

May 2006

## **COVER SHEET**

### **LEAD AGENCY**

U.S Department of Defense

**TITLE**        **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility, Baltimore, Maryland**

### **CONTACT**

Additional copies or information concerning this document can be obtained from Mr. Jon Romeo, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CENAB-OP-RMN, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-6079. Email: jon.romeo@usace.army.mil

### **ABSTRACT**

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). This DEIS is associated with the Maryland Port Administration's application for a Department of the Army permit to construct a DMCF in waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This DEIS evaluates the potential to construct a DMCF capable of receiving material dredged from the Baltimore Harbor Channels north of the North Point-Rock Point line. This DEIS also evaluates a series of alternatives for this type of structure and a compensatory mitigation plan to accompany the proposed project. Both the State of Maryland Dredged Material Management Program and the Federal Dredged Material Management Program recommend the development of several confined disposal areas for Baltimore Harbor dredged sediments during the next 20 years. The creation of a DMCF at Masonville was one of three actions recommended by the State of Maryland's Dredged Material Management Plan Executive Committee. This facility was selected for development prior to the other two proposed facilities by Harbor Team to meet the short-term dredged material placement need. A shortfall of dredged material placement capacity is expected to occur in State fiscal year 2007. This shortfall presents an urgent need to study, select, and implement new options capable of accepting the annual volume of 1.5 million cubic yards of material. The USACE is making the Draft EIS available to the public for review and comment through a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register. This document recommends the construction of a DMCF at Masonville capable of receiving 16 million cubic yards of material dredged from the Baltimore Harbor Channels over a 20 year period.

### **AVAILABILITY**

Copies are available for public review at the following public reading rooms:

- (1) Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201-4484
- (2) Enoch Pratt Free Library, Cherry Hill Branch, 606 Cherry Hill Rd, Baltimore, MD 21225

- (3) Enoch Pratt Free Library, Brooklyn Branch, 300 E. Patapsco Ave, Baltimore, MD 21225
- (4) Baltimore County Public Library, Essex Branch, 1110 Eastern Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21221
- (5) Baltimore County Public Library, North Point Branch, 1716 Merritt Blvd, Dundalk, MD 21222

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Department of the Army has encouraged public participation as part of the National Environmental Policy act (NEPA) process. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register in May 2005, and a scoping meeting was held in June 2005. A Notice of Availability (NOA) to advertise the DEIS was published in the Federal Register in May 2006, and a public hearing will be held on June 21, 2006 to obtain public input on the Proposed Masonville DMCF DEIS. At all public meetings, attendees are invited to provide oral comments and to submit additional comments to the Baltimore District. In addition, comments have been and will continue to be solicited throughout the NEPA process as written, oral, or electronic comments. All persons and organizations that have an interest in the proposed Masonville project are urged to participate in the public hearing. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday June 21, 2006 at Harbor Hospital in the Baum Auditorium, 3001 S. Hanover St, Baltimore, MD 21225. There will be an informal poster session beginning at 6:00 PM and the public hearing will begin at 7:00 PM. The public comment period for the DEIS will end on July 7, 2006.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must receive comments on or before July 7, 2006, to ensure consideration in the final plan. Please send written comments concerning this report to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Mr. Jon Romeo, CENAB-OP-RMN, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore MD 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-6079. Please submit electronic comments to [jon.romeo@usace.army.mil](mailto:jon.romeo@usace.army.mil). Your comments must be contained within the body of the message; please do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in the message. Comments received as part of the public scoping process for this project were addressed as appropriate and are included as an appendix. After the public comment period ends on July 7, 2006, the USACE will consider all comments received. The DEIS will be revised, as appropriate, and a Final EIS will be issued.

The USACE has distributed copies of the DEIS to appropriate members of Congress, State and local government officials, Federal agencies, and other interested parties.