

## 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-2017-00040

File No.

In Reply Refer to:

Application No.

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: Virginia Rettig

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 72

Oceanville, New Jersey 08231

AGENT: Charles R. Harman

Amec Foster Wheeler

285 Davidson Avenue, Suite 405 Somerset, New Jersey 08873

WATERWAY: Barnegat Bay/ Reedy Creek Tributaries

LOCATION: The sediment enrichment site is located at Block 109 Lot 15, 28, & 31 and Block 195 Lots 1.01 & 2 in Brick Township, Ocean County, New Jersey.

ACTIVITY: The applicant proposes to perform thin layer deposition of sediment across a degraded tidal salt marsh. This thin layer deposition will be conducted by spreading approximately 60,000 cubic yards (CY) of suitable dredged sediment into a series of five (5) cells. The five (5) cells are identified as follows: "BRB1" at 22.56 acres, "BRB2" at 10.29 acres, "BRB3" at 17.86 acres, "BRB5" at 9.44 acres, and "BRB8" at 7.13 acres. The total area of impacts is 67.28 acres.

The proposed height of layered deposit will vary depending on the initial elevation within each of the project cells. Biological target elevations (BTE) were determined to be 0.77 feet above mean sea level (MSL) for optimal high salt marsh growth. This will require the addition of up to 1.7 feet of dredged sediment throughout the five cells. However, the proposed average depth per cell is as follows: "BRB1" will receive approximately 0.56 feet of sediment, "BRB2" 0.37 feet of

sediment, "BRB3" 0.29 feet of sediment, "BRB5" 0.41 feet, and lastly cell "BRB8" will receive 0.31 feet of sediment.

To achieve the desired elevation, within each cell, dredging barges will pump sediment from the bottom of the designated dredge channel through secure welded pipelines. The pipeline will be floated over water except where it crosses over navigation channels, where it will be sunk in order to avoid interference with vessel and watercraft traffic. At landfall, the pipe will be handplaced directly onto the marsh surface. The end of the pipeline where sediment is discharged will have a diffuser to evenly distribute the pressure of the water and sediment mixture. Once an area reaches the desired elevation of 0.77 feet above MSL, the pipelines will be moved by hand to another area within the same cell. This phased approach will ensure that one cell will have reached its desired elevation somewhat evenly and in its entirety before moving onto another cell.

In order to provide protection from nearby channels and watercourses protective measures, such as filter block, coir fiber logs, or other materials, will be placed at some distance from the edge of the watercourse. The distance may vary from 10 to 50 feet depending upon site-specific conditions.

The sediment provided should consist of fine to medium grain sands mixed with finer grained silts and clays. This would provide geotechnically suitable materials for the proposed sediment enrichment cells.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to obtain dredge material from Kettle Creek -Sailor's Quay and Kettle Creek that will be provided by New Jersey Department of Transportation, which The Service previously determined as suitable material for this project. The amount of dredge material will be determined by USFWS and NJDOT. The Corps will review this along with sediment sample results for grain size and any contaminants before any work has commenced.

PURPOSE: The stated purpose of the project is to build marsh elevations with sediment from nearby dredging projects in order to create, restore, and maintain vital coastal marsh habitat and to help slow or reverse losses of salt marsh due to sea level rise while increasing the resiliency of a system that has been degraded by centuries of anthropogenic impacts.

A preliminary review for this application will need to be completed by United State Fish and Wildlife Service to make an effects determination on species listed on the Endangered Species (ESA) List. The determination will also have to be coordinated with National Marine Fisheries Service.

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 action may have the potential to impact historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The USACE Cultural Resource Specialist will consult with the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and make a determination on potential impacts to historic properties.

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). 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, indicated that the project may have an adverse effect on EFH and the species of concern.

Analysis of the Effects: The United Stated Fish and Wildlife Service will need to initiate consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that any action taken will not have a substantial effect on EFH.

Compensatory mitigation according to Federal regulation 33 CFR 325.1(d)(7), applicants wishing to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the U.S. must include a statement on how they have avoided and minimized impacts as well as how they intend to compensate for unavoidable impacts. The applicant has avoided/minimized impacts to the aquatic environment by incorporating engineering/construction procedures into the process that will substantially reduce impacts to aquatic resources. Additionally, the applicant states that the underlying intent of this project is to enhance the marsh at this site using clean material taken from an adjacent navigation channel. The thin layer placement of material is one of the techniques that will be used to enhance marsh functions by raising the elevation of the marsh platform and increasing the marsh's resiliency, however, wetlands will not be converted to uplands through this technique. Different portions of the marsh will respond differently to sediment enrichment and such responses may change from year to year. By having the United States Fish and Wildlife

Service commit to an adaptive management approach, the techniques to manage the vegetation community can be tailored to the specific area during that particular season.

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.

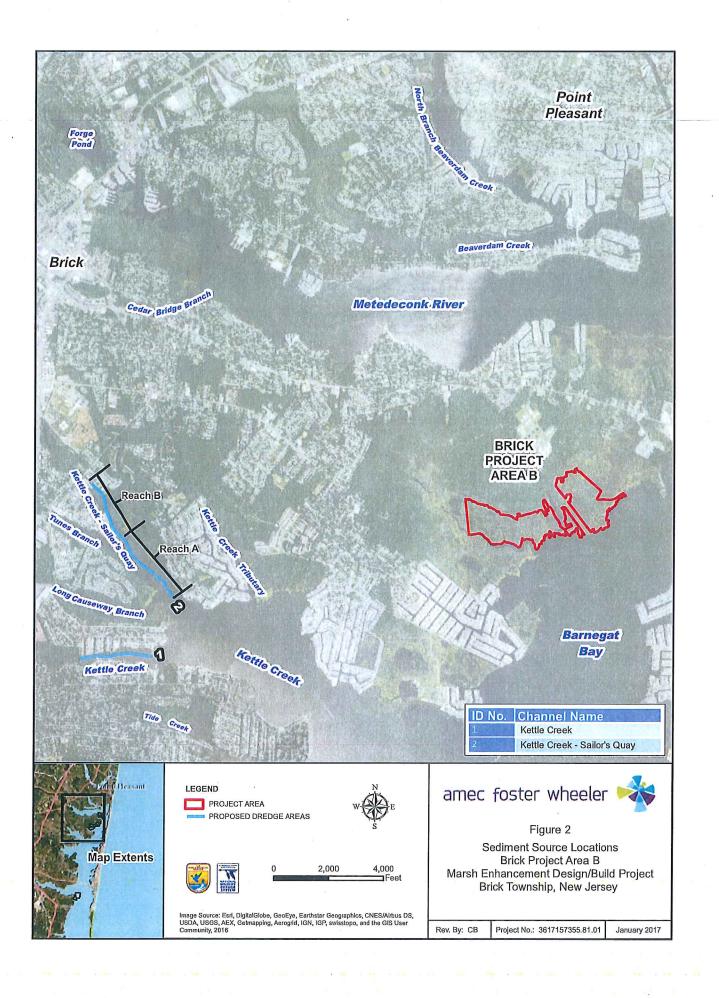
In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

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.

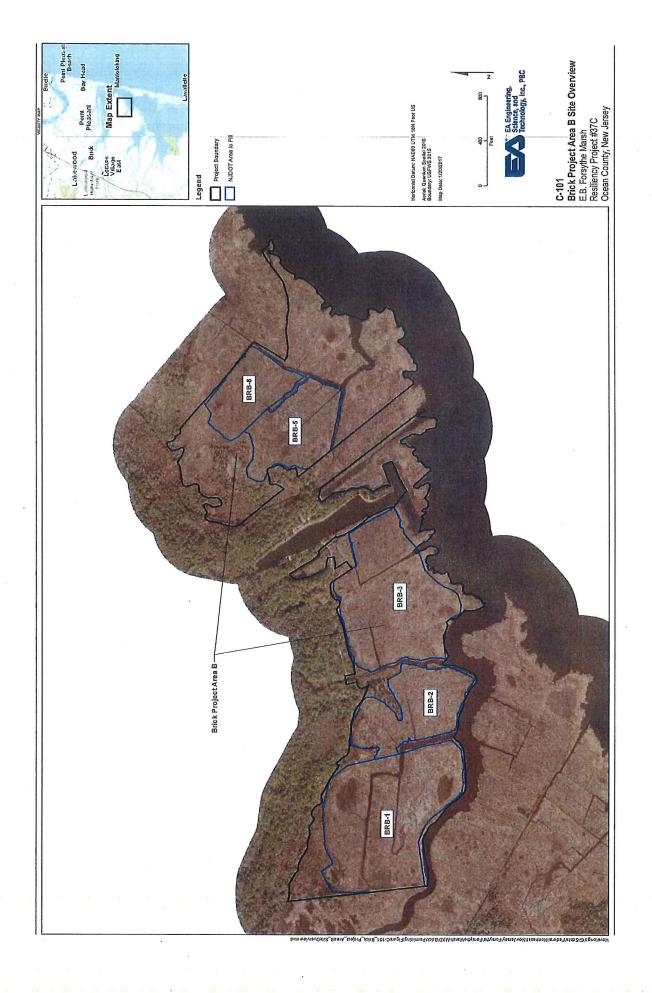
Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

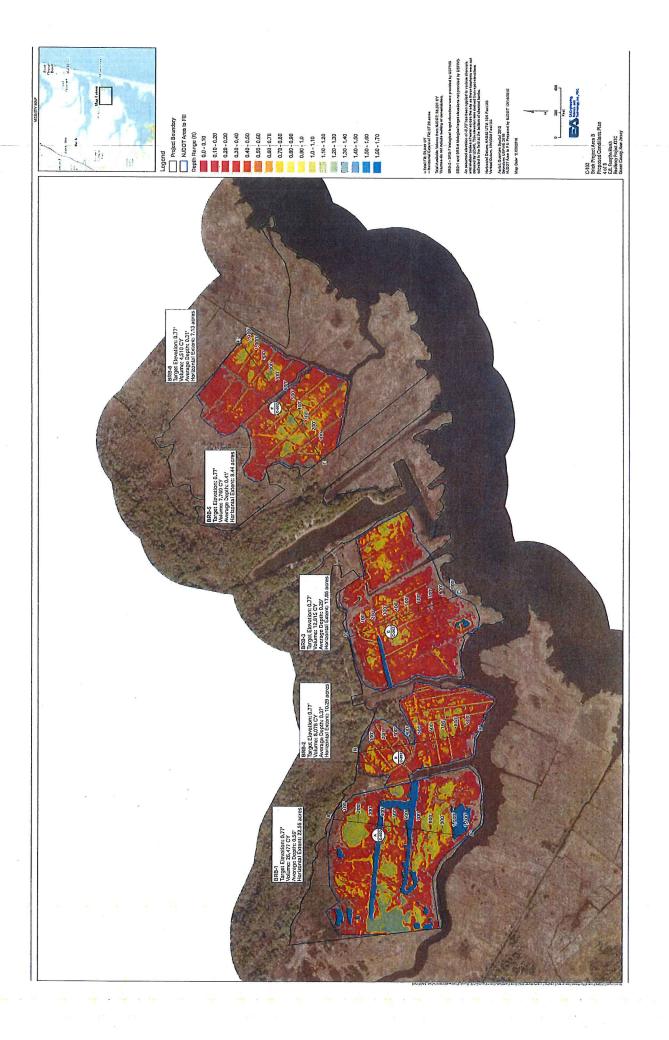
Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling Genevieve Rybicki at (215) 656-8597, via email at Genevieve.T.Rybicki@usace.army.mil, or writing this office at the above address.

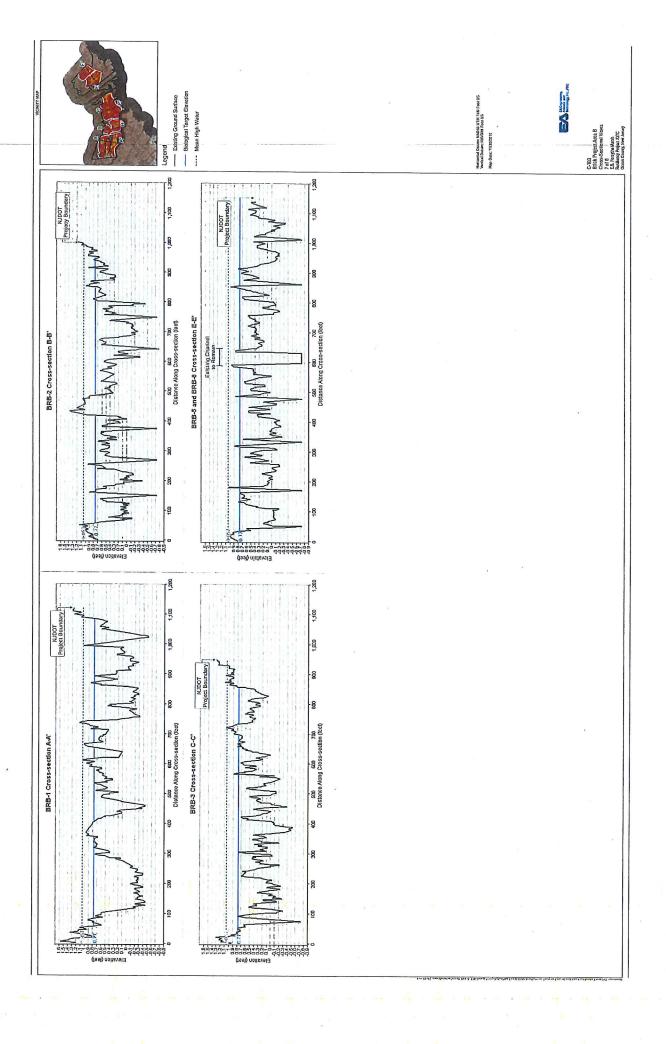
Edward E. Bonner Chief, Regulatory Branch











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