US Army Corps of Engineers®

Charleston District

PORT ROYAL HARBOR DISPOSITION STUDY

Beaufort County, South Carolina

APPENDIX II: ENVIRONMENTAL

May 2023

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AGENCY SCOPING CORRESPONDENCE

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	pace.wilber@noaa.gov; Hightower, Charles; Stout, Christopher; Johnson, Elizabeth; Caldwell, Mark; Lorianne Riggin; SPIREK, JIM; Singh-White.Alya@epa.gov; EPA Kelly Laycock; Andy Herndon (andrew.herndon@noaa.gov)
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Monday, March 21, 2022 3:08:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Figure 1.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf

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Dear Stakeholders,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

Pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental laws and regulations, USACE will be evaluating the potential effects of discontinuing operations and maintenance associated with the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project. We are requesting comments regarding any concerns you may have with the proposed study including the scope of issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

Please send written comments via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil by COB 22 April 2022.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
Cell: 843.566.3857

TRIBAL SCOPING CORRESPONDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHARLESTON DISTRICT
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

23 March 2022

Planning and Environmental Branch

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Dr. Wenonah G. Haire
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Dear Dr. Haire:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

Please send written comments to Andrea Hughes, Planning and Environmental Branch, 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29403, or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to the e-mail provided above or contact Andrea Hughes at 843.566.3857.

Sincerely,

Nancy Parrish

Nancy Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Enclosures

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: 106NAGPRA@astribe.com
Cc: dfrazier@astribe.com
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 11:58:00 AM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Frazier,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.329.8145

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: ryargee@alabama-quassarte.org
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 12:01:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Yargee,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: Karen.brunso@chickasaw.net
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:37:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Brunso,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: sbachor@delawaretribe.org
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:50:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Bachor,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: russtown@nc-cherokee.com
Cc: Yerka, Stephen
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:04:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Townsend,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: pbarton@estoo.net
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:30:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Barton,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: david.cook@kialegeetribe.net
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:52:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Cook,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	clowe@muscogeenation.com
Cc:	Section106@muscogeenation.com
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:28:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

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Dear Ms. Lowe-Zepeda,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: THPO@pci-nsn.gov
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:30:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Haikey,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

Pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental laws and regulations, USACE will be evaluating the potential effects of discontinuing operations and maintenance associated with the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project. We are requesting comments regarding any concerns you may have with the proposed study including the scope of issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: tonya@shawnee-tribe.com
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:31:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Tipton,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: thpo@tttown.org
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:34:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Cloud,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: bprintup@hetf.org
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:35:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Printup,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

SCOPING RESPONSES

From: Caldwell, Mark
To: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
Cc: Olds, Melanie J
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 3:33:13 PM

Andrea,

The Service offers no comments on the disposition study for the Port Royal Navigation Project at this time.

Mark

Mark A. Caldwell
Deputy Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
South Atlantic-Gulf Region
South Carolina Ecological Services (New website - https://www.fws.gov/office/south-carolina-ecological-services)
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407
843-300-0426 (direct line)
843-870-0041 (cell)
843-300-0189 – facsimile

This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA) <Andrea.W.Hughes@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 3:09 PM
To: pace.wilber <pace.wilber@noaa.gov>; Hightower, Charles <HIGHTOCW@dhec.sc.gov>; Stout, Christopher <stoutcm@dhec.sc.gov>; Johnson, Elizabeth <EJohnson@scdah.sc.gov>; Caldwell, Mark <mark_caldwell@fws.gov>; rigginl@dnr.sc.gov; SPIREK, JIM <SPIREKJ@mailbox.sc.edu>; Singh-White.Alya@epa.gov; EPA Kelly Laycock <Laycock.Kelly@epa.gov>; Andy Herndon (andrew.herndon@noaa.gov) <andrew.herndon@noaa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Stakeholders,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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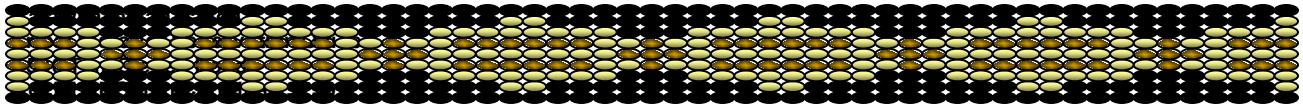
Please send written comments via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil by COB 22 April 2022.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
Cell: 843.566.3857



Office 803-328-2427

May 12, 2022

Attention: Andrea Hughes
Department of the Army
69 A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Re. THPO #	TCNS #	Project Description
2022-1-43		Disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort Co., SC

Dear Ms. Hughes,

The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. **However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project.**

If you have questions please contact Caitlin Rogers at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail Caitlin.Rogers@catawba.com.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Rogers for

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer