





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District P.O. Box 1715 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715

Nanticoke Harbor Wicomico County, Maryland

Type of Project: Shallow Draft Navigation

Project Phase: Feasibility Study

Authorization: Continuing Authorities Program – Section 107, River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended

Congressional Interest: Congressman Gilchrest (MD-01) and Senators Sarbanes and Mikulski (MD)

Non-Federal Sponsors: Wicomico County, Maryland

Background: The town of Nanticoke in Wicomico County, Maryland is served by a Federal navigation channel, adopted in 1937. The project provides for a small boat harbor 7 feet deep, 120 feet wide, and 400 feet long at the town of Nanticoke with an entrance channel of the same depth and 60 feet wide protected on either side by stone jetties in the river. The harbor provides slips for a variety of commercial and recreational vessels. Presently, the channel, especially the portion near the riverside terminus of the jetties, silts in rapidly following maintenance dredging cycles, and becomes difficult to navigate for users. The Corps is currently in negotiations with Wicomico County to conduct a feasibility study of the potential improvements to the navigation project.

The study will investigate the feasibility of modifying the height, length, construction, and configuration of the jetties in order to improve navigation and decrease the frequency of dredging within the channel and harbor. Sand tightening both existing jetties and lengthening the north jetty is tentatively recommended. Creation of an entirely new jetty system or a combination of sand tightening and expanding the present jetties were identified as the two primary options to address shoaling issues. Expansion of the existing jetties would include one or both of the following: 1) adding a dogleg extension to the north jetty to prevent shoaling at its tip and 2) raising the overall jetty height. The recommended alternative from the initial assessment produced a benefit to cost ratio of 1.6 at an estimated cost of \$1.75 million.

Status: The study team continues to finalize the Project Management Plan. Negotiations on the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement are nearly concluded. Continuation of this project will be subject to the availability of Section 107 funds in FY05.

For more information regarding the Nanticoke Harbor Jetty project, contact Jim Dash, CENAB-PLP-P, (410) 962-3989, or e-mail: Louis.J.Dash.Jr@usace.army.mil.