



PUBLIC NOTICE

In Reply Refer to: Christina Comeau
Email: nae-pn-nav@usace.army.mil
Phone: (978) 318-8705
Navigation Section
Date: 8/24/2023
Comment Period Closes: 9/1/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALTERATION OF A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408: REPLACEMENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ROUTE 1A BRIDGE (NEIL R. UNDERWOOD MEMORIAL BRIDGE) HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) is evaluating plans under 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) to allow replacement of the structurally deficient New Hampshire Route 1A Bridge (Neil R. Underwood Memorial Bridge) over the inlet to Hampton Harbor as requested by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as the lead Federal agency. The bridge crosses over the entrance channel of the USACE maintained Federal Navigation Project (FNP) at Hampton Harbor. The new fixed bridge would be made of steel, spanning approximately 1,300-feet with a width of 50-feet, and positioned 75-feet west of the existing bascule bridge. Impacts to the FNP are related to the demolition of the current bridge and construction of the in-water components (e.g., piers and abutments) of the new bridge supported by the construction of temporary trestles, installation of coffer dams, dredging and placement of fill material, and use of support barges and vessels.

This Notice is being issued pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408, USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management, and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the USACE Procedures for Implementing NEPA (33 CFR 230). Section 408 allows USACE to grant permission for the alteration, occupation, or use of a USACE civil works project if it is determined that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the Federal project. A decision on a Section 408 request is a Federal action, and therefore subject to NEPA and other environmental compliance requirements. The new bridge will have higher vertical clearances above the channel which will improve vessel navigation and will allow improved access to the FNP via dredge vessel to perform maintenance dredging. USACE has made the preliminary determination that the bridge replacement will not adversely affect environmental resources on the affected area of the Hampton Harbor FNP entrance channel and will not have a significant impact on the human

environment. The public is invited to provide comment associated with this Section 408 evaluation. To request more information contact: Christina Comeau, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 318-8705, Christina.M.Comeau@usace.army.mil. The comment period will end on September 1, 2023. Letters should be postmarked by this date.