



NEWS RELEASE

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Environmental Scoping Opens Through Oct. 3, 2017 for Port of Coos Bay's Proposed Channel Modification

PORTLAND, Ore. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is opening a public scoping phase in the preparation of a comprehensive environmental impact statement to evaluate the effects of the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay's proposed modifications to the Federal Navigation Channel. The Port's proposed project is made up of several actions to improve navigation efficiency, reduce shipping transportation costs and facilitate the shipping industry's transition to larger, more efficient vessels. The Corps' analysis also will support consideration of approvals and permits required prior to construction.

Scoping is an opportunity early in the environmental review process to collect information from the interested public and stakeholders on issues to consider in the analysis of potential environmental effects, as prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Corps is the lead federal agency for preparing the draft EIS. A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on Aug. 18, 2017 announcing the Corps' proposal to prepare this EIS and opening the comment period through Oct. 3, 2017.

An open house-style public scoping meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 to talk with Corps staff about the EIS process, the significance of public input and to receive written input. Port staff also will display information about their proposal and be available for discussion. The

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meeting will be held from 3 to 7:30 p.m. in the Myrtlewood Room, Coos Bay Public Library, 525 Anderson Ave., Coos Bay, Ore. The public is welcome to drop by anytime.

Written scoping input is welcome through the comment period by postal mail or by email. The public is encouraged to visit the Corps' channel modification EIS website to learn more about NEPA and how to submit scoping input: www.nwp.usace.army.mil/coast/coos-bay/channel-modification.

Portland District's first mission, eliminating impediments to navigation on the Pacific Northwest's rivers, dates back to 1871. The Corps maintains safe and reliable channels, harbors and waterways for the transportation of commerce, support to national security and recreation.