

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Waukegan Harbor, IL Maintenance Dredging and Placement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis of Waukegan Harbor, IL Maintenance Dredging and Placement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Environmental Assessment (EA) dated 28 June 2019, incorporates by reference previous NEPA documents that address the impacts of dredging Waukegan Harbor, IL. The 20 August 2019 EA primarily addresses the impacts of a variety of alternatives associated with the placement of the dredged material in a variety of places along the Lake Michigan Shoreline.

The Final EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives, in addition to no action, including:

- Illinois Beach State Park -- This would include placing clean littoral sands within the currently active zones. However, the change would be to place all material at the northern most area (Placement Zone 1) maximizing sustainability of the rare and imperiled ecotypes within the site.
- Changes to Open Water Placement Area -- The nearshore open water placement site needing spatial boundary changes is currently located one mile south of Waukegan Harbor. This site is used as placement location for Waukegan Harbor Approach Channel dredged material, which is suitable for open water placement. This includes changing the definite east / west boundaries to a zone with only north and south limits, allowing for material to be placed according to fluctuating water levels to meet the required minus 18-foot LWD.
- Specific Municipal Beaches -- The proposed alternative is a collaborative effort of four Illinois coastal communities -- Lake Bluff Park District, Foss Park District in North Chicago, Glencoe Park District, and City of Evanston. The City of Waukegan has also requested materials for their municipal beach. The beneficial use of dredged material from the Waukegan Harbor would be placed onshore or in the near shore littoral zone to combat shoreline erosion and to enhance an estimated 54,560 square yards of public beaches, parks, and open space in these communities. Placement of this dredged material would sustain beaches that support the local economy, outdoor recreation, and key infrastructure.
- Non-specific Municipal Beaches -- The proposed alternative is to allow future placement of dredged sediment on the beach or in the littoral zone near additional municipal beaches located between the northern limit of the City of Chicago and the Illinois/Wisconsin state line. Such areas would need to be existing public beaches or recreational areas with sand similar to the dredged sediment. For each beach identified, site specific wildlife and historical preservation coordination would be conducted, coastal zone consistency determination would be required, and an Illinois Section 401 Water Quality Certification would need be obtained prior to any placement activity.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the draft EA and FONSI was completed on 20 August 2019. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the EA, FONSI, and a Frequently Asked Questions appendix.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: the Piping plover, the Eastern Massasauga, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly, Mead’s Milkweed, Northern Long-eared Bat, Pitcher’s Thistle, Rattlesnake-master Borer Moth, the Rufa Red Knot, Karner Blue Butterfly, and Rusty Batched Bumble Bee. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concurred with the Corps’ determination on 13 August 2018.

***NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
NO EFFECT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES:***

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan has no potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties.

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 404(B)(1) COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in appendix 2 of the EA.

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 COMPLIANCE:

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the IL EPA prior to construction. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

A determination of consistency with the Illinois Coastal Zone Management program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 will be obtained from the IL DNR Office of Water Resources prior to construction. No letter was received from the office indicating that the recommended plan appears to be consistent with state Coastal Zone Management plans. However, it is assumed that the proposed activities comply with Illinois' approved coastal management program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such policies. All conditions of the consistency determination shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to the coastal zone.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

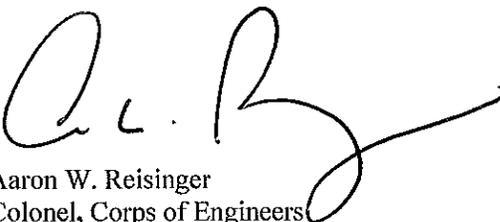
All applicable environmental laws and executive orders have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

FINDING

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

9/30/19

Date



Aaron W. Reisinger
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander