

Civil works Update



By JoAnne Castagna, PPMD

Corps repairs 70-year old dam

In 1935, the Corps oversaw the construction of the Waterbury Dam in Vermont built in response to a flooding disaster in 1927. Seventy years later, a Corps multi-district project delivery team is underway making necessary restorations to the dam located on the Little River in the Winooski River Basin in the town of Waterbury.

In August a restoration groundbreaking took place. "I have the highest regards for the Corps. The work they do for the country is phenomenal," said Vermont Sen. James Jeffords.

"The Corps' first civil works projects were in Vermont on Lake Champlain," said Col. John O'Dowd, District Engineer. "Beginning in 1935 and ending in 1938, the Waterbury Dam was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the supervision of the Corps. The Corps has worked on the dam twice since then."

According to Doug Leite, project manager, in the late 1990s, the Corps conducted tests on the dam. "Part of the dam sits on the old river gorge that may have settled, possibly creating voids in the dam," said Leite. "Excess seepage in the dam could erode the dam internally."

The repairs to the dam began in July and the project is expected to be completed in Fall 2004. RAITO Inc., a contractor from San Leandro, Calif. will perform three years of repairs. J.A. McDonald, a Vermont subcontractor is excavating a downstream section of the dam so that filter stone can be placed around the discharge pipe that runs through the center of the dam.

Preserving the environment has been a top priority. The mitigation for the drawdown of the reservoir will be a bio-engineered shoreline stabilization project.



Bulldozers excavate along the toe of the dam as backfill placement is also necessary at the shell zone following placement of filler material.

District preserves QOL at Broadstreet Hollow

The Broadstreet Hollow Stream Project is an Army Corps project where restoration is used to preserve the quality of life and the natural habitat. Today, 9 million New Yorkers are using safe water as a result. The Broadstreet Hollow Stream is a tributary of the Espous Creek, which is the primary river running into the Ashokan Reservoir. It is one of 31 projects being accomplished under the New York City Watershed Environmental Assistance Program.

"All of these projects are ongoing except for Broadstreet, which was completed in November 2000," said Douglas Leite, project manager, New York District. "It may be completed, but the successful work accomplished on the project has left a lasting impression on the community that has experienced flooding problems over the years."



Douglas Leite, project manager observes the Broadstreet Hollow Stream.