



**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. RARITAN RIVER 08/09  
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## **RARITAN RIVER, NEW JERSEY FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT MAINTENANCE DREDGING**

### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 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 Raritan River Federal Navigation Project (see Figure #1). The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed at a suitable state-permitted upland disposal site(s) to be approved by the Government.

**ACTIVITY:** Maintenance dredging of the Raritan River federal navigation project, from Mile 0.0-4.0 with placement of the dredged material at a suitable state-permitted upland disposal site(s).

**WATERWAY:** Raritan River, New Jersey

**LOCATION:** From Perth Amboy and South Amboy upstream to Keasby, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Maintenance dredging of the Raritan River federal navigation project is authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1919 and subsequently modified by the River and Harbors Acts of 1930, 1937, 1940, and 1962. The project includes the following channels:

- a. A main channel, 25 feet (ft) deep, 300 ft wide, from the turn in New York and New Jersey Channels, near Great Beds Light to the Raritan Arsenal Wharf; thence 15 ft deep, 200 ft wide, to the Washington Canal; thence 10 ft deep in soft material and 11 ft deep in rock, and generally 100 ft wide, with widening at bends, to the Delaware and Raritan Canal entrance at New Brunswick. This Channel is about 13.8 miles long.
- b. A turning basin opposite Raritan Arsenal Wharf, 25 ft deep, 300 ft wide and 1,000 ft long. A south channel 25 ft deep, 300 ft wide, from its junction with the main channel opposite Keasby to the upper limit of the NL Industries property 15 ft deep, 150 ft wide

to the Middlesex County Sewerage Authority Dock; thence 10 ft deep and 150 ft wide to the junction with the Main Channel at Crab Island.

A detailed description of the proposed activities is enclosed to assist in your review.

This activity is being evaluated to determine if the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on a State-permitted, suitable upland disposal site(s) approved by the government, 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 USACE 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, US Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. The USACE will obtain a water quality certificate (WQC) from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 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 USACE will submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State of New Jersey CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. The USACE will request the State's agreement with that determination. For activities within the coastal zone of the New Jersey, project information is available from the NJDEP, Bureau of Inland Regulation, PO Box 439, 501 East State Street, Second Floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0401, Telephone (609) 292-0060.

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:

- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- US Coast Guard, Third District
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Mr. Joseph Olha, the project manager, at (917) 790-8404. Comments or questions may be faxed to (212) 264-1463.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:**

The USACE proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Raritan River main navigation channel. This channel was last dredged in 2000 with the removal of approximately 431,645 cubic yards (CY) of sediment and placed at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) in the Atlantic Ocean. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of up to 50,000 CY of material to a maximum depth of 25 ft Mean Low Water with 2 ft allowable overdepth. Maintenance dredging of the channel is generally accomplished by clamshell 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.

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

This public notice serves to announce the Government's intent and indicates that the proposed placement site must accommodate up to 50,000 CY of dredged material. The dredging and placement at a permitted facility for this project is estimated to take approximately one month to complete.

No work will occur during the environmental no-dredge windows of 15 November through 30 June.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the USACE in October 1976. This EIS and the 1988 Supplementary Environmental Assessment (EA) performed for this project concluded at that time maintenance dredging of the channel with disposal of the dredged material at the Mud Dump Site had no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and flood protection.

An EA was updated for the 2000 maintenance dredging of the Mile 0.0 to 2.0 section of the Raritan River. It concluded that maintenance dredging with placement of the dredged material at

the HARS had no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and flood protection.

This current proposed maintenance dredging project from Mile 0.0 to 4.0 is consistent with the action described in the previous EIS/EA's for Raritan River except for a change in placement site. Dredged material will be placed at a suitable contractor-furnished, state-permitted upland placement site.

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 contractor, as a part of the bid package, will provide a suitable upland or alternative disposal site. The site will have to meet all federal, state, and local criteria based on testing data required by the state in which the placement site is located. All necessary permits required for dredged material disposal will be obtained by the contractor.

**MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:**

Results of physical testing of the proposed dredged material indicate the grain size characteristics are as follows:

0.0% SAND, 0.0% GRAVEL, 39.2% CLAY, 60.8% SILT

Distribution is based on a sampling of 10 samples collected within the project area and combined to yield one sediment composite.

Results of recent chemical and biological testing of sediments in the project area indicated the material is not suitable for ocean placement and will require a non-ocean placement site.

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 the USACE programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>.



Randall G. Hintz  
Chief, Operations Support Branch



Figure No. 1