



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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

Public Notice

In reply refer to:
Public Notice No. CHEESEQUAKE CREEK, NJ – Jetty
Rehabilitation

Published: 07 June 2024 Expires: 07 July 2024

CHEESEQUAKE CREEK, NEW JERSEY FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT JETTY REHABILITATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), 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 jetty rehabilitation of the Cheesequake Creek Federal Navigation Project, eastern jetty.

ACTIVITY: Jetty rehabilitation of the eastern jetty at Cheesequake Creek, New Jersey

WATERWAY: Cheesequake Creek, NJ.

The Cheesequake Creek, NJ Federal Navigation Project was adopted in 1880 and has an authorized project depth of -5 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), 100 feet wide from a 5 foot depth contour in Raritan Bay to mouth of the creek. The project provides for two parallel stone jetties 200 feet apart, one on each side of the entrance channel. The channel is about 0.3 miles long.

The proposed activity is to rehabilitate the eastern jetty located in the Cheesequake Creek, NJ Federal Navigation Project to restore it to modern standards, to better accommodate changes to the immediate area's coastal dynamics and support safe navigation through the federal navigation asset.

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed jetty rehabilitation 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 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 EMAILED 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 jetty rehabilitation 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 email 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 construction.

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 submits a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State FCD program to the maximum extent practicable. This activity is subject to review by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for its consistency with the enforceable policies of the New Jersey State Coastal Management Program. The Corps, has determined that the proposed activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable and within the applicable policies of the New Jersey State Coastal Management Program. A copy of this determination will be 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 Services 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 and Sector New York
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Old Bridge Township, New Jersey
- Middlesex County, New Jersey

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Mr. Jun Yan, Project Manager at (917) 790-8437, or jun.yan@usace.army.mil

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) proposes to perform jetty rehabilitation of eastern jetty at the Cheesequake Creek, NJ Federal Navigation Project. The proposed jetty rehabilitation would involve the raising jetty height and restoring the jetty to modern standards. The jetty was constructed in 1880 and since, rock settlement and movement has caused the jetty to no longer be functional in protecting the navigation channel from shoaling.

The purpose of the proposed work is to rehabilitate the jetty to help alleviate the effects of the sand shoaling, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Cheesequake Creek by commercial and recreational boating interests. The jetty rehabilitation will include raising the height of the western jetty to the same dimension as the Cheesequake Creek eastern jetty.

The jetty rehabilitation is anticipated to occur during the fall of 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

It has been determined that jetty rehabilitation of Cheesequake Creek, NJ is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area.

An update of the Environmental Assessment will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed jetty rehabilitation work.

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>.

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Michael J. Oseback
Chief, Operations Support Branch



Figure 1: Location Map
Cheesapeake Creek, Middlesex County, New Jersey