



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

Date: *Dated as shown on electronic signature(s)*

Subj: Inspection Report
Clean Water Act - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
("NPDES")
Southbridge Municipal Airport

From: Damian Bednarz, EPA Inspector **DAMIAN BEDNARZ** Digitally signed by DAMIAN BEDNARZ
Date: 2024.07.19 17:45:31 -04'00'

To: File

I. Facility Information

- A. *Facility Name:* Southbridge Municipal Airport
- B. *Facility Location:* 220 Airport Access Road
Southbridge, MA 01550
- C. *Facility Contacts:* Ronald Plouffe, Airport Manager
Sean McKay, Stantec
- D. *NPDES ID No(s):* Terminated CGP permit MAR1001BA & MAR1003K7
Currently no active construction permit
Active MSGP Permit ID MAR05J05O

II. Background Information

- A. *Date(s) of inspection:* May 22, 2024
- B. *Weather Conditions:* Approx 82°
- C. *US EPA Representative(s):*
Damian Bednarz
Newton Tedder
- D. *State/Local Representative(s):*
Ken Komia, Southbridge Town Planner
Maureen Doyle, Southbridge Conservation Commission
- E. *Federally Enforceable Requirements Covered During the Inspection:*
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit
Effective February 17th, 2022

F. Previous Enforcement Actions:

No previous enforcement by the EPA

III. Type and Purpose of Inspection

Evaluation

IV. Facility Description

The Southbridge Municipal Airport (the “Site”) at 220 Airport Access Road, in Southbridge Massachusetts is owned by the Town of Southbridge, and features a single runway. On the Site’s southeastern perimeter runs a freshwater complex comprising of riverine, forested/shrub wetland, and ponds, initiating from that flows underneath Clemence Hill Road through a culvert, and continues south west towards McKinstry Brook. At the time of the inspection, the Site is undergoing a perimeter fencing project as an expansion to a previous fencing project that was conducted in 2022.

V. Inspection

Mr. Bednarz and Mr. Tedder (the “EPA Inspectors”) arrived at approximately 1:30 PM.

A. Opening Conference

Mr. Comia, Ms. Doyle, and the EPA Inspectors met with Sean McKay of Stantec Engineering, Adam Verville of GMH Fence Co., and James Matz of the Department of Transportation. I asked whether operators of the Site may provide the EPA Inspectors with a SWPPP. It was deduced that the Site does not have active construction, despite EPA online records that stated there was an active permit with the ID MAR1003K7 for the purpose of a runway expansion project. The Conservation Commission of the Town of Southbridge had previously planned to visit the Site in efforts to assess impacts to vegetated wetlands where it was intended that fencing be reinstalled. The group decided it was best to conduct observations by vehicle.

B. Facility Tour

Site operators guided the group by vehicle along areas where the fencing would be replaced. At the time of the inspection, areas outside fencing were predominantly vegetated and stabilized, and no work was being conducted (Photo ID 1, 2). Erosion control wattles were placed where fence replacement and installation were anticipated (Photo ID 4-10, 16). Stormwater conveyance systems, such as culverts existing under roadways, are separated from anticipated work zones with more erosion control wattles (Photo ID 11-14).

D. Closing Conference

I explained to the group that observations from the inspection would be documented in a report and be shared with contacts at the Site.

After the close of the inspection, Southbridge Municipal Airport terminated permit coverage on June 5th, 2024, as site stabilization criteria has been met. In their Notice of Termination, it is evidenced by photos that the previous construction relating to runway expansion was in a state of stabilization post construction.

Unless otherwise noted, this report describes conditions at the facility/property as observed by EPA inspector(s), and/or through records provided to and/or information reported to EPA inspector(s) by facility representatives and as understood by the inspector(s). This report may not capture all operations or activities ongoing at the time of the inspection. This report does not make final determinations on potential areas of concern. Nothing in this report affects EPA's authorities under federal statutes and regulations to pursue further investigation or action.