



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Public Notice

**Issuing Office: CELRB-PM-EA
Notice No: LORAIN-16**

**Published: 6 APR 2016
Expires: 6 APR 2016**

This Public Notice has been prepared pursuant to Section 404(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). It is being administered 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 purpose of this Public Notice is to specify what dredged/fill materials would be discharged into waters of the United States by implementation of the proposed action, advise all interested parties of the proposed project, and to provide an opportunity to submit comments or request a public hearing.

The USACE - Buffalo District anticipates the need to dredge and manage material excavated from the Federal navigation channels of the Lorain Harbor project, in order to maintain sufficient depth for deep-draft commercial vessels. The attached map (Figure 1) shows the authorized limits and depths of the Federal navigation channels. Maintenance dredging in 2016 will occur in the Lake Approach and River Channels. To insure that minimum authorized depths in these channels are maintained throughout the shipping season and to account for dredging tolerance, an additional one foot of material may be removed. An estimated total of up to 225,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged during the dredging operation.

The 2016 dredging operation at Lorain Harbor is tentatively scheduled to be performed during the period between 1 July and 15 April. A contractor of the Federal government will accomplish the project. Sediments will be removed from the channel bottom by a mechanical or hydraulic dredge and placed into hoppers aboard ship or scow for transport to the designated placement area. The method of excavation will be determined by the contractor performing the maintenance dredging. In previous years, clamshell and hopper dredges have been used to complete the required work.

Material in the Lorain Harbor Federal navigation channels consists primarily of silts and clays, with some fine sands and gravels. The quality of the material has been evaluated using recent sediment data in accordance with the protocols and guidance contained in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)/USACE Great Lakes Dredged Material Testing and Evaluation Manual (1998) and Evaluation of Dredged Material for Discharge into Waters of the U.S.—Testing Manual (1998). This evaluation concluded that sediments to be dredged from the Lake Approach Channel and River Channel upstream to River Mile (RM) 2.25 (Station 143+47) (Figure 1) meet CWA Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230.11[d]) for open-lake placement. Consequently, material dredged from these reaches of Lorain Harbor will be placed

in the existing authorized 1.5 square mile open-lake area located 3.5 miles north of the Lorain West Harbor Light at an azimuth of 350°00' (Figure 2). This site has been used by the USACE since the 1930's for placement of Lorain Harbor dredged material. Maintenance dredging in 2016 would not occur in the River Channel upstream of RM 2.25 due to the lack of need by commercial navigation traffic.

Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) is required for the discharge of dredged material, pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA. Therefore, a copy of this Public Notice has been provided to OEPA requesting WQC, or waiver thereof, for the associated discharge of dredged material at the existing open-lake placement area.

The environmental effects of the dredging operations are documented in the *Final Environmental Statement, Lorain Harbor, Lorain County, Ohio (Maintenance) (1974)*; *Final Environmental Statement, Diked Disposal Site Facility Site No. 7, Lorain Harbor, Lorain County, Ohio (1975)*; *Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation, Lorain Harbor Operations and Maintenance, Lorain, Ohio (1981)*; *Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI), Operations & Maintenance (Dredging and Open-lake Placement of Dredged Material) (2006)*; and *Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI), Operations & Maintenance (Dredging and Open-lake Placement of Dredged Material) (2009)*. These documents, and supplemental documentation, have been submitted to USEPA. Copies are available for examination at the Buffalo District office.

There are no listed historic properties or properties determined as being eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project. By this notice, the National Park Service is advised that currently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished.

This office has determined that the proposed project will have No Effect upon any species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will the proposed work result in an Adverse Modification of designated critical habitat for any such species. Therefore, unless new information indicates otherwise, no further consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1978 will be undertaken with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This work will be undertaken in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the State of Ohio Coastal Management Program. A Coastal Management Program Federal Consistency Determination has been submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) documenting this determination.

The decision whether to perform dredging has been based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision reflects the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal has been balanced

against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal have been considered including the cumulative factors thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

This activity is being coordinated with the following agencies, as well as other appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and organizations:

National Park Service
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Any interested parties and/or agencies desiring to express their views concerning the proposed dredging and open-lake placement of dredged material may do so by filing their comments, in writing, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the proposed dredging and open-lake placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice. The request must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected, and the manner in which the interest may be affected, by this activity.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the USACE - Buffalo District with their comments regarding the proposed discharge of dredged material associated with 2016 Lorain Harbor maintenance dredging. Please review this Public Notice and send your comments in writing within 30 days to the following e-mail address:

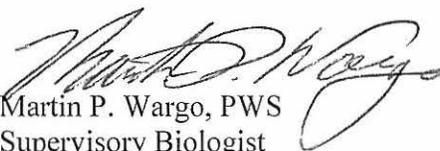
LorainDredging@usace.army.mil

or via mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Environmental Analysis Team
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199
ATTN: Environmental Analysis - Lorain Dredging

This Public Notice is published in conformance with 33 CFR 337.1. All dredging and dredged

material discharge will be performed in conformance with Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1323 and 1344, respectively).



Martin P. Wargo, PWS
Supervisory Biologist
Environmental Analysis Section

Attachments

NOTICE TO THE POSTMASTER: It is requested that the above notice be conspicuously displayed for 30 days from the date of issuance.

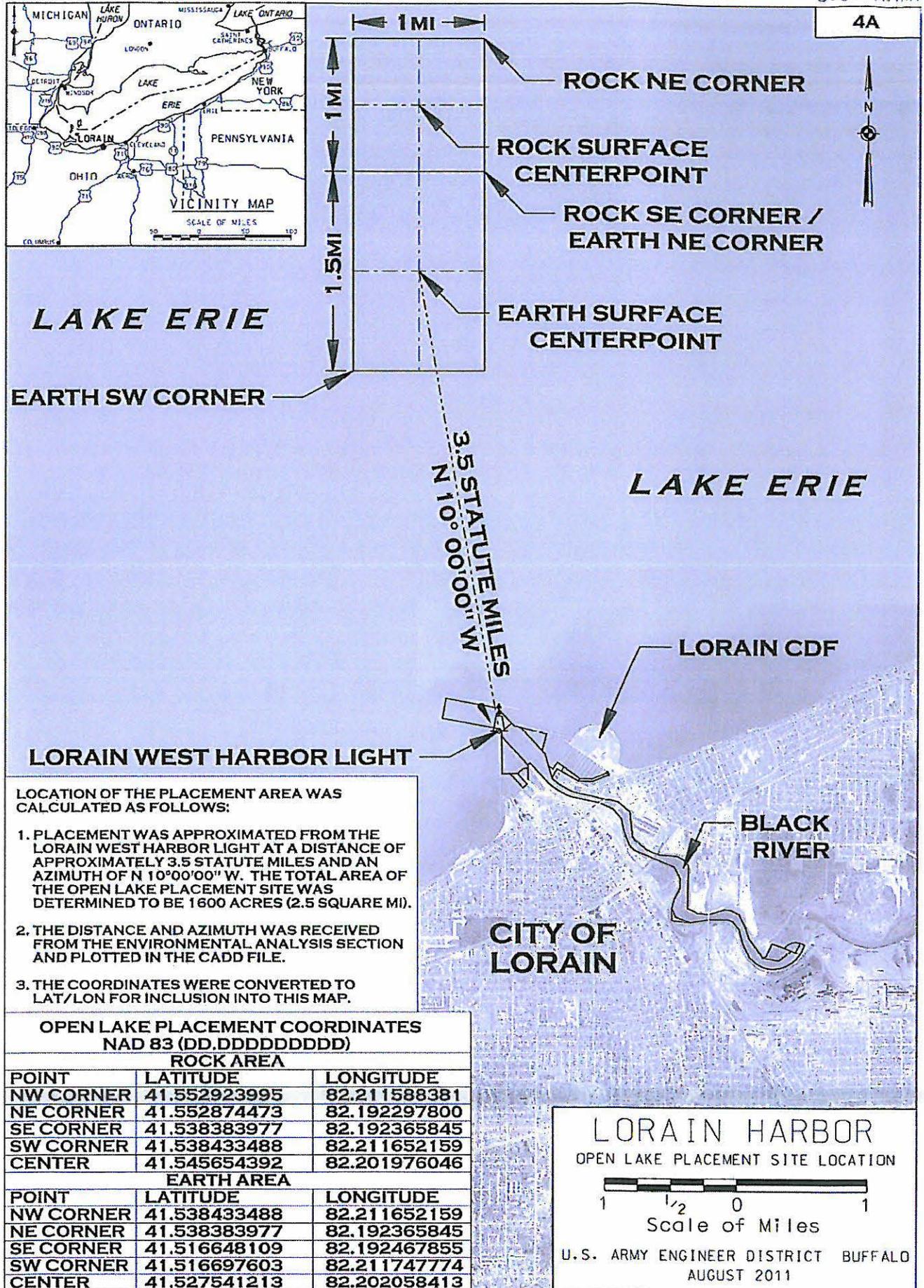


Figure 2 - Lorain Harbor Placement Site