Proposed Open Lake Placement of Dredged Sediment Cleveland Harbor, Ohio

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Buffalo District

Web Meeting

March 4, 2014

US Army Corps of Engineers
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Introduction

- Purpose of webinar
- Webinar format and presenters

Submit Written Comments

Postal Service:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District

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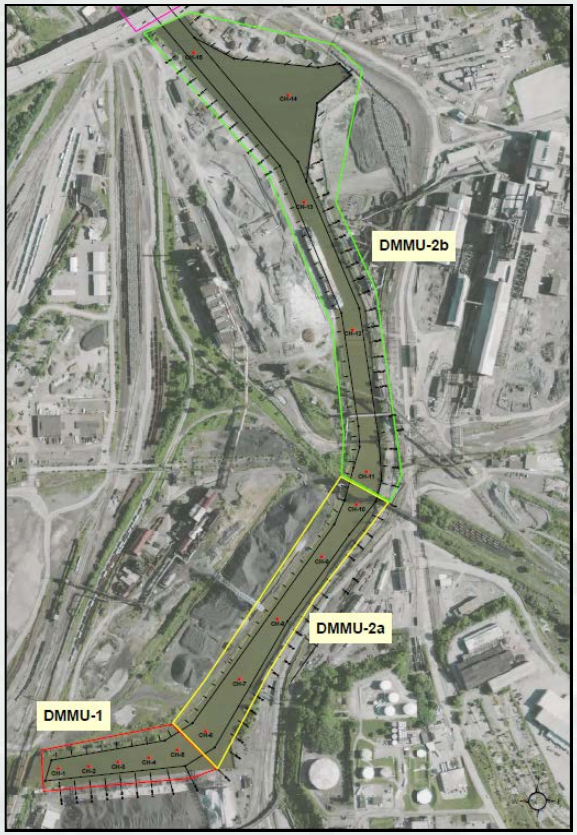
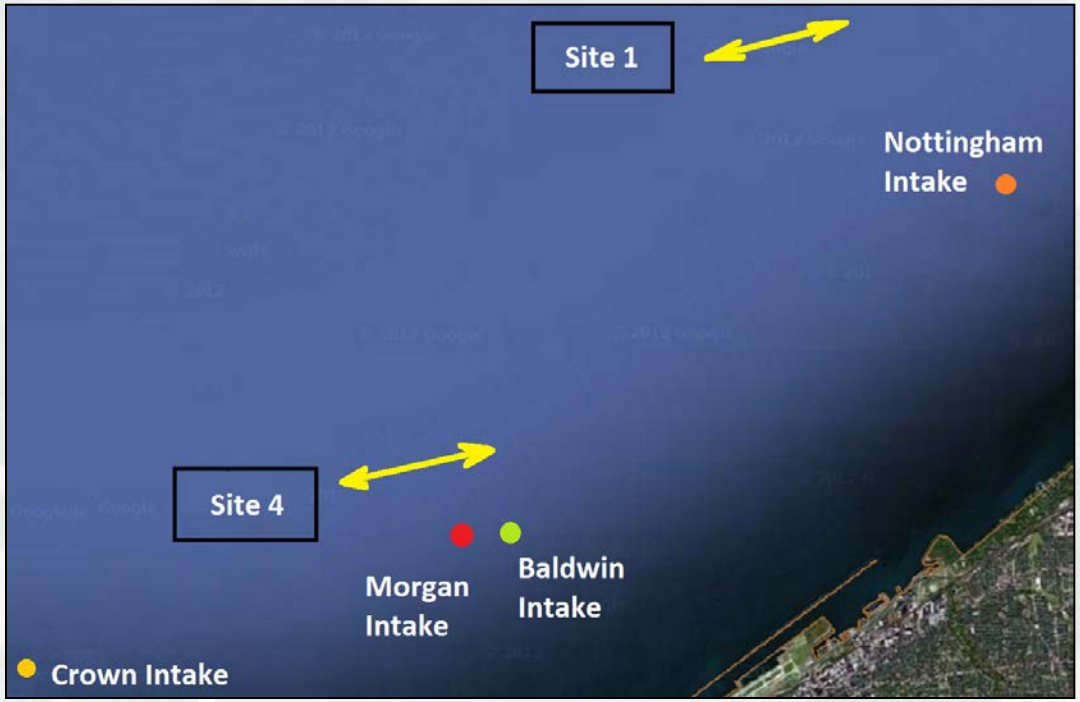
Proposed Activity

- Place dredged sediment from the upper portion of the Cuyahoga River Channel in two open lake placement areas.

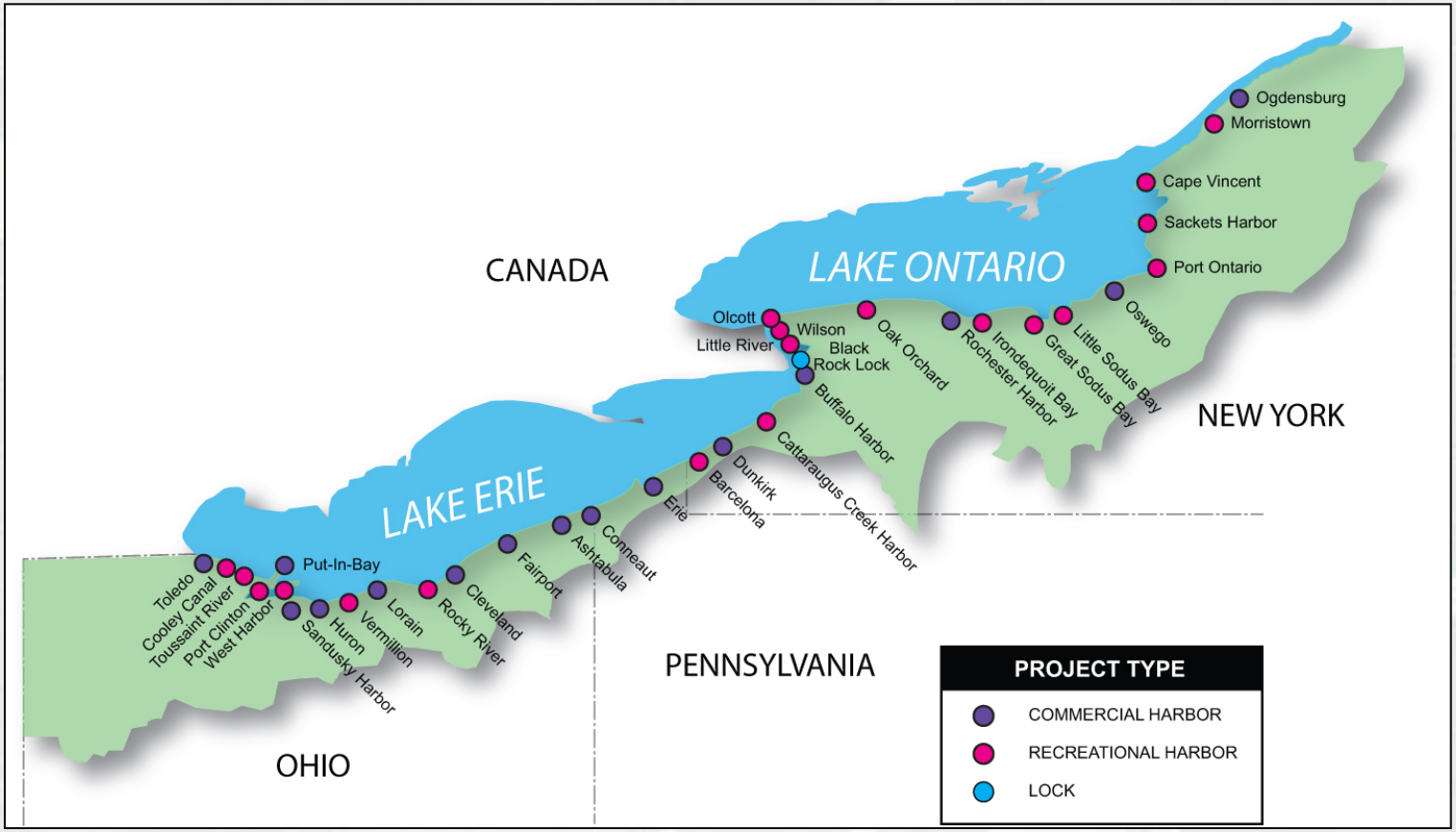




NEPA Coordination

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA
  - Scoping (Aug 2013)
  - Comment Period - Draft Environmental Assessment (Mar 2014)
  - Public Webinar (Mar 2014)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
  - Section 404 Public Notice (Dec 2013)
  - Section 401 Water Quality Certification Public Hearing (Mar 2014)
- State of the River Symposium 2013 (Sep 2013)
- Meetings with OEPA and Others

Buffalo District Dredging Program



Overview of Ohio Maintenance Dredging

Harbor (Commercial Only)	Annual Dredge Need (CY)	Dredging Frequency	Current Disposal
Ashtabula	50,000	Every 2 years	Open Lake
Cleveland	**225,000**	**Twice per Year**	**CDF***
Conneaut	40,000	Every 3 Years	Open Lake
Fairport	75,000	Every 2 years	Open Lake
Huron	95,000	Every 2 years	Open Lake
Lorain	75,000	Every 2 years	Open Lake**
Sandusky	140,000	Every year	Open Lake
Toledo	800,000	Every year	Open Lake**
Totals	1,500,000		

*LRB has submitted a 401 application for 80% of Cleveland sediments to be placed in an open lake area starting in 2014.
**Small (seldom dredged) areas in Lorain and Toledo Harbors still require placement in a CDF.

Ohio Dredged Sediment Placement

- Over 7,700,000 CY of sediment has been dredged from Ohio harbors over the last 5 years.

- Placement of this dredged sediment was accomplished as follows:
  - Open Lake 84%
    (6,500,000 CY)
  - CDF 14%
    (1,086,000 CY)
  - Near-shore 2%
    (137,000 CY)

CDF Placement

Near-shore Placement

Commercial Navigation Benefits

Commercial Harbor	Rate Savings Benefit	Jobs Sustained	Direct Business Revenue Generated	Personal Income Generated
Ashtabula	$105M	1,021	$433M	$89M
Cleveland	$196M	15,003	$1.70B	$1.07B
Conneaut	$74M	504	$175M	$45M
Fairport	$28M	1,685	$85M	$109M
Huron	$19M	893	$39M	$58M
Lorain	$3M	1,794	$84M	$117M
Sandusky	$34M	2,327	$32M	$151M
Toledo	$277M	6,971	$381M	$558M
TOTALS:	**$734.34 Million**	**30,198**	**$2.93 Billion**	**$2.20 Billion**

Milestones

Date	Actions
February 2010	Dredging Summit
Feb. 2010 to Jan. 2013	Regular Task Force Meetings
November 2010	Non-Routine Sampling of Upper River
March 2011	Plain Dealer Article – River Sediment Less Toxic
August 2011	Final Beneficial Use Report
March 2012	Sampling Plan for Review
May 2012	Routine 5-Yr. Harbor Sampling Event
January 2013	Meeting with OEPA on Sediment Evaluation and Modeling
August 2013	Suitability Findings to OEPA
August 2013	NEPA Open Lake Scoping - Public Release
September 2013	USACE Presentation on Open Lake Suitability at River Symposium
November 2013	Pre-Application Meeting Re: OEPA Comments Received
November 2013	Application to OEPA for Water Quality Certification
December 2013	Responses to OEPA Comments
March/April 2014	Webinar, 401 Public Hearing, Consider Public and Agency Comments, Complete Environmental Assessment

USACE Authority

- Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, USACE is responsible for:
  - Evaluating proposed dredged material discharges with respect to Federal guidelines (USEPA/USACE testing manuals).
  - Determining whether dredged material is suitable for open lake placement.
  - Demonstrating compliance with applicable numeric state water quality (and toxicity) standards, and requesting Section 401 State Water Quality Certification.

Summary of Findings

(Slide 1 of 2)

- Based on a variety of sediment tests and modeling, a comprehensive evaluation shows that the dredged material now meets Federal guidelines for open-lake placement:
  1. It is not acutely toxic to bottom dwelling organisms in the lake
  2. Evidence indicates it is not chronically toxic to bottom dwelling organisms in the lake
  3. Placement would not be toxic to organisms in the lake's water column
  4. Differences in PCB and DDT uptake in aquatic organisms, between the dredged material and lake sediment, would not be biologically significant or result in measurable changes in fish
  5. Placement would not violate applicable, numeric Ohio water quality (or toxicity) standards for the protection of aquatic life and human health





Summary of Findings

(Slide 2 of 2)

- Additional conservative modeling predicts that placement of this dredged material in the open-lake would have no significant influence on:
  - Water quality at Potable Water Intakes (PWIs)
    1. No impacts for placement at Site 1
    2. Limited exposure to only low concentrations from placement at Site 4
    3. All contaminant concentrations well below Drinking Water Standards
  - Initiation of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
    - Meets phosphorus criteria to control HABs within minutes of discharge
- A net improvement in sediment quality in the Upper Cuyahoga River Channel is evident based on 2007, 2010, and 2012 sampling events
  - This is an expected and positive result!
  - Data can be used to support delisting of the dredging beneficial use impairment (BUI)

Scoping information available at:
http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicReviewDocuments.aspx

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