



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
10 S. HOWARD STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

April 19, 2016

Operations Division

SUBJECT: Baltimore Harbor and Channels, Maryland - Proposed Maintenance Dredging of the Craighill Angle, Ferry Bar Channel, Brewerton Angle

PUBLIC NOTICE – CENAB-OP-N-16-01

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1323 and 1344), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Baltimore Harbor & Channels Federal navigation project during calendar years 2016 and 2017.

The plans and location of the proposed work are shown on the enclosed map. The proposed work consists of maintenance dredging the following channels to their respective authorized dimensions: Ferry Bar Channel to a depth of 42 feet and width of 600; Brewerton Angle to a depth of 51 feet and width of 700 to 1,500 feet; Craighill Angle to a depth of 51 feet and width of 700 to 1,870 feet. The dredging includes one foot of advanced maintenance dredging in the Brewerton and Craighill Angles, two feet of allowable over depth dredging in both angles, as well as one foot of over depth in Ferry Bar. Due to the imprecise nature of dredging operations, the dredging contractor may remove excess material beyond the limits described above in some areas and may not remove all material in other areas.

Approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of material consisting primarily of mud, silt, sand, shell, and mixtures thereof would be dredged by clamshell and scow. The State of Maryland will provide the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island, located on the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay, northwest of Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Maryland for the placement of an estimated 500,000 cubic yards of material. The material placed at Poplar Island will be removed from the Craighill Angle. The State of Maryland will provide the 100-acre Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF), located in Anne Arundel County, for the deposition of approximately 400,000 cubic yards of material from the proposed dredging of the Ferry Bar and Brewerton Angle. The State of Maryland will also provide a Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell located adjacent to the Masonville DMCF for the deposition of approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material from the Ferry Bar Channel and Brewerton Angle.

In order to maximize drying and consolidation of the material at the placement sites, dredging will be scheduled to take place between October 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. The use of the Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell is contingent upon the acquisition of necessary permits by the State of Maryland and the availability of the cell and its capacity at contract award.

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The sediment to be dredged from the above channels has been tested to ensure the suitability of the Chesapeake Bay channels and Harbor Channels for placement at their designated sites. The proposed methods of dredging and placement of material are addressed in and consistent with the Final Environmental Impact Statement and accompanying Supplemental Information to date.

A preliminary review of this work and previous evaluations of historical dredging and placement operations for the Baltimore Harbor project has been completed. The review indicates that the proposed work will not adversely affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

The proposed maintenance dredging will comply with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program. Any comments regarding the consistency determination should be sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230-1708, within 30 days of the date of this notice. The proposed work is being coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service; and the Maryland Departments of the Environment, Natural Resources, Transportation, Maryland Port Administration, Housing and Community Development, and Business and Economic Development.

Designation of the proposed placement sites for the dredged material associated with this Federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of the proposed placement sites, any potential impairment to the maintenance of navigation including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which would result from the failure to use these placement sites will also be considered.

Previous cultural resources reconnaissance surveys and intensive marine surveys have indicated that there are no historically significant artifacts in the proposed work areas. A review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that there are no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein located at the proposed work sites. Currently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the proposed work.

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The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in this public notice will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, energy needs, general environmental concerns, fish and wildlife values, wetlands, historic and cultural values, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, water quality, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, recreation, safety, food production, and in general, the needs and the welfare of the people. The work will not be accomplished unless it is found to be in the public interest.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, 10 S. Howard St. Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715 within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity. Please contact Ms. Tiffany Burroughs at (410) 962-5677 if there are any questions regarding the proposed work.

Any written comments or questions regarding water quality considerations involved with this project should be directed to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Program, 1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 430, Baltimore, MD 21230-1708 within 30 days of the date of this notice.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


For DIANNE B. EDWARDSON
Chief, Operations Division

Enclosure

Map of Dredging and Placement Areas



