



US Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#04-08

April 2, 2004

Independent technical review supports Craney Island expansion study

NORFOLK, VA--In a letter delivered to the Virginia Port Authority today, Corps officials announced that, based on the results of a technical review and new economic information regarding shipping and transportation, they would continue the Craney Island Eastward Expansion Feasibility Study.

The letter, signed by Col. Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, District Engineer, states: “During the past several weeks, I have conducted an independent technical review (ITR) to review the engineering, environmental, and economic components of the study.” Based on the findings of that review, her letter continued, “I have decided to continue with the feasibility study,” she stated.

Consistent with the Corps’ announcement last summer and based on new information regarding transportation figures, the Corps instituted an independent review of its draft findings. Data on container shipping provided by VPA indicates that material diverted to the East Coast during last year’s West Coast shipping strike has not shifted back to the west.

In addition, VPA figures provided to the Corps also indicate that port growth is tracking at 13 to 15 percent versus the figure of 4.8 used in the draft findings announced July 30th of last year.

In making the announcement, Col. Prettyman-Beck stated that the findings of the ITR are consistent with the Corps feasibility study process as directed by Congressional authorization.

Col. Prettyman-Beck cautioned, “Many of the concerns expressed last year remain unresolved, and my decision to continue the study in no way dictates a particular project outcome. However, as verified by the ITR, there was sufficient new information to justify continuing the study.”

“All of the interested stakeholders, including the project proponent, the federal, state and local resource agencies, interest groups and the public will be included in the study process,” she emphasized. “All of the concerns raised by the stakeholders will be considered during the review.”