



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# Public Notice

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## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT**

### **LORAIN HARBOR LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO**

This Public Notice has been prepared and distributed 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. Its purpose is to specify what dredged/fill materials would be discharged into waters of the United States by implementation of the proposed action, and 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 place material excavated from the Federal navigation channel 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. To insure the minimum authorized depth in the Lake Approach and Black River Channel is 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 130,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from the Lorain Harbor Federal navigation channel during the 2012 dredging operation.

The 2012 dredging operation at Lorain Harbor is tentatively scheduled to be performed during the period between 1 July and 30 November.

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 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.

The material to be dredged from the Lorain Harbor Federal navigation channel consists primarily of silts and clays. The quality of the material has been evaluated using 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2006 sediment data in accordance with the protocols and guidelines contained in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)/USACE Great Lakes Dredged Material Testing and Evaluation Manual (1998). This evaluation concluded that bottom sediments to be dredged from the

Lake Approach and River Channel upstream to River Mile (RM) 2.25/Station 143+47 meet Federal guidelines for open-lake placement (Figure 1). Dredging would not take place upstream of (RM) 2.25 in 2012. Consequently, all of the dredged material will be placed in the 1.5 square mile (960-acre) earth material portion of the harbor's designated open-lake placement area, the center of which is 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.

Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) is required for this action, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, a copy of this Public Notice has been provided to OEPA requesting WQC for the associated placement of dredged material.

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 is reasonably 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:

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. Department of the Interior, National Park Service  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Any interested parties and/or agencies desiring to express their views concerning these proposed discharges 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 discharge 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.

Questions and comments concerning this project should be directed to Mr. Eric E. Hannes of my Environmental Analysis Team who may be contacted by calling (716) 879-4311 (FAX 716-879-4225); e-mail: Eric.E.Hannes@usace.army.mil, or by writing to the following address:

District Commander  
Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Buffalo  
Environmental Analysis Team  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207-3199

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).



William E. Butler III  
Acting Team Leader  
Environmental Analysis Team

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

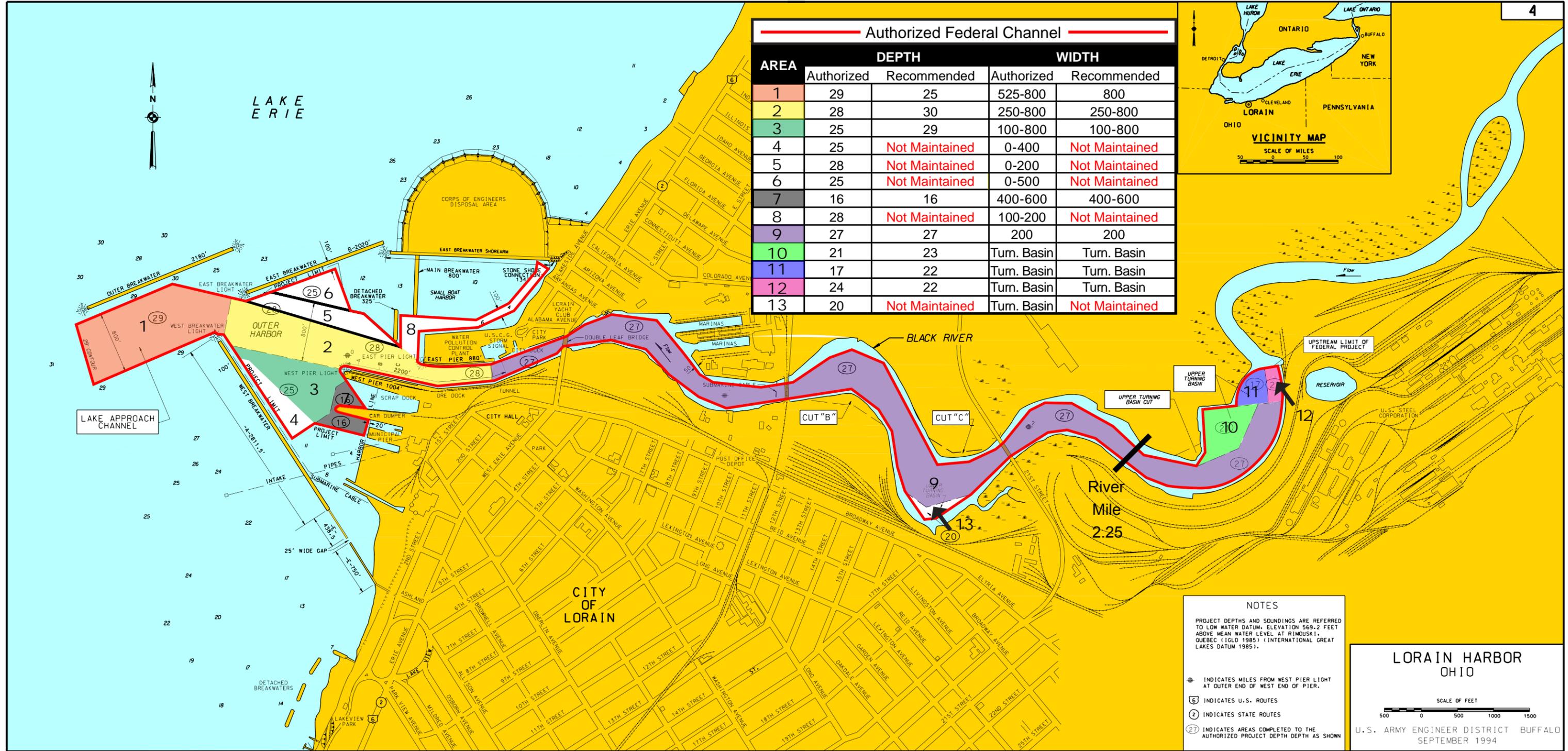


Figure 1 - Lorain Harbor Federal Navigation Channel

