



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Navigation Section

Date: 9/22/2023

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT 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. The vertical clearance of the new bridge will be set higher at 48-feet mean high water (MHW), which benefits vessel navigation by allowing large draft vessels to utilize the FNP channel. Impacts to the FNP resulting from the construction are related to the demolition of the current bridge, building of the new bridge span and the in-water components (e.g., piers and abutments) 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, 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. To request more information or obtain a copy of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) 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.