
**Supplemental Norfolk Harbor Navigation
Improvements Project – Thimble Shoal Channel,
Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel – Protective
Rock Blanket Project**

Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Appendix B:
Tribal Letter of Notification and Responses**

January 2021



**Prepared By:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Operations Branch
803 Front Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510**

Wright, Javier Ann F CIV USARMY CENAO (USA)

From: Haynes, John H Jr CIV USARMY CENAO (USA)
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Henderson, Samantha (samantha.henderson@dhr.virginia.gov)
Cc: Terry Clouthier; Erin Paden; Wright, Javier Ann F CIV USARMY CENAO (USA)
Subject: Norfolk Harbor Channels Deepening project modification
Attachments: Project Summary.pdf; Letter 20201124.pdf

Please see the attached concerning this project.

R/John

John H. Haynes, Jr. RPA
Archaeologist & Tribal Liaison
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District (NAO)
Office 757-201-7008
Mobile 757-754-1589
John.H.Haynes@usace.army.mil



Reply to
Attention of

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NORFOLK DISTRICT
FORT NORFOLK
803 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK VA 23510-1096**

November 24, 2020

Samantha Henderson
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

SUBJECT: Norfolk Harbor Channels Deepening (DHR # 2016-0524) Additional Dredging

Dear Ms. Henderson,

The US Army Corps of Engineers, with non-federal sponsor the Virginia Port Authority plans to modify the above referenced project. This modification is described in the attachment. The modification will expand dredging in a fill area, already covered by archaeological survey. We believe that there is no potential for the identification of archaeological sites in this area, and therefore there would be no effect to historic properties.

Please contact me at (757) 201-7008, john.h.haynes@usace.army.mil, or the address above if you have comments on these project.

Very respectfully,

John H. Haynes, Jr., RPA

John H. Haynes, Jr., RPA
Archaeologist & Tribal Liaison
Planning and Policy Branch

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) Protective Rock Blanket project is a component of the Norfolk Navigation Improvements project which involves removing existing cover material and installing a protective rock blanket over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel within the Thimble Shoals Federal Channel. The Norfolk Harbor Navigation Improvements Project is authorized through Section 201 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-662) authorizing the depth of the Thimble Shoal Federal Navigation Channel, which includes the CBBT cover area, to a required depth of -56 feet. Since its authorization in 1986, the project has been constructed in separable elements based on the needs of the port community and the financial capability of the non-Federal sponsor.

The first component of the Protective Rock Blanket project is the removal of sediment above the CBBT structure to -61 feet MLLW, approximately 43,000 cubic yards. Due to the proximity of the tunnel structure (-63 feet MLLW) conventional dredged methods may pose a risk of damage to the tunnel structure. Water injection dredging (WID) is a less invasive method of dredging, using only water pressure and a density gradient to remove the sediment. To effectively remove the sediment through WID methods, an adjacent, contiguous receiving trench will need to be constructed to the east side of the tunnel structure (Figure 1). The WID trench will be rectangular in shape, up to 1,200 feet long and 525 feet wide, and dredged to a maximum depth of -70 feet MLLW to accommodate the CBBT cover sediment. This method of dredging as well as the WID Trench was not assessed in the 2018 General Reevaluation Report and Environmental Assessment (GRR/EA), and is being evaluated now through a supplemental NEPA document.

The Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) identifies, documents and evaluates the potential environmental effects due to the changes of dredging methods since the 2018 GRR/EA. A public notice with links to the draft SEA and its appendices will be listed on the Norfolk District USACE (<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/>) website for a 30-day public and agency review. It will be sent to the following Tribes of Interest of Virginia Beach and Northampton County: Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Delaware Nation, Nansemond Tribe, and the Delaware Tribe.

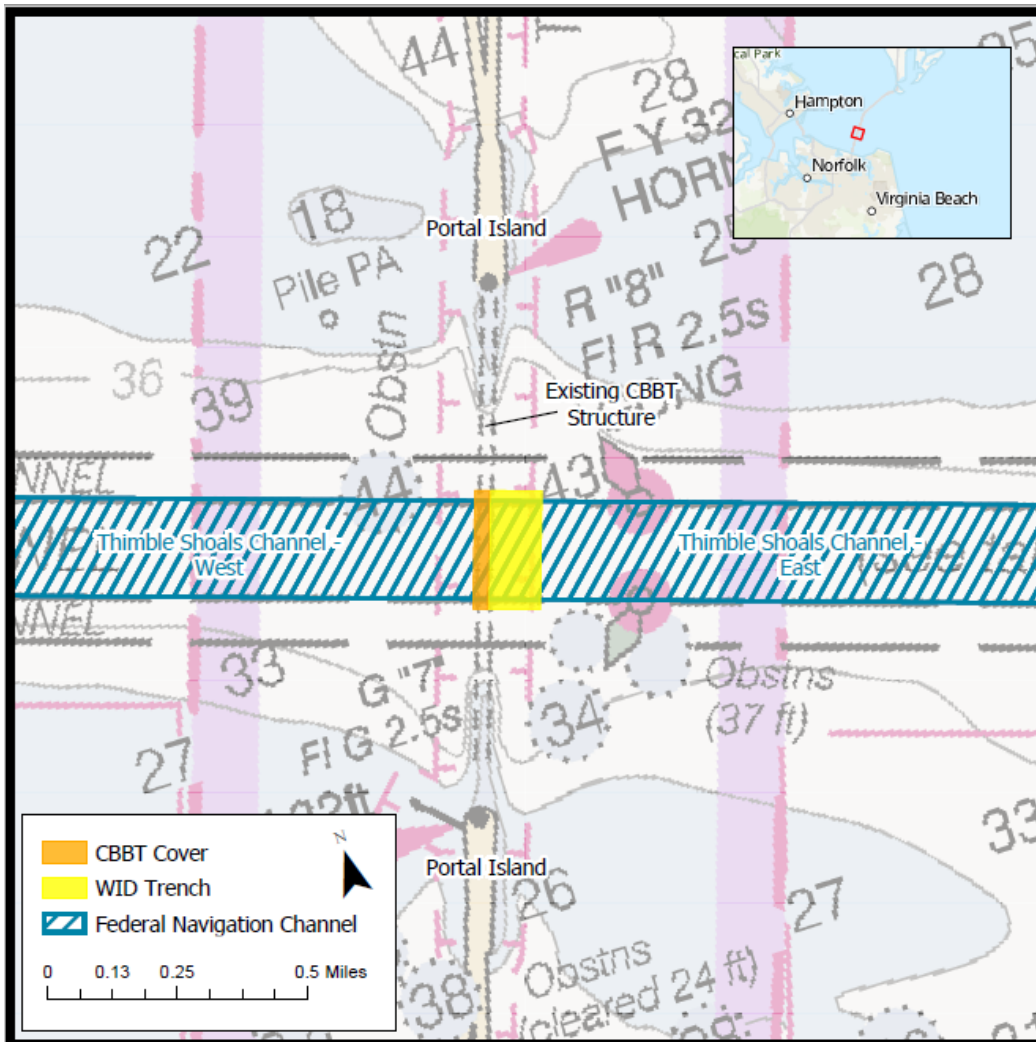


Figure 1. Project Location



PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE

Terry Clouthier
Cultural Resource
Director

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT
Tribal Office

1054 Pocahontas Trail
King William, VA 23086

(804) 843-2109
FAX (866) 422-3387

THPO File Number: 2021-290

Date: 12/10/2020

John H. Haynes, Jr., RPA
Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison
Planning and Policy Division
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District

**RE: Norfolk Harbor Channels Deepening (DHR # 2016-0524) Additional Dredging,
Norfolk, Virginia**

Dear Mr. Haynes,

Thank you for contacting the Pamunkey Indian Tribe regarding the proposed undertaking to remove the existing cover material and installing a protective rock blanket over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel within the Thimble Shoals Federal Channel in Norfolk, Virginia. My office offers the following comments regarding the proposed undertaking.

Due to the extremely limited potential to impact sites of significance to the Tribe, my office does not wish to remain a consulting party for the remainder of the undertaking.

However, in the extremely unlikely event that any human remains or pre-contact cultural or historic properties are inadvertently discovered, please cease all operations and contact our office immediately to reinitiate consultation for this undertaking.

Thank you for considering our cultural heritage in your decision-making process.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at terry.clouthier@pamunkey.org.

Sincerely,

Terry Clouthier

Digitally signed by Terry
Clouthier
Date: 2020.12.10 15:39:19
-05'00'

Wright, Javier Ann F CIV USARMY CENAO (USA)

From: Haynes, John H Jr CIV USARMY CENAO (USA)
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Wright, Javier Ann F CIV USARMY CENAO (USA)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Norfolk Harbor Channels Deepening project modification

FYSA

From: Henderson, Samantha <samantha.henderson@dhr.virginia.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Haynes, John H Jr CIV USARMY CENAO (USA) <John.H.Haynes@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Norfolk Harbor Channels Deepening project modification

Dear Mr. Haynes:

Based upon the documentation provided, DHR concurs with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' determination that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed modification to the dredging area for this project.

Thank you for your consideration of historic resources. If you have any questions or if we may provide any further assistance at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,
Sam Henderson, Archaeologist
Division of Review and Compliance
Phone: (804) 482-6088
Samantha.Henderson@dhr.virginia.gov

On Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 4:38 PM Haynes, John H Jr CIV USARMY CENAO (USA) <John.H.Haynes@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Please see the attached concerning this project.

R/John

John H. Haynes, Jr. RPA

Archaeologist & Tribal Liaison

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Office 757-201-7008

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John.H.Haynes@usace.army.mil

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Samantha J. Henderson

Project Review Archaeologist

Review and Compliance Division

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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(804) 482-6088 | samantha.henderson@dhr.virginia.gov

DHR is currently teleworking. Please consider contacting me via email rather than via a phone call as I am not at my desk.