



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Charleston District

News Release

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For Release: Immediate

Corps to hold Public Information Workshop and Public Scoping Meeting for proposed Marine Container Terminal

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Charleston, SC -- The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Charleston District invites the public to attend the March 16, 2004 Public Information Workshop and Public Scoping Meeting for the proposed South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) marine container terminal at the Charleston Naval Complex (CNC) on the Cooper River located in the City of North Charleston, Charleston County, S.C. Both events will be hosted at Sterett Hall, building #180 at the intersection of Hobson Avenue and Calumet Street on the CNC. The Public Information Workshop will open at 5 p.m. and the Public Scoping Meeting will start at 6 p.m.

Public input collected at the Public Information Workshop and Public Scoping meeting will assist the Corps in defining the scope of studies needed to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed marine container terminal at the CNC and other reasonable alternatives to be included in the Corps' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The SCSPA permit application describes the proposed marine container terminal at the southern portion of the CNC. The proposed dock is more than 3,000 feet long and will require the construction of a berthing area, turning basin and upland support facilities. Construction of the berthing area, dock and turning basin on the Cooper River will require dredging. Dredged material will be disposed in existing upland dredge disposal areas. Aquatic habitat, including freshwater wetland and tidal marsh, that would be affected by the dredge and fill activities include 143.3 acres of open water habitat, 7.2 acres of tidal marsh habitat and 13.9 acres of freshwater wetland habitat.

The Corps is preparing a EIS as outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, in order to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed terminal at the CNC. Hosting the Public Information Workshop and Public Scoping Meeting are one step

-more-

2/2/2

SCOPING

in the NEPA process and is a chance for the public to be heard. The Public Information Workshop and the Scoping Meeting are often referred to, as the “scoping process” and the March 16 workshop and scoping meeting are the beginning of the scoping process. The information collected at the Workshop and Scoping Meeting will help define the scope of the EIS, which will deal with the issues associated with the proposed project, including construction and operation of a SCSPA marine container terminal at the CNC, and reasonable alternatives to the proposed project.

The Corps is the lead agency directing the development of the EIS. The Federal Highway Administration is the cooperating agency on the EIS. Both agencies will work closely with other Federal, State and local agencies during the environmental review process. Input from the public and these agencies will be used in the development of the EIS.

Both written and oral comments will be accepted at the Public Information Workshop and Scoping Meeting. The public can also provide comments to the Corps for up to 30 days after the Public Scoping Meeting. The Scoping Meeting will also allow the public to provide input on what kind of information they want to receive and how they want to receive it. Attendees to both the Public Information Workshop and the Scoping Meeting will be asked to complete an attendance card. The information on the card will be used not only as a record of attendance, but also as an avenue to distribute EIS information throughout the process.

The Public Information Workshop will provide the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed project, the permit application and the NEPA process. Information packets featuring the SCSPA permit application, location maps, and an overview of the NEPA process will be made available to the public.

The Corps will provide other opportunities for the public to participate in the NEPA process for the proposed SCSPA marine container terminal. Further coordination will be announced through public notices, project hotline, media announcements and a project website.

Updates on future public meetings and other methods for public participation can be found throughout the NEPA process using the EIS website (www.portEIS.com <<http://www.portEIS.com>>) or the EIS hotline, (843) 971-7970.

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3/3/3

SCOPING

FORMAT OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC SCOPING

MEETING:

The Corps will host the Public Information Workshop in the Sterett Hall Gymnasium and the Public Scoping Meeting in the Sterett Hall Auditorium. The Public Information Workshop will include exhibits, descriptions of the proposed project, handouts and two stenographers to record public comment for those who do not want to make their comments in the scoping meeting. The Public Scoping Meeting will include introductory statements from Lt. Col. Alvin B. Lee, Corps, Charleston District Commander and Bernard Groseclose, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of SCSPA, and an opportunity for registered speakers to address Lt. Col. Lee with their comments in the presence of the public assembled in the auditorium. The introductory statement from Lt. Col. Lee will provide an overview of the NEPA process and explain avenues for public participation.

Persons, who wish to be registered speakers and address Lt. Col. Lee with their comments in the auditorium, must identify themselves by completing a registration card (standard to each person attending the Information Workshop and/or the Public Scoping Meeting) and submitting it to the registration desk, located near the entrance to the auditorium. A stenographer will record the proceedings of the Public Scoping Meeting, which includes Lt. Col. Lee's speech and comments from the speakers.

As stated in the first paragraph, the Public Information Workshop will open at 5 p.m. and the Public Scoping Meeting will start at 6 p.m. Registration cards will be available and accepted at the registration desk after the Information Workshop opens at 5 p.m.

DIRECTIONS TO STERETT HALL:

Directions from the Charleston International Airport:

- Take I-526 and I-26 East.
- Proceed approximately 3 miles and take Cosgrove Avenue North (Exit # 216B).
- At the 3rd traffic signal turn left onto Spruill Avenue.
- At the first traffic signal, turn right onto McMillan Avenue.
- Proceed through gate. No guard is on duty.
- Turn right at the first traffic signal onto Hobson Avenue.
- Follow Hobson Avenue approximately 0.1 miles until the road turns slightly to the left. Immediately following the slight turn, the entrance to Sterett Hall is on the Right. The entrance road is named Calumet Street and becomes the Sterett Hall Parking Lot.
- Parking for Sterett Hall is on both sides of Sterett Hall, around the building and immediately as you enter the parking lot.

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4/4/4

SCOPING

- Direction signs will be posted to demonstrate the location of the scoping meeting starting at the intersection of MacMillan and Spruill Avenue.
- City of North Charleston officers and signs will assist drivers to parking locations.

Directions from downtown:

- Take I-26 West.
- Exit at Spruill Avenue (Exit #218).
- Turn left at the light at the end of the exit ramp.
- Turn right at the first light (Viaduct Road).
- Proceed through the base gate. No guard is on duty.
- Turn left at the first traffic signal onto Hobson Road
- Follow Hobson Road approximately 0.75 miles and make a right onto Calumet Street. Calumet Street is the entrance road to the Sterett Hall Parking Lot.
- Parking for Sterett Hall is on both sides of Sterett Hall, around the building and immediately as you enter the parking lot.
- Direction signs will be posted to demonstrate the location of the scoping meeting from the intersection of Viaduct Road and Hobson Avenue
- City of North Charleston officers and signs will assist drivers to parking locations

Written comments for the DEIS process should be forwarded to the Corps Project Manager for DEIS, Tracy Hurst at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, Regulatory Division, 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, S.C. 29403. Inquires from media should be directed toward the Corps' Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Alicia Gregory at the same address or (843) 329-8123. Maps showing the location of Sterett Hall on the CNC, information on the NEPA process and additional information on the proposed project are available online at www.portEIS.com.