



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Philadelphia District  
100 South Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Attn: CENAP-OPR

# Public Notice

**Comment Period Begins:** April 17, 2023  
**Comment Period Ends:** May 17, 2023  
**File Number:** NAP-2023-00241-95  
**File Name:** NJDOT-OMR – Wildwood State Channel Complex  
Maintenance Dredging Project  
**Contact:** Robert Youhas  
**Email:** robert.youhas@usace.army.mil

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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:** New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Office of Maritime Resources  
Attn: Ms. Genevieve Clifton  
P.O. Box 600  
1035 Parkway Avenue  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

**AGENT:** WSP USA, Inc.  
Attn: Ms. Katie Axt  
250 W 34th Street, 4 FL  
New York, New York 10119

**LOCATION:** Middle Township, Wildwood City, North Wildwood City, and West Wildwood Borough in Cape May County, New Jersey; Approximate Center Coordinates: 39.007192, -74.801186.

**PURPOSE:** The stated purpose of this project is to maintain safe navigational depths for transiting emergency, commercial, and recreational vessels.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The applicant, New Jersey Department of Transportation – Office of Maritime Resources (NJDOT-OMR), has requested Department of the Army (DA) authorization to perform ten (10)-year maintenance dredging of the Wildwood State Channel Complex: Beach Creek State Channel #1 (#198), Beach Creek State Channel #2 (#199), Ottens Harbor State Channel (#200), Ottens Canal Lagoon State Channel (#201), West

Wildwood State Channel (#202), Ottens Canal State Channel (#203), and Post Creek State Channel (unnumbered).

All of the dredging work would be accomplished via hydraulic cutterhead dredge. All resultant dredged material, estimated to total approximately 177,332.0-cubic yards of 60% sand and 40% silt and clay, would be transported via floating and submerged pipeline and pumped directly into geotextile dewatering bags staged in uplands. Subsequent to dewatering, the dredged material would be transported offsite via truck for beneficial re-use in uplands. Return water from the geotextile bag dewatering sites into the waterway is proposed.

All seven channels have been historically maintenance-dredged, most recently under DA Permit Number NAP-2014-00605-24. The subject maintenance dredging project is intended to restore the Wildwood State Channel Complex to authorized project dimensions. No lateral expansion or deepening is proposed.

For navigational safety, the hydraulic dredge pipeline will be marked in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Additionally, the dredge pipeline would be submerged with the following exceptions: where it exits the dredge, where it enters and exits booster pumps, where it approaches the geotextile bag dewatering sites, and where submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is encountered. In these areas the dredge pipeline will be floated on the surface.

Each maintenance dredging event is anticipated to be approximately nine (9) to twelve (12) weeks in duration, including mobilization/demobilization, dredging, and dewatering activities. Two (2) or three (3) maintenance dredging events are anticipated to be conducted over the next ten (10)-years, with the initial dredging event proposed to be undertaken on or after 01 July 2023.

Beach Creek State Channel #1 (#198) (39.019352, -74.799927)

Maintenance dredging of 13,851.0-cubic yards of shoaled sediments from a 7,594.0-foot-long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of Mean Low Water (MLW), plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge is proposed. The channel design width is 100.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. The total dredge footprint is approximately 17.43-acres.

Beach Creek State Channel #2 (#199) (39.004199, -74.805085)

Maintenance dredging of 25,842.0-cubic yards of shoaled sediments from a 4,675.0-foot-long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge is proposed. The channel design

width is 50.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. The total dredge footprint is approximately 5.37-acres.

Ottens Harbor State Channel (#200) (38.991105, -74.828147)

Maintenance dredging of 46,163.0-cubic yards of shoaled sediments from a 3,900.0-foot-long channel to -12.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge is proposed. The channel design width is 100.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. The total dredge footprint is approximately 8.95-acres.

Ottens Canal Lagoon State Channel (#201) (39.003217, -74.810811)

Maintenance dredging of 3,400.0-cubic yards of shoaled sediments from a 180.0-foot-long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge is proposed. The channel design width is 100.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. The total dredge footprint is approximately 0.41-acres.

West Wildwood State Channel (#202) (39.005847, -74.826594)

Maintenance dredging of 17,128.0-cubic yards of shoaled sediments from a 1,450.0-foot-long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge is proposed. The channel design width is 100.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. The total dredge footprint is approximately 3.33-acres.

Ottens Canal State Channel (#203) (39.006744, -74.816496)

Maintenance dredging of 52,131.0-cubic yards of shoaled sediments from a 3,150.0-foot-long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge is proposed. The channel design width is 100.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. The total dredge footprint is approximately 7.23-acres.

Post Creek State Channel (unnumbered) (38.995389, -74.831250)

Maintenance dredging of 18,817.0-cubic yards of shoaled sediments from a 3,144.0-foot-long channel to -5.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge is proposed. The channel design width is 100.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. The total dredge footprint is approximately 7.22-acres.

Dredged Material Disposal

All resultant dredged material will be hydraulically pumped directly into geotextile bags for dewatering. Return water from the geotextile bags

into the waterway is proposed. The geotextile bags will be staged in uplands at the following locations:

- 1) 510 New York Avenue, Wildwood, NJ 08260 (39.007368, -74.798027).
- 2) 401 W. 26th Avenue, Wildwood, NJ 08260 (38.998188, -74.815091).
- 3) 501 W. 26th Avenue, Wildwood 08260 (38.999028, -74.815804).
- 4) 525 W. Spicer Avenue, Wildwood, NJ 08260 (38.994583, -74.824190).

Subsequent to dewatering, the dredged material will be transported offsite via truck for beneficial re-use in uplands at the following sites:

- 1) Tuckahoe Turf Farm at 401 N. Myrtle Street, Hammonton, NJ 08037 (39.680202, -74.782158).
- 2) NJDEP - Fish & Wildlife shooting range facilities throughout the State of New Jersey.

For additional project details, see the attached plans identified as: E-1 through E-30, all entitled "NAP-2023-00241-95" and all dated 30 March 2023.

## **MITIGATION**

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. Information provided in the application and on plans indicates that there will be no discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States and as such, compensatory mitigation for the proposed structure(s) and/or work is not proposed.

## **CORPS EVALUATION FACTORS**

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 these factors 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.

The evaluation of the impact of this project will also include application of the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency if the project includes a discharge of dredge or fill material pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

A preliminary review of this application indicates that species and/or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may be present in the action area. This office will forward this Public Notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with a request for technical assistance on whether any ESA-listed species or their critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity. This office will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on ESA-listed species or their critical habitat and will consult with the USFWS and/or NMFS, as appropriate. ESA Section 7 consultation would be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL TRUST**

The District's Cultural Resource Specialist and Tribal Liaison is currently reviewing the proposed permit action for potential impacts to Historic Properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places and for potential issues concerning the Tribes. A determination of effects will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Tribes and other consulting parties as necessary.

## **ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for 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. This office will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on EFH and will consult with NMFS, as appropriate. Consultation would be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

## **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATE**

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) is required 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.

## **COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT**

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 (CZM) 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 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 on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office with a copy to the State's CZM office.

### **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST**

Any comments received will be considered by this office to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposed project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess the probable impact on the public interest. 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 must be submitted, in writing, within the comment period indicated in the header above. Any person may request, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing must be in writing and state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Please provide any comments, request for a public hearing, or requests for additional information to the Regulatory Project Manager indicated above. All Public Notices are posted on our website at:

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>

FOR: Todd A. Schaible  
Chief, Regulatory Branch