

Cleveland Harbor Proposed 2015 Dredging Strategy

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Buffalo District is authorized by Congress to maintain safe navigation within the Federal channels located in the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland Harbor.

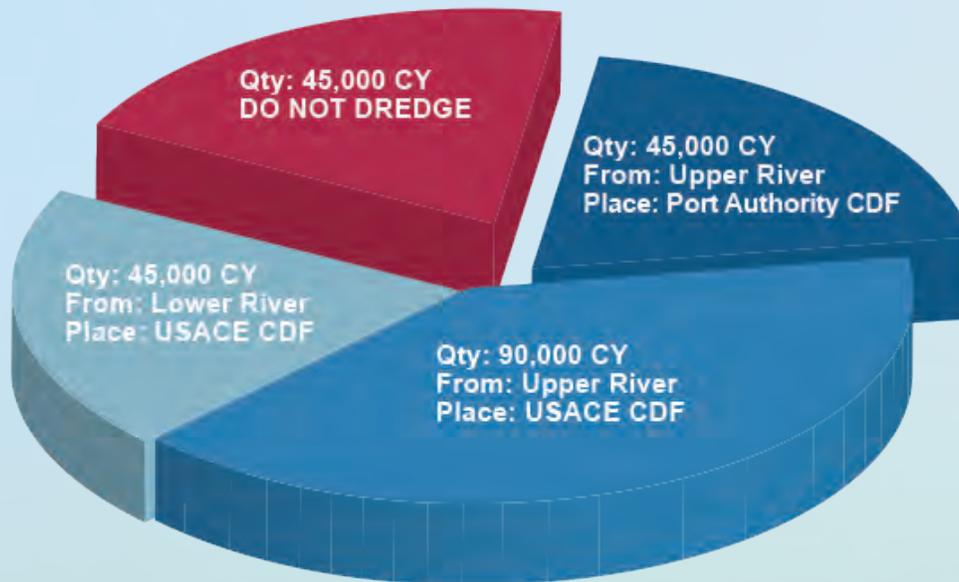
- This is achieved via the annual operations and maintenance dredging activities.
- The USACE is authorized to manage dredged sediment in accordance with the Federal Standard (33 CFR Parts 335-337), which requires implementation of an alternative consistent with sound engineering practices, economically justified and is environmentally acceptable (e.g., compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and applicable Ohio water quality standards).

Although USACE continues to work with Cleveland Harbor stakeholders to identify dredge sediment management alternatives, it must be prepared to maintain the harbor and place sediment in designated, authorized locations should other alternatives not become available.

USACE and Cleveland Harbor stakeholders have worked collaboratively throughout 2014 to identify a variety of placement alternatives for the 2015 dredging season.

What is Strategy 2015?

- The USACE proposal which does not include open lake placement in 2015.
- Requires continued stakeholder support and incurs a non-federal cost.
- Involves dredging 180,000 Cubic Yards (CY) of sediment and defers 45,000 CY.



Open Lake Placement

Why will drinking water remain safe?

- The proposed open lake placement site is in deep water, located several miles away from water intakes used for drinking water
- Conservative predictions using state-of-the-science modeling show placement of dredged sediment at the open lake placement site will:
 - have no measurable influence on water quality at drinking water intakes
 - readily meet all drinking water quality standards

Why is open lake placement safe for Lake Erie?

- Dredged sediment is not toxic to sensitive test species used to represent organisms living on the lake bottom and in the water (aquatic life)
- Open lake placement would not violate applicable Ohio water quality standards (water concentration limits) designed to protect Lake Erie's aquatic life
- A net improvement in sediment quality in the Upper Cuyahoga River Channel was evidenced between 2007 and 2011

Why will the fish remain safe?

- Fish already accumulate polychlorinated biphenyl's (PCBs) in the existing lake environment through the lake water and bottom sediments, where PCBs are already at similar levels in the existing lake environment ("background effect")
- Placement of dredged sediment in Lake Erie would not measurably increase PCB levels in fish based on scientific testing of aquatic organisms



How can I submit a comment after the public hearing?

- Comments can be submitted in three forms:

Postal Service:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
Attn: Environmental Analysis Team
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Buffalo, NY 14207-3199

E-mail:

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Fax:

716-879-4225

**Please have comments post marked or sent electronically
by February 24, 2015.**



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