



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-PL-E-14-01

Date
July 15, 2014

In Reply Refer to:
Environmental Resources Branch

Environmental Assessment for U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers Land Exchange of Properties at Artificial Island, Salem County, New Jersey for Properties in Oldmans Township, Salem County and Logan Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey; Development of Confined Disposal Facility

In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, is issuing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed land exchange of properties at Artificial Island, Salem County, New Jersey for properties in Oldman's Township, Salem County and Logan Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey. This draft EA also evaluates the environmental impacts of the development of a new confined disposal facility (CDF) for dredged materials for Site 15G located in Oldman's Township and Logan Township.

This draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential effects of a Proposed Land Exchange (PLE), which would exchange properties suitable for constructing a new Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) (Site 15G) in exchange for USACE properties on Artificial Island (Figure 1). The PLE was initially requested by a third party, PSEG Power, LLC (PSEG), a wholesale electricity generator, for use associated with PSEG's electricity generating operations on Artificial Island. The new CDF would be at a location suitable for the routine and periodic United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Delaware River Federal Navigation Project channel maintenance dredging. It will increase CDF capacity and improve the operational efficiency of dredged material disposal from the Cherry Island to Marcus Hook Ranges of the Delaware River where significant quantities of maintenance dredging are required. The USACE has determined that the proposed land exchange and development of a new upland CDF is beneficial to the government.

The proposed action includes the exchange of property in the vicinity of the Pedricktown North and South and Oldmans CDFs in New Jersey, owned by PSEG, for a portion of the USACE Artificial Island CDF (Figure 2). The exchange property (known as Site 15G) (Figure 3) was operated as a CDF previously, and was evaluated by the USACE and selected as a potential upland CDF for a prior project. Site 15G is near the higher shoaling ranges of the Delaware River and an existing railroad line which is a

benefit to the long term mission of the Delaware River Federal Navigation Project. The PLE provides the USACE Philadelphia District with regional CDF capacity which is required to achieve the mission goal of maintaining the required channel depths along the Delaware River.

The USACE has authority under 33 U.S.C. §558b to exchange land or other property of the Government of a rivers and harbors project for private lands or property required for such a project in any case in which it is necessary or advisable. In this instance, the USACE had agreed in a Concept Approval to an exchange of land that involves substituting another CDF of suitable capacity for a portion of the existing Artificial Island CDF. At the time the Concept Approval documentation was completed, the specifics of the PLE had not been established. The PLE details have now been determined by USACE and PSEG. The exchange of property is advisable, and will result in an overall net benefit to the Government.

Specifically, the proposed action exchanges property and disposal capacity at USACE Artificial Island (94 CDF acres plus 537 acres of adjoining degraded coastal wetlands for a total of 631 acres) for disposal capacity at Site 15G (354 acres) which is located in Oldmans Township, Salem County and Logan Township, Gloucester County, NJ. The basis for the property exchange is CDF capacity as this is the most appropriate measure of the value of the land in question. The land exchange will result in a net increase to the USACE of regional disposal capacity for the entire 102 mile Delaware River Federal Navigation Project.

The consideration of alternatives sites and selection of Site 15G was completed in the 1992 Environmental Impact Statement and the 1997 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement associated with the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project (USACE 1992, 1997). The development of Site 15G was specifically evaluated in a report prepared for the USACE by Dames and Moore (USACE 1994) and was found to be environmentally acceptable as a CDF. In April 2009, based on lower dredged material disposal projections, the USACE determined that new upland CDFs were not required and they were removed from the scope of the channel deepening project.

The proposed CDF (see Figure 4) will include the construction of new perimeter containment berms located inside the existing remnant containment berms of the original CDF with the use of previously deposited dredged material. The proposed CDF will be constructed in a similar manner to the original CDF and will include perimeter containment berms, an inflow pipe, and discharge pipes. An additional feature of the proposed CDF will be a series of internal baffle dikes and a forebay designed to increase the detention time of discharged hydraulic dredged material and allow for settling of solids prior to discharge.

The new containment berms are designed to extend between 15 and 20 feet above the site's average interior elevation. At this height, the CDF will have an initial capacity in excess of 4,000,000 cubic yards with the potential to increase to 20,000,000 cubic yards. The containment berms will be constructed with on-site materials.

Following the installation of all required soil erosion and sediment control best management practices, vegetation will be removed and topsoil will be stripped and

stockpiled for reuse. The new containment berms will then be constructed utilizing material excavated from interior portions of the site. It is estimated that approximately 4 feet of material will be excavated from the site to allow for the construction of the new berms. Seasonal high groundwater elevation identified during multiple subsurface investigations is in excess of 6.5 feet below ground surface throughout most of the site. Once completed, the stockpiled topsoil will be added as a cap to the new containment berms as necessary and seeded to prevent erosion of the newly placed and compacted soils.

Hydraulic dredged material will be conveyed through a 30 inch diameter steel and / or High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe originating in the Delaware River and reaching the CDF site by passing overland on the existing Pedricktown CDF dikes. The pipe will be conveyed under U.S. Route 130 before entering the CDF site. Discharge of excess water from the CDF will be through a series of three parallel sluice gate structures, each with 30 inch diameter steel pipes which penetrate both the proposed and existing containment berms. The pipes will discharge directly to Oldmans Creek through rip rap protected outfalls located above the Mean High Water (MHW) elevation. The sluice gate structures will be steel structures with wood plank stop-logs that can be adjusted or removed to allow for increased or decreased discharge rates through the pipes.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) has been prepared for this project, and is being circulated to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and the interested public. Requests for this document should be made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Environmental Resources Branch at (215) 656-6559 or by obtaining it from www.nap.usace.army.mil/publicnotice.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Water Quality Certification will be 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 will be requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not adversely affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended.

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

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely

Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The EA identified potentially three species of fish with EFH designations within the mixing zone of the estuary that include the juvenile butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*), windowpane flounder (*Scopthalmus aquosus*), and winter flounder (*Pleuronectes americanus*) that could be present in the vicinity of Site 15G during periods of low freshwater flow. The EA concluded that the effects of discharges from Site 15G would be negligible on EFH.

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. More detailed information on this work is 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, 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 should be directed to Mr. Peter R. Blum, P.E. ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3396 no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:



Peter R. Blum, P.E.
Chief, Planning Division
Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

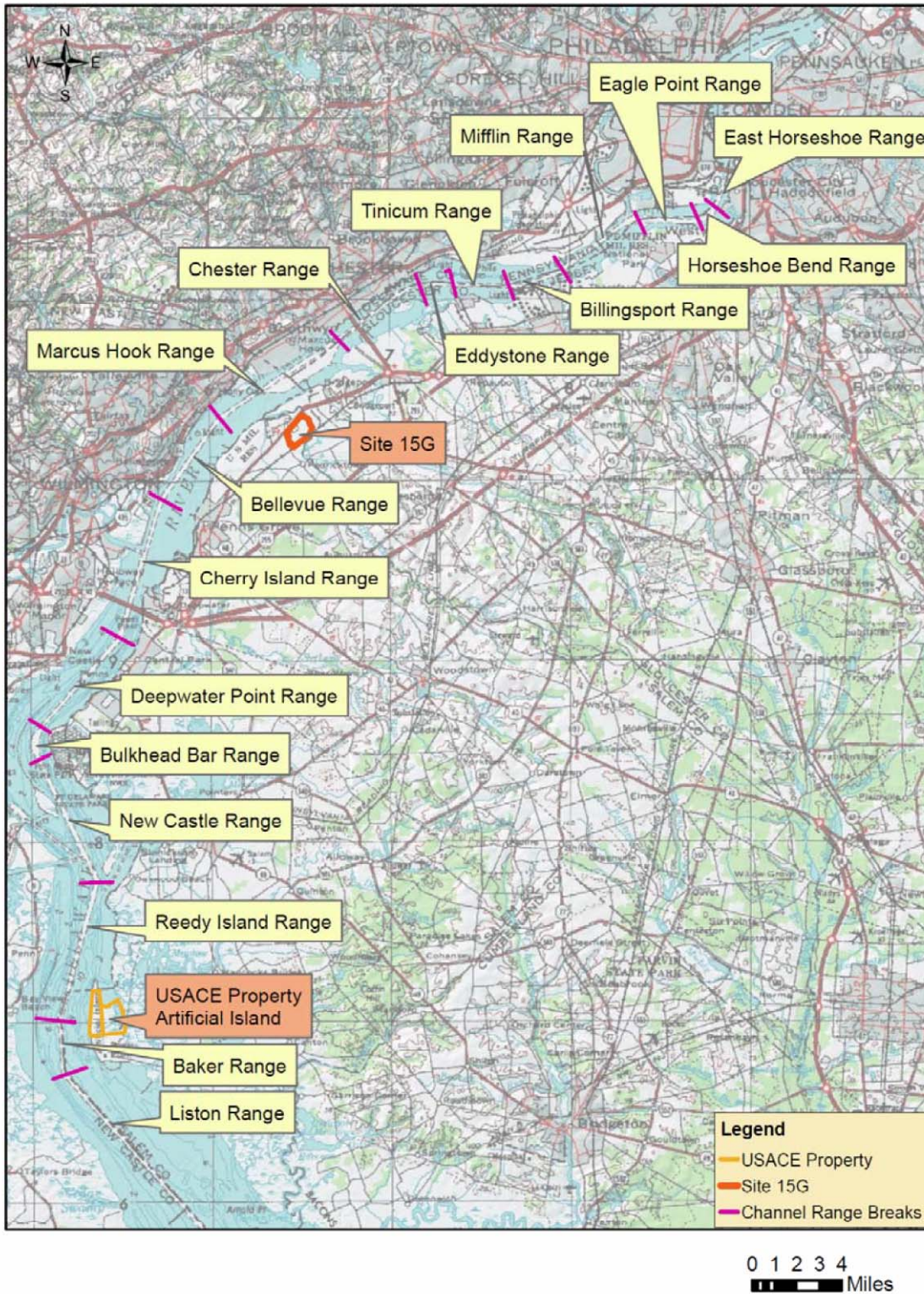


Figure 1. Artificial Island and Site 15G Vicinity Map.



Block and Lot	Property Owner
26, 1	USACE
26, 2	USACE
26, 3	USACE
26, 3.01	NJDEP
26, 4	PSEG
26, 4.01	PSEG
26, 5	PSEG
26, 5.01	PSEG

Figure 2. Existing USACE CDF at Artificial Island.



Figure 3. Proposed New CDF-Site 15G.

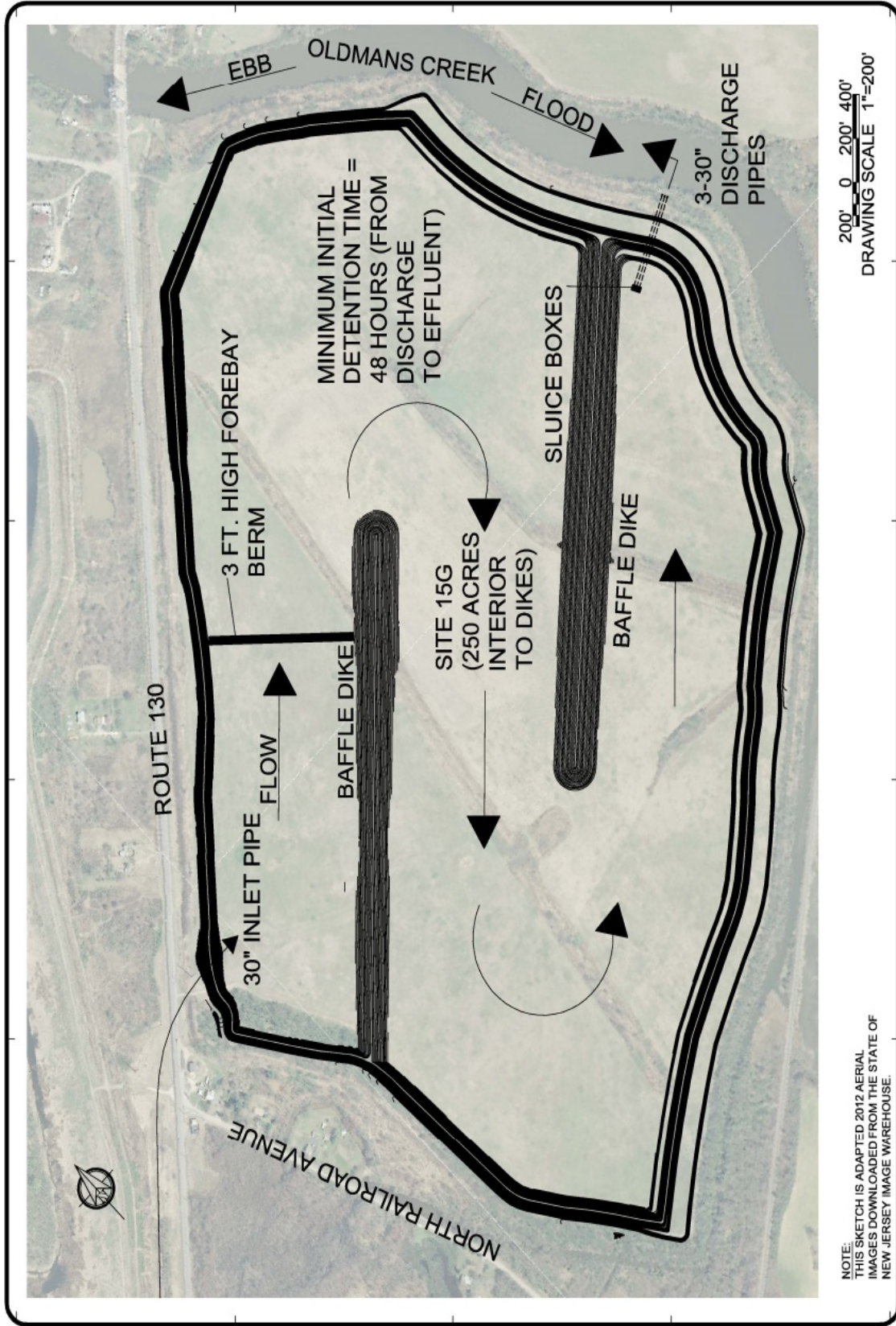


Figure 4. Design of CDF at Site 15G.