



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District

CENAO-WR-R
NAO-2004-04041

February 20, 2015

FEDERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The District Commander has received a joint application for Federal and State permits as described below:

APPLICANT

City of Virginia Beach
c/o Rommel B. Tamayo, P.E.
2405 Courthouse Drive, 3rd Floor
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-9031

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The project is located in the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of Rudee Inlet, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE: The applicant proposes to dredge either by hydraulic dredge or by hopper dredge the Rudee Inlet Outer Channel Deposition Basin. The Outer Channel Deposition Basin consists of the 1) Deposition Basin to be dredged to -22 feet at Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW); 2) Transition Area to be dredged to -16 feet MLLW; 3) North Jetty Protective Area to be dredged to -14 MLLW; and 4) South Jetty Protective Area to be dredged to -14 MLLW. The purpose of the maintenance dredging of the Rudee Inlet Outer Channel Deposition Basin is to reduce the potential and frequency of shoaling impacts to the navigational channel. The Deposition Basin retains sediment until it can be dredged, thereby preventing impediments in the navigational channel. The Transition Area serves as a landward transition from the Deposition Basin towards the Entrance Channel (as part of the Rudee Inlet Federal Navigational Project). The Jetty Protective Areas maximize the effectiveness of the Deposition Basin without endangering the structural integrity of the jetties.

The dredged material is expected to be primarily beach quality sand that will be used for beach nourishment between Rudee Inlet and 14th Street at a previously authorized placement area or placed nearshore north of Rudee Inlet. The dredge material has been sampled and the sample concentrations do not appear to present an environmental concern. The volume of material to be dredged is estimated to be approximately 150,000 cubic yards per cycle. The Corps previously issued a permit for this dredging on December 31, 2004.

In addition to the required Department of the Army permit, the applicant must obtain a Virginia Water Protection Permit/401 certification from the Virginia Department of

Environmental Quality assuring that applicable laws and regulations pertaining to water quality are not violated. Project drawings are attached.

AUTHORITY: Permits are required pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217) and Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia.

FEDERAL EVALUATION OF APPLICATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All of the proposal's relevant factors will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use classification, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Environmental Protection Agency's "Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material" will also be applied (Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act).

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Anyone may request a public hearing to consider this permit application by writing to the District Commander within 30 days of the date of this notice, stating specific reasons for holding the public hearing. The District Commander will then decide if a hearing should be held.

Preliminary review indicates that: (1) no environmental impact statement will be required; (2) after conducting the NAO ESA Project Review Process there may be an affect to listed/proposed/candidate species and/or designated/proposed critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Official Species List and Species Conclusion Table is attached for review and comment by Fish and Wildlife Service; and (3) no known properties eligible for inclusion or included in the National Register of Historic Places are in or near the permit area, or would likely be affected by the proposal. Additional information might change any of these findings.

For compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended for projects located in Tidewater, the applicant must certify that federally licensed or

permitted activities affecting Virginia's coastal uses or resources will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) and obtain concurrence from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Environmental Impact Review (OEIR). We have not received a certification from the applicant prior to publication of this public notice. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a consistency certification to the Office of Environmental Impact Review for concurrence or objection and proof of concurrence must be submitted to the Corps prior to final permit issuance. A template federal consistency certification can be found here: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/EnvironmentalImpactReview/FederalConsistencyReviews.aspx#cert>. For more information or to obtain a list of the enforceable policies of the VCP, contact the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Impact Review at (804) 698-4330 or e-mail: john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The Atlantic Ocean contains Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for all life stages of 19 species including red hake (*Urophycis chuss*), witch flounder (*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*), windowpane flounder (*Scopthalmus aquosus*), Atlantic sea herring (*Clupea harengus*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*), scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*), black sea bass (*Centropristus striata*), spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*), cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*), red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), dusky shark (*Charcharinus obscurus*), sandbar shark (*Charcharinus plumbeus*), sand tiger shark (*Odontaspis taurus*), tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvieri*), Atlantic sharpnose shark (*Rhizopriondon terraenovae*), scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), Atlantic angel shark (*Squatina dumeril*). The habitat that this project would affect consists of shallow water and intertidal sand beach areas. The proposed project is described in Proposed Work and Purpose, above. The proposed project will involve dredging and the placement of sand as beach nourishment in both habitats indicated above. Our assessment of the project leads us to a preliminary determination that it will not have a substantial adverse effect on EFH and therefore expanded EFH consultation is not required. Our rationale for this preliminary determination is based on the expected short-term nature of the direct impacts/minimal increases in turbidity/changes in water temperature or salinity caused by the proposed work/the absence of vegetated wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, and anadromous fish spawning habitat/ existing poor water quality/unsuitable substrate. Based on comments from the National Marine Fisheries Service in response to this public notice, further EFH consultation may be necessary.

COMMENT PERIOD: Comments on this project should be made in writing, addressed to the Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers (ATTN: CENAO-WR-R), 803 Front Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510-1096, and should be received by the close of business on March 23, 2015.

PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY: Comments and information, including the identity of the submitter, submitted in response to this Public Notice may be disclosed,

reproduced, and distributed at the discretion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Information that is submitted in connection with this Public Notice cannot be maintained as confidential by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Submissions should not include any information that the submitter seeks to preserve as confidential.

If you have any questions about this project or the permit process, contact Melissa Nash at 757-201-7489 or melissa.a.nash@usace.army.mil

Attachment: Drawings