To: Szaro, Deb[Szaro.Deb@epa.gov]
From: Kristen Conroy
Sent: Thur 10/6/2016 9:48:42 AM
Subject: New York objects to L.I. Sound dredge plan

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This story has been sent to you on behalf of conroy.kristen@epa.gov:

New York objects to L.I. Sound dredge plan

New York state officials are objecting to a federal agency's plan - already endorsed by their Connecticut counterparts - to dump dredged silt in Long Island Sound. Dennis Schain, a spokesman for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, said the agency supports the EPA plan, and pointed out that the dredged material to be disposed of at underwater sites is already in the Sound A recent Hearst Connecticut Media review of a dredging plan developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and now proposed by the EPA found multiple government studies confirming that dredged material stays put after placement, but little science detailing the impact on nearby fish and marine life - or on the 20 million people who live near the Sound's shores

http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/New-York-objects-to-L-I-Sound-dredge-plan-9729676.php

New York objects to L.I. Sound dredge plan

By Frank Juliano

Published 7:29 am, Wednesday, October 5, 2016

New York state officials are objecting to a federal agency's plan - already endorsed by their Connecticut counterparts - to dump dredged silt in Long Island Sound.

The Associated Press reports that Rossana Rosado, New York's secretary of state, formally objected in a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Rosado said the EPA needs to consider alternate sites, and the cumulative effects of the dredging.

The EPA wants to continue underwater dumping of toxic dredge material at a site in the Eastern Long Island Sound that had been scheduled to close at the end of the year.

The New London disposal site will instead be partially closed and expanded beyond its existing underwater footprint to increase capacity. The EPA intends to close the existing Cornfield Shoals disposal site near the mouth of the Connecticut River.

“We are proposing to go from two sites to one,” Mel Cote, chief of the surface water branch for EPA's New England region, told the Connecticut Post earlier this year. “We are also adding new restrictions and procedures.”

Dennis Schain, a spokesman for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, said the agency supports the EPA plan, and pointed out that the dredged material to be disposed of at underwater sites is already in the Sound

“We are pleased that EPA continues to recognize the need to preserve options for open water disposal of dredged materials,” Schain said. “Connecticut's ports, harbors and marinas rely on periodic dredging projects to remain open and available to serve the needs of our state.”

A recent Hearst Connecticut Media review of a dredging plan developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and now proposed by the EPA found multiple government studies confirming that dredged

material stays put after placement, but little science detailing the impact on nearby fish and marine life - or on the 20 million people who live near the Sound's shores.

The review also found stiff opposition to the dredging plan in New York State, in part because Connecticut's maritime economy and dredging needs dwarf New York's. Connecticut's sediment is far more polluted, due to generations of industrial factories that dumped pollutants into rivers and the Sound.

Environmentalists in Connecticut have also sharply criticized the plan, noting the material is classified as toxic.

Reporter Bill Cummings contributed to this story

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