

US Army Corps of Engineers. Philadelphia District

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

Public Notice

File No.

Public Notice No. D

.CENAP-OP-R-2014-0220 Application 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).

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: City of Philadelphia Water Department

CONSULTANT: Mr. Gary Emmanuel

O'Brien and Gere Engineers, Incorporated 301 East Germantown Pike, 3rd Floor East Norriton, Pennsylvania 19403

WATERWAY: Delaware River

LOCATION: Samuel Baxter Water Treatment Plant, 9001 State Road, Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania.

ACTIVITY: To mechanically dredge an initial volume of 17,200 cubic yards of sediment from 2.01 acres of the Delaware River at the existing Baxter Water Treatment Plant and dispose of the sediment at Whites Basin re-handling facility in Logan Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey.

The proposed work would involve the dredging of A) 1080 cubic yards of sediment from 0.44 acre of river bottom to a depth of approximately 13 feet below mean low water at the main intake and B) 16,120 cubic yards of sediment from 1.57 acre of river bottom to a depth of approximately 17 feet below mean low water for the emergency intake. The applicant has determined the sediment to be characterized as follows: main intake – 12% gravel, 57% sand, 32% silt/clay; emergency intake – 19-27% sand, 81-73% silt/clay.

All dredged sediment would be placed directly onto split-hull barges and transported to the Whites Basin re-handling facility described above. Such disposal is approved under Department of the Army permit CENAP-OP-R-2013-0696 issued on November 26, 2014. The applicant has requested a dredging permit to allow for further dredging of the subject sites as depicted in the enclosed plans over a ten year period.

It should be noted that this office approved of similar dredging and disposal under Department of the Army permit CENAP-OP-R-199800613 on June 29, 1998. The permit expired on December 31, 2008.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to provide un-obstructed drinking water intake from an existing facility along the Delaware River.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work may affect listed species and their critical habitat but is not likely to adversely affect listed species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. Such listed species include the Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhinchus oxyrhinchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). This determination is based, in part, on a proposed inclusion of a seasonal restriction prohibiting dredging between March 15 and July 31, inclusive, of any year. 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.

In coordination with the state historic preservation officer and after review of the National Register of Historic Places, this office has determined that while the Samuel Baxter Water Treatment Plant is not listed on the Register, it is eligible for inclusion therein. Furthermore this office has identified the permit area to include portions of the eligible

resource. Based upon review of the project, this office has determined that the proposed work would not have an adverse effect on the identified historic resource.

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 effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Based upon a preliminary assessment of the species listed in the "Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, Volume IV: New Jersey and Delaware", dated March 1999, this office has determined that the site is not within essential fish habitat.

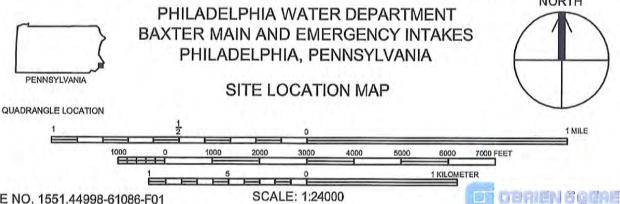
In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. 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.

Compensatory Mitigation: There is no proposed placement of dredged or fill material in waters or wetlands. As such, compensatory mitigation has not been proposed and is not anticipated.

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 writing this office at the above address.

Samuel L. Reynolds Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch



FILE NO. 1551.44998-61086-F01

AUGUST 2015

O'BRIEN & GERE ENGINEERS, INC.



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT



CONTRACT DRAWINGS FOR

DREDGE AND DISPOSE OF RIVER SILT FROM MAIN AND EMERGENCY INTAKES PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT BAXTER WATER TREATMENT PLANT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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WORK NO.: 61086

ISSUED FOR PERMITTING



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SHEET NO. G-1 OF 7 SHEETS

