



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Philadelphia District

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Public Notice

CENAP

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In Reply Refer To:
Environmental Resources Branch

Internet Homepage: <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil>

Army Corps solicits public comment on Clean Air Act compliance plans for Delaware River Deepening

The United States Army Corps of Engineers released for public comment its plans to meet Clean Air Act requirements for the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project, specifically related to emissions from dredging activities

As required by the General Conformity Rule of the Clean Air Act (40 CFR 93, Subpart B, Section 93.155), the Corps' Philadelphia District has completed the "Draft Conditional Statement of Conformity, Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project" for initial construction of the project, which will deepen the existing 102.5-mile ship channel from 40 to 45 feet between Philadelphia and the mouth of the Delaware Bay.

In addition to the channel deepening and separately from the federal project, several berths at oil refineries and port facilities along the Delaware River (mostly upstream near Philadelphia and Camden) will also be deepened. Project construction is estimated to take five years, with an additional year to deepen the adjacent berths.

To determine if the project would exceed air quality standards and, if so, how to bring it back into conformity, the Corps performed an emissions analysis and mitigation study. The results are documented in the "Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project General Conformity Analysis and Mitigation Report, August 7, 2009."

Detailed modeling of engine emissions during project construction, including the deepening of the berthing areas, predicts that releases of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other contaminants would be below the minimum thresholds for each of the states (Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania) and all affected counties. However, the same modeling predicts above-threshold releases of nitrogen oxides (NOx) during all years of construction.

The Corps' analysis identified several viable options to achieve Clean Air Act conformity for NOx releases, evaluating the effectiveness and related costs of both on-site and off-site emission reduction opportunities. The results of this analysis are being coordinated with all appropriate federal, state and local agencies as well as with the public.

This analysis concludes that the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project can comply with the Clean Air Act if excessive emission levels due to dredging and dredged material placement are offset through a combination of measures before or during construction.

Electronic copies of the two documents cited above can be downloaded from the Corps' website at www.nap.usace.army.mil. From the homepage, click on "Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project" under Project Web Pages and then on "News & Updates" under Project Links. To request paper copies, please write or e-mail to the addresses below or call (215) 656-6515.

Comments may be submitted via regular mail to the Environmental Resources Branch, Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to the Public Affairs Office at edward.c.voigt@usace.army.mil. Please submit all comments by September 14, 2009.



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