From:	Hamjian, Lynne
To:	Dierker, Carl; Stein, Mark; Perkins, Stephen
Subject:	FW: EPA Statement (LIS)
Date:	Thursday, August 04, 2016 4:27:03 PM

From: Deegan, Dave
Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2016 4:26 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Shore, Berry <Shore.Berry@epa.gov>; McGowan, Michael <McGowan.Michael@epa.gov>; Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>; Spalding, Curt <Spalding.Curt@epa.gov>; Szaro, Deb <Szaro.Deb@epa.gov>; Moraff, Kenneth <Moraff.Ken@epa.gov>; Hamjian, Lynne <Hamjian.Lynne@epa.gov>; Cote, Mel <Cote.Mel@epa.gov>; Gutro, Doug <Gutro.Doug@epa.gov>; Bender, Emily <Bender.Emily@epa.gov>; Brown, Rudy <Brown.Rudy@epa.gov>; O'Neil, Kelsey <Oneil.Kelsey@epa.gov>; Melanson, Kate <Melanson.Kate@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Benenati, Frank <benenati.frank@epa.gov>; Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Loop, Travis <Loop.Travis@epa.gov>; Bowles, Jack <Bowles.Jack@epa.gov>; Rupp, Mark <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA Statement (LIS)

As sent to AP, Newsday and "fios 1 News" whatever that is.
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From: Deegan, Dave
Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2016 4:18 PM
To: Eltman, Frank <FEltman@ap.org>
Cc: Deegan, Dave <Deegan.Dave@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA Statement

Hi Frank,
Many thanks for your patience. If you're able to include this in some of your ongoing coverage, we'd be very grateful.
Best,
Dave

EPA Statement on Long Island Sound (attribute to US EPA):

Dredging is needed to ensure safe navigation in the sound. The EPA worked with federal state and local agencies to develop its proposal. The EPA has not made a final decision, but we believe the proposal strikes an appropriate balance between the need for dredging to maintain safe and efficient navigation, and our desired outcome to restore and protect Long Island Sound.

Additional information

EPA has been working for many years, in close partnership with the states of New York and Connecticut, and other federal agencies, to restore and protect Long Island Sound, a critically important natural resource that provides enormous benefits to the people of this region. Long Island Sound provides invaluable habitat for aquatic life, extensive recreational opportunities, and a crucial engine for the region's economy. Maintaining the navigability of these waters is also extremely important for both economic and national security planning. At times, dredging is needed to ensure safe navigation and adequate mooring space for recreational, commercial, and military vessels. All of these purposes and functions must be served in our collective stewardship of Long Island Sound.

Since the 1970s, when the Clean Water Act and other major environmental statutes were passed into law, EPA has worked with the states and other federal agencies to apply stringent sediment testing requirements to all dredging projects, to prevent contaminated dredged material from being placed at open-water sites, and to ensure that disposal of dredged material occurs in an environmentally-sound manner that does not harm the ecological health of Long Island Sound.

While EPA did not commit to permanently close eastern Long Island Sound disposal sites, EPA did commit to complete a thorough and technically sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and associated rulemaking to potentially designate one or more sites in eastern Long Island Sound before the existing two sites expire on December 23, 2016. In the proposed designation of the Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal site, EPA proposed the same restrictions for its use as were proposed for the Central and Western Long Island Sound Disposal Sites. These restrictions are intended to support the goal of reducing or eliminating open-water disposal in the Sound, and to promote the beneficial use of dredged material, such as using sand for beach nourishment, or other alternatives to open-water disposal whenever practicable.

While EPA has not yet made a final determination, the Agency is confident that its proposal to designate an open-water disposal site in eastern Long Island Sound strikes an appropriate balance between the need for dredging to maintain safe and efficient navigation, and the mandate to restore and protect Long Island Sound. EPA has conducted an open and transparent process throughout this rulemaking, with six public meetings during the development of the draft SEIS and four public hearings on the draft SEIS and proposed rule in May 2016. EPA is carefully reviewing all the comments it received during the public comment period which closed on July 18th after an 81-day comment period. We will evaluate all input – including recommendations for and against the proposal – before taking action to either finalize the site designation or to modify the proposal.

Additional Background:

On April 27, 2016, EPA released both a proposed rule for the designation of a dredged material disposal site in eastern Long Island Sound, and a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Site(s) in Eastern Long Island Sound, Connecticut and New York. EPA held a public comment period on the proposal and draft EIS, which first ran for 60 days and then was extended until July 18, 2016. EPA also conducted four formal public hearings to allow public input on these proposals. Two were held in New York (May 25, 2016, in Riverhead and Mattituck).

In the proposed designation of the Eastern Long Island Sound disposal site, EPA proposed the same restrictions for use of this site as we proposed for the central and western Long Island Sound disposal sites. These restrictions are intended to support the goal of reducing or eliminating open-water disposal of dredged material in the Sound, and to promote the beneficial use of dredged material, such as beach nourishment, or other alternatives to open-water disposal whenever practicable.

EPA has not yet made a final determination on this proposed designation of the Eastern Long Island Sound disposal site. The next steps are for EPA to carefully review all comments submitted during the public comment period, and to evaluate all input including recommendations for and against the proposal, before taking action to either finalize the site designation or to modify the proposal.

In the meantime, some of the information below may also be helpful to you:

- Announcement of comment period for proposal (deadline has since be extended to July 18, 2016): https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-designate-dredged-material-disposal-site-eastern-long-island-sound

- General info on proposal, and link to the detailed document: https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/dredged-material-management-long-island-sound#Eastern%20Long%20Island%20Sound

- General info on dredged material management in LIS: https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/dredged-material-management-long-island-sound

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