



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.	Date
CENAP-PL-E-13-01	March 25, 2013

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

In Reply Refer to: Environmental Resources Branch

**DELAWARE COAST PROTECTION PROJECT
FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCY REPAIR
INDIAN RIVER INLET NORTH SHORE
SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE**

Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public and agency review, which provides an evaluation of the proposed beach restoration project for the Indian River Inlet North Shore utilizing the Indian River Inlet interior flood shoal as a sand source. The draft EA/FONSI is being issued pursuant to 33 CFR 230.10 and 230.11 and is intended to address the potential environmental effects from the proposed Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Repair of the Indian River Inlet shoreline protection project along the Atlantic Coast of Sussex County, Delaware (Figure 1).

This document is based on the need to repair the beach project in accordance with PL 84-99 Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (33 U.S.C. 701n) from damages associated with the Federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Sandy last October. The goals of the project are to repair the beach and the associate scour that resulted during Hurricane Sandy (Figure 2). In addition, this project will provide important protection to Delaware State Route 1 and the Indian River Inlet bridge infrastructure.

The effects of Hurricane Sandy on the Indian River Inlet North Beach were significant and are discussed in the referenced EA document. Based on post-storm surveys of the flood shoal conducted in February 2013, approximately 520,000 cubic yards of sand are required to restore the sand quantity lost during Hurricane Sandy and restore the beach to the 1984 (Indian River Inlet) beach template. The plan is to dredge the Inlet flood shoal to the approximate depth of -24 ft NAVD and place the material on the North Shore beach. Dredging the flood shoal will provide sufficient material to protect the North Shore and based on samples, the material consists mostly of sand (> 90%) (Figure 3). The Indian River Inlet North Shore beach has received numerous sand placements over the last 70 years from the flood shoal and other sources. Representative plans (plan and cross section views) can be seen in Figures 4-7.

The EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA and *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Procedures for Implementing NEPA, Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2*. The EA evaluates existing environmental, cultural, and socio-economic conditions at the proposed project site and the effects of the project on existing resources in the immediate and surrounding areas. This document is being made available to the appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies; and other public interests.

Impacts to Water Quality have been evaluated in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act, and are not adverse. 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, an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. A Federal consistency certification is being requested from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. In addition, 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 effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). An assessment of the effects of the proposed action on listed species and their life stages within this area is provided in the EA, and indicates the project would not have significant adverse effects on EFH.

Furthermore, review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, would be impacted. All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

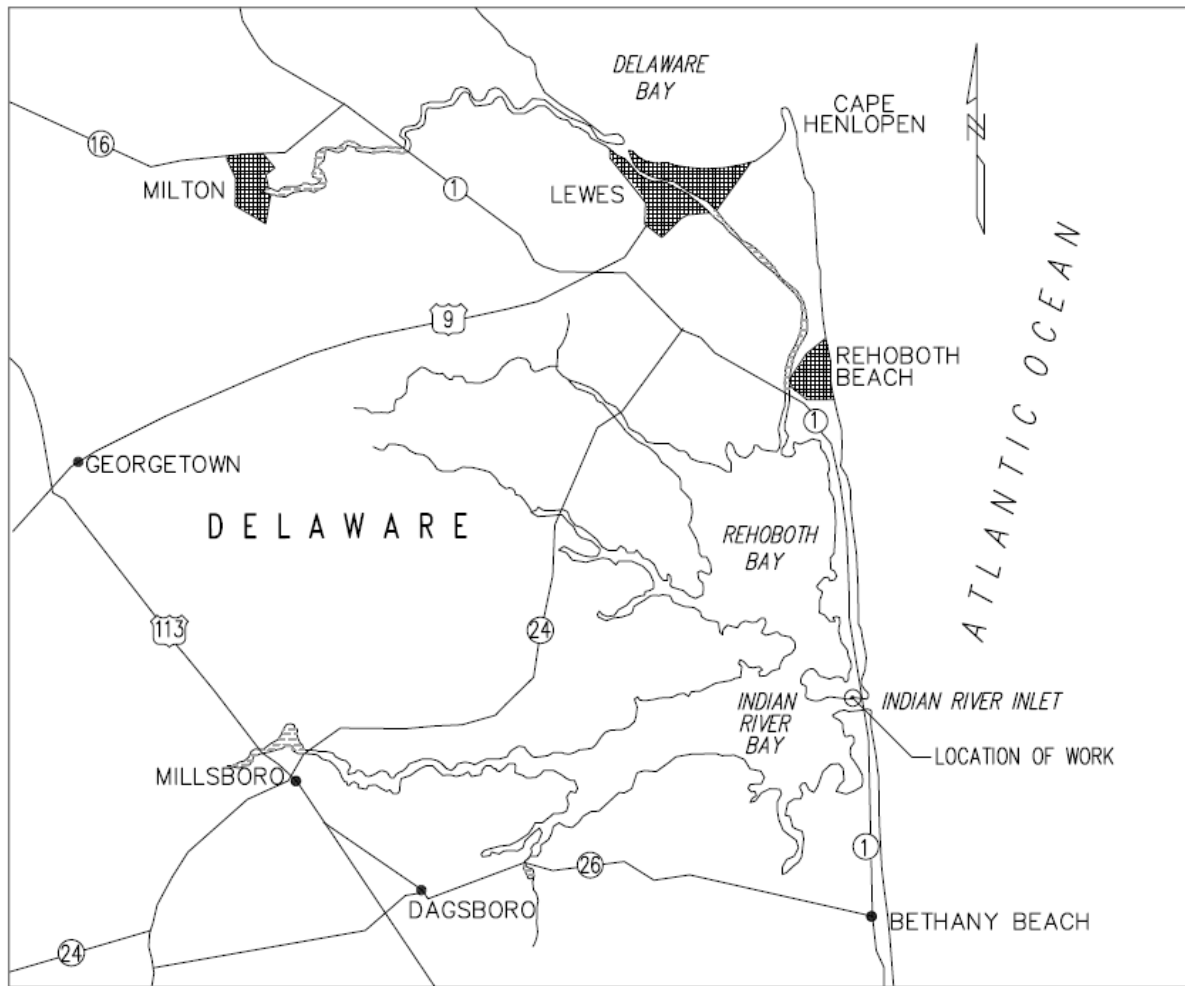
The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. Copies of the Draft EA and FONSI are available upon request by calling (215) 656-6515. Or as stated above, copies of this document may be accessed on the District's website at: <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicNotices.aspx>. More information on this work is also 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 (March 25 – April 10), 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 and/or in the draft EA and FONSI should be directed to Mr. Charles P. MacIntosh, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390 by April 10, 2013. In addition, comments can be emailed to our Public Affairs Office at Stephen.Rochette@usace.army.mil by April 10, 2013.



Charles P. MacIntosh
Acting Chief, Planning Division
Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



LOCATION MAP

SCALE IN MILES

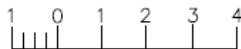


Figure 1. Indian River Inlet Vicinity Map

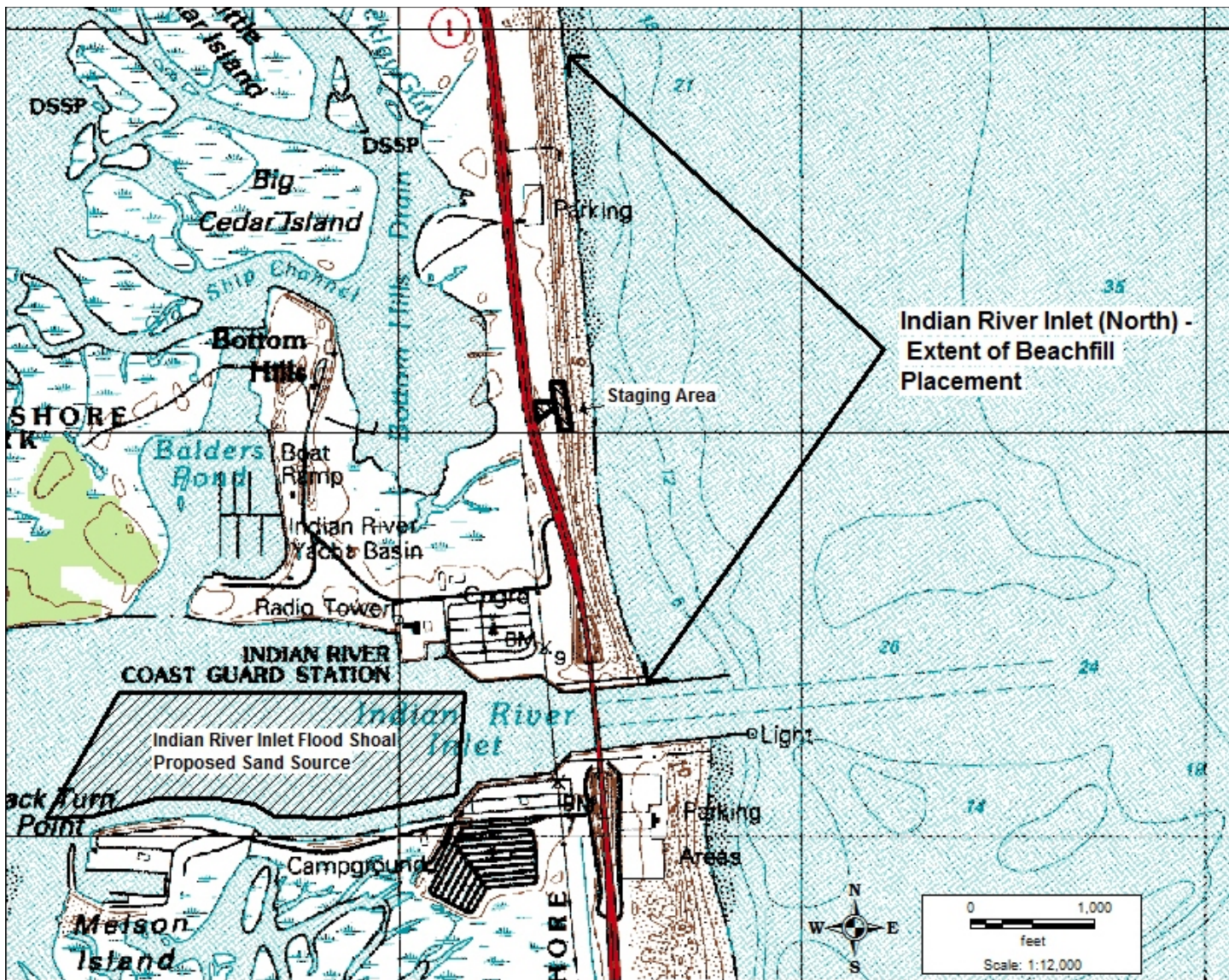


Figure 2. Project Location Map

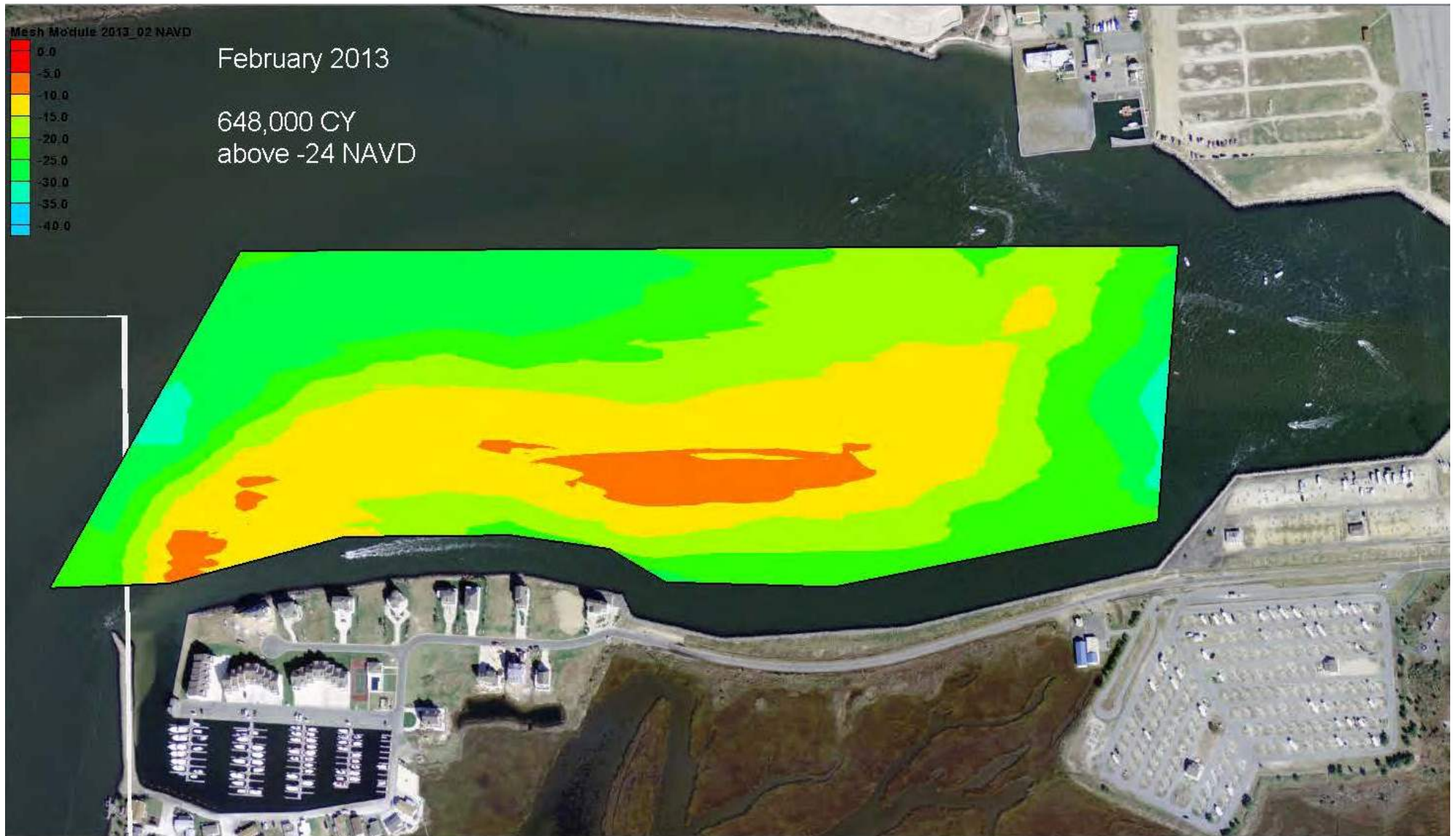


Figure 3. Indian River Inlet Flood Shoal Borrow Area Existing Bathymetry (Proposed Dredging Depth is to -24 ft. NAVD)

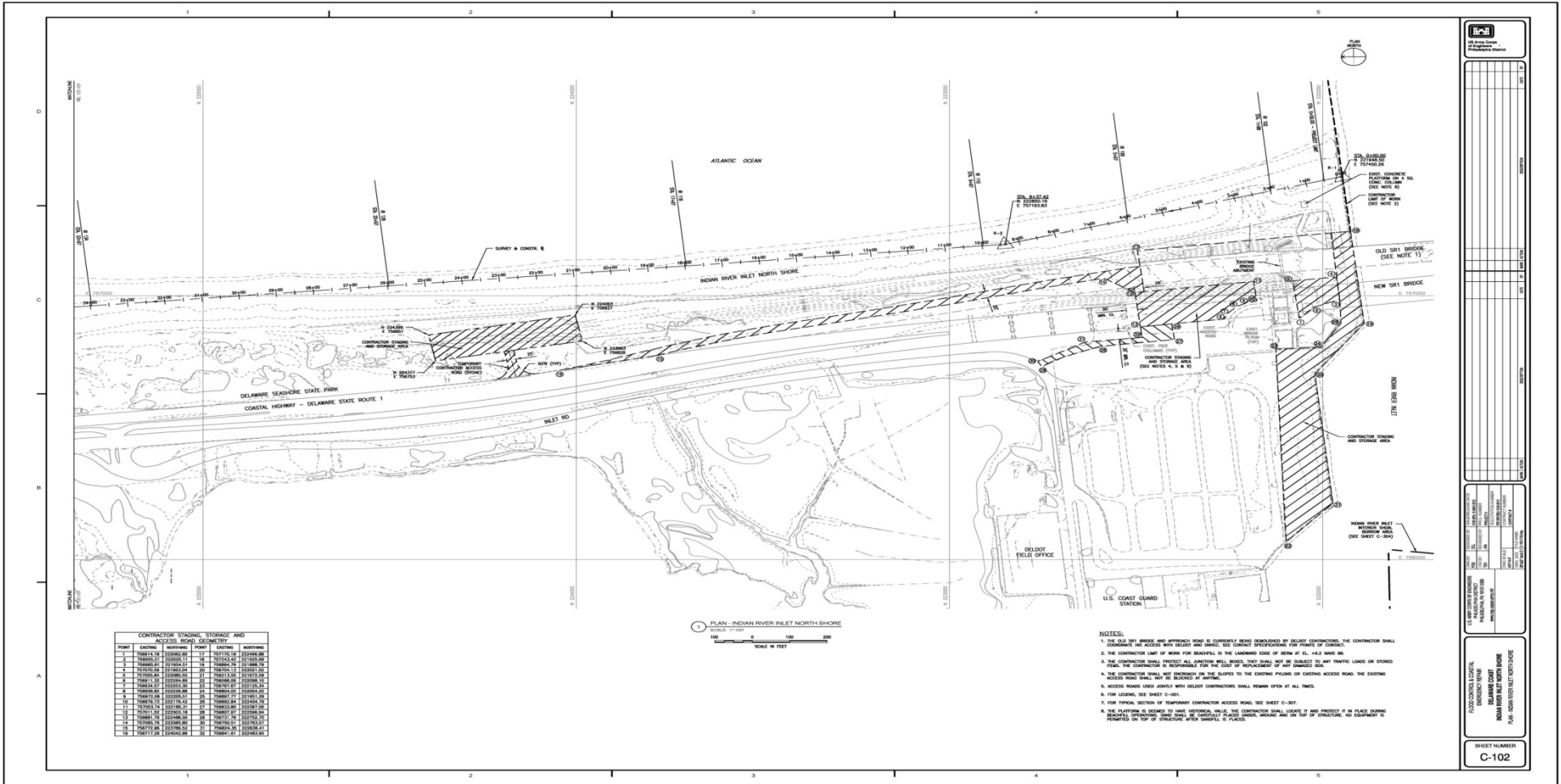


Figure 6. Indian River Inlet North Shore Beachfill Plan (southern end).

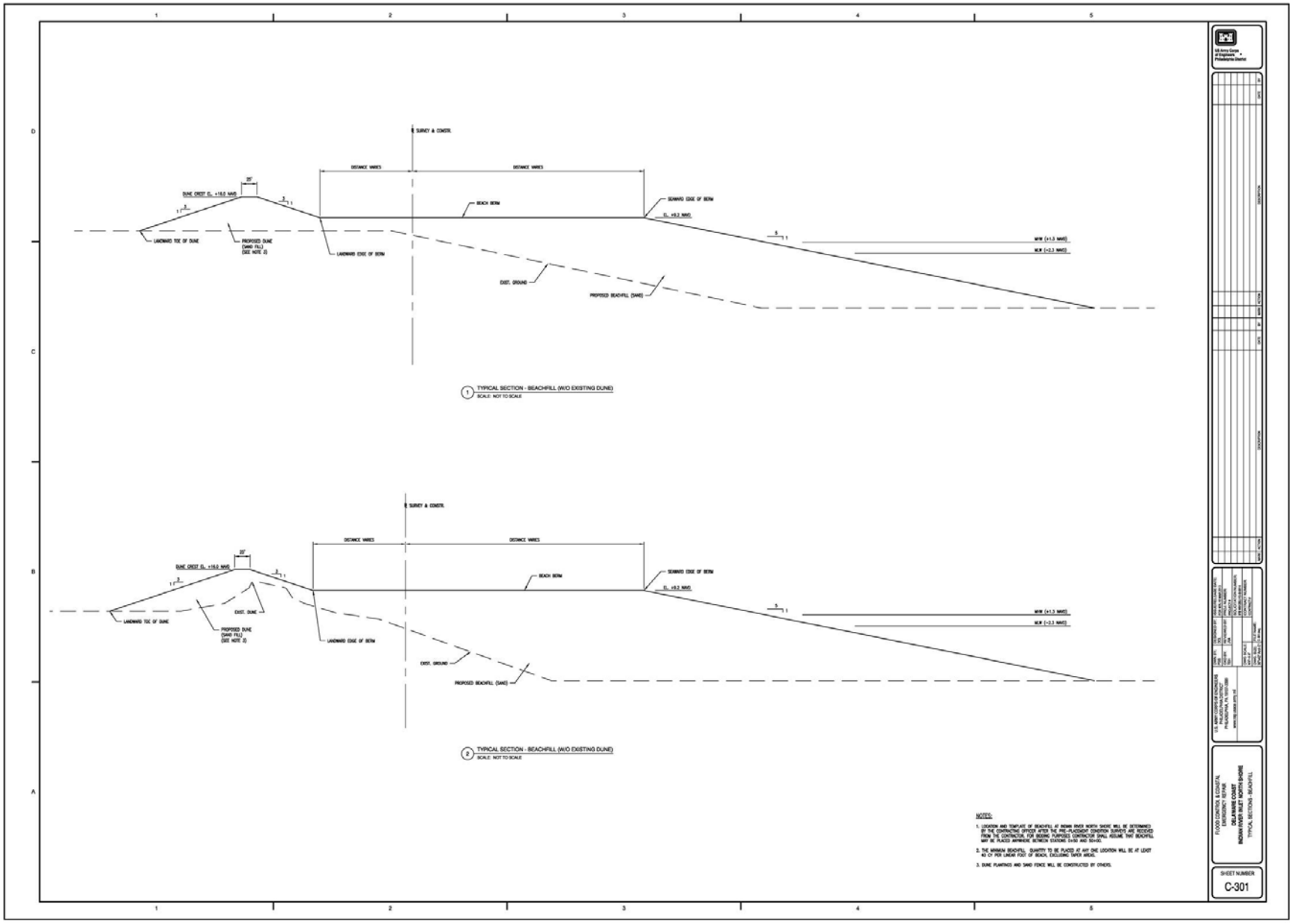


Figure 7: Indian River Inlet North Shore Beachfill (Typical Cross Section)

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
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