



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING  
26 FEDERAL PLAZA  
NEW YORK NY 10278-0090

SEP 24 2020

Mr. Sam Ruda  
Director, Port Department  
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
4 World Trade Center, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
150 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Ruda:

Section 1002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) allows for greater transparency in the notification and reporting of feasibility study milestones. WRRDA Section 1002 requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer to provide non-Federal interests a notification of feasibility study milestone schedules for all active studies that received Investigation appropriations from October 1, 2009 until June 10, 2014. Studies initiated after June 10, 2014 also require notification of milestones within 90 days of signing the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement. Notification is also required when milestones have changed.

Similar to other project certification letters, this letter provides the current study schedule for the key milestones associated with the NY&NJ Harbor Deepening and Channel Improvements (HDCI) Feasibility Study:

Milestone	Milestone Date
Release of Draft Feasibility Report	October 30, 2020
MSC Transmittal of the Final Feasibility Report	January 31, 2022
Chief's Report	May 31, 2022

The purpose of the NYNJHDCI Study is to determine if there is a technically feasible, economically justifiable, and environmentally acceptable recommendation for federal participation in a navigation improvement project for the New York and New Jersey Harbor. The existing federal navigation channel was designed for the *Regina Maersk*. The vessels routinely calling on the harbor today are longer, wider, and deeper than the design vessel. These larger vessels have a greater risk of grounding, collision or marine casualty, and have resulted in operation limitations within the harbor. The need for this investigation arises from inefficiencies currently experienced by commercial vessels in harbor where the current fleet exceeds the maximum dimensions of the existing federal navigation channel. These inefficiencies are projected to continue in the future as vessel sizes are expected to increase.

The study schedule updates will be posted and available to the public on the New York District website (<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil>). All schedules and missed deadlines will also be submitted in an annual report to Congress. If you have any questions please contact Mark Lulka, Project Manager, at 917-790-8205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. W. Luzzatto', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew W. Luzzatto  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commander and District Engineer