# Delaware River Main Channel Deepening- CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**US Army Corps Eastern Regional Dredging Meeting** 

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida OCTOBER 25, 2016

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# **Delaware River Ports**

- Largest freshwater Port Complex in the World
- Fifth Largest Complex in the United States
- Handle over 110 million tons of cargo annually



# **Project Timeline**

Congress directs Corps to study improving 40' channel				
Feasibility Study report recommends 45' channel				
Congress authorizes construction				
Final Design, Supplemental EIS complete	1997			
Corps recommends construction	1998			
GAO audit, Corps response	2002			
Economic reanalysis complete	2004			
Sponsor changes from DRPA to PRPA	2007			
Signing of Project Partnership Agreement w/ PRPA	2008			
First deepening contract	2010			
Estimated completion of 45' channel	2017			

## **Project Economics**

#### As of 2011

- Average Annual Benefits: \$35,167,000
- Average Annual Costs: \$21,502,000
- Average Annual Net Benefits: \$13,665,000
- Benefit-Cost Ratio: 1.64

- Port beneficiaries
  - 80% Container & Dry Bulk Cargo
  - 20% Crude Oil & Petroleum Products
- Primary sources of benefits
  - Larger and more fully loaded containerships and dry bulk (steel and slag) vessels
  - Reduced lightering of tankers

- Conservative analysis
  - Counts only national benefits (excludes competitive advantages)
  - Counts only direct benefits (excludes jobs created/saved, tax revenues)
  - Based on existing tonnage, commodities, origins, destinations



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## **Prior Channel Deepenings**

Delaware River, Philadelphia to the Sea						
Authorization	Depth	Width	Complete			
NATURAL CONDITIONS (pre-1885)	17'-24'	175'-600'	n/a			
January 1885 Board of Engineers recommendation	26'	600'	1898			
March 1899 improvement plan	30'	600'	1905			
June 1910 River and Harbor Act	35'	800'	1934			
June 1938 River and Harbor Act	40'	800'-1000'	1942			
Water Resources Development Act 1992	45'	400'-1000'	est. 2017			



#### **Dredged Material Disposal Plan**





### **The 45-foot Project**

- Increase authorized depth of Delaware River federal navigation channel by 5 feet
- Follow 40-foot channel alignment 102.5 miles from Philadelphia/Camden to deepwater in Delaware Bay
- Widen 12 of 16 channel bends for safer navigation
- Deepen Marcus Hook Anchorage to 45 feet also
- No change in channel widths (ranging 400 to 1,000 feet)
- Channel was already deep enough in about 50% of its area pre-construction and thus requires no dredging
- Initial construction cost: approximately \$300 million
- Nonfederal sponsor (35% cost share): Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
- Total dredging volume: 14 million cubic yards
- River Portion (Reaches AA thru D): 12 million cubic yards of silt, clay, sand and gravel to be placed in 5 federal confined disposal facilities (CDFs)
- Bay Portion (Reach E):
  1.8 million cubic yards of sand to be placed ashore at Broadkill Beach Delaware, storm risk reduction
- Rock Removal (Marcus Hook vicinity): 200,000 cubic yards to be blasted in place, removed by

bucket dredge, and placed upland and offshore reef BUILDING STRONG®















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### **Contract #7 (COMPLETE)**

- Lower Reach E
  - ► Awarded June 2014
  - Construction started September 2014, Completed in 2015
  - South end of project (~15 miles)
  - Estimated quantity:
     1.9 million cubic yards
  - Placement/Beneficial Use: Broadkill Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (beachfill + dune) (initial construction)
  - Method: hopper dredge
  - Contractor: Weeks Marine Inc.

Cost: \$63 million



#### Delaware River Deepening Contract Summary

Date	Contract	Contractor/ plant	Cubic meters		Cubic yards	\$/ cu yd	Total cost
2010	Reach C	Norfolk / pipeline (2)	2,765,900	\$12.02	3,617,600	\$9.19	\$30,100,000
2011	Lower Reach B	Norfolk / pipeline	688,100	\$8.89	900,000	\$6.80	\$7,600,000
2012	Upper Reach A	GLDD / pipeline, hopper	1,456,700	\$12.29	1,905,300	\$9.40	\$14,500,000
2013	Reach D	Dutra /DonJon hopper, excavator	829,900	\$12.75	1,085,500	\$9.75	\$18,500,000
2014	Lower Reach A	GLDD / bucket	336,400	\$35.32	440,000	\$27.00	\$14,800,000
2014	Reach AA	GLDD / bucket	529,800	\$48.40	693,000	\$37.00	\$25,400,000
2014	Lower Reach E	Weeks Marine/hopper	1,452,700	\$42.2 <mark>3</mark>	1,800,000	\$33.00	\$63,300,000
2015	Rock Removal	GLDD/Blast/cutter	153,000	\$384	200,000	\$300	\$77,000,000
2016	Upper Reach E	Dutra	994,000	\$32.00	1,300,000	\$25.00	\$32,000,000
2017	Upper Reach B	TBD	TBD	TBD	3,600,000	TBD	TBD





### The Rest of the Work

- Present to completion scheduled for December, 2017
  - #10-Upper Reach B and Marcus Hook Anchorage (April 2017 advertisement)
  - #8-Rock Removal (GLDD) ongoing
  - #9-Upper Reach E (Dutra) spring 2017 start
- Channel maintenance (after initial construction)
  - Expected annual volume:
     4.3 million cubic yards
  - Increase of about 20% over 40-foot channel maintenance (3.5 million cubic yards)

# For more information...

Visit the Delaware River Deepening website http://bit.ly/deldeep

Contact the Philadelphia District Public Affairs Office edward.c.voigt@usace.army.mil 215-656-6515 Or anthony.j.depasquale@usace.army.mil



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