



NoPort News

A newsletter of the North Carolina International Terminal

All the news that prints to fit.

September 1, 2009

Dredgery II

We have learned, to our considerable dismay, that the US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, does not plan for public involvement in the reconnaissance study for a new channel for the North Carolina International Terminal, and has commenced the study without scheduling public meetings. This despite a long-standing national policy for public involvement in government decisions and Corps of Engineers regulations specifying procedures for public involvement in the planning process (Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100, Appendix B).

We have been assured, however, that written comments will be received and considered.

The reconnaissance study is a federally-funded project to determine whether there is a "Federal interest" in the channel project. This is preliminary in nature, and would lead to a complete feasibility study and environmental impact statement if the reconnaissance study did conclude that there is a Federal interest.

Reconnaissance studies are conducted pursuant to section 905(b) of the Water Resources Act of 1986. Such a study "shall include a preliminary analysis of the Federal interest, costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of such project." The Federal objective of such projects is to "contribute to national economic development consistent with protecting the Nation's environment" (ER 1105-2-100).

Thus comments to the Corps should address economic and environmental issues, for both the proposed channel and the proposed container terminal. They can be sent by mail to

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or by e-mail to debra.k.willis@usace.army.mil.

The Corps has an information line at 910-251-4055, and has established a Web page for the study at

http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Authorized_Projects/NCIT/main.htm.

We shall be submitting a comprehensive statement. If you have any suggestions (or questions), contact your faithful editor at editor@noportsouthport.org.

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