



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1776 NIAGARA STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207-3199

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 21, 2016

Environmental Analysis Section

SUBJECT: Huron Harbor, Erie County, Ohio - Request for Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Discharges of Dredged Sediments Associated with the Scheduled 2016 Maintenance Dredging Project

Mr. Craig W. Butler
Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Surface Water
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
ATTN: Mr. Ric Queen

Dear Mr. Butler:

This letter transmits the Clean Water Act Section 404(a) Public Notice and Section 401 State water quality certification (WQC) application for the proposed discharges of dredged sediment associated with our scheduled 2016 maintenance dredging project at Huron Harbor, Ohio (Enclosure 1). This project entails the maintenance dredging of authorized Federal navigation channels, and placement of the associated dredged sediment in the existing authorized open-lake placement area. The Public Notice has been prepared in conformance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulation, "Practice and Procedure: Final Rule for Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects involving the Discharge of Dredged Materials into Waters of the United States or Ocean Waters," 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 337.1.

The USACE-Buffalo District is requesting Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) WQC for the discharges of dredged sediments associated with the scheduled 2016 maintenance dredging project at Huron Harbor, or waiver thereof, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Please note that all associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents (Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments) and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluations have been completed for this maintenance dredging project, and were previously furnished to your office. The majority of the information requested in Item 5 of the WQC application is contained in these documents in further detail.

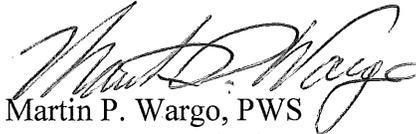
As you know, we require WQC in order to accept contract bids on this project. The bid opening date has been scheduled for June 10, 2016 and our goal is to secure the WQC by this date. As has been standard practice with our lower profile dredging projects recently, we respectfully request that no public hearing be scheduled for this application unless significant comments are received specifically

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requesting one. Please advise us regarding the status of the WQC by February 11, 2016. We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

If you have any questions pertaining to this matter please contact Mr. Eric E. Hannes at (716) 879-4311, by writing to the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York, 14207-3199, or by e-mail at: Eric.E.Hannes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin P. Wargo".

Martin P. Wargo, PWS
Supervisory Biologist
Environmental Analysis Section

Enclosure