US Army Corps of Engineers

Public Notice

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Notice No: FAIRPORT-15 **Expires: 4 JAN 2015**

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
DREDGING AND DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT

FAIRPORT HARBOR

LAKE 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 to provide an opportunity to submit comments, or request a public hearing.

The USACE - Buffalo District anticipates the need to dredge and place material excavated from the authorized Federal navigation channels of Fairport Harbor, which is located on the southern shore of Lake Erie at the mouth of the Grand River (a major tributary to Lake Erie), and within the Grand River, in order to maintain sufficient water depths for deep-draft commercial and recreational navigation. Federal navigation channels within the Harbor include the Entrance Channel, Outer Harbor Channel, and Grand River Channel. The attached map (Figure 1) shows the authorized limits and depths of the Federal navigation channels. To ensure that the minimum authorized depth in Fairport Harbor is maintained and to account for dredging tolerance, up to an additional one foot of material may be dredged. An estimated total of approximately 250,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from Fairport Harbor Federal navigation channels during the 2015 dredging operation.

The 2015 dredging operation at Fairport Harbor is tentatively scheduled to be performed during the period between 15 June and 15 September.

A contractor of the Federal government will accomplish the project. Sediments will be removed from the channel bottom by a mechanical or hydraulic dredge and placed into hoppers aboard ship or scow for transport to the placement areas. The method of excavation will be determined by the contractor performing the maintenance dredging. In previous years, clamshell and hopper

dredges have been used to complete the required work.

The material to be dredged from the Fairport Harbor Federal navigation channels consists primarily of silts and clays, with some sands and gravels. The quality of the material has been evaluated using 2011 sediment data 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). This evaluation concluded that sediments in the Fairport Harbor Federal navigation channels are toxicologically comparable to sediments at the open-lake reference area in Lake Erie and meet Federal guidelines for open-lake and nearshore placement. In the spring of 2014, the material within the Entrance Channel was further sampled to determine grain size suitability for nearshore littoral nourishment. Results from the subsequent lab analysis indicate that the grain size of material within the Entrance Channel (Station 29+00 lakeward) is sufficient for nearshore littoral nourishment. Therefore, approximately 60,000 cubic yards of coarse-grain material dredged from the Entrance Channel will be discharged as littoral nourishment at a nearshore area located east of the harbor, directly northwest of Painesville-on-the-Lake. The remaining material dredged (approximately 190,000 cubic yards of predominantly fine grain material) will be discharged at an existing open-lake placement area in Lake Erie, located approximately 3.5 miles from the East Breakwater Light at an azimuth of 11˚15'. The proposed placement areas are depicted in Figure 2. Nearshore placement areas in addition to that noted above may be considered in future years, but would require public coordination, as well as new environmental authorizations.

Placement of the coarse-grain Entrance Channel dredged material in the nearshore zone may cost significantly more when compared to open-lake placement due to shallow water depths. Shallow water depths for the purposes of nearshore placement in this Public Notice are specified as: (1) between -11 feet Low Water Datum (LWD) and the ordinary high water mark; (2) between -8 feet LWD and the ordinary high water mark; and (3) between -2 feet LWD and the ordinary high water mark. Material will be placed at the shallowest depth possible (-2 feet LWD or -8 feet LWD) if there are no increased costs to the Federal government (when compared to the costs for placement at the -11-foot LWD depth). If placement in the nearshore zone at depths of -8 feet LWD or -2 feet LWD cost significantly more than open-lake placement, non-Federal cost sharing would be required for implementation.

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 placement of dredged material.

The environmental effects of the dredging operation are documented in the ***Final Environmental Statement, Fairport Harbor, Ohio (Maintenance) (1974); Dredging Disposal Area, Fairport Harbor, Ohio, Letter Report (1974); Supplemental Information Report and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation, Operation and Maintenance, Fairport Harbor, Ohio (1980); and Supplemental Information Report and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation, Operation and Maintenance, Fairport Harbor, Ohio (1983).*** These documents, and supplemental documentation, have been submitted to USEPA. Copies are available for examination at the Buffalo District office.

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.

This office 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 has been 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 reasonably may be 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:

National Park Service
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 - Buffalo District with their comments regarding the proposed dredging of Fairport Harbor. Please review this Public Notice and send your comments in writing within 30 days to the following e-mail address:

FairportDredging@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 - Fairport 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).

Attachments

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

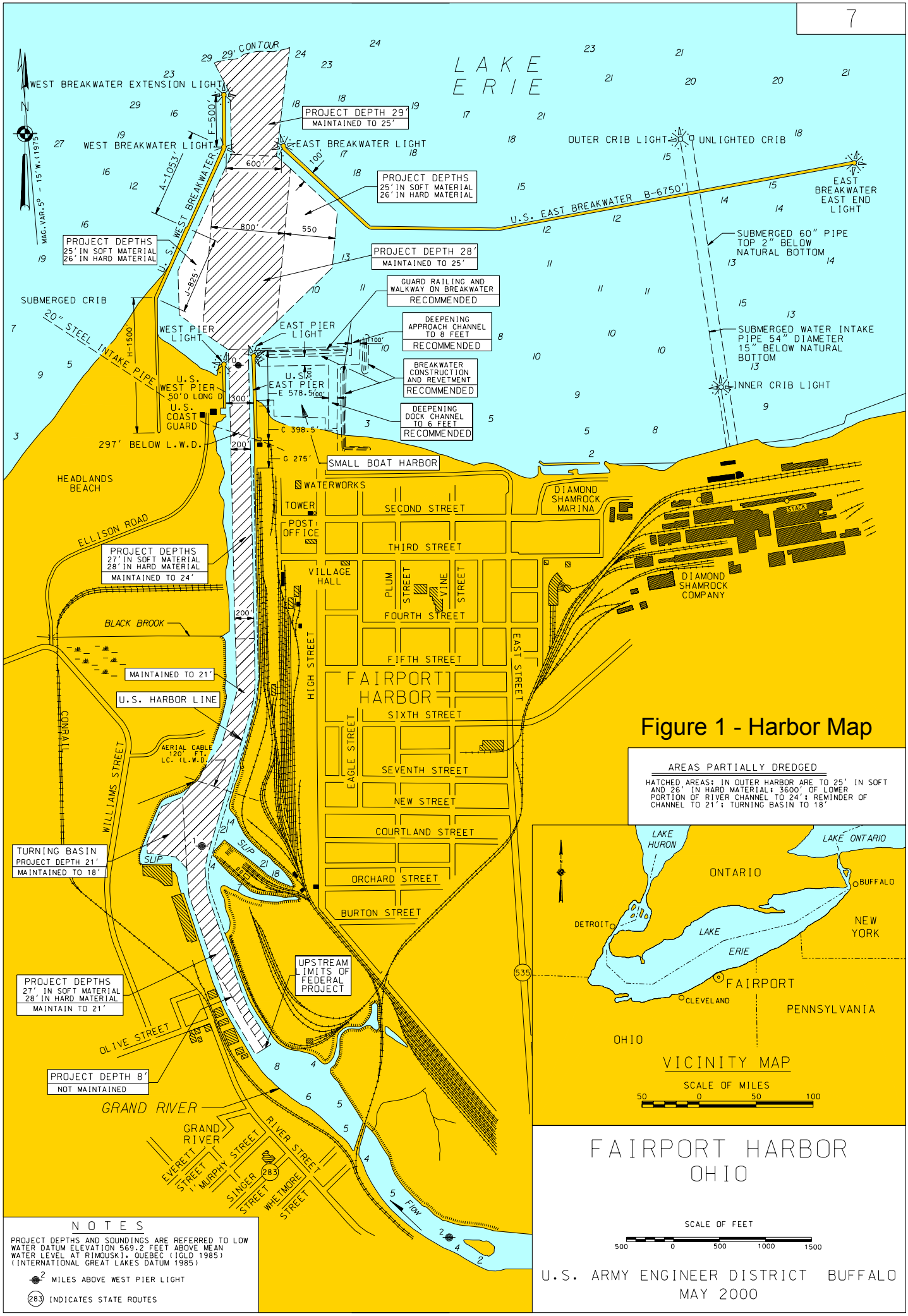
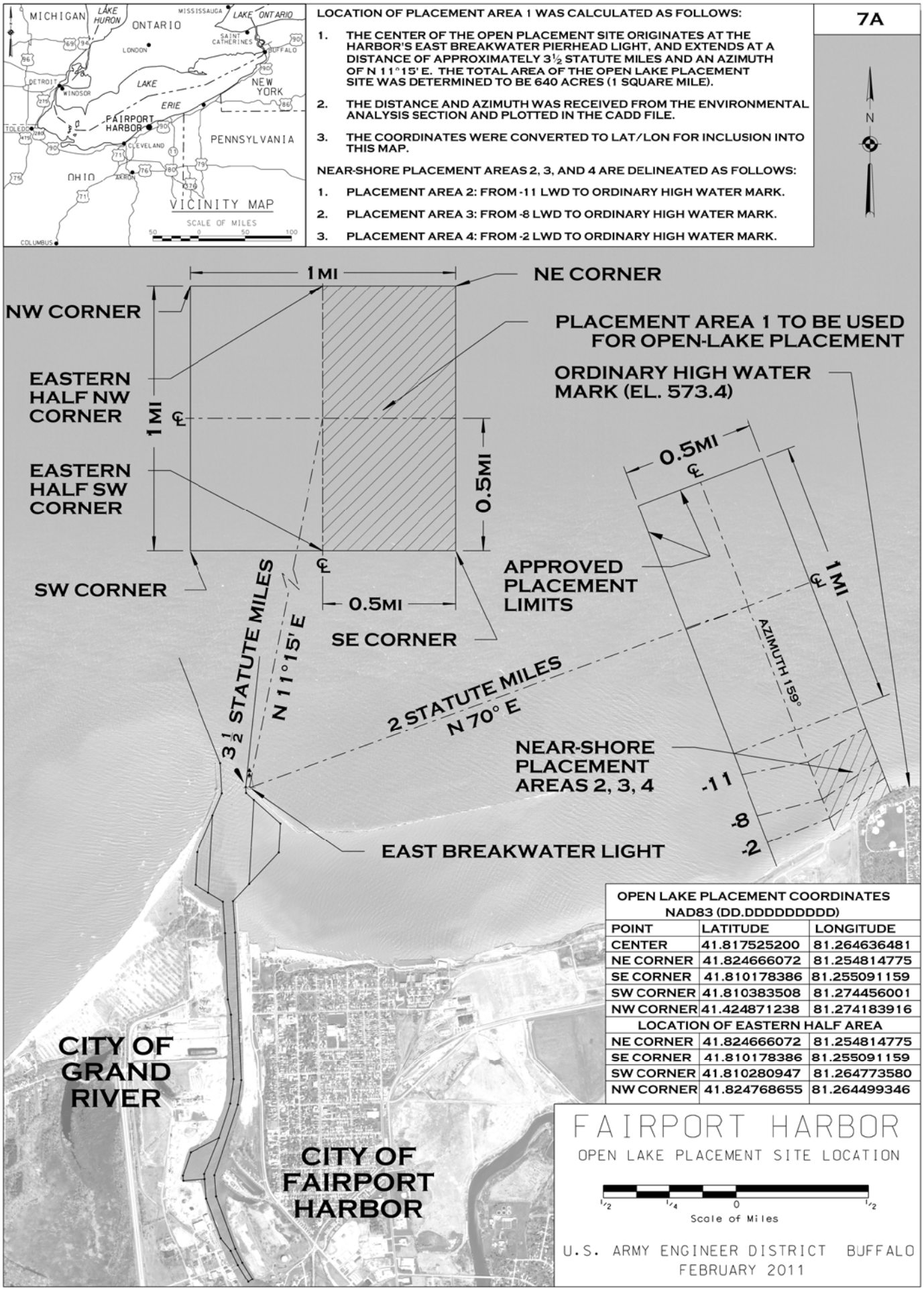


Figure 1 - Harbor Map



OPEN LAKE PLACEMENT COORDINATES NAD83 (DD.DDDDDDDDD)		
POINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
CENTER	41.817525200	81.264636481
NE CORNER	41.824666072	81.254814775
SE CORNER	41.810178386	81.255091159
SW CORNER	41.810383508	81.274456001
NW CORNER	41.424871238	81.274183916
LOCATION OF EASTERN HALF AREA		
NE CORNER	41.824666072	81.254814775
SE CORNER	41.810178386	81.255091159
SW CORNER	41.810280947	81.264773580
NW CORNER	41.824768655	81.264499346

Figure 2 - Fairport Harbor Placement Site Locations