

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.

Date

CENAP-OP-R-2018-0938-46

DEC 18 2018

Application No.

File No.

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:

CDR J.M. Biggar, P.E.

U.S. Coast Guard Training Center (TRACEN) Cape May

1 Munro Avenue

Cape May, New Jersey 08204

WATERWAY:

Cape May Harbor

LOCATION:

adjacent to Piers 3 and 4 of the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May,

City of Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey.

ACTIVITY: To perform hydraulic maintenance dredging within 6.54 acres of berthing areas between Piers 3 and 4 and just west of Pier 4 to the edge of the Federal navigation channel. The proposed dredging has been previously approved by this office in 1972, 1977, 1988, 2001, and 2006. The applicant has noted that the last dredging event was in 2015. They also request a 10-year maintenance dredging allowance. The applicant has stated that the routine maintenance dredging is required to remove sediment deposited by currents, tidal activity and storm events that continuously fill the boat basin.

The work would involve the removal of an initial volume of 42,000 cubic yards of sediment from approximately 6 acres of harbor below the mean high water line (near-shore: design depth of 10 feet below mean low water with allowance of 1' of further over-dredging; out-shore: design depth of 15 feet below mean low water with allowance of 1' of further over-dredging). Maintenance dredging would be performed every three years or as needed. The estimated sediment removal volume per future dredge cycle would be 52,600 cubic yards. The total estimated sediment removal volume over 10 years would approximate 200,000 cubic yards. All material would be pumped to the existing TRACEN confined disposal facility (CDF). Return water from the CDF would drain to Cold Spring Inlet. Sediments have been tested to be comprised of between 24% and 32% percent clay, between 34% - 69% silt, and the remainder sands. The applicant has stated no other regulated work is proposed.

PURPOSE: The applicant stated the purpose of routine maintenance dredging is to establish and maintain proper mooring, ingress and egress depths for Coast Guard vessels to safely and properly navigate within the boat basin and to prevent damage to the vessels that are used for search and rescue, law enforcement, and aids to navigation missions.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may be present in the action area. There is no designated or proposed critical habitat for such species in the action area. The Philadelphia District of the Corps of Engineers will forward this public notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for their comments under the ESA. As the applicant, the U.S. Coast Guard, is a Federal agency, they as the lead Federal agency are responsible for compliance and consultation under Section 7 of the ESA, as amended. The Corps of Engineers will cooperate with the Services regarding potential impacts to federally listed species. ESA Section 7 consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

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 30 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

The permit area may or may not yield resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NHPA). As noted above, the applicant, the U.S. Coast Guard, is a Federal agency. As the lead federal agency, the U.S. Coast Guard will make a determination as to whether the proposed project is an undertaking that could affect cultural resources, and they will complete any necessary compliance activities associated with Section 106 of the NHPA.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires all federal agencies to consult with the NOAA - 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 review of this application indicates that EFH is present within the project area. As noted above, the applicant, the U.S. Coast Guard, is a Federal agency and so is the lead Federal agency. As the lead federal agency, the U.S. Coast Guard will make a determination as to whether the proposed project is an undertaking that could affect essential fish habitat and species of concern and they will complete any necessary compliance activities associated with MSFCMA. The Corps of Engineers will cooperate with the Service and other agencies regarding potential impacts to managed species. Consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

Pursuant to 33 CFR 332, no compensatory mitigation is currently proposed as the project will not involve the loss of regulated waters including wetlands.

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.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

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 David J. Caplan at 215-656-6731 or via email at David.J.Caplan@usace.army.mil, or by writing to this office at the above address.

Edward E. Bonner

Chief, Regulatory Branch









