



**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-2017-0076-45

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

WATERWAY: Saint Georges Thorofare

LOCATION: The project is located south of the Brigantine Boulevard Bridge, within Saint George's Thorofare and at the Absecon Inlet Beach area (block 8429, lot 1), in the City of Brigantine, Atlantic County, New Jersey.

ACTIVITY: The applicant proposes to perform hydraulic maintenance dredging within Saint George's Thorofare, a state maintained navigation channel (#171), and dispose of the thirteen thousand, three hundred (**13,300**) cubic yards of dredged material on the Absecon Inlet Beach area (block 8429, lot 1), as shown on the attached plans **E-1 through E-9**. Previously, this office authorized (CENAP-OP-R-2006-0482-45) the maintenance dredging of the channel at a three to one (3:1) slope, to a maximum depth of negative eleven (**-11.0**) feet below mean low water (MLW). At this time, the applicant is requesting the reauthorization of a ten (**10**) year maintenance dredging permit to maintain the existing one thousand nine hundred sixty six (**1,966**) linear feet by one hundred (**100**) feet wide state navigation channel at the same dimensions, project depth, and utilization of the disposal site/area. The proposed maintenance dredging would impact one hundred ninety six thousand four hundred fifty five (196,455) square feet (**4.51 acres**) of tidal waters of the United States (U.S.), and would occur a minimum of twenty five (**25**) feet from the lower limits of the surrounding tidal wetlands. Impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) are not anticipated.

The dredged material would be pumped, via a pipeline, to the proposed disposal site located five thousand (**5,000** +/-) feet south of the dredging area/Saint George's Thorofare. The pipeline would be placed within waters of the U.S. only where it connects to the hydraulic dredge cutterhead. Portions of the pipeline may be sunk and secured to the bottom of the waterway and properly marked in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard regulations prior to being placed along the Absecon Inlet shoreline/ beach area. The rest of the pipeline would be placed along the Absecon Inlet shoreline/ beach area and above the high tide line (HTL) until it terminates at the proposed beach disposal area. The placement of the pipeline would not impact any tidal wetlands. Impacts to Navigation are not expected at this time. As shown on the attached plan E-8, the applicant proposes to dispose and/or deposit the coarse, sandy (90%) dredged material directly on the Absecon Inlet Beach.

Prior to the deposition of the dredged material at the beach disposal area, the applicant would construct a training dike/sand berm to contain the dredged slurry for dewatering prior to the final grading of the material. The dike/berm would be designed to contain the material long enough to ensure that greater than eighty (80%) percent of the solids are retained on the beach. It is anticipated that only a minimal amount of dredged material return water would drain freely back to Absecon Inlet. Once the dredged material has been dewatered, heavy machinery (bulldozers) would perform the final grading of the material to construct a berm, as shown on the attached plan E-9. The berm would be one hundred feet (100 +/-) wide and taper on both sides to match existing beach contours. The proposed berm would be constructed to accommodate the proposed **13,300** cubic yards of dredged material within the beach disposal area. At this time, no work is proposed below the HTL to construct the berm. No wetlands would be impacted.

Please keep in mind that the Permit Application submitted by the above stated applicant, and the activities described in this Public Notice pertain only to the proposed Maintenance dredging of the Saint George's Thorofare.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to provide and maintain safe navigation for both commercial and recreational vessels using Saint George's Thorofare.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to **Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act** as amended. 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.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located within the permit area of the work. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

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). 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, specifically page **42**, indicates that the proposed project, as described in this Public Notice, may adversely affect Winter and Summer Flounder. At this time, this office recommends that no in-water work and/or a Seasonal Restriction from **January 1 to May 31**, for any given year, be implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the life stages and EFH of the above stated species. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

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.

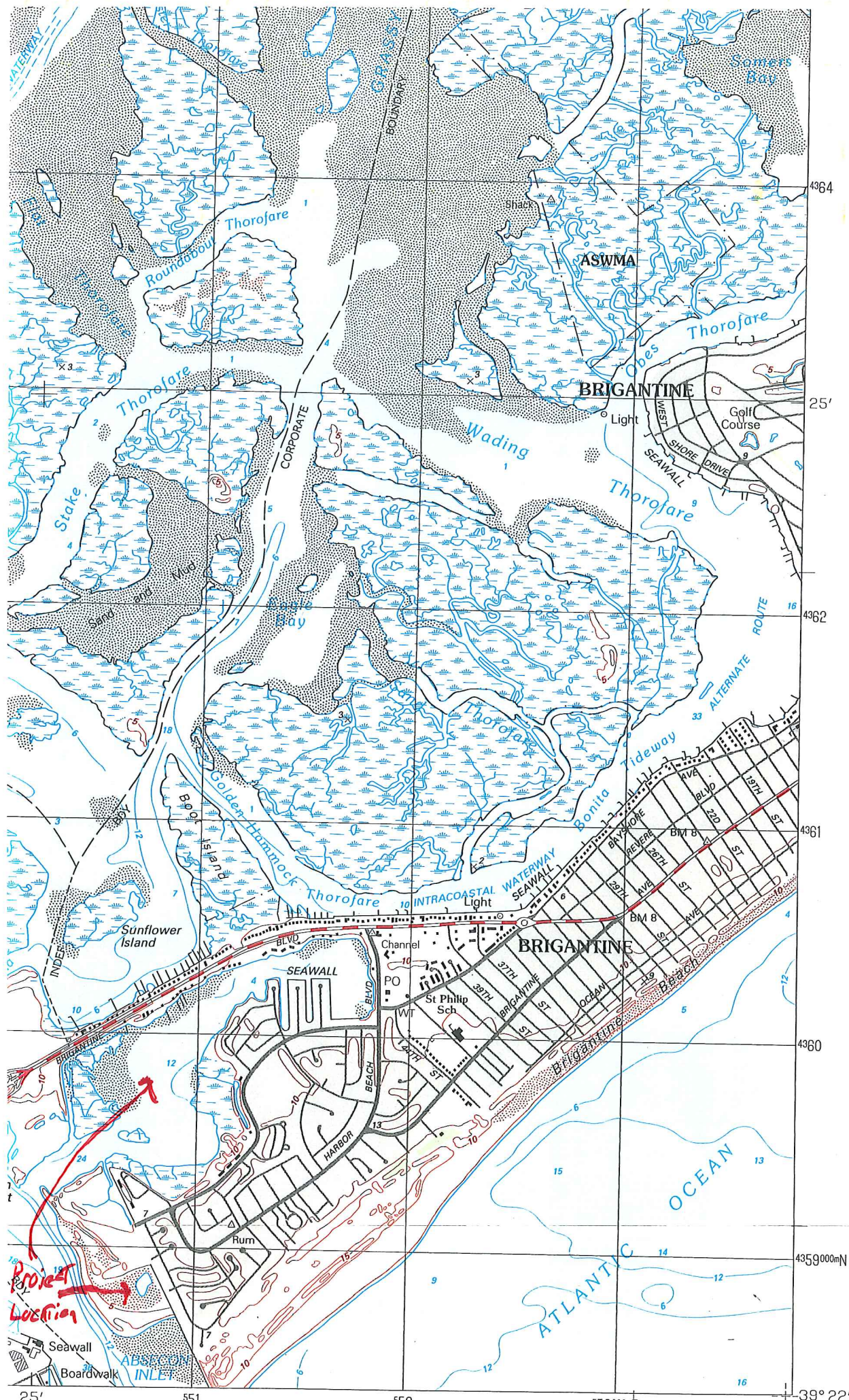
In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

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.

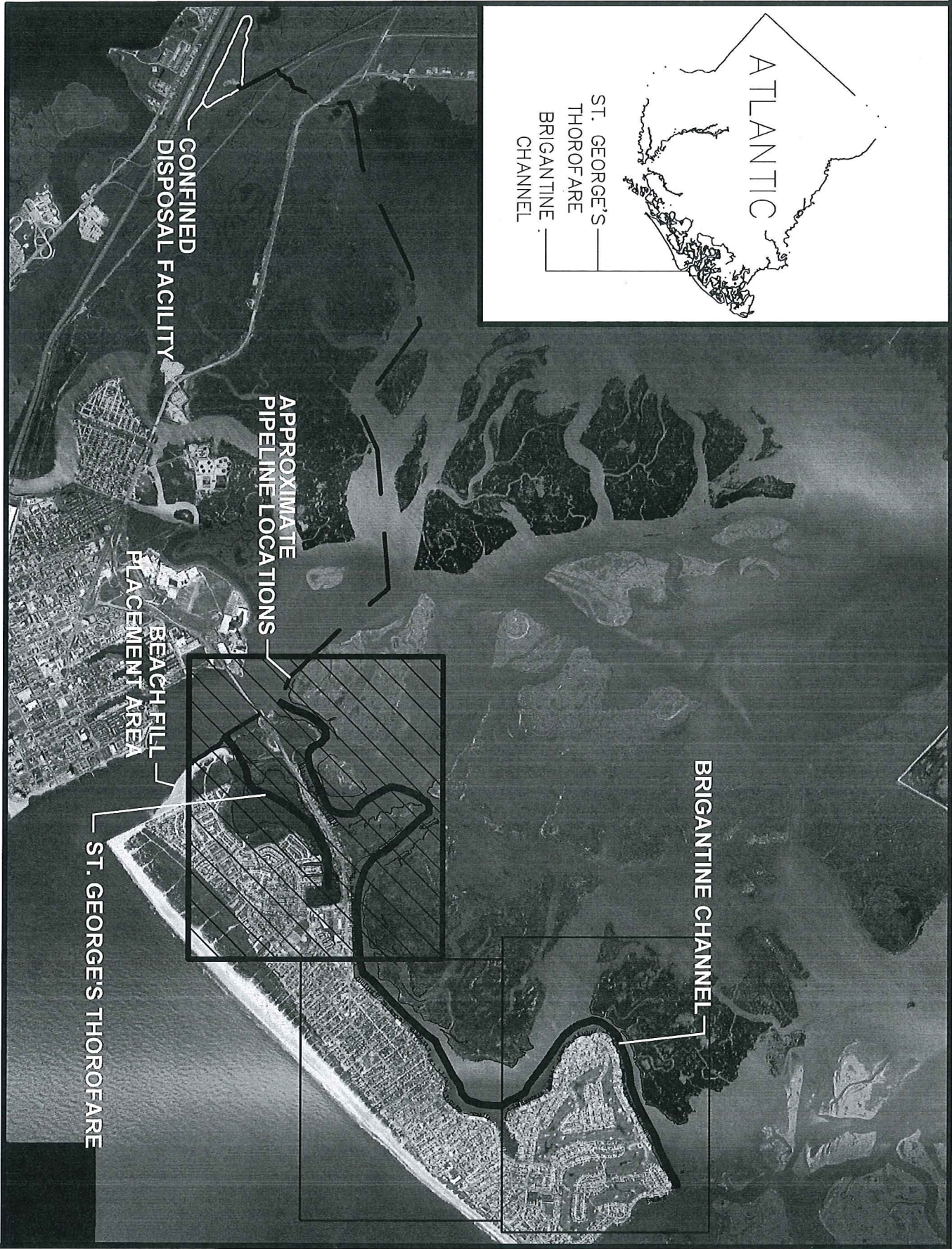
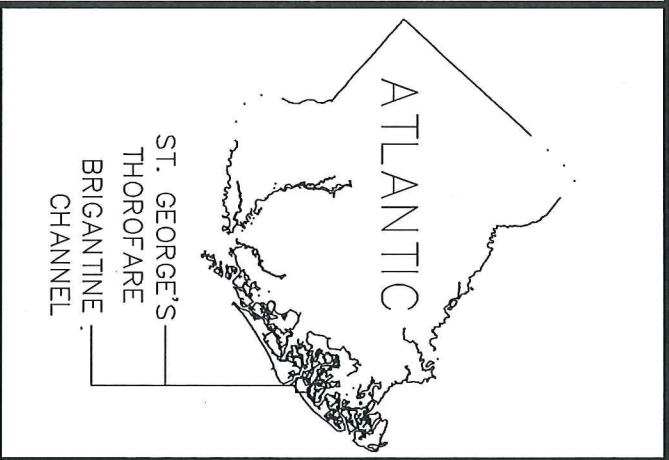
Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling Mr. Bryan P. Bellacima at 215-656-6732, via email at bryan.p.bellacima@usace.army.mil, or writing this office at the above address.

Edward E. Bonner
Chief, Regulatory Branch

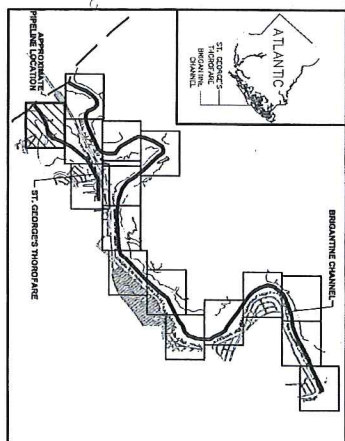
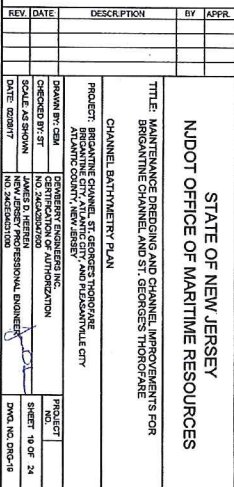


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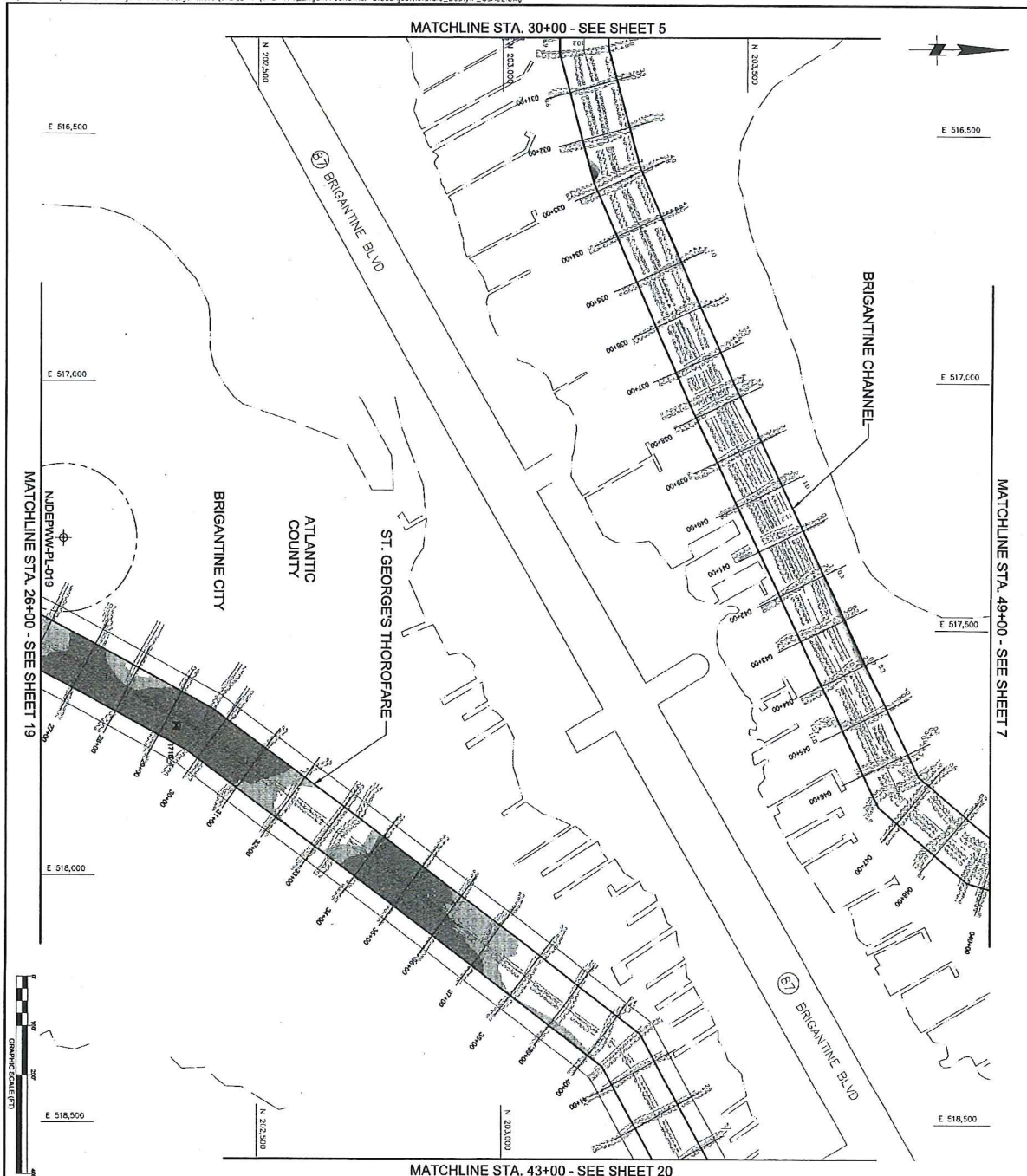


CHANNEL LOCATION PLAN

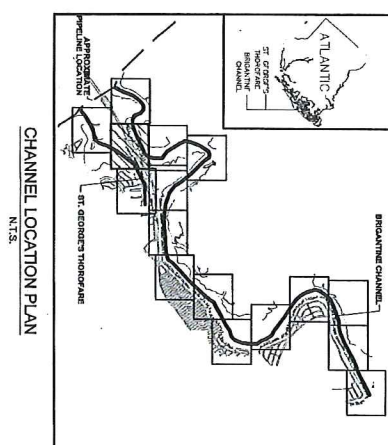
N.T.S.



MATCHLINE STA. 30+00 - SEE SHEET 5



MATCHLINE STA. 43+00 - SEE SHEET 20

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REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APPR.
1	02/08/17	PROJECT: BRIGANTINE CHANNEL, ST. GEORGE'S THOREFORE, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY		
2	02/08/17	CHECKED BY: ST. GEORGE'S THOREFORE, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY		
3	02/08/17	SCALE: AS SHOWN		
4	02/08/17	DATE: 02/08/17		
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