



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York New York 10278
ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

Public Notice

In replying refer to:
Public Notice No. Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Channel
Published: Expires:

JAMAICA BAY, NEW YORK 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) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project, Rockaway Inlet, New York (Figure 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged sand for beneficial use at the Rockaway Ocean Sand Borrow Area (ROSBA, Figure 2).

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project, Rockaway Inlet, New York, with placement of the dredged sand at the Rockaway Ocean Sand Borrow Area for the purpose of beneficial use.

WATERWAY: Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project, Rockaway Inlet, New York.

LOCATION: Queens County, New York

The Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project was authorized by the River and Harbors Acts of 25 June 1910, House Document No. 1488, 60th Congress, 2nd session, and subsequently modified in the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1945 and 1950. The entrance channel of Jamaica Bay (Rockaway Inlet, NY) has an authorized depth of -20 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and is 1,000 feet wide (Figure 1).

The proposed activity is to dredge the critical shoal area located in the Rockaway Inlet Channel of the Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project.

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 sand will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare or amenities, or the marine environment, ecological systems or economic potentialities.

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.

DUE TO CURRENT LOCAL CONDITIONS, AND TO ENSURE ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY ARE RECEIVED, ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO ALEXANDER.F.GREGORY@USACE.ARMY.MIL 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 sand, 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.

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 or Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) program, the Corps must submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State CZM and State FCD program to the maximum extent practicable. This activity is subject to review by the New York State Department of State for its consistency with the enforceable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable and within the applicable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program. A copy of this determination will be provided to the New York State Department of State, Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability. Additional information regarding the Corps of Engineers' consistency determination may be obtained by contacting the New York State Department of State, Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010, Albany, NY 12231.

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 from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Placement at the Rockaway Ocean Sand Borrow Area will not result in beneficial use material being placed within the vicinity of any identified wrecks, as indicated in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, there are no other historic sites eligible for or included in the Register within the project area. No known archaeological, scientific,

prehistorical or historical data are expected to be lost by work accomplished under the required dredging.

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 Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, First District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State
- New York City Department of City Planning

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact Mr. Alexander Gregory at (917) 790-8427. Comments or questions may be emailed to alexander.f.gregory@usace.army.mil.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Project, Rockaway Inlet, New York. The channel was last maintenance dredged in 2012 by a small commercial hopper dredge, with the removal of approximately 420,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand. The dredged sand was beneficially used as remediation material at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS).

The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 500,000 CY of sand to 20 feet MLLW plus 1 foot allowable overdepth within the Rockaway Inlet entrance channel to Jamaica Bay. Maintenance dredging of the channel is usually accomplished by a small hopper dredge or clamshell dredge. The entire reach will generally not require maintenance dredging; only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Channel by recreational and commercial maritime interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged sand. Dredged sand would be used to replenish the Rockaway Ocean Sand Borrow Area (Figure 2), providing a source of sand for beach nourishment projects in the area.

This public notice serves to announce the government's intent and identifies the proposed locations for placement of approximately 500,000 CY of sand. The dredging with placement is anticipated to occur in the spring to fall of 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, New York District, in October 1976. Environmental Assessments (EA) updating this EIS were prepared by the New York District in February 1990, June 1996, September 1998, September 2000, September 2002, September 2004, and September 2012. The EIS and EAs indicated that dredging of Jamaica Bay Federal Navigation Channel with placement of dredged sand as beneficial-use ocean placement material would have no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area.

An update of the EA and a 404(b) evaluation, as required by the Clean Water Act (40 CFR § 230), will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged sand from this project is proposed to be placed at the western most Rockaway Ocean Sand Borrow Area (ROSBA – West). ROSBA - West is located approximately 5 nautical miles east of Rockaway Inlet, NY (Figure 2) and will be used as a material source for beach nourishment by the NY District as part of ongoing coastal storm risk management projects. The dredged sand will be placed using the bottom dumping process.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Grain size analyses were performed in 2017 on sediment samples taken to a depth of - 20 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth MLLW. Based upon an analysis of the 11 samples collected, the grain size characteristics of the proposed dredged material consists of predominantly sand, with an average of 98.2 percent sand/gravel. Therefore, this proposed dredged sand would be suitable for placement at ROSBA - West.

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 the New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>.

Randall G. Hintz
Chief, Operations Support Branch

