

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

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

Public Notice

Application Number:

CENAP-OP-R-2018-587-24

Date:

DEC 26 2018

Applicant:

Long Beach Township

In Reply Refer to:

REGULATORY BRANCH

This notice is in regard to the above referenced 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 application was submitted by Long Beach Township to remove an existing terminal groin (made of wood and stone), and construct a new, larger terminal groin using steel sheeting, core stone and armor stone (including re-use of existing stone). The new terminal groin, as originally proposed in their application, would have measured 100 feet wide, extending approximately 605 feet from an existing wood bulkhead (near the southern end of the adjacent public parking lot). The groin would have extended approximately 490 feet waterward of the mean high water line (MHWL), and 380 feet beyond the mean low water line (MLWL). The project site is located on the ocean-front beach at the southern terminus of Long Beach Boulevard, just south of Cleveland Avenue; Block 1.02, Lots 1 and 2; Block 1.03, Lot 1; and Block 1.05, Lot 1; in the Holgate section of Long Beach Township, Ocean County, New Jersey. The applicant is cost-sharing the project with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Division of Coastal Engineering.

The purpose of this notice is: 1) to make it known to the public that Long Beach Township has revised their plans for the proposed project; and 2) to address comments from the general public, which were received in response to our prior public notice of this application issued on August 13, 2018. That public notice can be found at:

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/Article/1600029/2018-0587-24/>

Long Beach Township has modified their previous project plans. The Township's revised plans are for the steel sheet piling component only. The sheeting would be in the same location, configuration, length and depth as was shown on the prior plans. As such, there would be 305 linear feet of steel sheet piling extending perpendicular to the shoreline (from the existing wood bulkhead). A total of 163 sheets, 22.5 inches wide, would be driven by vibratory hammer to a depth of -30 feet NAVD88. The top elevation would be 10 feet NAVD88 for the first 160 feet, and 8 feet NAVD88 for the last (outer) 145 feet. There would be no stone placement, besides the potential movement or re-handling of existing stone that may be necessary for sheet pile installation.

In addition, the Township's revised plans include a one-time re-nourishment of the beach in the vicinity of the terminal groin. Approximately 112,150 cubic yards of sand would be brought in by trucks and discharged within a 12.38-acre area. Of this area, approximately 7.93 acres would be placed below the existing high tide line (i.e. within the Corps' jurisdiction). The beach nourishment area would extend from Roosevelt Avenue in the north, approximately 1,250 feet to the south-

southwest at the terminal groin, and then taper back to the shoreline immediately southwest of the terminal groin. It would include a dune at elevation 22.00 feet NAVD88, with a 1:5 slope and top width of 30 feet. The beach berm would be 102 feet wide at an elevation of 8.0 feet NAVD88, with a 1:10 fore-slope.

After a complete review of the revised permit application, and in full consideration of the comments and recommendations received in response to our original public notice, we have decided to issue a Department of the Army permit to Long Beach Township for their newly proposed project as specified in their revised plans.

The NJDEP issued authorization to the Borough for the proposed work on December 19, 2018. That authorization included a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate, as well as concurrence that the proposed work is consistent with the New Jersey Coastal Zone Management Program.

In response to our public notice of the originally-proposed groin project, we received comments stating concerns about possible effects on waves for surfing. Additional concerns were stated regarding potential impacts to endangered species in the wildlife refuge situated to the south of the groin.

Given that the length of the new proposed groin is no longer than the existing one, we do not expect to see any adverse effects on waves or surfing. With regard to the federally listed species and habitat to the south, this office has consulted with USFWS pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Service concurred with our determination that the proposed work is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species under their jurisdiction. Our consultation included the development of permit conditions to protect listed species (piping plover, seabeach amaranth and red knot). In addition, this office has coordinated and consulted with NMFS pursuant to The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act regarding Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). They concurred with our determination that no EFH Conservation Recommendations are required. The Township will monitor the area to the south of the proposed groin. The results of their monitoring will be used to assist them as they plan any future work such as potential modification of the groin, and to determine if any corrective actions are required to the current design.

The Corps finds that the project as proposed would not have unacceptable environmental or social effects, nor would it be contrary to the public interest. Furthermore, I have determined that a public hearing would not generate any additional information relative to my permit decision on the project. Therefore, such a proceeding is not warranted.

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling James Boyer at (215) 656-5826, by electronic mail to James.N.Boyer@usace.army.mil, or by writing to this office at the above address.



Edward E. Bonner
Chief, Regulatory Branch