



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

Public Notice

Date: Nov. 20, 2009
Contact: Ed Voigt
Phone: (215) 656-6515

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

The United States Army Corps of Engineers today released for public comment its updated plan 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), the Corps' Philadelphia District has conducted a conformity analysis for 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, 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.

In August 2009, the Corps solicited comments on the "Draft Conditional Statement of Conformity" and the accompanying report entitled, "Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project, General Conformity Analysis and Mitigation Report, August 7, 2009." Based on the comments received and adjustments to the project schedule, the Corps has revised the report and prepared a new statement of conformity.

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 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 strategies. Based on this analysis, all NOx emissions for the project will be offset by purchasing Emission Reduction Credits. Details of this plan are provided in the revised report and statement of conformity.

Electronic copies of the revised report, "Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project, General Conformity Analysis and Mitigation Report, November 2009," and the new "Draft Statement of Conformity, November 2009" 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 click on "News & Documents" 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 December 20, 2009.