



**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

Published: 7 November 2013

Expires: 9 December 2013

RARITAN RIVER, NEW JERSEY FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT MAINTENANCE DREDGING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 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), and Section 103 (U.S.C. 1413, 86 Statute 1052) or Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972 (commonly referred to as the Ocean Dumping Act), proposes to perform maintenance dredging of Raritan River, New Jersey, Federal Navigation Project (see Figure No. 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged material at a suitable contractor furnished, state permitted upland site(s) and approved by the Government. Additional sampling and testing for HARS placement is underway. Pending suitable results for HARS placement, an amendment to this Public Notice will be posted.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Raritan River, Federal Navigation Project, with placement of the dredged material at a suitable contractor furnished, state permitted upland site(s) and approved by the Government. Pending the results of additional HARS testing, an amendment to this Public Notice will be posted.

WATERWAY: Raritan River, New Jersey, Federal Navigation Project.

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

The Raritan River, Federal Navigation Project was 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 Mean Low Water, 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 Mean Low Water, 200 ft wide, to the Washington Canal; then 10 ft

deep Mean Low Water, and generally 100 ft wide, with widening bends, to the Delaware and Raritan Canal entrance at New Brunswick. The channel is about 13.8 miles long.

- b. A turning basin opposite Raritan Arsenal Wharf, 25 ft deep Mean Low Water, 300 ft wide and 1,000 ft long. A south channel 25 ft deep Mean Low Water, 300 ft wide, from its junction with the main channel opposite Keasby to the upper limit of the NL industries property 15 ft deep Mean Low Water, 150 ft wide to the Middlesex County Sewerage Authority Dock; thence 10 ft deep Mean Low Water and 150 ft wide to the junction with the Main Channel at Crab Island.

The proposed activity is to dredge the critical shoal areas located seaward of the Edison Bridge in the Raritan River.

A detailed description of the proposed activities is enclosed to assist in your review. This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed placement of dredged material on a permitted, suitable, upland disposal site(s) 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 Corps of Engineers 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 (EA) 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 that 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, pre-historical 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, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps will obtain water quality certificates (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 Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) program, the Corps must submit a

determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State of New Jersey FCD program to the maximum extent practicable. This activity is subject to review by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for FCD consistency. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable within the application policies of the State of New Jersey FCD Program. A copy of this determination is being provided to the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Additional information regarding the Corps of Engineers' consistency determination may be obtained by contacting the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Coastal Regulation, CN 401, 501 East State Street, Second Floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0401, Attention: Consistency Review.

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:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, First District
- State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact Mr. Joseph Olha, the Project Manager at (917) 790-8404. Comments or question may be faxed to (212) 264-4260.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED FEDERAL ACTION:

The U.S. Army Engineer District, New York, proposes to perform maintenance dredging of Raritan River Federal Navigation Project. This project was last dredged in 2008 with the removal of 22,140 CY. The material was placed at the Bellmawr, Dupont and Overpeck Upland Disposal Sites, all of which were approved, state of New Jersey permitted, upland sites.

The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 180,000 CY of selected critical shoals from the Raritan River to a depth of -24 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) plus one (1) foot allowable overdepth, subject to the availability of funds. The estimated volume is based on the condition survey performed in February 2013.

Placement of the dredged material is proposed to be at a suitable, contractor-furnished, state-permitted upland placement site. The proposed dredging for this cycle is scheduled to occur in the summer or fall of 2014. Additional testing for HARS placement is underway. Pending suitable results from HARS testing; an amendment to this Public Notice will be posted.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Raritan River Federal Navigation Channel by shipping interests. Maintenance dredging of a channel is generally accomplished by a clamshell dredge or other similar plant.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared in 1976 for the maintenance dredging of the Raritan River Channel. An Environmental Assessment (EA) updating the EIS was prepared by the New York District for a similar maintenance dredging project in 2008. The EA concluded that the dredging with disposal at an approved upland facility had no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, endangered species, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and flood protection.

An EA and Section 404(b), as required by the Clean Water Act 40 CFR230, evaluation will be prepared prior to implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged material will be transported to a suitable upland placement site(s) furnished by the contractor, permitted by the State, and approved by the Government. The dredged material will be required to meet all federal, state and local criteria required by the government agencies having jurisdiction where the placement site is located. All necessary permits required for the dredged material placement will be provided to the Government. Testing for HARS placement is ongoing and pending any suitable results, an amendment to this Public Notice will be posted.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Sampling and testing for upland placement of the proposed dredged material has been completed. Data from sampling conducted in 2013, show the grain size characteristics in the Raritan River of the proposed dredged material to be:

0.0% GRAVEL; 31.3% SAND; 43.0% SILT; 25.7% CLAY

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 New York District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>.


Randall G. Hintz
Chief, Operations Support Branch

Enclosures
as stated

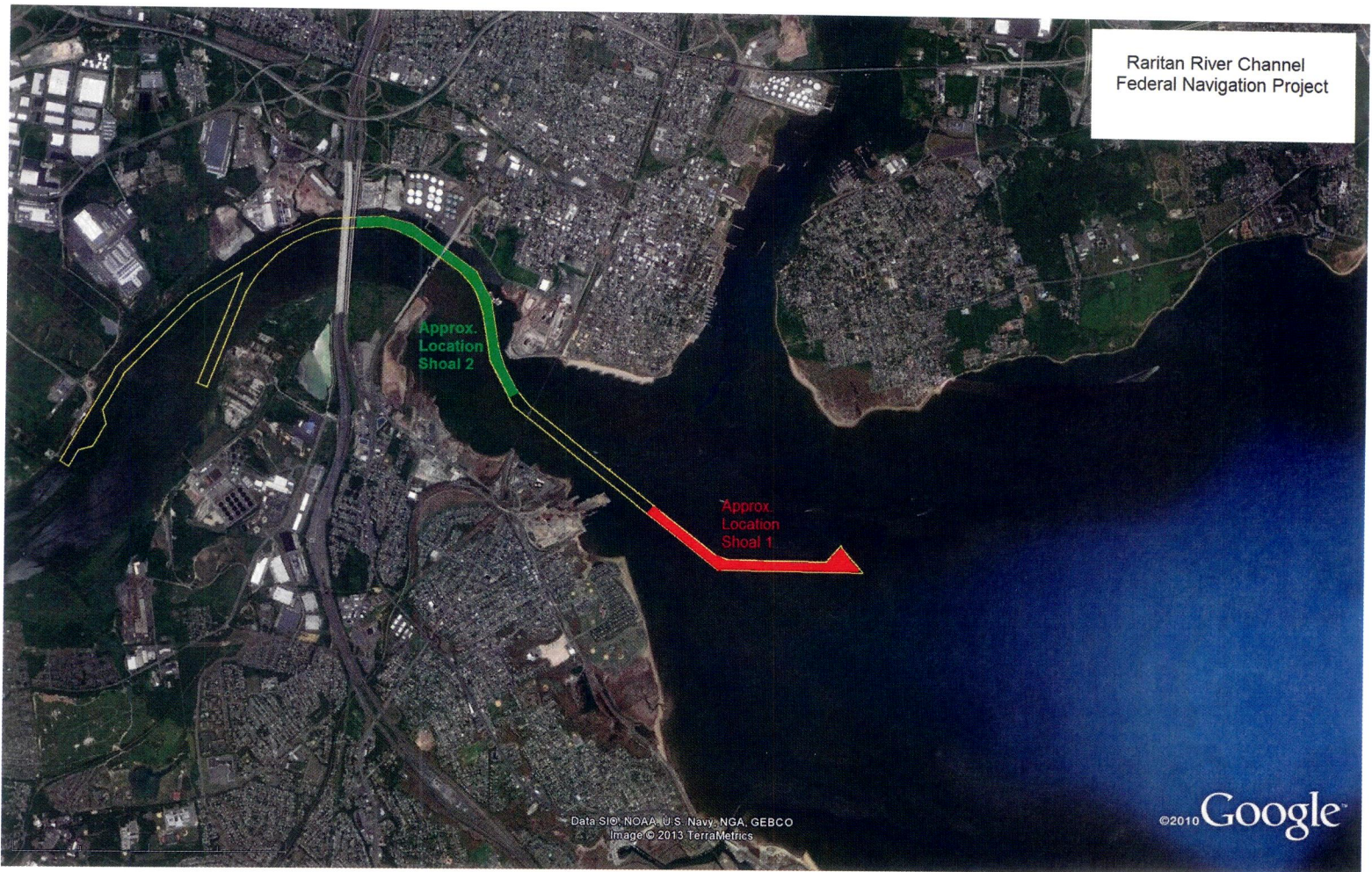


Figure 1: Project Map
(Not to scale)