

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT MONMOUTH 286 SANGER AVENUE FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY 07703-5101

Directorate of Public Works

June 17, 2010

Larry Quinn, Case Manager
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Publicly Funded Remediation Element
P.O. Box 028
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0028

Karen Kloo, Supervisor
Office of Community Relations
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Remediation Support
P.O. Box 413
Trenton, NJ 08625-0413

Re: N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.4 Technical Requirements for Site Remediation Alternative Public Notification Plan US Army Fort Monmouth

Dear Mr. Quinn and Ms. Kloo:

The Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, N.J.A.C. 7:26E et seq., were amended on September 2, 2008 to include Section 1.4, Notification and Public Outreach. That section presents public notification requirements for parties responsible for the remediation of contaminated sites. Subsection 1.4(o) allows responsible parties to seek NJDEP approval of an alternative public notification plan, as an alternative to posting signs or sending notification letters to area property owners.

As you know, Fort Monmouth has numerous contaminated sites regulated under N.J.A.C. 7:26E that the Army has been investigating and cleaning up for many years. Fort Monmouth has been very active in public outreach activities in regard to its regulated sites, especially in the past 3 to 4 years (Fort Monmouth is now scheduled to close in September 2011, per the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission Report). Accordingly, we are hereby requesting NJDEP approval of an alternative public notification plan.

The following is a summary of the current Notification and Public Outreach program at Fort Monmouth:

Restoration Advisory Board

During the summer of 2006, Fort Monmouth explored the initiation of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). After it was determined that sufficient interest existed, a RAB was established in February of 2007. The RAB met monthly during its first year and now conducts quarterly public meetings. RAB members are public citizens, not elected officials, selected from all of the surrounding towns. They are asked to review and comment on ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities. RAB members review and comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental investigations and restoration activities at Fort Monmouth. Members serve as a liaison with the community and are available to meet with community members and groups. RAB meetings are jointly presided over by a Chairperson appointed by the Army and a Community Co-Chair elected by the voting RAB members. NJDEP Case Manager Larry Quinn attends all RAB meetings as the NJDEP representative.

The RAB is an advisory body designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between Fort Monmouth and the local community regarding restoration activities. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the affected community and the installation. All RAB meetings are open to the public and notification of all meetings is provided in local newspapers (*The Asbury Park Press* and *The Link*) as well as by mail to all interested persons. All environmental projects subject to the NJDEP Technical Requirements for Site Remediation are presented to the RAB via this public forum. A copy of the RAB's Operating Procedures, dated April 2008, is attached.

Document Repositories

Fort Monmouth has established a local document repository for all reports produced on the site remediation areas of concern at Fort Monmouth. The repository is located at the Monmouth County Library (Eastern Branch) in Shrewsbury, where all reports are available for review by the public in CD/DVD format.

Fort Monmouth has also established an online repository for all reports at the World Wide Web address https://cecom100.monmouth.army.mil/usagfmima/sites/local/brac.asp. All new reports are placed in both repositories when they are finalized.

Other Outreach Activities

Fort Monmouth also conducted two open houses in January 2008 and January 2009, during which figures and data on all of the Fort's site remediation areas of concern were on display, and Fort environmental personnel were available to answer questions from the public. Fort Monmouth will remain open to conducting similar public forums in the future if the need arises.

In conclusion, the Army takes its responsibility to ensure a fully informed public very seriously. The Army believes that the activities described above meet the intent of Section 1.4 of New Jersey's Technical Requirements. Fort Monmouth hereby requests that the NJDEP approve Fort Monmouth's alternative public notification plan, as described above.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Ms. Wanda Green, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at 732-532-8341 or email: Wanda.Green1@US.Army.mil.

Sincerely,

Joseph Fallon

Chief, Environmental Division

Enclosure:

RAB Operating Procedures, April 2008

cc:

James Allen, Co-Chair, Fort Monmouth Restoration Advisory Board