

MCAS Cherry Point Offshore Sill & Living Shoreline Craven County, NC (Regulatory Permitting)

Regulatory Office: Washington

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3 DATE: 10 MARCH 2023

1. PROJECT:

To stabilize an eroding shoreline by placing a 12,036 linear foot rip rap sill approximately 15 - 30 feet waterward from the normal water level/shoreline which would result in 3.78 acres of open water fill on the Neuse River for the sill construction at MCAS Cherry Point, in Craven County, North Carolina.

2. CONCERNS/CHALLENGES:

<u>Endangered Species Act</u>: Potential impacts to Atlantic Sturgeon and their Critical Habitat (T&E Species), Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) specific to the proposed facility location. Currently in formal consultation with NMFS PRD and HCD.

<u>Major USACE concerns</u>: Current concerns are related to the applicant's preferred alternative not being the least damaging and practicable alternative (LEDPA) based on project purpose/need.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

Public Notice issued 08 NOV 2021.

Comments and Concerns, along with Request for Additional Information (RFAI) forwarded to the applicant on 31 JAN 2022, in addition to further coordination with the applicant from June to November 2022.

4. NEXT STEPS:

Currently awaiting NMFS-PRD Biological Opinion (BO) and HCD EFH comment letter to complete formal consultation. USACE is currently reviewing the applicant's response received on 21 FEB 23, to determine if the information is sufficient to address USACE concerns.

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