

## Public Notice – Environmental Permit

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** To seek public comment on the draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the dredging of subaqueous bottom to maintain the Newport News Federal Navigation Channel, which begins at the western terminus of the Norfolk Harbor Sewells Point to Lamberts Bend Channel near Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, and terminates near the Newport News Shipyard in Newport News.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper.

**PERMIT NAME:** Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board.

**APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Teresita Nadal, Norfolk District, Fort Norfolk, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, Virginia, 23510; VWPP No. 14-0749.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has applied for reissuance of a WWP individual permit to continue previously-authorized maintenance dredging of the Newport News Federal Navigation Channel and the two associated anchorage basins, with disposal of dredged material into the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area or the Craney Island Rehandling Basin. The proposed activity would impact approximately 643 acres of subaqueous bottom via hydraulic or mechanical dredging to a maximum allowable depth of -55 feet MLLW in the channel and -48 MLLW in the anchorage basins. The activity proposed in the permit will affect the James River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. DEQ's preliminary decision is to approve the permit.

**HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING:** DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

**CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Name: Larissa Ambrose, Project Manager; Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23462; Phone: 757-518-2124; Email: Larissa.Ambrose@deq.virginia.gov; FAX: 757-518-2009. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment.