



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: August 14, 2015

Comment Period Ends: October 5, 2015

File Number: NAE-2015

In Reply Refer To: Meghan Quinn

Or by e-mail: Meghan.C.Quinn@usace.army.mil

On August 17, 2015 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will release, for public review, a Draft Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Long Island Sound that was requested by the Governors of Connecticut and New York, in their letter of February 8, 2005 to the Chief of Engineers. The need for a DMMP was also identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) June 3, 2005 Rule that designated two of the Sound's historic open-water dredged material placement sites, the Central Long Island Sound and Western Long Island Sound Sites for continued use.

A Public Notice, dated July 23, 2015, indicated that the draft DMMP and Draft PEIS review period would be 30 days and close on September 18, 2015. USACE has extended the review period to run through October 5, 2015.

Mail your comments so that they will be received in Concord, MA on or before October 5, 2015.

Address written comments to:

Meghan Quinn
LIS DMMP/PEIS Project Manager
Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

In addition to, or in lieu of, sending written comments, you are invited to attend one of our public hearings. Several presentations will be made at the public hearings that will assist document reviewers in understanding the process that was used in formulating and screening various management alternatives. The public hearings dates and locations are:

Monday - August 24, 2015
Village Center at Port Jefferson
101-A East Broadway
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Hearing to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday - August 25, 2015
Marriot Long Island
101 James Doolittle Blvd
Uniondale, NY 11553

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Hearing to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday - **August 26, 2015**
University of Connecticut, Stamford
1 University Place,
Stamford, CT 06901

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Hearing to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday - **August 27, 2015**
Holiday Inn New London
35 Governor Winthrop Blvd
New London, CT 06320

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Hearing to begin at 6:00 p.m.

All interested federal, state and local agencies, interested private and public organizations, and individuals are invited to attend. Persons wishing to provide oral comments are asked to register prior to the start of the hearing. Transcripts of the meetings will be prepared. The hearing procedures are available upon request. After these comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and any necessary modifications are made, a Final DMMP/PEIS will be published and distributed. The Final DMMP/PEIS will contain the Corps responses to comments received on the Draft PEIS.

The draft DMMP and PEIS are available on our web site at:
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/LongIslandSoundDMMP.aspx>

8/14/15
Date


For: _____

Christopher J. Barron
Colonel; Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



Corps to release Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan, PEIS for public review, comment

Posted 8/14/2015

Release no. 2015-073

Contact

Tim Dugan 978-318-8264

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CONCORD, Mass. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will release for public review and comment the Draft Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Long Island Sound on Monday, Aug. 17, 2015. The DMMP and PEIS will be available for review on the Corps website at:

www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/LongIslandSoundDMMP.aspx.

Also, the Corps is extending the public comment period that was originally listed in the July 23, 2015 public notice to now run through Oct. 5, 2015. The Corps will hold public hearings Aug. 24 – 27, 2015 in Connecticut and New York to provide an overview of the reports and receive public comments.

The DMMP was requested by the Governors of Connecticut and New York in a Feb. 8, 2005 joint letter to the Chief of Engineers. The need for a DMMP also was identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's June 3, 2005 Rule that designated two of the Sound's historic open-water placement sites, the Central Long Island Sound site and the Western Long Island Sound site for continued use. The EPA's rule required preparation of a DMMP to examine alternative placement practices, with the goal of reducing or eliminating open-water placement of dredged material in the waters of Long Island Sound wherever practicable.

Long Island Sound is a large coastal estuary located between Long Island, New York on the south, and the shores of New York, Connecticut and southwestern Rhode Island on the north. This study included adjacent waters including Block Island Sound, Little Narragansett Bay, Fishers Island Sound, Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay. A total of nearly 240 harbors, coves, bays and rivers supporting various levels of navigational access are located along these shores.

The Corps is responsible for maintaining 52 Federal Navigation Projects (FNPs) in Long Island Sound and adjacent waters that include general navigation features requiring periodic maintenance dredging. These include 31 projects in Connecticut, 17 in New York and four in Rhode Island.

The DMMP examines the need for dredging, the history of dredging and dredged material placement, and current beneficial use practices. The DMMP identifies and assesses alternatives for future dredged material placement and beneficial use, identifies the likely Federal Base Plans (least cost environmentally acceptable plan) for future Federal dredging activities, and recommends further action to be taken by individual projects as they come up for their next maintenance cycle, or in feasibility studies for proposed project improvements.

The DMMP identifies practicable potential cost-effective and environmentally acceptable placement alternatives to meet the dredging needs of Long Island Sound's ports and harbors. Without practicable placement alternatives dredging costs will increase, fewer projects will be maintained, economic viability of projects will be reduced, and navigation dependent sectors of the regional economy will be impaired. Opportunities to beneficially use dredged material for purposes of coastal resiliency and environmental restoration and enhancement may not be realized without a DMMP.

The DMMP makes specific recommendations for further interagency involvement in dredged material management, dredging data management, study of the impacts to open water placement, and supporting opportunities for beneficial use.

Two public hearings will be held in New York: on Monday, Aug. 24, 2015 in the Village Center at Port Jefferson at 101-A East Broadway in Port Jefferson, N.Y.; and on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015 at the Marriott Long Island at 101 James Doolittle Blvd. in Uniondale, N.Y.

Two public hearings will be held in Connecticut: on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015 at the University of Connecticut-Stamford at 1 University Place in Stamford, Conn.; and on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2015 at the Holiday Inn-New London at 35 Governor Winthrop Blvd. in New London, Conn.

Registration for all meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the hearings will start at 6 p.m.

later than Oct. 5, 2015 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, (ATTN: LIS DMMP/PEIS Program Manager Meghan Quinn), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or by email to: meghan.c.quinn@usace.army.mil.