

Public Notice



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice No.	Date
CENAP-PL-E-08-05	12 May 2008

Application No.	File No.
-----------------	----------

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch

**ALTERNATE OFFSHORE BORROW AREA FOR THE CAPE MAY INLET TO
LOWER TOWNSHIP STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT AND THE LOWER
CAPE MAY MEADOWS - CAPE MAY POINT
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a draft Environmental Assessment, which addresses the need to evaluate an alternative sand source to be utilized for the periodic nourishment described in the selected plans for the above referenced projects, both of which include sand placement for berm and dune restoration (Figure 1). The draft Environmental Assessment titled: *Alternate Offshore Borrow Area for the Cape May Inlet to Lower Township Storm Damage Reduction Project and the Lower Cape May Meadows - Cape May Point Environmental Restoration Project, Cape May County, New Jersey* is available for public review and comment. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) serves as the non-Federal project sponsor for both projects.

The need to evaluate alternative sources arose from the discovery that significant amounts of fine-grained materials had been deposited into the previously identified borrow areas. Portions of these borrow areas also contained larger "cobble" sized materials. Neither of these grain sizes are compatible with the existing beach sand, rendering these areas unusable for the proposed renourishments. After evaluating four additional potential borrow sources (Figure 2), one area (Borrow Area K) is being proposed as the source of the renourishment cycles for both these projects.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed for this project and is being circulated to the appropriate State and Federal agencies; local, State, and Federal officials; and private organizations.

Impacts to Water Quality have been evaluated in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act, and are not adverse. In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

In accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. A certification of compliance is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. Updated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would occur prior to project implementation to insure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, would be impacted.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment are available upon request by calling (215) 656-6558. More detailed information on this work is also available for public review at the Philadelphia District Office.

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice (May 12, 2008 to June 10, 2008), that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice and/or in the report titled: *Alternate Offshore Borrow Area for the Cape May Inlet to Lower Township Storm Damage Reduction Project and the Lower Cape May Meadows - Cape May Point Environmental Restoration Project, Cape May County, New Jersey* should be directed to Mr. Minas Arabatzis, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390 by June 10, 2008.

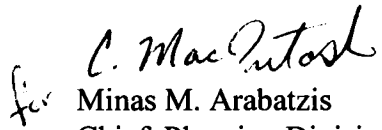

for Minas M. Arabatzis
Chief, Planning Division
Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Figure 1. Cape May City and Lower Cape May Meadows (The Meadows) Project Areas

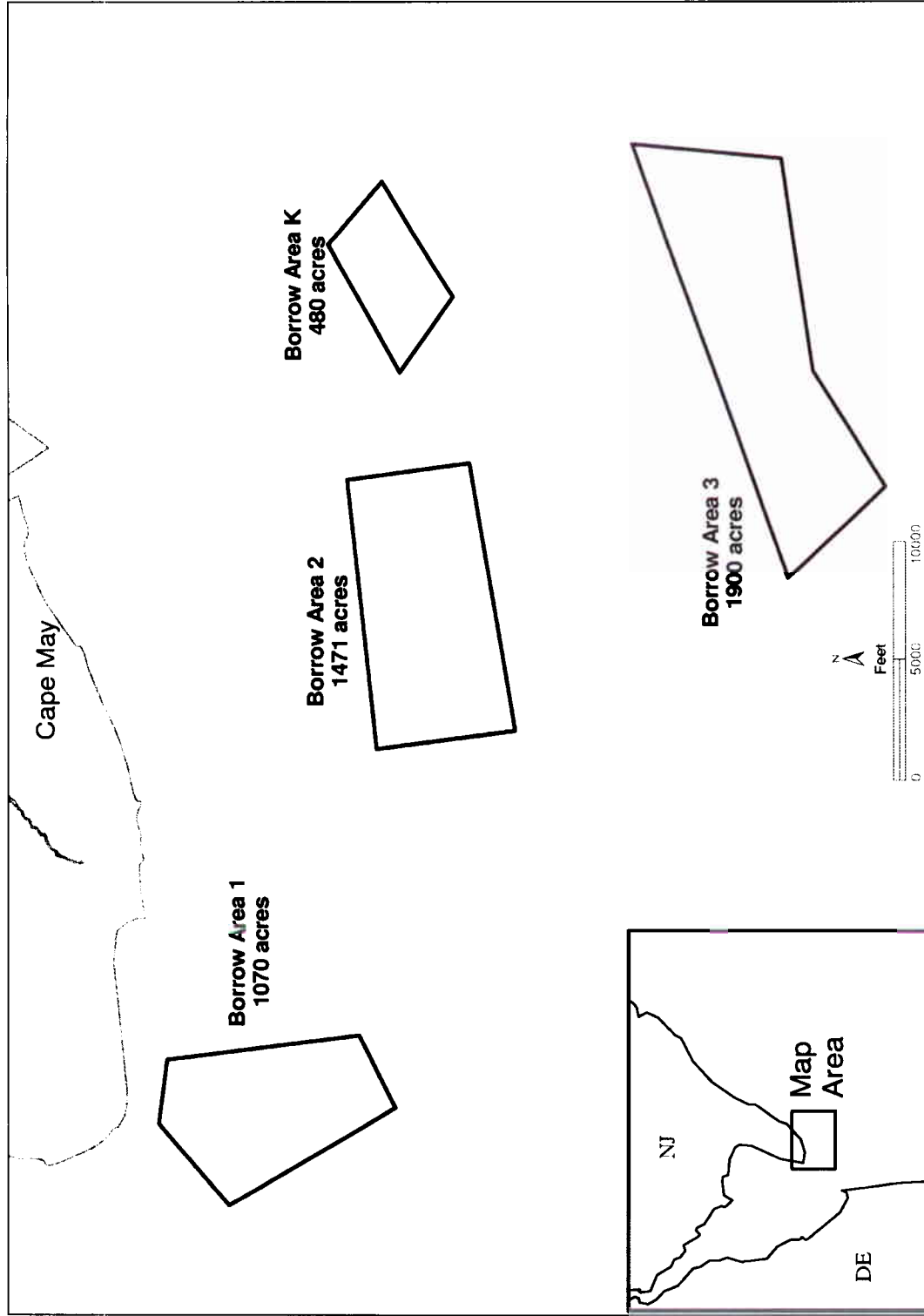


Figure 2. Location of the proposed borrow area (Borrow Area K) and three additional borrow areas evaluated (Borrow Areas 1, 2 and 3) in the Cape May Meadows region