

Thanks for your email.

Unfortunately there is a good deal of misunderstanding about this permit. Let me state emphatically: the so-called Maple Street site is not being used as a dredge material transfer station. Rather it is being used as dredge material depository as it has been used for decades. Sand will be deposited there and will be mined and trucked to replenish beaches as needed, again as has been done for decades.

It is accurate that after the Beaches and Waterways Commission conducted its study, I co-sponsored a resolution along with Vice Mayor Jones that directed the City Manager to remove the Maple Street site from consideration as a potential dredge spoils transfer site for the Neighborhood Dredging Program. It is my recollection that the resolution passed unanimously.

The current requested permit is simply a renewal of authorization for public dredging. There seems to be a focus on mechanical dredging at this site, which has been permitted for twelve (12) years. For large projects, hydraulic dredging is more cost effective, but for the current need to remove shoaling in the city-maintained channels in Long Creek, it is not efficient. As a result, mechanical dredging is being planned for this small project.

This project is not part of the Neighborhood Dredging Program, and the sandy material will be deposited on site and not transferred to another disposal facility.

For historical reference, the original permit was issued in February 2000 and was modified in August 2000 when the VMRC approved mechanical dredging in addition to hydraulic as included in the original permit. In May 2003 the permit was extended for five years. The second modification occurred in September 2008, which added the Crab Creek site (the area adjacent to Lesner Bridge) as an alternative placement area and extended the permit expiration to February 2010.

Mechanical dredging with placement in Maple Street has been authorized since August 2000. The authority to use either mechanical or hydraulic dredging, with placement in either Maple Street or Crab Creek, has existed since September 2008.

Again, thanks very much for your email. If you would like copies of the new and old permits for verification, please let me know and I will have city staff accommodate your request.

Jim

Jim Wood
Member, Virginia Beach City Council
Lynnhaven District

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