

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT GENERAL CONFORMITY DETERMINATION TEXAS CITY CHANNEL DEEPENING PROJECT GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

The Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed a Draft General Conformity Determination for the Federal Texas City Channel Deepening Project, a deep-draft navigation project serving the Port of Texas City in Galveston County, Texas. The project consists of deepening the existing 40-foot channel to 45 feet from Shoal Point to the Houston Ship Channel in Galveston Bay. The proposed Federal project accomplishes the channel deepening portion of the City of Texas City's Shoal Point Container Terminal Project, which received a Department of Army permit in 2003 and which has not been constructed. The permitted Shoal Point Project includes a six-berth marine container terminal with wharves, berthing areas and a new turning basin at Shoal Point, and deepening the Texas City Channel to -45 feet MLT. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Shoal Point Project included a General Conformity Determination which demonstrated that the project was compliant with the Clean Air Act. The projected Shoal Point construction emissions were subsequently accounted for in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Area State Implementation Plan (SIP). The current Draft General Conformity Determination addresses minor additional construction impacts not accounted for in the Shoal Point EIS General Conformity Determination including deepening the existing turning basin, minor bend easing of the main navigation channel, and construction of a new, 75-acre beach nourishment placement area on the north side of the Texas City Dike.

The Federal Texas City Channel Deepening Project Draft General Conformity Determination was prepared pursuant to the Clean Air Act, Section 176(c)(1), and 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart W to assess whether the emission associated with the new project features conform with the HGB SIP. The analysis determined that emissions for each year of construction are less than the designated emission inventory presented in the 2004 emissions inventory for both NO_x and VOC's based on the 2004 SIP. As a result, this SIP, and that emissions for each year are below ten percent of the total construction project is not considered to be a regionally significant activity, and thus, the project construction emissions conform to the SIP.

The Draft General Conformity Determination can be downloaded from the USACE website at <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/>. A hard copy of the report will also be made available upon request. Requests and comments should be submitted to Ms. Carolyn Murphy, Chief, Environmental Section (PE-PR), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2000 Fort Point Road, Galveston, Texas 77553 (carolyn.e.murphy@swg02.usace.army.mil). Comments should be submitted by April 2, 2007.