

Chesapeake Bay

Dredged Material Placement Site

Bayford Public Access (provided by Northampton Co.)

Initial Construction Dredge Area

Nassawadox Creek

Warning Daybeacon B

Daybeacon 5

Warning Daybeacon A

Light 1

**NASSAWADOX CREEK
CAP SECTION 107 - NAVIGATION
LOCAL SPONSOR: NORTHAMPTON CO, VA**

Shoaling is severe at the entrance of Nassawadox Creek and vessels are having difficult problems accessing the creek. Vessel damages, increased vessel operation and maintenance costs, human safety, and vessel transportation costs are among the concerns attributable to the creek's shoals. Dredging is needed to provide safe navigational access for commercial users.

Northampton County contacted the Corps in 1999 asking if the Corps could help. The nature of the project, types of users, and current laws led the Corps and the county to find a cost shared solution to be most appropriate. Following allocation of county and Corps money the Feasibility Phase began in 2000. The study's complexity and funding delays postponed completion of the Feasibility report until 2004.

The study found that a 7' deep channel 10,500 feet long from the public landing facility at Bayford to the Chesapeake Bay to be the National Economic Development and the Locally Preferred Plans. The selected plan requires an initial removal of approximately 85,000 cubic yards of sandy material at the mouth of the creek. The Feasibility study accounted for 25,000 cubic yards of maintenance material to be removed once every 9 years on average. The average was determined by examining actual performance of nearby similar creeks and varying the maintenance magnitude and frequency to account for unknown events.

Disposal of the material will be offshore in the Chesapeake Bay along an existing sandbar and will impact about 5-10 acres of bay bottom. An Environmental Assessment (EA) describing the work was coordinated with the public, Federal, State, and local agencies. The EA was finalized in August 2004. All environmental permits are available.

The project is currently in the Design Phase. Design efforts started in 2004 but are now on hold due to lack of funding and a nationwide Congressional moratorium. The project cannot move forward until the moratorium is lifted and Federal funding is provided.

Five steps must be completed before a dredging contract can be awarded: (1) the Congressional moratorium must be lifted (Congressional action), (2) funds to complete the project must be allocated (President and/or Congressional action), (3) a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) must be signed (a joint Northampton County/Corps action), (4) preparation of contract documents (Corps lead action), (5) solicitation of bids from dredging contractors (Corps lead action).

Once the remaining 5 steps are completed the project can proceed from design into construction. The project is cost-shared. The local sponsor funds will be required before a construction contract can be awarded.

Initial dredging of the channel is anticipated to take about 2-3 weeks once a contract is awarded.



**Nassawadox Creek
Navigation Channel Design**



0 400 800 1,600 Feet



- Federal Channel Segments
- Dredging Area
- USCG Maintained Navigation Markers

Projection:
Virginia State Plane
South Zone - NAD 83
U.S. Survey Feet

2002 VGIN Imagery

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