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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Corps and partners announce end of comment period for C&D Canal recreational study public questionnaire

PHILADELPHIA (May 27, 2005) --- The federal, state, and local partners in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Recreation Study announce today that the comment period, using the printed and online versions of the C&D public questionnaire, has ended. The submittal period for the questionnaire began on April 26th and lasted 30 days.

The goal of the C&D Canal Recreation Study is to work with Delaware and Maryland State agencies and other interested partners to investigate potential future recreational usage of the C&D Canal and compile a final report with recommendations to implement these recommendations for the betterment of recreational opportunities available to the citizens of Delaware and Maryland.

The working group realized that a key component of the study process was going to be is public involvement and wishes to thank the hundreds of people who attended the two public information open houses in April and contributed answers and comments to our online questionnaire. This information has been incorporated into the study plan and will greatly assist us in developing our draft report due out in the fall of 2005.

Though the comment period has ended for the questionnaire, the public can continue to provide comments on the project website and will have the opportunity to provide comments when the draft Master Plan is completed for the C&D Recreational Study. A second round of public meetings will be held in the fall of 2005 when the working group will present the draft alternatives for the C&D Recreation Master Plan.

Current recreational activities at the C&D Canal include hunting, fishing, bicycling, hiking, birdwatching and other popular forms of outdoor recreation and the demand for these and other uses will only increase as the population continues to expand around the canal.

Though the online questionnaire is no longer available, we encourage you to visit the site <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/CD/> for announcements of upcoming public open house meetings, study updates and to provide general comments about the C&D Canal and how we can better serve you through this website.

Partners in the C&D Canal Recreation Study Working Group are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Delaware Congressman Michael N. Castle, U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Department of Transportation,

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, New Castle County, DE, Cecil County, MD, and Delaware Greenways, Inc.

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