

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers New York District Jacob K. Javits Federal Building New York, N.Y. 10278-0090 ATTN: Regulatory Branch

In replying refer to: Public Notice Number: NAN-2022-01060-EBR Issue Date: January 4, 2023 Expiration Date: February 3, 2023

The New York District, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344):

- APPLICANT: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Attn: Marc Helman 4 World Trade Center 150 Greenwich Street, 20th Floor New York, New York 10007
- ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging activities
- WATERWAY: Newark Bay
- LOCATION: Berths 2 to 98 at the Port Newark and Port Elizabeth Marine Terminals, Cities of Newark and Elizabeth, Essex County, New Jersey

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND EMAILED TO William.Bruno@usace.army.mil BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE; otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest

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review for this permit application. Comments provided will become part of the public record for this permit application. All written comments, including contact information, will be made a part of the administrative record, available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof, may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any person may request, in writing, before this public notice expires, that a public hearing be held to collect information necessary to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons why a public hearing should be held. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the permit decision process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

Our preliminary determination is that the activity for which authorization is sought herein is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. However, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), the District Engineer is consulting with the appropriate Federal agency to determine the presence of and potential impacts to listed species in the project area or their critical habitat.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA/FS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed work, fully described in the attached work description, could cause the disruption of habitat for various lifestages of some EFH-designated species as a result of a temporary increase in turbidity during construction. However, the New York District has made the preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effects are not likely to be substantial because it is expected that fish populations would avoid the small area of disturbance. Further consultation with NOAA/FS regarding EFH impacts and conservation recommendations being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the applicant received water quality certification New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Permit Number 0000-16-0012.1 WFD160001, with an approval date of August 23, 2016, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. In a letter dated, August 8, 2021, the NJDEP permit was extended to August 22, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456 (c)], for activities under consideration that are located within the coastal zone of a state which has a federally approved coastal zone management program, the applicant has certified in the permit application that the activity complies with, and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with, the approved state coastal zone management program. The applicant received NJDEP, Permit Number 0000-16-0012.1 WFD160001, with an approval date of August 23, 2016, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. In a letter dated, August 8, 2021, the NJDEP permit was extended to August 22, 2026.

In addition to any required water quality certificate and coastal zone management program concurrence, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

PLEASE USE THE 18-CHARACTER FILE NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THIS OFFICE

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- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice. If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact this office at (917) 790-8516 and ask for William T. Bruno.

In order for us to better serve you, please complete our Customer Service Survey located at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/CustomerSurvey.aspx.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil.

Rosite Miranda

FOR AND IN BEHALF OF Stephan A. Ryba Chief, Regulatory Branch

Encl

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DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK

The applicant, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, has requested Department of the Army (DA) authorization for ten-year maintenance dredging activities in Newark Bay at Berths 2 to 98 at the Port Newark and Port Elizabeth Marine Terminals, Cities of Newark and Elizabeth, Essex County, New Jersey.

The work includes dredging, with ten-year maintenance, via mechanical environmental or harddigging bucket dredge, approximately 250,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material from Berths 2 to 98 to depths varying between of -35 to -50 feet below the plane of Mean Low Water (MLW) plus up to 2-feet of overdredge. The total dredging area is approximately 137.7 acres.

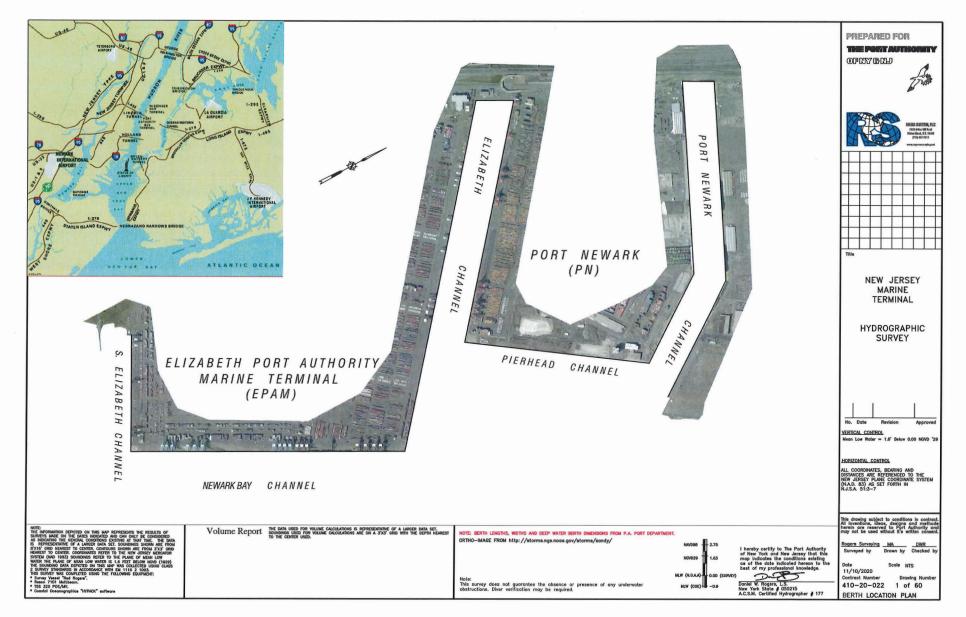
The dredged material would be loaded into scow barges and allowed to settle for a minimum of 24 hours before excess water is returned to the waterway. Subsequently, the loaded scow barges will be used to transport the dewatered dredged material to a state approved upland processing and/or placement site. The dredging activity is anticipated to be completed within approximately 5 weeks annually.

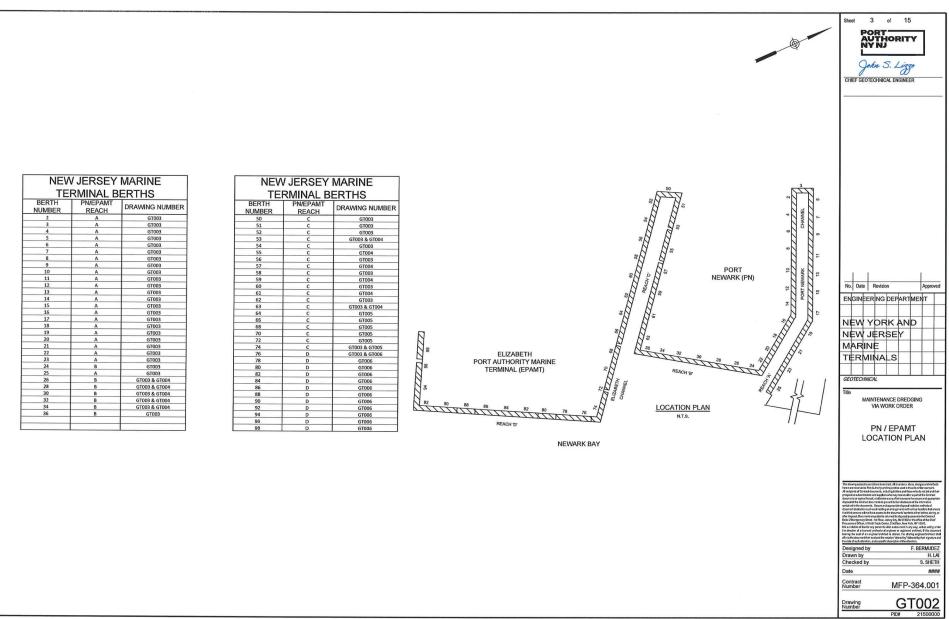
The applicant plans to conduct up to nine additional dredging events as needed over a ten year period with removal of up to a total of approximately 200,000 CY of dredged material from the same areas during each subsequent event.

The applicant has stated they have avoided, minimized and mitigated for proposed impacts by minimizing the dredging area to the smallest area practicable.

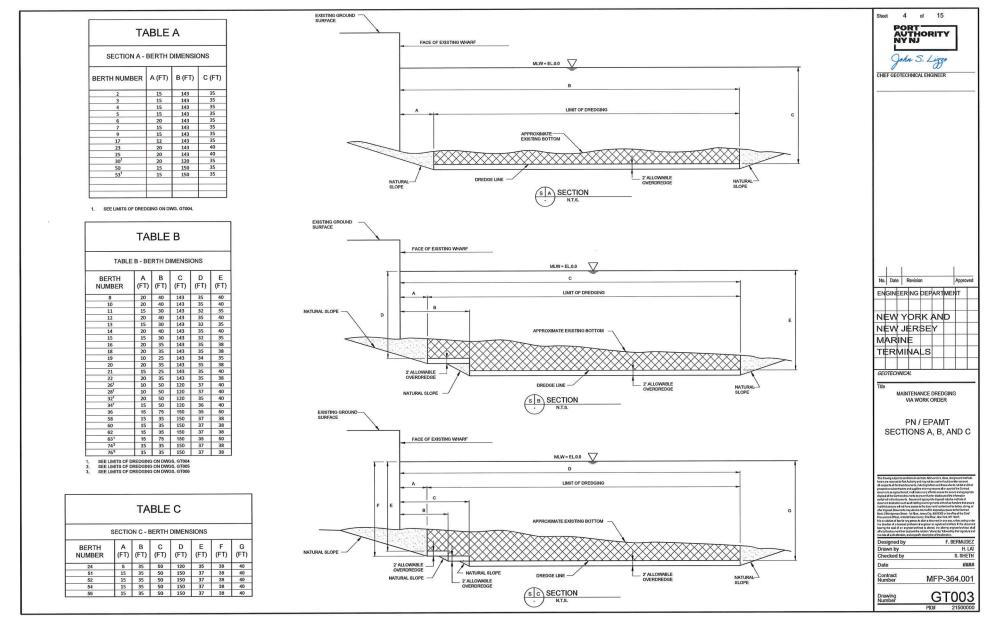
Ten-year maintenance dredging of Berths 2 to 98 at the Port Newark and Port Elizabeth Marine Terminals was previously authorized under DA permit NAN-2013-00219 on July 8, 2013.

The applicant's stated purpose for this regulated work is to maintain safe navigation depths to the existing Berths.

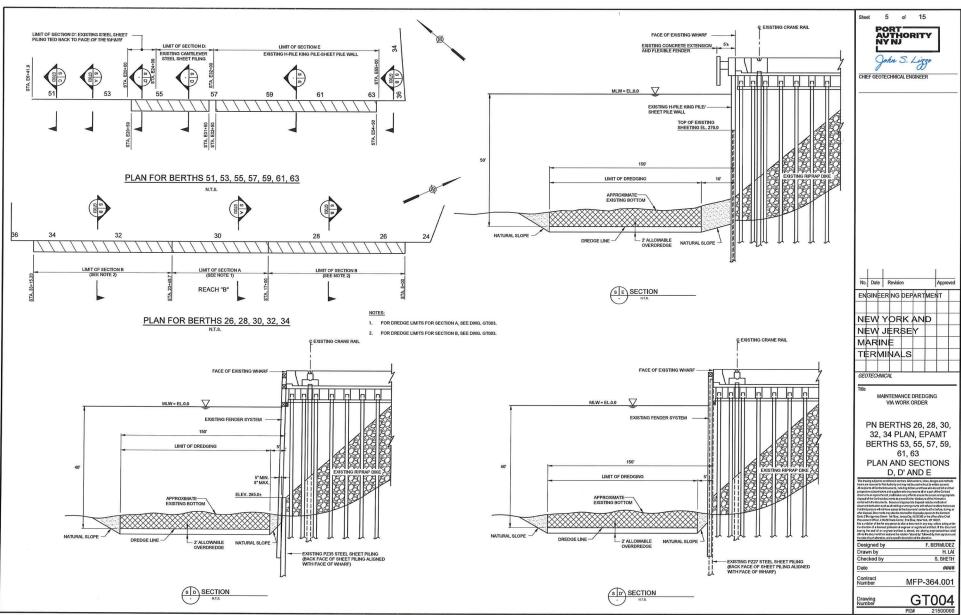




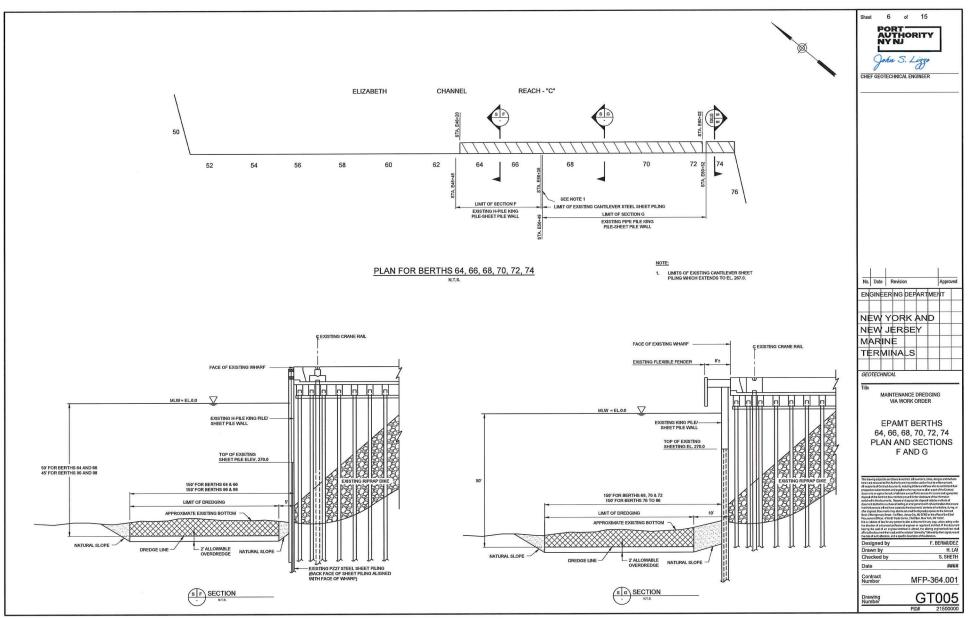




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