



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice

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CENAP-PL-E-24-01

Date
April 10, 2024

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch

DELAWARE CITY CONFINED DISPOSAL FACILITY NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District is initiating the scoping phase for an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate dredged material disposal alternatives that address disposal capacity needs for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Delaware River, Philadelphia to the Sea (DPS) navigation channel and the O&M for the Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal navigation channel. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, this notice serves as the initiation of the scoping process as outlined in 33 CFR Part 230.12 for any potential project or Federal action proposed in the EA.

The Philadelphia District is preparing this environmental assessment to address dredged material disposal needs for the ongoing O&M of the DPS and the C&D Canal navigation channels. The O&M for the DPS FNC was authorized in 1910 (HD 733, 61st Cong., 2nd Session) and modified in 1930 (HD 304, 71st Cong., 3rd Session); 1935 (R&H Comm. Doc 5, 73rd Cong., 1st Session); 1938 (SD 159, 75th Cong., 3rd Session); 1945 (HD 580, 76th Cong., 3rd Session and HD 340, 77th Cong., 1st Session); 1954 (HD 358, 83rd Cong., 2nd Session) and 1958 (HD 185, 85th Cong., 1st Session). The O&M for the C&D Canal navigation channel was authorized in 1935 (HD 201, 72nd cong., 1st Session) and modified in 1935 (R&H Com Doc 11, R&H Docs 18 and 24, 73rd Cong., 2nd Session), in 1939 (PL 310, 76th Cong., 1st Session and in 1954 (SD 123, 83rd Cong., 2nd Session).

The primary objective of this evaluation is to provide long-term, safe disposal for dredged material related to the DPS navigation maintenance project, the C&D Canal navigation maintenance project, and the Delaware City Branch Canal (also referred to as the “Branch Canal”). The maintenance dredging of the navigation channels, and associated upland disposal of the dredge material, helps ensure safe navigation within the federally maintained channels. Maintaining the authorized 45-foot-deep DPS navigation channel and 35-foot-deep C&D Canal navigation channel is critical to sustaining economic activity in the region. Recently, increased shoaling in the DPS navigation channel has resulted in the increased use of the existing upland dredged material confined disposal facilities (CDFs) along the Delaware River which has resulted in decreased capacity at these CDFs. The upland CDFs are also commonly referred to as “dredge material placement facilities”.

The EA will evaluate several dredged material disposal alternatives including the continued use of the upland CDFs along the Delaware River and C&D Canal (such as the Killcohook CDF, Reedy Point North and South CDFs, Artificial Island CDF, Biddles Point CDF, and the Delaware City CDF). Estimates of available dredged material capacities at the actively utilized CDFs along the Delaware River, including the Killcohook, Artificial Island, and Reedy Point North and South CDFs, have demonstrated that there is a need for additional disposal capacity for the maintenance dredging of the DPS and C&D navigation channels.

The Delaware City CDF is an area being considered for future placement of dredged material, with approximately 1.2 million cubic yards (CYs) of existing capacity. The CDF is within the acceptable pumping distance range (approximately five to six miles) from the maintenance dredge locations. Additional dike maintenance work can increase the available capacity of the Delaware City CDF to approximately 3 million CYs. This facility is located west of Delaware City, New Castle County, Delaware and approximately 13 miles south of Wilmington, Delaware (Figure 1). The Delaware City CDF is approximately 364 acres in size and is located directly north of the C&D Canal navigation channel and approximately 2.5-miles west of the New Castle Range of the DPS navigation channel. The Delaware City CDF was last used in the 1970s when the C&D Canal was widened to its current configuration. Since then, the site has not been utilized for the placement of dredge material but continues to be maintained by the USACE as a disposal facility. The EA will investigate any environmental, cultural, and socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed reuse of the Delaware City CDF as a dredge material disposal facility in accordance with the NEPA regulations.

This notice initiates scoping procedures as outlined in 33 CFR Part 230.12. Scoping is an early and open process for identifying any significant issues related to the proposed Federal action. Participation of the general public and other interested parties and stakeholders in identifying significant issues and alternatives is being solicited by means of this public notice. The public and other interested parties are invited to participate in the project scoping by providing written comments, questions, and concerns to this office within 30 days from the date of this notice.

For further information on this assessment, please contact:

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Figure 1: Location of Delaware City Confined Disposal Facility



Figure 2: CDFs proximate to the Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea Navigation Channel Ranges (Deepwater, Bulkhead Bar, New Castle, and Reedy Island Ranges) and the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal