

**WOLF TRAP ALTERNATE OPEN WATER PLACEMENT SITE
NORTHERN EXTENSION
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
JULY 2019**

AGENCY AND TRIBAL COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT APPENDIX

TABLE OF CONTENTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3.....	1
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act).....	5
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (Essential Fish Habitat Coordination).....	7
Virginia Marine Resources Commission.....	11
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.....	15
Virginia Institute of Marine Science.....	22
Virginia Department of Health.....	23
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation/Game and Inland Fisheries.....	26
Virginia State Historic Preservation Office.....	32
Delaware Nation.....	34
Pamunkey Indian Tribe.....	37
Notice of Availability.....	39
Newspaper Ad.....	41

Agency and Tribal Coordination Table*

Agency/Tribe	Date USACE Coordination Letter Sent	Date Received Comments from Agency/Tribe
U.S. EPA Region 3	26 Feb 2019	26 Mar 2019
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act)	26 Feb 2019	No response received
USFWS Section 7 Project Review Package	14 Feb 2019	14 Feb 2019
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Section 7 Coordination	10 April 2019	Informal email correspondence in April/May 2019; NMFS Concurrence received 06 May 2019 (see Appendix B)
NMFS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Coordination	05 April 2019	05 April 2019 – Email acknowledged receipt of letter and draft EFH Assessment; Comments on the draft EFH Assessment received from NMFS on 07 June 2019 (see Appendix C for draft EFH Assessment)
Virginia Marine Resources Commission	26 Feb 2019	14 Mar 2019
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ)	26 Feb 2019	VADEQ: 14 Mar 2019 VADEQ (Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act): 14 Mar 2019 Virginia Institute of Marine Science: 18 Mar 2019 Virginia Department of Health: 19 Mar 2019
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation/Game and Inland Fisheries	26 Feb 2019	27 Mar 2019
Virginia State Historic Preservation Office	26 Feb 2019	Informal email correspondence in Feb/Mar 2019 (not included in this appendix)
Delaware Nation	26 Feb 2019	11 Apr 2019
Pamunkey Indian Tribe	26 Feb 2019	No response received

**Table updated on 15 July 2019. Please note that coordination is ongoing. An updated version of this table will be included with the Final Environmental Assessment.*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

FEB 26 2019

Planning Division

Mr. Cosmo Servidio
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

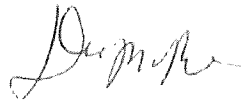
Dear Mr. Servidio:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

USACE is proposing to place approximately two million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel into the WTAPS northern extension during the initial placement event that is expected to occur in the fall of 2019. Dredging would be conducted in one dredging cycle that would last for approximately 4½ months. After initial placement into the WTAPS northern extension, it is anticipated that approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the site approximately every 4 years. The volume of the site was calculated to be over 30 million cubic yards, using an allowable water depth of 30 feet, which generally matches the bathymetry surrounding the site and would allow placement to surrounding depths. USACE expects that open water placement into the WTAPS northern extension would not occur from September 1 through November 14, consistent with a time-of-year restriction for dredging in the York Spit Channel established to protect federally-listed sea turtles.

USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. Please provide any information or comments your agency may have that may assist us in the preparation of the EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel M. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure

From: [Hwang, Nora](#)
To: [May, Kristina K CIV USARMY CENAB \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Okorn, Barbara](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] WTAPS scoping comments
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 12:06:16 PM

Dear Ms. May,

EPA has reviewed your letter dated February 26, 2018 regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) for an extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS). The EA plans to evaluate the effects on the natural and human environment of extending WTAPS northward to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. We understand that the study is being done in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQ regulations implementing NEPA. Please find below recommendations for the scope of analysis for the proposed study.

- * The EA should include a clear explanation of the underlying purpose and need for the proposed action. The purpose and need statement is important because it helps explain why the proposed action is being undertaken, the objectives the project intends to achieve, and the measures to determine how well alternatives meet need. The purpose of the proposed action is typically the specific objective of the activity. The need should explain the underlying problem for why the project is necessary.
- * Please address in the EA if sediment fate and transport modeling will be completed for inclusion in the EA. Specifically, it is recommended that the EA addresses the potential for sediment to move south from the northern extension into the established blue crab habitat.
- * The Alternatives Analysis is central to the EA. The analysis should include other alternative sites considered and eliminated from consideration or alternative site designs of the Preferred Alternative used to determine the least environmentally intrusive alternative. Specifically, the EA should detail other locations considered for disposal of the York Spit Channel dredged material, including ocean disposal sites.
- * EPA recommends long-term capacity and sustainability of WTAPS be presented in the EA. It is recommended that the EA document how the lifespan of the facility compares to others in the area, if other sites will be used for material dredged from York Spit or if dredged material from sites other than York Spit will be placed in the northern extension, and the history of using the WTAPS southern portion for dredged material disposal.
- * Please include how USACE would proceed if the northern extension site becomes suitable blue crab wintering habitat as it gets more shallow and sandy as a result of dredged material placement. For reference, it is recommended that the EA include the current elevation of the southern portion of WTAPS.
- * Referencing relevant information from the Baltimore Harbor and Channels Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Inland Testing Manual may be appropriate to include, such as planned sampling and reevaluation of sediments dredged from York Spit.
- * It is recommended that a description of aquatic resources and functions be included in the NEPA document. The type and quality of aquatic resources within the proposed project area should be identified and assessed, with an emphasis on the benthic environment. Please address the current and planned water quality monitoring and anticipated changes in turbidity and suspended solids.
- * Though this EA does not plan to include dredging activities in the analysis, relevant information related to disposal that will occur at the site should be included such as all time-of-year restrictions and other additional best management practices that will be employed to reduce impacts to the aquatic environment.
- * Please address if the Proposed Action will have impacts on archaeological sites. It is recommended that archeological surveys be conducted, as appropriate.
- * The NEPA document should address potential indirect and cumulative effects in the project areas. Analysis may aid in the identification of resources that are likely to be adversely affected by multiple projects, and sensitive resources that could require additional avoidance or mitigation measures. It is suggested that a secondary and cumulative effects analysis begin with defining the geographic and temporal limits of the study; this is generally broader than the study area of the project. The cumulative impact analysis should evaluate impacts to environmental

resources that have the potential to be impacted by the project. Along with the analysis, EPA recommends including a list of potentially relevant projects in the area that could contribute to cumulative impacts. In this case, other planning and ongoing dredging work in the area such as Elizabeth River Southern Branch, Norfolk Harbor, Thimble Shoal, and Atlantic Ocean Channel may be relevant to include.

Thank you for coordinating with EPA on this project. Please let me know if you have any questions on recommended topics above. We look forward to reviewing the EA when it is released.

Sincerely,

Nora T. Hwang

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

Environmental Assessment & Innovation Division

Office of Environmental Programs

1650 Arch Street (3EA30)

Philadelphia, PA 19103

P: 215-814-2728

hwang.nora@epa.gov <<mailto:hwang.nora@epa.gov>>



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

Planning Division

FEB 26 2019

Ms. Cindy Schulz
Field Supervisor
Virginia Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061
VirginiaFieldOffice@fws.gov

Dear Ms. Schulz:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

USACE is proposing to place approximately two million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel into the WTAPS northern extension during the initial placement event that is expected to occur in the fall of 2019. Dredging would be conducted in one dredging cycle that would last for approximately 4½ months. After initial placement into the WTAPS northern extension, it is anticipated that approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the site approximately every 4 years. The volume of the site was calculated to be over 30 million cubic yards, using an allowable water depth of 30 feet, which generally matches the bathymetry surrounding the site and would allow placement to surrounding depths. USACE expects that open water placement into the WTAPS northern extension would not occur from September 1 through November 14, consistent with a time-of-year restriction for dredging in the York Spit Channel established to protect federally-listed sea turtles.

USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019.

USACE is requesting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) assistance in fulfilling the requirement of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) related to this project. Please inform USACE of the degree to which your agency will be involved pursuant to the FWCA for the preparation of the EA within 30 days from the date of this letter. Please provide a point of contact for this information.

To fulfill the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, USACE submitted a Self-Certification Letter and Project Review Package to your office on February 14, 2019. Please contact USACE if you have additional questions or do not concur with our determination.

USACE is committed to incorporating USFWS input and interests throughout the NEPA process. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel M. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

Planning Division

APR 05 2019

Ms. Karen Greene
Mid-Atlantic Field Office Supervisor and EFH Coordinator
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Karen.Greene@noaa.gov

Dear Ms. Greene:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension (WTAPSNE) would serve as an open water placement site for material dredged primarily from the York Spit Channel, but may also be used as a placement site for other dredging projects in the lower Chesapeake Bay pending evaluation. The purpose of extending the WTAPS northward is to minimize adverse impacts to overwintering female blue crabs, which are more abundant in the current WTAPS site, particularly in the southern portion. The WTAPSNE has been found to provide less suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into WTAPSNE. Dredging activities will not be evaluated in the EA, as those impacts were evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement for the 2005 Baltimore Harbor and Channels (Maryland and Virginia) Dredged Material Management Plan and other previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

The capacity of the site is over 30 million cubic yards based upon placement of dredged material within the site boundaries up to an approximate depth of -30 feet mean lower low water. For the initial placement cycle, approximately two million cubic yards of dredged material from operation and maintenance of the York Spit Channel would be placed into WTAPSNE, which is expected to occur in the fall of 2019. Dredging would be conducted in one dredging cycle that would last for approximately 4½ months. Dredging and open water placement activities would occur 24 hours per day and 7 days a week during any given dredging cycle (mobilization to demobilization of the dredging operation). Dredged material would be placed in the WTAPSNE using a hopper dredge. To minimize adverse impacts to sea turtles, dredging in the York Spit Channel does not occur from September 1 through November 14 in accordance with the National Marine Fisheries Service 2018 Biological Opinion (F/NER/2018/14816), and placement into the WTAPSNE would not occur during this period. After initial placement into WTAPSNE, it is anticipated that approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel would be placed into WTAPSNE approximately every 4 years. WTAPSNE would

reach capacity (be full) after approximately 20 cycles of maintenance of the York Spit Channel in about the year 2100.

USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with NEPA. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. As part of the proposed WTAPSNE EA, USACE is preparing an assessment to evaluate potential effects on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Please review the attached draft EFH Assessment and provide any comments your agency may have within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

cc: David O'Brien, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, Gloucester Point, VA Office,
David.L.O'Brien@noaa.gov

Enclosure

3. Potential Project Effects

The anticipated 4-year maintenance cycle to dredge the York Spit Channel and therefore place material overboard using a hopper dredge at the proposed Wolf Trap Alternative Placement Site-Northeast (WTAPSNE) will raise the existing bathymetry (avg. depth -36 ft. MLLW) to an approximate target depth of -30 ft. MLLW following material placement. While the benthic community may recover (1.5 years, Schaffner 2010) between maintenance events, the placement of dredge material in the trough will change the bathymetry, which affects EFH. Therefore, in addition to the direct effect to EFH associated with individual placement events, you should also consider this a cumulative effect over time, as the accumulation of dredge material placed on the bottom will far exceed the natural rate of sedimentation in the trough. In addition, have you considered how projected sea-level rise may affect the storage capacity of the WTAPSNE over the life of the project (yr. 2100)?

Table 1. Summary of Species with EFH in Project Area

Recent changes to the EFH designations for several species result in them no longer mapped as EFH in the project area. These include the coastal migratory pelagics king and Spanish mackerel (all life stages), and red drum (all life stages). These species should be removed from the table and your assessment. However, there are two species for which you have not accurately identified all designated life stages, including; red hake eggs and larvae and Atlantic herring juveniles. Please add these life stages to your table and discussion in the assessment.

Section 4 EFH Assessment

There are several assertions that you make repeatedly throughout the assessment that I would like to help clarify. The disturbed benthic community will initially be recolonized by opportunistic “weedy” species that typically do not provide the same forage value for managed species as a natural, undisturbed and diverse climax community. This is therefore an effect to EFH. The complete recovery of the benthic community may take up to 1.5 years as you have cited (Schaffner, 2010). I believe this is what you are referring to when using of the term “equilibrium species”. Also, please reconsider how you characterize effects to EFH. Burial of an existing benthic community is an adverse effect to EFH that must be acknowledged in your assessment. However, you may determine that although there is an adverse effect, it is not a substantial adverse effect. Similarly, larvae vulnerable to smothering and asphyxiation and the temporal loss of prey spp. are considered adverse effects to EFH. Similarly, you may determine that these effects are not substantial. Please see pg. 18, under impacts to summer flounder as examples of where you should reconsider how you have characterized impacts to EFH for various life stages.

Your discussion of impacts to overwintering female blue crabs is very important. Under Section 5, Cumulative Impacts to EFH, it states that the use of the proposed WTAPSNE would “...not present any substantially different cumulative effects, relative to the “no project” alternative”. The “no project” alternative represents the status quo continued use of WTAPS. One of the main issues why VMRC and we have suggested the use of an alternative placement site to the current WTAPS regards the significant impacts to overwintering female blue crabs by material placement. Based on winter dredge surveys conducted by VIMS (Lipcius and Knick, 2016) the use of the proposed WTAPSNE is intended to reduce overall mortality to overwintering female blue crabs, as you correctly identify under Section 6, Federal Agency’s Opinion on Project Effects to EFH, 3 (pg. 41) and in Section 7, Mitigation (pg. 42). Please reconsider how impacts are characterized under Section 5.

Under Section 6, Federal Agency’s Opinion on Project Effects to EFH there is discussion of sequencing and the rotational placement of dredge material. Can you please provide additional information regarding how the dredging contractor is permitted to place material at the disposal site, e.g. are there only certain “cells” identified for each maintenance event or is the entire area of WTAPSNE available for disposal? In addition, is

material placement tracked in real-time using GPS or other navigational methods to pinpoint its location? Is the dredge material concentrated in a single area or purposefully spread over a larger area? Will a post-construction bathymetric survey be conducted after material placement to determine the new bathymetric contours of WTAPSNE? As stated in the assessment, mechanical spreading of piled dredge material to a uniform “lift” or thickness across the bottom does not appear to be practicable or desirable. Therefore, we are interested in the long-term, management of material placement at the site to ensure that benthic community recovery can be achieved between maintenance dredge placement events.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

Planning Division

FEB 26 2019

Mr. Tony Watkinson
Chief, Habitat Management
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Building 96
380 Fenwick Road
Ft. Monroe, VA 23651
tony.watkinson@mrc.virginia.gov

Dear Mr. Watkinson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

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USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. Please provide any information or comments your agency may have that may assist us in the preparation of the EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure

Cc: Randy Owen, VMRC, Habitat Management



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

380 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

March 14, 2019

Mr. Daniel M. Bierly
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
2 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2930

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment
WTAPS Northern Extension
Alternative Site

Dear Mr. Bierly:

This will respond to your recent letter to me, received March 4, 2019, requesting comments from the Marine Resources Commission on an Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared for a proposed northern extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) for material dredged from the York Spit Channel. As you are aware, the Commission and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) have provided extensive scoping comments and participated in numerous meetings to date outlining the Commonwealth's position on the adverse impacts to blue crab and finfish resources impacted by the overboard placement of dredged material at WTAPS. The previous comments remain valid for the EA that you are preparing.

As a result of the review for the ongoing use of the WTAPS, we had recommended the Corps plan to utilize the northern extension area for the upcoming maintenance dredging. The Commission, therefore, supports the use of the northern extension area for the upcoming maintenance cycle pursuant to the 1981 agreement that allowed use of the WTAPS, but which was contingent on the designation of alternate disposal sites by the Commonwealth.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

Daniel M. Bierly
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
March 14, 2019
Page Two

I am concerned, however, the ongoing EA will fail to identify beneficial use of dredge material alternatives for future maintenance dredging cycles as we discussed at the January 15, 2019, meeting held in Baltimore and outlined in Colonel Litz's February 19, 2019, letter to Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources, Matthew Strickler. As presented, it appears the EA will focus on the long-term continued use of the northern extension area based on site capacity for future dredge cycles. Potential beneficial use options for future dredge material should be included in EA.

As you are aware, Secretary Strickler's January 14, 2019, letter to Colonel Litz stated that the Commonwealth cannot support future use of WTAPS given the threats to blue crab and multiple fish species identified by VIMS and NOAA in its review of the Essential Fish Habitat assessment. The letter further stated that use of any alternative location be restricted to the upcoming maintenance dredging cycle and any future maintenance or proposed widening of this channel include a thorough evaluation of alternative options and include beneficial use opportunities as well as disposal outside the Chesapeake Bay.

We continue to look forward to working with the Baltimore District to identify alternative dredge material placement options that focus on the beneficial uses and innovative reuse of dredge material as outlined in Colonel Litz's letter.

Sincerely,



Tony Watkinson
Chief, Habitat Management

TW:blh

HM

cc: Matthew J. Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources
Steven G. Bowman, Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Ellen Bolen, Deputy Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

Planning Division

FEB 26 2019

Mr. David K. Paylor
Director
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Paylor:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

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USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. When the EA is released for public review, USACE will submit a Federal Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency Information Package and a request for a Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for the WTAPS northern extension. Please provide any information or comments your agency may have that may assist us in the preparation of the EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure

cc: Bettina Rayfield, Manager, Environmental Impact Review and Long Range Priorities Program, VADEQ; Bettina.Rayfield@deq.virginia.gov



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218
www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

March 14, 2019

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

Chief Daniel M. Bierly
Civil Project Development Branch
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
2 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2930

RE: Scoping Request – Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site, Mathews County Virginia

Dear Chief Bierly:

This letter is in response to the scoping request for the above-referenced project.

As you may know, the Department of Environmental Quality, through its Office of Environmental Impact Review (DEQ-OEIR), is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. Similarly, DEQ-OEIR coordinates Virginia's review of federal consistency documents prepared pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act which applies to all federal activities which are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resources of Virginia's designated coastal resources management area must be consistent with the enforceable policies Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program.

DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS

In order to ensure an effective coordinated review of the NEPA document and federal consistency documentation, notification of the NEPA document and federal consistency documentation should be sent directly to OEIR. We request that you submit one electronic to eir@deq.virginia.gov (25 MB maximum) or make the documents available for download at a website, file transfer protocol (ftp) site or the VITA LFT file share system (Requires an "invitation" for access. An invitation request should be sent to eir@deq.virginia.gov.) We request that the review of these two documents be done concurrently, if possible.

The NEPA document and the federal consistency documentation (if applicable) should include U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps as part of their information. We strongly encourage you to issue shape files with the NEPA document. In addition, project details should be adequately described for the benefit of the reviewers.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT: PROJECT SCOPING AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

As you may know, NEPA (PL 91-190, 1969) and its implementing regulations (Title 40, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Parts 1500-1508) requires a draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for federal activities or undertakings that are federally licensed or federally funded which will or may give rise to significant impacts upon the human environment. An EIS carries more stringent public participation requirements than an Environmental Assessment (EA) and provides more time and detail for comments and public decision-making. The possibility that an EIS may be required for the proposed project should not be overlooked in your planning for this project. Accordingly, we refer to “NEPA document” in the remainder of this letter.

While this Office does not participate in scoping efforts beyond the advice given herein, other agencies are free to provide scoping comments concerning the preparation of the NEPA document. Accordingly, we are providing notice of your scoping request to several state agencies and those localities and Planning District Commissions, including but not limited to:

Department of Environmental Quality:

- DEQ Regional Office*
- Air Division*
- Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection*
- Office of Local Government Programs*
- Division of Land Protection and Revitalization
- Office of Stormwater Management*

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Department of Health*

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

Virginia Marine Resources Commission*

Department of Historic Resources

Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

Department of Forestry

Department of Transportation

Note: The agencies noted with a star (*) administer one or more of the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and its implementing regulations in Title 15, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 930, federal activities, including permits, licenses, and federally funded projects, located in Virginia’s Coastal Management Zone or those that can have reasonably foreseeable effects on Virginia’s coastal uses or coastal resources must be conducted in a manner which is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Virginia CZM Program.

Additional information on the Virginia’s review for federal consistency documents can be found online at

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/EnvironmentalImpactReview/FederalConsistencyReviews.aspx>

DATA BASE ASSISTANCE

Below is a list of databases that may assist you in the preparation of a NEPA document:

- DEQ Online Database: Virginia Environmental Geographic Information Systems

Information on Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities, Impaired Waters, Petroleum Releases, Registered Petroleum Facilities, Permitted Discharge (Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits) Facilities, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Sites, Water Monitoring Stations, National Wetlands Inventory:

- www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/VEGIS.aspx

- DEQ Virginia Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS)

Virginia's coastal resource data and maps; coastal laws and policies; facts on coastal resource values; and direct links to collaborating agencies responsible for current data:

- <http://128.172.160.131/gems2/>

- MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is a publicly available online toolkit and resource center that consolidates available data and enables users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others.

<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/visualize/#x=-73.24&y=38.93&z=7&logo=true&controls=true&basemap=Ocean&tab=data&legends=false&layers=true>

- DHR Data Sharing System.

Survey records in the DHR inventory:

- www.dhr.virginia.gov/archives/data_sharing_sys.htm

- DCR Natural Heritage Search

Produces lists of resources that occur in specific counties, watersheds or physiographic regions:

- www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/dbsearchtool.shtml

- DGIF Fish and Wildlife Information Service

Information about Virginia's Wildlife resources:

- <http://vafwis.org/fwis/>

- Total Maximum Daily Loads Approved Reports

- <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/programs/water/waterqualityinformationtmdls/tmdl/tmdldevelopment/approvedtmdlreports.aspx>

- Virginia Outdoors Foundation: Identify VOF-protected land
 - <http://vof.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Database: Superfund Information Systems

Information on hazardous waste sites, potentially hazardous waste sites and remedial activities across the nation, including sites that are on the National Priorities List (NPL) or being considered for the NPL:

- www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm
- EPA RCRAInfo Search

Information on hazardous waste facilities:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html
- EPA Envirofacts Database

EPA Environmental Information, including EPA-Regulated Facilities and Toxics Release Inventory Reports:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html
- EPA NEPAassist Database

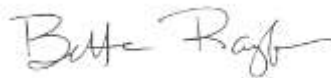
Facilitates the environmental review process and project planning:

<http://nepaassisttool.epa.gov/nepaassist/entry.aspx>

If you have questions about the environmental review process and/or the federal consistency review process, please feel free to contact me (telephone (804) 698-4204 or e-mail bettina.rayfield@deq.virginia.gov).

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Bettina Rayfield, Program Manager
Environmental Impact Review and Long-Range Priorities



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, VA 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kristina K. May

FROM: Daniel Moore, DEQ Principal Environmental Planner

DATE: March 14, 2019

SUBJECT: SCOPING Wolf Trap Alternative Open Water Placement Site, Mathews County, Virginia

We have reviewed the scoping letter and submitted information for the proposed project and offer the following comments regarding consistency with the provisions of the *Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations* (Regulations).

The project as proposed appears to occur completely in state waters and is thus not subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act or Regulations.

March 18, 2019

Daniel M. Bierly
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
2 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2930

Dear Mr. Bierly:

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is the designated scientific advisor to the Commonwealth of Virginia for all matters regarding marine and estuarine natural resources. As part of this responsibility, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) in 2014 requested our assessment of the continued use of the Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS). VIMS' long-term monitoring data demonstrated WTAPS to be co-located with important overwintering blue crab habitat. To mitigate adverse effects from dredge material placement to a stressed and vulnerable blue crab stock, we recommended the northern extension alternative that is the subject of your Environmental Assessment (EA) as a project modification that would significantly reduce adverse impacts to Chesapeake Bay (Virginia and Maryland) blue crab resources. VIMS has participated in discussions between VMRC, the Maryland Port Authority, and the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers since our initial involvement and have provided documentation of our assessments. We recommend incorporating the information contained in these documents, and which we shared throughout this process, into the EA as it provides technical justification for abandoning the use of WTAPS for the proposed new placement area.

Since the placement of dredged material upon any subaqueous bottomland necessarily results in some degree of temporary and/or longer term adverse environmental impacts, we also recommend the evaluation of beneficial uses for future material from the York Spit Channel as an element of this EA as well as future dredge project assessments.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mark Luckenbach
Associate Dean of Research
and Advisory Services

From: [Warren, Arlene](#)
To: [May, Kristina K CIV USARMY CENAB \(USA\)](#); [rr Environmental Impact Review](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: NEW SCOPING Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 5:58:26 PM

Project Name: NEW SCOPING Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site

Project #: N/A

UPC #: N/A

VDH – Office of Drinking Water has reviewed the above project. Below are our comments as they relate to proximity to public drinking water sources (groundwater wells, springs and surface water intakes). Potential impacts to public water distribution systems or sanitary sewage collection systems must be verified by the local utility.

There are no public groundwater wells within a 1-mile radius of the project site.

There are no surface water intakes located within a 5-mile radius of the project site.

The project is not within the watershed of any public surface water intakes.

There are no apparent impacts to public drinking water sources due to this project.

The Virginia Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best Regards,

Arlene Fields Warren

GIS Program Support Technician

Office of Drinking Water

Virginia Department of Health

109 Governor Street

Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 864-7781

On Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 9:46 AM Fulcher, Valerie <valerie.fulcher@deq.virginia.gov
<<mailto:valerie.fulcher@deq.virginia.gov>>> wrote:

Good morning—attached is a request for scoping comments on the following:

ACOE Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS)

If you choose to make comments, please send them directly to the project sponsor (Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil <<mailto:Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil>>) and copy the DEQ Office of Environmental Impact Review: eir@deq.virginia.gov <<mailto:eir@deq.virginia.gov>> . We will coordinate a review when the environmental document is completed.

DEQ-OEIR's scoping response is also attached.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please email our office at eir@deq.virginia.gov <<mailto:eir@deq.virginia.gov>> .

Valerie

--

Valerie A. Fulcher, CAP, OM, Environmental Program Specialist

Department of Environmental Quality

Environmental Enhancement - Office of Environmental Impact Review

1111 East Main Street

Richmond, VA 23219

804/698-4330 <tel:(804)%20698-4330>

804/698-4319 <tel:(804)%20698-4319> (Fax)

email: Valerie.Fulcher@deq.virginia.gov <<mailto:Valerie.Fulcher@deq.virginia.gov>>

Blocked<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/EnvironmentalImpactReview.aspx>

For program updates and public notices please subscribe to the OEIR News Feed
<Blocked<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/NewsFeeds.aspx>>



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

FEB 26 2019

Planning Division

Ms. René Hypes
Environmental Review Coordinator
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Program
600 E. Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Hypes:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

USACE is proposing to place approximately two million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel into the WTAPS northern extension during the initial placement event that is expected to occur in the fall of 2019. Dredging would be conducted in one dredging cycle that would last for approximately 4½ months. After initial placement into the WTAPS northern extension, it is anticipated that approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the site approximately every 4 years. The volume of the site was calculated to be over 30 million cubic yards, using an allowable water depth of 30 feet, which generally matches the bathymetry surrounding the site and would allow placement to surrounding depths. USACE expects that open water placement into the WTAPS northern extension would not occur from September 1 through November 14, consistent with a time-of-year restriction for dredging in the York Spit Channel established to protect federally-listed sea turtles.

USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. Please provide any information or comments your agency may have that may assist us in the preparation of the EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



Rochelle Altholz
*Deputy Director of
Administration and Finance*

Russell W. Baxter
*Deputy Director of
Dam Safety & Floodplain
Management and Soil & Water
Conservation*

Thomas L. Smith
Deputy Director of Operations

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

March 27, 2019

Kristina May
USACE-Baltimore District
2 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201

Re: Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site Extension

Dear Ms. May:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, natural heritage resources have not been documented within two miles of the project boundary. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources.

There is potential for several state and federally-listed species including marine mammals, sea turtles, and marine/coastal birds to occur in the project area. Due to the legal status of these species, DCR-DNH recommends coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure compliance with protected species legislation.

There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please re-submit project information and map for an update on this natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.

The VDGIF maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database

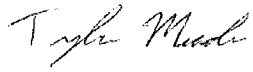
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor | Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 804-786-6124

*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Ernie Aschenbach at 804-367-2733 or Ernie.Aschenbach@dgif.virginia.gov.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 804-225-2429. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Tyler Meader
Natural Heritage Locality Liaison

Cc : Amy Ewing, VDGIF
David O'Brien, NMFS
Troy Andersen, USFWS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

Planning Division

FEB 26 2019

Mr. Ray Fernald
Manager
Environmental Services Section
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
P.O. Box 90778
Henrico, VA 23228
ESSProjects@dgif.virginia.gov

Dear Mr. Fernald:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

USACE is proposing to place approximately two million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel into the WTAPS northern extension during the initial placement event that is expected to occur in the fall of 2019. Dredging would be conducted in one dredging cycle that would last for approximately 4½ months. After initial placement into the WTAPS northern extension, it is anticipated that approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of dredged material from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the site approximately every 4 years. The volume of the site was calculated to be over 30 million cubic yards, using an allowable water depth of 30 feet, which generally matches the bathymetry surrounding the site and would allow placement to surrounding depths. USACE expects that open water placement into the WTAPS northern extension would not occur from September 1 through November 14, consistent with a time-of-year restriction for dredging in the York Spit Channel established to protect federally-listed sea turtles.

USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. USACE is requesting information from your office on the presence of state-listed rare, threatened, and endangered species for the WTAPS northern extension site shown on the enclosed maps. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Virginia Field Office under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is complete. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

Planning Division

FEB 26 2019

Ms. Julie Langan
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Dear Ms. Langan:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

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USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. Please provide any information or comments your agency may have that may assist us in the preparation of the EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

Planning Division

FEB 26 2019

Deborah Dotson, President
Delaware Nation
3 Miles North of Anadarko on Highway 281
Main Office Building 100
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Dear Ms. Dotson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

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USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. USACE is requesting any comments that Delaware Nation may have that may assist us in the preparation of the EA. Please provide comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure



The Delaware Nation

Cultural Resources /106 Department

31064 State Highway 281

Anadarko, OK 73005

Phone (405)247-2448 Fax (405) 247-8905

11 April 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Delaware Nation Historic Preservation Department received correspondence regarding the following referenced project(s).

Project: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Matthews County, Virginia.

Our office is committed to protecting tribal heritage, culture and religion with particular concern for archaeological sites potentially containing burials and associated funerary objects.

The Lenape people occupied the area indicated in your letter during prior to European contact until their eventual removal to our present locations. According to our files, the location of the proposed project does not endanger cultural, or religious sites of interest to the Delaware Nation. **Please continue with the project as planned** keeping in mind during construction should an archaeological site or artifacts inadvertently be uncovered, all construction and ground disturbing activities should immediately be halted until the appropriate state agencies, as well as this office, are notified (within 24 hours), and a proper archaeological assessment can be made.

Please note the Delaware Nation, the Delaware Tribe of Indians, and the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican Indians are the only Federally Recognized Delaware/Lenape entities in the United States and consultation must be made only with designated staff of these three tribes. We appreciate your cooperation in contacting the Delaware Nation Historic Preservation Office to conduct proper Section 106 consultation. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact our offices at 405/247-2448.

Dana Kelly

Historic Preservation/106 Asst.

Delaware Nation

31064 State Highway 281

Po Box 825

Anadarko, OK 73005

Ph. 405-247-2448

dkelly@delawarenation.com



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
2 HOPKINS PLAZA
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2930

FEB 28 2019

Planning Division

Chief Robert Gray
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King William, Virginia 23086

Dear Mr. Gray:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) located in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay, east of Mathews County, Virginia. The WTAPS would be extended to the north, increasing the size of the placement site by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS northern extension would serve as an open water placement site for dredged material. The purpose of extending the WTAPS is to minimize adverse impacts to female blue crabs that overwinter in the existing WTAPS. The deeper, muddy channel in the WTAPS northern extension does not provide suitable habitat for overwintering female blue crabs. The EA will evaluate the effects to the natural and human environment from placement of dredged material into the WTAPS northern extension. Dredging activities would not be included in the EA.

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USACE is preparing the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft EA is expected to be released to the public in the summer of 2019. USACE is requesting any comments the Pamunkey Indian Tribe may have that may assist us in the preparation of the EA. Please provide comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by email at Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 410-962-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Bierly".

Daniel M. Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division

Enclosure



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Baltimore District

Notice of Availability

Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site for Dredged Material Northern Extension Virginia Waters of the Chesapeake Bay Draft Environmental Assessment

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) to the north, increasing the size of the site by approximately 3,900 acres (see attached map). The WTAPS Northern Extension would be located in the lower Chesapeake Bay between the Piankatank River and Mobjack Bay, approximately five miles east of Mathews County, Virginia. The EA and FONSI were prepared in partnership with the Maryland Port Administration, the non-federal sponsor. In addition to having an approved EA and signed FONSI, a Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and a determination of consistency with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 is required from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

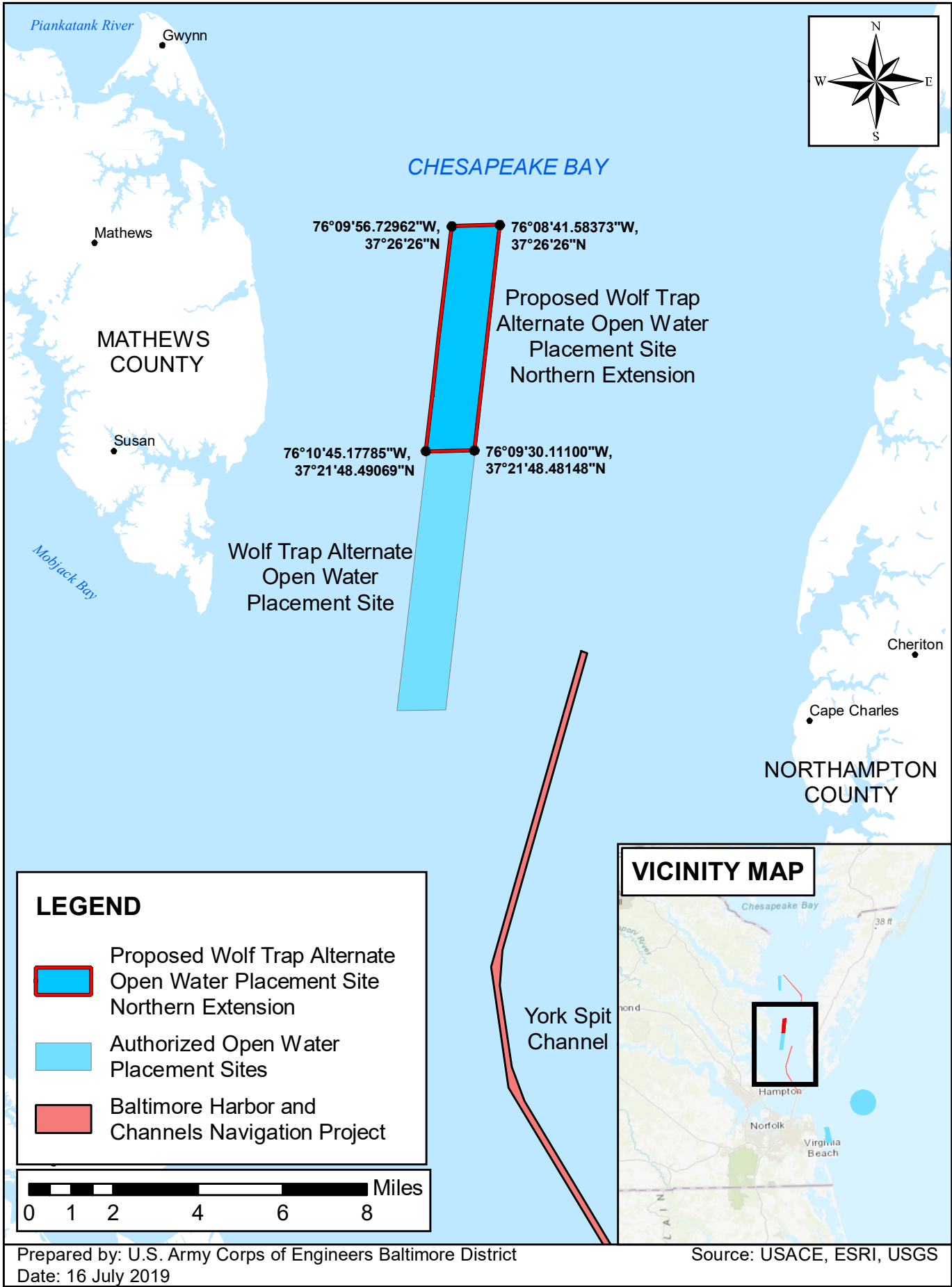
Purpose of Work: To provide a cost-effective, environmentally-acceptable placement site for dredged material in response to a recommendation by agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to minimize adverse impacts to overwintering female blue crabs.

Proposed Action: The WTAPS Northern Extension would serve as an open water placement site for material dredged primarily from the York Spit Channel, which is part of the federally-maintained Baltimore Harbor and Channels 50-Foot Navigation Project. The WTAPS Northern Extension has been recommended by agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia as an alternative to the currently-used WTAPS due to the potential for a high abundance of female blue crabs to overwinter in the southern portion of WTAPS.

Approximately 2.6 million cubic yards (mcy) of material dredged from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the WTAPS Northern Extension during initial placement, expected to begin in late fall of 2019. After initial placement, it is anticipated that approximately 1.5 mcy of material dredged from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the site approximately every 4 years, or until another alternate placement site or method is identified, approved, and implemented. Placement would not occur from Sept. 1 through Nov. 14 to minimize adverse impacts to sea turtles. The proposed project does not include any changes to ongoing maintenance dredging activities or any other actions beyond the establishment of the placement site extension. In FY 2020, USACE plans to begin a comprehensive evaluation of alternatives to WTAPS through a Dredged Material Management Plan for the portion of the Baltimore Harbor and Channels Navigation Project located in Virginia.

The draft EA and FONSI are available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period. Comments need to be received on or before Aug. 18, 2019, to be considered. The draft EA and FONSI are available via the USACE website: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Dredged-Material-Management-Plan-DMMP/>. Written comments can be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Attn: Kristina May, Planning Division, 10th Floor, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201. Comments can also be submitted electronically to: Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil. If you have any questions, please contact Kristina May by telephone at (410) 962-6100 or by email at the address above.

Daniel Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division





US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site for Dredged Material, Northern Extension Draft Environmental Assessment Notice of Availability



MARYLAND

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), and the Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration (non-federal sponsor) have prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, for the proposed extension of the existing Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement Site (WTAPS) to the north, increasing the size by approximately 3,900 acres. The WTAPS Northern Extension would be located in the lower Chesapeake Bay between the Piankatank River and Mobjack Bay, approximately five miles east of Mathews County, Virginia.

The purpose of the work is to provide a cost-effective, environmentally-acceptable placement site for dredged material in response to a recommendation by agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to minimize adverse impacts to overwintering female blue crabs.

The WTAPS Northern Extension would serve as an open water placement site for material dredged primarily from the York Spit Channel, which is part of the federally-maintained Baltimore Harbor and Channels 50-Foot Navigation Project. Approximately 2.6 million cubic yards (mcy) of material dredged from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the WTAPS Northern Extension during initial placement, expected to begin in late fall of 2019. After initial placement, it is anticipated that approximately 1.5 mcy of material dredged from the York Spit Channel would be placed into the site approximately every 4 years, or until another alternate placement site or method is identified, approved, and implemented. Placement would not occur from Sept. 1 through Nov. 14 to minimize adverse impacts to sea turtles. The proposed project does not include any changes to ongoing maintenance dredging activities or any other actions beyond the establishment of the placement site extension.

The draft EA and FONSI are available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period. Comments need to be received on or before Aug. 18, 2019, to be considered. The draft EA and FONSI are available via the USACE website: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Dredged-Material-Management-Plan-DMMP/>. Written comments can be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Attn: Kristina May, Planning Division, 10th Floor, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201. Comments can also be submitted electronically to: Kristina.K.May@usace.army.mil.