

May 2007

COVER SHEET

LEAD AGENCY

U.S Department of Defense

TITLE **Tiered Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Proposed
Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility, Baltimore, Maryland**

CONTACT

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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 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). This FEIS 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 FEIS 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 FEIS also evaluates a series of alternatives to avoid in-water impacts, minimize the size for this type of structure and development of 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 Program 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 with the closure of the HMI DMCF. 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 FEIS available to the public for review and comment through a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register. All comments received will be addressed in the Record of Decision. 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 was held on June 21, 2006 to obtain public input on the Proposed Masonville DMCF DEIS. A Supplement to the DEIS was issued on June 30, 2006 and a public hearing to obtain input on the Supplement was held on July 31, 2006. The public comment period ended on August 17, 2006. All comments received during the public comment period have been included in Appendix Q of the FEIS along with a comment response table summarizing the comments and the response to them. Full transcripts of the public hearings and public scoping meeting are available in Appendix P of the FEIS.

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