## Mcinerny, Joseph P NAE

From:	Rosenberg, Larry B NAE
Sent:	Friday, December 07, 2007 10:34 AM
To: Subject:	Adams, Karen K NAE; Anderson, Mark J Jr NAE; Andon, Steven A NAE; Bianco, John P NAD; Bishop, Gregory W LTC HQ02; Byrne, Robert H NAE; Campbell, Scott W NAE; Cormier, Ruth M NAE; Cruikshank, Dana W HQ02; D'Antuono, Evamarie NAE; Davis, Lawrence T NAE; Desista, Robert J NAE; Didomenico, Jacqueline D NAE; Dilorenzo, Stephen D NAE; DLL-CENAD-All-PAO; DLL-CENAE-OC; DLL-CENAE-OFFICE-CHIEFS; Drew, Richard J NAE; Dugan, Timothy J NAE; Fioto, Louis D NAD; Firicano, Anthony J NAE; Fredette, Thomas J NAE; Gardner, Crystal I NAE; Gardner, Joan M NAE; Garman, Doug M HQ02; Godfrey, Christine A NAE; Habel, Mark L NAE; Hachigian, James E NAE; Hanacek, Robert J NAE; Harvie, Annmarie R NAE; Hatfield, Christopher L NAE; Henderson, Robert A NAE; Hewitt, David W HQ02; Holtham, Susan E NAE; Hopkins, Sue NAN02; Hubbard, William A NAE; Johnson, Ann NAB02; Keegan, Michael F NAE; Kennelly, John R NAE; Kotelly, Kevin R NAE; Kullberg, Paula G NAE; Lacroix, Gary R NAE; Larsen, Christopher J COL NAD; Liias, Raimo A NAE; Margolis, David I NAE; Marinelli, Paul J NAE; Mazzola, Lawrence S NAD; Mccabe, Maureen A NAE; Mcinerney, Mark F ACE-IT@NAE; Mcmillan, Farrell NAE; Michalak, Scott C NAE; Montoya, Duban NAE; Neal, LeeAnn NAE; Nelson, Andrew B LTC NAE; Newman, Barbara H NAE; Nunziato, Jerome F NAE; O'Donnell, Edward G NAE; Oliver, Lawrence R NAE; Otis, Mark J NAE; Sablan, Marcela D NAE; Schafer, David W NAE; Shugert, Peter H NAN02; Sullivan, Heather L NAE; Sablan, Marcela D NAE; Schafer, David W NAE; Shugert, Peter H NAN02; Sullivan, Heather L NAE; Sablan, Marcela D NAE; Schafer, David W NAE; Shugert, Peter H NAN02; Sullivan, Heather L NAE; Sablan, Marcela D NAE; Christopher D NAE; Weiner, Betsy J HQ02; Winter, Timothy R NAE News You Can Use 11/7
Attachments:	FW: USACE News Clips. December 7, 2007

- President Bush signs Executive Order giving Federal employees off on December 24. For additional current news on significant defense and defense-related national security issues, see today's Early Bird at http://ebird.afis.mil/ ...Larry

Army Taking A Look At Site - Reserve Center Could Transform The Area (Hartford Courant - 12/7/07)

MIDDLETOWN — - The Army, after closing or consolidating seven Reserve and National Guard facilities in Connecticut, is setting out to build a regional Armed Forces Reserve Center on 40 acres of forestland off Saybrook Road, near Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and the Haddam line. Though tax-exempt, the project — including a 200,000-square-foot main building the size of two super Wal-Marts — would be a boon to the area's economy, Middletown officials said. ...The reserve center would employ 150 people full time, and 800 reservists would train there three weekends a month, said Jeff Keane, spokesman for the 94th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Devens in Massachusetts. Construction would begin in 2009, the Army Corps of Engineers told Middletown Mayor Sebastian Giuliano in a letter. The corps said it's negotiating with the landowners — the Connecticut Light & Power Co. — and plans to go ahead with engineering and environmental studies of the site. CL&P spokesman Mitch Gross confirmed that discussions are underway, and said the utility has invited the Army Corps to check out the property. Keane said that after the Base Realignment and Closure initiative shut bases in New England and throughout the country, the Army began to replace some of these facilities and commands with regional centers. (More.) http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-newbase1207.artdec07,0,2244407.story? coll=hc news local fv promo

Wetlands near Exit 4 development at issue - Mitigation questions hang over Exit 4 development (Portsmouth Herald/NH - 12/7/07)

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The issue of wetlands mitigation connected with Exit 4 development may be cleared up at next week's selectmen's meeting. The developer in charge of overseeing the project, Elmer Pease, said his wetlands scientist will have met with the state to get the numbers straight for Monday's session. Pease is planning to develop a multi-use complex on Old Manchester Road at Exit 4 on Route 101 called Granite Meadows. The issue of wetlands mitigation has been a hot topic over the past month among the selectmen, and due to the lack of information given to the developer by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the Army Corps of Engineers, there has been some confusion with the ratio of developed land to wetlands mitigation. The Army Corps of Engineers instituted a 20:1 ratio for mitigation this year, which translates to 20 acres of mitigated wetland to 1 acre of developed wetland. The Granite Meadows plan was designed with a 10:1 ratio. A mitigated wetland requires a combination of two from the options of preservation, enhancement, creation or restoration. At Monday's selectmen meeting, Pease said he had talked to the Army Corps of Engineers and was told they'll be using a scaled-back ratio for wetlands mitigation, not the 20:1 ratio due to the regulations being so new. (More.) http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071207/NEWS/712070337

NRC To Discuss Decommissioning Work At Windsor, CT Site (Solanco News - 12/6/07)

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting in Windsor, Conn., on Wednesday, Dec. 12, to provide an update on decommissioning activities at a former nuclear fuel manufacturing facility in that community owned by ABB, Inc. The NRC, which is responsible for oversight of the facility, will discuss changes in decommissioning and oversight responsibilities that have been implemented to facilitate the completion of remaining cleanup activities.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Windsor Town Hall, 275 Broad St. Before the session is adjourned, members of the public will have an opportunity to pose questions and provide comments to the NRC staff.

"As always, the NRC's focus is on protecting the public and the environment when it comes to radioactive materials," said Keith McConnell, Deputy Director of the NRC's Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate. "At the meeting on December 12th, we will be able to share details of the remaining work envisioned for the ABB, Inc., site and explain what our agency is doing to ensure it will be carried out in as safe a manner as possible, with an eye toward future unrestricted release of the property."

ABB, Inc. (formerly Combustion Engineering-Windsor) manufactured nuclear fuel at the site, which is bordered by Day Hill Road to the south. It was also used at various times to conduct and support nuclear research and development work, including the construction, testing and operation of a U.S. Naval test reactor. The activities began in the mid-1950s and continued until 2001. As a result of those operations, soils, buildings and equipment surfaces were contaminated with uranium and byproduct material, both of which are radioactive.

On April 7, 2003, ABB, Inc., submitted a site-wide decommissioning plan to the NRC. A revised plan that included radiation dose-modeling information was submitted on Oct. 15, 2003. Several buildings on the site were subsequently demolished and the waste materials shipped off-site to a licensed disposal facility.

Meanwhile, certain portions of the site were to be remediated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Radioactive

contamination resulted from defense-related activities at the facility. The buildings and areas where the defense-related materials are located were used by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission prior to the early 1960s, when the first nuclear manufacturing license was issued to Combustion Engineering.

Site studies have identified areas where the commercially generated and defense-related materials have become co-mingled. Consequently, a process was identified to facilitate the effective and efficient cleanup of the remainder of the site. This process, under the oversight of the NRC, will involve ABB, Inc., assuming responsibility for cleanup of all the radioactive contamination.

Once all the decommissioning work is completed, ABB, Inc., must demonstrate to the NRC that the entire property meets the criteria for "unrestricted release." In order for a site to be deemed safe for unrestricted release, any residual radioactivity would have to be within allowable levels.

The current decommissioning plan for the site is available in the NRC's electronic document system, which can be accessed at: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html. Slides from a presentation ABB, Inc., made to the NRC in September regarding the plan are available under Accession Number ML072600282. http://www.solanconews.com/Gov/Articles/2007/071206 NRC windsorct.htm

Executive Order: Closing of Executive Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government on Monday, December 24, 2007 (White House - 12/6/07)

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows: Section 1. All executive branch departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty on Monday, December 24, 2007, the day before Christmas Day, except as provided in section 2 below. Sec. 2. The heads of executive branch departments and agencies may determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty on December 24, 2007, for reasons of national security or defense or other public need. Sec. 3. Monday, December 24, 2007, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 of February 11, 1971, and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the pay and leave of employees of the United States. (Signed:) PRESDENT GEORGE W. BUSH, December 6, 2007.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/12/20071206-5.html#

Larry Rosenberg Chief, Public Affairs U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England 978.318.8657 FAX 978.318.8850 www.nae.usace.army.mil