To: Cote, Mel[Cote.Mel@epa.gov]; Bender, Emily[Bender.Emily@epa.gov]; R1 OPA[R1_OPA@epa.gov]; Stein, Mark[Stein.Mark@epa.gov]; Dierker, Carl[Dierker.Carl@epa.gov]; Spalding, Curt[Spalding.Curt@epa.gov]; Szaro, Deb[Szaro.Deb@epa.gov]
Cc: Hamjian, Lynne[Hamjian.Lynne@epa.gov]
From: Brochi, Jean
Sent: Mon 11/7/2016 1:49:18 PM
Subject: RE: BC-CT--Long Island Sound-Dredging

Mel, The link does take some time to load. I have copied the article below. Thanks, Jeannie

Here is the article:

LATEST NEWS·

EPA names eastern LIS dredge disposal site

Published November 04. 2016 4:06PM | Updated November 04. 2016 7:16PM

By Judy Benson Day staff writer

j.benson@theday.com BensonJudy

The Environmental Protection Agency on Friday designated a 1.3-square mile area in Connecticut waters between the mouth of the Thames River and the southeastern tip of Fishers Island as the site where sediment dredged from channels, harbors and ports can be disposed for the next 30 years.

The Eastern Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal Site, established over the objections of New York State, will be available to begin accepting sediment soon after the Dec. 23 closure of the two existing sites in the eastern Sound. One is at an adjacent location to the new site, and the other is in Cornfield Shoals off Old Saybrook.

Curt Spalding, regional administrator for the EPA, said the final contours and location of the site respond to New York State's objections. It is smaller than the 2-square-mile site originally proposed, and will be able to accept about 20 million cubic yards of sediment instead of the 27 million the larger site would have been able to accommodate.

“We tried to be responsive to both sides of the issue,” Spalding said, adding that the agency reviewed 6,000 letters from the public, businesses and government officials over the eight-year process of public meetings, public informational sessions and comment periods. “We felt the need was there for an Eastern Long Island Sound disposal site, but we tried to make sure it was only as big as it needed to be.”

In addition to shrinking the size of the site, the EPA also moved the site to the west and entirely out of New York waters and about a mile from Fishers Island, Spalding said. The agency also established a Regional Dredging Team, comprising representatives of New York and Connecticut, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, that will review each project and testing of material being dredged to ensure that as much sediment as possible is reused for beach replenishment and other land-based projects rather than dumped at the offshore site.

On Oct. 6, the New York State Department of State released a ruling rejecting the EPA’s proposed rule, arguing that it failed to explore practical alternatives to offshore dumping.

Spalding said it is unclear as yet whether New York will be satisfied with the changes made in the final rule and drop its objections. New York officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, was among several Connecticut lawmakers who praised the EPA’s decision. He noted that the site also was moved out of a main navigation channel, in response to concerns raised by the Navy that the proposed site could have interfered with transit of submarines to and from the Naval Submarine Base in Groton.

“This is the final step in a long, exhaustive process that was very inclusive to all the stakeholders,” he said. “This is a huge development for the region.”

Establishment of a new site is good news for marina owners, Electric Boat and other companies that rely on dredging to keep their waterfront areas open, Courtney said. The Navy, which supported the establishment of the new site, is planning a pier construction project that will require 60,000 square feet of material be dredged from its waterfront.

“Having to carry that to the central or western Long Island Sound site would double the cost,” Courtney said, and could ultimately affect the long-term viability of the sub base.

The decision establishing the site does not authorize any specific dredging project. Individual projects must obtain site-specific permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, and dredge material must be tested for contaminants before it can be disposed at the site. Contaminated material must be taken to a hazardous waste disposal site.

Joining Courtney in praising the EPA's decision were the state's two Democratic senators, Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy.

"This decision appropriately balances vital economic and sensitive environmental needs — allowing dredging to proceed while also respecting the unique natural habitat of the Long Island Sound," the two said in a joint statement. "The Sound helps inject $9 billion annually into our local economy, including 55,000 jobs throughout the region — work that depends on safe, reliable access to our waterways like the Groton sub base. We will actively monitor implementation of this plan to guard against any effort that undermines local environmental concerns."

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Rob Klee, commissioner of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, also applauded the EPA's decision.

"The simple fact is that given the nature of our coastline, periodic dredging is required to ensure the navigability of waters and continued access to ports and harbors," Malloy said in a news release. "While we continually seek opportunities for beneficial reuse of dredged materials, this approach is not always available. In those cases, we must maintain the option for well-managed open water disposal. The EPA's decision ensures that the practical, environmentally sound, and cost effective option of open water disposal will remain available for dredging projects in Eastern Connecticut."

Klee said the EPA's rule is consistent with Connecticut's efforts to continue improving the environmental health of the Sound with upgrades to wastewater plants that discharge into the Sound, better management of stormwater runoff and development of a plan for the estuary.

He added that there are times when open-water disposal is the only reasonable option.

"Our experience over almost four decades shows that through careful oversight and management, open water placement of dredged materials has served our maritime needs without negative impacts on water quality, natural resources, aquatic life, or public health in Connecticut or neighboring states," Klee said.

Spalding, the EPA regional administrator, said the site is in an area where "the currents are very mild," meaning that sediments would not tend to migrate.

"It's not a dispersive site at all," he said. "The material will go down to the bottom and stay there."

j.benson@theday.com

From: Cote, Mel
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 8:38 AM
To: Bender, Emily <Bender.Emily@epa.gov>; R1 OPA <R1_OPA@epa.gov>; Brochi, Jean <Brochi.Jean@epa.gov>; Stein, Mark <Stein.Mark@epa.gov>; Dierker, Carl <Dierker.Carl@epa.gov>; Spalding, Curt <Spalding.Curt@epa.gov>; Szaro, Deb <Szaro.Deb@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BC-CT--Long Island Sound-Dredging

Not sure if it's my computer, but I can't see the article when it opens, just the attached letter responding to NY's objection.

Melville P. Coté, Jr., Chief

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From: Bender, Emily
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 8:02 AM
To: R1 OPA <R1_OPA@epa.gov>; Cote, Mel <Cote.Mel@epa.gov>; Brochi, Jean <Brochi.Jean@epa.gov>; Stein, Mark <Stein.Mark@epa.gov>; Dierker, Carl <Dierker.Carl@epa.gov>; Spalding, Curt <Spalding.Curt@epa.gov>; Szaro, Deb <Szaro.Deb@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BC-CT--Long Island Sound-Dredging

http://www.theday.com/local/20161104/epa-names-eastern-lis-dredge-disposal-site

From: Bender, Emily
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 7:58 AM
To: R1 OPA <R1_OPA@epa.gov>; Cote, Mel <Cote.Mel@epa.gov>; Brochi, Jean <Brochi.Jean@epa.gov>; Stein, Mark <Stein.Mark@epa.gov>; Dierker, Carl <Dierker.Carl@epa.gov>; Spalding, Curt <Spalding.Curt@epa.gov>; Szaro, Deb <Szaro.Deb@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: BC-CT--Long Island Sound-Dredging

From: Haigh, Susan [mailto:shaigh@ap.org]
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2016 7:01 PM
To: Bender, Emily <Bender.Emily@epa.gov>
Subject: BC-CT--Long Island Sound-Dredging

Hi Emily,

FYI, here's my story that's out. Thanks for your help today.

Sue

Doc URL: http://elvisa.ap.org/News/Stories/CTC-2016-Nov-04-001205/CTC-2016-Nov-04-001205.docx

Slug:	BC-CT--Long Island Sound-Dredging
Headline:	EPA issues rule creating disposal site for dredging sediment
Summary:	The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a final rule, designating part of eastern Long Island Sound in Connecticut waters as a disposal site for dredged sediment. While Friday's decision was praised by Connecticut officials, at least one New York environmental group wants the decision challenged in court.
Extended Headline:	The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a final rule, designating part of eastern Long Island Sound in Connecticut waters as a disposal site for dredged sediment
Editors Note:	Eds: Updates throughout with detail and comment. Adds byline.
Urgency:	Non Urgent
Junkline:	slhstf
Byline:	By SUSAN HAIGH
Bytitle:	Associated Press
Dateline:	HARTFORD, Conn.

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency issued a final decision Friday that designates a portion of eastern Long Island Sound in Connecticut waters as a disposal site for dredged sediment from Connecticut and New York ports and harbors.

The EPA's rule was praised by Connecticut officials, including U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, a Democrat whose 2nd District includes the southeastern Connecticut shoreline. He said small marinas to the U.S. Submarine Base in Groton all rely on having a long-term placement site for dredged materials.

"This eagerly awaited step is the result of years of intensive scientific study, robust public engagement and advocacy by a wide range of interests in the region, and I firmly believe that the final product reflects the balanced approach that we all know is needed," he said in a written statement.

The Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal Site is located just west of the current New London Disposal Site, which is closing Dec. 23.

New York last month formally objected to the proposal, saying the EPA hadn't sufficiently considered the cumulative effects of dumping or other available disposal sites. At least one environmental group urged New York Gov. Mario Cuomo to challenge the EPA's decision in court, claiming it ignores the state's concerns.

"A new battle to protect Long Island Sound begins today," said Adrienne Esposito, executive director of the New York and Connecticut-based Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "In the past the enemy was sewage. Today the enemy is the federal government. It's a sad day for all of us who love the Sound."

Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA's New England office, said the agency took New York's concerns "very seriously" but disagrees with its claims that the dredged sediments could threaten environmental habitats by drifting into New York. Spalding said the Connecticut disposal site location has very low current activity and the "material will end up where it's put."

Spalding also noted how the EPA's new decision reduces the overall amount of sediment that's disposed. A new team will review the dredged material and determine if any of it can be used for another purpose, such as repurposing sand and gravel to replenish eroded beaches.

"We very much want that to happen," Spalding said.

Courtney noted how the EPA's decision follows a recent commitment by the U.S. Navy to spend more than $5 million to plan and design a major pier replacement at the submarine base along the Thames River. He said the project will need dredging and could see significant cost increases without this disposal site.