

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403-5107**

and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

**1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405**

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2019-01818

November 21, 2019

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

**Mr. Billy Ackerman
AOCUSA
4950 Virginia Avenue
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405**

for a permit to perform routine berth maintenance dredging in the

Cooper River

at the AOCUSA facility at 4950 Virginia Avenue in North Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina (Latitude: 32.8844°, Longitude: -79.9672 °), Quad Sheet: North Charleston.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of performing routine berth maintenance dredging at the AOCUSA facility. In detail the applicant is requesting authorization for a ten-year maintenance dredging permit to dredge using either a hydraulic cutterhead dredge or a mechanical dredge with a clamshell bucket. The applicant is requesting both forms of dredging to provide for greater flexibility when hydraulic dredging is not available. When hydraulically dredging, the material would be transported to the Clouter Island Dredge Material Placement Facility (DMPF). When mechanical dredging, the material would be placed into a scow and transported to the Clouter Island DMPF, where the sediment would be liquefied by adding water and the resultant slurry would be pumped into the DMPF. The applicant proposes an initial dredge event to remove approximately 35,000 cubic yards. Dredging the berth at approximately 18-month intervals thereafter is anticipated to remove approximately 15,000 cubic yards per event to yield a total of approximately 125,000 cubic yards over the life of the permit. The berth to be dredged is approximately 850' long and the width of the dredge area varies due to a shift in the adjacent federal channel, but ranges between approximately 130' and 175'. The previously authorized and currently proposed dredge depth is -45' MLW, plus an allowable 2' overdepth. As there are no impacts to wetlands, the applicant is not proposing mitigation. The project purpose is to maintain safe operating depths during all tidal stages to accommodate vessels at the AOCUSA facility.

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices> .

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 2.9 acres of estuarine substrates utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or

fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, and the District Engineer has determined, based on the most recently available information that the West Indian manatee, Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, green sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, and the loggerhead sea turtle have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the project area. However, it has been determined that the project will have no effect on sturgeon and sea turtles and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of their designated or proposed critical habitat. In addition, the District Engineer has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian manatee. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(1)(1)), and has initially determined that no historic properties are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and any other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

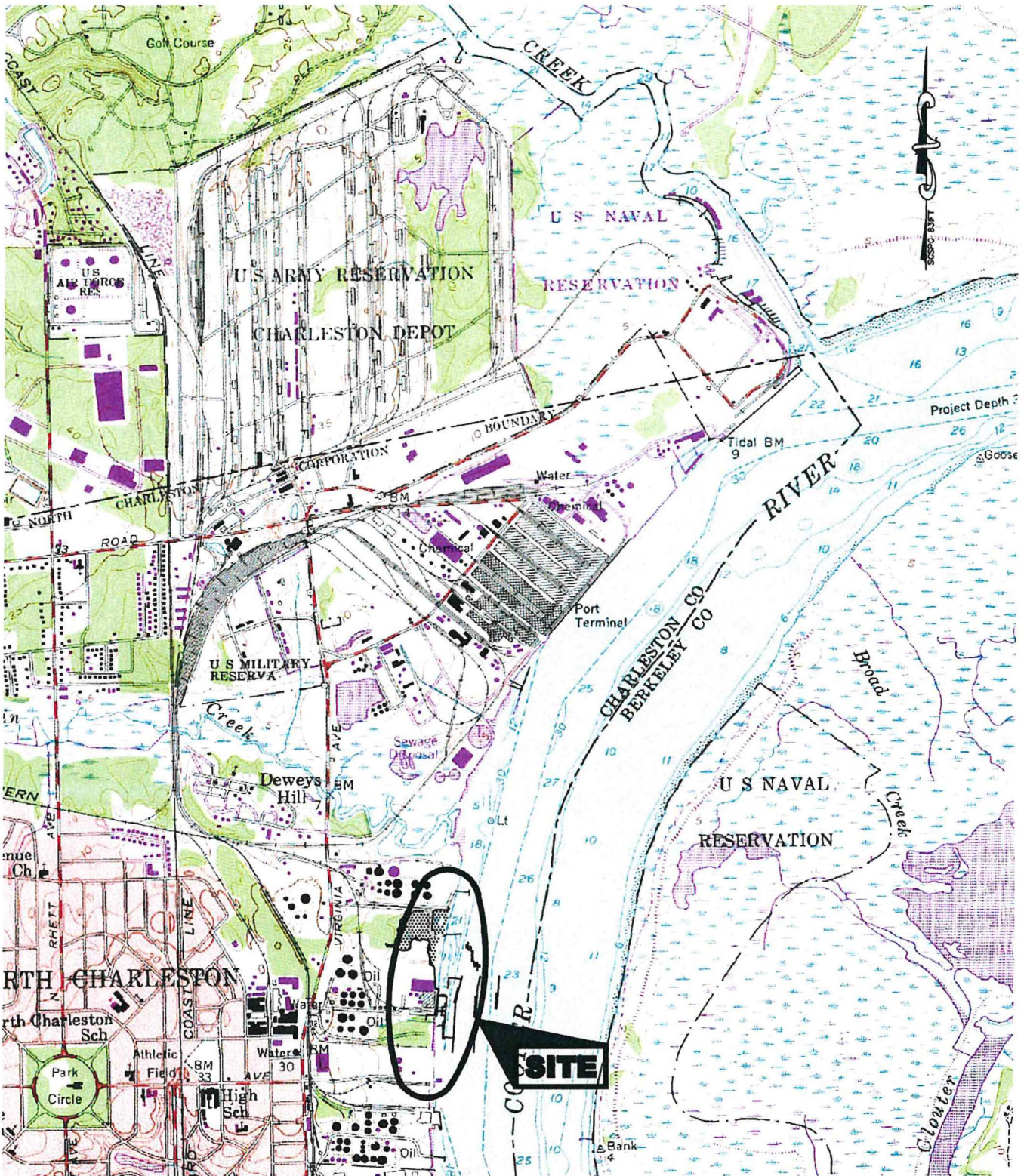
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands,

historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity. **Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403-5107**

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Chelsea B. Fannin, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8038, or by email at Chelsea.B.Fannin@usace.army.mil.



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PURPOSE: MAINTAIN SAFE OPERATING DEPTHS FOR DEEP-DRAFT VESSELS

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS SEE ATTACHED LIST

SURVEY DATUM: NAD83

FIGURE 1
QUAD MAP
USGS QUAD "NORTH CHARLESTON"

SCALE 1" = 2,000'

AOCUSA
4950 VIRGINIA AVENUE
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

PROPOSED: BERTH MAINTENANCE DREDGING

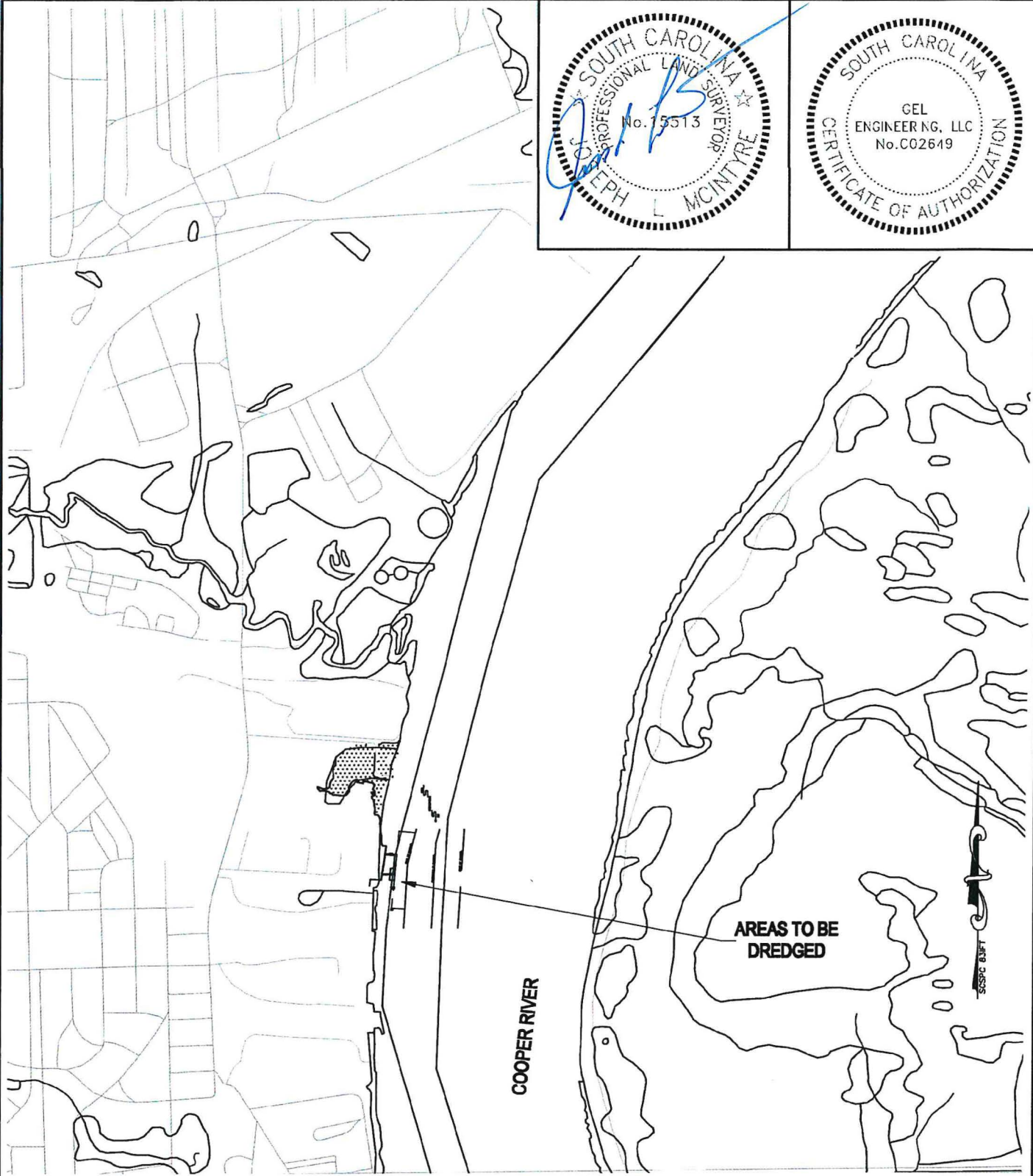
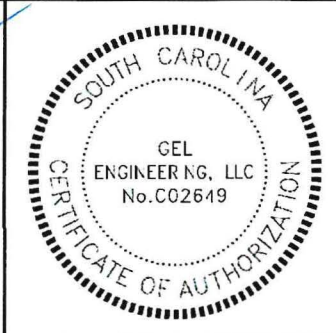
AT: NORTH CHARLESTON

IN: COOPER RIVER

COUNTY: CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

SHEET: 1 OF 5

DATE: 10/15/2019

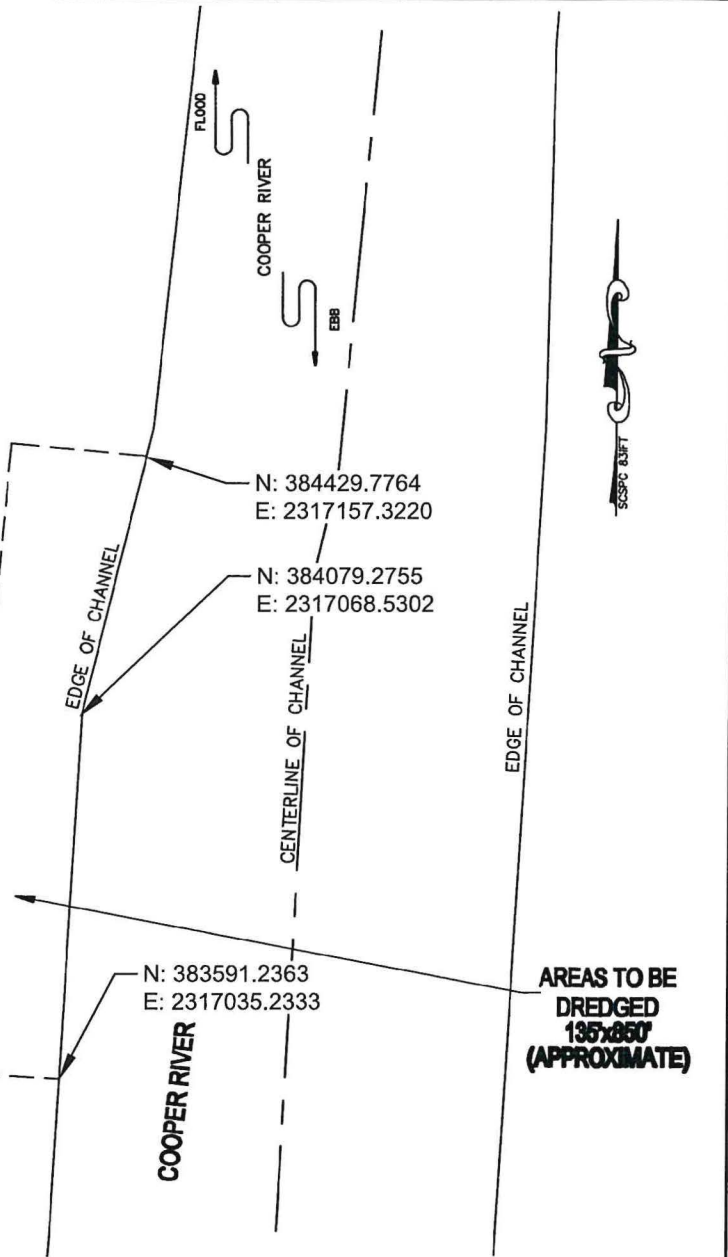
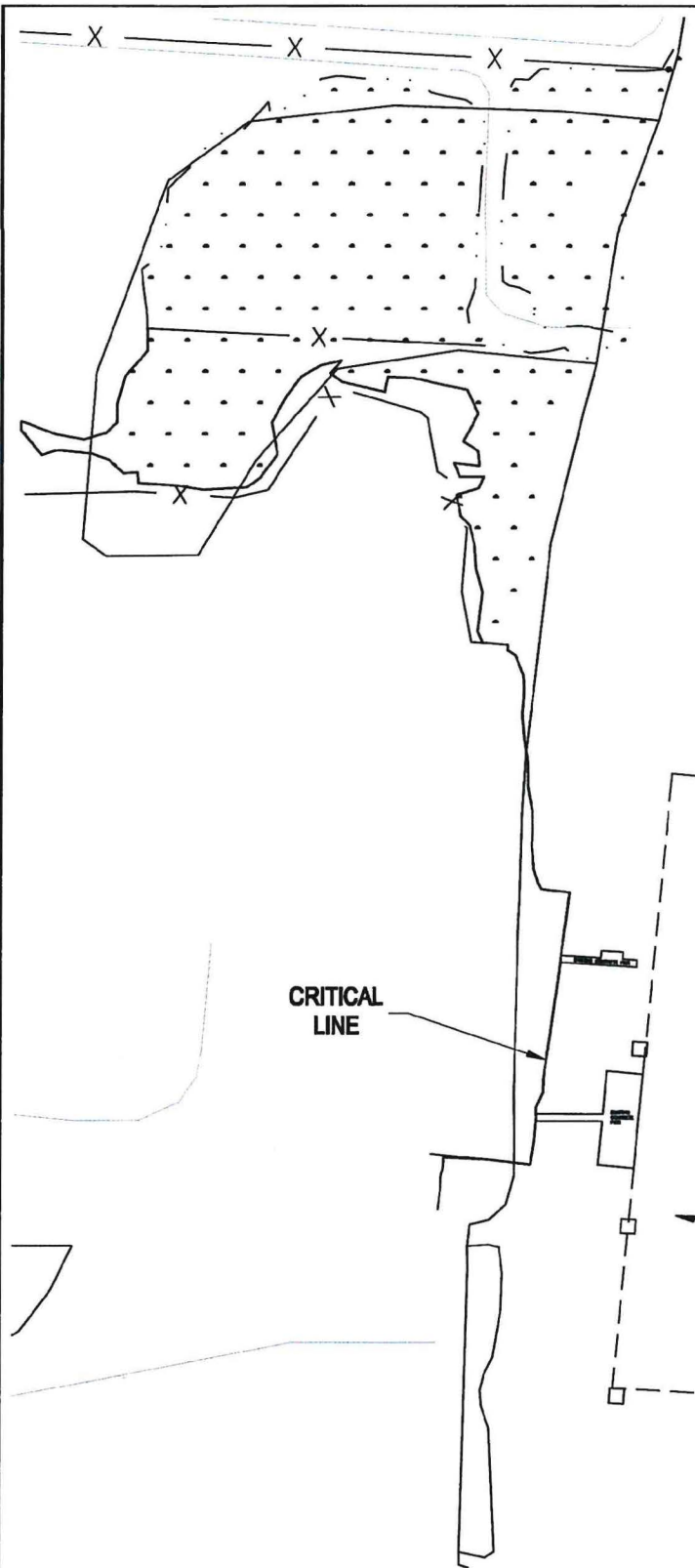


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PURPOSE: MAINTAIN SAFE OPERATING DEPTHS FOR DEEP-DRAFT VESSELS
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS: SEE ATTACHED LIST
SURVEY DATUM: NAD83


FIGURE 2
SITE PLAN
 SCALE 1" = 1,500'
 AOCUSA
 4950 VIRGINIA AVENUE
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

PROPOSED: BERTH MAINTENANCE DREDGING
AT: NORTH CHARLESTON
IN: COOPER RIVER
COUNTY: CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
SHEET: 2 OF 5 **DATE:** 10/15/2019

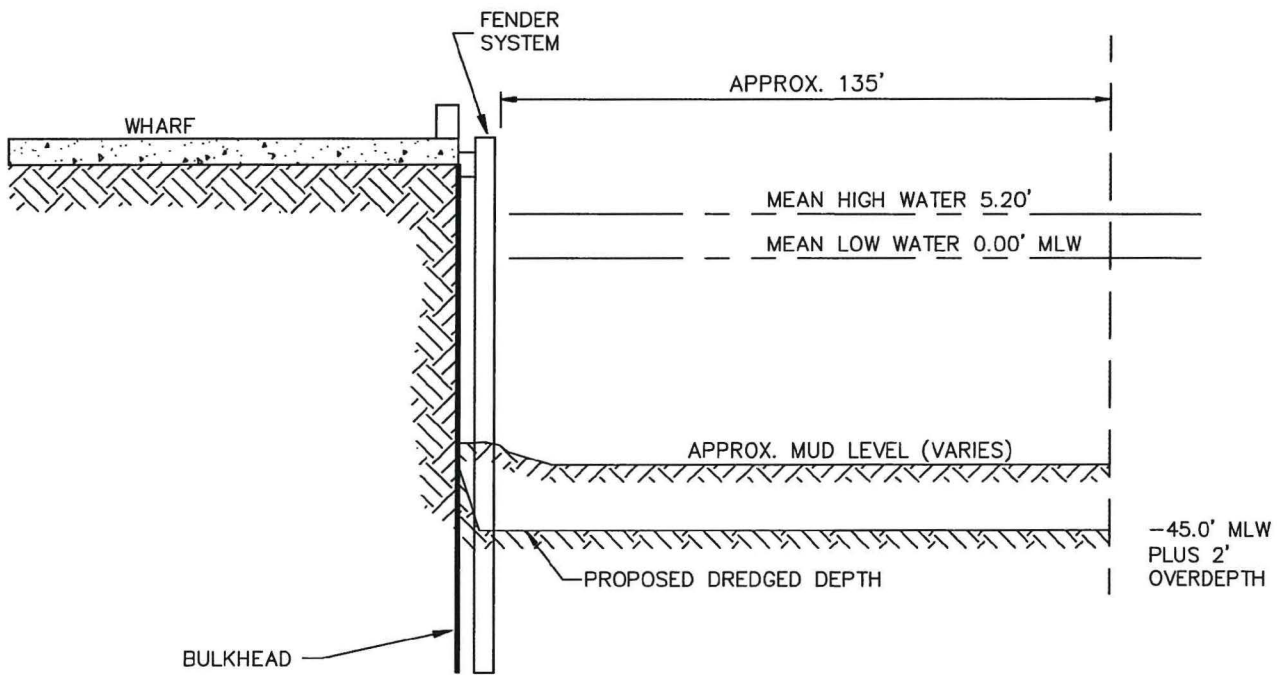
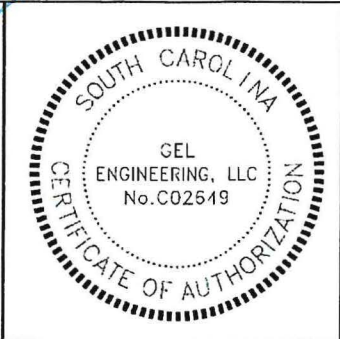
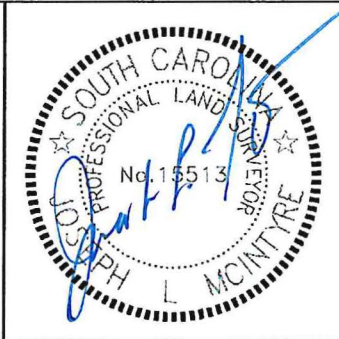


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PURPOSE: MAINTAIN SAFE OPERATING DEPTHS FOR DEEP-DRAFT VESSELS
 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS SEE ATTACHED LIST
 SURVEY DATUM: NAD83

FIGURE 3
ENLARGED PLAN VIEW
 SCALE 1" = 2,000'
 AOCUSA
 4950 VIRGINIA AVENUE
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

PROPOSED: BERTH MAINTENANCE DREDGING
 AT: NORTH CHARLESTON
 IN: COOPER RIVER
 COUNTY: CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
 SHEET: 3 OF 5 DATE: 10/15/2019



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PURPOSE: MAINTAIN SAFE OPERATING DEPTHS
 FOR DEEP-DRAFT VESSELS

 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS
 SEE ATTACHED LIST

 SURVEY DATUM: NAD83

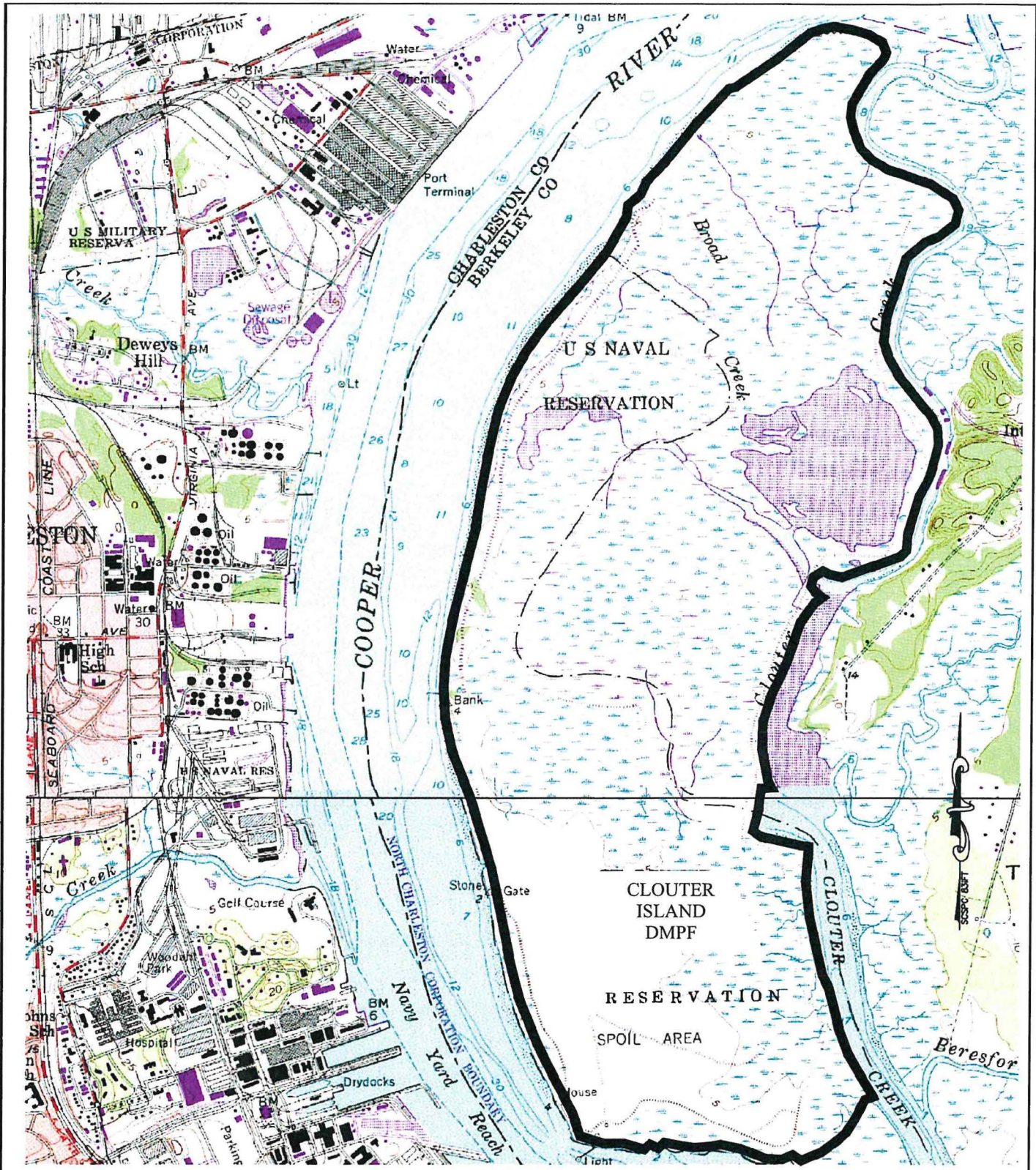
FIGURE 4
CROSS SECTION

 NOT TO SCALE

 AOCUSA
 4950 VIRGINIA AVENUE
 NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

PROPOSED: BERTH MAINTENANCE DREDGING
 AT: NORTH CHARLESTON
 IN: COOPER RIVER
 COUNTY: CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

 SHEET: 4 OF 5 DATE: 10/15/2019



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PURPOSE: MAINTAIN SAFE OPERATING DEPTHS FOR DEEP-DRAFT VESSELS

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS SEE ATTACHED LIST

SURVEY DATUM: NAD83

FIGURE 5
DMPF SITE
USGS QUAD "NORTH CHARLESTON"

SCALE 1" = 2,000'

AOUSA
4950 VIRGINIA AVENUE
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

PROPOSED: BERTH MAINTENANCE DREDGING

AT: NORTH CHARLESTON

IN: COOPER RIVER

COUNTY: CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

SHEET: 5 OF 5

DATE: 10/15/2019