**Energy Compliance Analysis Tool.** The Engineering Directorate’s Mechanical Branch HVAC Technical Center of Expertise (TCX) has developed the Electronic Modeling Procedure for Energy Compliance Analysis (ECA). The Energy Compliance Analysis Tool produces preliminary ECA documentation for each of the COS facilities managed by HNC. This tool provides design agencies with an ECA starting point and helps them expedite the analysis process. Additionally, the tool helps ensure design agencies approach and develop ECA documentation consistently from project to project. The ECA tool was presented to HQUSACE with another conference call planned to discuss how this tool can be used across the entire COS Program.

## INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESOURCES (IWR)

**Public Participation in a COVID-19 Environment.** USACE Center for Public Participation and Collaboration (CPCX) held three webinars on fundamentals of teleworking technologies and hosted a panel discussion on recent case studies and lessons learned from district public involvement specialists helping USACE move projects forward under COVID-19. Over 230 personnel from across USACE participated in the panel discussion, which focused on developing and managing virtual engagements. Case studies discussed included executing formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment teleconferences; public meetings with a sponsor on a Section 205 Flood Risk Management Study; and public scoping meeting for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report. Best practices are available [here](#).

## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION (MVD)

**State-Wide Civil Servant of the Year Distinction Nominations (MVP).** The Minnesota Federal Executive Board (FEB) nominated three St. Paul District (MVP) employees: Paul Johnson, Engineering and Construction, for Excellence Beyond Expectations; Paul Machajewski, Operations, for Customer Service; and Tom Novak, Project Management, for Leadership. The FEB Minnesota recognized the individuals virtually and they were recognized publically via MVP’s social media channels. The recipients will also be recognized before their co-workers at an upcoming awards ceremony.

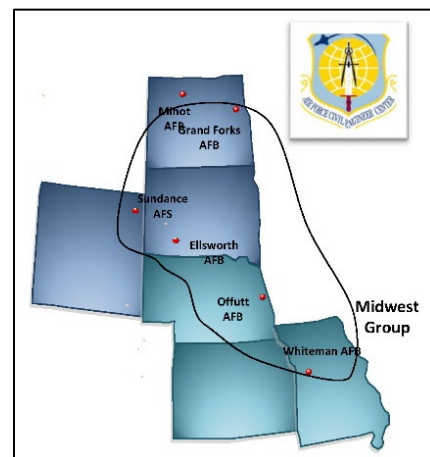
## NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION (NAD)

**New England Environmental Business Council (EBC) Virtual Meeting (NAE).** On 12 MAY, NAE teammates presented "USACE 101" and planning, regulatory, and Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) capabilities and workload to the New England EBC. The council is comprised largely of industry, state, and municipal partners as well as various regulatory agency representatives.



**World Environmental and Resource Congress 2020 Publication (NAP).** A paper submitted by Philadelphia District (NAP)’s Engineering and Construction, Hydraulics Hydrology and Coastal Section, has been published in the Emerging and Innovative Technologies and International Perspectives of the American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental and Water Resource Congress 2020. This portion of the proceedings contains eight peer-reviewed papers on emerging and innovative technologies in water and environmental engineering. The team’s paper documents the modeling and technical support provided by USACE to the Kingdom of Eswatini.

## NORTHWESTERN DIVISION (NWD)

**Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) Midwest Optimized Remediation Contracts (NWO).** On 19 MAY, the Omaha District (NWO) awarded a \$6.6 million Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) for the base requirements and an additional \$13 million worth of optional tasks to be executed through FY 2028. NWO is providing contract and technical oversight for AFCEC on a wide range of environmental remediation activities at a total of 44 restoration sites at: Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB), SD; Grand Forks AFB, ND; Minot AFB, ND; Offutt AFB, NE; Sundance Air Force Station, WY; and Whiteman AFB, MO. ORCs effectively and efficiently manage the Air Force Environmental Restoration Program in a performance-based, results-oriented and cost-conscious framework. This award leads the entire AFCEC and USACE effort for ORCs to be executed in FY20 and will provide a basis for future nationwide ORC awards that are planned by AFCEC in the years to come.



**Lawrence Livermore National Lab (NWK).** On 15 MAY, Kansas City District (NWK) awarded a contract for the demolition of Building 280, a defueled former research reactor at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, CA, last operated in 1980. This contract will begin the removal of a high priority project from the Department of Energy (DOE) deactivated reactor list. DOE decommissioned the reactor due to concerns of cracks in the outer concrete shield of the reactor. Two USACE districts support this project: San Francisco District (SPN) is the lead district, with NWK providing contracting, health physics, and radiological waste disposal technical support.

**LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB, BLDG. 280 REACTOR DEMO CONTRACT**  
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION  
US Army Corps of Engineers



**WHO:** Glen Mitchell, Project Manager; SPN and Josephine Newton-Lund, Technical Manager, NWK.

**WHAT:** Award of a \$7.9M cost plus fixed fee task order for demolition of a deactivated nuclear reactor at Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL). Period of performance is 24 months.




**WHEN:** 15 May 2020

**WHERE:** Livermore, California

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The contractor (APTIM) will develop submittals and work plans for USACE and DOE review. Once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and pre-mob plans approved, the contractor will begin mobilization.



Livermore Pool Type Reactor in Building 280



National Nuclear Security Administration

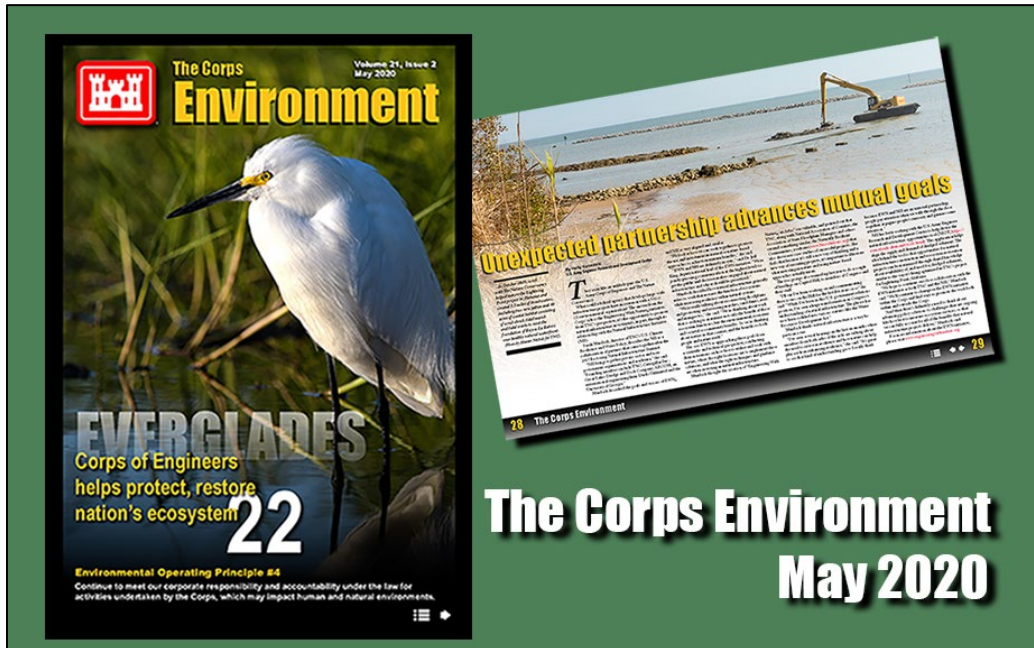
## PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION (POD)

**Hydraulic Engineer names USACE Climate Champion of 2019 (POH).** On 12 MAY, Jessica Podoski, Honolulu District (POH) Hydraulic Engineer, was named the USACE Climate Champion of 2019 award winner. The announcement was made by Kathleen White, Chair of the USACE HQ Climate Preparedness & Resilience Community of Practice. Podoski was commended for her outstanding leadership, taking numerous opportunities to share knowledge, improving collaboration, promoting USACE technical capabilities, and touching all aspects of climate change planning at regional and national levels. Read more [here](#).



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE (PAO)**

**The Corps Environment.** The May 2020 edition of The Corps Environment is available online and highlights protecting and preserving the environment, in support of Environmental Operating Principle #4. Content within this issue showcases the extraordinary environmental stewardship efforts across the Army. Content includes: Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment Alex Beehler's Army Earth Day message; highlights the five installations and three teams recognized as winners in the 2020 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards program; and celebrates some of our environmental heroes, who have spent their careers championing environmental stewardship across different disciplines, including scientific research and geology. View the May 2020 issue [here](#).



**The Corps Environment  
May 2020**