



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

**Galveston District
Regulatory Division**

**Special Public Notice
Extension of Comment Period
Port of Corpus Christi Channel Deepening Project
Environmental Impact Statement
July 19, 2022**

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI AUTHORITY'S CHANNEL DEEPENING PROJECT, NUECES AND ARANSAS COUNTIES, TEXAS (DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT NUMBER SWG-2019-00067)

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District (Corps) is issuing a notice to advise the public that a Draft Environmental Statement (DEIS), for which you may be interested, was completed, and published in the Federal Register on June 10, 2022 and the comment period has been extended to **August 9, 2022**. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest.

SCOPING: The Corps published a notice of intent and initiated the scoping process in the *Federal Register* to notify the public of the intent to prepare a DEIS on April 7, 2020. A meeting invitation was emailed to federal and state agencies for a virtual agency scoping meeting on May 14, 2020. Notices to interested parties and local, state, and federal elected officials were sent via email and mail on May 27 and May 28, 2020, respectively. The notices provided information about the proposed Action, announced the virtual public scoping meetings scheduled for June 9, June 11, June 16, and June 18, 2020, and provided a link to the Project website. Due to technical issues associated with the virtual meeting platform during the June 9, 2020, virtual public scoping meeting, the format was changed and an additional virtual public scoping meeting was scheduled for June 15, 2022, for a total of five scoping meetings. The Corps solicited comments on the proposed Action during the scoping period meetings from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Native American tribal groups, and other interested parties for the proposed permit activity.

BACKGROUND: The Corps received a permit application for a Department of the Army (DA) Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act from the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (PCCA) (SWG-2019-00067) for the deepening of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel (proposed Action). The Corps is the lead Federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations and has prepared an EIS for the proposed Action. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard are cooperating agencies under NEPA. The DA permit application was first publicized by an extended Public Notice issued on August 1, 2019.

The PCCA Channel Deepening Project (CDP) is located at Port Aransas, Nueces County, Texas. The CDP channel alignment is within the existing channel bottom of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel (CCSC) starting at Station 110+00 near the southeast side of Harbor Island. The CDP traverses easterly through Aransas Pass and extends beyond the currently authorized terminus at Station -330+00. The CDP extension terminates at an additional 29,000 feet into the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) at Station -620+00, the channel's proposed new terminus. The approximate distance of the proposed PCCA CDP is 13.8 miles. The Federal navigation channel segments from Stations 110+00 to -72+50 (Jetties Channel's seaward limits) is currently authorized at -54 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). The Federal navigation channel segments from -72+50 to -330+00 (Offshore Channel's seaward limits) is currently authorized at -56 feet MLLW. For these segments, the Federally authorized channel bottom widths vary from 530 feet (inshore segments) to 700 feet (offshore segments).

The proposed Action would deepen the channel from its current authorized depth of -54 feet MLLW from Station 110+00 to Station -72+50 to -75 feet MLLW. From Station -72+50 to Station -330+00, the channel would be deepened from -54 feet MLLW to -77 feet MLLW. The proposed project includes a 29,000-foot extension of the CCSC from Station -330+00 to Station -620+00 and would be deepened to -77 feet MLLW. Two feet of advanced maintenance and 2 feet of allowable over dredge would be applied to each CDP channel segment. The proposed Action would span approximately 13.8 miles from a location near the southeast side of Harbor Island to the -80-foot MLLW bathymetric contour in the Gulf. The proposed Action footprint would cover 1,778 acres, generating 46.3 million cubic yards of new work dredged material.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Based on public comments to date, the USACE has provided copies of additional reports that were incorporated by reference in the DEIS, but not included in the Appendices. These additional documents are provided on the project website at:

www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Special-Projects-Environmental-Impact-Statements.aspx

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors.

Comments received will be considered by the Corps to assist in determining whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for the proposed Action. Comments will be considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement analysis pursuant to NEPA. All comments must be received or postmarked by **Tuesday August 9, 2022**.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work

should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: The comment period has been extended from a 45-day period to a 60-day period. All comments pertaining to this Notice must reach this office on or before **August 9, 2022**. Electronic (email) comments regarding the DEIS should be addressed to SWG201900067@usace.army.mil. Emailed comments, including attachments, should be provided in .docx, .jpeg, or .pdf formats. Written comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

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