



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Charleston District

Project Fact Sheet

Cooper River, Charleston Harbor, SC

Berkeley and Charleston Counties, SC

P2#: 476967

Congressional Districts: Nancy Mace (SC-01) James Clyburn (SC-6)

Appropriation: Operation & Maintenance
Phase: NA
Business Line: Navigation

Authority: Section 101, P.L. 90-483 modified by P.L. 102-104 and further modified by Section 353, P.L. 104-303

Location Description: The project is located in Charleston and Berkeley Counties. All operations and maintenance are in Berkeley County (St. Stephen, SC) about 45 miles north of Charleston, SC.

Project Description: The Cooper River Rediversion Project includes operation and maintenance of the St. Stephen Power Plant and associated structures and facilities in accordance with our agreement with the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper). The Project diverts most of the Santee River waters above Pinopolis Dam back into the lower Santee River. Annually, the hydro generating units produce an average of 160,000 MWh of electricity from the diverted Santee River waters. Also included in the project authorization was the design and construction of a fishlift. Since the fishlift opened in 1987, the structure has passed about 10 million herring, 7 million shad, and tens of thousands of other types of fish.

The Project was authorized, constructed and is operated in order to reduce siltation in the Charleston Harbor. Prior to rediversion, costs for the operation and maintenance of the Charleston Harbor were threatening the continued viability of the port. The Project has reduced sedimentation rates in Charleston Harbor from 10 million cubic yards to 2 million cubic yards annually, resulting in a savings of \$36 million per year in annual dredging costs.

Current Status: As of 19 April 2021- Funds are being used to operate the power plant, perform power plant maintenance and perform maintenance of non-recreational buildings, grounds, utilities and the fish lift.

Routine Operation and Maintenance: \$3.9M to maintain and operate the power plant and fish lift, to manage natural resources, to perform condition and operational studies/activities and to comply with water quality, State and Federal environmental and reliability regulations. Impacts of not funding: Increased shoaling in Charleston Harbor which is downstream of the Project and impacts to effectively passing fish through the fish lift for the upcoming spawning season.

Non-Routine Maintenance funds have not been allocated.

Sponsor: NA

Project Manager (PM): Phil Wolf
PM Phone: (843) 329-8069
PM Email: Philip.M.Wolf@usace.army.mil