

Enclosure 1

Section 404(a) Public Notice

USACE - BUFFALO DISTRICT

DISCHARGES OF DREDGED MATERIAL ASSOCIATED WITH
2015 MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF SANDUSKY HARBOR, OHIO



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Public Notice

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OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT

SANDUSKY HARBOR

ERIE 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, 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 channels of the Sandusky Harbor project, including the Moseley Channel, lower Straight Channel, and Turning Basin in order to maintain sufficient depth for deep-draft vessels. The attached map (Figure 1) shows the authorized limits and depths of the Federal navigation channels. The channels will be dredged to authorized depth, plus one foot of advance maintenance dredging. To account for inaccuracies in the dredging process, up to an additional one foot of material may be dredged. An estimated total of approximately 450,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from Sandusky Harbor Federal navigation channels during the 2015 dredging operation.

The 2015 dredging operation at Sandusky Harbor is tentatively scheduled to be performed during the period between 1 July and 15 March. A contractor of the Federal government will accomplish the project. Sediments will be removed from the channel bottom by a mechanical dredge and placed into hoppers aboard ship or scow for transport to the designated dredged material placement area. Mechanical excavation and placement methodologies will be used by the Contractor performing the maintenance dredging.

Material in the Sandusky 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 2005 and 2011 sediment data in accordance with formal Federal 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 specifically addresses the potential contaminant-related risks to aquatic life

associated with placing the dredged material in open-lake waters. Based on this evaluation, material in Sandusky Harbor Federal navigation channels was toxicologically comparable to sediments at open-lake areas in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Consequently, material dredged from these reaches of Sandusky Harbor has been determined to meet Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines for open-lake placement. This dredged material will be placed in the northwest corner of the eastern half of the existing two-square mile open-lake placement area, located approximately 3.25 miles north-northeast from the Sandusky Breakwater light at a bearing of N11° 15' 2.46"E (Figure 2). This site has been used previously by the USACE for the placement of Sandusky Harbor dredged material.

Note that material present in the channels between Stations 265+00 and 220+00 (near junction of the Straight and Moseley Channels) has been determined to be predominantly sand in nature. However, existing project depths in this reach of the harbor are already below authorized project depths and will not be dredged during the FY15 dredging cycle. Therefore, no material to be dredged during this dredging cycle is proposed to be placed at the existing nearshore area near Cedar Point.

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

The environmental effects of the dredging operation are documented in the ***Final Environmental Impact Statement, Operation and Maintenance, Sandusky Harbor, Ohio (1975); and Environmental Assessment and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation, Operation and Maintenance, Sandusky Harbor, Ohio (1985)***. 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 dredging of Sandusky Harbor. Please review this Public Notice and send your comments in writing within 30 days to the following e-mail address:

SanduskyDredging@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 - Sandusky 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).

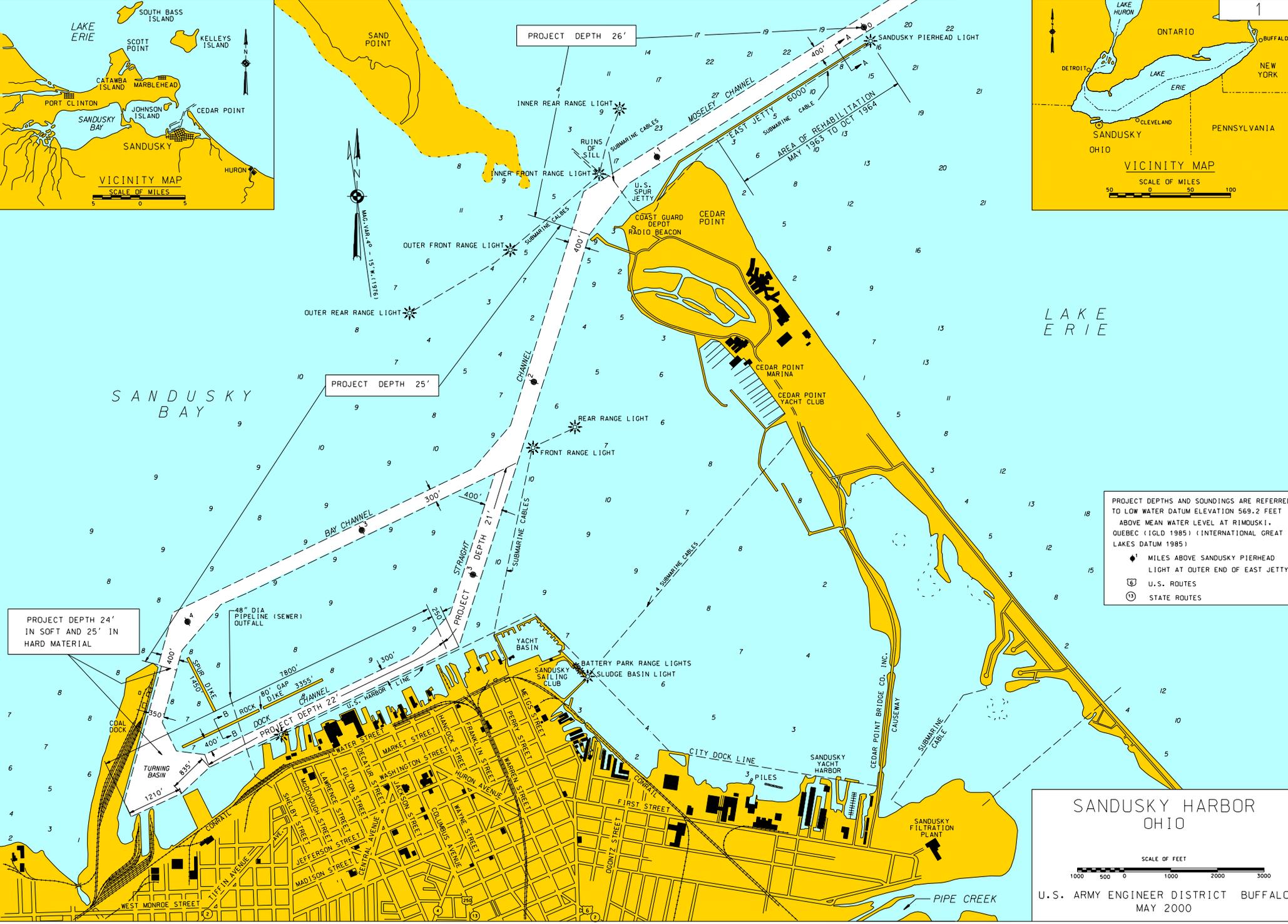


Figure 1 - Sandusky Harbor Map

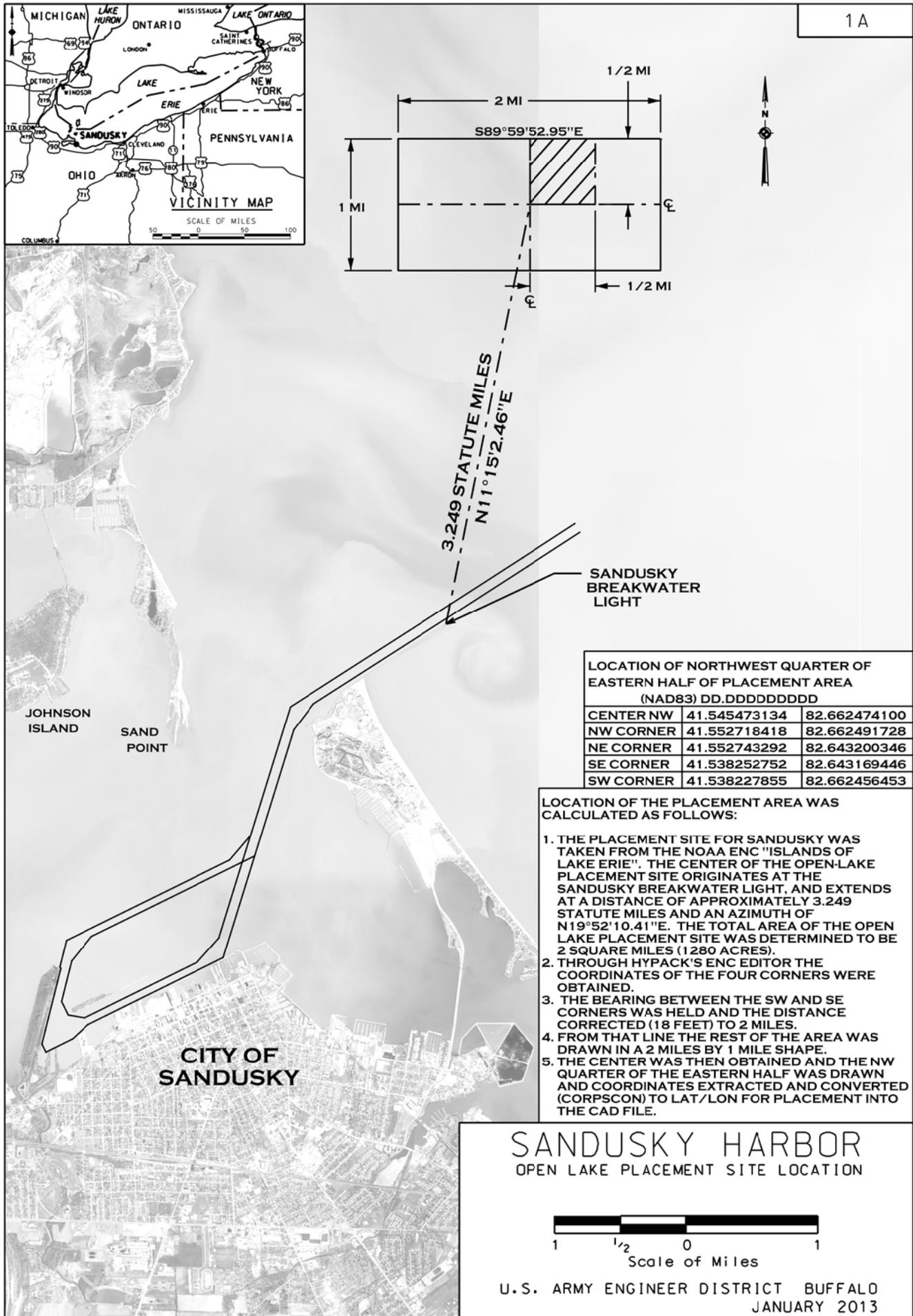


Figure 2 - Sandusky Harbor Open-Lake Placement Location