



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Date: May 13, 2014

Comment Period Closes: June 12, 2014

Evaluation Branch, Engineering/Planning Division

Nantasket Beach, Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Reservation, Hull, Massachusetts Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted a feasibility investigation under Section 103 of the 1962 River & Harbor Act, as amended, to examine coastal storm damage reduction alternatives for the DCR Reservation at Nantasket Beach in the town of Hull, Massachusetts. Comments are requested within 30 days of the opening date above.

Purpose of Work: The study for a coastal storm damage reduction project was conducted to examine solutions to storm damage and flooding at the Nantasket Beach DCR Reservation and backshore properties in the town of Hull. During coastal storms, considerable damages can be sustained by these properties from flooding, wind and wave action. This study has been completed to identify and evaluate alternative plans that would reduce or eliminate these damages. See Figure 1 for a map of the project's location.

Recommended Plan Description: The proposed project for the Nantasket Beach DCR Reservation would provide protection along about 2,100 feet of shoreline along Nantasket Beach through the construction of a stone revetment on the shore side of the sea wall from a point in the vicinity of the intersection of Nantasket Avenue and Wharf Avenue to a point in the vicinity of the intersection of Hull Shore Drive and Water Street. See Figure 2. Storm waves and winds pose a potential flood hazard to the DCR facilities and commercial properties in the backshore. The project would provide protection for the sea wall and reduce the risk of flooding in this area.

1. The recommended Federal project is construction of a 2,100-foot long stone revetment seaward of the sea wall, with a 8-foot wide bench at elevation 12 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), sloping to the existing beach at a maximum slope of 1 foot on vertical to 3 feet horizontal (1V:3H). See Figure 3. It is the most technically and economically feasible, environmentally and culturally acceptable project for reducing storm damages from flooding and erosion at Nantasket Beach.
2. The plan was developed with consideration of the overall public interest, including engineering and economic feasibility and environmental, cultural, and social effects. It is the best implementable alternative to meet the objectives of the investigation.

Coordination: The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State, and local agencies.

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection: Division of Water Pollution Control, Division of Marine Fisheries & Division of Wetlands and Waterways
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs: Coastal Zone Management Office & Massachusetts Environmental Policy Office
- Massachusetts Historic Commission
- Hull Conservation Commission
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

Environmental Impacts: An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared for this coastal storm damage reduction project and are available upon request. Impacts to the area are expected to be minor and temporary. Construction work will not be performed in areas where shellfish and other benthic organisms are spawning. A determination has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Endangered Species: The Corps has determined that no threatened or endangered species are residents of the project area. Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has been completed. The proposed activity will not affect any species or critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

Cultural Resources: No cultural resource impacts have been identified in the project area.

Federal Consistency with Coastal Zone Management: The coastal storm damage reduction project will be conducted to the maximum extent practicable, in a manner consistent with the approved coastal zone management program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Clean Water Act: No work will be performed until certification has been received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977. A Clean Water Act Section 404 (b)(1) Evaluation has been prepared for this coastal storm damage reduction project.

Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management: This project must be located in the floodplain to achieve the project purpose.

Essential Fish Habitat Assessment: The Corps has determined that the proposed project may have a temporary adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The project area is contained within areas designated EFH as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 for federally managed fish species. The NMFS has concurred that the project impacts to EFH will be temporary.

Compliance: This Public Notice is being issued in compliance with several environmental laws and regulations (see Attachment A).

Additional Requirements: Water Quality Certification will be requested from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

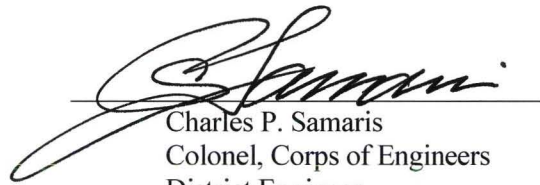
Additional Information:

The decision whether to perform the work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, and the welfare of the people.

Any person who has an interest, which may be affected, by the proposed placement of the stone revetment at the DCR Nantasket Beach Reservation may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to me within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest and the manner in which the interest may be affected.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in the project. Comments are invited from all concerned parties and should be directed to the District Engineer at 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, ATTN: Engineering/Planning Division (Mr. David Larsen, 978-318-8113, david.a.larsen@usace.army.mil), within 30 days of this notice.

12 May 14
Date


Charles P. Samaris
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Attachment A

PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIVES

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, 42 U.S.C. 1996.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

Clean Water Act of 1977 (Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972)
33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1982, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.

Estuary Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4601-12 et seq.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4601-1

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended through January 12, 2007
and amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

Preservation of Historic and Archaeological Data Act of 1974, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 469 et seq. This amends the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 469).

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C 1271 et seq.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977 amended by Executive Order 12148, July 20, 1979

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977

Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment,
13 May 1971 (36 FR 8921, May 15, 1971).

Executive Order 13007, Accommodations of Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996.

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, February 11, 1994.

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, April 21, 1997.

Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments, November 2000.

White House Memorandum, Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Tribes, April 29, 1994.

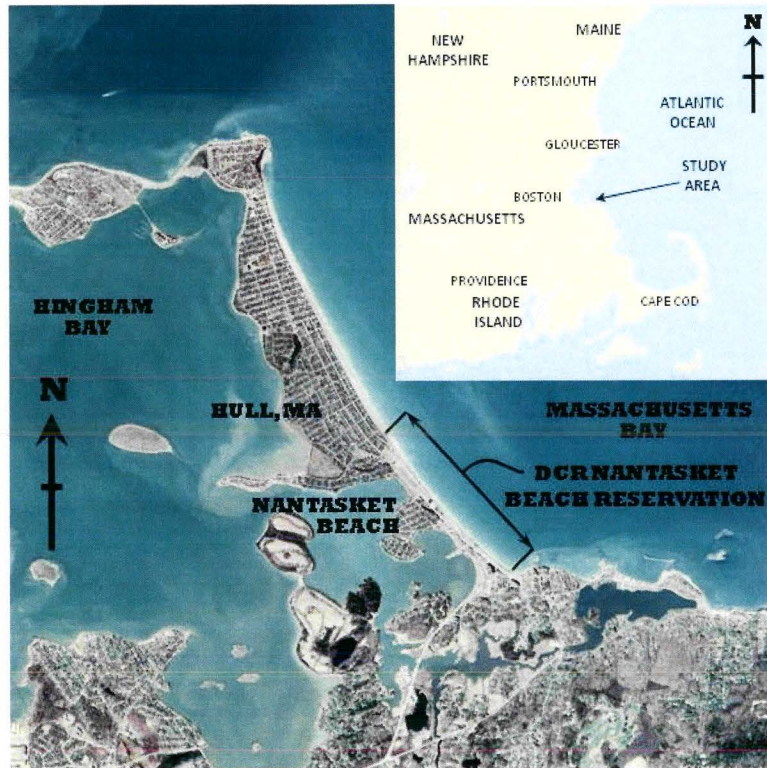


Figure 1 – Nantasket Beach Study Area Location Map



PROJECT AREA— DCR NANTASKET BEACH RESERVATION
NANTASKET BEACH, HULL, MA
Figure 2



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

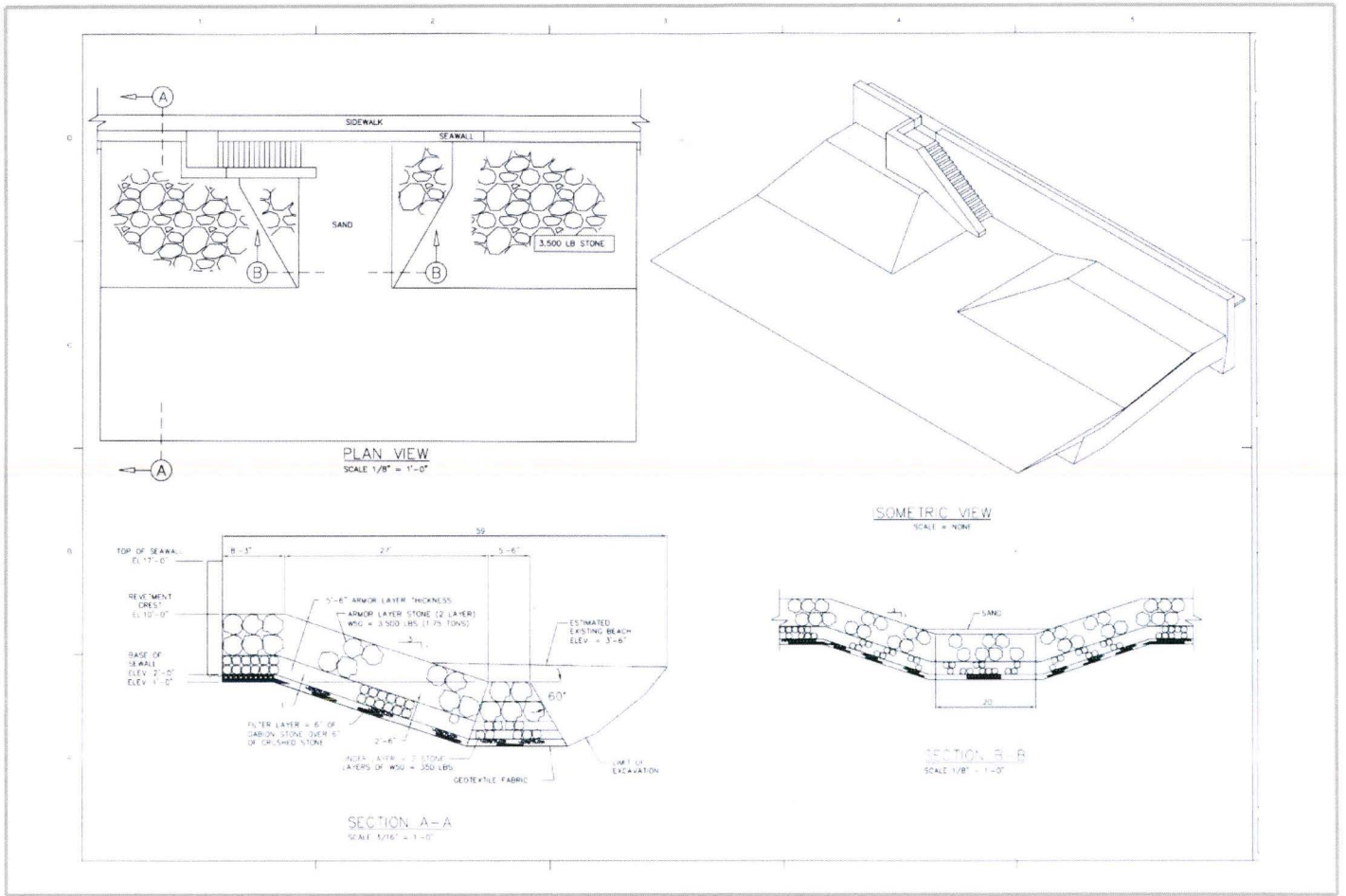


Figure 3 Concept Design for Revetment at Nantasket Beach, Hull, MA