



Burlington Harbor Oil Bollard Removal Burlington, Vermont

As of: August 2011

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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DESCRIPTION

The oil bollards (from this point called Oil Dolphins) are early to mid-twentieth century caisson-type structures used to facilitate pumping petroleum products from barges to associated tank farms on the waterfront. The larger oil dolphins off of Burlington Harbor were constructed of rock filled timber cribbing that produced a square wharf like structure. The Oil Dolphins in Burlington Harbor include timber cribbing and steel sheeting, depending upon the year they were built.

A large amount of background information on the oil dolphins and this particular study area was gathered in a Phase I archaeological survey conducted by the Corps in Lake Champlain, adjacent to Burlington, Chittenden County, Vermont. The survey included two components: an underwater remote sensing survey, and an archaeological survey and historic assessment of eight oil dolphins. The report was finalized in July 2008. In General Provisions, Section 108 of the FY2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Act the Secretary was authorized to remove and dispose of oil bollards and associated debris in Burlington Harbor, Vermont.



AUTHORIZATION:

General Provisions, Section 108 of the FY2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Act states “The Secretary is authorized to remove and dispose of oil bollards and associated debris in Burlington Harbor, Vermont.”

STATUS:

The New York District Corps of Engineers is working with the City of Burlington and the State of Vermont to produce a design document which will support the execution of a project partnering agreement (PPA) with the City, and eventual project implementation for removal of oil dolphins located in Burlington Harbor. The goal of the oil dolphin removal is to eliminate a potential obstruction to navigation caused by continued deterioration of these obsolete structures. Work has begun on plans and specifications; construction is scheduled for Summer of 2012.

CONTACT:

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:

Congressional Interest: Sen. Patrick Leahy, VT; Sen. Bernard Sanders, VT; Rep. Peter Welch, VT- At Large