

**DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
JULY 2003**

**T-25 OUTFALL UPGRADE AND NEW OIL/WATER SEPARATOR
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action of this Environmental Assessment is to upgrade the existing storm water drainage system at the North Campus of the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Massachusetts. The upgrade includes installation of new catch basins, replacement of subsurface storm drain piping, and a new oil/water separator to treat collected storm water prior to discharge to Lake Cochituate via the outfall piping. Three options for the upgrade are being considered. Expansion of the storm drain system across the center of the Campus and a new oil/water separator are elements of the upgrade common to each option. The Base Bid features a 36-inch diameter outfall pipe constructed in a deep trench using temporary and permanent structural sheet pile to support the trench sidewalls. Alternative 1 includes construction of a new storm water pumping station, sited to pump drainage from the new oil/water separator discharge to the lake. This alternative features a 16-inch diameter force main installed at a shallow depth instead of the Base Bid's deeper 36-inch diameter outfall pipe. Alternative 2 includes the use of pipe jacking and/or micro-tunneling to install the 36-inch diameter outfall. Under a fourth option, the No Action alternative, no upgrade to the existing storm water drainage system would occur. The No Action alternative is not desirable because storm water drainage problems at the North Campus would not be resolved.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION MEASURES: Significant adverse effects to human health and the environment are unlikely to result from implementing the proposed action. The outfall upgrade will enhance collection of storm water runoff from vehicle parking areas at the North Campus. The parking areas will drain more quickly, with a reduction in puddled water and subsequent icing, both of which present safety hazards to pedestrians and motorists. The new oil/water separator upgrade will aid in preventing sediment and pollutants such as oils, salt, and litter from entering the lake, and thus will protect aquatic wildlife, maintain aesthetic value, and protect public health by preventing contamination of the lake.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: The Environmental Assessment analyzed the proposed action and associated impacts to area resources. The resources evaluated during the Environmental Assessment include land use, infrastructure (traffic and utilities), socioeconomics, public services, hazardous materials, noise, air quality and climate, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources.

CONCLUSION: The Environmental Assessment concluded that construction of the proposed T-25 outfall upgrade and new oil/water separator will not result in significant impacts to the environment.

Terence Garrahan

July 8, 2003

Terence Garrahan, Environmental Engineer
SSC NEPA Coordinator

Date

Comments on this Finding of No Significant Impact will be accepted from July 11 through August 11, 2003 and may be directed to the following people:

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Both the Environmental Assessment and this Finding of No Significant Impact can be viewed on the internet at <http://www.natick.army.mil/about/esho.htm>.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at the Bacon Free Library, 58 Elliot Street (Route 16), South Natick, MA 01760-5596 and the Morse Institute Library, 14 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760-4630. Copies may also be obtained by writing to Mr. John J. McHugh, Environmental, Safety, & Health Office, 15 Kansas Street, Natick, MA 01760-5049.