



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## Wilmington Harbor Section 403, NC (Navigation - Investigations)

- **Sponsor: State of North Carolina**
- **Conditional Deepening Authorized in Sec. 403 of WRDA 2020**
- **Based on Feb. 2020 North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA) Feasibility Report conducted under Sec. 203 of WRDA 1986**
- **USACE will address ASA(CW) May 2020 Review Assessment concerns including producing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**
- **USACE and NCSPA executed a 50/50 Cost Sharing Agreement for \$8.3M and NCSPA provided \$4.15M in accelerated funding**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 7

DATE: 10 MARCH 2023

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA 2020) (Sec. 403(a)(5)).
2. **LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED:** The Wilmington Harbor is located on the southeastern coast of North Carolina in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties. Section 403 of WRDA 2020 conditionally authorized the harbor deepening to -47' depth, subject to addressing the technical, policy and legal concerns in the May 2020 Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Review Assessment.
3. **PURPOSE:** Conduct necessary analysis for a Letter Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the ASA(CW) addressing the comments of the conditional authorization of a 47' deepening of Wilmington Harbor in Section 403 of WRDA 2020. The comments to be addressed were conveyed in the May 2020 ASA(CW) Review Assessment of the NC State Port Authority's (NCSPA) February 2020 Section 203 feasibility study of improvements to the Federal navigation project at Wilmington Harbor.

4. **COST ESTIMATE:**

**403 Letter Report & Environmental Impact Statement**

\$ 4,350,000	(Federal)	Includes 100% Fed Funding of a \$200K IEPR
<u>\$ 4,150,000</u>	(non-Federal)	
\$ 8,500,000	Total	

**Preconstruction Engineering & Design (PED)**

\$ TBD	(Federal)	
<u>\$ TBD</u>	(non-Federal)	
\$ TBD	Total	

**Construction<sup>1</sup>**

\$ 625,500,000	(Federal)	
<u>\$ 208,500,000</u>	(non-Federal)	
\$ 834,000,000	Total	

1/ As authorized based on the NCSPA's estimated project costs in their 203 report.

5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2022:** \$599,998

6. **FY 2023 FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:** Congressional Directed Spending - \$1,500,000

7. **FY 2024 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET:** \$0. \$1,200,000 capability. These funds would enable a capability to perform cost engineering, water resource engineering, report development, project management, contract management, assess environmental impacts and an Independent External Peer Review (IEPR).

8. **KEY MILESTONES:**

OCT 2022 – Cost Share Agreement Signed with NCSPA  
OCT 2024 – Notice of Intent to conduct and environmental Impact  
SEP 2026 – Submittal to ASA(CW)

9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The NCSPA's recommended plan is to deepen to 47 feet at various widths along the navigation channel. The ASA(CW) review assessment determined the recommended plan is technically sound and feasible from an engineering perspective but had economic and environmental concerns. The Section 403 analysis is being conducted under a 50%-50% cost share agreement between USACE and NCSPA as the non-Federal sponsor.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Wilmington Harbor Section 403, NC (Navigation - Investigations) –  
Continued

116<sup>th</sup> Congress 2D Session, H.R.7575 Act.

(a) TITLE IV – Water Resources Infrastructure Sec. 403. *Authorization of projects based on feasibility studies prepared by non-Federal interests.*

[5] The project for navigation, Wilmington Harbor, North Carolina, as described in the review assessment of the Secretary, titled “Review Assessment of Wilmington Harbor, North Carolina Navigation Improvement Project Integrated Section 203 Study & Environmental Report (February 2020)” and dated May 2020, at a total cost of \$834,093,000.

Sec. 403 WRDA.

(b) REQUIREMENTS - *The Secretary may only carry out a project authorized under subsection (a).*

[1] substantially in accordance with the applicable review assessment for the project submitted by the Secretary under section 203(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as identified in subsection (a) of this section, and subject to such modifications or conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and identifies in a final assessment that addresses the concerns, recommendations, and conditions identified by the Secretary in the applicable review assessment; and

[2] after the Secretary transmits to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate such final assessment.