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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Public Notice

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Date
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Philadelphia District

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

In Reply Refer to: Environmental Resources Branch

Schuylkill River Maintenance Dredging Fairmount Park, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to conduct maintenance dredging in the Schuylkill River above Fairmount Dam at locations that have degraded rowing/boating facilities within Fairmount Park, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. The plan is to remove accumulated sediment shoals at a maximum of four locations on the Schuylkill River in the vicinity of the Strawberry Mansion Bridge downstream to the Fairmount Dam. These areas include portions of the racecourse in the vicinity of Peter's Island and the Strawberry Mansion Bridge, an area around existing docks in front of Boathouse Row, and an adaptive rowing access point to the river for handicap use. The Belmont raw water intake below the Columbia railroad bridge may require maintenance dredging in future cycles to maintain efficiency of the intake. Dredging will be to a maximum depth of four feet NAVD 88 plus one foot of allowable overdepth. The dredging will be completed using either a hydraulic cutterhead dredge or a mechanical bucket dredge. An estimated 60,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the four sites. Dredged material will be transported via a floating pipeline or barges, depending on dredge type, from the dredge downstream to Fairmount Dam. Material will be transferred over the dam into barges and then taken downstream, where it will be hydraulically unloaded into the Fort Mifflin Confined Disposal Facility (CDF). Decant water will be drained from the Fort Mifflin CDF back to the Schuylkill River. The proposed dredging schedule has an early start of August and will continue during the fall, with potential to extend into winter months pending weather, and is anticipated to take three to four months.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact have been prepared and are available upon request.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has provided water quality certification and a coastal zone consistency determination through authorization of the 2017 Corps Nationwide Permit # 16, which is for return water

from upland confined disposal facilities (Fort Mifflin CDF).

Based on the information developed during preparation of the Environmental Assessment, and the application of appropriate measures to minimize project impacts, it has been determined in accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, that the selected dredging plan complies with and would be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program of Pennsylvania. A concurrence letter has been requested from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

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.

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). The Schuylkill River, upstream of the Fairmount Dam, is not considered essential fish habitat for Federally managed species of fish within the mid-Atlantic region. However, prey species such as river herring are known to utilize the area, gaining access via the Fairmount Dam fishladder.

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 plans.

The project is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the City of Philadelphia.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the disposal of this dredged material at the Fort Mifflin CDF may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the district engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity. A 15-day comment period is provided. If you have any further questions regarding this project, please contact Mr. Jerry Pasquale at Jerry.J.Pasquale@usace.army.mil.

All comments on the work described in this public notice should be directed to Mr. Peter R. Blum, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390 by May 10, 2019.

Peter R. Blum, P.E.
Chief, Planning Division
Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers