



**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. SANDY HOOK BAY AT LEONARDO FY13
Published: **October 22, 2013 Expires: November 22, 2013**

SANDY HOOK BAY AT LEONARDO, 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 and 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), proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo Federal Navigation Project (See figure 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged material at NJ State furnished upland and/or nearby beach nourishment site.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo, Federal Navigation Project with subsequent placement at NJ State furnished upland and/or nearby beach nourishment site.

WATERWAY: Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo Federal Navigation Project

LOCATION: Monmouth County, New Jersey

The Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo Federal Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 2 March 1945, House Document No. 108, 81 Congress, 1st Session, and modified in the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1950.

The existing Federal Navigation Project provides for a channel, 8 feet deep at mean low water, 150 feet wide from an 8 foot depth contour in Sandy Hook Bay to the entrance of the small boat harbor at Leonardo. The channel is about .45 miles long (figure 1).

This activity is being evaluated to determine if the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material upland and/or on the nearby beach 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 and/or an Environmental Impact Statement 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 which 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, prehistorical 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 a water quality certificate (WQC) from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to the beginning of the proposed action.

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 Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, the Corps will submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the CZM program of the State of New Jersey to the maximum extent practicable. For activities within the coastal zone of the State of New Jersey, project information is available from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Site Remediation Program, Office of Dredging and Sediment Technology P.O. Box 028, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, telephone (609) 292- 1250.

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 (NMFS) 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 (USFWS)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, Third District
- State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal Navigation Project of Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo, New Jersey. The channel was last dredged in 1991 with the removal of approximately 59,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand, which was placed on the beach east of the East Jetty. Based on the condition survey performed in March 2013, the proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 40,000 CY of material from the western half of the channel. The material would be placed at NJ State furnished upland and/or nearby beach nourishment site. The channel will be dredged to a depth of 8 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth.

The purpose of the proposed work is to alleviate the affects of shoaling and maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe use of the channel.

Maintenance dredging of the Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo channel will be accomplished by pipeline dredge or similar plant. The entire channel will generally not require maintenance dredging; only select areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging, subject to the availability of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in 1975. Environmental Assessments (EA) updating this EIS was prepared by the New York District in February 1976 and November 1990. The EIS and EAs concluded at that time that the maintenance dredging of Sandy Hook Bay at Leonardo channel with placement of the dredged material along the adjacent beach would have no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area. The current proposed maintenance activity is consistent with the action described in the EIS and subsequent EAs.

An update of the EA and a 404 (b) evaluation reflecting changes in federal, state and local testing procedures, will be will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed at a NJ State furnished upland placement and/or beach nourishment site. It will be transported by pipeline to the designated placement site. The dredged material will be required to meet all federal, state and local criteria required by the government agencies having jurisdiction where the site is located.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Based upon the most recent analysis of sediment samples collected in 2012 from the Federal channel, the grain size characteristics of the proposed dredged material are:

3.48% Gravel, 37.52% Sand and 59% Silt and 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 Corps of Engineers programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>



Randall G. Hintz
Chief, Operations Support Branch

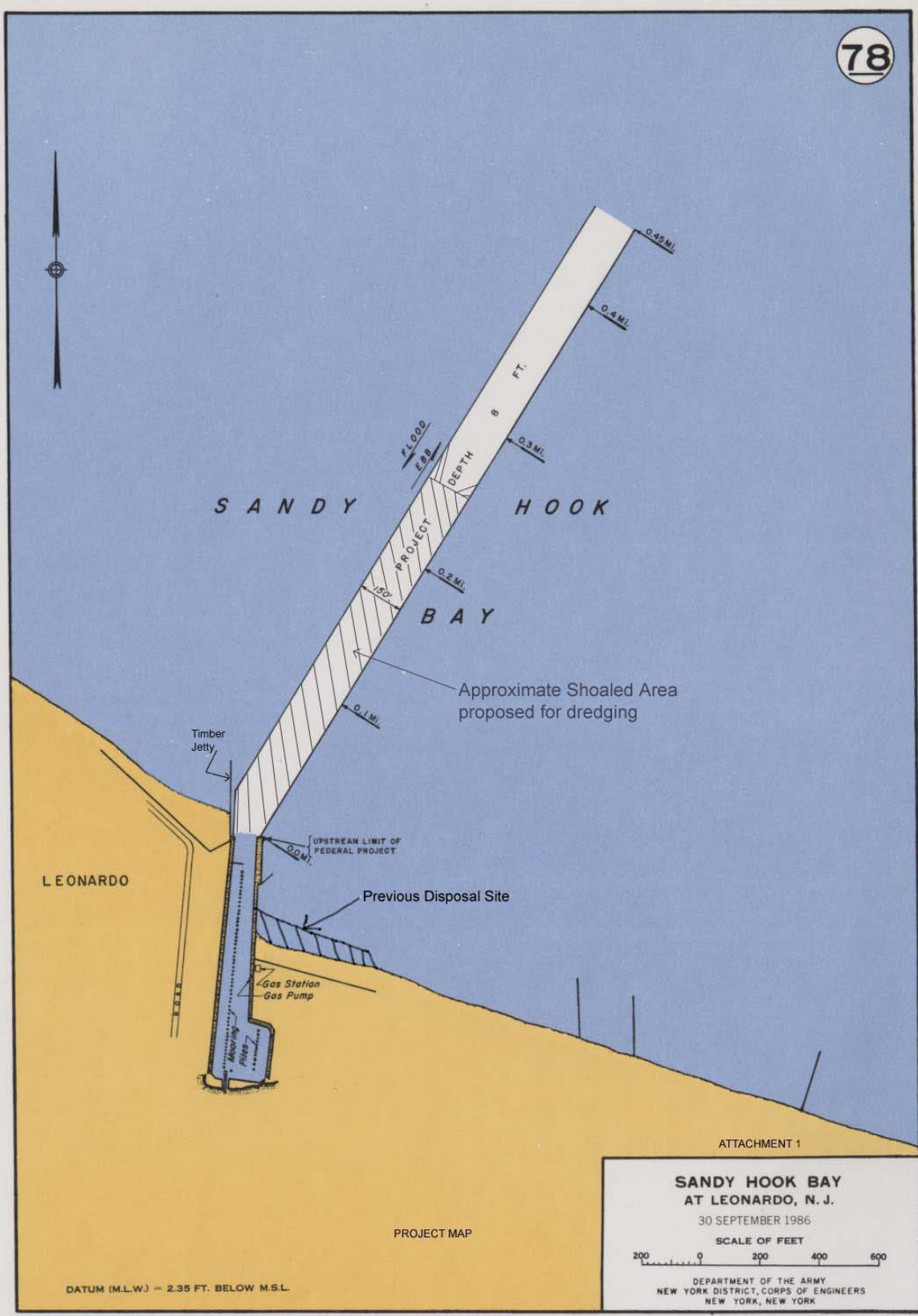


Figure 1: Sandy Hook bay at Leonardo