



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

News Release

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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Corps and N.J. agree on emergency dredged materials disposal site

PHILADELPHIA (Aug. 14, 2007): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Monday announced it has come to an agreement with the State of New Jersey on limited use of a disposal site to allow emergency maintenance dredging in the Delaware River between Philadelphia and Trenton.

The state has provided a 20-acre parcel to the Corps to place approximately 55,000 cubic yards of dredged material on a site located at the northwestern edge of the 300-acre Palmyra Cove. This area has been used numerous times in the past for placement of dredged materials from the Delaware River.

Navigation:

The two critical shoaling areas are seven and four miles north of the Cove and the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge. This stretch of the channel has not been dredged since 2000, and the resulting buildup of sediment now represents a severe impediment to deep-draft shipping.

Currently, the Port of Bucks County employs some 5,000 employees, directly and indirectly, who are residents of both New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which depend greatly on the safe navigation of the channel and whose jobs depend upon the uninterrupted operation of this port.

Last year alone, more than 330 vessels arrived at seven facilities located in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania carrying petroleum, coal, fruit, steel and dry bulk cargoes. The federal channel must be maintained at 40 feet in order to allow safe navigation for those vessels.

Habitat preservation efforts:

The Corps is sensitive to the wildlife habitat that has developed in this area as well its widespread usage as a local cultural and educational attraction. The Corps is taking extra care to maintain its viability as a valuable natural resource. The Corps is working with Palmyra Cove officials to execute a plan that will have minimal impact on natural habitats.

The construction area is being strictly confined to the 20-acre disposal site. The Corps is limiting tree growth removal and is constructing a berm to protect the dragon-fly pond. The Corps has also agreed to work with Palmyra Cove officials, upon completion of the work, to ensure the site is left in satisfactory condition.

The Corps will continue to work with NJDEP to identify future disposal sites for ongoing maintenance dredging of the Delaware River.