

Coordination

Draft Environmental Assessment

Waukegan Harbor Maintenance Dredging and Placement

During preparation of this environmental assessment numerous Federal, state, and municipal agencies, historically connected tribes, elected officials and others were consulted. The list includes but is not limited to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL-EPA).

A full listing of the recipients for this Draft EA follows:

Senator Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator
United States Senate
230 S. Dearborn St. Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604

Senator Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator
United States Senate
230 S. Dearborn St. Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604

Representative Danny Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Environmental Program Manager Bobb A. Beauchamp
Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-600
2300 E. Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Lester Randall
Kickapoo of Kansas
1107 Goldfinch Road
Horton, KS 66439

Senator Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator
United States Senate
711 Hart Senat Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator
United States Senate
524 Hart Senat Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Danny Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
2815 W. 5th Ave
Chicago, IL 60612

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 70
McCloud, OK 74851

Estavio Elizondo
Kickapoo Tribe of Texas
2212 Rosita Valley Road
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Miami Nation in Indiana
P.O. Box 41
Peru, IN 46970

Diane Hunter
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355

David Joe Barrett
Citizen Potawatomi Executive Council
1901 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Forest County Potawatomi Executive Council
P.O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520

Nottawaseppi Huron Potawatomi Tribal Office
2224 One-and-a-half Mile Road
Fulton, MI 49052

Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council
16281 Q. Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
P.O. Box 180
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Kenneth Meshigaud
Hannahville Potawatomi Tribal Council
N 14911 Hannahville Rd.
Wilson, MI 49896

Louise Clemency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 2938
Chicago, IL 60604

James Casey
IL Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Management Program
160 N. LaSalle St, Suite S-703
Chicago, IL 60601

Rachel Leibowitz
IL Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capital Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

Adam Rawe
IL Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 0

Alderman Sylvia Sims Bolton
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Greg Moisio
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Edith Newsom
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Felix Rivera
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Ann Taylor
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Mayor Leon Rockingham
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Alderman Ernest Fisher
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Alderman Carl Evans
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

IL EPA
1001 N. Grand
Springfield, IL 62794

Mayor Sam Cunningham
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Patrick Seger
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Roudell Kirkwood
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Keith Turner
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Alderman Lynn Florian
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Director Noelle Kischer-Lepper
City of Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Chief of Staff Deb Waszak
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Alderman Bonny Mayfield
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Alderman Bobby Allen
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Alderman Tottance Markham
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Alderman Kathy January
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Director Kari Cowart
City of North Chicago
1730 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Trustee Barbara Ankenman
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Trustee Joy Markee
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Trustee Eric Grenier
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Trustee Aaron Towle
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Assistant Village Manager Sharon Tanner
Village of Glencoe
676 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60023

Trustee Joe Halwax
Village of Glencoe
678 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60025

Trustee Barbara Miller
Village of Glencoe
680 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60027

Alderman Bob Runnels
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

Director Victor Barrera
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, IL 60064

President Kathleen O'Hara
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Village Clerk Megan Michael
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Trustee Regis Charlot
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Trustee William Meyer
Village of Lake Bluff
40 E. Center Ave
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Village Manager Philip Kiraly
Village of Glencoe
675 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60022

Trustee Lawrence Levin
Village of Glencoe
677 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60024

Trustee Gail Lissner
Village of Glencoe
679 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60026

Trustee Peter Mulvaney
Village of Glencoe
681 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60028

Trustee Gary Ruben
Village of Glencoe
682 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60029

Trustee Jonathan Vree
Village of Glencoe
683 Willage Couty
Glencoe, IL 60030

Mayor Stephen Hagerty
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Judy Fiske
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Peter Braithwaite
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Melissa Wynne
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Donald Wilson
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Robin Simmons
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Thomas Suffredin
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Eleanor Revelle
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Ann Rainey
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Alderman Cicely Fleming
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Director Lawrence Hemingway
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

City Clerk Devon Reid
City of Evanston
2100 Ridge Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Representative Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
5533 Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

Representative Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
820 Davis St, Suite 105
Evanston, IL 60201

Representative Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
1852 John Dr.
Glenview, IL 60025

Representative Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Robyn Gabel
IL General Assembly
248-W Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Representative Robyn Gabel
IL General Assembly
820 Davis St, Suite 103
Evanston, IL 60201

Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz
IL General Assembly
1812 Waukegan Rd, Suite B
Glenview, IL 60025

Senator Laura Fine
IL General Assembly
1812 Waukegan Rd, Suite A
Glenview, IL 60025

Representative Kelly Casidy
IL General Assembly
5533 North Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

Senator Heather Steans
IL General Assembly
5533 North Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

Governor JB Pritzker
State of Illinois
James R Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Commissioner Larry Suffredin
Cook County
118 N. Clark Street, Rm 567
Chicago, IL 60602

Director Jay Lerner
City of Waukegan
1324 Golf Rd
Waukegan, IL 60087

Senator Melinda Bush
IL General Assembly
10 North Lake Street, Suite 112
Grayslake, IL 60030

Senator Terry Link
IL General Assembly
100 South Greenleaf St.
Gurnee, IL 60031

Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz
IL General Assembly
265-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator Laura Fine
IL General Assembly
M115 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Representative Kelly Casidy
IL General Assembly
263-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator Heather Steans
IL General Assembly
627 I Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Governor JB Pritzker
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Commissioner Larry Suffredin
Cook County
820 Davis Street, Suite 104
Evanston, IL 60201

Park Supervisor
Illinois Beach State Park
1 Lake Front Dr.
Park Office
Zion, IL 60099

Superintendent Scott MacLean
City of Waukegan
1324 Golf Rd
Waukegan, IL 60087

Senator Melinda Bush
IL General Assembly
124 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator Terry Link
IL General Assembly
321 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Senator Julie Morrison
IL General Assembly
700 Osterman Ave
Deerfield, IL 60015

Representative Joyce Mason
IL General Assembly
36100 Brookside Dr., Suites LL60
Gurnee, IL 60031

Representative Rita Mayfield
IL General Assembly
120 S Genesee St.
Waukegan, IL 60085

Representative Bob Morgan
IL General Assembly
425 Sheridan Rd
Highwood, IL 60040

Representative Brad Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
1432 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Brad Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
433 E. Washington Street
Round Lake, IL 60073

Commissioner Brent Paxton
Lake County
18 North County Street, Floor 10
Waukegan, IL 60085

Commissioner Mary Cunningham
Lake County
18 North County Street, Floor 10
Waukegan, IL 60085

Commissioner Sandra Hart
Lake County
18 North County Street, Floor 10
Waukegan, IL 60085

Senator Julie Morrison
IL General Assembly
M115 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Representative Joyce Mason
IL General Assembly
247-E Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Representative Rita Mayfield
IL General Assembly
238-W Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Representative Bob Morgan
IL General Assembly
280-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Representative Brad Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
111 Barclay Blvd, Suite
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Representative Brad Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
100 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085

Commissioner Bill Durkin
Lake County
18 North County Street, Floor 10
Waukegan, IL 60085

Commissioner Angelo Kyle
Lake County
18 North County Street, Floor 10
Waukegan, IL 60085

Commissioner Mike Rummel
Lake County
18 North County Street, Floor 10
Waukegan, IL 60085

Commissioner Paul Frank
Lake County
18 North County Street, Floor 10
Waukegan, IL 60085

Scoping letters were also sent out in the development of this Draft Environmental Assessment. Copies of the respondents' letters to the scoping request are included in the following pages which include any responses from Chicago District Corps of Engineers.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHICAGO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, SUITE 1500
CHICAGO IL 60604

CELRC-PMD-EF

Dear Recipient:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to evaluate the removal and placement of clean littoral material (sand) from the Waukegan Outer Harbor at Waukegan, Illinois. As part of the NEPA scoping process, the Chicago District would appreciate any comments or concerns you might have associated with this type of work. Comments could include potential effects to lacustrine habitats, littoral drift, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources and social resources.

Three components will be assessed in the forth coming NEPA document. The first will be to assess dredging sandy material from the Waukegan Outer Harbor and placing at the current in-lake placement areas, which is already in use for Waukegan Approach Channel dredged materials. The second aspect will investigate placing materials at municipal beaches close to Waukegan Harbor that have expressed interested to the USACE in having their beaches nourished with clean sand materials. The third aspect will assess changing the current open lake deep placement area to allow an adjustable placement (east and west) depending on Lake Michigan water levels. The intent is to place it as close as possible to shore as water levels allow, but to allow flexibility based on corresponding lake levels.

As part of the NEPA scoping process, the Chicago District would appreciate your comments on potential effects or concerns associated with maintaining the Outer Waukegan Harbor. Enclosure 1 is a list of Federal and State Agencies, and Tribal Nations receiving this request. Enclosure 2 is a map of the study area noting key areas.

Comments should be received no later than 13 August 2018 for incorporation into the draft NEPA document. Questions, comments and information may be sent to Mr. Frank Veraldi at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 231 South La Salle Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60604, via email at Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil or by phone (312) 846-5589.

Sincerely,


Susanne J. Davis, P.E.
Chief, Planning Branch

Enclosure

From: [Semel, Brad](#)
To: [Veraldi, Frank M CIV \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Shawn Cirton](#); [Lah, Kristopher](#); [Cole, Maggie](#); [Byers, Steven](#); [Njapa, Valerie](#); [Semel, Brad](#); [Hayes, Bradley](#); [Louise Clemency \(louise_clemency@fws.gov\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Waukegan Outer Harbor - Sand Placement Assessment
Date: Sunday, August 5, 2018 10:19:59 AM

Frank,

I am writing in reference to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) preparation of the National Environmental Policy Act document to evaluate the removal and placement of clean littoral material (sand) from the Waukegan Outer Harbor. Although I do not have any formal comments on the dredge operation itself, I would like to comment on the placement of sand that will be removed as part of that process. As you are aware, the high water levels of Lake Michigan, combined with the loss of sand deposits in the littoral drift due to shoreline hardening, continue to exacerbate the significant erosional loss of beach and foredune habitats at Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP) and the associated North Dunes and Illinois Beach Nature Preserves. In investigating the placement of material that will be removed as part of the proposed dredging operations, I would urge you to consider the implications selection of the deposit site could have on the natural resources of this ecologically important area.

Illinois Beach State Park protects an ecosystem representing 14 different community types. The wetlands and associated upland prairie and savanna complex provides habitat for over 930 native plant species and 300 animal species, including 63 state-protected species. The site serves as important breeding habitat for many wetland-dependent birds and provides critical stop-over habitat for at least 310 migratory avian species. Because of this concentration, IBSP has been designated an Important Bird Conservation Area by the National Audubon Society. In recognition of the importance of the overall coastal landscape, in 2015 the area was designated as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Of national significance, IBSP provides habitat for four federally listed species, two in particular that utilize beach and foredune habitat, the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and the Dune's Thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*). Much of the shoreline has been officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Critical Habitat for the plover. The state-listed Blanding's (*Emydoidea blandingii*) turtle has been found to use the foredunes in which to place their nests each summer. With the continued physical loss of nearshore habitat, these species will continue to be negatively impacted and population recovery further threatened.

With nearly six miles of some of the most pristine and natural shoreline in the state of unparalleled aesthetic and biological importance, the continued movement of sand that has shaped these communities is critical for maintaining the biological values that define the landscape. State listed species that require natural shoreline processes shaping the landscape include Marram grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*) and seaside spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*), which colonize open habitat of the beach. Trailing juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*), common juniper (*J. communis*) and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), colonize the fragile dune communities. These species are adapted to natural shifting movement of sand and require the open habitat created by it. With the significant erosion of the beach and foredunes, many pannes and interdunal wetlands also are being threatened, and with them the flora and fauna associated.

With so much at stake, I would urge you to focus the deposition of dredged materials at the northern most alternative immediately adjacent to the shore of Illinois Beach State Park.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Semel

Natural Heritage Biologist

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

8916 Wilmot Road

Spring Grove, IL 60081

630-399-3242

From: Lah, Kristopher [mailto:kristopher_lah@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:54 PM

To: Semel, Brad; Cole, Maggie; Kath, Joe

Cc: Shawn Cirton

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Waukegan Outer Harbor - Sand Placement Assessment

Hi Brad, Maggie, and Joe:

Please see the message and attachments below. Shawn and I discussed the project and it would appear that the project would be beneficial to the park and plover habitat if the sand is deposited on the N end of the IBSP and South of the marina. Please share your thoughts and submit comments to the Corps.

Thanks,

Kris

Kristopher Lah

Endangered Species

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chicago Ecological Services Office
230 South Dearborn St., Suite 2938

Chicago, IL 60604-1507

847-366-2347

The Endangered Species Act provides a critical safety net for fish, wildlife and plants and has prevented the extinction of 99% of the species originally listed as threatened or endangered, including hundreds of imperiled species, and has promoted the recovery of many others.

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

NOTE: All email correspondence and attachments received from or sent to me are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cirton, Shawn <shawn_cirton@fws.gov <mailto:shawn_cirton@fws.gov> >

Date: Wed, Aug 1, 2018 at 1:46 PM

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Waukegan Outer Harbor - Sand Placement Assessment

To: Kristopher Lah <kristopher_lah@fws.gov <mailto:kristopher_lah@fws.gov> >

This is the Planning project I was talking about Kris. Attached is the information for it.

Shawn Cirton

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chicago Illinois Field Office

230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 2938

Chicago, IL 60604

(312)216-4728

On Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 1:58 PM, Cirton, Shawn <shawn_cirton@fws.gov <mailto:shawn_cirton@fws.gov> > wrote:

Yes I received it and I am checking to find out if this is related to the USEPA led project that was in the same location.

Shawn Cirton

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chicago Illinois Field Office

230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 2938

Chicago, IL 60604

(312)216-4728

On Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 10:02 AM, Louise Clemency <louise_clemency@fws.gov
<mailto:louise_clemency@fws.gov>> wrote:

Hi Shawn, I wanted to be sure you had received this, and to be our lead for any response. Copying Kris and Cathy so that they are aware.

Thank you,

Louise Clemency
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chicago Ecological Services Office
230 South Dearborn St., Suite 2938

Chicago, IL 60604
312-216-4733

louise_clemency@fws.gov <mailto:louise_clemency@fws.gov>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Veraldi, Frank M CIV (US) <Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil <<mailto:Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil>>>
>

Date: Thu, Jul 12, 2018 at 2:55 PM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Waukegan Outer Harbor - Sand Placement Assessment
To: westlake.kenneth@epa.gov <<mailto:westlake.kenneth@epa.gov>> <westlake.kenneth@epa.gov
<<mailto:westlake.kenneth@epa.gov>> >, Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov
<<mailto:Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>> >, Clemency, Louise <Louise_Clemency@fws.gov
<mailto:Louise_Clemency@fws.gov> >, shawn_cirton@fws.gov <mailto:shawn_cirton@fws.gov>
<shawn_cirton@fws.gov <mailto:shawn_cirton@fws.gov> >, Adam Rawe <Adam.Rawe@illinois.gov
<<mailto:Adam.Rawe@illinois.gov>> >, Shank, Keith <Keith.Shank@illinois.gov
<<mailto:Keith.Shank@illinois.gov>> >, Santucci, Vic <Vic.Santucci@illinois.gov
<<mailto:Vic.Santucci@illinois.gov>> >, Casey, James <James.Casey@illinois.gov
<<mailto:James.Casey@illinois.gov>> >, Phillippe, Joe <Joe.Phillippe@illinois.gov
<<mailto:Joe.Phillippe@illinois.gov>> >
Cc: Dove, Margaret A CIV USARMY CELRC (US) <Margaret.A.Dove@usace.army.mil
<<mailto:Margaret.A.Dove@usace.army.mil>> >, Veraldi, Frank M CIV (US) <Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil
<<mailto:Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil>> >

Coordinating Agencies,

The scoping period for proposed changes to the Waukegan Outer Harbor sand placement activities associated with maintaining navigation functionality of the harbor has started. Please provide your responses NLT 13 August 2018. The Draft Environmental Assessment would be released shortly thereafter.

Cheers,

Frank Veraldi, PM-PL-E
Ecosystem Restoration Formulation,
LRD Regional Technical Specialist USACE
231 S. LaSalle St, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Office: 312-846-5589
Blocked<http://www.lrd.usace.army.mil>
Blocked<http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil>
FACEBOOK: Blocked<http://www.facebook.com/usacechicago>

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From: [Rawe, Adam](#)
To: [Veraldi, Frank M CIV \(US\)](#)
Cc: [Byers, Steven](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Waukegan Outer Harbor - Sand Placement Assessment
Date: Thursday, August 9, 2018 3:07:52 PM

Frank,

I have reached out to our Fisheries Division for comment and didn't hear back. A reminder email was sent requesting any comments.

Also, I included Steve Byers with the Nature Preserves Commission since the optional placement area appears to be near the boundary of North Dunes Nature Preserve. Steve, please let me know if you plan to comment or if you will comment directly to Frank.

Another concern of mine is placement of dredged sand on nearby municipal beaches. We do show state-listed plant records. If the municipal beaches will be identified in the draft NEPA document, I can wait and provide comments at a later date?

Thanks
Adam

-----Original Message-----

From: Veraldi, Frank M CIV (US) <Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 2:49 PM
To: westlake.kenneth@epa.gov; Pelloso, Elizabeth <Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Clemency, Louise <Louise_Clemency@fws.gov>; shawn_cirton@fws.gov; Rawe, Adam <Adam.Rawe@illinois.gov>; Shank, Keith <Keith.Shank@Illinois.gov>; Santucci, Vic <Vic.Santucci@Illinois.gov>; Casey, James <James.Casey@Illinois.gov>; Phillippe, Joe <Joe.Phillippe@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Dove, Margaret A CIV USARMY CELRC (US) <Margaret.A.Dove@usace.army.mil>; Veraldi, Frank M CIV (US) <Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [External] Waukegan Outer Harbor - Sand Placement Assessment

Coordinating Agencies,

The scoping period for proposed changes to the Waukegan Outer Harbor sand placement activities associated with maintaining navigation functionality of the harbor has started. Please provide your responses NLT 13 August 2018. The Draft Environmental Assessment would be released shortly thereafter.

Cheers,

Frank Veraldi, PM-PL-E
Ecosystem Restoration Formulation,
LRD Regional Technical Specialist USACE
231 S. LaSalle St, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Office: 312-846-5589
Blocked<http://www.lrd.usace.army.mil>
Blocked<http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil>
FACEBOOK: Blocked<http://www.facebook.com/usacechicago>

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

September 7, 2018

Mr. Frank Veraldi
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Section 1122 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 Pilot Project Proposal Form

Dear Mr. Veraldi:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has received your request for comments for the placement of beneficial use of dredged material. The proposed project would place dredged material from the Waukegan Harbor federal approach channel onshore to protect 54,560 yards of shoreline at 6 sites: Sunset Park and Beach in Lake Bluff; Foss Park in North Chicago; Glencoe Beach in Glencoe; and Dog Beach, Greenwood Street Beach, and Lee Street Beach in Evanston. The proposed project would also support planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses in all four communities that reduce shoreline and bluff erosion, enhance habitats, and capture stormwater runoff.

Several state-listed plants are known to occur in the project area, including **bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), **golden sedge** (*Carex aurea*), **Kalm's St. John's wort** (*Hypericum kalmianum*), **little green sedge** (*Carex viridula*), **marram grass** (*Ammophila breviligulata*), **Richardson's rush** (*Juncus alpinoarticulatus*), **sea rocket** (*Cakile edentula*), and **seaside spurge** (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*). However, state-listed plant species belong to the landowner and their fate resides with the landowner's conservation decisions. Express written permission from the landowner should be obtained to "take" listed plants to comply with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act*. When feasible, the Department recommends listed plants be identified and relocated out of the disturbance area, but within the same habitat area, when conditions are appropriate.

If project plans change significantly, the USACE is advised to consult with the IDNR.

This response to the USACE request for comments does not include the IDNR Office of Water Resources.

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Section 1122 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 Pilot Project Proposal Form

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Brad Hayes
Resource Planner
Impact Assessment Section
Department of Natural Resources
(217) 782-0031
bradley.hayes@illinois.gov

cc James Casey, IDNR Office of Water Resources
Vic Santucci, IDNR Fisheries



Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

3410 P St. NW, Miami, OK 74354 • P.O. Box 1326, Miami, OK 74355
Ph: (918) 541-1300 • Fax: (918) 542-7260
www.miamination.com



August 6, 2018

Mr. Frank Veraldi
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Waukegan Outer Harbor – Comments of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Veraldi:

Aya, kikwehsitoole – I show you respect. My name is Diane Hunter, and I am the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Federally Recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. In this capacity, I am the Miami Tribe's point of contact for all Section 106 issues.

The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-mentioned project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, as this site is within the aboriginal homelands of the Miami Tribe, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case, please contact me at 918-541-8966 or by email at dhunter@miamination.com to initiate consultation.

The Miami Tribe accepts the invitation to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer I am the point of contact for consultation.

Respectfully,

Diane Hunter
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

1 AUG 09 2018

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Frank Veraldi
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
231 South La Salle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Request for Scoping Comments for the Waukegan Outer Harbor Maintenance
Dredging and Sand Placement Project, City of Waukegan, Cook County, Illinois

Dear Mr. Veraldi:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) July 12, 2018 request for scoping comments on the project referenced above. This letter provides EPA's scoping comments to inform USACE's upcoming environmental document, pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

USACE's letter to EPA states that the environmental document will: (1) assess dredging sandy material from the Waukegan Outer Harbor and placing it at the current in-lake placement areas, (2) investigate placing materials at nearby municipal beaches, and (3) assess changing the current open lake deep placement area to allow for an adjustable placement depending on Lake Michigan water levels.

Superfund Site and Area of Concern

EPA is particularly concerned with this area because the 100-acre Outboard Marine Corporation Superfund Site is in the northern section of Waukegan Harbor along the shore of Lake Michigan. In the environmental document, we recommend that USACE fully describe the relationship between the proposed project and the Superfund Site. Consider any potential impacts from project activities on site contamination, exposure pathways, monitoring, and remediation activities. For questions regarding the Superfund Site, contact Sarah Rolfes at 312-886-6551 or rolfes.sarah@epa.gov.

The Waukegan Harbor area is also designated as an Area of Concern under the U.S. - Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. We recommend that USACE fully describe the relationship between the proposed project and the Area of Concern. Ensure that the proposed project would not hinder efforts to restore the Waukegan Harbor area. For questions regarding the Area of Concern, contact Nick Green at 312-353-3718 or nicholas.green@epa.gov.

Sediment Testing

EPA recommends that the environmental document include information on the types of sediment testing that have been, or will be, instituted for the proposed dredging area. We also recommend including available test results. Since USACE is considering reuse of dredged materials as beach nourishment, we recommend providing information to demonstrate that such an application would be safe.

Beneficial Reuse

In addition to beach nourishment, EPA recommends that USACE consider whether other beneficial reuse opportunities may be appropriate. Opportunities include restoring aquatic habitat areas, covering over brownfields locations, filling in basements of demolished buildings, use by the fracking or mining industries, use by the Department of Transportation, and use by counties or local communities as general fill or for winter road maintenance.

To promote reuse, a solid understanding of the materials is necessary. If materials are safe for reuse, we recommend developing material specification sheets that describe, at a minimum: physical properties, chemical properties, amount available, and estimated times that the material will be available. This information would allow interested users to more easily determine whether the material can meet their needs.

Erosion, Habitat and Bathymetry

We recommend that USACE fully analyze and disclose potential erosion impacts to nearby dune and swale habitat, current bathymetry, and impacts to current shallow water habitat. Include measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts.

Air Quality

EPA recommends that the environmental document discuss existing air quality conditions in the project area as well as air quality impacts that could result from this project. Consider the recommendations in the enclosed Construction Emissions Control Checklist for activities using diesel engines, including material hauling and site preparation work.

Public Outreach

EPA is aware of the strong local interest in activities at the Waukegan Harbor. We encourage USACE to seek input from local citizen advocacy groups, the public, and the City of Waukegan, and to use such input to inform decision-making. We recommend summarizing outreach in the environmental document.

Threatened and Endangered Species

We recommend that, before plans are finalized, USACE coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to ensure any proposed work will not harm any federal or state endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. Document coordination and describe potential impacts in the environmental document.

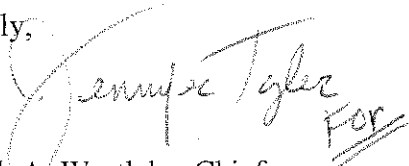
Project Description

EPA recommends that the environmental document fully describe the proposed project, including: the proposed depth of dredging, dredging schedule (timing and frequency), proposed

dredging methods (mechanical or hydraulic), contaminant and nutrient levels, proposed methods for transporting dredged materials and proposed placement/disposal location(s). In addition, consider how dredged materials would be contained during transport and final disposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide early input. If you would like to discuss our comments, please contact Jennifer Tyler of my staff at 312-886-6394 or tyler.jennifer@epa.gov. Please provide future environmental documents prepared under NEPA for this project electronically to Ms. Tyler.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Tyler". Below the signature, the word "For" is written in a similar cursive style.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Enclosure: EPA's Construction Emission Control Checklist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Construction Emission Control Checklist

Consider applicable measures from the following list.

Mobile and Stationary Source Diesel Controls

Purchase or solicit bids that require the use of vehicles that are equipped with zero-emission technologies or the most advanced emission control systems available. Commit to the best available emissions control technologies for project equipment to meet the following standards.

- On-Highway Vehicles: On-highway vehicles should meet, or exceed, the EPA exhaust emissions standards for model year 2010 and newer heavy-duty, on-highway compression-ignition engines (e.g., long-haul trucks, refuse haulers, shuttle buses, etc.).¹
- Non-road Vehicles and Equipment: Non-road vehicles and equipment should meet, or exceed, the EPA Tier 4 exhaust emissions standards for heavy-duty, non-road compression-ignition engines (e.g., construction equipment, non-road trucks, etc.).²
- Marine Vessels: Marine vessels hauling materials for infrastructure projects should meet, or exceed, the latest U.S. EPA exhaust emissions standards for marine compression-ignition engines (e.g., Tier 4 for Category 1 & 2 vessels, and Tier 3 for Category 3 vessels).³
- Low Emission Equipment Exemptions: The equipment specifications outlined above should be met unless: 1) a piece of specialized equipment is not available for purchase or lease within the; or 2) the relevant project contractor has been awarded funds to retrofit existing equipment, or purchase/lease new equipment, but the funds are not yet available

Consider requiring the following best practices through the construction contracting or oversight process:

- Establish and enforce a clear anti-idling policy for the construction site.
- Use onsite renewable electricity generation and/or grid-based electricity rather than diesel-powered generators or other equipment.
- Use electric starting aids such as block heaters with older vehicles to warm the engine.
- Regularly maintain diesel engines to keep exhaust emissions low. Follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule and procedures. Smoke color can signal the need for maintenance (e.g., blue/black smoke indicates that an engine requires servicing or tuning).
- Retrofit engines with an exhaust filtration device to capture diesel particulate matter before it enters the construction site.
- Repower older vehicles and/or equipment with diesel- or alternatively-fueled engines certified to meet newer, more stringent emissions standards (e.g., plug-in hybrid-electric vehicles, battery-electric vehicles, fuel cell electric vehicles, advanced technology locomotives, etc.).

¹ <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/standards/heavy-duty/hdci-exhaust.htm>

² <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/standards/nonroad/nonroadci.htm>

³ <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/standards/nonroad/marineci.htm>

Fugitive Dust Source Controls

- Stabilize open storage piles and disturbed areas by covering and/or applying water or chemical/organic dust palliative, where appropriate. This applies to both inactive and active sites, during workdays, weekends, holidays, and windy conditions.
- Install wind fencing and phase grading operations where appropriate, and operate water trucks for stabilization of surfaces under windy conditions.
- When hauling material and operating non-earthmoving equipment, prevent spillage and limit speeds to 15 miles per hour (mph). Limit speed of earth-moving equipment to 10 mph.

Occupational Health

- Reduce exposure through work practices and training, such as turning off engines when vehicles are stopped for more than a few minutes, training diesel-equipment operators to perform routine inspection, and maintaining filtration devices.
- Position the exhaust pipe so that diesel fumes are directed away from the operator and nearby workers, reducing the fume concentration to which personnel are exposed.
- Use enclosed, climate-controlled cabs pressurized and equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters to reduce the operators' exposure to diesel fumes. Pressurization ensures that air moves from inside to outside. HEPA filters ensure that any incoming air is filtered first.



United States Department of the Interior



US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REGION 3

Chicago Ecological Services Field Office
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 2938
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 216-4722

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/AES-CIFO

August 13, 2018

Col. Aaron W. Reisinger
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Attention: Frank Veraldi

Dear Colonel Reisinger:

This letter responds to your request for scoping comments to evaluate the removal and placement of clean littoral material (sand) from the Waukegan Outer Harbor in Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois. The District's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document will assess: 1) the dredging of sand from the Waukegan Outer Harbor and placing it at the current in-lake placement areas, 2) investigating the placement of materials at municipal beaches near Waukegan Outer Harbor, and 3) changing the current open lake deep placement area to allow an adjustable placement (east and west) depending on Lake Michigan water levels. A figure on the Waukegan Harbor Approach Maintenance Dredging FY 2017 plan sheet, that accompanied the scoping request, identified two alternatives including an "Optional Placement Area."

We provide general comments as they relate to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) trust resources (*e.g.*, Federally listed species, interjurisdictional fish, and migratory birds) that may be affected by the project. We recommend that the draft NEPA document fully address the concerns identified in this letter.

General comments

The draft NEPA document should fully disclose potential impacts to Service trust resources and aquatic resources found in the project vicinity.

Federally listed species

Federally listed species known to occur in the project area include the rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcher*), and piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Critical habitat for the Federally endangered piping plover is found along the shoreline in the project area (<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/pipingplover/pdf/pip1CHinILandIN.pdf>). Information about Federally listed species can be found on the Service's Region 3 Section 7 webpage, (<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/>) or IPaC (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) to assist the District in determining if listed species in the project area could be impacted by the proposed project.

The draft NEPA document should consider potential beneficial or adverse impacts to listed species from selecting to use, or to not use, each potential sand placement area. In particular, the document should evaluate the potential benefits of selecting the "Optional Placement Area," at the northern section of Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP) and south of Winthrop Harbor, to the piping plover, the Pitcher's thistle, and the rufa red knot.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. This letter provides comment under the authority of, and in accordance with, the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956 (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Shawn Cirton at (312) 216-4728.

Sincerely,



Louise Clemency
Field Supervisor

Cc: USEPA, Pelloso
USACOE, Chernich
IDNR, Semel, Grider