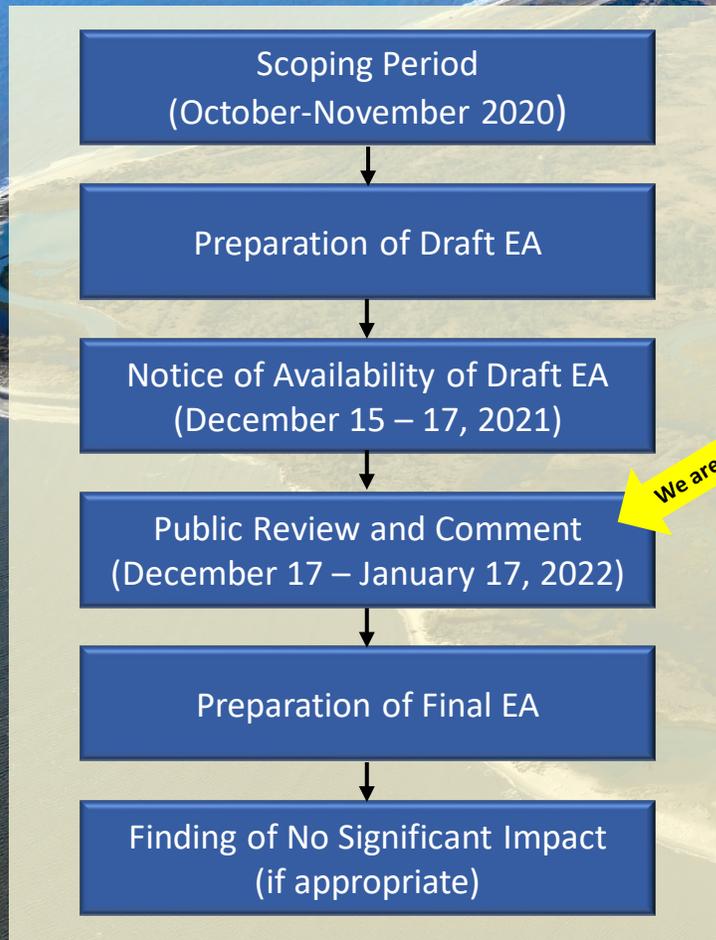




PUBLIC INFORMATION PRESENTATION
FOR THE
NASA WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY
WALLOPS ISLAND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



WALLOPS ISLAND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS PROCESS



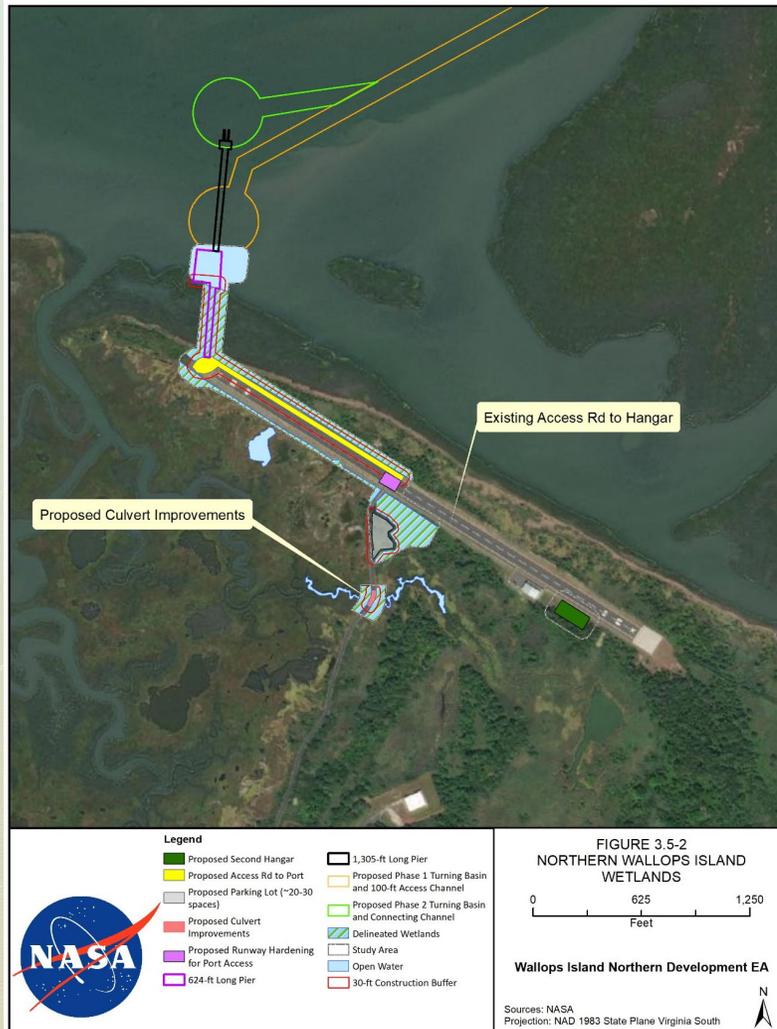
What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

NEPA establishes a framework for considering the scope of environmental issues and concerns early in the Federal decision-making process. Public involvement is an essential part of the process. Through involving the public and completing a detailed environmental analysis, the NEPA process helps the decision-maker arrive at the best possible informed decision.

How are Stakeholders and the Public Involved? During the Scoping Period, NASA sought input and suggestions from stakeholders on proposed activities to be addressed in the EA. Following data collection and research, the Proposed Action's potential effects on resources were analyzed and the type and extent of impacts were identified.

NASA is seeking public comments on the analysis and findings presented in the Draft EA during the public comment period (**December 17, 2021 – January 17, 2022**). Written comments will be accepted throughout the public comment period. Responses to relevant comments on the Draft EA will be included in the preparation of the Final EA.

WALLOPS ISLAND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PURPOSE AND NEED

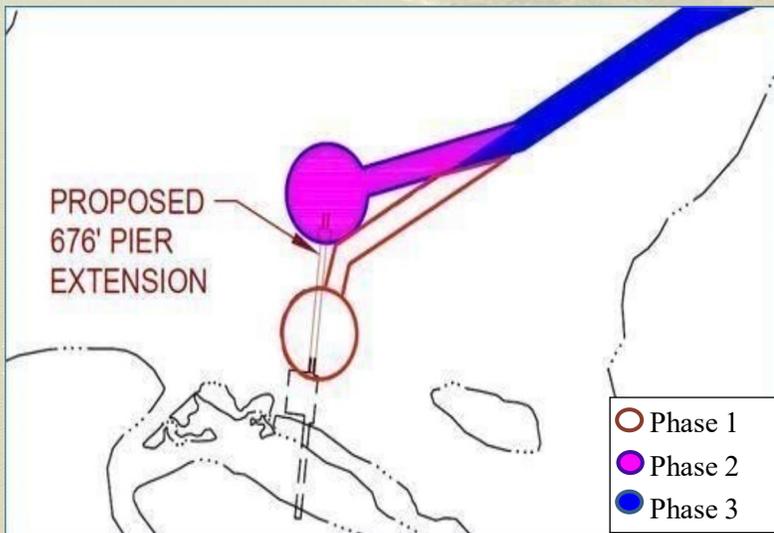
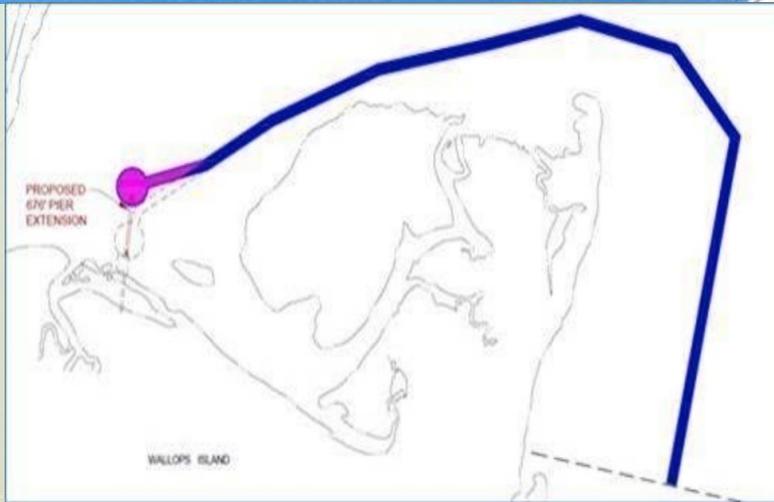


Proposed Project: The Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (VCSFA), through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), operates the north island UAS airstrip, as a tenant on NASA's Wallops Island. As the federal landowner, NASA would authorize the construction and operation of the proposed port and improvements on its property. The MARS Port including a fixed pier and turning basin would be constructed on and near the UAS Airstrip. The project may also include channel dredging, installation of new utility infrastructure; installation of airstrip lighting; hardening or reinforcement of a section of runway; improvements to the airstrip access road; construction of a new pier access road adjacent to the UAS Airstrip; construction of a new vehicle parking lot; and construction of a project support building.

Purpose: (1) To increase safety and security while reducing costs, traffic, congestion, and air emissions by removing potentially hazardous transportation operations off roadways; (2) to provide dedicated spaces for work, laboratory and storage to support research and testing of UAS, autonomous underwater/surface vehicles (AUV/ASV) and unmanned ground systems (UGS); and (3) to create a dedicated, secure facility to receive rocket motors, spacecraft, and autonomous systems, without having to transverse public roadways.

Need: Expanding WFF operational capacities, including the MARS Port, would assist NASA in growing commercial aerospace; increasing partnerships with Department of Defense agencies; supporting academia, civil space science, exploration, and discovery; safely and securely increasing operation frequency on Wallops Island; and improving aging and inadequate infrastructure.

WALLOPS ISLAND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ALTERNATIVES



Alternatives: In addition to the Proposed Action, six action alternatives were initially considered; four were dismissed from evaluation because they did not meet all screening criteria. NASA and VCSFA are evaluating the Proposed Action, two Action Alternatives, and the No Action Alternative in the Draft EA.

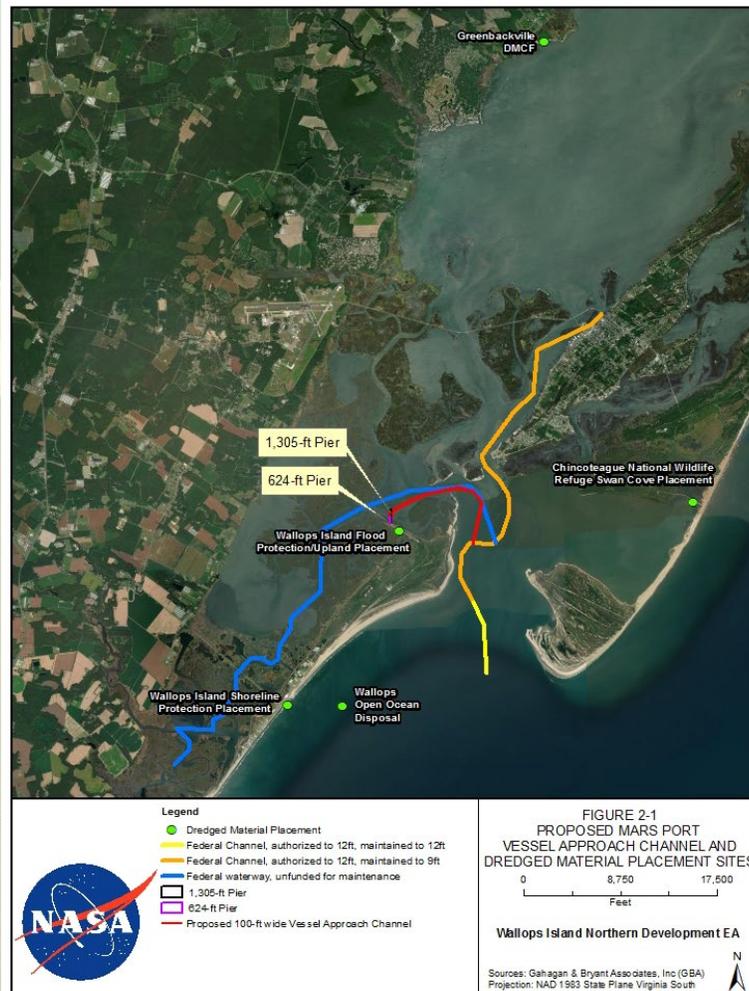
Proposed Action: NASA and VCSFA would construct and operate the MARS Port fixed pier and turning basin, including channel dredging, on at the north end of Wallops Island. New facilities and improvements to the existing access road, airstrip, and utilities would likewise be constructed and installed as part of the Proposed Action.

- **Phase 1** would be construction of a 624-foot (ft) long fixed pier, a 200-ft radius turning basin and dredging of the vessel approach channel to a final depth of 5 ft to 9 ft below mean lower low water (MLLW);
- **Phase 2** would be construction of a 676-ft long extension of the fixed pier to a total length of 1,305 ft and dredging of a 200-ft radius turning basin to a final depth of 9 ft below MLLW; and
- **Phase 3** would include additional dredging of the turning basin and the vessel approach channel to a final depth of 12 ft below MLLW.

Alternative 1 would include the same elements that were described for the Proposed Action *through Phase 1 of construction only.*

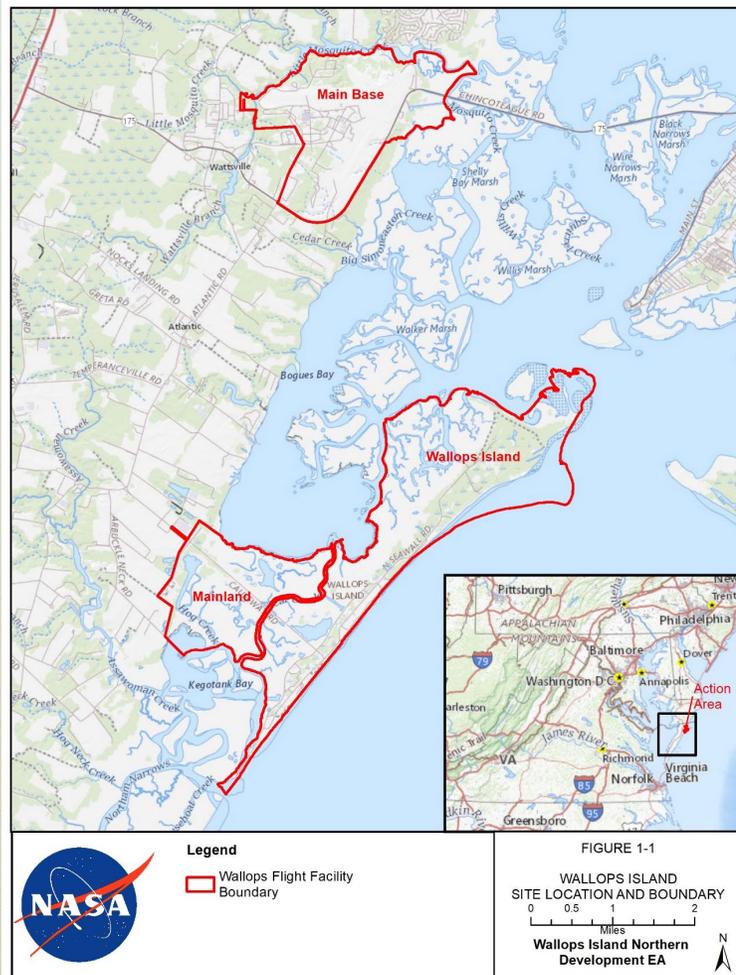
Alternative 2 would include the same elements that were described for the Proposed Action *through Phase 2 of construction only.*

WALLOPS ISLAND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT



- Five potential dredged material placement sites were evaluated:
 - Wallops Open Ocean Dredge Material Placement Area
 - Wallops Island Flood Protection/Upland Placement
 - Greenbackville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF)
 - Wallops Island Shoreline Protection Placement
 - Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Swan Cove Placement
- Between 56,000 cubic yards (y^3) and 57,000 y^3 of material would be dredged during the initial dredging event.
- VCSFA proposes to utilize the Wallops Open Ocean Dredge Material Placement Area as the initial dredge material placement site.
- NASA and VCSFA are currently undergoing consultation and applying for all applicable permits in order to dredge and place subaqueous material.

WALLOPS ISLAND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND PERMITTING



The EA analyzes the potential effects of the Proposed Action on the following general resource categories: land, water, biological, socioeconomic, and cultural. No significant impacts are anticipated to result from the Project.

The following consultations and permits are required for the Proposed Action. Some have been completed and others are ongoing and will be completed before any action is taken.

- Clean Water Act permits (to disturb wetlands and subaqueous bottomlands):
 - Accomack County Wetlands Board Permit
 - Tidal Wetlands and Subaqueous Bottom Permits from Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)
 - Water Quality Certification/Water Protection Permit from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)
 - Dredge and Fill Permit from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 - Rivers and Harbors Act, Navigable Waters Permit from USACE
 - Authorization to Use or Alter a Federal Civil Works Project from USACE
 - Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Ocean Dumping Permit for Dredged Material from USACE (only needed if Wallops Open Ocean Site is used for dredged material placement)
- Construction Site Stormwater Permit from VDEQ
- Endangered Species Act consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation with NOAA Fisheries
- National Historic Preservation Act consultation with Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Federal Coastal Consistency Determination from VDEQ

WALLOPS ISLAND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

How Can You Be Involved?

Your involvement in the decision-making process is important to NASA.

Submit a comment on the Draft EA:

1. Visit the project website:

<https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-WFF/WIND-EA>

2. Mail, email, or fax your comments:

Shari Miller

Center NEPA Manager
NASA Wallops Flight Facility

Mailstop: 250. W

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Fax (757) 824-1819

To ensure consideration in the Final EA, please provide comments no later than **January 17, 2022**.