



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Public Notice

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**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
DREDGING AND DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT
CLEVELAND HARBOR
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

This Public Notice has been prepared and distributed in conformance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulation, "Practice and Procedure: Final Rule for Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects involving the Discharge of Dredged Materials into Waters of the United States or Ocean Waters," 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 337.1. Its purpose is to specify what dredged/fill materials would be discharged into waters of the United States by implementation of the proposed action, and advise all interested parties of the proposed project and provide an opportunity to submit comments or request a public hearing.

The USACE anticipates the need to dredge and place material excavated from the Federal navigation channels of the Cleveland Harbor, including the Cuyahoga River, Old River, Lake Approach Channel, and Outer Harbor Channel, in order to maintain sufficient depth for deep-draft commercial vessels. The attached maps (Figure 1a and 1b) show the authorized limits and depths of the Federal navigation channels. To insure that the minimum authorized depth in the Harbor is maintained throughout the navigation season, an additional four feet of shoal may be removed, including one foot of overdepth and three feet of advance maintenance dredging. Approximately 225,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from Cleveland Harbor Federal navigation channels during the 2014 dredging operation.

The 2014 dredging operation at Cleveland Harbor is tentatively scheduled to be performed between April 1 and December 31.

Sediments will be removed from the channel bottom by mechanical dredge and placed aboard scows for transport to the placement areas. In previous years, clamshell and hopper dredges have been used to complete this dredging. A contractor of the Federal government will accomplish this work.

The material to be dredged from the Cleveland Harbor Federal navigation channels consists primarily of silts and clays, with some sands and gravels. In the Spring of 2012, a

comprehensive sediment testing effort was conducted on sediments sampled from the upper reach of the Cuyahoga River Channel, between Stations 799+00 (upstream Federal navigation channel limit) and 736+00 (Turning Basin), to evaluate suitability of the dredged material for open-lake placement (Figure 2). The subsequent evaluation of sediment sampling data completed in 2013 was conducted in accordance with the protocols and guidelines contained in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)/USACE Great Lakes Dredged Material Testing and Evaluation Manual (1998) and Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Discharge in Waters of the U.S.—Testing Manual (1998). The sediments analyzed represent approximately 80 percent of the material dredged from Cleveland Harbor on an annual basis. The evaluation concludes that discharge of this dredged material into the open-lake would not culminate in contaminant-related, unacceptable adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem. Therefore, it has been determined that it meets Federal “contaminant determination” guidelines (40 CFR 210.11[d]) for open-lake placement. Placement of this dredged material is proposed at open-lake areas 1 and 4 shown in Figure 3. The remaining material to be dredged from the harbor has not been determined to meet Federal guidelines for open-lake placement at this time and will therefore be placed in either confined disposal facility (CDF) No. 9 and/or 10B which are located in the Cleveland Outer Harbor (Figure 4).

In addition to showing that the dredged material met Federal guidelines for open-lake placement, the 2013 evaluation evidenced a significant net improvement in the overall quality of upper Cuyahoga River Channel sediments between 2007 and 2012. Further, the potential impacts from open-lake placement of this dredged material to the quality of water at the Crown, Morgan, Baldwin and Nottingham potable water intakes (PWIs) was investigated by the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (USAERDC). Conservative modeling showed that no meaningful contribution of any suspended solids or contaminants from dredged material placement operations at open-lake areas #1 or #4 would be expected at any of these PWIs.

Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) is required for this action, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, a copy of this Public Notice has been provided to OEPA requesting WQC (or waiver thereof) for the associated discharge of dredged material at the open-lake placement areas and resultant overflow effluent from CDF Nos. 9 and/or 10B.

The environmental effects of the dredging operation are documented in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Operation and Maintenance, Cleveland Harbor, Ohio (1974); and FEIS, Harbor Maintenance and Confined Disposal Facility Site 10B, Cleveland Harbor, Ohio (1994)*. These documents, and supplemental documentation, have been submitted to USEPA and copies are available for examination at the Buffalo District office. An Environmental Assessment and Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation for discharge of the dredged material at the proposed open-lake lake areas are forthcoming and will be available for public review and comment.

There are no listed historic properties or properties determined as being eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project. By this notice, the National Park Service is advised that currently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical

or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished.

The USACE has determined that the proposed project will have No Effect upon any species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will the proposed work result in an Adverse Modification of designated critical habitat for any such species. Therefore, unless new information indicates otherwise, no further consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1978 will be undertaken with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This work will be undertaken in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the State of Ohio Coastal Management Program. A Coastal Management Program Federal Consistency Determination will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) documenting this determination.

The decision whether to perform dredging has been based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision reflects the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which is reasonably expected to accrue from the proposal has been balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal have been considered including the cumulative factors thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

This activity is being coordinated with the following agencies, as well as other appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and organizations:

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio Historic Preservation Office
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Any interested parties and/or agencies desiring to express their views concerning these proposed discharges of dredged material may do so by filing their comments, in writing, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the discharge of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice. The request must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected, and the manner in which the interest may be affected, by this activity.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the USACE with their comments regarding the proposed discharge of this Cleveland Harbor dredged material. Please review this Public Notice and send your comments in writing within 30 days to the following e-mail address:

ClevelandOpenLake@usace.army.mil

or via mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Environmental Analysis Team
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199
ATTN: Environmental Analysis – Cuyahoga River Dredging

This Public Notice is published in conformance with 33 CFR 337.1. All dredging and dredged material discharge will be performed in conformance with Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1323 and 1344, respectively).



Martin P. Wargo, PWS
Supervisory Biologist
Environmental Analysis Team

Attachments

NOTICE TO THE POSTMASTER: It is requested that the above notice be conspicuously displayed for 30 days from the date of issuance.

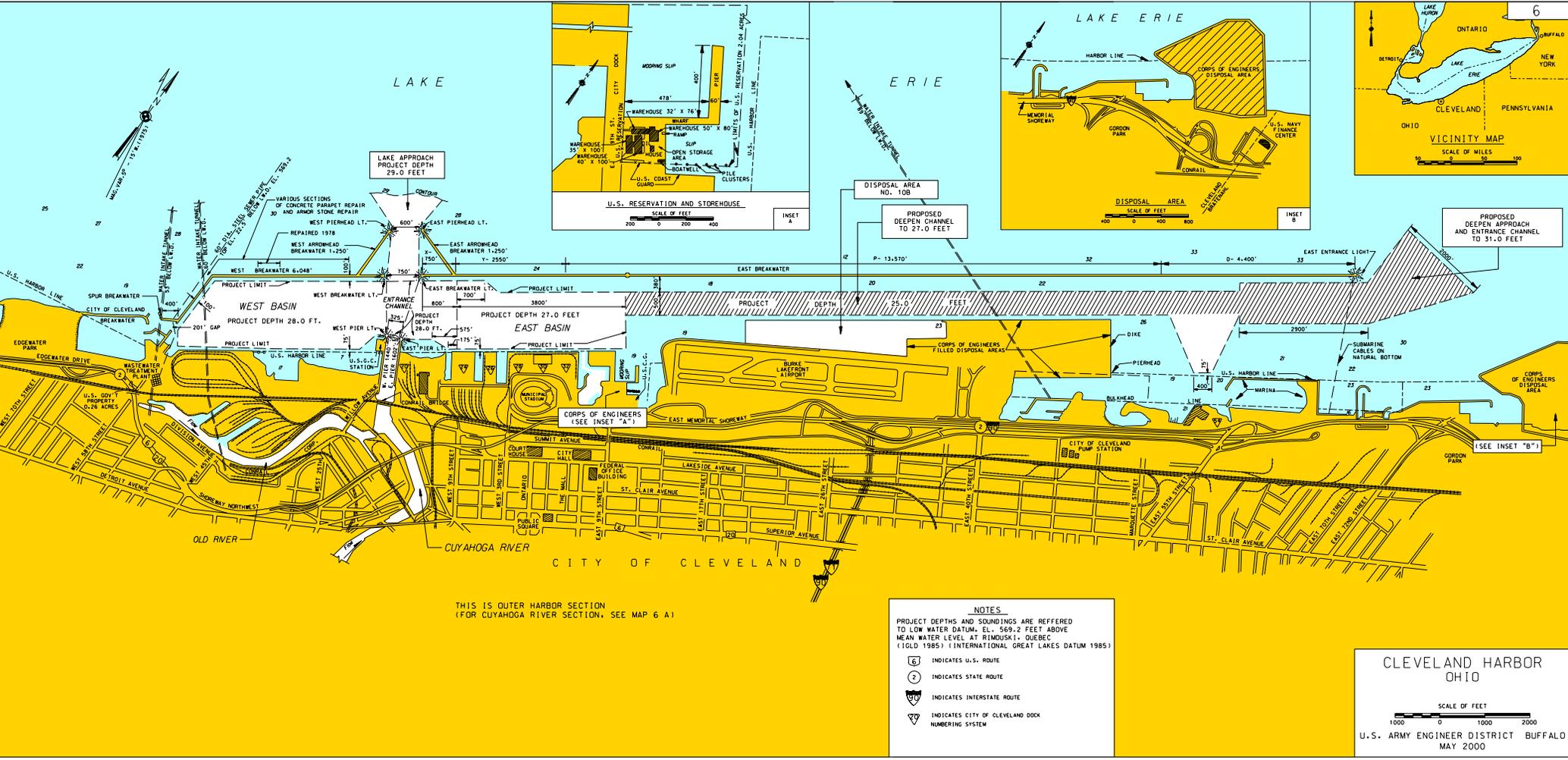


Figure 1a. Cleveland Harbor (Cuyahoga River), Cuyahoga County, Ohio (Outer Harbor)

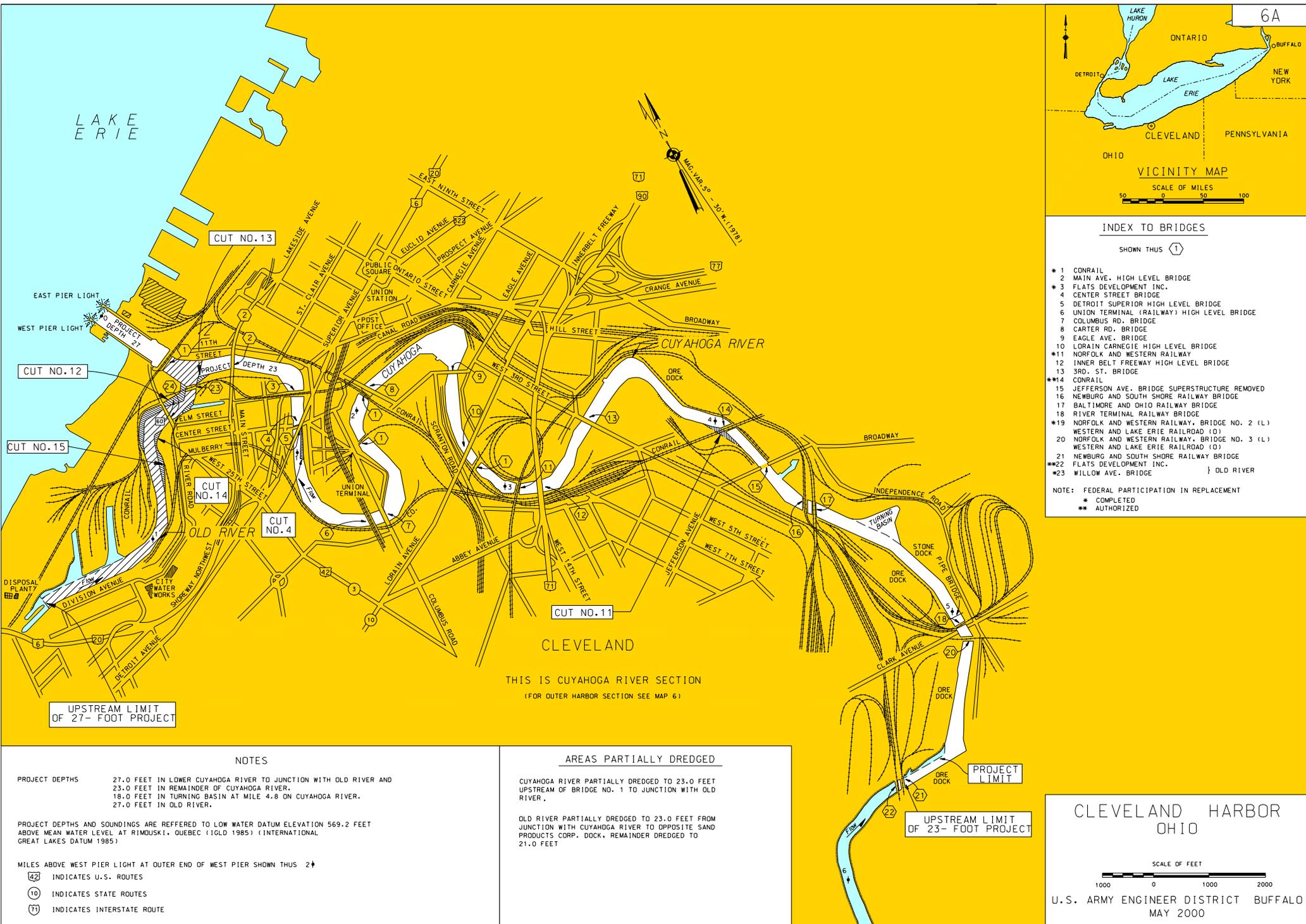
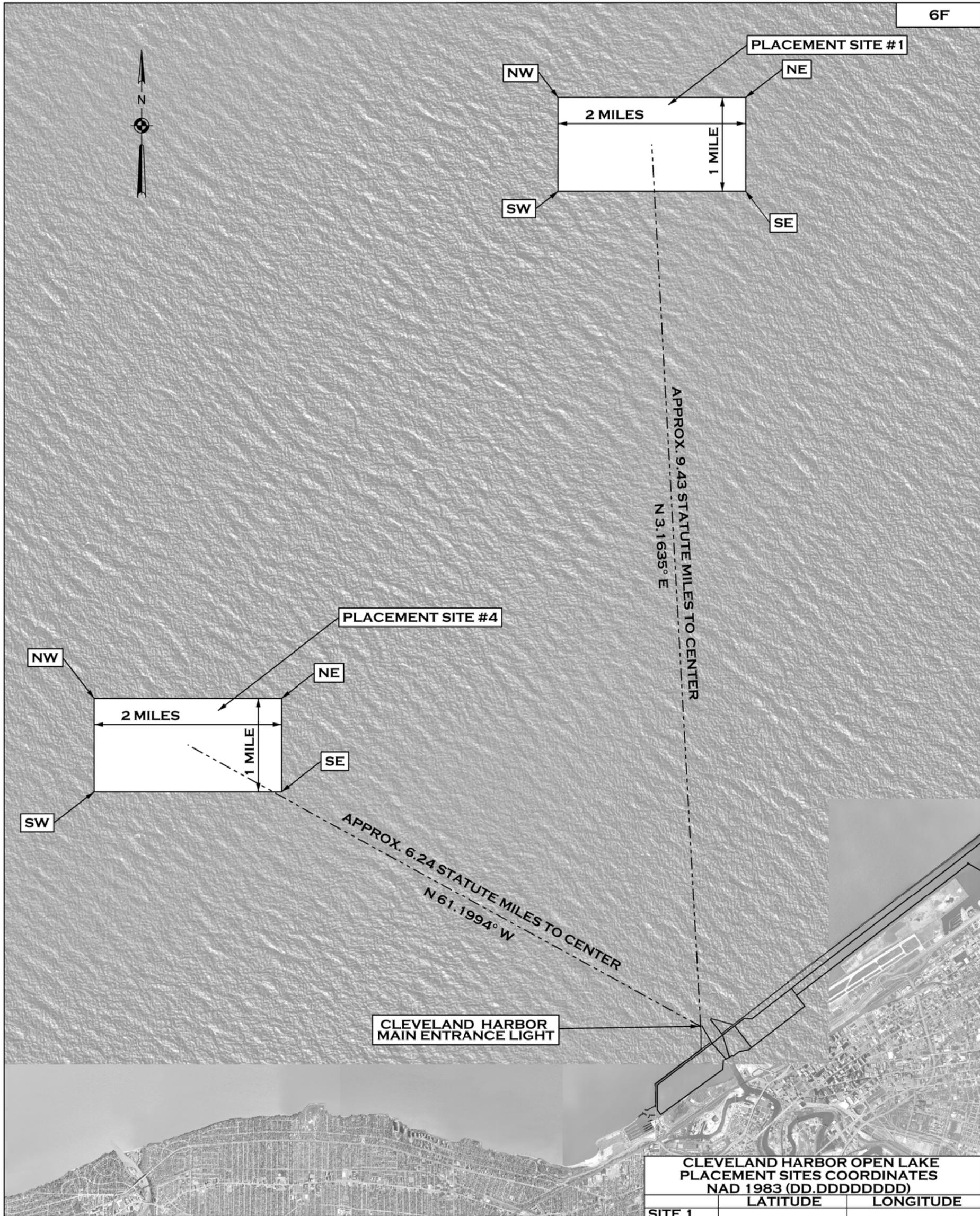


Figure 1b. Cleveland Harbor (Cuyahoga River), Cuyahoga County, Ohio (River)



Figure 2: Upper Cuyahoga River Sample Locations and DMMU Boundaries

Figure 3: Open Lake Placement Site Locations in Lake Erie, Cleveland, Ohio



CLEVELAND HARBOR OPEN LAKE PLACEMENT SITES COORDINATES NAD 1983 (DD.DDDDDDDD)

	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
SITE 1		
CENTER	41.645504988	81.726066535
NE	41.652619543	81.706661473
SE	41.638130041	81.706837175
SW	41.638387177	81.745467376
NW	41.652876734	81.745300230
SITE 4		
CENTER	41.553171131	81.822554593
NE	41.560302010	81.803187373
SE	41.545811921	81.803341480
SW	41.546037006	81.841917596
NW	41.560527144	81.841772022

LOCATION OF PLACEMENT AREAS WERE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE LAT/LON COORDINATES WERE PROVIDED TO TD-DS IN A EMAIL FROM PM-EA ON 17 OCT. 2013.
2. THE COORDINATES WERE CONVERTED TO STATE PLANE COORDINATES USING CORPSCON AND PLOTTED IN A CADD FILE.
3. THE SOUTHWEST CORNER WAS HELD AS THE STARTING POINT WITH LINES DRAWN DUE EAST AT 2 MILES AND DUE NORTH AT 1 MILE, THEN COPIED PARALLEL TO FORM THE 2 MILE X 1 MILE SITE.
4. THE XY STATE PLANE COORDINATES OF THE CORNERS FROM THE DRAWN PLACEMENT SITE WERE THEN CONVERTED TO LAT/LON FOR INCLUSION ON THIS MAP.
5. THE BEARING AND DISTANCE TO THE CENTERS WAS CALCULATED BY DRAWING A LINE FROM THE CENTER OF THE PLACEMENT SITE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE SHOWN ON A GEOREFERENCED SID FILE OBTAINED FROM THE OHIO GRAPHICALLY REFERENCED INFORMATION PROGRAM.

CLEVELAND HARBOR
OHIO

OPEN LAKE PLACEMENT SITE LOCATION

SCALE OF MILES

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT BUFFALO
NOVEMBER 2013

