



**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. JAMAICA BAY 02
Published: March 15, 2002
Expires: April 15, 2002

JAMAICA BAY, 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 outer entrance channel of the Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project (see Figure No. 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beaches at Breezy Point, Queens, New York. Dredged material is also proposed to be placed for stockpile use by the City of New York, Department of Parks and Recreation at Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach and Rockaway Beach.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beaches at Breezy Point, Queens, New York and/or at Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach and Rockaway Beach.

WATERWAY: Rockaway Inlet

LOCATION: Rockaway Point, New York.

The Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 25 June 1910, House Document No. 1488, 60th Congress, 2nd session, and as modified in the subsequent River and Harbor Acts of 1945 and 1950.

The existing navigation project at Jamaica Bay authorizes a 20 ft. deep, 1,000 ft. wide outer entrance channel connecting to two interior (bay) channels with deep water in the Atlantic Ocean. Additionally, the outer entrance channel is protected by one riprap jetty. The length of the outer entrance channel is approximately 2 miles.

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on nearby beaches and for stockpile use 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 obtained a water quality certificate (WQC) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in September 1998 in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, for the dredging and placement on the beaches at Breezy Point; this WQC remains in effect through 2003. An amendment to this WQC for placement at Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach and Rockaway Beach for stockpile use by the City of New York Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Group will be requested.

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 will submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. The Corps will request the State's [agreement](#) with that determination. For activities within the coastal zone of the State of New York, project information is available from the [Coastal Zone Management Program, New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, Attn: Consistency Review, 41 State Street, Albany New York 12231-0001](#), telephone (518) 402-3399.

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, First District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State
- City of New York, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Breezy Point Cooperative Inc.

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the *entrance channel portion from Mile 0 to Mile 1.7* of the Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project. This channel was last dredged in 2000 with the removal of 229,000 cubic yards (CY) of sediment. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 250,000 CY of material.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Jamaica Bay by shipping interests.

Maintenance dredging of the entrance channel portion of the Jamaica Bay Federal navigation project 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 terns and piping plovers (April 1 to September 15).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in October 1976. Environmental Assessments (EA) updating this EIS were prepared by the New York in February 1990, June 1996, September 1998 and September 2000. It was determined that maintenance dredging of the Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project, with

placement of the dredged material on the nearby beaches has no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection

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 on the nearby beaches of Breezy Point, Queens, New York. These beaches are adjacent to Rockaway Point and face Rockaway Inlet. Some of the dredged material is also being considered for placement at one or more of the following locations: Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach or Rockaway Beach. The purpose for this placement is to create a stockpile of sand that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation can use for environmental restoration projects elsewhere in the Jamaica Bay area. The dredged material will be transported by pipeline or hopper dredge and deposited at the designated site, as shown on the attached map.

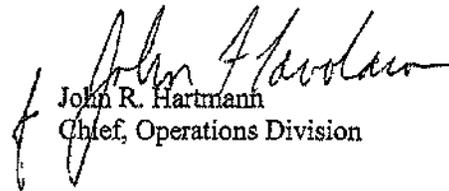
MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

The grain size characteristics of the proposed dredged material are:

2.15% GRAVEL, 78.85% SAND, 19% SILT & CLAY

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 R. Hartmann
Chief, Operations Division

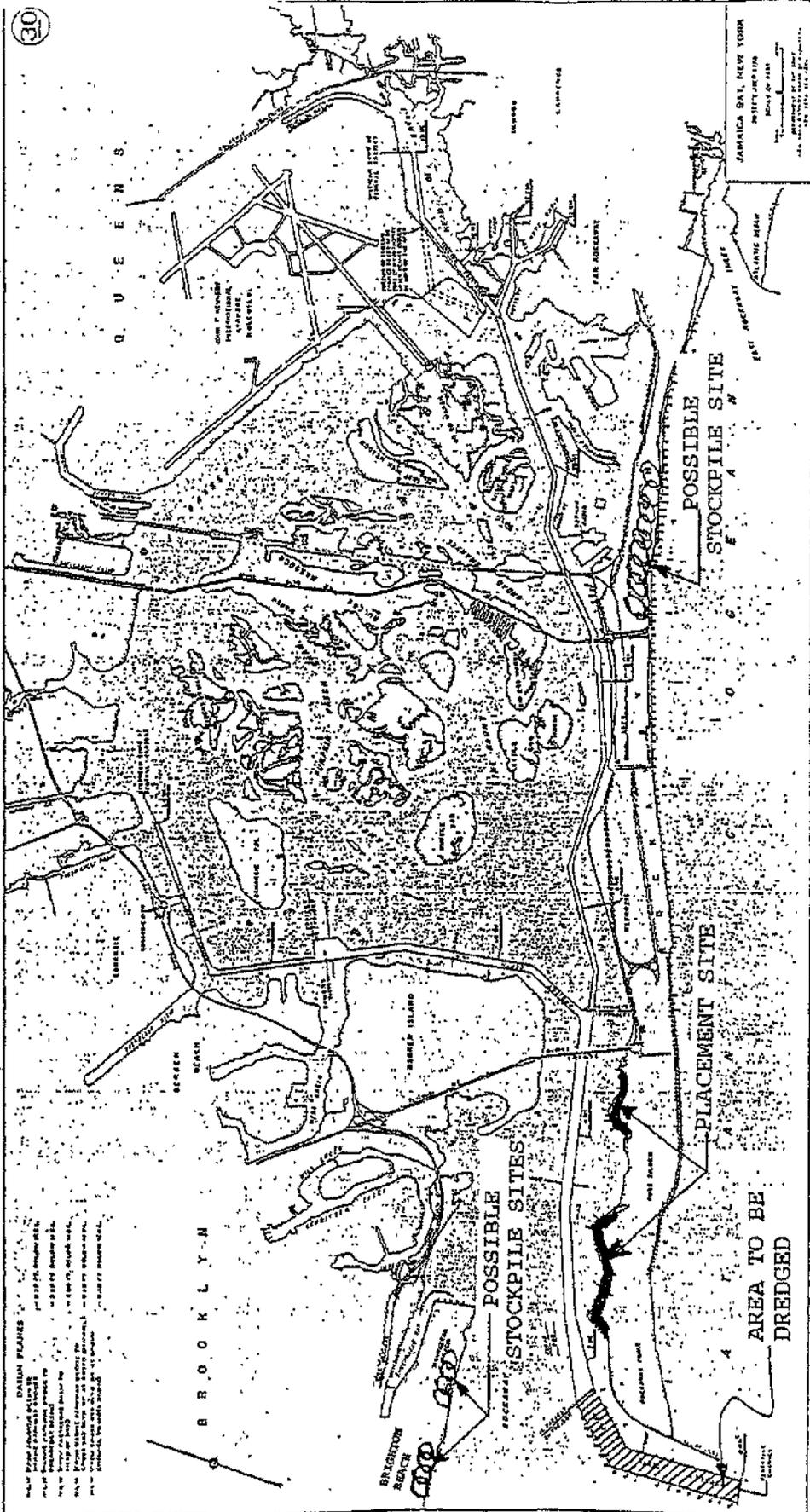


FIGURE 1