



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

Buttermilk Channel, NY

Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance of Infrastructure and Stewardship

FACT SHEET

DEC 2008

DESCRIPTION: Continuing engineering and design (E&D) work will focus on sampling and testing for possible future upland placement of the project dredged material. Preliminary E&D in FY08 showed that the proposed dredged material was not suitable for placement at the Historic Area Remediation Site in the Atlantic Ocean.

AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Federal navigation project was adopted in 1902 and modified in 1913, 1935, and 1962. It provides for: a channel 1,000 ft. wide; 40 feet deep, 500 feet wide along the easterly side and 35 feet deep, 500 ft. wide along the westerly side with suitable widening at the junctions with the East River and Anchorage to a depth of 35 feet, and with Red Hook Channel to a depth of 40 feet. Additional widening to provide a minimum clear channel width of 2,100 ft. to a depth of 35 ft. at the junction with Anchorage and Red Hook Channels.

COMMERCE: The average annual commercial tonnage for Buttermilk Channel is approx. 30,051,331 tons. Primary commodities include manufacturing equipment, food and farm products, forest products, chemicals and fertilizers.

FUNDING: In FY09 there is approx. \$220K funding to initiate environmental coordination and upland sampling and testing for possible future removal and placement of the proposed dredged material.

STATUS: During the FY04/05 cycle, dredged material from Buttermilk Channel was found suitable for HARS (Historic Area Remediation Site) placement in the Atlantic Ocean. On June 19, 2005 the Corps of Engineers hopper dredge *The McFarland* began dredging and placing the material at the HARS. The operation required approximately 20 dredging days. The McFarland finished dredging on July 25, 2005. Approximately 58,000 cubic yards of material was dredged and placed at the HARS during June/July 2005.

Prior maintenance dredging of Buttermilk Channel occurred from 21 August 2000 to 8 September 2000. Approximately 99,000 cubic yards of material were removed from the channel with placement at the HARS. Periodic maintenance dredging occurs in the federal channel on a five-year cycle.

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