



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District

NEWS RELEASE

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Army Corps and NJ Department of Transportation to dredge Port Jersey Channel

Deepening to 41 feet enhances channel efficiency and safety

New York – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District and the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Maritime Resources today announced the beginning of dredging to deepen the Port Jersey Channel in Bayonne and Jersey City. The dredging contract area, which lies within the inner pier area between Port Jersey and the former Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne (now known as the Peninsula at Bayonne), is the first of three anticipated contracts to be awarded to widen and deepen the State's existing 38-foot channel to 41 feet. The deeper channel will more safely and efficiently handle larger container vessels calling in the port.

“New Jersey is pleased to serve as a local sponsor for the deepening of the Port Jersey Channel. The Port Jersey Channel deepening is a critical component of the broader effort to deepen the Harbor to 50 feet. This project will help ensure the future competitiveness of our port,” said Jack Lettiere, acting commissioner, Department of Transportation.

“The Army Corps and our sponsors, the Department of Transportation and the Port Authority, are committed to the timely completion of navigation improvements within the New York and New Jersey Harbor Estuary to ensure a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly port,” said Col. John O’Dowd, New York District Engineer.

Currently, the Port Jersey Channel services Global Terminal and Container Services Inc., one of the largest container terminals on the East Coast. The channel is expected to service a new container terminal envisioned for construction at the Peninsula at Bayonne.

“We are eager to begin the Port Jersey Channel project. It is long overdue. A deepened Port Jersey Channel coupled with the future development of the Peninsula at Bayonne holds great promise for the State of New Jersey, the City of Bayonne and the Port District as a whole,” said Lettiere.

Work under the first contract area is being performed by Donjon Marine Co. Inc. of Hillside, N.J.. An expected 546,000 cubic yards of a variety of sedimentary materials will be dredged as a result of this contract with material used to cap the Bayonne Landfill or possibly the Historic Area Remediation Site in the Atlantic Ocean, as the material is found suitable. The entire \$119 million project, which is cost shared by the Army Corps and the State of New Jersey, is scheduled for completion by 2005.

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“It’s important to highlight that all the dredged material removed will be used to benefit the upland and aquatic environment in the region,” said Bryce Wisemiller, project manager for the Army Corps. “Our primary goal, whenever possible, is to utilize dredged material beneficially, improving the environment of the region in which we work and live.”

According to the U.S. Customs Service, approximately 90 percent of the world’s cargo moves by container and the volume of imported cargo moving through the U.S. ports will triple by the year 2020. Overall, the Port of New York and New Jersey directly and indirectly supports over 225,000 jobs in the region. Additionally, the port helps lower the prices that local residents and businesses pay for goods that would otherwise be shipped via distant ports, generating an estimated savings of \$750 million a year in reduced transportation costs to business and consumers in addition to the reduced traffic and air pollution impacts associated with transporting the goods into the region by landside methods.