US Army Corps
of Engineers®

New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10278
ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

Public Notice

In replying refer to:
Public Notice No. EAST ROCKAWAY INLET FY04/05
Published: March 11, 2004 Expires: April 12, 2004

EAST ROCKAWAY INLET, NEW YORK FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT MAINTENANCE DREDGING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 (33 U.S.C. 1344) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (amended in 1977 and commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act), proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the East Rockaway Inlet Federal navigation channel and deposition basins with subsequent placement of the dredged material on Rockaway Beach, which is west of the inlet.

WATERWAY: East Rockaway Inlet

LOCATION: South shore of Long Island, between Far Rockaway in Queens County and Atlantic Beach in Nassau County, Long Island, New York.

The East Rockaway Inlet Federal navigation channel was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 3 July 1930, House Document No. 19, 71st Congress, 1st session.

The existing Federal navigation project provides for a channel, 12 feet deep at mean low water, 250 feet wide from a 12 foot depth contour in the Atlantic Ocean to a 12 foot depth contour in East Rockaway Inlet, and a 4,250 foot long jetty on the eastern side of the inlet. The channel is about 1.4 miles long (attachment 1).

It should be noted that due to the rapid shoaling nature of the East Rockaway Inlet, advance maintenance measures are being considered, including: 1) maintaining a previously constructed deposition basin with a variable width of 150 - 270 feet which is directly parallel to the entire western boundary of the channel; and 2) maintaining a second deposition basin with a maximum width of 200 feet and length 0.4 miles directly parallel to the eastern boundary of the outer portion of the channel. Advance maintenance dredging of 14 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth has been performed for the entire channel during past maintenance operations and is planned for the proposed maintenance dredging.

This activity is being evaluated to determine if the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on the nearby beach will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare, economic potential, recreation and aesthetics, water quality, marine resources, ecological systems and/or flood protection.

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. Comments are used to assess impacts on navigation, water quality, endangered species, historic resources, wetlands, scenic and recreational values, and other public interest factors. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and to determine the need for a public hearing.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS ON THE FRONT PAGE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by the activity. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

No known archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data are expected to be lost by work accomplished under the required dredging.

Reviews of the activity pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines announced by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps will obtain a water quality certificate (WQC) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to the beginning of the proposed action.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 USC 1456(c)], for activities conducted or supported by a federal agency in a state which has a federally approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, the Corps must submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. This activity is subject to review by the New York State Department of State for its consistency with the enforceable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable within the applicable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. A copy of this determination has been provided to the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources. Additional information regarding the Corps of Engineers' consistency determination may be obtained by contacting the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, 41 State Street, Albany, New York 12231, Attention: Consistency Review.

In compliance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1996 amendments), an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment will be prepared and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for review and comment.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, Third District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State
- City of New York Parks and Recreation

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact this office at (212) 264-9030 and ask for Ms. Catherine Donohue. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-4260 ATTN: Ms. Catherine Donohue.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation channel and deposition basins in East Rockaway Inlet. The channel and deposition basins were last dredged in 2002 with the removal of approximately 142,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand, which was used in a beneficial manner as beach nourishment, placed along severely eroded areas of the Rockaway Beach shoreline. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 200,000 CY of material, which would be used in a beneficial manner as beach nourishment, placed along the Rockaway Beach shoreline. The channel and deposition basins will be dredged to a depth of 14 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth.

The purpose of the proposed work is to alleviate the affects of shoaling and maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the East Rockaway Inlet by commercial and recreational boating interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged material. Between maintenance operations the bypassed sand placed at the feeder beach would be carried by littoral drift to feed down drift beaches. The maintenance operation would thus serve to place sand trapped in the channel back into the normal littoral movement that naturally replenishes the western beaches, while maintaining a safe channel for navigation.

Maintenance dredging of the channel and deposition basins at East Rockaway Inlet will be accomplished by pipeline dredge, hopper dredge or similar plant. The entire channel will generally not require maintenance dredging; only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging.

No work will occur during the environmental windows for roseate tern and piping plovers (April 1 to September 30).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in September 1973. Environmental Assessments (EA) updating this EIS were prepared by the New York District in 1993, October 1998, August 2000 and September 2002. The EIS and EAs indicated that dredging of East Rockaway Inlet with placement of the dredge material as nourishment along the nearby shoreline of the designated beach would have no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area.

An update of the EA and a 404 (b) evaluation as required by the Clean Water Act 40 CFR 230 will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed along the Rockaway Beach (between beaches B27th and B40th) that is located in Queens County New York (See attachment). The dredged material will be transported by pipeline or hopper dredge and deposited at the designated site.

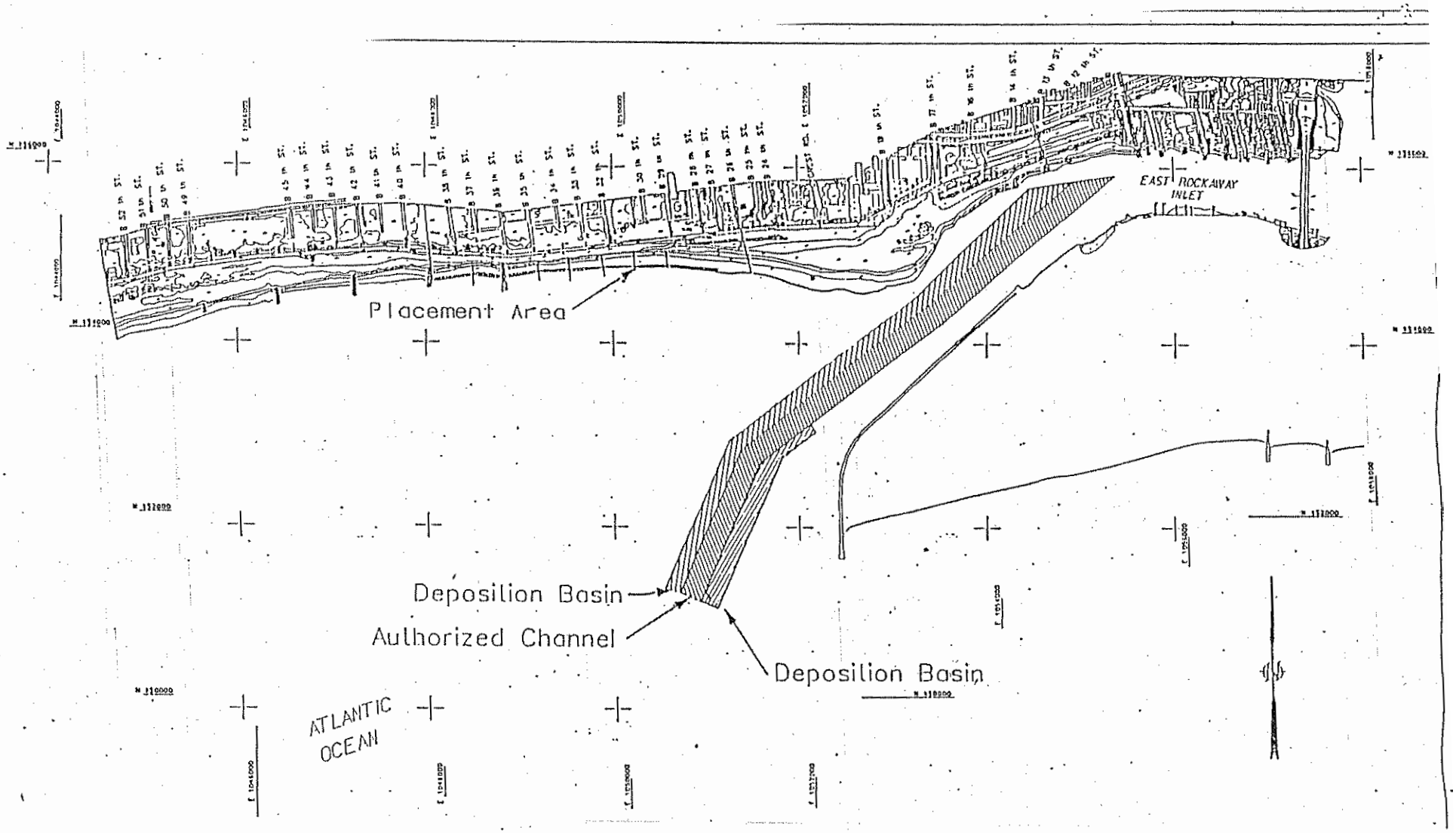
MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Results of grain size analyses performed on samples collected within the project area have indicated that the material to be deposited is predominantly sand (greater than 95% sand). Therefore, this proposed dredged material would be physically compatible for beach placement.

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice.

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

John F. Tavolaro
Acting Chief, Operations Division


Placement Area
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET
Deposition Basin
Authorized Channel
Deposition Basin
ATLANTIC OCEAN