



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

January 29, 2015

Environmental Analysis Section

SUBJECT: Sandusky Harbor, Erie County, Ohio - Request for Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Scheduled 2015 Maintenance Dredging Operations

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:

Enclosed is the Public Notice and Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application for our scheduled 2015 maintenance dredging operations at Sandusky Harbor, Ohio (Enclosures 1 and 2). This project entails the maintenance dredging of authorized Federal navigation channels, and placement of the associated dredged material in the Harbor's existing, authorized open-lake area in Lake Erie. The Public Notice has been prepared in conformance with 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 scheduled 2015 maintenance dredging of Sandusky Harbor, with the associated discharges of dredged material, or waiver thereof, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The following items are contained within this package:

- a. Enclosure 1 is the Section 404(a) Public Notice.
- b. Enclosure 2 is our Section 401 WQC application.

Please note that all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents (i.e., Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments) and Section 404(b)(1)

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Evaluation(s) have been completed for this maintenance dredging project, and were previously furnished to your office.

An evaluation of Sandusky Harbor Federal navigation channel sediments was completed and provided to OEPA in 2013. The evaluation reconfirmed that material in the Federal navigation channels meets Federal guidelines for open-lake placement, and complies with applicable Ohio water quality standards.

As you know, we require WQC in order to accept contract bids on this project. The bid opening date has been scheduled for June 1, 2015 and our goal is to secure the WQC by May 22, 2015. As has been standard practice with our less controversial dredging projects recently, we respectfully request that no public hearing be scheduled for this application unless significant comments are received specifically requesting one. Please advise us regarding the status of the WQC by February 13, 2015. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to Mr. Jay Miller at (716) 879-4394, 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: James.Miller@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Martin P. Wargo, PWS
Supervisory Biologist
Environmental Analysis Section

Enclosures