



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

August 23, 2021

Gary W. Keefe
Adjutant General
Massachusetts National Guard
2 Randolph Road
Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731

Dear Adjutant General Keefe:

In response to significant public concerns, including inquiries from the Massachusetts congressional delegation and a written petition from a Cape Cod resident, EPA Region 1 has evaluated the applicability of a Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) review for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMGR) at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). Given the scope of this project, the level of public interest, and the petition, EPA has elected to conduct this review.

The purpose of this Sole Source Aquifer review is to evaluate whether the proposed MPMGR project has a potential to contaminate the aquifer creating a significant hazard to public health and to provide recommendations to protect the aquifer. The Sole Source Aquifer review does not affect the ongoing cleanup work undertaken by the JBCC pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) orders or the Federal Facility Agreement under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, including the role of the Massachusetts Environmental Management Commission in overseeing future uses of the JBCC ranges.

Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act establishes the SSA program and enables EPA to review federally-funded projects in sole source aquifers. EPA defines a sole source aquifer as one where: (1) the aquifer supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water for its service area; and (2) there are no reasonably available alternative drinking water sources should the aquifer become contaminated. The Cape Cod Sole Source Aquifer was designated on July 13, 1982 (Federal Register Notice: 47 FR 30282). EPA understands that the MPMRG project is receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). While DOD projects are exempt from SSA review, the Massachusetts Army National Guard's status as a State agency receiving federal funding from DOD for the proposed project qualifies the project for SSA review.

EPA respectfully requests that the Massachusetts Army National Guard, in coordination with the federal funding agency, amend your initial notification to provide relevant information to our agency on the scope and potential impacts to the aquifer. If there is insufficient information to

evaluate the project, EPA will request further information. In the course of the review, EPA will also be in contact with the Environmental Management Commission for their expertise. An email can be sent to EPA Region 1's Sole Source Aquifer Coordinator, Kira Jacobs at jacobs.kira@epa.gov and she can be reached by phone at 617-918-1817.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at 617-918-1502.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed
by KENNETH
MORAFF
Date: 2021.08.23
14:44:38 -04'00'

Ken Moraff
Water Division Director

cc: Martin Suuberg, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Ronald Amidon, Massachusetts Fish and Game
Jim Montgomery, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Brigadier General Christopher M. Faux, Joint Base Cape Cod