THIS IS NOT A PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Public Notice

US Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENAP-PLE-25-02 Date March 20, 2025

In Reply Refer to: Environmental Resources Branch

Draft ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DELAWARE COAST PROTECTION INDIAN RIVER INLET SAND BYPASS PROJECT NORTH BEACH SUPPLEMENTAL SAND NOURISHMENT SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE

In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District, is issuing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) titled: *Delaware Coast Protection – Indian River Inlet Sand Bypass Project – North Beach Supplemental Sand Nourishment - Sussex County, Delaware* (NEPA Unique ID: EAXX-202-00-E5P-1742316597). In addition to the no action alternative, the EA evaluates the placement of beachfill along the shoreline on the north side of Indian River Inlet (North Beach) for the purpose of restoring and/or maintaining the berm and dune for a distance of approximately 5,000 linear feet north of the north inlet jetty (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The EA also evaluates sand sources that would provide beachfill quality material for the beach restoration. The purpose of this action is to provide protection to the critical infrastructure of the State Route 1 Charles W. Cullen Bridge and its approach on the north side, which has been experiencing significant erosion.

The plan is a combination of the dredging and beachfill plan and sand source alternatives for the restoration of the North Beach shoreline. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control completed an initial phase of the restoration of the beach by dredging from the interior Indian River Inlet Flood Shoal and placing approximately 480,000 cubic yards of sand on the North Beach shoreline. This phase is identified as "Phase 1" in the document, which was constructed to address severe erosion of the North Beach and dune. Phase 1 was completed March 1, 2025. The next phase (Phase 2) is the USACE component, which will complement the Phase 1 portion. For the completion of the Phase 2 berm restoration, approximately 500,000 cubic yards of sand beachfill would be placed along the shoreline of the North Beach extending north from the north Indian River Inlet jetty for approximately 5,000 feet. The construction template will result in a 200 to 250-ft wide berm with an elevation of +9.0 ft NAVD and a foreshore slope of 10H:1V. The berm will have a dune on top with an overall dune crest elevation of +16.0 ft NAVD and width of 25 ft with 3H:1V slopes (Figure 3 through Figure 6). The installation of dune fencing, crossovers and dune

Philadelphia District

grass plantings would subsequently be conducted. An access and staging area will be needed for the contractor. Access will be gained from the existing Phase 1 construction at Inlet Road along the east side of the parking lot and staging will extend under the SR1 bridge approach through an opening in the dune along the North Beach. The Phase 2 sand would be obtained from the hydraulic dredging of the Indian River Inlet Ebb Shoal (IRI-Ebb A) (Figure 2) to an average depth of 10 feet below existing bathymetry.

The plan also includes the periodic nourishment of the North Beach on an as needed basis to supplement the Indian River Inlet sand bypass plant operations to maintain the Phase 2 berm and dune template during intense erosion cycles or following significant storm events. The required sand quantities may be variable but could be as high as 800,000 cubic yards. The sand sources include the Indian River Inlet Ebb Shoal (Ebb-A) and the existing Indian River Inlet Flood Shoal Sand Source. Additionally, the portion of the Indian River Inlet Ebb Shoal (Ebb-B) that includes the proposed southern lobe expansion area (Figure 2) is considered for future use but would require supplemental environmental compliance approvals upon further investigations for sediment quality, benthic resources, and cultural resources.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) has been prepared for this project, and is being circulated to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and the interested public. Requests for this document should be made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Environmental Resources Branch at (215) 656-6559 or by obtaining it from:

http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicNoticesReports.aspx.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification is being requested from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

In accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. A certification of compliance is being requested from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not adversely affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, would be impacted.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary assessment of the effects of the proposed action on Federally managed species and their life stages within this area indicates the project would not have significant adverse effects on EFH.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan. The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. More detailed information on this work is available for public review at the Philadelphia District Office.

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice should be directed to Mr. Adrian Leary ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, at PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Adrian Leary Chief, Planning Division Philadelphia District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Figure 1. Indian River Inlet Project Area and Vicinity



-5-

Figure 2. Indian River Inlet North Beach Project Area and Proposed Affected Areas



Figure 3. Indian River Inlet North Beach Beachfill Template and Staging and Access Areas



Figure 4. Indian River Inlet North Beach Beachfill Template



Figure 5. Indian River Inlet North Beach Beachfill Template and Northern Terminus of Project



Figure 6. Indian River Inlet North Beach Beachfill Template Typical Cross Sections