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NSTC GREAT LAKES
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LETTER AND PROPOSED HARBOR IMPROVEMENT BOAT DOCK RELOCATION NS
GREAT LAKES IL
3/6/2006
STS CONSULTANTS



March 6, 2006

Ms. Leesa Beal
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
111 N. Canal Street, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

Mr. Bruce Yurdin
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62794

Mr. James Casey
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Water Resources
Lake Michigan Management Section
36 South Wabash, Suite 1415
Chicago, IL 60603

**RE: Proposed Harbor Improvements for the Naval Station Great Lakes in Great Lakes, Illinois -
Navy Emergency Response Boat Dock Relocation
STS Project No. 200600981**

Dear Ms. Beal and Messrs. Yurdin and Casey:

The Naval Station Great Lakes (NSGL) in Great Lakes, Illinois proposes to relocate boat docks associated with emergency response boats that are staged within their harbor on Lake Michigan. The existing docks are located within the inner harbor near the mouth of Pettibone Creek in an area that is too shallow to support the emergency response vessels. The new dock location is farther downstream within the Inner Harbor. The proposed dock relocation does not involve significant environmental disturbances to the lake bottom or banks. This letter provides information that is supplemental to the attached permit application.

Please consider this application for a Section 404 permit, a Section 10 navigation permit, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and an Illinois waterway construction permit. We will consult with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to evaluate the permit review fees that may apply to this project, and will submit the fees under separate cover if they are required. We have submitted an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) consultation agency request and a copy of this request is provided in Appendix A.

1.0 Project Description and Overview

The navy maintains emergency response vessels within the Inner Harbor on a seasonal basis. The vessels have been staged from floating docks located on the south side of the harbor southeast of Building 13 located at the mouth of the Pettibone Creek just upstream of the Inner Harbor. The historic location of these docks is too shallow and the docks had to be relocated to within the Inner Harbor to maintain proper boat staging and lake access. The boat docks were relocated during 2006 to provide for continued reliable emergency response capabilities. The NSGL believed that this activity was likely not jurisdictional under State and Federal rules since it involved the relocation of floating docks with no significant lakebed disturbance. However, NSGL has decided to apply for an after the fact permit in case the regulatory agencies believe that this activity is jurisdictional.

The docks are anchored to the bottom with auger piles at the dock ends and perimeter. These piles are simply augered into the lake bottom; therefore, there is no significant lakebed disturbance and no fill associated with the existing or new docks. The docks are connected to the existing South Pier which forms one side of the Inner Harbor. This connection is accomplished simply with cables and a flexible rolling gangway from the pier to the docks. Photographs of the original and new dock locations are provided in Appendix B.

Figure 1 is a location map for the project site. An aerial photograph illustrating the original and new dock areas is provided on Figure 2, and a coastal chart is provided on Figure 3. Figure 5 provides the location of the existing bird habitat and sanctuary located north of the inner harbor. The proposed project is not located near this area and will have no impact on that area.

2.0 Proposed Emergency Boat Dock Relocation

The function of the original emergency response boat dock located west of Building 13 at the mouth of Pettibone Creek was limited due to shallow water. The docks were relocated in deeper water farther east into the Inner Harbor area where water depths are more conducive to boat operations. The new location will improve boat operations especially during times of low Lake Michigan water levels, and will minimize the potential for boat damage and service interruptions.

The relocation of the boat docks was accomplished with minimal disturbance of the lake bed. Figure 4 illustrates the configuration of the boat docks. Details and specifications for the new floating docks are provided in Appendix C.

The new floating docks comprise a surface area of approximately 900 square feet – similar to the original docks. These docks include the placement of 7 3.5-inch diameter auger piles placed at the end of each finger pier in the bottom of Lake Michigan. The floating piers are connected to the existing Inner Harbor South Pier with cables, and a rolling ramp is placed to provide access between the pier and the floating docks. The dock extends for approximately 50 feet from the South Pier. This dock contains three 5 feet wide by 30 feet long gangways which are spaced approximately 28 feet apart.

The proposed dock replacement project does not involve any lakebed disturbance other than the placement of the auger piles at the ends and corners of the docks. These piles were placed carefully to minimize lakebed impacts.

3.0 Impact Assessment

The emergency response boat dock relocation occurred within the Inner Harbor of the NSGL Lake Michigan harbor and did not involve any significant disturbance to the Lake Michigan bottom. No fill was placed in the lake and the construction simply involved the placement of 7 auger piles to support the ends and corners of the piers. The proposed activities are not located near the existing Outer Harbor bird sanctuary as illustrated on figure 5.

4.0 Summary

The emergency boat dock relocation improves the operations within the harbor while causing no significant adverse impacts to the local ecosystem. The NSGL implemented these improvements during 2002. NSGL believes that this activity can be characterized as normal maintenance of an existing floating dock system and that the adjustment to the location of the floating docks within the harbor does not constitute a regulatory activity under Section nos. 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 navigation rules, or the Illinois waterway construction rules. This application is submitted in the event regulatory agencies do not agree with this assumption.

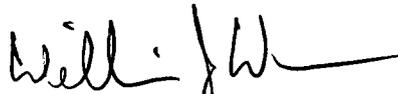
If you have any questions regarding this permit application or require additional information, please contact Mr. Michael Baker or Mr. William J. Weaver at 847-279-2500 or via email at bakermichael@stsconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

STS CONSULTANTS, LTD.



Michael Baker, E.I.T.
Assistant Project Engineer



William J. Weaver, P.E.
Vice President - Senior Principal Engineer

cc: Mr. John Landrum
201 Decatur Avenue, Building 1A
Great Lakes, IL 60088-2801

Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Versar

Attachments

JOINT APPLICATION FORM

1. Application Number (to be assigned by Agency)	2. Date <div style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"> 06 03 2006 </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small; margin: 0 0;"> Day Month Year </div>	3. For agency use only (Date Received)
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4. Name and address of applicant Mr. John Landrum or Mr. Blayne Kirsch Naval Facilities Engineering Command 201 Decatur Avenue, Building 1A Great Lakes, IL 60088-5600 Telephone no. during business hours <u>A/C (847) 688-5999 x149</u> FAX Phone <u>A/C (847) 688-2319</u>	5. Name, address, and title of authorized agent Mr. William J. Weaver, P.E. STS Consultants LTD. 750 Corporate Woods Parkway Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061 Telephone no. during business hours <u>A/C (847) 279-2494</u> FAX Phone <u>A/C (847) 279-2510</u>
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6. Project Description and Remarks: Describe in detail the proposed activity, its purpose, and intended use. Also indicate the drainage area at the watershed to the downstream limit. Use attachments if needed.

Applicant proposes to construct a new dock for maintenance vessels (see attached cover letter for detailed project description).

7. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all adjoining and potentially affected property owners, including the owner of the subject property if different from applicant.

FBI	P.O. Box 647, N. Chicago, IL 60064	Hans Anger 1875 Shore Acres, Lake Bluff
N. Chicago Park District	1730 S. Lewis Ave., N. Chicago, IL 60064	Eastman/Knight 1825 Shore Acres, Lake Bluff
City of N. Chicago	1850 Lewis Ave., N. Chicago, IL 60064	
Steve Moss	1995 Shore Acres, Lake Bluff, IL 60044	
Don and Laurie Grinter	1955 Shore Acres, Lake Bluff, IL 60044	
Geroge Getz	1945 Shore Acres, Lake Bluff, IL 60044	
Vernon Fryburger	1921 Shore Acres, Lake Bluff, IL 60044	

8. Location of activity

Legal Description:

Lake Michigan		NE	9	44N	12E	3
Name of waterway at location of the activity		1/4	Sec.	Twp.	Rge.	P.M.
Address: <u>Naval Station Great Lakes</u>						
Street, road, or other descriptive location <u>Great Lakes</u>						
In or near city or town <u>Naval Station Great Lakes</u>						
Name of Local Governing Community						
Lake	Illinois					60088
County	State					Zip Code

9. Date activity is proposed to commence Completed Estimated Time of Construction _____

10. Is any portion of the activity for which authorization is sought now complete? Yes No If answer is "Yes" give reasons in Item 6.
 Month and Year the activity was completed 2002 (see attached report for discription) Indicate the existing work on drawings.

11. List all approvals or certifications required by other federal, interstate, state, or local agencies for any structures, construction, discharges, deposits, or other activities described in this application. If this form is being used for concurrent application to the Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, these agencies need not be listed.

Issuing Agency	Type Approval	Identification No.	Date of Application	Date of Approval

12. Has any agency denied approval for the activity described herein or for any activity directly related to the activity described herein? Yes No (If "Yes", explain in Item 6.)

13. Application is hereby made for authorizations of the activities described herein. I certify that I am familiar with information contained in the application, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities.

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Agent
William J. Weaver, P.E., Vice President/Senior Principal Engineer
 Typed or Printed Name of Applicant or Authorized Agent