US Army Corps of Engineers®

Public Notice

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Notice No: WEST HARBOR 26

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OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
DREDGING AND DREDGED SEDIMENT PLACEMENT

WEST HARBOR

OTTAWA COUNTY, OHIO

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 and advise all interested parties of the proposed project and to provide an opportunity to submit comments or request a public hearing.

The USACE anticipates the need to dredge and place sediment excavated from the authorized federal navigation channels of West Harbor, which is located in Ottawa County, Ohio, along the southern shore of Lake Erie, on the southeast side of Catawba Island, approximately 50 miles east of Toledo, Ohio and 78 miles west of Cleveland, Ohio. Maintenance dredging will be performed to maintain sufficient depth for shallow-draft recreational vessels. An estimated total of 60,000 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged from within the federal navigation channels. The authorized federal navigation channels have a total length of approximately 13,000 feet and include the following elements (Figure 1):

North Breakwater: The north breakwater is a stone rubble mound to the east of Harbor Island running approximately 1,350 feet east northeast starting approximately 200 feet off the island to protect the harbor's Lake Erie entrance.
South Breakwater: The south breakwater is a stone rubble mound to the northeast of East Harbor State Park running approximately 1575 feet northeast into Lake Erie to protect the harbor's Lake Erie entrance.

Entrance Channel: This authorized reach of channel in Lake Erie runs to the southwest from Lake Erie towards the southern half of Harbor Island. This channel has an

authorized depth of -10 feet low water datum (LWD)[1] and a width of 100 feet. The Entrance Channel is flanked by a pair of arrowhead breakwaters that protect the Lake Erie entrance. The Entrance Channel flares out as it extends beyond the breakwaters.

Access Channel: This authorized reach of channel extends from the innermost Entrance Channel north-south a distance of approximately 1,000 feet between Harbor Island and East Harbor State Park. This channel has an authorized depth of -8 feet LWD and a width of 80 feet.

Inner Channel: This authorized portion of the channel extends from the southern end of Access Channel to the west where it then runs to the north and south/southwest, totaling approximately 10,500 feet. The inner channel has an authorized depth of -8 LWD with a width of 80 feet.

Figure 1 depicts the authorized limits and depths of the federally maintained channels.

Up to one additional foot of material may be removed from the channels to insure the minimum depth. Fine-grain sediments totaling approximately 10,000 cubic yards will be placed within the open lake disposal area, and coarse-grained sediments totaling 50,000 cubic yards will be placed within the nearshore placement site (Figures 1 and 2).

The sediment dredged from the Entrance and Access Channels is primarily sand and would be placed as littoral nourishment at an existing authorized nearshore placement area located approximately 1,200 feet southeast of the South Breakwater (USACE, 2019; Figure 1). Sediment dredged from the Inner Channel consists primarily of silts and clays, which would be placed at an existing authorized deep open-lake placement area located approximately five miles east of the South Breakwater (Figure 2). These areas were last used by USACE in 2018 for the placement of sediments dredged from West Harbor channels.

Placement of the coarse-grain Entrance and Access Channel sediment in the nearshore zone may cost significantly more when compared to "deep water" open-water placement due to shallow water depths. Shallow water depths for the purposes of nearshore placement in this public notice are specified as: (1) between -11 feet LWD and the ordinary high-water mark; and between -8 feet LWD and the ordinary high-water mark. Sediment would be placed at the shallowest depth possible (-8 feet LWD) if there are no increased costs to the USACE (when compared to the costs for placement at the -11-foot LWD depth). If placement in the nearshore zone at depths of -8 feet LWD cost significantly more than open-water placement, a non-USACE partner would need to pay the increased cost of nearshore placement.

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1 Low Water Datum for Lake Erie is elevation 569.2 feet above mean water level at Rimouski, Quebec, Canada; International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD), 1985.

The dredging operation is tentatively scheduled to be performed during the period between July 1 and September 15 of 2026. A contractor of the federal government would accomplish the maintenance dredging. Sediments would 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 areas. The method of excavation would be determined by the contractor performing the maintenance dredging.

The quality of sediments in the federal navigation channels were evaluated using data primarily collected in 2024 and 2017 in accordance with formal Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines testing and evaluation 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 Proposed for Discharge in Waters of the U.S.—Testing Manual (1998). Based on these physical data, predominantly coarse-grained sediment would be suitable for placement at the nearshore placement area. Predominantly fine-grained sediment may be considered for placement at the open-water placement area.

The sediment to be dredged from within the Entrance and Access Channels are predominantly coarse-grain consisting of about 59 to 74 percent sand with the remainder silts and clays. Sediment collected from within the Inner Channel is predominantly fine-grain, being comprised of silts and clays (about 78 to 99 percent) with the remainder sands, except for one location in the lower east branch of the Inner Channel. The composition of this sediment sample was similar to the coarse-grain nature of the Entrance and Access Channels, comprised of about 83 percent sands with 17 percent silts and clays). The nearshore placement area sediment samples were primarily coarse-grain being composed of about 81 to 89 percent sands. The open-lake placement and reference areas were almost all fine-grain with all sediment samples being comprised of 98 to 99 percent silts and clays.

Pursuant to USACE regulations, water quality certification (WQC) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) is required for the discharge of dredged sediment. Therefore, a copy of this public notice has been provided to Ohio EPA requesting WQC, or waiver thereof, for the proposed placement of dredged sediment.

The environmental effects of the dredging operation are documented in the ***Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment, Operation and Maintenance, West Harbor, Ottawa County, Ohio (1986).*** This document has been filed with the USEPA, and copies are available for examination at the USACE - 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 would 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.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service web sites, (https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/ohio-spp.html) and Information for Planning Consultation (https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/) have been reviewed to generate the following list of federally threatened and endangered species that are/or may be present in Ottawa County, Ohio:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
- Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
- Red Knot (Rufa) (*Calidris canutus rufa*)
- Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)
- Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
- Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*)
- Lakeside Daisy (*Hymenoxys herbacea*)

The USACE has determined that the proposed project would have No Effect upon any species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor would 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 would be undertaken with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This work would be undertaken in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the State of Ohio Coastal Resources Management Program. A Coastal Management Program Federal Consistency Determination has been submitted to the 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 Clean Water Act public notice 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 these proposed discharges of dredged sediment 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 sediment 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 with their comments regarding the proposed dredging of West Harbor. Please review this public notice and send your comments in writing within 30 days to the following e-mail address:

WestHarborDredging@usace.army.mil

or via mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Buffalo District
Environmental Analysis Team
478 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
ATTN: Environmental Analysis – West Harbor Dredging

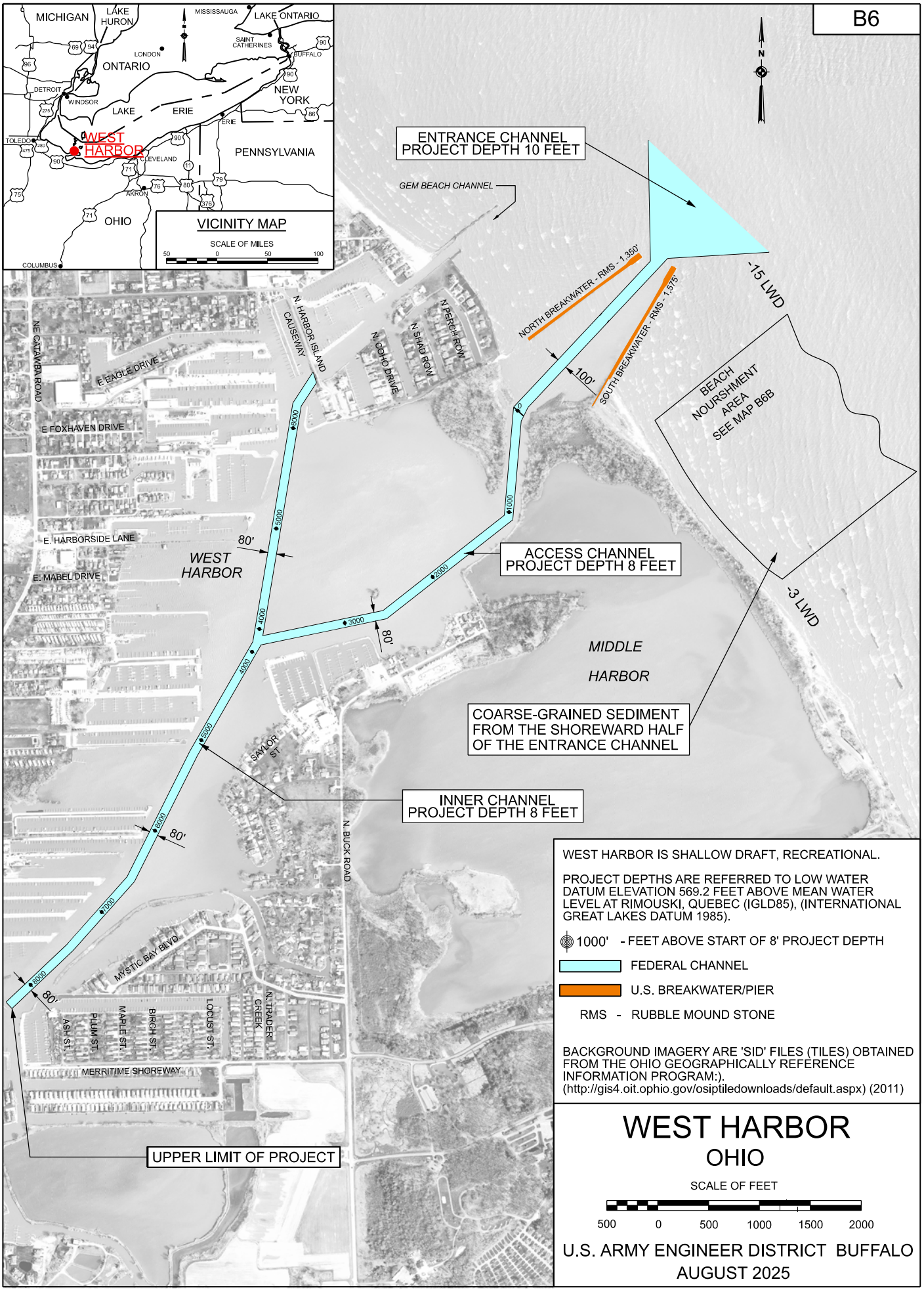
This public notice is published in conformance with 33 CFR 337.1. All dredging and dredged sediment discharge would be performed in conformance with Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1323 and 1344, respectively).

Attachments

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

U.S. ARMY

B6



WEST HARBOR IS SHALLOW DRAFT, RECREATIONAL.

PROJECT DEPTHS ARE REFERRED TO LOW WATER DATUM ELEVATION 569.2 FEET ABOVE MEAN WATER LEVEL AT RIMOUSKI, QUEBEC (IGLD85), (INTERNATIONAL GREAT LAKES DATUM 1985).

1000' - FEET ABOVE START OF 8' PROJECT DEPTH

FEDERAL CHANNEL

U.S. BREAKWATER/PIER

RMS - RUBBLE MOUND STONE

BACKGROUND IMAGERY ARE 'SID' FILES (TILES) OBTAINED FROM THE OHIO GEOGRAPHICALLY REFERENCE INFORMATION PROGRAM:). (http://gis4.oit.ophio.gov/osiptiledownloads/default.aspx) (2011)

WEST HARBOR

OHIO

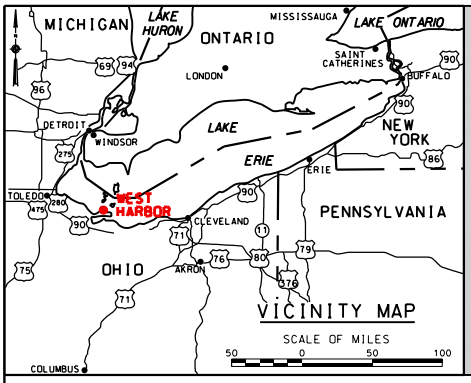
SCALE OF FEET

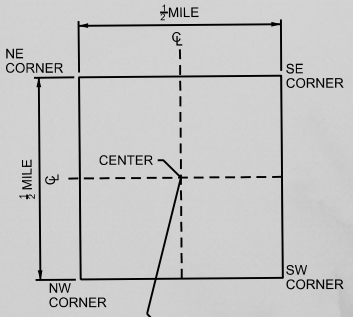
500 0 500 1000 1500 2000

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT BUFFALO

AUGUST 2025

B6





OPEN LAKE PLACEMENT COORDINATES
NAD83 (DD.DDDDDDDDD)

POINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
CENTER	41.563295291	82.720503915
NE CORNER	41.566955242	82.715729970
SE CORNER	41.559710373	82.715630365
SW CORNER	41.559635141	82.725276194
NW CORNER	41.566880002	82.725376903

LOCATION OF THE PLACEMENT AREA WAS CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE CENTER OF THE OPEN PLACEMENT SITE ORIGINATES AT THE HARBOR'S SOUTH ENTRANCE CHANNEL LIGHT, AND EXTENDS AT A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 0.97 STATUTE MILES AND AN AZIMUTH OF N 56° 0' E, AND THEN EXTENDS AT A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 3.9 STATUTE MILES AND AN AZIMUTH OF S 76° 0' E. THE TOTAL AREA OF THE OPEN LAKE PLACEMENT SITE WAS DETERMINED TO BE 160 ACRES (0.25 SQUARE MILE).
2. THE DISTANCE AND AZIMUTH WAS RECEIVED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS SECTION AND PLOTTED IN THE CADD FILE.
3. THE COORDINATES WERE CONVERTED TO LAT/LON FOR INCLUSION INTO THIS MAP.

WEST HARBOR

OHIO

OPEN LAKE PLACEMENT SITE LOCATION

½ ¼ 0 ½

Scale of Miles

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT BUFFALO
AUGUST 2025