



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston District

APPENDIX J

**CHARLESTON HARBOR POST 45
BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

404(b)(1) Evaluation Short Form

30 September 2016

**EVALUATION OF SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES
(SHORT FORM)**

PROPOSED PROJECT: Charleston Harbor Post 45 Beneficial Use of New Work Dredged Material. Potential projects include Crab Bank enhancement, Shutes Folly enhancement and are fully described in the accompanying Supplemental Environmental Assessment

	Yes	No*
1. Review of Compliance (230.10(a)-(d))		
A review of the proposed project indicates that:		
a. The placement represents the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and, if in a special aquatic site, the activity associated with the placement must have direct access or proximity to, or be located in the aquatic ecosystem, to fulfill its basic purpose (if no, see section 2 and information gathered for EA alternative).	X	
b. The activity does not appear to:		
1) Violate applicable state water quality standards or effluent standards prohibited under Section 307 of the Clean Water Act;	X	
2) Jeopardize the existence of Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; and	X	
3) Violate requirements of any Federally-designated marine sanctuary (if no, see section 2b and check responses from resource and water quality certifying agencies).	X	
c. The activity will not cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the U.S. including adverse effects on human health, life stages of organisms dependent on the aquatic ecosystem, ecosystem diversity, productivity and stability, and recreational, aesthetic, an economic values (if no, see values, Section 2)	X	
d. Appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts of the discharge on the aquatic ecosystem (if no, see Section 5)	X	

	Not Applicable	Not Significant	Significant*
2. Technical Evaluation Factors (Subparts C-F) (where a 'Significant' category is checked, add explanation below.)			
a. Physical and Chemical Characteristics of the Aquatic Ecosystem (Subpart C)			
1) Substrate impacts		X	
2) Suspended particulates/turbidity impacts		X	
3) Water column impacts		X	
4) Alteration of current patterns and water circulation		X	
5) Alteration of normal water fluctuation/hydroperiod		X	
6) Alteration of salinity gradients		X	
b. Biological Characteristics of the Aquatic Ecosystem (Subpart D)			
1) Effect on threatened/endangered species and their habitat		X	
2) Effect on the aquatic food web		X	
3) Effect on other wildlife (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians)		X	
	Not Applicable	Not Significant	Significant*

2. Technical Evaluation Factors (Subparts C-F) (where a 'Significant' category is checked, add explanation below.)			
c. Special Aquatic Sites (Subpart E)			
1) Sanctuaries and refuges		X	
2) Wetlands Approximately 0.8 acres of saltwater marsh would be directly impacted by construction of the Crab Bank alternative. Refinements in the alignment for the Final IFR-EIS may result in changes to the total wetlands affected. These impacts are considered insignificant because the wetlands are patchy and sporadic in nature		X	
3) Mud flats		X	
4) Vegetated shallows	X		
5) Coral reefs	X		
6) Riffle and pool complexes	X		
d. Human Use Characteristics (Subpart F)			
1) Effects on municipal and private water supplies	X		
2) Recreational and Commercial fisheries impacts		X	
3) Effects on water-related recreation		X	
4) Aesthetic impacts		X	
5) Effects on parks, national and historical monuments, national seashores, wilderness areas, research sites, and similar preserves		X	

	Yes
3. Evaluation of Dredged or Fill Material (Subpart G)	
a. The following information has been considered in evaluating the biological availability of possible contaminants in dredged or fill material (check only those appropriate)	
1) Physical characteristics	X
2) Hydrography in relation to known or anticipated sources of contaminants	X
3) Results from previous testing of the material or similar material in the vicinity of the project	X
4) Known, significant sources of persistent pesticides from land runoff or percolation	X
5) Spill records for petroleum products or designated (Section 311 of Clean Water Act) hazardous substances	X
6) Other public records of significant introduction of contaminants from industries, municipalities or other sources	X
7) Known existence of substantial material deposits of substances which could be released in harmful quantities to the aquatic environment by man-induced discharge activities	

List appropriate references:

ANAMAR Environmental Consulting, Inc. 2013. Final Report. Charleston Harbor Navigation Improvement Project (Post 45) Dredging MPRSA Section 103 Sediment Testing and Analysis, Charleston, South Carolina. Prepared for US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. Contract No. W912EP-09-D-0013-DW01.

(URL:http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Portals/43/docs/civilworks/post45/Charleston_Post%2045%20FINAL.pdf).

ANAMAR Environmental Consulting, Inc. 2015. *Final Report: Lower Harbor Sediment Sampling and Analysis, Charleston Harbor Federal Navigation Channel, Charleston, Berkeley County, South Carolina*. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. June 2015.

American Vibracore Services. 2016. *Subsurface Investigation and Geotechnical Laboratory Testing Results, Charleston Harbor Post 45 Preconstruction Engineering and Design, Beneficial Use of Dredged Material, Charleston County, South Carolina*. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. July 2016.

	Yes	No
b. An evaluation of the appropriate information in 3a above indicates that there is reason to believe the proposed dredged or fill material is not a carrier of contaminants, or that levels of contaminants are substantively similar at extraction and placement sites and not likely to degrade the placement sites, or the material meets the testing exclusion criteria.	X	

	Yes
4. Placement Site Delineation (230.11(f))	
a. The following factors as appropriate, have been considered in evaluating the placement site:	
1) Depth of water at placement site	X
2) Current velocity, direction, and variability at placement site	X
3) Degree of turbulence	X
4) Water column stratification	X
5) Discharge vessel speed and direction	X
6) Rate of discharge	X
7) Fill material characteristics (constituents, amount, and type of material, settling velocities)	X
8) Number of discharges per unit of time	
9) Other factors affecting rates and patterns of mixing (specify)	

List appropriate references:

	Yes	No
b. An evaluation of the appropriate factors in 4a above indicates that the placement site and/or size of mixing zone are acceptable.	X	

	Yes	No
5. Actions to Minimize Adverse Effects (Subpart H)	X	
All appropriate and practicable steps have been taken, through application of recommendations of 230.70-230.77 to ensure minimal adverse effects of the proposed discharge.	X	

List actions taken:

- 1) Temporary turbidity controls will be utilized by the contractor during construction. These controls consist of managing effluent by the creation of containment dikes or other method. If necessary, additional measure such as turbidity curtains could be utilized to prevent inadvertent discharge of fill material into the adjacent estuary.

	Yes	No*
6. Factual Determination (230.11)		
A review of appropriate information as identified in items 2-5 above indicates that there is minimal potential for short- or long-term environmental effects of the proposed discharge as related to:		
a. Physical substrate at the placement site (review Sections 2a. 3, 4, and 5 above)	X	
b. Water circulation, fluctuation and salinity (review Sections 2a. 3, 4, and 5)	X	
c. Suspended particulates/turbidity (review Sections 2a. 3, 4, and 5)	X	
d. Contaminant availability (review Sections 2a. 3, and 4)	X	
e. Aquatic ecosystem structure and function (review Sections 2b and c, 3, and 5)	X	
f. Placement site (review Sections 2, 4, and 5)	X	
g. Cumulative impacts on the aquatic ecosystem	X	
h. Secondary impacts on the aquatic ecosystem	X	

7. Evaluation Responsibility
a. This evaluation was prepared by: Mark Messersmith Position: Biologist, CESAC-PM-PL

8. Findings	Yes
a. The proposed placement site for discharge of or fill material complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.	X
b. The proposed placement site for discharge of dredged or fill material complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines with the inclusion of the following conditions:	

List of conditions:

c. The proposed placement site for discharge of dredged or fill material does not comply with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines for the following reason(s):	N/A
1) There is a less damaging practicable alternative	
2) The proposed discharge will result in significant degradation of the aquatic ecosystem	
3) The proposed discharge does not include all practicable and appropriate measures to minimize potential harm to the aquatic ecosystem	
<p style="text-align: center;">9/29/16</p> <p>Date</p>	 <hr/> DIANE PERKINS Chief, CESAC-PM-PL

NOTES:

- * A negative, significant, or unknown response indicates that the permit application may not be in compliance with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.

Negative responses to three or more of the compliance criteria at the preliminary stage indicate that the proposed projects may not be evaluated using this "short form" procedure. Care should be used in assessing pertinent portions of the technical information of items 2a-e before completing the final review of compliance.

Negative response to one of the compliance criteria at the final stage indicates that the proposed project does not comply with the Guidelines. If the economics of navigation and anchorage of Section 404(b)(2) are to be evaluated in the decision-making process, the "short form" evaluation process is inappropriate.