



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

New York District  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10278  
ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

# **Public Notice**

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In replying refer to:  
Public Notice No. Newark Bay 2017  
Published: February 10, 2017  
Expires: March 13, 2017

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**MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF THE  
NEWARK BAY, NEW JERSEY  
FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and 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 shoals in the Newark Bay Federal Navigation Project. The dredged material will be placed at a suitable contractor furnished, state-permitted upland site(s) and approved by the Government.

**WATERWAY:**

Main Channel, Port Elizabeth Channel, South Elizabeth Tributary Channel, Port Newark Channel and Port Newark Pierhead Channel of the Newark Bay Federal Navigation Project

**LOCATION:** Essex County, Union County and Hudson County, New Jersey

The Newark Bay Federal Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1922, subsequently modified in 1943, 1954, 1964, 1966, 1975, 1985, 1986, and 2000. As well as the, the Harbor Deepening Project authorized under Section 101(a)(2), Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-541).

Newark Bay Federal Navigation Project includes the following channels:

- a. South Main Channel, from the southern widenings and maneuvering areas to the end of the 50 ft deepening area just north of Port Elizabeth Channel, 800 ft to 2,360 ft wide, 50 ft authorized depth. Length is approximately 2.46 miles.

- b. Middle Main Channel, from the end of the deepening area just north of Port Elizabeth Channel, to the branch channel at Port Newark, 565 ft to 800 ft wide, 40 ft authorized depth. Length is approximately 0.61 miles.
- c. North Main Channel, from the branch channel at Port Newark to a turning basin at the junction of the Hackensack and Passaic River channels, 500 ft to 1,030 ft wide, 35 ft authorized depth. Length is approximately 1.57 miles.
- d. A branch channel at Port Newark (Port Newark Branch Channel), 400 ft to 1,785 ft wide, leading to a 400 ft wide inshore channel. The channel is authorized at 40 ft depth throughout the entire channel except the western 1,000 ft of channel which is authorized at 35 ft depth. Length is approximately 1.65 miles.
- e. A pierhead channel (Port Newark Pierhead Channel) between Port Newark and Elizabeth Channels, 300 ft to 750 ft wide, 40 ft authorized depth. Length is approximately 0.75 miles.
- f. A branch channel (Elizabeth Channel), 500 ft to 760 ft wide and 50 ft authorized depth. Length is approximately 1.5 miles.
- g. A branch channel (South Elizabeth Channel), 500 ft wide and tapering to 100 ft wide at the end of the channel. The channel is authorized at 50 ft depth throughout the entire channel except the western 1,000 ft of channel which is authorized at 45 ft depth. Length is approximately 0.50 miles.

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dredging with 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 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 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, 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 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 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 has been 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. Edward Wrocenski, the Project Manager at (917) 790-8636.

**DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED FEDERAL ACTION:**

The U.S. Army Engineer District, New York, proposes to perform maintenance dredging of portions of the Newark Bay Federal Navigation Project. Newark Bay was last dredged in 2016 with 285,285 cubic yards (CY) of selected shoals removed from the Main Channel and Port Newark Channel of the Federal Navigation Project. The material was placed at the Sayreville Seaport Associates site, an approved state of New Jersey permitted upland site.

The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of the approximate maximum volume of 783,000 CY of selected critical shoals from the Main Channel, Port Newark Channel, Port Newark Pierhead Channel, Port Elizabeth Channel, and South Elizabeth Tributary Channel of the Newark Bay Federal Navigation Project, subject to the availability of funds. Dredging would be to depths of -50 ft and -40 ft mean low low water (MLLW) plus 1 ft allowable overdepth.

Placement of the dredged material is proposed to be at a suitable, contractor-furnished, state-permitted upland placement site. The proposed dredging cycle is anticipated to occur from July thru February.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Newark Bay Federal Navigation Project by shipping interests. Maintenance dredging of a channel is generally accomplished by a clamshell dredge with an environmental bucket, or other similar plant.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared in 1973 for the maintenance dredging of the Newark Bay Federal Navigation Channel. An EIS was prepared in 2000 for the New York New Jersey (NYNJ) Harbor Deepening entitled "Final Environmental Impact Statement on the New York and New Jersey Harbor Navigation Study". This EIS covered the NYNJ Harbor – Newark Bay channels deepened to the authorized depth of -50 ft.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) updating the EIS was prepared by the New York District for a similar Newark Bay maintenance dredging project in 2015. The EA concluded that the 2015 dredging, with disposal at an approved upland facility, would have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

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.

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.

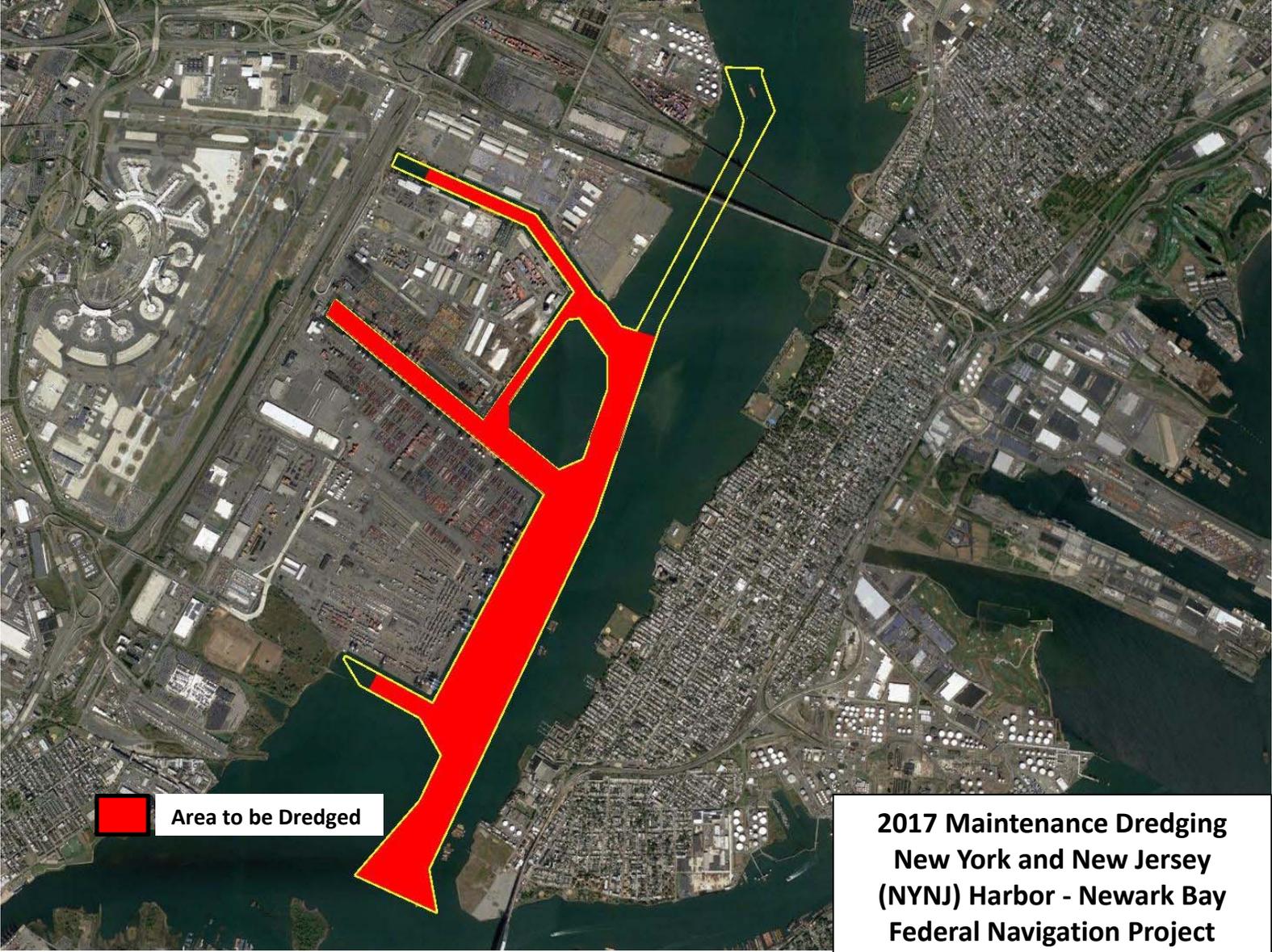
For more information on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>.



Handwritten signature of Randall G. Hintz in black ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'R' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Randall G. Hintz  
Chief, Operations Support Branch

Encls.  
2017 Maintenance Dredging Map



 Area to be Dredged

**2017 Maintenance Dredging  
New York and New Jersey  
(NYNJ) Harbor - Newark Bay  
Federal Navigation Project**