



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-PL-E-23-01

Date
February 15, 2023

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SALEM RIVER FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AND NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE.

In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, is issuing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) titled: *Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging and Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Salem County, New Jersey and New Castle County, Delaware*. The EA evaluates several alternative dredged material placement locations, and identified a preferred alternative that combines three of these locations. The preferred alternative includes two Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDM) options. One option is for ecosystem restoration at the Goose Pond area of Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and the other option is the placement of sandy material into the nearshore subtidal area of Oakwood Beach (a location of an existing Coastal Storm Risk Management – beach nourishment project). The preferred plan also includes the continued use of the federal Killcohook Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) as a disposal option (Figure 1). These 3 options provide greater flexibility in addressing sediment management needs for the Salem River Federal Navigation Channel (FNC) in support of Regional Sediment Management (RSM) and Engineering with Nature (EWN) objectives.

For Fiscal Year 2023, the USACE is proposing to conduct maintenance dredging of the Salem River (FNC) in the vicinity of Salem Cove in New Castle County, Delaware to maintain the authorized channel dimensions to a depth of 16 ft MLLW and 2 ft over-depth allowance (if needed) (Figures 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8). The material will be beneficially placed within the Goose Pond Area of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Salem County, NJ, which is an intertidal and subtidal mudflat area (Figures 1 and 9). The USFWS reports significant losses of intertidal marsh habitats due to subsidence and conversions to open water, which are important for trust wildlife species. The USFWS proposes to restore the marsh habitats by building elevation to intertidal elevations with infusions of sediments and through natural accretion processes facilitated by their rehabilitation project of the stone breakwater along the Delaware River shoreline. The goal of the BUDM effort is to

restore the existing mudflats into a mosaic of intertidal mudflats and brackish low marsh habitats. The BUDM affected area at Goose Pond is approximately 42 acres in size.

Approximately 209,000 cubic yards of silts, fine sands, and clays would initially be hydraulically dredged utilizing a cutterhead-suction dredge to remove shoals within the Salem River (FNC) over a period of approximately 16 weeks in the July 2023 thru February 2024 timeframe and placed within the Goose Pond area of Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge with a target elevation at +1.5 ft. NAVD to establish desirable low marsh habitat. To achieve the final elevation, multiple placements of sediment could be required over multiple years. The fill material would be dredged from the Salem River FNC and brought to the Goose Pond area via a floating pipeline. The dredged material would be piped through a "Y" distributor directly into the Goose Pond area for infilling to the surrounding marsh elevation. Monitoring would be performed by both USFWS and USACE to ensure sediment accretion, elevation, and marsh vegetation recruitment objectives are being met during and after placement activities.

The EA also evaluates the periodic placement of sandy dredged material within the Oakwood Beach nearshore, which would be accomplished with a small split-hull hopper dredge that allows the vessel to enter shallow water to place sandy material from portions of the Salem FNC containing sand shoals. Placement would occur periodically within a 90-acre area fronting Oakwood Beach in depths ranging from -4 to -8 ft MLLW and each dredging/placement cycle would place 5,000 to 20,000 cubic yards of sandy material into this area (Figures 1 and 10).

The preferred plan also includes the continued use of the authorized Killcohook CDF. Dredged material will be transported to the CDF via a hydraulic cutter suction pipeline dredge over a distance of approximately 3.5 miles to the CDF (Figure 1).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) has been prepared for this project, and is being circulated to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and the interested public. This document is available from the Philadelphia District website for download at:

<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicNoticesReports.aspx>.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

In accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. A certification of compliance is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not adversely affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, would be impacted.

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). A preliminary assessment of the effects of the proposed action on Federally managed species and their life stages within this area indicates the project would not have significant adverse effects on EFH.

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. More detailed information on this work is 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, 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 should be directed to Mr. Peter R. Blum, P.E. ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, by e-mail at PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

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

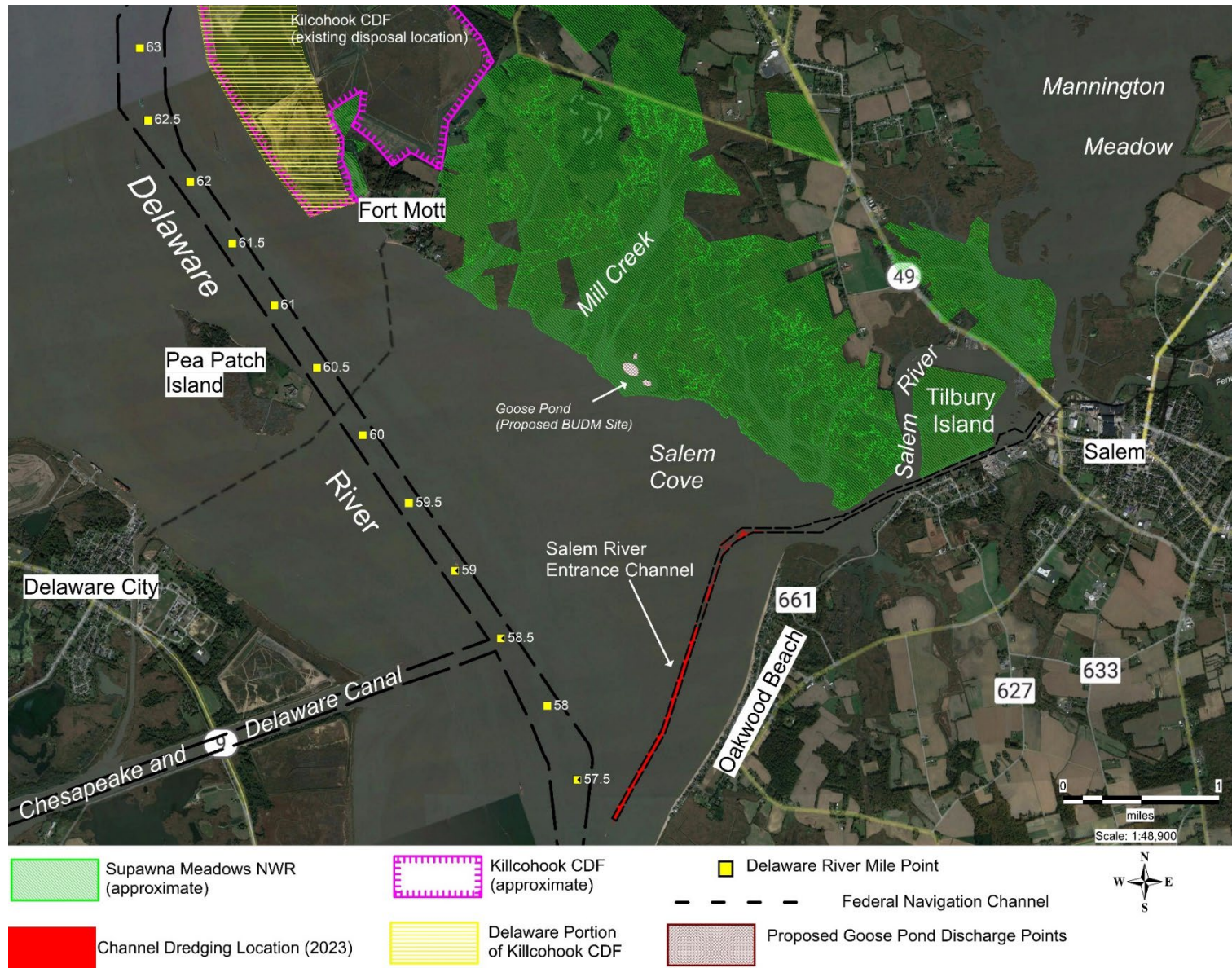


Figure 1. Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Dredging and BUDM Placement at Goose Pond Vicinity Map

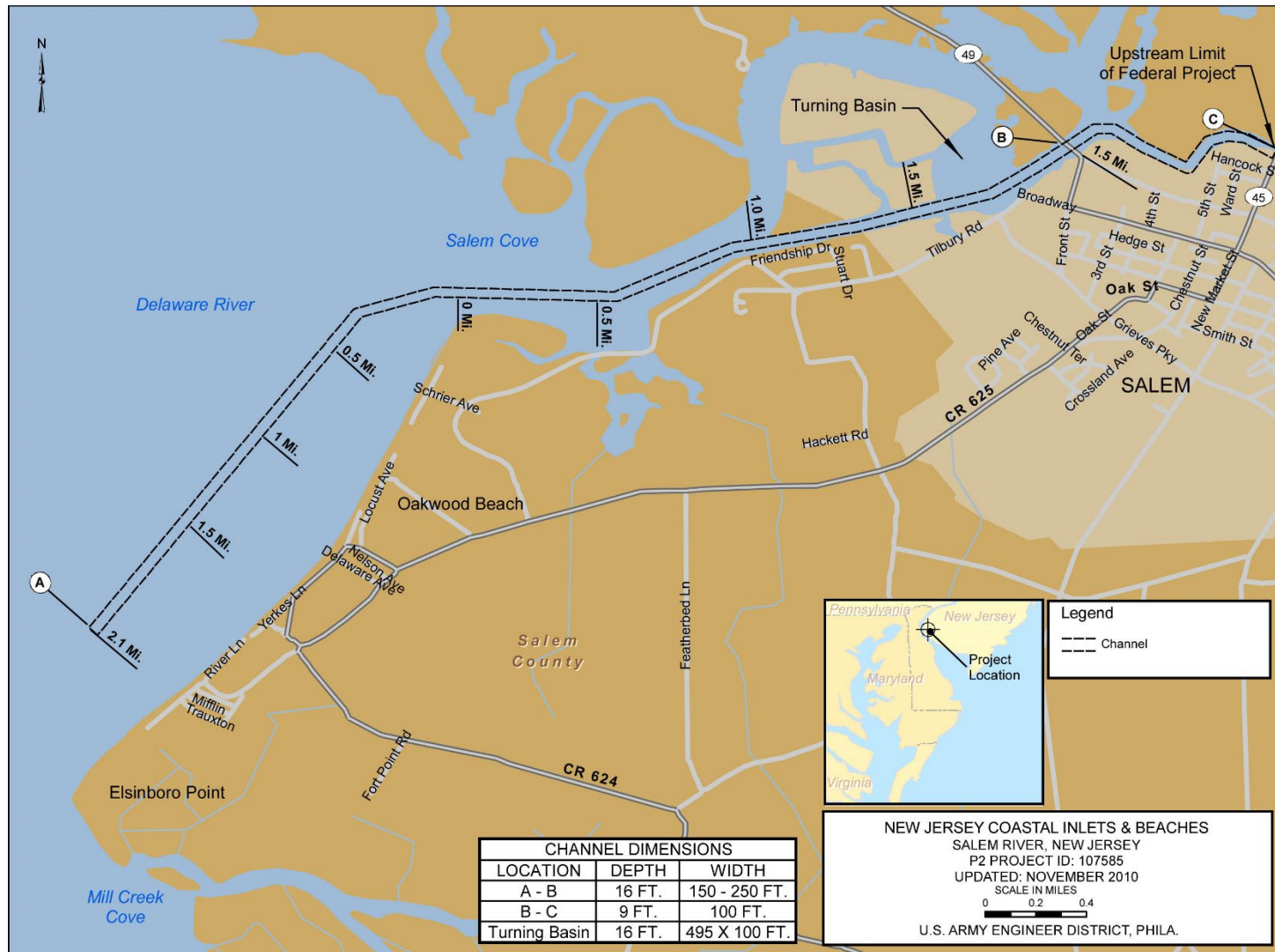
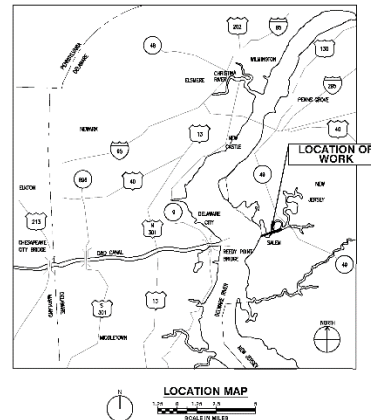
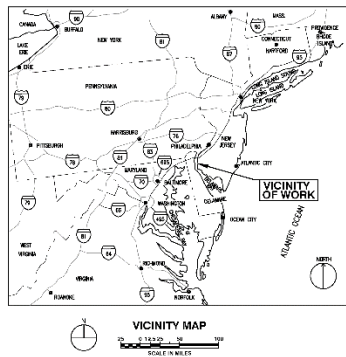


Figure 2. Salem River Federal Navigation Project



MAINTENANCE DREDGING
STA. 3+50 TO STA. 11+200
SALEM RIVER, NJ

DRAWINGS INDEX	
SHEET NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
GENERAL	
G-001	COVER SHEET
CIVIL	
C-001	GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET
C-101	GENERAL PLAN
C-102	PLAN - STA. 3+000 TO STA. 9+250
C-103	PLAN - STA. 9+250 TO STA. 15+500
C-301	CHANNEL SECTIONS
C-401	PLAN - SUPAWNA MEADOWS DISPOSAL SITE



SOLICITATION NO:W1912BU22B00XX
CONTRACT NO:-
ISSUE/SUBMITTAL DATE:90% 29 AUG 2022

THIS PROJECT WAS DESIGNED BY THE
-THIRTH ARMY DISTRICT- THE U.S.
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. THE
INITIALS OR SIGNATURES AND
REGISTRAR OR DESIGNATIONS OF
INDIVIDUALS APPEAR ON THESE
PROJECT DOCUMENTS WITHIN THE
SCOPE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT AS
REQUIRED BY ER 1110-5/592.

SUBMITTED:	
MAHARAJA MOHALLI PT CHIEF, ENGINEERING BRANCH	
APPROVED:	
ANDREW SCHWINGER P.E. CHIEF, ENGINEERING AND CON	

ANDREW L. SCHWANGER, P.E.
CHIEF, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

SHEET NUMBER
G-001

Figure 3. Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging Draft Plan Cover Sheet



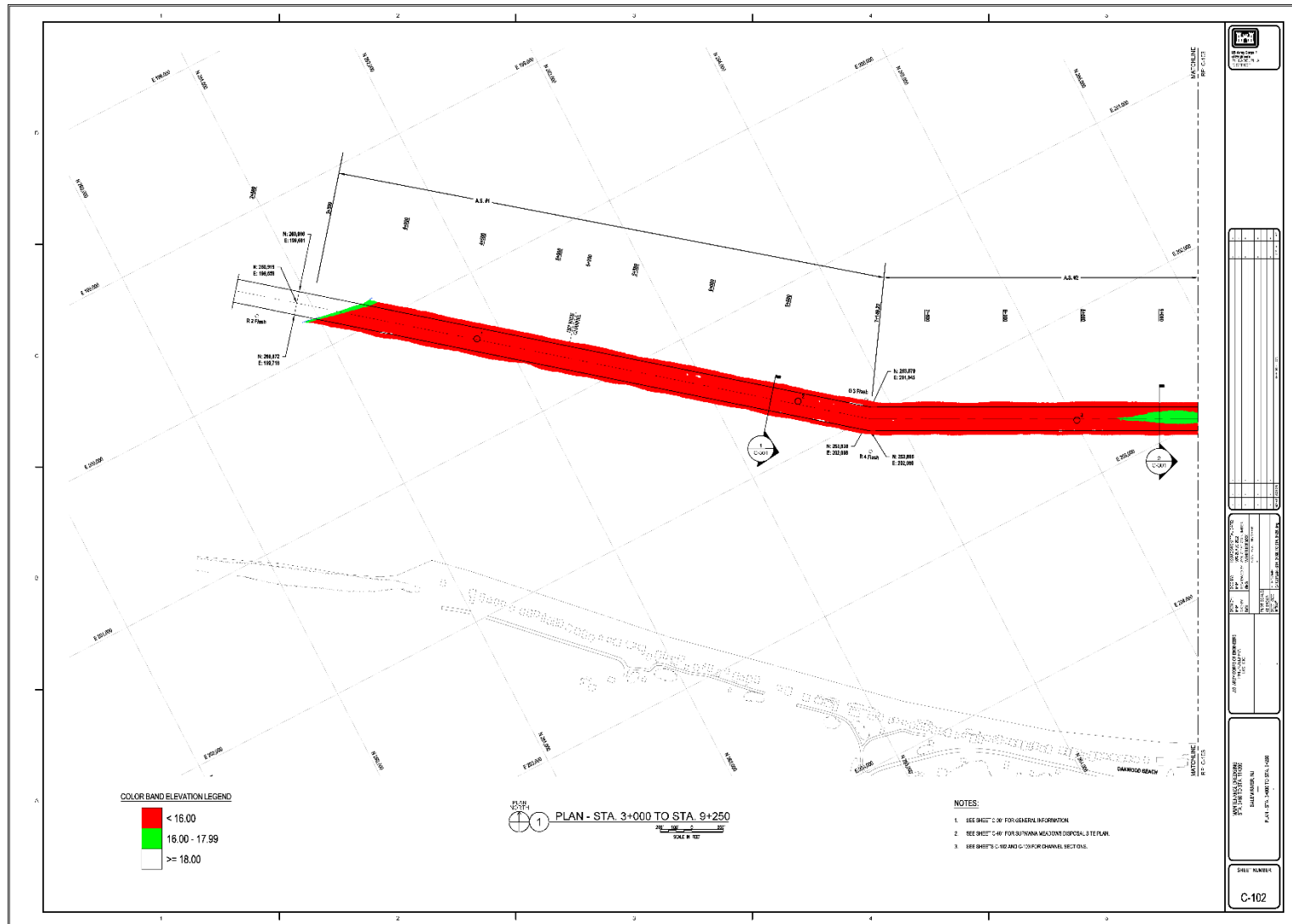


Figure 6. Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging Draft Plan – Channel Stations 3+000 to 9+250

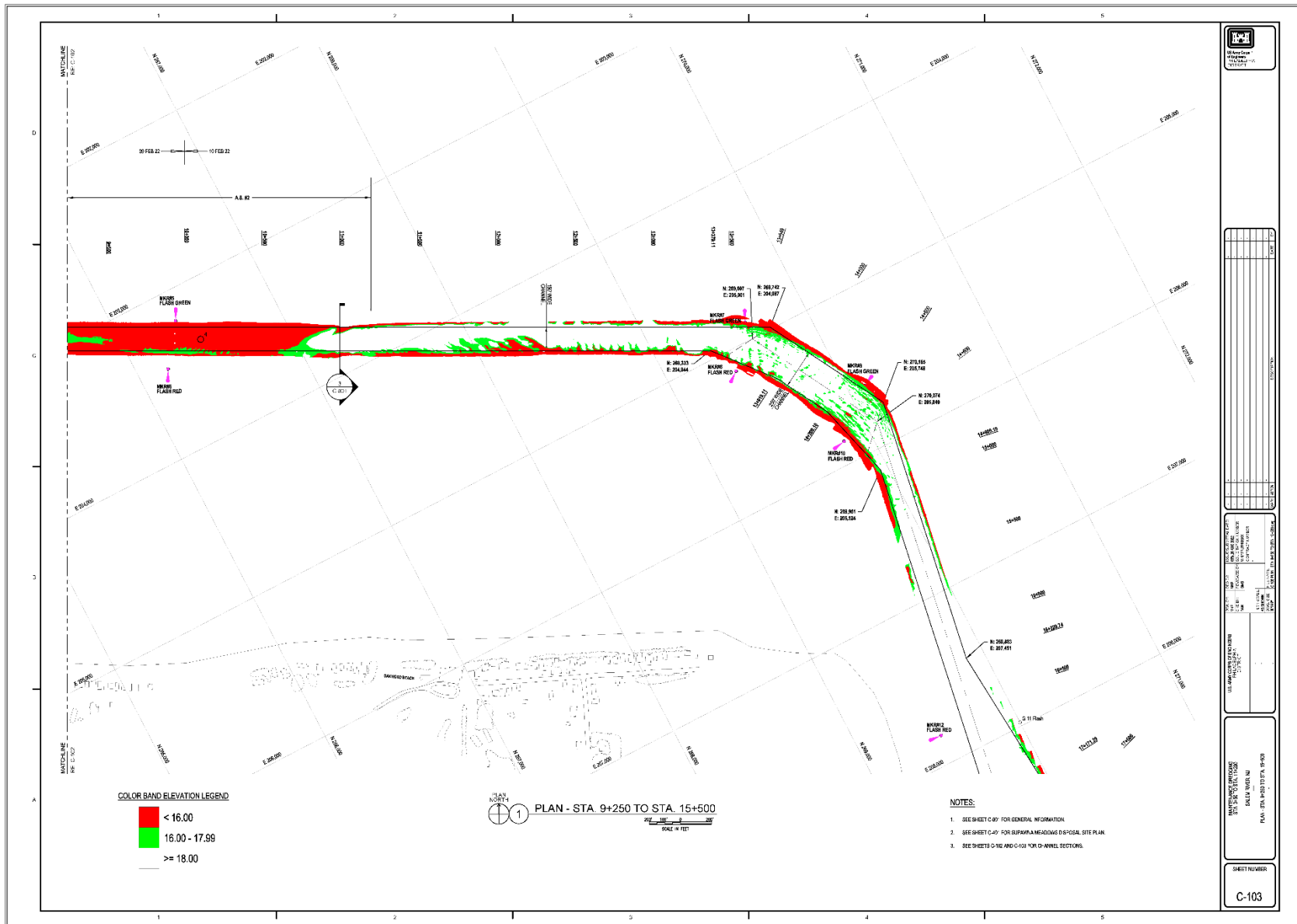


Figure 7. Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging Draft Plan – Channel Stations 9+250 to 15+500

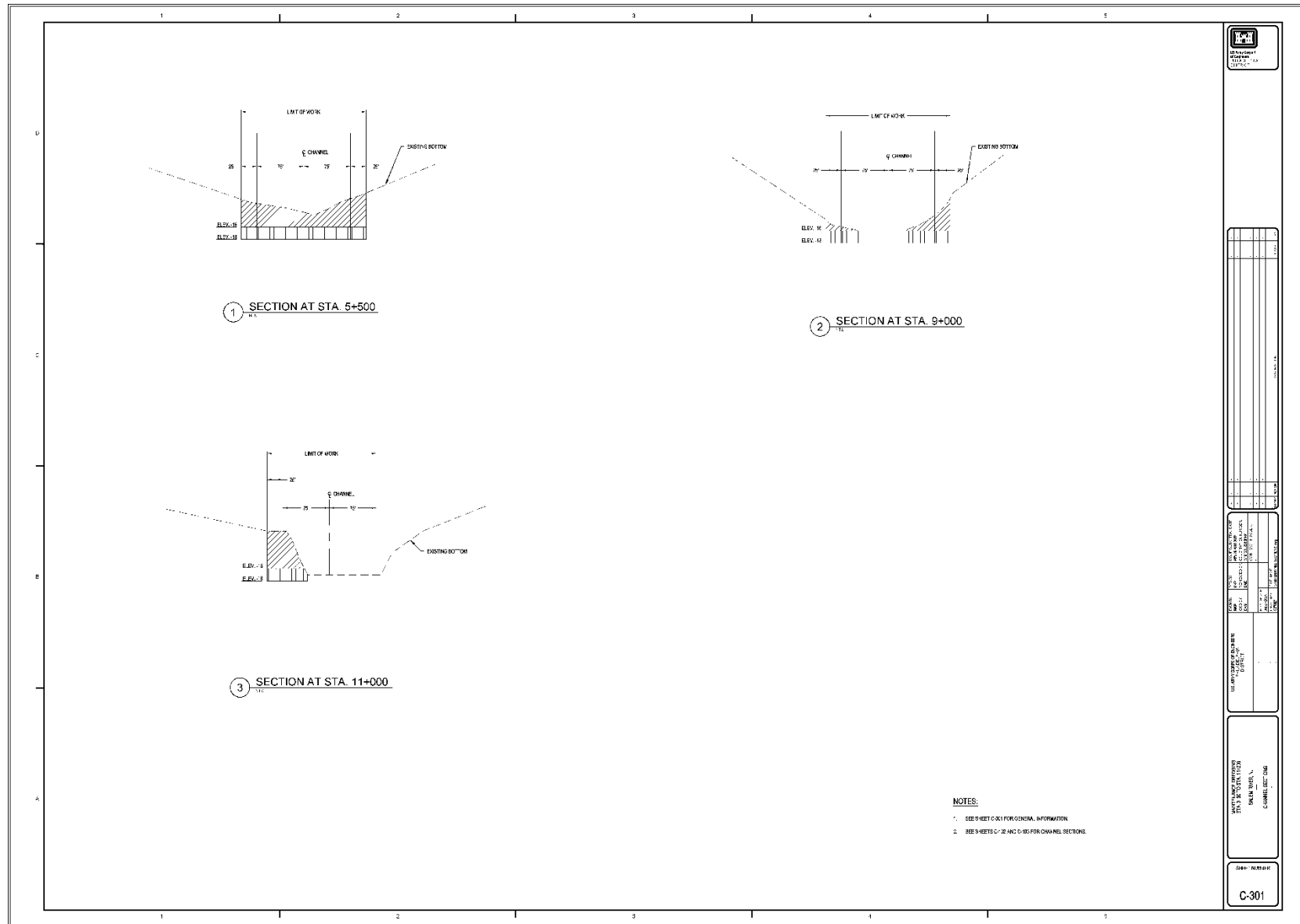


Figure 8. Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging Draft Plan – Channel Cross Sections

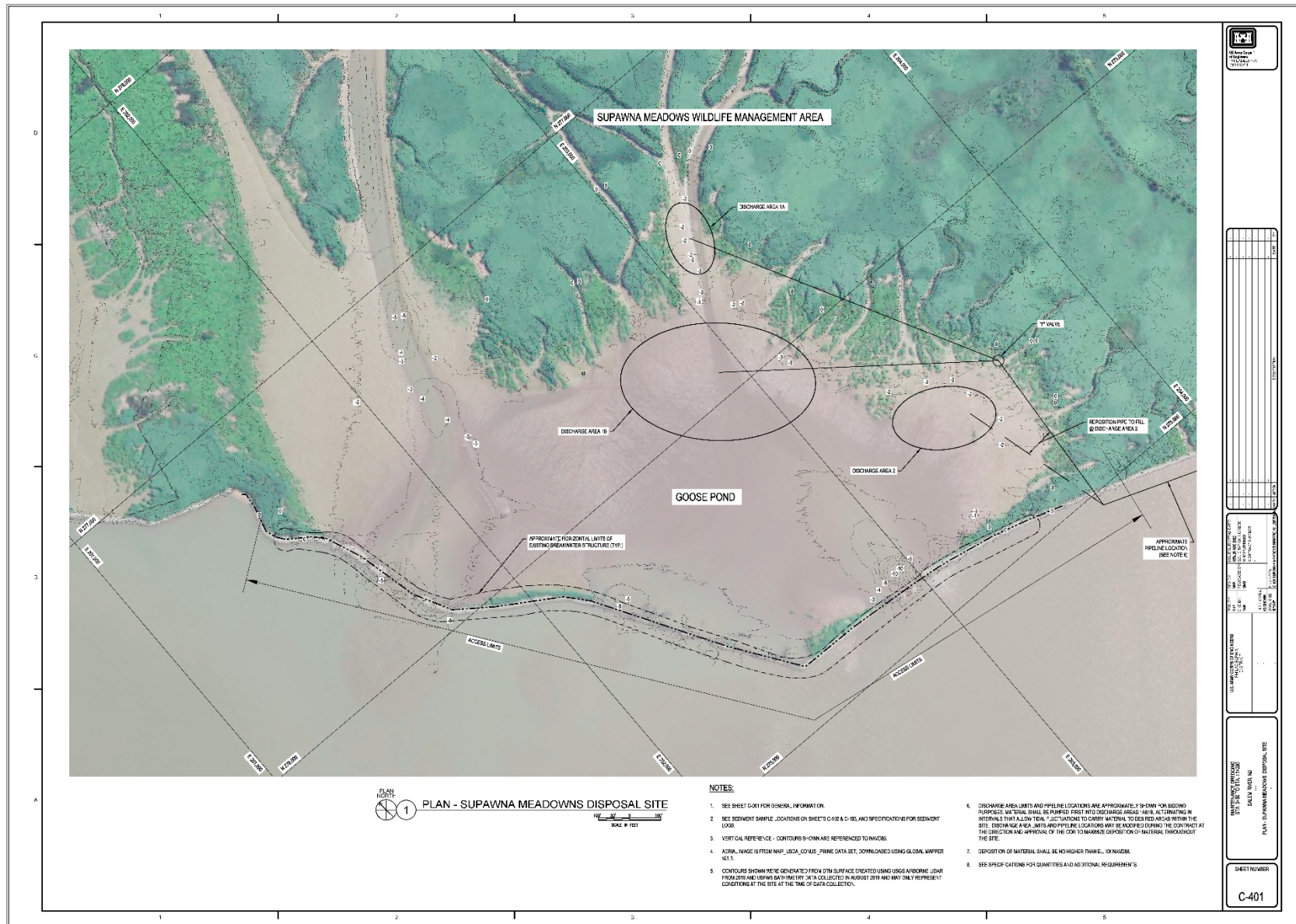


Figure 9. Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging Draft Plan – Goose Pond BUDM Disposal Plan

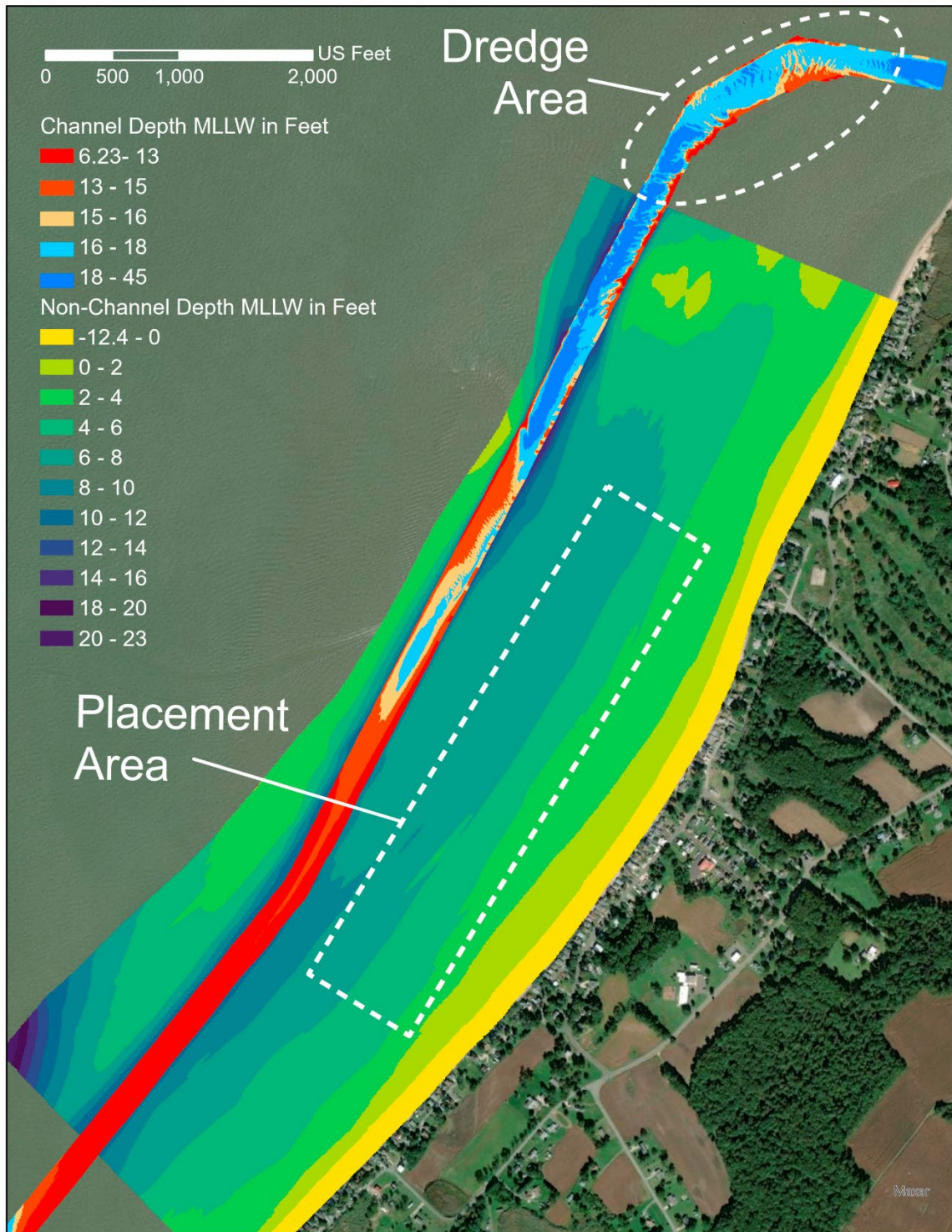


Figure 10. Salem River Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance Dredging Oakwood Beach Sand Placement Location