AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE
A COVERED OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE
TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
THE CANINE ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER
FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
U. S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

National Logistics Center
6026 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

Original Document Dated: April 1, 1994
Amendment Dated: January 3, 1995
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U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

CONSTRUCTION OF:

A COVERED OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE

AT THE U.S. CUSTOMS CANINE ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA

These proposed actions have been thoroughly reviewed by the U.S. Customs Service and it has been determined, by the undersigned, that these projects will have no significant effect on the human environment.

This finding of no significant impact is based on the accompanying U.S. Customs environmental assessment, which has been determined to adequately and accurately discuss the environmental issues and impacts of the proposed actions and provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an environmental impact statement is not required.

Date Environmental Reviewer Title/Position

Date Responsible Official Title/Position
U. S. CUSTOMS SERVICE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF:
A COVERED OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE
AT THE U. S. CUSTOMS CANINE ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER
FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA

This U. S. Customs Service environmental assessment was prepared in accordance with
the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and the Council of Environmental

This environmental assessment serves as a concise public document to briefly provide
sufficient evidence and analysis for determining the need for the proposal, the alternatives, the
environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives, comparative analysis of the action and
alternatives, a statement of environmental significance, and lists the agencies and persons
consulted during its preparation.

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II. PROPOSED ACTION

This is an addendum to include a Covered Outdoor Firing Range to the original Environmental Assessment (EA) that encompassed both Site "A", the 13.4 acre main campus, and Site "B", location of proposed construction of new facilities on a 282 acre tract of land, (hereafter referred to as the Master Plan). The following is a description of the proposed covered outdoor firing range at Site “B”. (See Attachment “A”)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Covered Outdoor Firing Range</td>
<td>Site &quot;B&quot;</td>
<td>6,500 SF</td>
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</table>

The range is constructed of a concrete slab with wood encased steel columns supporting a wooden structure with a metal roof. The range is sound attenuated on three sides by walls of sound absorbing material. The targets are to be of a bullet entrapment type similar to the “Rubber Granular Bullet Trap as manufactured by Caswell International Corp.” Any lead fragments will be vacuumed from the concrete slab with enviromentally approved “HEPA” type equipment.

There is no anticipated adverse environmental effect as the range will be used only during scheduled class times and will be maintained on a regular basis keeping lead particulates confined to the concrete slab and the bullet trap. Rain and snow runoff will be controlled by the roof covering and downspouts minimizing the potential for any lead particulates to enter into the local watershed. The sound generated will be attenuated by the enclosed design and sound absorbing materials creating a possible reduction in the current noise level.

Other environmental considerations regarding construction at Site “B” are addressed in the accompanying Environmental Assessment previously completed.

The contents of this report reflect information gathered from interviews with various government agencies and CETC staff.

This EA reflects the official U.S. Customs position supporting the finding of "no significant impact."
III. NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The Canine Enforcement Training Center (CETC) functions as a facility used to train students (handlers) and dogs to detect hard narcotics, soft narcotics, and explosives. The training is provided to Customs Officers as well as other federal, state, local and foreign law enforcement agencies. The facility trains approximately 95 students per year, with an average class size of four students. Training for hard and soft narcotics consist of a 12-week program; explosives training requires an additional four weeks. The training program has grown considerably in the past years to the point that there is currently a backlog of students waiting to enter the training program. The CETC consists of a main campus, Site "A", (see Figure [3] in original EA) with additional classroom buildings, and Site "B", located approximately one mile south of the main complex adjacent to Route 604.

The delay in entering the training program is due to the following: 1) limited classroom facilities; 2) limited kennel space for additional dogs; 3) limited outdoor training facilities, such as vehicle training lots; and 4) limited vehicle parking for staff and students.

Since several of the existing buildings are antiquated (this facility was originally used as a cavalry remount site and the original hay barns and stables have been modified to accommodate the Center needs). These facilities are in a constant need of repair and additional support facilities are needed at the Center. A 5-year Development Improvement Plan was initiated in 1988 to upgrade the facilities. This Improvement Plan will assist in providing the additional facilities (for example: a new laundry/kennel support building for washing various training aides; a new dormitory to house the students during training; a new gatehouse and gate to secure the facility, etc.) required to improve and meet the future demands of the Training Center. The planned construction described in the Proposed Action will help meet these needs.

The Customs Service has initiated a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 review to the State of Virginia for all buildings on Site "A" that are over 50 years old. There are no buildings on Site "B" that are under the NHPA Section 106 purview. A copy of the letter to the Virginia Department of Historical Resources is shown in Appendix B-8 of the original EA.

IV. ALTERNATIVES

1. No Action. Without implementation of the proposed action, the CETC mission will be severely degraded. The current facilities are in need of constant repair and do not fully meet the CETC's training requirements. The Center would continue to operate on a limited tight schedule and the backlog of students waiting to enter the training program would continue. Off-site training required by the programs as well as training sessions rescheduled due to inclement weather would be severely increased without the added facilities.
2. Other Locations on-site. This would result in greater noise impacts on sensitive receptors and require extensive site preparations and excavations.

3. Other Locations off-site. This alternative will not meet the needs for proximity of the CETC training facilities and is unlikely to result in fewer impacts. Also, funding is not available for additional land purchase.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The findings for the Environmental Assessment are presented in the Environmental Analysis Checklist's 12 categories. A concise overview of potential impacts for the proposed sites is given in the actual Environmental Checklist form which starts on page 12. Environmental impacts are as follows:

1. Air Quality. The U.S. Customs Service will control air quality impacts at the construction site and surrounding properties by enforcing dust control measures during construction. Additionally, no burning will be permitted on the site.

VI. STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed action described in this Environmental Assessment will not have any significant impacts to the environment. Where, appropriate, the Customs Service has taken the necessary prudent steps to mitigate impacts.

The following information supports the U.S. Customs Service finding of no significant impact. The review considers (1) no action, (2) other locations on-site and (3) other locations off-site.

The applicable responses are yes, no, not applicable (N/A) or unknown (UNK).
1. **Effects on Land Use Patterns.**

   a. Is the proposed use of the project inconsistent with land use in the area?  
      NO  NO  NO

   b. Does the project conflict with local zoning ordinances?  
      NO  NO  NO

   c. Has any controversy over land use arisen with other agencies or the public?  
      NO  NO  NO

   d. Will the project result in the relocation of private residences?  
      NO  NO  NO

   e. Will the project result in the relocation of private businesses?  
      NO  NO  NO

   f. Will the project result in public access through the area?  
      NO  NO  NO

   g. Is the proposed architecture inconsistent with the surrounding architecture or landscape?  
      NO  NO  NO

**Zoning:**

The existing Land Use Map for Warren County indicates that the property surrounding Site "B" is designated for Public/Open Space/Recreation (P/OS/R) to the north, east, and south and vacant (V) to the west. The CETC project sites are located within the Agricultural (A) zoning district of Warren County.

The CETC is described in the text of the Warren County Comprehensive Plan as an institutional use. The Canine Training Center pre-dates the zoning ordinance and are considered pre-existing non-conforming conditions. Even though the federal government has sovereign immunity from local zoning regulations, the overall plans have been discussed with the County Administrator and County Planning Director neither of whom have or know of any objections to the proposed expansion. The proposed use was thought to be in general conformance with the
County Comprehensive Plan. It was suggested that coordination should continue with the planning department so that general plans for future development may be used for future planning by the County.

2. Effects on the Social Environment.

a. Will the project involve a significant increase in the population of the community?  
   
   NO  NO  NO

b. Will the population increase involve an increase in the population density of the area?  
   
   NO  NO  NO

c. Will the project require the construction of government housing either now or at a later date?  
   
   NO  NO  NO

d. Is there a shortage of support facilities for personnel including schools, hospitals, shopping facilities and recreation facilities?  
   
   NO  NO  NO

e. Will the influx of Customs personnel significantly tax these support facilities?  
   
   NO  NO  NO

f. Will the project involve an increased load on utilities, particularly municipal water supplies and sewage disposal facilities?  
   
   NO  NO  NO

g. Will the project have a significant effect on the economic activities of the area?  
   
   NO  NO  NO
h. Will the project have a significant effect on any parks or recreation areas? NO NO NO

No increase in employees at the CETC is planned, therefore, no increase in employee housing in the area is predicted. Students at the CETC are transient, typically staying in local hotels for no more than 15 weeks at a time. Students at the CETC may affect employment, to a minor degree, at local hotels and restaurants.

Adequate public sewer, and potable water supplies are presently available at both project sites.

Indicate One
YES, NO, N/A, UNK

3. Effects on Transportation.

a. Will the project involve significant increased vehicle traffic on surrounding streets and highways either during construction or operation? NO NO NO

b. Will the project involve increased waterway traffic either during construction or operation? N/A N/A N/A

c. Will the project require rerouting of roads? NO NO NO

d. Will the project require rerouting of traffic during construction? NO NO NO

e. Is the project located near any existing bottleneck in vehicle or vessel traffic such as a bridge, intersection, bend in the waterway, restricted channel, etc.? NO NO NO
f. Is the project likely to create any such obstruction either during construction or operation?  

Indicate One  
YES, NO, N/A, UNK  

(1)  (2)  (3)  

4. Effects on Public Safety.  

a. Will the project require the storage of explosives?  

b. Will the project require the storage of large amounts of fuel?  

c. Will the project include the construction of radio antennae or high voltage radar or microwave structures?  

d. Will the project include landing facilities for Customs Service aircraft?  

e. Will the public have open access to hazardous areas?  

f. Will the project require the storage, treatment, handling or disposal of hazardous wastes?
5. Effects on Noise Levels.

a. Will construction of a facility significantly increase the ambient noise levels of the area?  
   NO  NO  NO

b. Will operation of the facility increase the ambient noise level of the area? (Includes operation of machinery, vehicles, vessels, aircraft, loudspeaker systems, alarms, etc.)  
   NO  NO  NO

c. Will noise levels above the ambient noise levels, from operation at the facility, generally occur past normal working hours? (7a.m. to 6p.m.)  
   NO  NO  NO

d. Will construction activities at the site continue past normal working hours?  
   NO  NO  NO

e. Will operations at the facility include the use of equipment with unusual noise characteristics?  
   NO  NO  NO

Construction blasting on the project site is prohibited by the construction specifications. Construction activity will be limited to daytime hours and is a temporary activity.
6. **Effects on Air Quality.**

a. Will construction activities adversely affect the ambient air quality due to dust, emission from construction vehicles, open burning, etc.? (Contact state and local Air Quality Agency for determination.)

   NO NO NO

b. Will operation of vehicles, vessels, or aircraft at the completed facility adversely affect the ambient air quality? (Contact state and local Air Quality Agency for determination.)

   NO NO NO

c. Will dredging activities result in the release of noxious odors?

   N/A N/A N/A

d. Will industrial activities at the facility result in toxic or unusual air emissions?

   N/A N/A N/A

e. Will open burning be carried out at the completed facility?

   NO NO NO

f. Will a local burning permit be required?

   NO NO NO

g. Does the action conform to the State Implementation Plan?

   YES YES YES
Dust control measures are addressed in the construction specifications within the earthwork sections. No burning of debris will be permitted on the project site.

Warren County is within compliance for the six priority pollutants determined by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In view of the light increase in traffic generated by the construction and the rural location, no significant air quality impacts are anticipated.

7. Effects on Water Resources.

a. Will the project require any dredging below the MHW line, ordinary high water line, or near or in any wetlands, waterways, and other contiguous bodies of water?

b. Will there be any waterway construction (i.e., piers, docks, dolphins, jetties, ramps, etc.)? If yes, Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit may be required.

c. Will there be any filling below MHW required? If yes, Corp of Engineers Section 404 permit may be required.

d. Will there be any modification of the stream bed or banks of a waterway?

e. Will there be any diversion of flow in the waterway?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f. Will construction in adjacent waterways result in alteration of the sedimentation characteristic of the waterway?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Will waterfront construction result in an increase in water turbidity?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>h. Will operation of vessels at the facility result in bank erosion due to vessel wake?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Will Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit be required?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>j. Will sewage waste water or other pollutants be discharged into an adjacent waterway?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>k. Will an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state permit be required to discharge sewage or waste waters into adjacent waterways?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Will the project result in upland pollutants flowing into adjacent waterways?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Will water runoff laden with silt from an uncovered and unprotected construction site be allowed to enter adjacent waterways?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<td>n. Will construction-related</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Question</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>o. Will the project require construction of a well or water-intake structure in a natural waterway? (Contact local water and health authorities for possible requirements and permits).</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>p. Will the construction of a well or intake structure significantly deplete available water resources?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>q. Will there be any contamination of the underground aquifers involved in the project or any adverse impact on an EPA-designated sole-source aquifer?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>r. Will dockside sewage and bilge-water collection systems require local and state permits?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>s. Will the temperature of the surrounding water be raised by any discharges resulting from the construction or operation of the project?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>t. Is there a significant possibility of accidental spills of oils, hazardous, or toxic materials?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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Soil erosion and sediment control is addressed in the construction specifications for the Covered Outdoor Firing Range. According to these specifications, the following standards are to be followed: "Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in Developing Areas" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soils Conservation Services, College Park, Maryland and Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.

a. Will the project require the removal of any marine/aquatic vegetation?  NO  NO  NO

b. Will the project require the significant removal of any terrestrial vegetation?  NO  NO  NO

c. Will the project involve construction in marshland or wetland area either on or away from the project site?  NO  NO  NO

d. If dredging is required, will the soil be deposited in a marshland or wetland area either on or away from the site?  N/A  N/A  N/A

e. Are there any known rare or endangered species inhabiting the project site?  NO  NO  NO

f. Is the project site within the range of any known threatened or endangered species?  YES  YES  YES

g. Is the project located inside or near a wildlife refuge or wildlife conservation area?  YES  YES  YES
h. Have the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state fish and wildlife agencies determined that there are significant adverse impacts to any marshland, wetlands, and/or wildlife associated with the project area? NO NO NO

i. Will farmlands or potential farmlands be lost through U.S. Customs use? NO NO NO

j. Has the U.S. Soil Conservation Services's State Conservationist objected to the loss of the farmlands? NO NO NO

k. Has soil conservation Service form number AD-1006 been completed? NO NO NO

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted regarding the presence of any rare or known-endangered species inhabiting the project site or within Warren County. USFWS indicated that no rare or endangered species were known to be present. The Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries indicated that "a state-threatened Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) existed approximately one mile northeast of the project site..." However, after further research, USFWS field staff indicated that they "...anticipate no significant adverse impacts upon fish and wildlife resources under our jurisdiction to result from your proposed project." (See letter in Appendix B-6 of the original EA).

The Smithsonian Institute owns 31,000 acres of property across Harmony Hollow Road to the north and east. This property is fenced in and used as a breeding facility for zoological exhibits and endangered species. (Refer to Appendix B-2 of the original EA).

The soil in the area of the site is classified as "Hawksbill very cobbly loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes." According to the USDA Soils Conservation Service in Warren County, Virginia, the soil in the area of the CETC project sites is not considered prime farm or pasture lands. A letter has
been included in Appendix B-7 of the original EA in lieu of form number AD 1006 at the suggestion of the U.S. Soils Conservation Service.

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9. **Effects on Coastal Zone Resources**

a. Does the proposed activity or project require a Coastal Zone Consistency determination?  
   NO NO NO

b. Does the proposed activity affect a barrier island?  
   (If yes, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required).  
   N/A N/A N/A

10. **Effects on Public Lands**

a. Does the project involve land which is either presently used as a public park or recreation area, or is scheduled for public recreation use in the future? (Contact local or regional planning agency).
   NO NO NO

b. Does the project restrict any access to any public park or recreation area?  
   NO NO NO

c. Is the project located near any public park or recreation area?  
   YES YES YES

d. Does the project impact or restrict access to any public use property or facilities?  
   NO NO NO
11. Effects on Archaeological or Historical Sites.

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<tr>
<td>a. Is the project site located in an area or archaeological, cultural, or historical significance? (Contact the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) for determination).</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Is the project site located near any historical site or structure?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Will such an archaeological or historical site or structure be altered by the project?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Does the project restrict access to any site or structure of historical or archaeological significance?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
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The National Registrar of Historic Places, The Virginia Historical Society, and the Warren County Historical Society were contacted in regards to whether there were any known archaeological or historical sites or structures on or near the project sites. There are no known archaeological sites nearby. There is a house immediately south of Site "A" listed by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and built prior to 1850 known as "Liberty Hall" or the "James Dyson House." See Figure 4. This house was used as a Confederate headquarters during the Civil War. Attached to it is a log cabin built around 1817. The house is listed as being in need of repair. Along the southwest property line of adjacent vacant property to Site "A", there is a 10' X 20' wooden outbuilding (see Figure 7 of the original EA) which, due to its proximity to the "James Dyson House", is likely to have been built as a part of the estate, therefore, it warrants further analysis. The U.S. Customs Service is currently requesting a National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Review from the Virginia State Historical Preservation Office to evaluate the property. (Refer to Appendix B-8 of the original EA). The planned projects would have no impact on the outbuilding site.

a. Have appropriate state, regional, and local governments raised objections to the proposed project? NO NO NO

b. Has the State Historical Preservation Officer raised objections to the proposed project? (National Historical Preservation Act). NO NO NO

c. Has the State Coastal Zone Management Officer raised objections to the proposed project? (Coastal Zone Management Act) NO NO NO

d. Has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services raised objections to the proposed project in regard to fishery and wildlife protection (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, endangered species (Endangered Species Act), or habitat protection (Protection or Wetlands-Executive Order 11990))? NO NO NO

e. Has the Corps of Engineers raised objections to the proposed project in regard to floodplain construction (E.O. 11296) and water quality NO NO NO
Has the EPA raised objections to the proposed project in regard to air quality (Clean Air Act), and water quality (Clean Water Act)?

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<td>NO</td>
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Has any public interest group (e.g., Sierra Club or League of Women Voters) raised any objections to the proposed project?

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<td>NO</td>
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The U.S. Customs Service is preparing a National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Review relating to the "James Dyson House" (Liberty Hall) on the adjoining property.
APPENDIX A - REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

REFERENCES


Warren County Zoning Map. Last revised March 1, 1992.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, Northern Virginia Regulatory Section, Dumfries, Virginia.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division, Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia Department of Historical Resources, Architectural Historian, Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Permit Section Newport News, Virginia.

Virginia Department of Transportation, Resident Engineer, Luray, Virginia.
APPENDIX A - REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

CONTACTS

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APPENDIX B - AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

- Memorandum - Cooper Lecky Architects, regarding Smithsonian Institute NZP (B-2)

- Scope of Work - Temporary Construction Access Road Crossing Happy Creek (B-3, 2 pages)

- Joint Permit Application VMRC No. 94-0175, required for the bridge over happy Creek (B-4, 9 pages)

- A completed executed and approved copy of the Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14 and 401 Certification for Clean Water Act (B-5, 10 pages)

- Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries letter stating there exists no endangered or threatened species or other sensitive wildlife resources on the project sites. (B-6, 1 page)

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Soils Conservation Service letter stating that development of the farmland pose no loss of farmlands or pasture lands. (B-7, 2 pages)

- U.S. Customs letter of April 12, 1994 requesting Section 106 Review by Virginia State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) (B-8, 10 pages)

- Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality letter stating that water quality impacts should be minimal and temporary; a Virginia Water Protection Permit is not required. (B-9, 1 page)

- Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation Permit No. 856-00586 to reconstruct the entrance drive at the project site. (B-10, 9 pages)

- Report on the Asbestos Identification at the project site. (B-11, 30 pages)
• Report on the Lead Paint Identification at the project site. (B-12, 21 pages)