



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

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

# Public Notice

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In replying refer to:  
Public Notice No. JAMAICA BAY 06/07  
Published: April 7, 2006  
Expires: May 7, 2006

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## **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 #1), contingent on fiscal year 2007 funding. The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed on a nearby ocean or bayside beach.

**ACTIVITY:** Maintenance dredging of Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project with subsequent placement of the dredged material on a nearby ocean or bayside beach (see Figure #1).

**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 for placement on a 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.

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 (917) 790-8534 and ask for Mr. Rafal Turek (Project Engineer). Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-1463 ATTN: Mr. Rafal Turek.

**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 contingent on available funding in Fiscal Year 2007. This channel was last dredged in 2004/2005 with the removal of 182,943 cubic yards (CY) of sediment and stockpiled at Floyd Bennett Field for use in the Marsh Islands restoration project. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of up to 300,000 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, September 2000, September 2002 and September 2004. 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:**

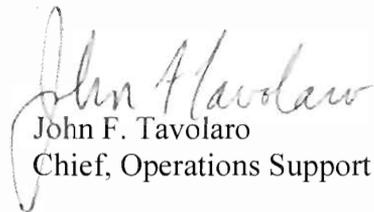
The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed on the nearby ocean or bayside beach. The dredged material will be transported by pipeline or hopper dredge and deposited at the designated site.

**MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed dredged material is 99.08% sand sized or larger based on the most recent grain size analysis.

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. Tavoraro  
Chief, Operations Support Branch

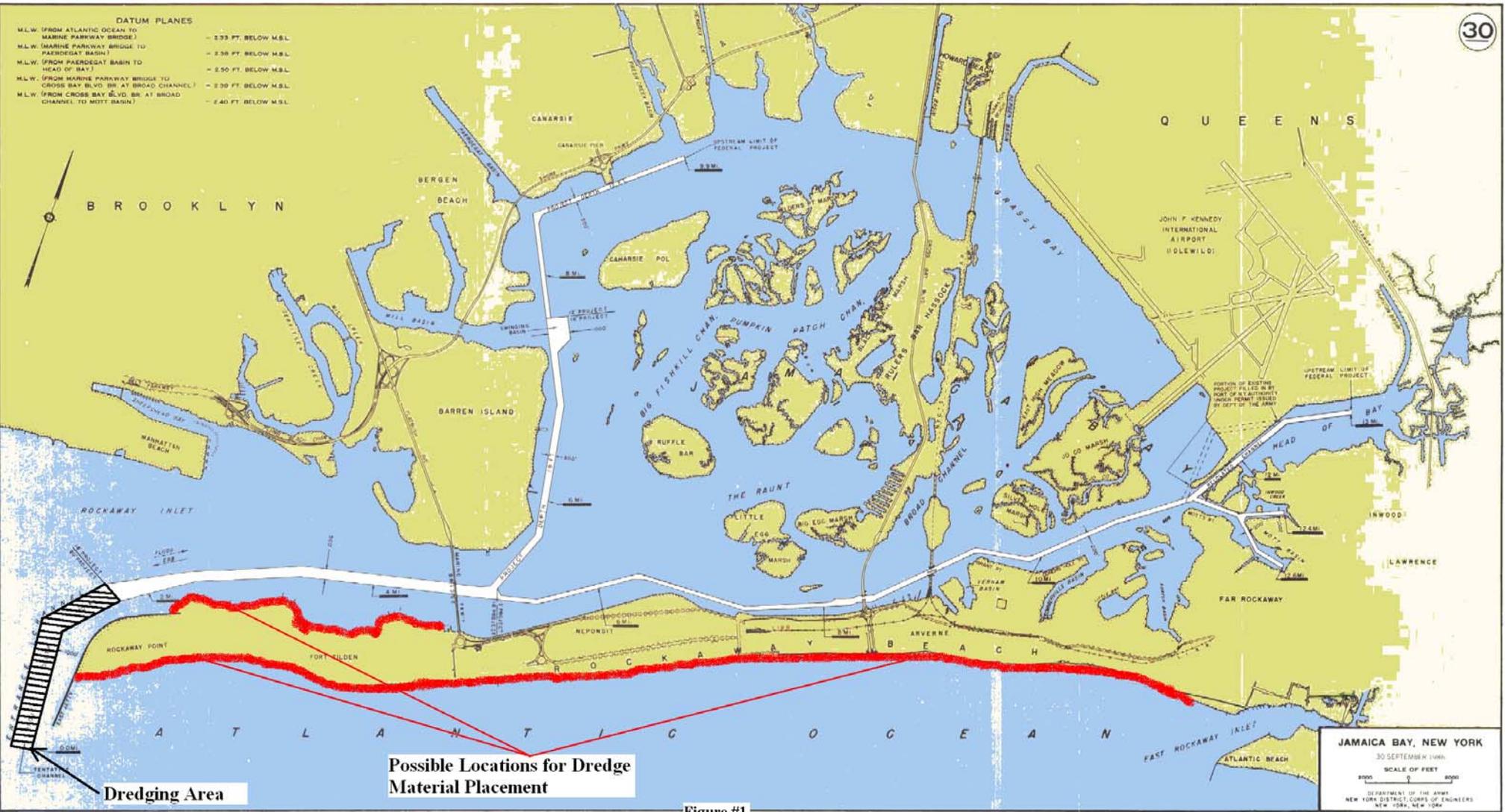


Figure #1