



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Philadelphia District

Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390
ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-OP-R-2015-1012

Date
OCT 15 2015

Application No.
CENAP-OP-R-2015-1012

File No.
CENAP-OP-R-2015-1012-85

In Reply Refer to:
REGULATORY BRANCH

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT: Thomas Sheridan

AGENT: Dr. Evelyn M. Maurmeyer, Coastal & Estuarine Research, Inc.

WATERWAY: Lewes and Rehoboth Canal

LOCATION: 358 Pilottown Road, Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware
Tax Map Parcel 3-35-4.19-84.01
(Lat. 38.779375°N/Long.-75.146277°W).

ACTIVITY: The applicant, Thomas Sheridan, has applied for a 10-year maintenance dredging Department of the Army permit. The applicant proposes to conduct hydraulic maintenance dredging of approximately 130 cubic yards of accumulated sediment to a depth of -5' mean low water from a single boat slip, totaling approximately 1,400 square feet to maintain navigable water depths at Tax Map Parcel 3-35-4.19-84.01, located adjacent to the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal at 358 Pilottown Road, Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware and utilizing the existing confined upland disposal site at the western end of Anglers Road for dredged spoils. The dimensions of the project are indicated on the attached plans identified as E-1 through E-4.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the dredging is to maintain navigable depths for safe access to/from the boat slip.

AVOIDANCE/MINIMIZATION/COMPENSATION STATEMENT:

On April 10, 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a *Final Rule on Compensatory Mitigation for the Losses of Aquatic Resources* (33 CFR 325 and 332 and 40 CFR 230). The rule took effect on June 9, 2008. In accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.1(d)(7) of the rule, the applicant has stated that the proposed project has been designed to avoid and minimize adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the maximum extent practicable, and has further documented that compensatory mitigation is not

necessary. The following aspects and features of the project demonstrate the applicant's efforts in this regard.

The project cannot be avoided entirely because it is, by its nature, a water-dependent activity. The proposed maintenance dredging will provide safe and adequate access to/from the boat slip. The dredged material will be hydraulically pumped to an existing confined upland disposal site located at the western end of Anglers Road. Because wetlands will only be impacted temporarily in the dormant season for placement of the dredge disposal pipeline and no other special aquatic sites would be impacted by the project, the applicant is not proposing to conduct any compensatory mitigation for the work.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 15 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located within the permit area of the work. The Philadelphia District has determined that the proposed project is of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed action to impact a historic property. The

District has determined that the project will have no effect on properties eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Essential Fish Habitat: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 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).

Effects of the Project: The project is located in Essential Fish Habitat identified on sheet 81 of the Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, Volume IV: New Jersey and Delaware, dated March 1999. The following managed species of fish have been listed in the guide as occurring in the vicinity of the project: Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), winter flounder (*Pleuronectes americanus*), windowpane flounder (*Scophthalmus aquosus*), red hake (*Urophycis chuss*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), Atlantic sea herring (*Clupea harengus*), monkfish (*Lophius americanus*), Atlantic butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*), summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*), scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*), black sea bass (*Centropristus striata*), surf clam (*Spisula solidissima*), spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), king mackerel (*Scomberomerus cavalla*), Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomerus maculatus*), cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*), sand tiger shark (*Odontaspis Taurus*), Atlantic angel shark (*Squatina dumerili*), Atlantic sharpnose shark (*Rhizopriondon terraenovae*), sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*), dusky shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) and scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*).

Analysis of the Effects: The proposed work which is the subject of this application would occur in a small area of waters within an active navigational canal (L&R Canal) subject to regular boating activity and substantial wake energy and potential erosion. For these reasons the proposed work area is an unlikely spawning or nursery area for the managed species. Consequently, concentrations of the sessile life stages (eggs and larva) of the listed species are not expected to be within the area under review. The pelagic adults and juveniles of the listed species are highly mobile and capable of avoiding such impacts as may be associated with the work.

Corps of Engineers View: Based upon the above analysis, the Corps of Engineers has determined that the proposed project would not have substantial direct, indirect, site-specific, or habitat-wide impacts on EFH, or upon the managed species and their life stages listed in the above referenced EFH guide, either individually, cumulatively or synergistically. The proposed project would not eliminate, diminish, nor disrupt the functions of EFH.

Proposed Mitigation: Special conditions, such as time of year restrictions, may be imposed as to not degrade water quality during times of anadromous fish migration and/or spawning pending comments from State and other Federal agencies.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone

Management (CZM) Program. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact of the proposed and/or existing activity on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office, with a copy to the State's Office of Coastal Zone Management.

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 application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling Michael Yost at 302-736-9763, by email at michael.d.yost@usace.army.mil, or by writing this office at the above address.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank J. Cianfrani', is written over a horizontal line.

Frank J. Cianfrani, Chief
Regulatory Branch

2015-1012
E-1

130 C.Y. HYDRAULIC MAINTENANCE DREDGING TO -5' MLW

IN: Boat slip adjacent to Lewes and Rehoboth Canal

AT: 358 Pilottown Road, Lewes

Sussex County, DE 19958

Tax Map Parcel #3-35-4.19-84.01

APPLICANT: Thomas F. Sheridan

DATE: July 24, 2015

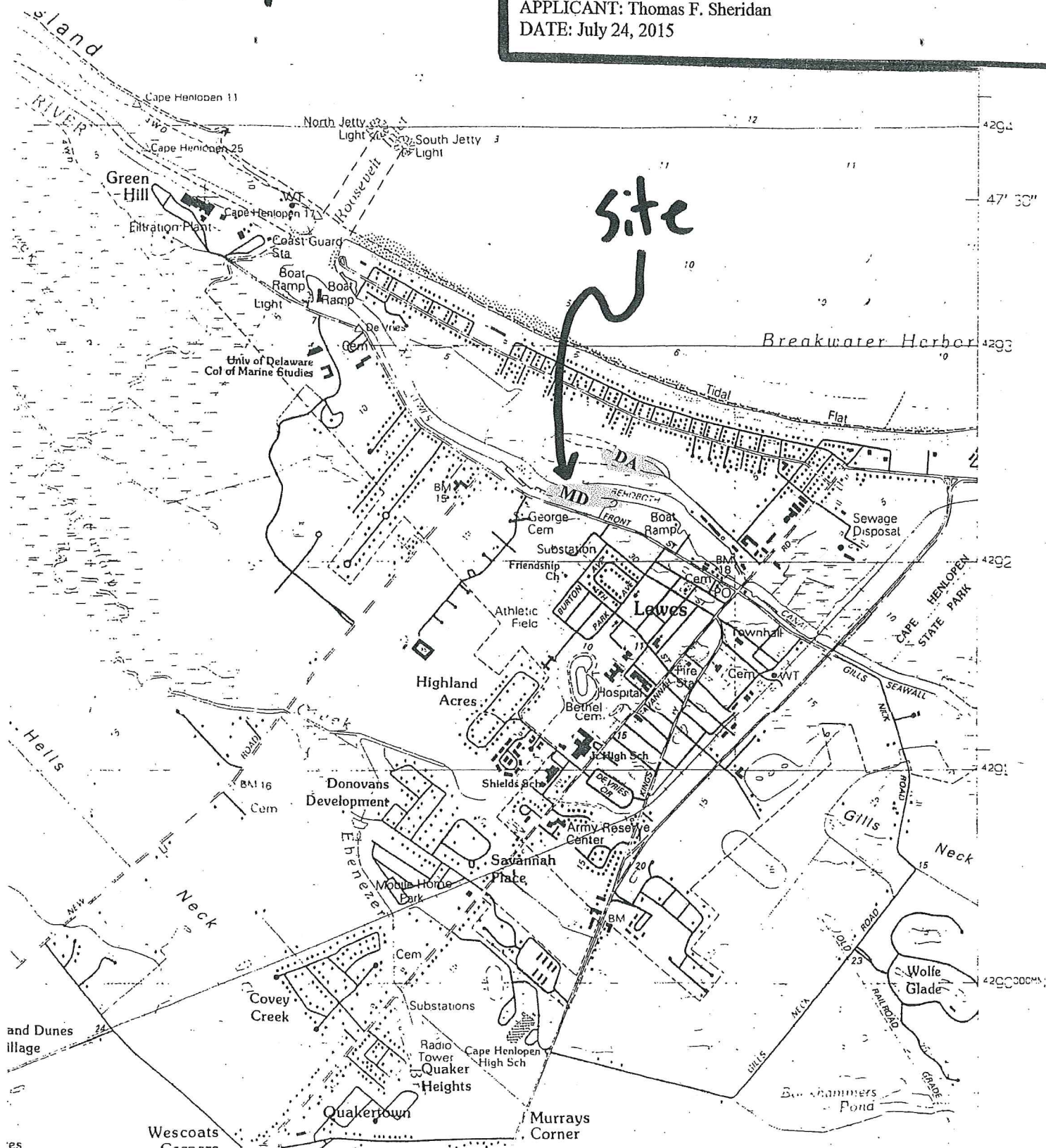


Figure 4. Maintenance dredging (MD) and disposal area (DA) locations on U.S.G.S. topographic map, Lewes, Delaware. Sites are adjacent to Lewes and Rehoboth Canal, Lewes, Delaware. Scale: 1" = 2,000'.

2015-1012
E-2

130 C.Y. HYDRAULIC MAINTENANCE DREDGING TO -5' MLW

IN: Boat slip adjacent to Lewes and Rehoboth Canal

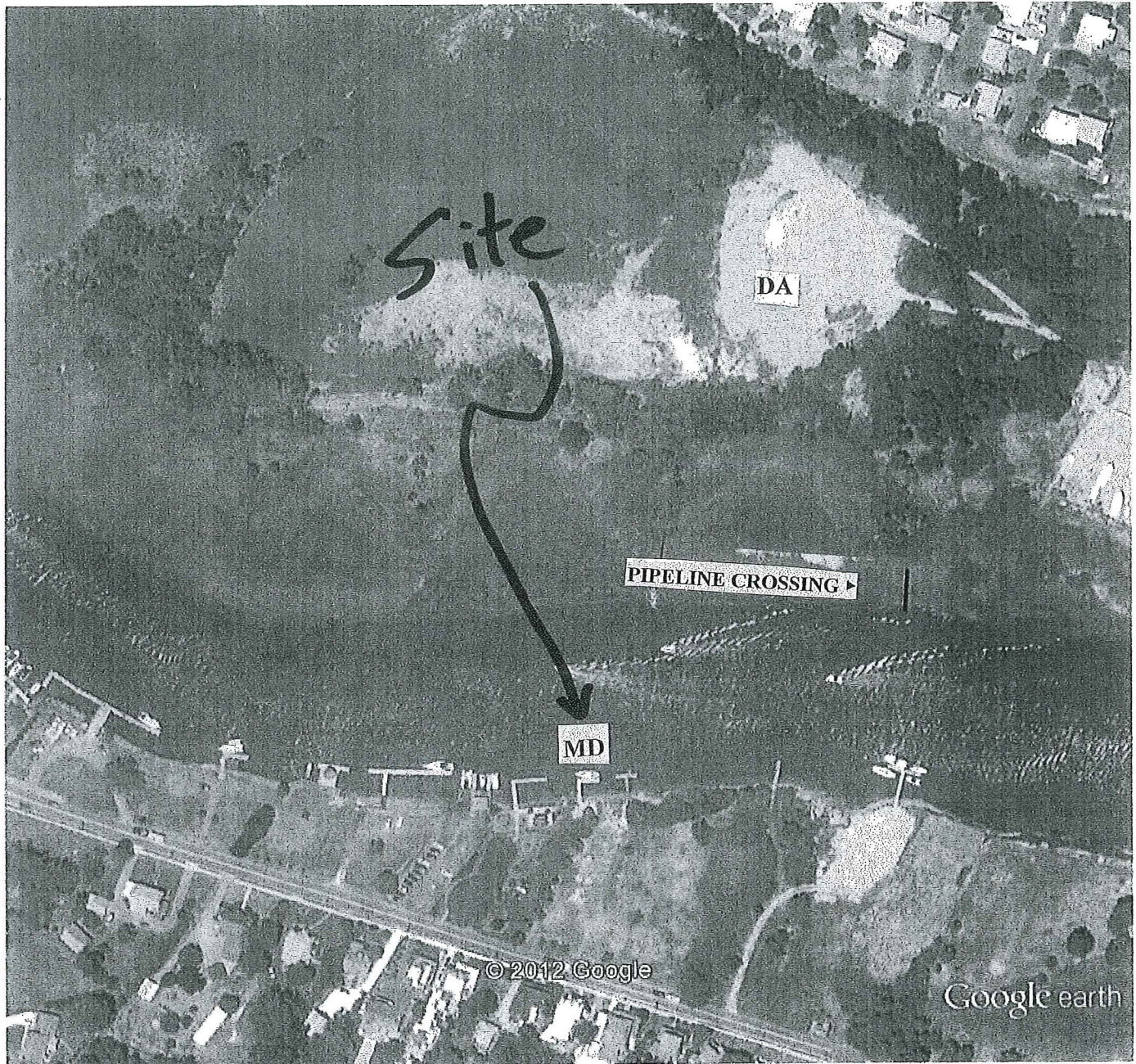
AT: 358 Pilottown Road, Lewes

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Google earth

feet 800
meters 200



Figure 6.

GoogleEarth 2010 aerial photograph showing maintenance dredging site (MD), 130 c.y. hydraulic dredging to -5' MLW in boat slip adjacent to Lewes and Rehoboth Canal at 358 Pilottown Road, Lewes, Delaware; hydraulic pipeline crossing (PC); and disposal area (DA), western end of Anglers Road/south of Cedar Street and Clayton Avenue (existing upland confined disposal facility).

E-3

2015-1012

130 C.Y. HYDRAULIC MAINTENANCE DREDGING TO -5' MLW

IN: Boat slip adjacent to Lewes and Rehoboth Canal

AT: 358 Pilottown Road, Lewes

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LEWES AND REHOBOTH
CANAL

① -6.4' Ebb → Flood

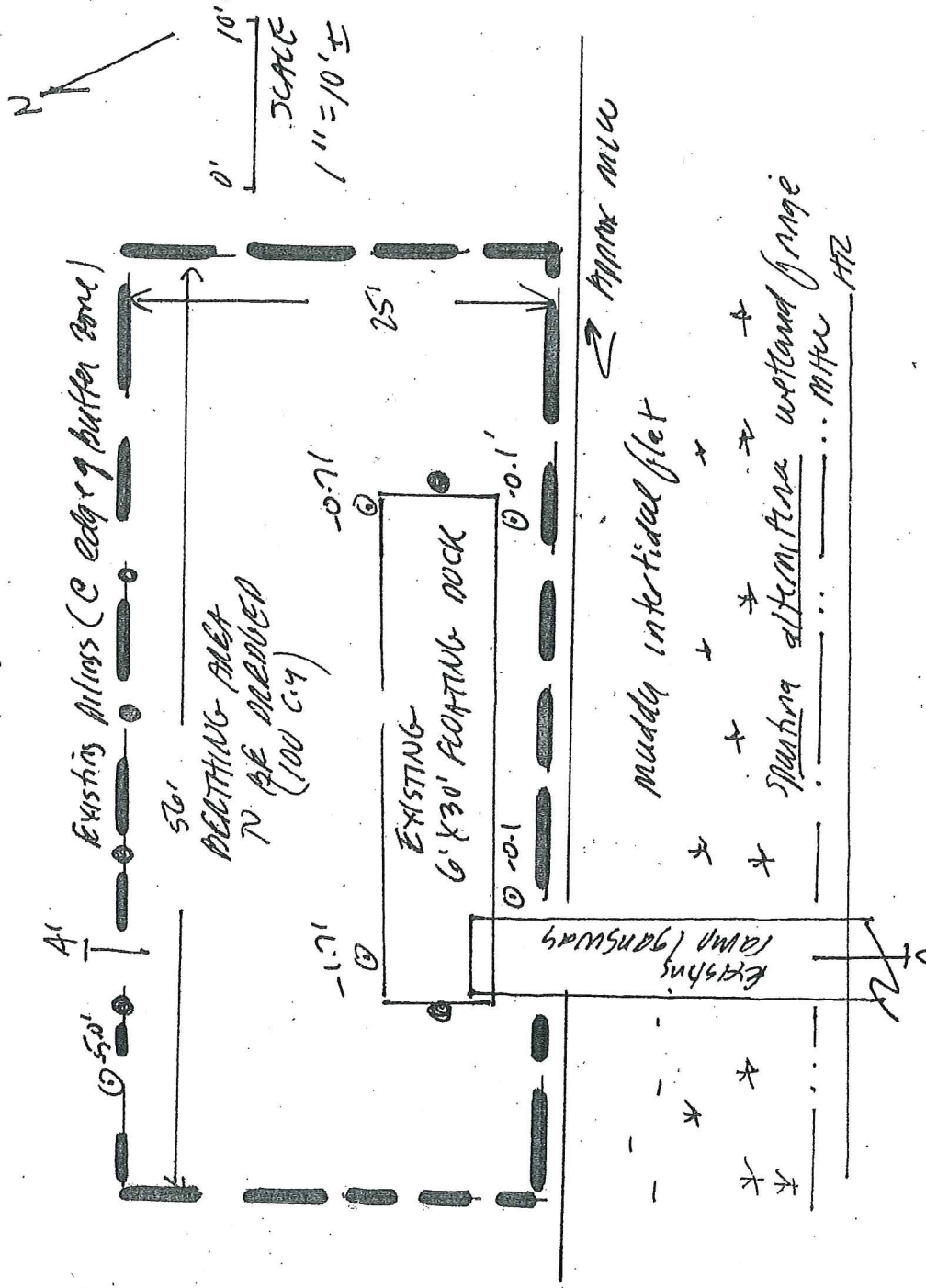


Figure 9.

Plan view sketch showing area to be dredged, and existing mean low water (MLW) depths as measured by Evelyn Maumeyer, CER, Inc., July 21, 2015. Area to be dredged = 56' length x 25' width (3,500 sq. ft.) to a depth of -5' MLW (130c.y.). See Figure 10 for cross-section.

E-4

2015-1012

130 C.Y. HYDRAULIC MAINTENANCE DREDGING TO -5' MLW
 IN: Boat slip adjacent to Lewes and Rehoboth Canal
 AT: 358 Pilotown Road, Lewes
 Sussex County, DE 19958
 Tax Map Parcel #3-35-4.19-84.01
 APPLICANT: Thomas F. Sheridan
 DATE: July 24, 2015

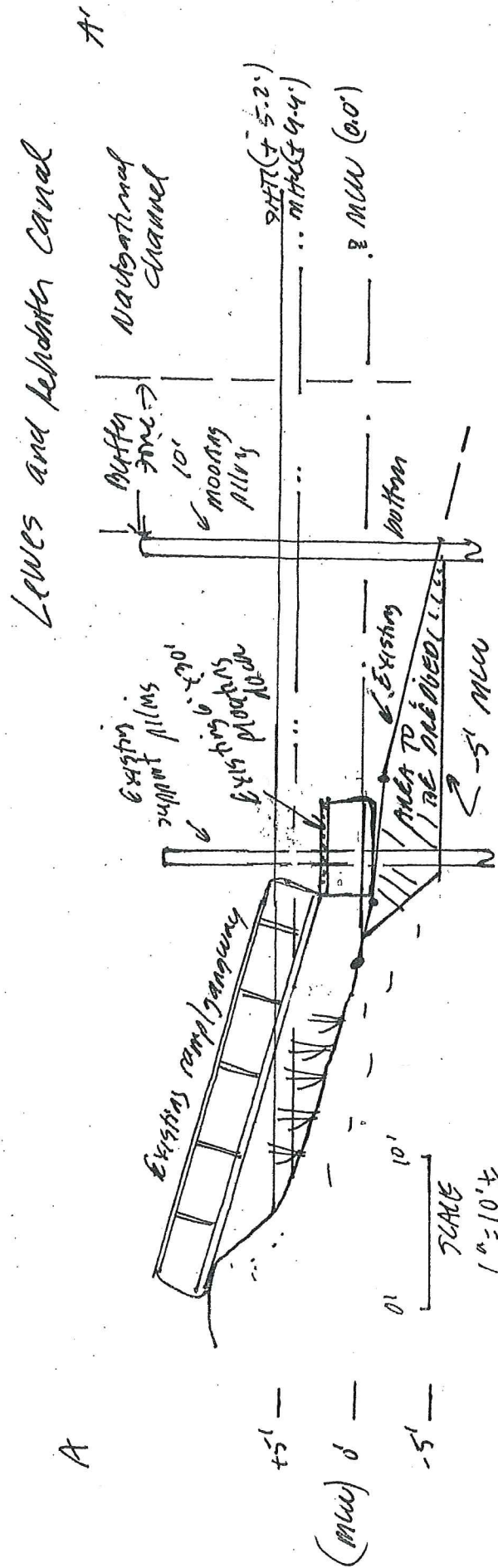


Figure 10. Cross-section sketch showing existing bottom and proposed depth (-5' mlw). See Figure 9 for location of transect.