

APPENDIX A SCOPING LETTERS

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

February 27, 2018

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
ATTN: SERP Project
34200 Fulton Street
Building F-160 I Room CI 65
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337
email: wff-shoreline@mail.nasa.gov

RE: NASA's proposed Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration Project at Wallops Island, Virginia

Dear Ms. Miller:

This letter is in response to the scoping request for the above-referenced project.

As you may know, the Department of Environmental Quality, through its Office of Environmental Impact Review (DEQ-OEIR), is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. Similarly, DEQ-OEIR coordinates Virginia's review of federal consistency documents prepared pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act which applies to all federal activities which are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resources of Virginia's designated coastal resources management area must be consistent with the enforceable policies Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program.

DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS

In order to ensure an effective coordinated review of the NEPA document and federal consistency documentation, notification of the NEPA document and federal consistency documentation should be sent directly to OEIR. We request that you submit one electronic to eir@deq.virginia.gov (10 MB maximum) or make the documents available for download at a website, file transfer protocol (ftp) site or the VITA LFT file share system (Requires an "invitation" for access. An invitation request should be sent to eir@deq.virginia.gov). We request that the review of these two documents be done concurrently, if possible.

The NEPA document and the federal consistency documentation (if applicable) should include U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps as part of their information. We strongly encourage you to issue shape files with the NEPA document. In addition, project details should be adequately described for the benefit of the reviewers.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT:
PROJECT SCOPING AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

As you may know, NEPA (PL 91-190, 1969) and its implementing regulations (Title 40, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Parts 1500-1508) requires a draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for federal activities or undertakings that are federally licensed or federally funded which will or may give rise to significant impacts upon the human environment. An EIS carries more stringent public participation requirements than an Environmental Assessment (EA) and provides more time and detail for comments and public decision-making. The possibility that an EIS may be required for the proposed project should not be overlooked in your planning for this project. Accordingly, we refer to “NEPA document” in the remainder of this letter.

While this Office does not participate in scoping efforts beyond the advice given herein, other agencies are free to provide scoping comments concerning the preparation of the NEPA document. Accordingly, we are providing notice of your scoping request to several state agencies and those localities and Planning District Commissions, including but not limited to:

Department of Environmental Quality:

- DEQ Regional Office*
- Air Division*
- Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection*
- Office of Local Government Programs*
- Division of Land Protection and Revitalization
- Office of Stormwater Management*

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Department of Health*

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

Virginia Marine Resources Commission*

Department of Historic Resources

Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

Department of Forestry

Department of Transportation

Note: The agencies noted with a star (*) administer one or more of the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and its implementing regulations in Title 15, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 930, federal activities, including permits, licenses, and federally funded projects, located in Virginia’s Coastal Management Zone or those that can have reasonably foreseeable effects on Virginia’s coastal uses or coastal resources must be conducted in a manner which is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Virginia CZM Program.

Additional information on the Virginia’s review for federal consistency documents can be found online at
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/EnvironmentalImpactReview/FederalConsistencyReviews.aspx>

DATA BASE ASSISTANCE

Below is a list of databases that may assist you in the preparation of a NEPA document:

- DEQ Online Database: Virginia Environmental Geographic Information Systems

Information on Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities, Impaired Waters, Petroleum Releases, Registered Petroleum Facilities, Permitted Discharge (Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits) Facilities, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Sites, Water Monitoring Stations, National Wetlands Inventory:

- www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/VEGIS.aspx

- DEQ Virginia Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS)

Virginia's coastal resource data and maps; coastal laws and policies; facts on coastal resource values; and direct links to collaborating agencies responsible for current data:

- <http://128.172.160.131/gems2/>

- MARCO Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal is a publicly available online toolkit and resource center that consolidates available data and enables users to visualize and analyze ocean resources and human use information such as fishing grounds, recreational areas, shipping lanes, habitat areas, and energy sites, among others.

<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org/visualize/#x=-73.24&y=38.93&z=7&logo=true&controls=true&basemap=Ocean&tab=data&legends=false&layers=true>

- DHR Data Sharing System.

Survey records in the DHR inventory:

- www.dhr.virginia.gov/archives/data_sharing_sys.htm

- DCR Natural Heritage Search

Produces lists of resources that occur in specific counties, watersheds or physiographic regions:

- www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/dbsearchtool.shtml

- DGIF Fish and Wildlife Information Service

Information about Virginia's Wildlife resources:

- <http://vafwis.org/fwis/>

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Database: Superfund Information Systems

Information on hazardous waste sites, potentially hazardous waste sites and remedial activities across the nation, including sites that are on the National Priorities List (NPL) or being considered for the NPL:

- www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm

- EPA RCRAInfo Search

Information on hazardous waste facilities:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html

- EPA Envirofacts Database

EPA Environmental Information, including EPA-Regulated Facilities and Toxics Release Inventory Reports:

- www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html

- EPA NEPAassist Database

Facilitates the environmental review process and project planning:

<http://nepaassisttool.epa.gov/nepaassist/entry.aspx>

If you have questions about the environmental review process and/or the federal consistency review process, please feel free to contact me (telephone (804) 698-4204 or e-mail bettina.sullivan@deq.virginia.gov).

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Bettina Rayfield, Program Manager
Environmental Impact Review and
Long-Range Priorities

From: [Robert Gray](#)
To: [Miller, Shari A. \(WFF-2500\)](#)
Subject: RE: Request for Comments on NASA Wallops Flight Facility Proposed Shoreline Project
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:48:20 AM

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe is not aware of any site of cultural or religious significance that would be affected by the project.
We ask to be notified in the event of inadvertent discovery.

*****MY E-MAIL HAS RECENTLY CHANGED AND YOU MAY NEED TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT LIST. ALSO NOTE MY PHONE #
AND MAIL ADDRESS.*****

Robert Gray
Chief / Tribal Administrator
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Phone: (804) 572-1225
E-mail: robert.gray@pamunkey.org

Mail Address
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
1054 Pocahontas Trail
King William, VA 23086

From: Miller, Shari A. (WFF-2500) [mailto:shari.a.miller@nasa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:51 AM
Subject: Request for Comments on NASA Wallops Flight Facility Proposed Shoreline Project

Dear Potential Stakeholder,

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for its proposed Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration Project (SERP) at Wallops Island, in Accomack County, Virginia. As the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are serving as cooperating agencies.

The attached letter contains further information on this proposed project. NASA respectfully requests that you provide comments or concerns by March 29, 2018. For updates on the project, as well as ways to submit comments on the SERP EA, please visit the following website address:
https://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/Tiered_Shoreline_Enhancement_and_Restoration_EA.html.

Please e-mail responses and inquiries to wff-shoreline@mail.nasa.gov or send responses via U.S. mail to the following address:

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
ATTN: SERP Project
34200 Fulton Street
Building F-160 / Room C165
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

Sincerely,

Shari Miller

Shari A. Miller

Center NEPA Manager
Environmental Planning Lead
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, VA 23337
(757) 824-2327
Shari.A.Miller@nasa.gov
<http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code/150/>



Michael T. Mason, CPA
County Administrator

March 7, 2018

COUNTY OF ACCOMACK
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
23296 COURTHOUSE AVE.
ROOM 203
P. O. BOX 388
ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA 23301
(757) 787-5700
(757) 824-5444
(757) 787-2468 FAX

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
ATTN: SERP Project
34200 Fulton Street
Building F-160/Room C165
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

RE: NASA's proposed Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration Project (SERP) at Wallops Islands

On behalf of the County of Accomack, Virginia Board of Supervisors, I write this letter in support of NASA's Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration Project (SERP) at Wallops Island, Virginia and the swift preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) associated with it.

It is of vital economic importance to Accomack County that continued steps are taken to protect the \$1.2 billion in assets located on Wallops Island from storm-induced wave impacts thereby preserving the 1,700 jobs held by NASA servants, contractors and tenant personnel working on or in the general area of Wallops Island.

A great deal of investment has been made by Federal, State and local government to ensure NASA Wallops continues to meet ongoing and emerging needs in the science, defense, aerospace and commercial industries. It is only prudent that continued actions be pursued to protect these investments.

It is the County's hope that completion of the EA be achieved in an expeditious manner. Time is not on our side. Storms over the last few years have depleted defenses erected in 2014 to safeguard the island. While the shoreline has weathered these storms, they have taken their toll with shoreline sand volume at only 43% of the design levels.

It is with a sense of urgency that Accomack County supports this initiative and future actions to preserve Wallops Island. NASA is a valued partner of the County thus we hope this letter helps advance this project and our mutual goal of preserving the assets on Wallops Island.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MT Mason", written over a faint horizontal line.

Michael T. Mason, CPA
County Administrator



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, VA 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

www.deq.virginia.gov

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shari A. Miller, Center NEPA Manager

FROM: Daniel Moore, Principal Environmental Planner

DATE: March 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Scoping Request – NASA Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration Project, Wallops Island, Virginia

We have reviewed the request for scoping comments for the proposed project and offer the following comments regarding consistency with the provisions of the *Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations* (Regulations):

Wallops Island is located along the shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean. As such it is outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and not subject to the Regulations and the *Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act*.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

March 19, 2018

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
ATTN: SERP Project
34200 Fulton Street
Building F-160 / Room C165
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

Re: Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration
Wallops Island (Scoping request)

Dear Sir or Madam:

You have inquired regarding the permitting requirements for Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration on Wallops Island. The Marine Resources Commission requires a permit for any activities that encroach upon or over, or take use of materials from the beds of the bays, ocean, rivers and streams, or creeks, which are the property of the Commonwealth.

In addition, since Accomack County has not yet adopted the model Coastal Primary Sand Dune Zoning Ordinance, the Commission is charged with reviewing the impacts associated with any projects that may fall within the Coastal Primary Sand Dunes/Beaches of Accomack County.

Based upon my review, it appears that all your proposed actions extending the seawall, beach nourishment, breakwaters and a southern end groin/jetty will require authorization from the Marine Resources Commission. The proposed dredged sits appear to be greater than 3 miles offshore therefore, that portion of the project will not require a permit from our agency.

We do have concerns that a southern end jetty may stop the existing longshore transport of sand to Assawoman Island. This would be especially so if funding could not be secured for the anticipated 3-7 year nourishment cycles. A series of offshore breakwaters would help alleviate some of our concerns with the nourishment cycles long term funding. If funding was not secured the existing longshore transport of sand to Assawoman Island would have less impact than a jetty. The impact to Assawoman Island from a jetty or breakwaters should be address.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Page 2

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (757) 414-0710.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Badger, III', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Badger, III
Environmental Engineer



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

March 29, 2018

Ms. Shari A. Miller
NASA Wallops Flight Facility
34200 Fulton Street
Building F-160/Room C165
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

RE: Public scoping for NASA's proposed Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration Project at Wallops Island, Virginia

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for your correspondence to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) dated February 27, 2018 informing us of NASA's decision to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for its proposed Shoreline Enhancement and Restoration Project (SERP) at Wallops Island, in Accomack County, Virginia. We look forward to reviewing the project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clear Air Act Section 309 and authorities under the Clean Water Act. The SERP is the second document being tiered from the February 2010 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in which NASA evaluated the potential environmental effects from various alternatives including extending an existing seawall, recurring beach nourishment, constructing a parallel nearshore breakwater and constructing a southern-end perpendicular groin. The preferred action of the PEIS consisted of extending the seawall and beach nourishment. These actions proved effective in protecting Wallops' facilities during the 2012 Superstorm Sandy, however, the beach suffered significant loss of material.

In June 2013, NASA released the Wallops Island Post-Hurricane Sandy Shoreline Repair Final Environmental Assessment (Shoreline Repair EA) which was tiered from the PEIS and evaluated potential impacts associated with an adjusted renourishment cycle and repair of the Wallops Island seawall. Since completing these actions in 2014, the shoreline has withstood several storm events, including Winter Storm Jonas, however the sand volume has been reduced to 43% of design levels. The purpose of the SERP EA is to continue reducing the potential for damage of assets on Wallops Island from storm-induced wave impacts and evaluation of the potential impacts associated with dredging of offshore sand from two marine sand sources, placement of dredged sand on Wallops Island beach, and construction of a series of parallel, offshore breakwaters.

We have some general recommendations for the scope of analysis for the proposed study:



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Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474*

- The NEPA document should include a clear explanation of the underlying purpose and need for the proposed action. The purpose and need statement is important because it helps explain why the proposed action is being undertaken, the objectives the project intends to achieve, the measures to determine how well alternatives meet need. The purpose of the proposed action is typically the specific objective of the activity. The need should explain the underlying problem for why the project is necessary.
- The EA should provide context for the study area, other efforts being performed in the area, communication planning, etc.
- Alternatives analysis should include the suite of activities or solutions that were considered and the rationale for not carrying these alternatives forward for detailed study. Please feel free to reach out EPA to discuss Alternatives moved forward to detailed study.
- Please indicate in the EA what permits will be sought and required from the Commonwealth and Federal governments.
- The study should evaluate and discuss secondary and cumulative impacts, as defined by CEQ (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.8), of the proposed actions. Impacts may be positive or adverse (see CEQ 1997- "Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act").
- We recommend the EA include an analysis of how shoal A may have diminished in volume since the 2013 Shoreline Repair EA, whether it can sustain additional dredging as a source of material for beach nourishment and, if so, what impacts additional dredging may have on the habitat it provides for birds and invertebrates such as annelids, mollusks and crustaceans.
- Please evaluate and discuss any impacts the proposed actions may have on herpetofauna; and any proposed avoidance and minimization measures.
- Please include discussion of any anticipated habitat creation for species such as the Piping Plover or Diamondback Terrapin and any monitoring of these species that will be conducted.
- In the Shoreline Repair EA, the presence of additional sand within the nearshore system was anticipated to lead to the formation of offshore sand bars which would dissipate wave energy (p.3-9). It would be helpful if the EA documented if these offshore sandbars formed since the additional sand was incorporated into the nearshore system. Please describe how any offshore sandbars formed since the Shoreline Repair EA may influence the construction of offshore breakwaters proposed in the SERP.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to engage in the scoping and development of the documentation to satisfy the requirements of NEPA and the Clean Water Act. For any questions or assistance EPA can provide, please contact Mr. Aaron Blair at (215) 814-2748, blairaaronm@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Program Manager
Office of Environmental Programs

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