

SUMMARY: The San Francisco District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers together with its local sponsor, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Department of Fish and Game, are conducting a feasibility study for restoration of salt marshes in areas currently occupied by constructed salt ponds west of the Napa River, Napa and Solano Counties, California. A reconnaissance study has determined that there is a Federal interest in an alternative that would restore four of the seven ponds to tidal marsh while reducing salinity in the remaining three ponds. This alternative would provide substantial ecological benefits, and has the support of the local sponsor and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for this project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the California State Coastal Conservancy is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The DEIS/R will enable the lead agencies to comply with the requirements of NEPA and CEQA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bill DeJager at (415) 977-8670, or at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, 333 Market Street, 7th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-2197.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Napa River, Salt Marsh Restoration Feasibility Study is being conducted under authority of a resolution adopted by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U.S. House of Representatives on September 28, 1994. A reconnaissance study of potential marsh restoration alternatives along the lower Napa River was completed in 1997. This study determined that there is a Federal interest in a marsh restoration project in the study area. A detailed (feasibility) study has subsequently been initiated with the California State Coastal Conservancy to support further Federal participation in the project. The California Department of Fish and Game, while not formally a sponsor, owns the salt ponds under study and is participating in the study.

One alternative was developed for the reconnaissance study, based upon information available at that time. This alternative would initially remove excess salts from all the ponds using controlled flushing through new water control structures. After salt concentrations in the four less-saline ponds reaches levels close to that of San Pablo Bay, the water control structures would be removed and establishment and growth of tidal marshes would be

allowed to occur naturally. The remaining three ponds would be retained as saline pond habitat, but with less-saline conditions than at present. Other alternatives could include pumping water through the pond complex to dilute salts, or using treated sewage effluent to dilute the salts.

Due to uncertainties regarding the feasibility and environmental impacts of these alternatives, the first phase of the feasibility study will focus on gathering baseline data, developing restoration objectives, and conducting modeling of existing conditions and potential alternatives. The second phase of the study will develop and analyze specific alternatives for meeting study objectives.

The Corps of Engineers is requesting public input during the preparation of the DEIS/R for this project. All interested Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian tribes, private organizations, and individuals are invited to participate in the environmental scoping process established by Federal regulations.

A scoping meeting will be held at the Napa County Board of Supervisors offices, 1195 Third Street, Room 305, Napa, California on July 21, 1998 at 7:30 P.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to determine the environmental issues of concern to the public that should be addressed by the DEIS/R. A public comment period for the proposal will open on July 17, 1998 and will close on August 17, 1998. The public will have an additional opportunity to comment on proposed alternatives after the DEIS/R is released to the public at a later date.

The DEIS/R will examine environmental issues of public concern arising from the scoping process, and project impacts already known to the Corps. These impacts will include, but are not limited to: wildlife, waterfowl, fisheries, threatened and endangered species, wetlands and mudflats, water quality, recreation, navigation and dredging, aesthetics, law enforcement, construction impacts, and concerns of nearby landowners.

The DEIS/R will disclose the project's compliance with all applicable statutes, rules, and regulations. Included will be coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), coordination with the FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service under the ESA, and consultation with the State of California under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act.

The California State Coastal Commission is issuing a separate notice

regarding compliance with the requirements of CEQA. The aforementioned DEIS scoping meeting will also serve as a scoping meeting for the purposes of CEQA.

Peter T. Grass,

*Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) To Evaluate a Permit Application by The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey To Construct and Operate a Confined Dredged Material Disposal Facility (Sub-Channel Disposal Cells) in Newark Bay, NJ

AGENCY: U.S. Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has submitted an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit to construct and operate a confined dredged material disposal facility by constructing disposal cells beneath the existing Federal Navigation Channel (Project No. 64) in Newark Bay. The creation of a facility for the disposal of dredged material by dredging and discharging of dredged material into waters of the United States requires a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (33 U.S.C. 1413). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in determining whether to issue a permit for the project under these authorities. This determination will take place in accordance with the USACE policies and procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4332), as set forth at Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 230, and for review of applications for DA permits, set forth at 33 CFR Part 325. This notice of intent is published as required by the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, set forth at 40 CFR parts 1500-1508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Joseph J. Seebode, Chief, Regulatory Branch, New York District Corps of Engineers, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937, New York, New York 10278-0090, Telephone (212) 264-3996.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Project Description**

The project proposed by the applicant, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, would provide a subaqueous site for confined disposal of material dredged from the Port of New York and New Jersey. The proposed work would include dredging sediment from areas ranging from approximately 10 to 30 acres within the footprint of the existing Federal Navigation Channel in Newark Bay, for the purpose of constructing sub-channel disposal cells. Cell sizes and capacities would vary depending upon their exact locations. The maximum proposed cell depth would be approximately 90 feet below mean low water (MLW), or to bedrock, if bedrock is encountered at a shallower depth. Cell capacities would be approximately 75% of the volume of dredged sediment, based upon an anticipated 1.2 "bulking factor". Cells would be constructed on an as needed basis, but only one (1) cell would be operational at any time. Up to 20 cells are proposed for construction with a total capacity of approximately 10,000,000 cubic yards.

Accumulated surface and near-surface sediment dredged during construction, which has been exposed to contemporary or historic sources of contamination, would be disposed of at the Newark Bay Confined Disposal Facility or in a previously constructed cell. Underlying sediment would be utilized for some type of beneficial use, such as remediation material at the Historic Area Restoration Site (HARS) off Sandy Hook, New Jersey, construction material for restoration or remediation projects, or in wetland creation/enhancement projects in the New York-New Jersey region.

The proposed cells would be filled to 2.5 feet below the authorized channel depth, through restricted point source discharges of dredged materials from the Port of New York and New Jersey. Natural sedimentation would return the site to the authorized channel depth.

2. Alternatives

Decision options available to the District Engineer are issue the permit, issue the permit with modifications or conditions, or deny the permit. In addition to the no action alternative, the

alternatives to be considered within the EIS will include the following:

- a. Alternative sites and site configurations for subaqueous disposal of dredged material.
- b. Alternative methods of dredged material disposal:
 - (1) Containment Islands and Areas (land extension).
 - (2) Upland Disposal.
 - (3) Wetland Creation.
 - (4) Incineration and other decontamination technologies.
 - (5) Disposal at independent contractor's option.

3. EIS Scoping

As part of the EIS scoping process, comments on the proposed scope of the EIS will be accepted until the expiration of 45 calendar days after the publication of this Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register**. All comments should be addressed to the indicated contact person. In addition to receiving written comments, the USACE will receive oral comments during a public scoping meeting to be scheduled during the latter part of the scoping period. Formal notice of this meeting will be made through mailings and/or legal notices in newspapers.

4. Public Participation in the EIS Process

Creation of the EIS process will provide opportunities for full participation by interested state and local agencies, as well as other interested organizations and the general public. These opportunities will include public meetings and information sessions. All interested parties are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to the contact person indicated above for inclusion on the EIS distribution list and any related public notices.

5. Federal Agency Participation in the EIS Process

Full opportunity for federal agency participation will be provided. Federal agencies with an interest in this EIS effort are invited to participate as cooperating agencies pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6. Interested federal agencies are requested to indicate their desire to participate to the contact person.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Notice of Reissuance of Solicitation for Financial Assistance Number DE-PS07-98ID13651—Industrial Process Control With Laser-Based Ultrasonics**

AGENCY: Idaho Operations Office, DOE.

SUMMARY: This is a reissuance of DE-PS07-98ID13651. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho Operations Office (ID) is seeking applications for cost-shared research and development of Laser-Based Ultrasonic technologies that will enhance economic competitiveness, reduce energy consumption and reduce environmental impacts of the steel industry. The objective of the solicitation is to develop and use an integrated laser ultrasonic system for in-process manufacturing applications in the U.S. steel industry via: (1) Development of an integrated sensor system to combine the use of laser ultrasonics with other measurement tools to meet the in-process monitoring requirements for accuracy and reproducibility; and (2) installation and use of this integrated system in an industrial process demonstrating the cost-savings utility to the industry. A total of \$1,500,000 in federal funds (\$550,000 in fiscal year 1998, \$500,000 in fiscal year 1999, and \$450,000 in fiscal year 2000) is expected to be available to fund this effort. DOE anticipates making a single award with a duration of three years or less. A minimum of 30% non-federal cost-share is required for research and development and a minimum of 50% non-federal cost-share is required for later demonstration and process evaluation. Collaborations between industry, university, and Federal Laboratory participants are encouraged.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: T. Wade Hillebrant, Contract Specialist; Procurement Services Division, U.S. DOE, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, MS 1221, Idaho Falls, ID 83401-1563; telephone (208) 526-0547, e-mail—hillebtw@id.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The statutory authority for the program is the Federal Non-Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-577). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number for this program is 81.086. The solicitation text is posted on the ID Procurement Services Division home page and may be accessed using Universal Resource Locator address at <http://www.id.doe.gov/doeid/solicit.html>. This site also includes a link to the report of the workshop on Industrial Applications of Laser Ultrasonics. The Application Instruction