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LETTER REPORT REGARDING WETLAND INSPECTION SPRING 2011 AREA OF  
CONCERN 55C (AOC55C) NAS SOUTH WEYMOUTH MA  
6/22/2011  
TETRA TECH



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C-NAVY-06-11-4441W

June 22, 2011

Project Number G02073

Mr. Brian Helland, RPM  
BRAC PMO, Northeast  
4911 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19112

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62470-08-D-1001  
Contract Task Order (CTO) No. WE11

Subject: Area of Concern 55C – Spring 2011 Wetland Inspection  
Naval Air Station South Weymouth, Weymouth, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Helland:

This letter documents the results of the spring 2011 Area of Concern (AOC) 55C wetland inspection conducted on June 6, 2011. The purpose of the spring inspection was to conduct an early growing-season assessment of the restored wetland area and to establish three vegetation monitoring plots that will be assessed during the annual, mid-growing season vegetation monitoring event. A meandering survey was employed to identify the presence of invasive species, identify and qualitatively assess the condition of the planted material, and identify any other potential issues that could affect project success. The inspection was performed in accordance with the Final Restoration Plan, Revision 1 for the AOC 55C removal action (Shaw, March 2010) and following procedures generally consistent with the post-restoration wetland inspections performed at the Rubble Disposal Area and AOC 8.

The findings of the inspection are summarized below.

- **Herbaceous Vegetation:** The overall cover of herbaceous vegetation was low (Photo 1). Young shoots of wetland and upland species were present but sparse throughout much of the restoration area. There were several sections, including immediately south of the vernal pool, where no new growth was observed.
- **Invasive Species:** Three invasive species were observed within the restoration area; Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, and glossy buckthorn. Approximately 15 stems of Japanese knotweed were scattered throughout the restored area and several relatively small yet dense patches were observed in the vicinity of the former stockpile area and at points along the haul road. All of the Japanese knotweed stems that were observed within the restoration area were manually removed at the time of the spring assessment.

Approximately 30 stems of purple loosestrife were observed within the restored wetland. However, *Gallerucella* beetles – also known as purple loosestrife beetles – were observed on several of the plants; foliar damage caused by the beetles was observed on most of the remaining plants.

Glossy buckthorn is well established in the forest surrounding AOC-55C. Glossy buckthorn seedlings were observed within the edges of the restored wetland.

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- **Plantings:** Although many of the smaller (<3 feet tall) planted shrubs and trees appeared to be of good vigor, nearly all of the taller trees (>3 feet tall) were dead or nearly so (Photo 2). Several of the low vigor plants had leaves only near the base within approximately 6 inches of the ground surface. Signs of deer, including tracks and scat, were observed throughout the wetland.

Three vegetation monitoring plots were established within the restoration area. The plot locations were chosen at random and were marked with wooden stakes and flagging. The location of the plots will be recorded using a global positioning system (GPS) during the annual monitoring event.

The following are recommendations based on findings from the spring 2011 site assessment.

- Reseed the entire restoration area with a mix of containing native wetland species.
- Planted trees that did not survive should be replanted. Although it did not appear that mortality was due to heavy deer browse, the replacement material should be monitored closely for evidence of herbivory. If it appears that this is significant factor, deer browse deterrents such as bud caps or tree shelters should be employed.
- The stands of Japanese knotweed that occur along the haul road and surrounding the restoration area should be eradicated.
- Manual removal of glossy buckthorn from the fringes of the restoration should be conducted annually each fall for the duration of the monitoring period.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at (978) 474-8403.

Very truly yours,



Phoebe A. Call  
Project Manager

PAC/lh

Enclosures

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K. Keckler, EPA (w/encl. - 1)  
D. Chaffin, MassDEP (w/encl. -1)  
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File G02073-3.2 (w/o encl.);  
G02073-8.0 (w/encl. - 1 each



**PHOTO 1  
VIEW OF AOC 55C  
PANORAMIC FROM TOP OF BERM**



**PHOTO 2  
VIEW OF AOC 55  
ONE OF PLANTED RED MAPLES**