

Baltimore Harbor & Channels 50-Foot Project, MD & VA Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

Public Scoping Meetings

November 19 & 24, 2014

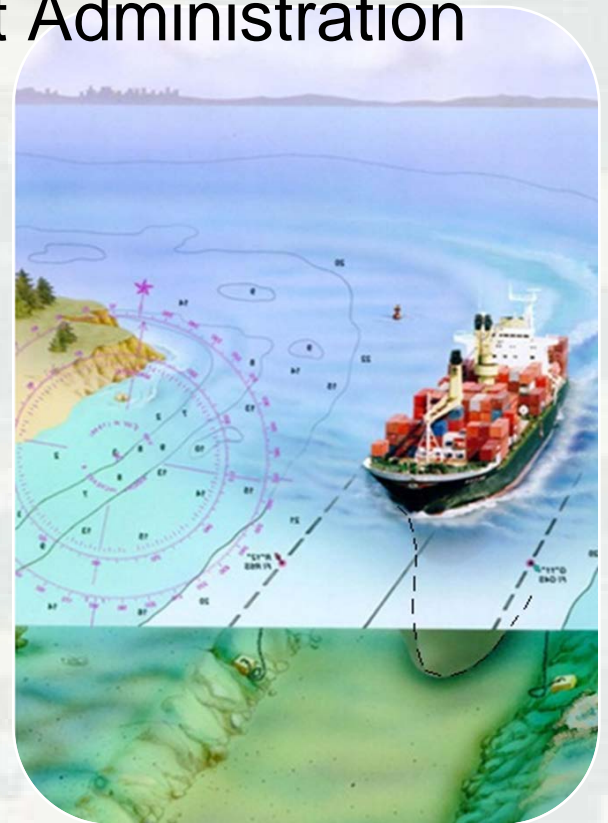


US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



Agenda

- Presentation by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District and Maryland Port Administration
 - ▶ NEPA Requirements
 - ▶ Port of Baltimore Overview
 - ▶ Project Description
- Public Comments for the Record
- Completion of Formal Portion of the Evening
- Question & Answer Session



NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act

- Federal Law Effective January 1, 1970
- Created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
- Promotes Better Environmental Planning and Decision Making to Protect the Environment
- Applies to Proposed Projects Involving:
 - ▶ Federal Monies
 - ▶ Federal Lands
 - ▶ Federal Permits



NEPA

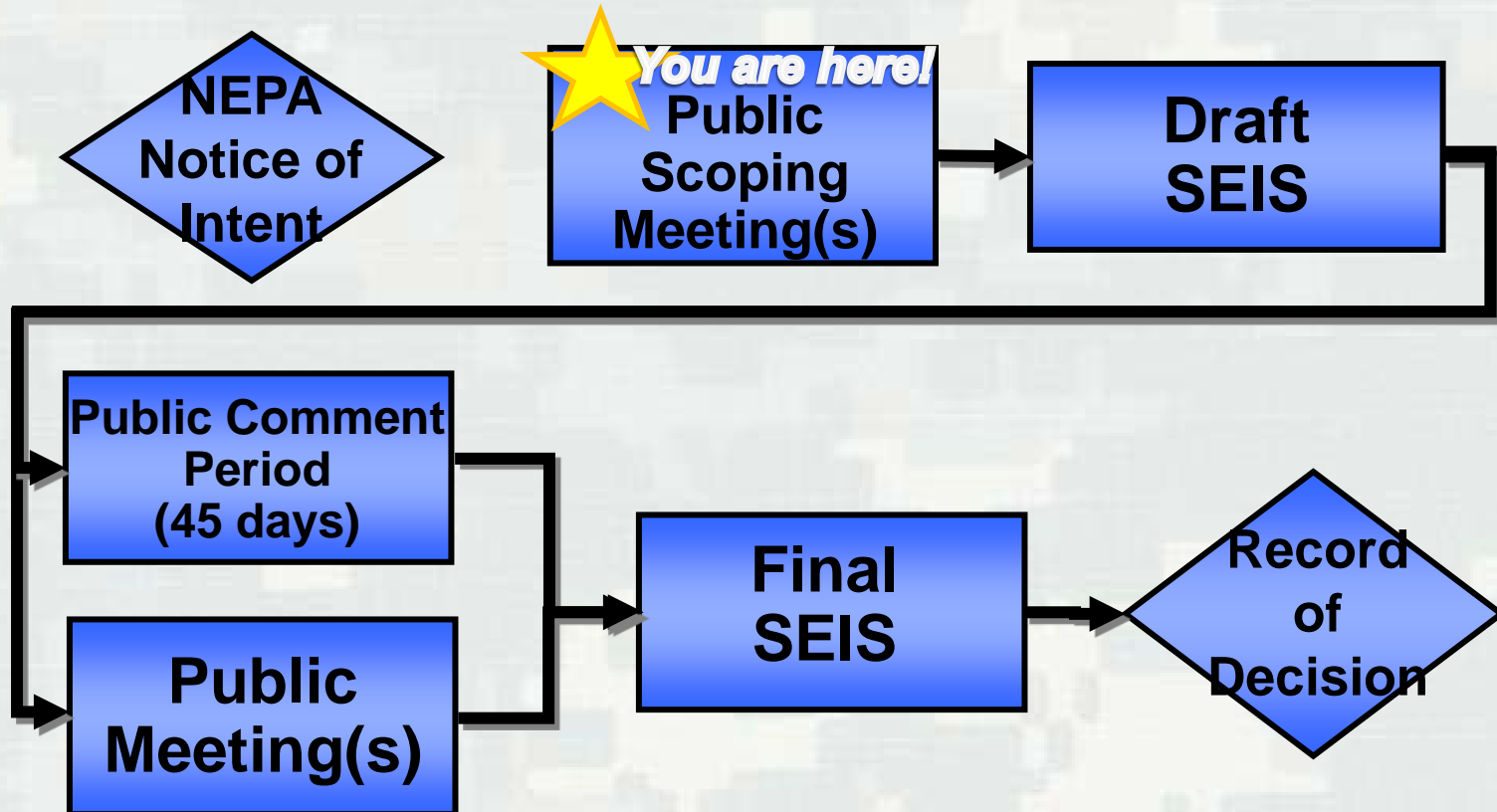
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

Document Prepared by a Federal Agency to Help Officials Plan Actions and Make Decisions considering:

- Purpose and Need for Project
- Reasonable Alternatives
- Significant Environmental Consequences of the Project
- Some of Many Factors Considered:
 - Water Quality
 - Air Quality
 - Cultural Resources
 - Human Health and Safety
 - Aesthetics
 - Endangered Species
 - Socio-economics
 - Navigation
 - Land Use
 - Water Resources
 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Biological/Ecological Resources



NEPA Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Process



SEIS Milestones

2014	October	NEPA Notice of Intent
	November	Public Scoping Meetings
2015	December	Draft SEIS
2016	January	SEIS Public Meetings
	April	Public Comment Period Closes
	October	Final SEIS
2017	May	Record of Decision





Maryland Port Administration

Mission & Environmental Policy

“To stimulate the flow of waterborne commerce through the State of Maryland in a manner that provides economic benefit to the citizens of the State.”

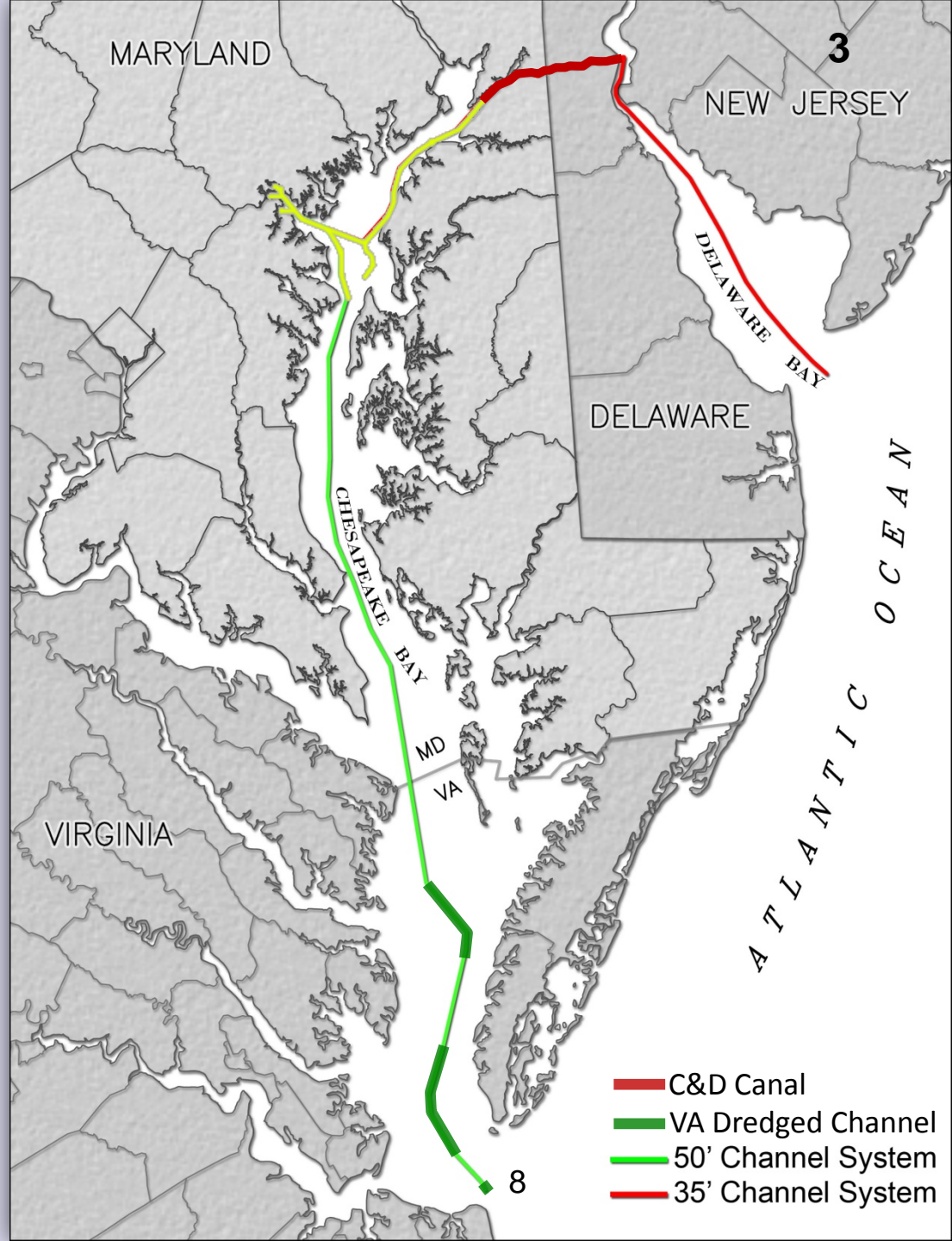


“To protect the environment by its commitment to environmental compliance; continuous improvement of environmental performance; pollution prevention; and effective interaction/outreach.”



Port of Baltimore Channel System

- > 300 miles of channel
- 35 ft access from north
- 50 ft access from south



The Port of Baltimore



Forest Products



Sugar



Salt &

Fertilizers



Autos



Baltimore



**Construction
Farming
&
Mining**



**Coal &
Iron Ore**



Forest Products



Cruises



Containers

Port of Baltimore – Economic Impact

- The Port of Baltimore is an asset to the economy:
 - ▶ ~14,600 direct jobs; 40,000+ Maryland jobs are linked to the Port.
 - ▶ ~\$3 billion in wages and salaries and \$1.7 billion in business revenues generated
- 150 miles inland, it is the closest East Coast port to the Midwest.
- Easily accessible to several major interstate highways and 2 major railroads.
- The overall success of the Port in today's highly competitive trade environment is dependent on safe and reliable access via well maintained channels.
- A well maintained channel is a critical asset for bringing larger ships to Baltimore from the expanded Panama Canal.

50-foot Project Overview

- Project background
- Scope of the General Reevaluation Report (GRR)
- Study Schedule/SMART Planning



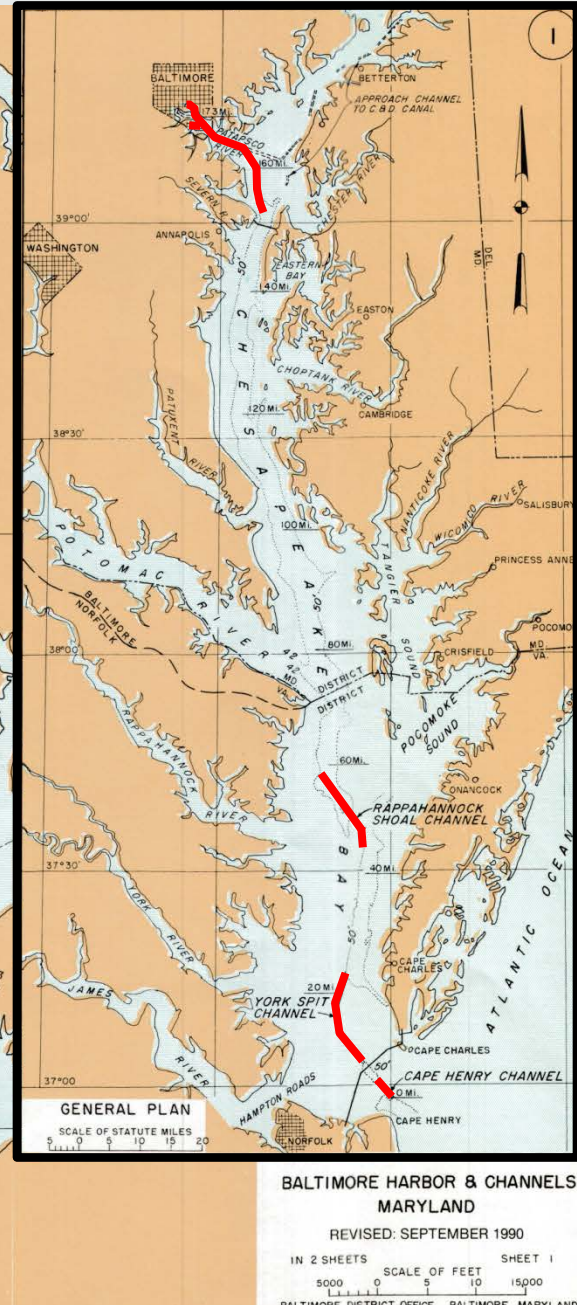
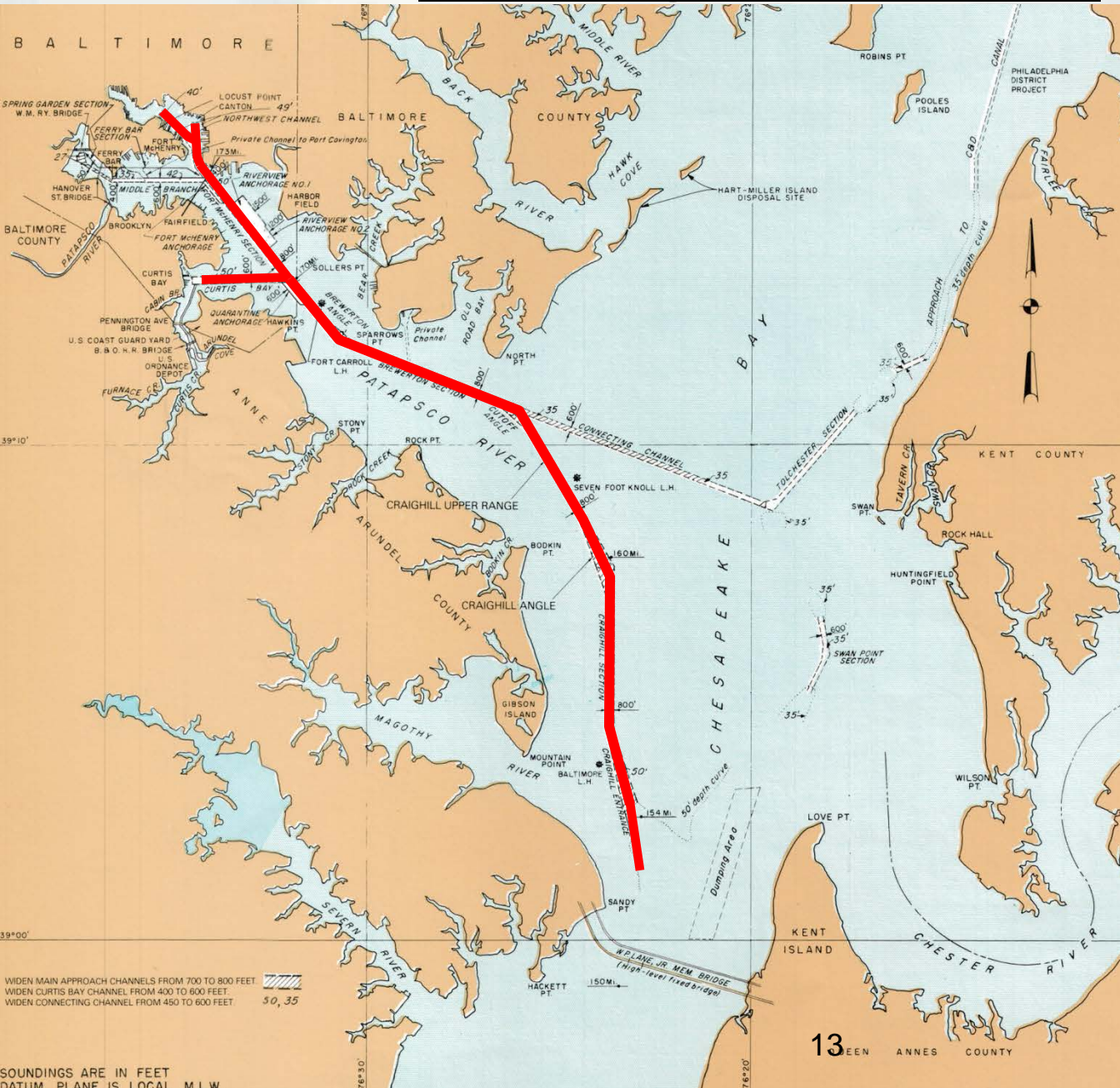
Need for Widening: Current Conditions

Vessel pilots and shipping companies are concerned that the narrow channel widths are beginning to negatively impact shipping efficiency.

- Since completion of Phase I in 1990, increasingly larger vessels have been used to make port calls in Baltimore Harbor.
- Deeper and wider vessels sometimes experience conditions with the potential for safety issues when passing other ships in the narrow channels, which results in time delays and increased shipping costs
- Designed for ships with beam widths of ~145 ft and draft depths up to 50 ft. In 2016, when the Panama Canal improvements are scheduled to be completed, large ships with beam widths of 160 feet may experience delays.
 - ▶ Baltimore is currently one of two East Coast ports that can accommodate this ship size.



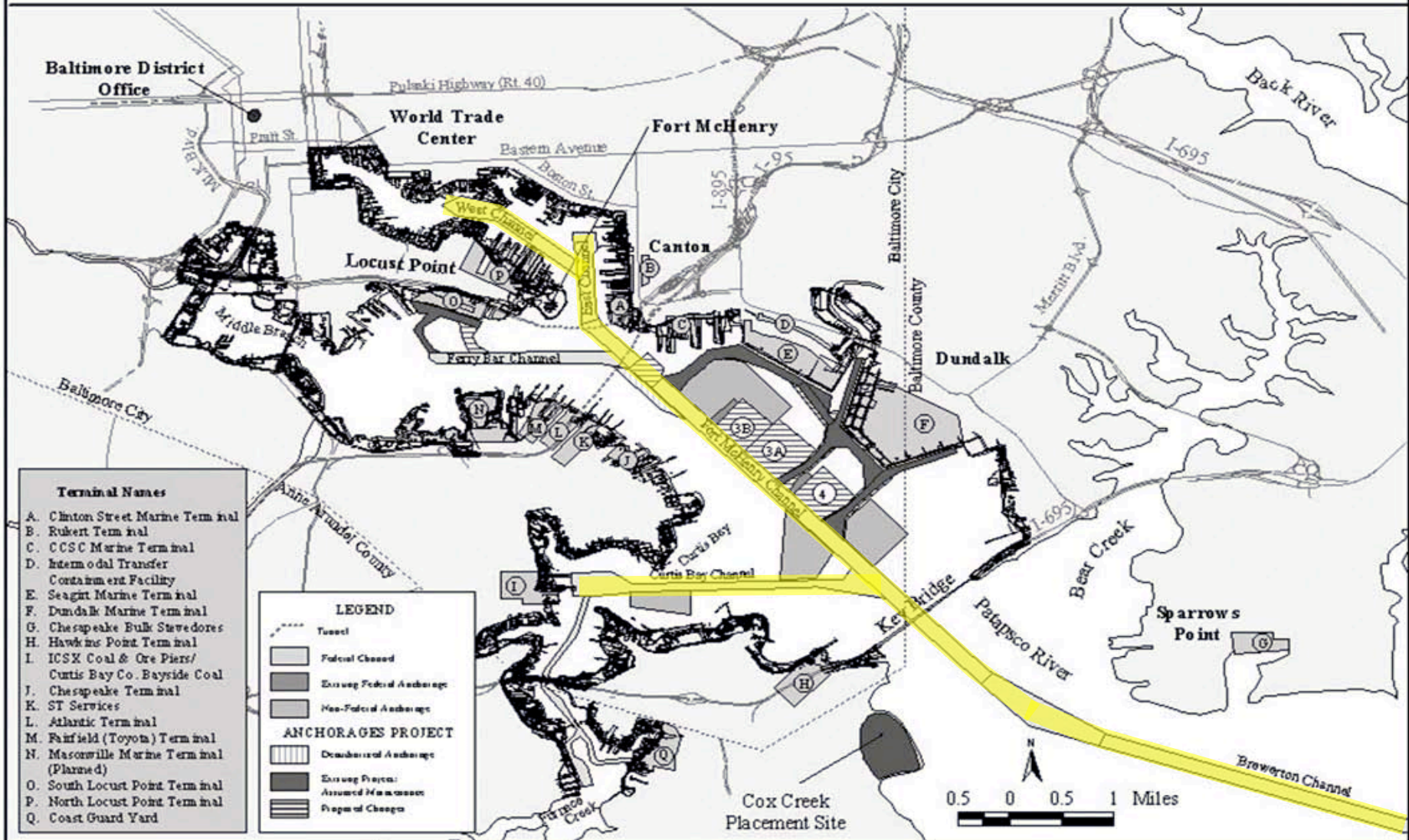
Existing 50ft Project





US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

Port of Baltimore: Anchorages and Channels



50ft Project Timeline

- 1970** Project authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1970
- 1985** Supplement to 1981 General Design Memorandum recommends phased construction of project
- 1990** Construction of the initial phase of project completed
- 2012** MPA requests USACE to “initiate the Congressionally-authorized second phase of the Baltimore 50-Foot channel project”
- 2013** NAB begins development of PMP for study
- 2014** Cost share agreement executed, study start



Why the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)?

- The lapse in time since the authorization of the original project report and EIS in 1981 and the completion of Phase I in 1990.
- To complete construction of the project channels to their authorized widths.
- To consider whether widening the existing project channels to the authorized widths for Phase II is still in the federal interest.
- To consider reformulation of the plan to develop new alternatives.



Study Scope

- Economic Analysis
- Ship Simulation Modeling
- Hydrographic Surveys and Quantity Calculation
- Environmental Analysis & SEIS
- Cost Estimates

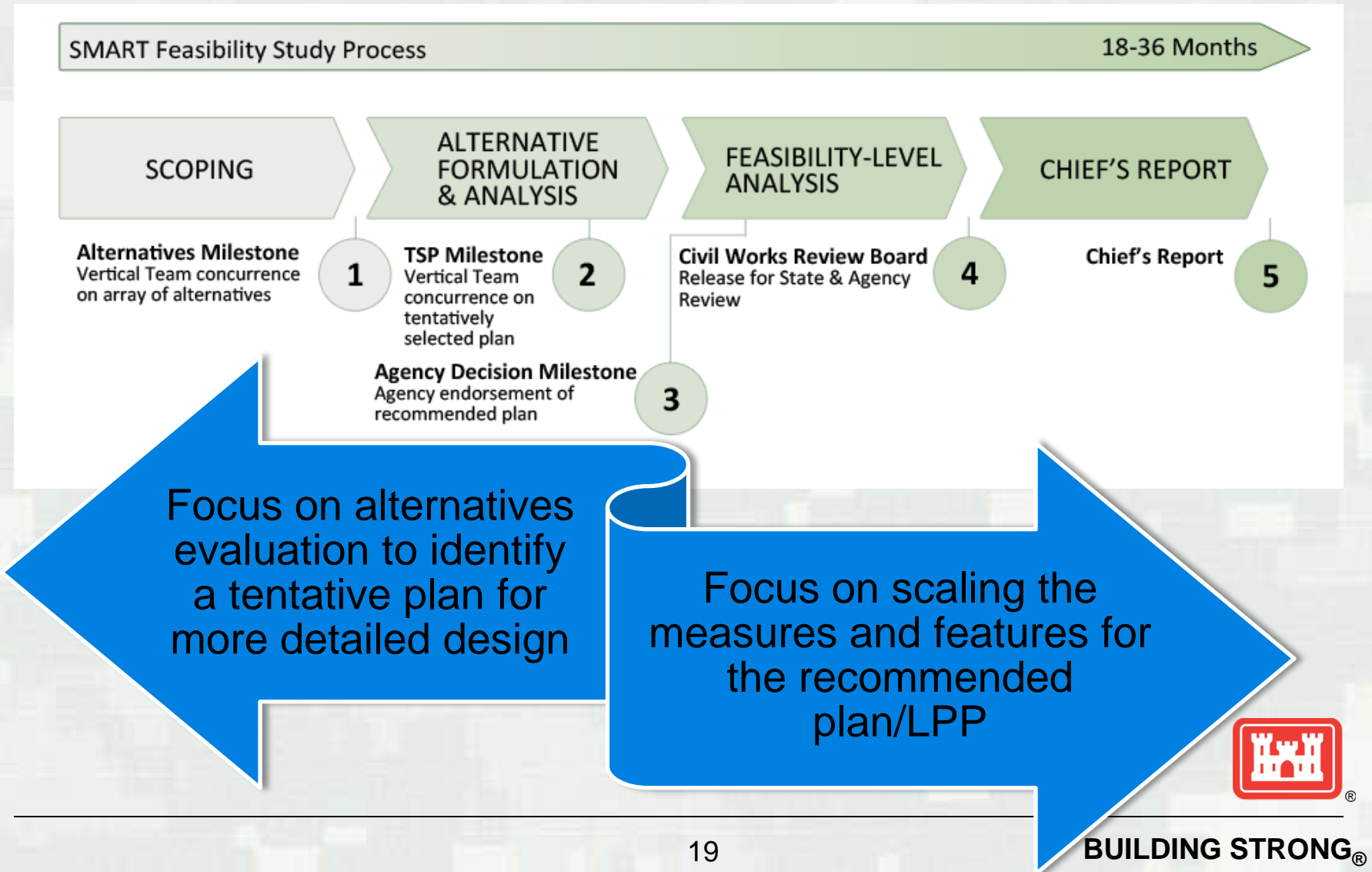


What Decisions Are Being Made?

- Formulate, evaluate and compare alternatives to select a plan across a set of decision criteria
 - ▶ Benefits: Economic, Environmental, Safety
 - ▶ Costs: Construction, Social, Cultural
 - ▶ Impacts: Environmental, Social, Cultural
 - ▶ Legal and Policy Requirements
- In comparison to future without project conditions



SMART Planning Process



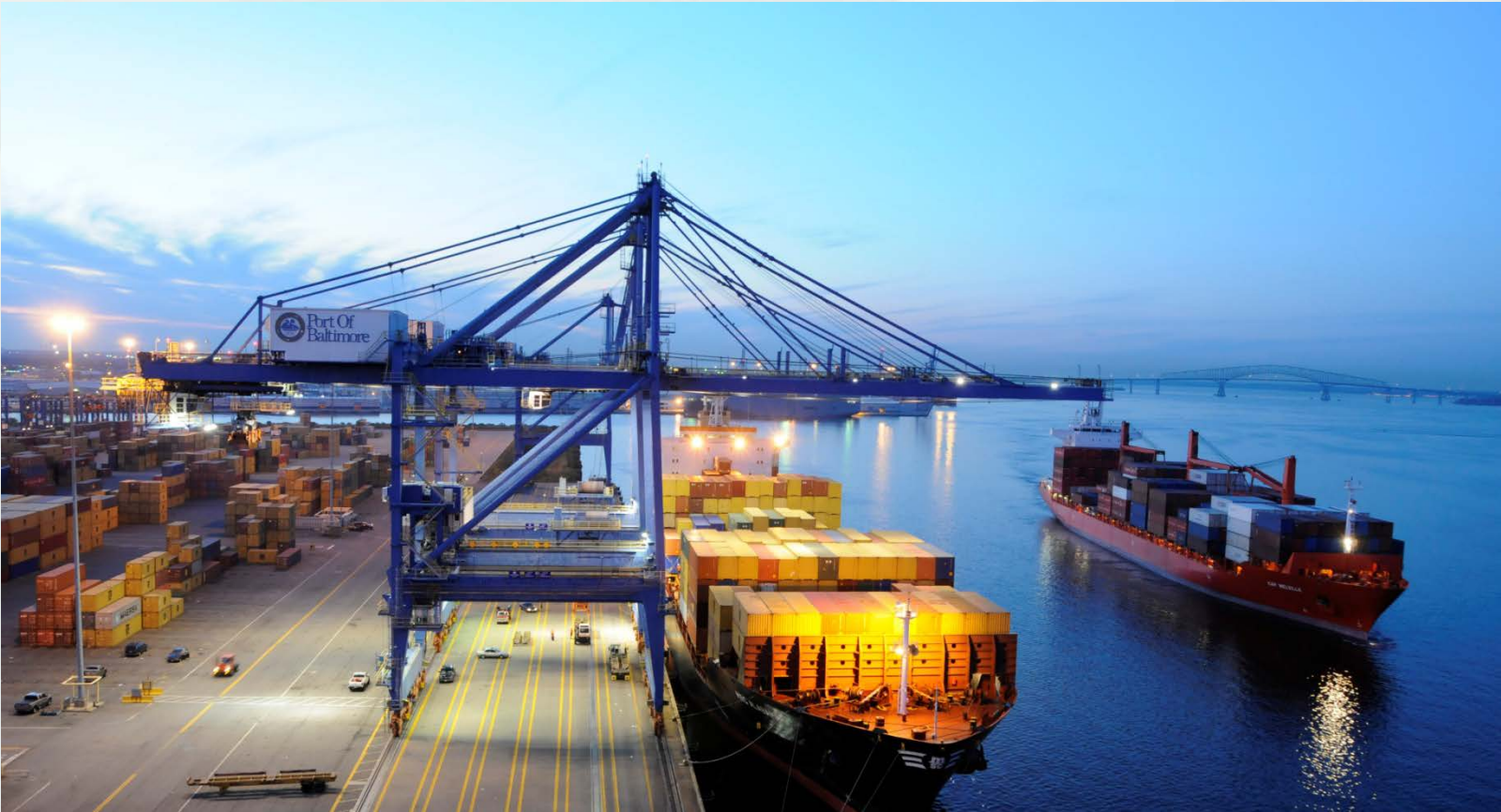
GRR Milestones

2014	August	Cost Share Agreement Signed
2015	January	Alternatives Milestone*
	June	Complete Ship Simulation Model, Cost Estimates
	September	Complete Harbor Sym, Econ Update
	December	Draft Report/SEIS
2016	February	Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone*
	April	Submit Draft GRR for IEPR
	August	Agency Decision Milestone*
2017	February	Civil Works Review Board*
	August	Signed Chief's Report*

*SMART Planning Milestones



Public Comment for the Record



Informal Question and Answer Session



**Baltimore Harbor & Channels 50-Foot Project
Maryland & Virginia
Notice of Intent to Prepare a
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**

Submit written questions, comments, or a request to be placed on the project information distribution list to :

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Planning Division
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Baltimore, MD 21201**

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BaltimoreHarborProject@usace.army.mil
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