



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: www.nab.usace.army.mil/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.