



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Statement

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Providing Leadership for Solving Dredge Material Challenges

The Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with our partners, the states of New York and New Jersey, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, have been working on the development of a Dredged Material Management Plan to support the economic and environmental needs of the Harbor region. We have collected information on a wide range of options that may be available to deal with the 2-4 million cubic yards of sediments that must be dredged from the harbor each year. The options include:

Pollution prevention—which will stop the flow of contamination from sewage plants and other sources into the harbor.

Decontamination—which will treat the most heavily contaminated sediments to permit their reuse for beneficial purposes.

Upland Reuse—which will use the sediments as a resource for such needs as landfill closures, foundation material for roads or building sites, and brownfields applications.

Habitat creation—which uses the sediments to create or restore wetlands or other habitat.

Aquatic placement—which puts the sediments in pits or in islands created for that purpose.

All of these options are being used throughout the United States and the world. Many are already being undertaken in the harbor. No option would be undertaken unless it is in full compliance with all federal and state environmental regulations. Many of the options are very expensive and will require substantial commitments by either the federal government, the state governments, or others, to implement.

At this point, we are beginning our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process where we will formally evaluate all available options to determine the specific environmental concerns. We want to give a fair, common sense, and scientific assessment for all the options available. There is no plan at this time, nor do we have any preference over any of the solutions other than pollution prevention which is the only real long term solution. We appreciate the involvement by the Congressmen, and we will continue the EIS process such that any final decisions can be made on the best scientific information to ensure complete protection of the environment.

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