US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

AIWW – Hyde County Disposal Facility, NC
(Navigation) (O&M)

- **Unconstructed dredged material disposal area located in Hyde County, NC has encroachment issues which prevents deposition of dredged material within the high commercial use portion of the AIWW**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3 DATE: 6 March 2014

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** River and Harbor Acts of 1912, 1927, and 1937, as amended.

2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** The Atlantic Intracoastal waterway (AIWW) is located on the east coast of the United States, between Norfolk, Virginia and the St. Johns River, Florida. The section within North Carolina begins at the Virginia-North Carolina state line and extends generally southerly and southwestwardly to North Carolina-South Carolina state line, a total of 308 channel miles. The authorized project consists of a waterway, 12 feet deep, with varying widths of 90 to 300 feet.

The 28-mile stretch of AIWW, extending from the Pungo River north to the Alligator River, is known as the Alligator/Pungo Land Cut. Prior to the construction of the Alligator/Pungo Land Cut, the state of North Carolina secured and subsequently transferred perpetual easements, which is the AIWW right of way, to the Corps of Engineers. The easements are necessary to assure that there is sufficient real estate to operate and maintain the AIWW both now and in the future. The easements also allow the Corps to construct upland diked areas for dredged material disposal.

3. **ISSUE AND OTHER INFORMATION:** The Corps of Engineers has a need to dispose of material dredged from the Alligator/Pungo Land Cut portion of the AIWW into disposal area (DA) 15. DA-15 is an unconstructed environmentally permitted 65-acre site located approximately 4.5 miles east of the Walter B. Jones Bridge (Hwy 264). Unfortunately, lots 1-25 of the Waterway Landing subdivision currently interfere with the Corps' rights to use DA-15. Although the Corps has recorded these easements on file in the Hyde County Registrar of Deeds and has made other efforts to inform property owners of the Corps' interest in the property, lot owners have constructed various structures within the easement area needed for disposal. Construction and use of DA-15 would require removal of these existing structures.

POC, Roger Bullock (910) 251-4822

Currently, there are two active disposal areas (DA) along the Alligator/Pungo Land Cut, DA-19 and DA-16. The future use of DA-15 along with DA-16 and 19 allows the Corps to cycle the dredge material between the disposal areas in the most efficient manner. In addition to DA-15, there are two unconstructed suitable upland sites available for disposal area construction; DA-18 and DA-17, but they are not the most cost efficient and most practicable locations, consistent with sound engineering and environmental requirements. Hydrographic surveys of the channel show that maintenance dredging is required in the vicinity of, and to the east of the DA-15 site.

In order to most efficiently dredge the shoaled section of the Alligator/Pungo Land Cut, the Corps needs to construct DA-15, to provide the least cost disposal location for the dredged material east of Waterway Landing and provide for future dredge material management options. It is the easternmost site within the Alligator/Pungo Land Cut suitable for upland disposal of dredged material with all necessary environmental assessments and permits.

4. **CURRENT STANDING:** Since 2003, the Corps has worked to advise Waterway Landing Home Owners Association and Hyde County of its concerns, and has agreed to review any proposals to the Corps to exchange these easement rights for similar interest on nearby lands that would be suitable for disposal of dredged material. To date, there has been no suitable land trades proposed. Some of the proposed sites were found to be wetlands. The current controlling depth through the Alligator/Pungo Land Cut is approximately 8 feet within the 12 foot authorized channel. Towing companies and the NC State Ports Authority are currently planning for increased barge traffic from Morehead City, NC to NUCOR Steel in Hertford, NC beginning in 2015. The land cut makes up one third of the route between these two destinations. The Corps is willing to consider any Waterway Landing HOA, state of North Carolina and Hyde County NC, assistance, be it monetary or other solutions, to resolve this issue.